[293]

And as coming from thence we shou'd give 'em their due; Grace is a superior blessing, 'tis true.

Ay, Sir, I remember an excellent farment,
Wherein all along you gave grace the preferment.

I shall never forget it, as how you were telling,
That heaven resided where grace had its dwelling.

Why John, quoth the teacher, that's true: but, alas, What heaven can do is quite out of the case; For by day and by night, with the woman you wed 'Tis you that must board, and 'tis you that must bed; And a good-natur'd girl may quickly grow gracious, But a sour-headed saint will be ever vexatious.



HULLALE.

By the Same.

ONG time did a filly old proverb prevail,

That meat, drink, and cloth were all found in good ale;

Till a lover of truth went on purpose to Hull,

And to try the experiment drank his skin full.

He began to see visions, his head it turn'd round,

Till off from his kessal he fell on the ground;

There in trances prosound our philosopher mellow

Lay all night in the snow consulting his pillow.

T 3

Oraculat

[294]

Oracular vapours give prophecy birth,

As Plutarch reports, springing out of the earth.

Whether this was the cause, or however inspired,

Our sage gave a sentence will be ever admired.

'Twas this—I pronounce that good ale is good meat,

For I find, I have no inclination to eat:

That good ale is good cloth, you may honestly boast,

For i' faith! I'm as blithe and as warm as a toast:

But to call it good drink—is a lye, I'll be sworn,

For I ne'er was so dry since the hour I was born.

The cloth, cries a punster who chanc'd to come by,

Must be a good drap, if it kept you so dry.

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ABSOLUTION.

By the Same.

The failors all hurried to get absolution;
Which done, and the weight of the fins they'd confes'd,
Was transfer'd, as they thought, from themselves to the priest;
To lighten the ship, and conclude their devotion,
They tos'd the poor parson souse into the ocean.

PENANCE.