ADVICE, OR A HEROIC EPISTLE TO MR. FR. VILLIERS
TO AN EXCELLENT NEW TUNE CALLED
A HEALTH TO BETTY

[Early 1683]

Rarely a satirist had the courage to sign his lampoons. Eccentric
Sir Roger Martin, of Long Melford, Suffolk (1639–1712), was well
known as a libeler. In “Letter to Julian,” 1684 (see below), his “Ad­
vice” to Frank Villiers is mentioned:

Some say, his lordship [Mulgrave] had done better
To answer Roger Martin’s letter.

Sir Roger tried his hand at political satire, too. See his “Letter
from Sr Roger Martin to the Duke of Monmouth” (Folger MS. m.b.
12, p. 275), beginning “’Twas a foolish fancy, Jemmy.” At least one
of his contemporaries attacked him in “To Julian,” 1682 (Harleian
MS. 6913, p. 301) as a

long, wire-drawn knight,
A stalking shadow like a moon-lit night,
Harsh to the ear and hideous to the sight,
With hollow jaws, no teeth, and toes turned in,
A greater monster than from Nile they bring,
With his gray mares, white wig, and gaudy coach,
Presumes his lady’s woman to debauch

The copy text, undated, is Harleian MS. 7319, p. 278. The libel
in undated also in Dyce MS. 43, I, 329. It is dated 1683 in MS.
Firth C. 15, p. 151; 1682 in Harleian MS. 6914, p. 59, “Advice in
a Letter to Mr. Fr. Villiers”; and 1683/4 in “A Choyce Collection,”
p. 140 (“Advice to Frank Villiers”). A probable date is early in 1683.
For the tune of “A Health to Betty,” see Simpson, Broadside Ballad,
p. 298.
Leave off your ogling, Francis,
And mind your sister Nancy's;
   She's quite undone
   If once King John
Should get between her haunches.  5

I hear Phil Kirke does thrum, sir,
Your brother's lady's bum, sir.
   'Tis ten to one
   He'll get a son
May stand 'twixt you and home, sir.  10

Katy's joy commences
At every fop's pretenses;
   Should dimple bring
   A priest and ring,
She'd lose her little senses.  15

My worthy friend her brother
Has got just such another,
   A hopeful imp,
   Whose sire's a pimp,
And a common whore her mother.  20

Berkeley ne'er will leave it;
Propose and she'll receive it.
   Jack Darcy knows
   Where 'tis she blows,
And will make affidavit.  25

Dear Frank, you ha'n't the art right
To please my Lady Cartwright;
   Yet don't despair,
   For one so fair
In time may play her part right.  30
ADVICE, OR A HEROIC EPISTLE TO MR. FR. VILLIERS

But though her beauty much is,
Contempt's a thing that touches;
And if she scorn,
You'd best return
To your old Italian duchess. 35

Now to conclude at parting,
All I have writ is certain;
And so I end,
Your faithful friend
And servant, Roger Martin. 40

1. Francis. Francis ("villain Frank") Villiers was the foppish second son of George Villiers, fourth Viscount Grandison; see Appendix, Villiers (Grandison).

2. Nancy. Anne Villiers, the fifteen-year-old daughter of George Villiers, fourth Viscount Grandison.

4. King John. John Sheffield, Earl of Mulgrave, dubbed "King John" after he had tried to woo Princess Anne in October, 1682.

6. Phil Kirke. Philip ("beardless Phil") Kirke, Percy Kirke's half-brother, succeeded his father, George, as Housekeeper of Whitehall Palace, October 8, 1679; see Appendix, Kirke.

7. your brother's lady. In March, 1677, Edward Villiers, first son and heir of George, fourth Viscount Grandison, married an Irish heiress, Katherine Fitzgerald, who was still childless in 1683. A child born from the adultery of Phil Kirke and Edward's wife would, of course, inherit the Grandison title and estates, shutting out the second son, Francis.

11. Katy. Sir Roger skips happily from the Grandison Villierses to a related family. Katherine, second daughter of Sir Edward Villiers, Knight Marshall, became a Maid of Honor to Queen Catherine in 1680; see Appendix, Villiers (Jersey). Unlike most Maids, she seems to have retained her virtue. See above, "Satire. 1682."

Kate Villiers, as they say, has got the notion
To marry ere she puts her breech in motion.

13. dimple. No doubt recognizable as a timid suitor for Kate Villiers' hand in marriage, perhaps "Spendthrift" Alan Bellingham, of Helsington, Westmoreland. See below, "Letter to Julian," 1684 in which the poet suggests that Bellingham "with his folly and estate" might "oblige the world and marry Kate." It seems that Bellingham had long been wooing Kate, but "when he should wed, he wont come to."

16. her brother. In December, 1681, Sir Edward Villiers, eldest son of Sir Edward Villiers, Knight Marshall, married Barbara, daughter of William Chiffinch and his wife Barbara (Nunn). Chiffinch was notorious as the King's pimp, and his wife served as a procuress (A. I. Dasent, Nell Gwynne, 1924, pp. 133-35).
21. Berkeley. It seems most unlikely that this lady could be Elizabeth (Massingbird), wife of George, first Earl of Berkeley (1627-98). In 1683 she was about fifty years old. According to the author of "The Court Diversion," 1686 (see below), the Court was a place

Where Berkeley and her youthful lover knock it;
The jilt is ne’er without a dildo in her pocket;
Old earl’s too short, too small for such a socket.

Perhaps Lady Berkeley suffered for the sins of her daughters: Mary, Lady Grey, Theophila, Lady Lucy, and Henrietta.


26. Dear Frank. Francis Villiers again. The author of "To Capt. Warcup," 1686 (see below) reports that Francis Villiers, “out of awful fear,” has followed Lady Carteret fruitlessly for “many a year.”

27. Cartwright (Carteret). In March, 1675, George Carteret (1667–95), the eight-year-old son of Sir Philip Carteret, “and Sir George Cartwright’s grandson,” married Grace (1669–1744), the six-year-old daughter of John Granville, Earl of Bath (Verney Memoirs, II, 316). On October 19, 1681, young Carteret was created Baron Carteret of Hawnes, Bedford.

34. best. The copy text has “better,” other versions “best.”

35. old Italian duchess. Hortense, Duchess Mazarin. In “Colin. 1679” (see above), the duchess was denied a place as chief royal mistress.

Her grace at this rebuke looked blank
And sneaked away to villain Frank.

See also the conclusion to “To Mr. Julian,” 1679 (Gyldenstolpe, p. 185),

May Betty Mackerell cease to be a whore,
And villain Frank fuck Mazarin no more.