

Paul Mascarene's Translation of Molière's *Le Misanthrope* in Colonial British Nova Scotia

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The transcript below of Paul Mascarene's eighteenth-century translation of Molière's *Le Misanthrope* is intended as a companion to my article on the manuscript and its lessons for scholarship on the assimilation of Huguenots in the global refuge: "British, but also French: Paul Mascarene's Translation of Molière's *Le Misanthrope* in Colonial Nova Scotia," to be published separately in *Quebec Studies* in 2021. The transcript is based on an undated and untitled manuscript held in the British Library, bound in a volume with other records from Mascarene's time as a military and civic leader in British Nova Scotia.¹ For further details on the manuscript, Mascarene, and the lessons to be drawn from this perhaps surprising instance of translation, I refer the reader to the above-mentioned article.

In transcribing Mascarene's text for publication, I have attempted to represent as faithfully as possible his initial choices, revisions, and hesitations. Text that appears to have formed the translator's first rendering into English of Molière's lines is given in standard roman type. Revisions written in above or below a line or in the margins is given in italics. In both cases, material that Mascarene scratched out in favour of a different version is struck through. This system may fail to capture cases in which Mascarene was able to make revisions without resorting to the margins or the space between lines. I suspect that such cases are present in the manuscript, but since there is no way to be certain I have chosen not to mark them in the text

¹ *Collections by Dr. Andrew Brown relating to the province of Nova Scotia*, British Library, Add MS 19071.

itself. An additional challenge is that individual words or short phrases in the manuscript are occasionally indecipherable, either because of Mascarene's handwriting or because he scratched them out too completely. In cases where I am not completely confident in having correctly deciphered a particular word or phrase, I have indicated this by enclosing the word in brackets. When a word is so completely unreadable that I have been unable to even tentatively identify it, I have indicated the number of letters it appears to contain with a string of Xs enclosed in brackets. Throughout, I have followed Mascarene's spelling and punctuation choices, the latter of which are often idiosyncratic. All underlining and parentheses are also Mascarene's. In these ways, I hope to have accurately represented Mascarene's translation as well as the unfinished and occasionally confusing state of his manuscript.

I have, on the other hand, decided not to follow Mascarene exactly in a small number of matters, either for ease of reading or due to a lack of clarity in the manuscript. The translator's unruly scrawl often makes it unclear whether a particular letter is intended to be uppercase or lowercase, and so I have opted to follow modern conventions of capitalization. I have also spelled out Mascarene's occasional abbreviations—yr for your, acct for account, immed for immediate, etc.—to make the text, which is already encumbered with struck-through material and revised translations, as clear for the reader as possible. The same goes for the symbol that Mascarene often used in place of the word "and." In an apparent effort to conserve paper, Mascarene sometimes included the words of more than one character on a single line, especially in scenes composed of short exchanges between characters. Instead of following the translator in this choice, I have separated characters' lines in the usual fashion, for the sake of clarity. And finally, I have included the page numbers that were apparently assigned at the

moment of the manuscript's binding with Mascarene's other papers—109-113, with r and v to indicate recto and verso. These would be utterly unfamiliar to Mascarene, but they are the most convenient way of clearly referring to various parts of the surviving manuscript.

109r

Ph. and Al

Phi What is it? What ails you?

Al *sitting down* Leave me I beg of you

Ph. Butt still tell me, what sudden folly?

Al. Once more I beg you'll ~~lett~~ *leave me alone and go and* hide your self as fast as you can

Ph. Butt still one would hear what one has to say without falling into these heats

al Butt I will fall into those heats and will not hear

Ph. I can not comprehend ~~your for ever falling into these humours~~ *these odd humours* and ~~we are~~ *tho' you are* my friends I am one of the first...

Al. rising suddenly I, your friend? No, take me out of your liste, 'tis true I have hitherto profess'd my self ~~such~~ your friend butt after what I have just now seen *of you* I here frankly tell you I shall no more be so *intend not to be such* to you for the future nor will I ~~joy~~ *entertain* friendship with men whose ~~have~~ hearts *are* so corrupted.

