“Julian’s Farewell” (in which, of course, Julian, now out of prison, is only a persona) is unusual because it is an attack upon a family; in one version it is entitled “Julian’s Farewell to the Family of Coquets.” The three ladies pilloried are Anne (Long), Lady Mason, widow of Sir Richard Mason, Clerk Controller of the Royal Household (died March 12, 1685); her first daughter, Dorothy Mason, and her second daughter, Anne, Lady Brandon (Gerard), estranged (“cast”) wife of Charles Gerard, Lord Brandon. Lady Brandon, separated from her husband since 1685, was eventually divorced by him (a vinculo) in 1698, on the well-proven grounds of her adultery with Richard Savage, fourth Earl Rivers, by whom she had two by-blows (see Appendix, Gerard, Brandon). According to the gossips, Lady Brandon had had many lovers, including Henry, Duke of Grafton. Possibly Lady Brandon’s mother and sister were damned by association.

The copy text is Harleian MS. 7317, p. 122; see also Add. MS. 29, 497, p. 49. The date is derived from internal evidence; for example, late summer is indicated by the invocation to the players, whose patrons had left town for the summer.

Give o’er, ye poor players, depend not on wit,  
The best play you have the cost will not quit;  
They are gone who each day filled your boxes and pit.  
Near Epsom are two civil ladies retired,  
Whom all the Town for good nature admired;  
   With hopes, not with beauty, our oglers they fired.  
Not a day any public place did they fail,  
And, as slight baits to inveigle gudgeons prevail,  
Each still had a fry of young fools at their tail.  
Confess not, O Rosamund’s pond, the rare pranks  
Which at midnight they played on the sides of your banks,
Nor tell with what member the men gave them thanks.
Cast Brandon, on whom the small pox are scarce dry,
Seems resolved by her conduct the greater to try;
They can ne'er want that who with Grafton will lie. 15
His grace many months in her favor hath been,
But as he was carrying on the sweet scene,
A sea voyage and Radnor popped just between.
No wonder if Radnor grew fast in her grace;
His foppery and falseness with hers may take place,
And for pock holes and paint he'll not bate her an ace.
As about her the other day I did hover,
'Twas hard for the sharpest eye to discover
Who laid it on thickest, the mistress or lover.
But she'll not lose hold of a blue ribbon so;
A woman, she says, as the fickle times go,
Should ne'er be without two strings to their bow.
This made her to Worcester Park to invite
Tarpaulin to give her one dear parting night,
And pay ere his voyage his foi of delight. 30
Two days he was missing, if rumor not lies,
And from Windsor posting away in disguise,
In a grove near the house he lay hid from all eyes.
Long live you mute pimps of that well-wooded park,
For 'twas under your bawdy shades in the dark
The hungry nymph clung like glue to her spark.
Wisely Doll Mason from London does steal,
A new miscarriage to make and conceal;
Her belly else soon would her secrets reveal.
For Hubbard came up in an amorous fit,
Stayed here long enough a young fopling to get;
His damned pocky seed in her womb is just knit.
The spark oft in song tells the state of his case;
His rhymes to his dullness give just such a grace
As fine close-stool to his sickly, sniveling face. 45
A fop he is both of the pen and the feather,
And she a coquet of a skin of tanned leather;
His wit to her beauty may e'en go together.

Poor bechamber Lawson, how hard is thy hap
To purchase another man's bastard and clap,
And where Phil Kirke had 'scaped, to fall souse in the trap.

But shall I forget their sage lady mother,
Who to set herself out doth keep such a pother,
In hopes she may snap some raw younger brother?

Determined she is the first offer to marry,
If any whose wants like hers cannot tarry
Will venture to dig in her dangerous quarry.

As false as her heart are her frizzes and locks,
Of her teeth she could save but the black rotten stocks,
From the flux she endured in France for the pox.

Old Admiral Holmes, in the gay days of yore,
Attacked her full oft both behind and before;
He engaged her so long till his mainmast she bore.

Her favor in nodes still his gouty joints wear;
Half his life he since spends in an old velvet chair,
Abhoring and cursing the fleurs de bergère.

Young men from this fireship keep yourselves free.
For all his great skill, our famed seaman you see
By coming too nigh forced to lie by the lee.

Beware then how of your prowess ye swagger;
Though age and disease both join to be-hag her;
She has a mouth that will eat your long sword to a dagger.

