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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl Of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

The Three Vernons

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THE THREE VERNONS¹.

HENRIETTA's serious charms
 Awe the breast her beauty warms.
 See, the blushes; Love perfumes—
 See, the frowns; he drops his plumes.
 Dancing, lighter o'er the ocean
 Was not Cytherea's motion:
 Speaking, Art repines to see
 The triumph of Simplicity.

Lips that smile a thousand meanings,
 Humid with Hyblean gleanings;
 Eyes that glitter into wit;
 Wanton mirth with fancy smit;
 Arch naïveté, that wanders
 In each dimpling cheek's meanders,
 Shedding roses, shifting graces
 Through a face that's twenty faces;
 Sweet assemblage! all combine
 In pretty playful Caroline.

Sober as the matron's air,
 Modest as the cloister'd fair;
 Patient till new springs disclose
 The bud of promis'd beauty's rose;
 Waving praise's perfum'd breath
 Ensures it young Elizabeth.

Lovely three! whose future reign
 Shall sing some younger, sweeter swain;

¹ Daughters of Richard Vernon, esq. by lady Evelyn Leveson, widow of John Fitzpatrick first earl of Upper Ossory.

For me suffice, in Amptill's¹ groves,
 Cradle of Graces and of Loves,
 I first announc'd in artless page
 The glories of a rising age,
 And promis'd, where my Anna² shone,
 Three Offorys as bright as one.

E P I T A P H

ON TWO PIPING-BULLFINCHES OF LADY OSSORY'S, BURIED UNDER
 A ROSE-BUSH IN HER GARDEN.

ALL flesh is grass, and so are feathers too:
 Finches must die, as well as I and you.
 Beneath a damask rose, in good old age,
 Here lies the tenant of a noble cage.
 For forty moons he charm'd his lady's ear,
 And pip'd obedient oft as she drew near,
 Though now stretch'd out upon a clay-cold bier. }
 But when the last shrill flageolet shall sound,
 And raise all dickybirds from holy ground,
 His little corpse again its wings shall plume, }
 And sing eternally the self-same tune,
 From everlasting night to everlasting noon.

¹ Amptill-park in Bedfordshire, the seat of (youngest brother of the duke of Bedford),
 the earls of Offory. At this time, besides the each about five years old. H. W.
 Vernons, were there, lady Anne Fitzpatrick, the ² Anne Liddel countess of Offory, wife of
 earl's only child, and lord William Ruffel John the second earl.