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The Works Of The Right Honourable Joseph Addison, Esq.

In Four Volumes

Addison, Joseph

London, 1721

The transformation of Tiresias.

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Consum'd amidst the glories she desir'd,
And in the terrible embrace expir'd.

But, to preserve his off-spring from the tomb,
Jove took him smoaking from the blasted womb;
And, if on ancient tales we may rely,
Inclos'd th' abortive infant in his thigh.
Here, when the babe had all his time fulfill'd,
Ino first took him for her Foster-child;
Then the *Niseans*, in their dark abode,
Nurs'd secretly with milk the thriving God.

The Transformation of TIRESIAS.

'Twas now, while these transactions past on earth,
And *Bacchus* thus procur'd a second birth,
When *Jove*, dispos'd to lay aside the weight
Of publick empire, and the cares of state;
As to his Queen in nectar bowls he quaff'd,
" In troth, says he, and as he spoke he laugh'd,
" The sense of pleasure in the male is far
" More dull and dead, than what you females share.
Juno the truth of what was said deny'd;
Tiresias therefore must the cause decide;
For he the pleasure of each sex had try'd.

It happen'd once, within a shady wood,
Two twisted Snakes he in conjunction view'd;
When with his staff their slimy folds he broke,
And lost his manhood at the fatal stroke.

But,

But, after seven revolving years, he view'd
 The self-same Serpents in the self-same wood;
 " And if, says he, such virtue in you lye,
 " That he who dares your slimy folds untie
 " Must change his kind, a second stroke I'll try.
 Again he struck the Snakes, and stood again
 New-sex'd, and strait recover'd into Man.
 Him therefore both the deities create
 The sovereign umpire in their grand debate;
 And he declar'd for *Jove*: When *Juno* fir'd,
 More than so trivial an affair requir'd,
 Depriv'd him, in her fury, of his sight,
 And left him groping round in sudden night.
 But *Jove* (for so it is in Heaven decree'd,
 That no one God repeal another's deed;) }
 Irradiates all his soul with inward light,
 And with the prophet's art relieves the want of sight.

The Transformation of ECHO.

Fam'd far and near for knowing things to come,
 From him th' enquiring nations sought their doom;
 The fair *Liriope* his answers try'd,
 And first th' unerring prophet justify'd;
 This Nymph the God *Cephisus* had abus'd,
 With all his winding waters circumfus'd,
 And on the *Nereid* got a lovely boy,
 Whom the soft maids even then beheld with joy.

The tender dame, sollicitous to know
 Whether her child should reach old age or no,