

Exemplary Passages about 18th-Century Women

George Savile, Marquis of Halifax, *The Lady's New-Year's-Gift; or, Advice to a Daughter* (1688), 6th ed. (London: M. Gillyflower, 1699). [In Frances Burney's *Evelina*]

"The Triumph of *Wit* is to make your *good Nature* subdue your *Censure*; to be quick in *seeing Faults*, and slow in *exposing* them. You are to consider, that the invisible thing called a *Good Name*, is made up of the Breath of Numbers that speak well of you; so that if by a *disobliging Word* you silence the *meanest*, the *Gale* will be less strong which is to bear up your *Esteem*. And though nothing is so vain as the eager pursuit of *empty Applause*, yet to be well thought of, and to be kindly used by the World, is like a *Glory* about a Woman's *Head*; 'tis a Perfume she carrieth about with her, and leaveth where-ever she goeth; 'tis a Charm against *Ill-will*. *Malice* may empty her Quiver, but cannot wound; the Dirt will not stick, the Jests will not take; Without the consent of the World a *Scandal* doth not go deep; it is only a slight stroak upon the injured Party and returneth with the greater force upon those that gave it" (Savile, in Frances Burney's *Evelina*, 568-567).

Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele, Selections from The Spectator (251-262)

"Women were formed to temper mankind and sooth them into tenderness and compassion." (252)

"I have seen a woman's face break out in heats as she has been talking against a great Lord, whom she had never seen in her life, and indeed never knew a party-woman that kept her beauty for a 12-month." (253)

"I have bestowed two months in teaching her to sigh when she is not concerned, and to smile when she is not pleased; and am ashamed to own she makes little or no improvement." 253)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Émile, ou, de l'Éducation* (Hays text 223-226)

"To please men, to be useful to them, to make herself loved and honored by them, to raise them when young, to care for them when grown, to counsel them, to console them, to make their lives agreeable and sweet – these are the duties of women at all times, and they ought to be taught from childhood." (224)

Lady Sarah Pennington, from *An Unfortunate Mother's Advice to Her Absent Daughters; In a Letter to Miss Pennington* (Burney, *Evelina* 621-627)

"Should the painful Task of dealing with a morose tyrannical Temper be assigned you, there is little more to be recommended than a patient Submission to an Evil which admits not of a Remedy. Ill Nature is increased, Obstinacy confirmed by Opposition; the less such a Temper is contradicted, the more supportable will it be to those who are under baneful influence. When all Endeavors to please are ineffectual, and a Man seems

determined to find Fault with every Thin, as if his chief Pleasure consisted in tormenting those about him, it requires a more than common Degree of Patience, and Resolution to forbear uttering those Reproaches which such a behavior may be justly allowed to deserve."

Edward Moore, from *Fables of the Fair Sex* (Hays, *The Victim of Prejudice* 193-209)

"Tis said of widow, maid and wife, / that honour is a woman's life" (Moore 193)

"We challenge from the mortal dame / the strength angelic natures claim; / nay more; for sacred stories tell, / that even immortal angels fell" (Moore 194)

"Shall virtue's flame no more return? / No more with virgin splendor burn?" (Moore 195)

[John Hill], from *On the Management and Education of Children, A Series of Letters Written to a Neice; By the Honourable Juliana-Susannah Seymour* (Burney, *Evelina* 600-601)

"I must confess that I have never thought Wit a very desirable quality in a Man...In women I am sure it is always to be feared" (Hill 600)

"Ill-nature and Wit are commonly joined in Men; in Women, whenever there is but the smallest Portion of the latter, the former is always abundant" (Hill 600)

Edmund Burke, "On Delicacy" from *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (Smith, *Emmeline* 488-489)

"The beauty of women is considerably owing to their weakness, or delicacy, and is even enhanced by their timidity, a quality of mind analogous to it" (Burke 489).

"It is the flowery species, so remarkable for its weakness and momentary duration, that gives us the liveliest idea of beauty, and elegance" (Burke 489)