A spate of Court libels flooded the town in the spring and summer of 1682. On April 20, Lady Campden wrote, “There are sad lampoons made of all the ladies, but I cannot get a copy of them” (Rutland MS, II, 69). If by “sad” she meant “scurrilous,” this libel, whose author makes his purpose clear in the first stanza, is an outstanding example. The poet says that he will not waste time on an “exordium,” the usual preamble in which a satirist loftily proclaimed his reformatory purposes, and gets down to business at once. No doubt the satire was written between Lady Ogle’s return to England on March 15, 1682, and her marriage on May 30; April seems a likely month.

The copy text is Dyce MS. 43, II, p. 571. The satire is dated 1682 also in Harleian MS. 7319, p. 197, but is undated in Harleian MS. 6913, p. 263.

This way of writing I observed by some
Is introduced by an exordium,
But I will leave to make all that ado,
And in plain English tell you who fucks who.

Grafton sets up for ogling and smart answers,
And lies with all her witty set of dancers;
Her crop-eared lord, who is so brisk and airy,
Is managed by the Countess of Orrery.

Lumley has Fox with nose as red as cherry,
And when they are alone, they are so merry!
His younger brother, who’s so famed for nonsense,
Has fucked, or will fuck, Williams, on my conscience.
Poor Nelly all this while has ne’er a runion,
But folks complain that her breath stinks of onion.
Though she exposed her poor defunct Sir Carr,
She’d now be glad o’th’ brother of Dunbar.

Grey’s wife has been so long kept out of town,
I fear she’ll lose her so well gained renown;
’Tis a long time since she has had her arse filled,
Her husband is so frightened with this Sarsfield.

Arundel, who is in lechery so knowing,
Finding that the earl’s other eye was going,
Took Hewitt in, who near her cunt did lurk,
On the occasion to fuck journey work,
Being told by Mrs. Jennings there’s no doubt
That purblind eyes can never be swived out.

Harriet will do the thing whate’er it cost her,
But first intends to get the sneaking Foster.
Kate Villiers, as they say, has got the notion
To marry ere she puts her breech in motion.

Vernon, to say the truth, ’s a bouncing wench,
She swears and fucks and all the while’s so French!
What pity ’tis Wentworth should want a hero.
Oh, Mulgrave, ’twas not done like cavalero
To tantalize her with your lobcock tarse,
Then leave her, and but only clap her arse.

Monmouth since Felton’s dead is yet in doubt
On whom he shall bestow his single bout.
Jack Gibbons says that Lansdown is the fittest,
But Armstrong swears that Lawson is the prettiest,
Who, under the pretense to cure her cough,
Is roaring drunk each night with usquebaugh.
To speak of Scarsdale is but loss of paper;
She's called a stinking whore in every satire;
And all the writers have as far as able
Described the lewdness of Hyde's basset table.

Dy tells her Aubrey, believe't who can,
That woman may conceive without a man;
But when alone she gives her lust no check,
And Sidney 'tis must get the Lord Bulbeck.

Ogle's returned and will consider further
Who next she'll show her arse to for a murder.
I'll say no more, but only this one thing:
All living creatures fuck, except the King.

5. Grafton. Isabella (Bennet), Duchess of Grafton, was married to Henry, Duke of Grafton, when she was a child. In 1682, she was still only fifteen! But at the Court of Charles II sexual precocity was the rule.

7. lord. Since Henry, Duke of Grafton, was a sailor, he may have worn his hair cropped short about his ears. Evidently he was dominated by Mary Boyle, Countess of Orrery (see below, "Cheviot Chace").

9. Lumley. Presumably Richard, Baron Lumley, was dancing the shaking of the sheets with Elizabeth (Trollope) Fox, wife of Charles Fox, Paymaster General to the Army.

11. his younger brother. Henry Lumley, wit and soldier, was regularly accused of a liaison with Susannah, Lady Williams, widow of Sir John Williams.


