

A parody upon the poem of Alonzo the Brave and the Fair Imogene

1.

Young Damon and Phillis, whose hearts were entwined,  
Who felt for each other a flame,  
Oft talked of the vows that ought lovers to bind,  
Young Damon was handsome and Phillis was kind,  
Their wishes, though few, were the fame.

2.

At length spoke the youth, Since my parents command  
My preference across the deep main,  
You'll forget me too soon, and give your fair hand  
To one who can boast of more wealth and more land  
Than Damon, the lad of the plain.

3.

Shame on you, said Phillis, to thank thus of her  
Whose happiness centers in you;  
Be you living –or dead –nought shall me deter  
Or force me another 'fore you to prefer;  
To Damon alone I'll be true.

4.

May your spectre appal me on that fatal day  
When wedded to any but thee,  
May my blood cease to flow –may my flesh all decay,  
Corrupt and rot off –may hell seize me as prey,  
May your ghost from this bosom my heart pluck away,  
And thus to the grave with me flee.

5.

Contented to India young Dames then went,  
For Phillis his loss much deplor'd,  
Till gazing one day on his picture intent,  
Young Thomas (whose love for her nought could augment)  
Confessed that 'twas her he ador'd,

6.

His language so sweet –join'd with sights so well tim'd,  
(His suit to refuse made her loth)

He vanquished her scruples —she opened her mind,  
For soon, much too soon, she that fatal deed signed  
Which helpmates for life made them both.

7.

Scarce married and placed in the midst of their friends,  
On merriment all were intent;  
When slowly the green-painted wainscot unbends,  
A flame of blue light from the ceiling descends,  
The walls of the mansion were rent.

8.

Then Phillis, half wild, in surprise looked around,  
For him who had caused this dismay,  
His eyes flashing fire, he turned to the ground;  
He spoke not—but vented so piercing a sound,  
A sound that the wind blew away.

9.

His aspect was grim, and his clothing shone bright,  
His manners to all appear'd strange;  
His pestiferous breath each object did blight,  
Young Thomas looked pallid, so great was his fright,  
And direful to all was the change.

10.

The guests, who before ne'er such terrors had seen,  
In silence prepared to depart;  
When Phillis spoke thus (as she grew more serene)  
Pray sir may I ask what your preference may mean?  
What is it you wish to impart?

11.

No more, said the lady, the unknown complies,  
But first he his garments unbound,  
In terror she gazed on his fierce rolling eyes,  
His blood-mangled frame, as he quits his disguise,  
And solemnly paces the ground.

12.

In horror they all turn'd their faces away,

The blood trickled down from his side,  
His arms both were wither'd, his flesh did display  
Such worm-eaten holes –that not one dar'd to stay,  
While angry he spoke to the bride:

13.

See your Damon's arrived, on this fatal day  
Your promise you've broken with me;  
Let your blood cease to flow! Let your flesh all decay,  
Corrupt and rot off, let hell seize you as prey,  
For I'll from that bosom your heart pluck away,  
And hence to the grave with you flee!!!

14.

The damsel he seized with his cold clammy hands,  
And tore from her bosom her heart,  
While vain is the contest, in vain she withstands,  
Or resists his pow'r, for the wainscot expands,  
And, howling, they through it depart.

15.

E'en the bridegroom was seized with pains so severe  
But shortly he Phillis survived;  
And noises so strange in the house you may hear,  
When in the *Green* Chamber her ghost does appear,  
For oft are her torments revived.

16.

At times when the children of men are fast bound,  
And fettered by sleep's healing sway,  
Damon and Phillis, when the curfew does sound,  
Appear both by devils encircled around,  
While piece-meal her flesh does decay.

17.

They feast on the bodies of new-mangled babes,  
With pleasure they drink up their gore;  
Their chief on the wainscot this motto engraves,  
May she be destroyed who as Phillis behaves,  
And none her just fate e'er deplore.