Ph. I must then be reckon'd very faulty ~~in your account~~ with you.

Al. Go you ought to die with meer shame, such a behaviour can not be excus'd and will shock every man of honour. I see you receive a man with

the greatest demonstrations of friendship and tenderness, with proffers of service which you seal with the strongest assurances and even oaths and when I afterwards ask you who he is, you can hardly tell me his name? [xxx] You'r cool of a sudden *after parting with him* and mention him to me with ~~slights and~~ *the [greatest]* indifference. Go ~~is a mean unworthy action~~ to stoop so low as to betray one's sentiments is a mean unworthy action, and if I had been guilty of such a ~~misdemeanour~~ I would go and hang my self with [xxxx] vexation.

Ph. I don't see *conceive* this to be a hanging matter; and shall begg the favour of you to allow me to pass a milder judgment upon ~~myself it~~ and not to hang my self ~~for a~~ *in consequence of yours* if you please

Al. How jesting in such a case sitti ill! How ill it befits you to jest in such a case!

Ph. Butt let us talk seriously what would you have a man do?

Al. I would have him be sincere and as a man of honour not to utter a word butt what comes from *the heart*

Ph. When a man comes to ~~you~~ *us* with open arms we certainly ought to receive him *in* the same way and answer to his ~~professions with~~ *endearments and to his offers for offer and protestations* with the like on our side.

Al. No I can not bear that low mean way, affected by your people who follow the fashion and nothing is more hatefull to me than the contorsions of your making of protestations, those who almost stifle you with close butt insignificant huggs, who pretend to oblige you with words that have no meaning who contend and seem even to battle with you [xxx] *in* what is call'd civilities and in this act the same part *without distinction* with the worthy man and the fopp. What advantage can accrue from the endearments, vows of friendship, zeal and estime *and the encomiums he gives you* when they come from a man who will be ready to profess the same to the first fopp he meets. No no there is no [xxx] man who has the least sense of honour who will make any account of an esteem so prostituted. The most ~~exalted~~ *highest* will be reckon'd of little value when

we ~~find ourselves confounded~~ are oblig'd to share it indifferently with all the world. 'Tis upon some mark of distinction that esteem ought to be founded but ~~it is to esteem nothing~~ all the world is to esteem nothing *all men [equally] is to esteem none*. And since you *bear a part* joyn in this common vice I must tell you you are not one of those I shall choose to converse with. I will ~~not~~ accept of no man's friendship who makes no difference in merit, I want to be distinguished and to tell it you in plain English, he that indifferently *equally* esteems all the world is not ~~friend~~ for me.

Ph. But when we converse in the world we must of necessity return such outward civilities ~~which~~ as are allow'd by custom

Al. No, I say again these shamefull shows of friendship should be hooted *at* without mercy. I would have us ~~show ourselves~~ *behave like* men and show the bottom of our hearts on all occasions lett our true sentiments ~~[xxx] come from~~ thence and never appear disguised under vain silly compliments.

Ph. There are many occasions in which this frank way of acting would appear ridiculous and not be allow'd, and it is necessary some times to ~~hide~~ *conceal* what we have in our hearts *our thoughts*, notwithstanding your ~~[xxxxxx]~~ *rigid temper*

109v

honour, would ~~it be it be~~ *you think it* decent and suitable ~~think you~~ to tell number of people what we think of them, and when ~~we~~ some have ~~gett~~ *incurr'd* our hatred or displeasure to tell ~~it-them~~ directly so to them

Al. Yes.

Ph. What would you go and tell old Aminta—that it ill becomes her age to pretend to beauty *appear handsome*, and that the paint she lays on her cheeks makes her ridiculous in the eyes of every body?

Al. Without doubt.

P. And to Dorilas that he is too troublesome and that every body att court is weary of hearing him tell of his prowess and the shining lustre of his descent.

Al. Yes surely.

