TO CAPT. WARCUP

[June, 1686]

By the summer of 1686, King James, dominated by Father Edward Petre, S.J., had managed to get rid of many of his old and trusted servants, replacing them with Roman Catholics, noted more for their religious extremism than their administrative abilities. Many of the Protestant courtiers who had made the libertine Court of King Charles II so brilliantly sinful retired to their country estates. Of course there were still secret sinners about the Court of King James, but the satirists, short on gossip and unwilling to turn to political or religious problems, had to content themselves with old tales and scraps of scandal. "To Capt. Warcup" begins with sneers at a group of little poets and proceeds with splenetic attacks on minor members of a staid, dull Court.

The epistolary address "To Capt. Warcup" is merely a variant on the usual "To Julian." Lenthal Warcup, eldest son of Sir Edward Warcup of Northmore, Oxon., was a captain in the Royal Regiment of Footguards. A lieutenant colonel in 1687, he was killed at the Battle of Steinkirk in 1692. Captain Warcup, a lively gossip, is called the "second" scandalmonger of the Town, not in succession to Robert Julian (who was out of prison and back in business) but second in importance to Julian.

The copy text is Folger MS. m.b. 12, f. 98. The satire appears also in Harleian MS. 7319, p. 393; in Dyce MS. 43, II, 493; and printed in POAS, 1703, p. 143.

Here take this, Warcup, spread this up and down,
Thou second scandal carrier of the Town;
Thy trapstick legs and foolish, puny face
Look as if nature meant thee for the place.
In this vocation should grow greater far
Than e'er should do by stratagems of war.
Waste not thy time nor hurt thy tender lungs
In going up and down to sing new songs;
But yet in time of Julian's fate beware,
More secret be or you may lose an ear.
I'll tell thee now where libels may be had,
Who are the benefactors to the trade.

10

Cholmley has satire for his province chose,
The only way he'll dare attack his foes,
Not in smooth verse, but rough ill-natured prose;
Laughing at all, which yet may justice seem,
For long we know the Town has laughed at him.
He long has aimed at love yet ne'er could hit,
And now will put ill nature off for wit.
For all his dressing and his foppish train,
He and his sister ogle still in vain,
The ladies he, and she the cruel men.

15

And that we may to all due justice render,
Exeter's songs best move the maidens tender;
Yet Lady Bridget doth so cruel prove,
Six songs a day can't her compassion move.

25

Never for women was so bad a time,
Falseness in man is grown a common crime,
Which Frazier doth lament in tender rhyme.

30

Parsons sets up for a Pindaric spark;
Pindar himself did never write so dark;
So rough his numbers and such rustic sense,
Sarsfield himself scarce knows what 'tis he means.

35

Baber hath left the panegyric strain,
And now to ballad making turns his brain,
At which Will Wharton long has toiled in vain.
From that dull fop what could expected be,
The dullest of that senseless family.
TO CAPT. WARCUP

Sackville wants leisure to attend his muse,
His time's so taken up with those reviews, 40
And Skipwith with his grandam of a spouse.

Old Maggot once did write but now has done,
And wisely sets himself to teach his son
Those rules by which he grows a fop complete,
And when he is as old will be as great. 45
His neighbor Fenwick with his antic face
This forty years has studied soft grimace,
In ogling Cartwright his delight has placed,
Yet so unhappy does his passion prove,
She takes it all for dotage, not for love.

While poor Frank Villiers, out of awful fear
And tender love, has followed many a year;
Yet no reward his constant passion claims
But that he may' enjoy her in his dreams.
His sister does him service with her friend,
But Mistress Nancy to her cost doth find
Her feeble charms are by her friend's outshined;
Yet tries by art her comrade to out-do;
Counterfeit beauty still gives way to true.

And yet the meanest beauty boasts a heart; 60
Even Swan can wound with her old rusty dart.
Yarborough her wisdom in young Lowther shows,
One fit to make a patient cuckold chose.
South's conquests are too great to be revealed,
And like her pleasures ought to be concealed.
Next Isham's wife, now Devonshire is gone,
Can brag of senseless Willoughby alone;
For one another made by nature fit,
Her beauty is as nauseous as his wit.

