

Another

Here lies the pride of queens, pattern of kings,
 So blaze³ it, Fame, here's feathers for thy wings
 Here lies the envied, yet unparalleled prince,
 120 Whose living virtues speak (though dead long since).
 If many worlds, as that fantastic framed,⁴
 In every one be her great glory famed.

1650

The Author to Her Book¹

Thou ill-formed offspring of my feeble brain,
 Who after birth didst by my side remain,
 Till snatched from thence by friends, less wise than true,
 Who thee abroad, exposed to public view,
 5 Made thee in rags, halting to th' press to trudge,
 Where errors were not lessened (all may judge).
 At thy return my blushing was not small,
 My rambling brat (in print) should mother call,
 I cast thee by as one unfit for light,
 10 Thy visage was so irksome in my sight;
 Yet being mine own, at length affection would
 Thy blemishes amend, if so I could:
 I washed thy face, but more defects I saw,
 And rubbing off a spot still made a flaw.
 15 I stretched thy joints to make thee even feet,²
 Yet still thou run'st more hobbling than is meet;³
 In better dress to trim thee was my mind,
 But nought save homespun cloth i' th' house I find.
 In this array 'mongst vulgars⁴ may'st thou roam.
 20 In critic's hands beware thou dost not come,
 And take thy way where yet thou art not known
 If for thy father asked, say thou hadst none;
 And for thy mother, she alas is poor,
 Which caused her thus to send thee out of door.

1678

3. Blazon, proclaim.

4. I.e., as that visionary or demented person theorized. This may be a reference to the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543), who challenged the Ptolemaic model of the universe, which placed the earth at the center, by asserting that the earth revolved around the sun along with the other planets.

1. Bradstreet's volume of poems *The Tenth Muse* was published in 1650 without her knowledge; this poem was probably written while she was preparing a revised second edition for publication.

2. I.e., metrical feet; thus, to smooth out the meter of the lines.

3. Appropriate, decorous.

4. Common people.

To My Dear and Loving F

If ever two were one, then surely w
 If ever man were loved by wife, the
 If ever wife was happy in a man,
 Compare with me ye women if you
 5 I prize thy love more than whole mi
 Or all the riches that the East doth
 My love is such that rivers cannot c
 Nor ought but love from thee, give
 Thy love is such I can no way repay
 10 The heavens reward thee manifold²
 Then while we live, in love let's so j
 That when we live no more, we ma

A Letter to Her Husband, Absent upon

My head, my heart, mine eyes, my life
 My joy, my magazine¹ of earthly store,
 If two be one, as surely thou and I,
 How stayest thou there, whilst I at Ips
 5 So many steps, head from the heart to
 If but a neck, soon should we be toget
 I, like the Earth this season, mourn in
 My Sun is gone so far in's zodiac,³
 Whom whilst I 'joyed, nor storms, nor
 10 His warmth such frigid colds did caus
 My chilled limbs now numbed lie forl
 Return, return, sweet Sol, from Capric
 In this dead time, alas, what can I mo
 Than view those fruits which through
 15 Which sweet contentment yield me fo
 True living pictures of their father's fa
 O strange effect! now thou art southw
 I weary grow the tedious day so long;
 But when thou northward to me shalt
 20 I wish my Sun may never set, but bur
 Within the Cancer⁵ of my glowing bre
 The welcome house of him my dearest
 Where ever, ever stay, and go not ther
 Till nature's sad decree shall call thee

1. An adequately return.

2. New times.

3. Zodiac.

4. Town in Massachusetts, north of Boston.

5. The path of the sun and planets through the

heavens. "M
 4. The tenth
 ter. "Sol": th
 5. The fourth
 summer.