Ph. You certainly jest.

Al. I do not att all jest, and intend to spare nobody on this *head*. My eyes are too much offended, and ~~my~~ *I can not see without the greatest indignation* [~~that~~] the objects which both the court and the town offer to my view, the way men live with one another raises my spleen and throughs me into the worst ill humour. I find every where a sordid flattery, injustice, self interest cheating and knavery. I can hold no longer and I am resolv'd to declare open war against all mankind.

Ph. This philsofick temper has something in it too wild. I can not butt laugh att these sudden fitts, ~~men~~ 'tis not all your care and endeavours that can make men otherways than they are and since you seem so well pleas'd with this frankness *plainness*, I shall as frankly tell you thus—this disease of yours affords a kind of comedy wherever you go, and that this great passion you express against the ill runn of the times makes you appear ridiculous in the eyes of *many people*

Al. So much the better, *I say yes* so much the better, tis what I want and I take it as a good omen and rejoice att it: for all men are become so odious to me that I should be sorry ~~to appear wise in their eyes they should~~ think me wise *to appear wise in their opinion*

Ph. You *certainly* have a very ill will to all mankind!

Al. Yes, I have conceiv'd a ~~mortal~~ *an inveterate* hatred to all the species.

Ph. What must all mortals without distinction be involv'd in this ~~mortal~~ *utter* aversion? Butt still [~~xxx~~] there may be many found in the age we live in...

Al. No my aversion is general and all men are *equally* the objects of my hatred, some because they are of themselves ~~ill~~ *perverse* and ill inclin'd

evil minded and others because they countenance those they know to be bad men, ~~and~~ and do not pursue them with that hatred and contempt which all men of virtue ~~should~~ *virtuous men ought to* express for every thing that is vicious. This mean condescension *glaringly* appears ~~in a~~ *glaringly manner* in the reception which is given every where to the villain with whom I am att law [xxxxxxx] *in a lawsuit* the cheat *is* plainly is discover'd under his false ~~appearance~~ *colours*, he is known every where for what he is, and his cant nor demure looks can impose on none but strangers: it is well known that this mean fellow has rose in the world by dirty jobs and that ~~being able by them to make some appearance which~~ *the appearances he is [enabled] to make by them* shocks virtue and discountenances ~~virtue~~ merit what ever titles are given to him every where his wretched honour finds no true friend. Call him cheat, infamous, villain and by any other cursed name, ~~[every to]~~ *it is* allow'd on all heads. Yet this counterfeit is wellcom'd every where, is made much off and screws himself in all places and if any post is to be obtain'd by [dint] of solicitations you may be sure he'll carried *it* against the worthiest man. In short *I am [vex'd] to the heart* it is the greatest vexation to me to see vice so much countenanc'd, and I [xxxx] att times to take a sudden resolution to runn into some desert and shunn all mankind.

Ph.

Come come let us show less concern for ~~the~~ the times we live in and ~~show some favour use some condescension~~ *show some condescension* ~~condescend with~~ for human nature we ought not to ~~examine~~ *search* it too strictly butt see see her faults with some indulgence *throw a gentle [veil] over its faults* We must carrie a virtue less rigid in our conversing with men. *For* by striving to be otherwise we may justly be found *become* faulty. A reason *duly pois'd* well regulated avoids equally all extreams and requires our being ~~soberly wise~~ *wise with moderation*. That ~~stiffness of~~ *rigid* virtue ~~us'd of use in times~~ *old times* past shocks too much the common customs establish'd in ours; she requires too much perfection in mere mortals. We must yield to the times without ~~to much~~ so much struggling and it is an unparallell'd folly to pretend to reform the world. I can see as well as you a thousand things every day which with some alteration might go better Butt what ever occurs to me of this kind I don't *do not* inimitate you in those unseasonable starts of passion I take gently men *gently* as they are, and use my self to bear with what they do. And I believe that att court as well as in town this behaviour of mine shows as

much of the *I approve my self as much a philosopher as you do in all your starts and flights of passion by this behaviour temper of mine*