15. Sir Carr. Sir Carr Scroope; see Appendix. He had tried to make love to Nell, and in June, 1678, she dismissed him because, as she wrote to Lawrence Hyde, "he tould me he could not live allwayes at this rate & so begun to be a littel uncivil which I could not sufer from an uglye baux garscon" (Wilson, Nell Gwyn, p. 288). Sir Carr died in July, 1680,

16. the brother of Dunbar. William (1654–18), younger brother of Robert Constable, third Viscount Dunbar, was known as an eager whore-master. See "Satire on the Ladies of Honor" ("A Choyce Collection," p. 197),

The brother of Dunbar full often does trudge,
And Wycherley-like acts the part of a drudge.

See also his character in "The Lovers' Session," 1687, below.
17. **Grey's wife.** Mary (Berkeley), wife of Ford, Lord Grey of Werke. According to Lady Dorothy Sunderland (Cartwright, Sacharissa, p. 233), Lord Grey finally realized that the Duke of Monmouth was cuckolding him; on January 30, 1680, Grey "carried his wife into Northumberland. . . . He gave her but one night's time to take leave, pack up, and be gone."

20. **Sarsfield.** Luttrell (I, 126, September 9, 1681) has the story: "There [has] been a tall Irishman to be seen in Bartholomew Fair, and the Lord Grey being to see him was pleased to say he would make a swinging evidence; on which one Captain [Patrick] Sarsfield, an Irishman, sent his lordship a challenge, taking it as an affront on his countrymen." Grey reported the challenge, and a week later Sarsfield was taken into custody, but escaped.

21. **Arundel.** Mary (Mordaunt), Countess of Arundel. The earl was her one-eyed lover, Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury.

23. **Hewitt.** Sir George ("Beau") Hewitt. He was hardly purblind, but he may have had poor sight. The word could also mean slow of understanding.

25. **Jennings.** Mrs. Frances Jennings, Court bawd.

27. **Harriet.** Lady Henrietta Berkeley, Lord Grey's sister-in-law and secretly his mistress. When she ran away from home in August, 1682, it was rumored that she had married "one Forrester, Esq., a gent who hath considerable estate" (Price, Cold Caleb, p. 95).

29. **Kate Villiers.** Katherine, second daughter of the Knight Marshall, Sir Edward Villiers, a Maid of Honor to Queen Catherine.

31. **Vernon.** Mary (Kirke), wife of Sir Thomas Vernon of Hodnep, Salop; see Appendix, Kirke.

33. **Wentworth.** Lady Henrietta Wentworth, Maid of Honor to the Duchess of York and secretly the Duke of Monmouth's mistress. For the charge that Lord Mulgrave had preceded Monmouth in Henrietta's favor, see "Scandal Satired," c. 1682 (Harleian MS. 6913, p. 209),

> Wentworth may wish she had thought better on't,
> When she let Mulgrave finger-fuck her cunt;
> He taught her then such tricks for sport in bed,
> That Monmouth was too small for her large maidenhead.

35. **lobcock tarse.** "A large, relaxed penis" (J. S. Farmer and W. E. Henley, A Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English, 1921).

37. **Felton.** Lady Betty Felton died December 12, 1681.

39. **Gibbons.** John Gibbons, a gentleman in the service of the Duke of Monmouth, was one of the two men who captured Count Koningsmarck at Greenwich, after the murder of Thomas Thynne (Luttrell, I, 165). Lansdowne. Martha (Osborne), wife of Charles Granville, Lord Lansdowne.


42. **usquebaugh.** Irish whisky.

43. **Scarsdale.** Mary (Lewis) wife of Robert Leke, Earl of Scarsdale (formerly Lord Deincourt). The author of "Satire," c. 1682 (Harleian MS. 6913, p. 233) is more specific. Setting his libel in Lincolns Inn Fields, he wrote,
The famous Scarsdale too is hither come,
But who in rhyme will let her have a room?
The common thought of every dirty pen,
By Lumley left would fain set up again;
Poor nauseous fool a fuckster fain would have
To send like Isham chancred to his grave.


47. Dy. Diana (Kirke), wife of Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford.


51. Ogle. Anne, Lady Ogle, had fled to Holland to escape her second husband, Thomas Thynne, who was murdered on February 12, 1682, by followers of Count Koningsmarck. She returned to England on March 15, 1682, and on May 30 she married the Duke of Somerset; see Appendix, Ogle.

54. except the King. Either irony or a sly reference to the fact that the King’s chief mistress, the Duchess of Portsmouth, was in France from March 4 to May 29, 1682.