Unhappy is he who to this galley's a slave;
That wide barren womb forever will crave,
Insatiate 'tis grown as hell and the grave.

Thus ladies I have my compliment paid,
As is fit, to the chief supports of my trade,
And by whom I hope my fortune will be made.

For were you but once well settled in town,
And would you still live as this winter you've done,
Never more would Julian want a lampoon.

Oh, let not your stay in the country be long;
For till you come back this dull urban throng
Will breed but small business for satire or song.
   But your return will supply all my wants,
That day after which my thirsty soul pants,
And turn all my Bordeaux to champaign and Nantes.

4. **civil ladies.** The two civil (i.e., complaisant) ladies, Dorothy Mason and her sister, Anne, Lady Brandon, lived at Sutton, Surrey, near Epsom.

10. **Rosamund's pond.** A trysting place in St. James's Park. The two sisters were popular, and appeared often together in public. On May 12, 1688, a gossip wrote, "There was a ball lately at my Lord Sunderland's; the women were the Duchess of Grafton, my Lady Brandon, Mrs. Mason, and two of the Maids of Honor" (Rutland MS, II, 119).

13. **small pox.** On May 28, 1686, Henry Savile wrote to Lord Halifax, "My Lady Brandon has the smallpox, which may possibly alter some circumstances in a matter you know of" (Savile Correspondence, p. 289).

14. **the greater.** the "great pox," venereal disease.


18. **a sea voyage.** On July 5, 1687, Grafton sailed in command of a squadron of war ships to the Brill, whence he carried to Lisbon the new Queen of Portugal, Mary Elizabeth, daughter of William, Prince Palatine. From Lisbon Grafton sailed into the Mediterranean to discourage the Algerine pirates. **Radnor.** Charles Robartes (1660-1723), Earl of Radnor, a well-known rake.

25. **a blue ribbon.** Grafton wore the Order of the Garter.

28. **Worcester Park.** In 1670 King Charles II gave Nonsuch House in Worcester Park, near Epsom, Surrey, to Grafton's mother, the Duchess of Cleveland (Victoria History of Surrey, III, 268-69).

29. **Tarpaulin.** A contemptuous name for a sailor, i.e., the rough Duke of Grafton, who was bred for the sea.

37. **Doll Mason.** At twenty-two Dorothy was still unmarried, although she was reputed a great beauty and had a dowry of £16,000. In August, 1688, she married William Brownlow (1665-1701), who succeeded his brother, Sir John, as baronet on July 16, 1697 (Ellis Correspondence, II, 99; London Post, January 18, 1700).

40. **Hubbard.** Perhaps Sir Henry Hobart, 1658-98 (the name was usually pronounced "Hubbard"), son of Sir John Hobart, Bart., of Blickling, Norfolk.

45. **close stool.** A commode.

49. **Lawson.** Usually Lewson or Leveson. Richard Leveson of Staffordshire was sworn as a Groom of the Bedchamber ("bedchamber Lawson") in May, 1685 (CSPD, 1685, p. 144), and he was still listed as a Groom in Chamberlayne's Angliae Notitia, 1687. He became M.P. for Lichfield and an army officer.

51. **Phil Kirke.** "Beardless Phil" Kirke, Housekeeper of Whitehall Palace, died September 8, 1687. Possibly the Masons had been in treaty with Kirke to marry Doll. He had "scaped" a horrible fate by dying, and now Leveson was the chosen groom. It is, of course, highly unlikely that Doll Mason was pregnant.
52. lady mother. Anne Margaretta (Long), widow of Sir Richard Mason. The poet's coarse treatment of Lady Mason is not justified by any obtainable evidence.

61. Holmes. At this time Admiral Sir Robert Holmes (1622–92) was Governor of the Isle of Wight. A rough, quarrelsome sea dog, his greatest exploit was the capture of New York from the Dutch in 1664.

64. nodes. Swellings developed during the secondary stage of syphilis.

66. fleurs de bergère. According to Randle Cotgrave (A Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues, 1611), fleurs could mean "a woman's monthlie flux, or flowers." Bergère can be translated as shepherdess or nymph. In this case, Lady Mason is supposed to be the nymph who infected Holmes.

67. fireship. In naval usage a fireship was a small vessel filled with combustibles, set afire, and sent into the midst of an enemy fleet. As a cant term, a fireship was a whore of low degree. See Richard Ames, The Female Fireship, a Satire against Whoring, 1691.