SHAKESPEARE

Or, if tired of a day's shopping or visiting, Fall asleep in the midst of *pathetic reading*. They, of course, would sure on Sundays wear fine bonnets, And look down 'pon people, as would so many hornets; Return home, having understood of the sermon As much as a fish would, were it even a salmon.

To think that such females as uncouth as their males, Expect good, sensible people, from their very entrails, To come and respect and honour *their ladyships*, Makes an intelligent man laugh and split his lips. Such is the power of position or favour, That all in a rush the ignorant will clamour :

Hoy-toity, let us marry none else than *ladies* Who will stamp us for *gentlemen* in those families That will proudly look contemptuously on others As a pack of small, insignificant strollers. Long live my useful and high, lofty dignity Which obliges vulgar people to call me a lady!

SHAKESPEARE

The immortal Shakespeare we all admire, Never had, has or ever will he see A mate who could really, truly aspire To the height he carried beyond the sea, At a time when learned men were as few As quiet, harmonious peace, religion knew. 15