The rest, too mean to have in verse a place, 70
Here, as at Court, shall unregarded pass.
But to Kildare all beauty sure must yield,  
And parks and plays are with her lovers filled.  
The mighty Rochester who rules our state  
By presents shows he loves at no small rate.  
Her pimping father got young Fox's place  
Not by his merit but his daughter's face.  
Devonshire's passion all his actions show;  
Because he loves her, Montrath does so too.  
Scarsdale and Darcy both her captives prove;  
So hard it is to know her and not love.

Disbanded Manchester, when will he go  
And in the Spanish Court his dancing show?  
He looks already with his formal air  
More like a Spanish don than English peer;  
And that he may a well-bred spark become,  
Let him take Denmark in his journey home.

There's one more peer we well could wish away,  
His own dear cousin, flattering Captain Grey.

The Powis daughters now fill up the Court;  
Doth often Wales such monstrous things bring forth?  
It shows some sense when nauseous creatures hide,  
But that to show themselves should be their pride  
Tells us their wit is worse than their outside.

Twice jilted Cornbury, now thy fortune try;  
The widow Arran ne'er does man deny.  
Shrewsbury and twenty more have found her easy;  
This is a quality will surely please thee.

King John, who cheating has his business made,  
Hath bought the widow o'er Northampton's head;  
This match in heaven was ne'er made, but hell;  
All wish them joined, for none wish either well.
Methinks I see the brandy bowl go round,
The drunken countess wallowing on the ground,
With horns instead of bays the hero crowned.

13. Cholmley. Hugh, third Viscount Cholmondeley of Kells. According to Swift's note to Burnet, he was "good for nothing as far as ever I knew" (Complete Peerage).
21. his sister. Elizabeth Cholmondeley, who later married John Egerton of Egerton, Chester.
24. Exeter. John Cecil (1648–1700), who succeeded as fifth Earl of Exeter on February 1, 1678, seems to have been a wit and a patron of poets. Dryden lived at his home, Burghley House, Northants., while completing his translation of the seventh Aeneid in 1697.
25. Lady Bridget. Probably Lady Bridget Noel, daughter of Viscount Campden. On February 6, 1686, Charles Bertie wrote, "I wish we could prevail with Lady Bridget to hearken to any fair proposals of marriages, but I cannot say I find any great inclination in her to change her condition upon equal terms" (Rutland MS, II, 105). Much to the annoyance of her family, Chaloner Chute of the Vyne bragged of his chances with her, but she refused all offers.
29. Frazier. Dr. Charles Frazier, son of Sir Alexander Frazier, Royal Physician, and a companion of Dorset, Fleetwood Shepherd, etc.
33. Sarsfield. Patrick Sarsfield, colonel of a troop of horse in 1686; see Appendix.
34. Baber. John Baber, son of Sir John Baber, usually appears in any list of minor poets without distinction.
36. Will Wharton. Younger brother of Thomas and Henry Wharton. He was fatally wounded December 9, 1687, in a duel with a rival poet, Robert Wolseley; see Appendix, Wharton.
39. Sackville. Colonel Edward Sackville (called "Song" Sackville to distinguish him from the Earl of Dorset's brother, also Edward Sackville, who died October 10, 1679). On May 26, 1686, King James set up a military camp on Hounslow Heath, with frequent reviews. Sackville became a brigadier on July 3, 1685, and a major general on November 2, 1688. He resigned his commission December 19, 1688, and joined King James in exile (Dalton, I, 274).
41. Skipwith. Sir Thomas Skipwith had married Margaret, widow of William Brownlow, some fifteen years his senior. See above, "Satire on both Whigs and Tories."
42. Old Maggot. The name, which means "whim," may be taken from a character in Shadwell's A True Widow, 1679. "Maggot" is marginally identified in POAS, 1703, p. 143, as "Griffin," i.e., Edward Griffin, Treasurer of the Chamber to Charles II and James II. Created December 3, 1688, Baron Griffin of Braybrooke, he followed James to France, returned to England later, and died in the Tower on November 10, 1710, aged about eighty. His son James, Tory M.P. for Brackley, was completely undistinguished.
46. **Fenwick.** Sir John Fenwick (c. 1644–97), later famous as a Jacobite conspirator.

