



## "A Sonnet."

By the song I shall sing you before I am  
thru;

By my manner of rhyming, uncommon and  
new;

By my sonnet itself and the point of its  
view,—

I prithee now hear me, dear Molly.

For I sing of a habit offending my sight,  
A habit in which most young maidens de-  
light;

And so once again, before further I write,  
I prithee now hear me, dear Molly.

By all your sweet charms, and your classi-  
cal grace;

By all the distortions you make with your  
face;

By all of the habits, in you, out of place,  
I prithee now hear me, dear Molly.

Of all human vices, and hush, there are  
some,

On which sonnet writers had better stay  
mum,

In treating the vilest, the chewing of gum,  
I prithee now hear me, dear Molly.

I will not offend your most sensitive ear,  
By dealing with men who chew gum, Molly  
dear;

They're loathsome and were I to deal with  
them here,

You'd blush at my comment, dear Molly.

A male ruminator I more than despise,  
My vilest anathema to him applies;

I curse him in sleeping, and when I arise  
My thought of him's shocking, dear  
Molly.

We've all seen a cow, as the spring starts  
to bud,

Complacently slopping around in the mud;  
Its jaws all a-wiggle, whilst chewing its  
cud,

Now haven't we seen it, dear Molly?

Compare with this bovine a maiden like  
you;

In box at theatre, at church in your pew;  
Then think of the sight you present as you  
chew

Your vile stick of Spearmint, dear Molly.

By the cherry-bloom lingering on your  
moist lip,

By the nectar it holds for the writer to  
sip,

By the gods and the muses, it gives me the  
pip,

To see you chew Chielets, dear Molly.

Just take up your mirror, before it, then  
pause,

Regard then the cow-like wag-wag of your  
jaws,

You'll then understand why you grieve me  
because

You chew your vile gum-drop, dear  
Molly.

By all the soft pleasure I feel when I  
share

The langorous odor that clings to your  
hair,

By all your seduction, gum-chewing, I  
swear,

Is a — rotten habit, dear Molly.