

THE COUNTRY WIFE

William Wycherley

MRS. PINCHWIFE: 'For Mr Horner'. - So, I am glad he has told me his name. Dear Mr Horner! But why should I send thee such a letter that will vex thee, and make thee angry with me? - Well, I will not send it. - Ay, but then my husband will kill me, for I see plainly he won't let me love Mr Horner - but what care I for my husband? - I won't, so I won't, send poor Mr Homer such a letter - but then my husband - But oh - what if I writ at bottom my husband made me write it? - Ay, but then my husband would see't. - Can one have no shift? Ah, a London woman would have had a hundred presently. Stay- what if I should write a letter, and wrap it up like this,' and write on't too? Ay, but then my husband would see't. - I don't know what to do. - But yet y'vads, I'll try, so I will -for I will not send this letter to poor Mr Horner, come what will on't. [She writes, and repeats what she hath writ.]

`Dear, Sweet Mr Horner -- so - my husband would have me send you a base, rude-, unmannerly letter - but I won't! - so 'and would have me forbid you loving me - but I won't - so 'and would have me say to you I hate you, poor Mr Homer - but I won't tell a lie for him' - there - 'for I'm sure if you and I were in the country at cards together', - so - 'I could not help treading on your toe under the table' - so - 'or rubbing knees with you, and staring in your face till you saw me' - very well - `and then looking down, and blushing for an hour together' - so - 'but I must make haste before my husband come; and now he has taught me to write letters, you shall have longer ones from me, who am

Dear, dear, poor dear Mr Horner, your most humble friend, and servant to command 'till death, Margery Pinchwife.'

Stay, I must give him a hint at bottom - so - now wrap it up just like t'other - so - now write 'For Mr Homer!'. - But oh now what shall I do with it? For here comes my husband.