Al. Butt not withstanding your fine reasoning sir will not this cold behaviour *temper* of yours be ~~shock'd~~ warm'd *stirr'd* with any any occurrence, and if for example a friend betrays you, and plotts are laid to stripp you of all you have; that scandalous rumours *reports* are spread to blast your reputation, will you bear all those *with indifference and* without flying into a passion

Ph. Yes. I can see all these which cause such emotion in you, as vices adhering to human nature, and I am no more offended with seeing a man unjust self interested and turn cheat than to see vultures greedy of prey, wolves devouring or apes continually aiming att mischief

Al. What! I shall see my self betray'd, stripp'd, robb'd without being...No. I'll speak *say* no more. So much is your fine reasoning full of *impertinence and* contradiction

Ph. You will do well indeed to refrain. And you'll do much better ~~to not~~ to vent your *to use your care towards your* your self less against your adversary and employ more *of your* care in your lawsuit.

110r

Or. This is very well and think I understand you, butt may I not know what part in my sonnet...

Al. Truly, it is good ~~for~~ *to be putt in* some secret place. You have follow'd bad models and your expressions have nothing of nature in them what is

Rocks awhile our cares
and nought walks after
again, Th'expeuce was needless since you gave nothing butt
hope
and For Philis who then most despair
When always, hoping...

This figurative stile so much made off [~~xxxxx~~] *now a days* is shocking to truth and flyes off from what is natural. It consists only in a jingling of words mere affectation. It is not thus that nature speaks. The ill taste of the age shocks me. Our fore fathers tho' of a coarser [~~xxxx~~] *make* had a much better one and I much less praise what is no wso much admir'd than I do an old song which I am agoing to sing to you

If King Henry ~~should~~ offer'd me
Paris his great City
And in exchange I bounded be
To part with my kitty
I'd tell our king very plain
Take your Paris back again
I will keep my kitty ay
I will keep my kitty

The rhyme is not of the best and the stile *smells* of old times, butt ~~you~~ can't you ~~see that~~ *perceive* this is *to be* much better than ~~all all these~~ *these new* triffls which *are a* shock to good sense, ~~and that~~ you have here ~~pure~~ *more* nature and ~~true~~ *pure* passion express'd....repeats it.² There you'll find the just expressions of a heart truly smitten. Yes (to Oronte who laughs) laughing sir I value this more notwithstanding your modern fine witts than all the florid pomp and all the false glitterings so much made of nowadays.

Or. And I will warrant my verses to be good

Al. You have your reasons for doing so butt you'll please to allow that I *may* have others which will prevent my submitting to yours.

Or. It is enough for me that other people like them

Al. It is because they have the art of concealing their sentiments which I have own'd to you I have not

² This is apparently a stage direction, although Mascarene did not set it off from the character's lines with parentheses, as he usually did elsewhere in the manuscript. The original French text repeats the poem.

Or. Do you then think ~~yourself endow'd with~~ *you have* so much witt?

Al. If I did praise your verses I doubt not butt I should have more

Or. I shall ~~be very easy without~~ *make no great accounts of your not* approving them.

Al. It is necessary you should

Or. I would fain see ~~your~~ some verses *of your composition* on the same subject

Al. I could unhappily make some as bad, butt I would take care not shew them

Or. You seem to speak very high and that overbearing...

Al. Look any where else butt with me for those who will deal you their praises

Or. Butt pray my little gentleman lower something of your tone

Al. Indeed my great gentleman I speak in the right key

Ph. (going between them)

Gentlemen you go too farr pray no more of it

Or. Ah! I am wrong I own and I leave the place I am your servant sir with all my heart

Al. And I am sir your humble servant

Scene 3

Philinte Alceste

Ph. Well you see now you have gott an odd affair upon your hands for being too sincere I very well saw that Oronte in expectation to be flattered....

Al. Speak not to me.

Ph. Butt...

Al. No more converse...