48. **Cartwright.** Grace, wife of George, Baron Carteret of Hawnes, appears in many libels, always "in her chair," i.e., her sedan chair.

51. **Frank Villiers.** "Villain Frank," second son of George, fourth Viscount Grandison.

56. **Mistress Nancy.** Anne Villiers, daughter of George, fourth Viscount Grandison; see Appendix, Villiers (Grandison).

61. **Swan.** Cecilia Swan, daughter of Sir Will Swan of Kent and Maid of Honor to Queen Marie was about twenty-seven.

62. **Yarborough.** Henrietta, daughter of Sir Thomas Yarborough, of Snaiths, York, was a Maid of Honor to Queen Marie. See above, "A Letter to Julian from Tunbridge." The implication is that she was in love with "young Lowther," who would be a very complaisant husband—perhaps William Lowther of Swillington, Yorks. (c. 1665–1729), created a baronet on January 6, 1715.

64. **South.** Elizabeth South was a Maid of Honor to Queen Marie.

66. **Isham’s wife.** Sir Justinian Isham (1658–1730) succeeded his brother, Sir Thomas, as baronet on July 26, 1681. On July 16, 1683, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edmund Turner of Stoke Rochfort, Lines. Devonshire. William, Earl of Devonshire, was "gone" from Court because he had been fined £30,000 for striking Colonel Thomas Colepeper in Whitehall.

67. **Willoughby.** Thomas, eleventh Baron Willoughby (1602–92), inherited in 1680; he was eighty-four in 1686!

70–71. I have reordered the lines; in the copy text lines 70–71 follow line 65.

72. **Kildare.** Elizabeth (1665–1758), daughter of Richard Jones, Earl of Ranelagh, married on June 12, 1684 (as his second wife), John Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare.

74. **Rochester.** Lawrence Hyde, Earl of Rochester (1641–1711), Lord Treasurer.

76. **her pimping father.** In December, 1685, Richard, Lord Ranelagh, succeeded Charles Fox as Paymaster of the Forces, a lucrative post. The daughter whose virtue was supposedly traded for the appointment was Elizabeth, Lady Kildare. See above, "The Court Diversion."

78. **Devonshire.** William Cavendish, third Earl of Devonshire; see Appendix.

79. **Montrath.** Charles Coote (1655–1709), third Earl of Montrath in Ireland.

80. **Scarsdale.** Robert Leake, Earl of Scarsdale; see Appendix. Darcy. John D’Arcy (1659–89), colonel of the Second Troop of Horse Guards, a member of Parliament, and grandson of the Earl of Holderness. In 1685 he was turned out of his commission for voting against the Court (Rutland MS, II, 97).

82. **Manchester.** On December 15, 1685, Charles Montague, fourth Earl of Manchester, resigned his commission as captain of a troop of horse (Dalton, II, 15). He went abroad in the summer of 1686 (Downshire MS, I, 206). See above, "A Letter to Julian from Tunbridge."

89. **Captain Grey.** Henry Yelverton, Lord Grey of Ruthin (1664–1704), was commissioned captain of a troop of horse on June 20, 1685 (Dalton, II, 15).

90. **The Powis daughters.** William Herbert, Baron Powis (1626–96), a Roman Catholic, had been in the Tower from October 25, 1678, to February 18, 1685. He had five daughters: Mary, Frances, Anne, Lucy, and Winifred. The last three were still unmarried in 1686.
95. *Cornbury*. Edward Hyde (1661–1723), son of Lawrence, Earl of Rochester, by his first wife, Theodosia Capell.


97. *Shrewsbury*. Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; see Appendix.