

"Come Paris leave your hills and
dells
You'll scorn your dowdy goddesses,
If once you see our English belles,
For all their gowns and bodices,
Here's Juno, Devon all sublime;
Minerva, Gordon's wit and eyes;
Sweet Rutland, Venus in her prime;
You'll die before you give the prize."

Lady Mary Isabella Somerset was the youngest daughter of Charles, fourth Duke of Beaufort, and was painted when Duchess of Rutland by Sir Joshua. There is a lovely picture of her in the possession of the present Duke of Beaufort and another painted by Cosway. Wraxall also sketched several pen and ink portraits of her. It is said that Sir Joshua made her put on eleven dresses before he could be satisfied as to the one in which to depict her, in the end deciding upon what she herself expressed it, as "that bed-gown."

In the theatrical world at that period, Elizabeth Farren was at the zenith of her power. Like Jordan and Melton—also Queens of Comedy

—she came from Ireland. Her father was an apothecary in Cork, but getting weary of the art of Esculapius, joined a company of strolling players. His daughter was born in 1757 and known always as "Eliza," played when very young juvenile parts in Bath. At the age of fifteen she took the character of "Rosetta" in "Love in a Village," which began the successful career of so many actresses and singers of the time. Leading men in the fashionable world were much in love with her. Her personality was distinct and her talent as an actress, according to Walpole who was acknowledged as a "fine judge of fine ladies," that she was "the most perfect actress he had seen." She married Edward, Lord Derby, the twelfth Earl, and consequently bade farewell to the stage.

Sir Thomas Laurence, P. R. A., painted a truly charming portrait of her, but if executed before or after her marriage is not recorded.

Sylvan.

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