Ph. You are too much...

Al. ~~Let me~~ Leave me to my self.

Ph. If I

Al. No more words

Ph. Butt why!

Al. I hear not

Ph. Butt

Al. Again

Ph. We offend

Al. Ah! Tis too much follow me not.

Ph. You surely can't be in earnest, I'll not leave you

End of the first act

Act 2

Scene 1

Alceste Celimene

Al. Shall I speak plainly to you Madam ~~you~~ I am ~~very~~ *have reason to be* ill satisfied with your manner of acting ~~and~~ the trouble ~~they~~ it gives me must at last make *cause occasion* a breach between us I should ~~but~~ *and it would be* ~~but~~ deceiving you if I should ~~[xxxxxx]~~ to ~~spea~~ *tell you* otherwise. I ~~[feel]~~ *I foresee* that this must inevitably be the event and I should in ~~[xx]~~ vain promise you the contrary I ~~feel~~ *for I am sensible* I should not be able to hold it.

Ce. Is it *[xx]* then to quarrel with me that you took the opportunity to wait on me home

Al. I do not quarrel Madam, but your attracting humour draws on every comer. You have *are continually beset by* too many lovers ~~who~~ with which I can not bring my self to be satisfied

Ce. Will you blame me for my having *many* lovers? Can I hinder people to find me lovely? And if they introduce themselves to my house will you have me take a stick and drive them out?

110v

Al. ~~Is~~ *It is* not a stick Madam you are to make use of to drive them out. But a heart less ~~easy~~ *condescending* and less apt to flatter their ~~[xxxx]~~ I am satisfied you must *carrie* wherever you go those charmes inherent to your person. But your *free and* easy manner of receiving those who *make their* address to you, retains them. The smiles you bestow on them keeps them in their attendance. If you would extend less your ~~[BLANK]~~ to them *make your receiving of them less gracious* you would soon be ridd of this crowd of admirers. But pray lett me know by what particular quality this Clitandre of yours has obtain'd the *good* luck of appearing so ~~welcome to you~~ *charming* ~~pleasing~~ *in your eyes*. On what sublime merit or virtue can you ~~found~~ *impress for* your estime you express for him. Is it the long nail he so choicely presents on one of his little fingers, or have you join'd with the rest of the polite world in admiring him for his fair nice wigg, his way of setting off his legs or ~~[xxxxxxx]~~ *and the nice cutt* of his ~~[coat]~~ clothes *or has he charm'd you by his manner of laughing or his shrill voice?*

Cel. How unjustly ~~you~~ is the uneasiness you would have me believe *he may occasion to you* ~~[is this] that you the uneasiness this occasions~~ you don't you know why I make use of so much art to retain him, which [leads] to no other end than to bring him to make use of his friends *interests* to serve me in my law suit.

Al. *rather* loose your suit Madam, ~~and do not~~ *than to make* use of those [xxx xx xxxx] so much displease me.

Cel. Butt you seem to be jealous of all the world

Al. 'Tis because all the world ~~seems to be~~ *appears is meets with a* wellcome to you *with att your house*.

Cel. And it is ~~that~~ *is my* [xxxxxxxx] receiving so freely to every body with equal freedom that should make you easy for [xxx] was that freedom confin'd to one you might be justly offended.

Al. Butt whist I am tax'd with entertaining so much jealousy pray Madame what have I to boast more than all these your admirers

Cel. The happiness to know ~~that~~ you are *belov'd*

Al. Butt what reason have I to believe it

Cel. I think that my telling you so ~~should~~ *ought to* be sufficient

Al. Butt who will certifie me that you *att the same time* do no tell the same to others

Cel. Indeed the compliment is handsom ~~to come~~ from a lover and I am represented in it as an extraordinary person. Well to make you easy att once I here declare I unsay all that I have said before and nothing for the future can deceive you butt your self be satisfied.

Al. My stars! Must I still love you! Ah *how I shall think myself happy* if I ~~can~~ [xx] once *I can* recover my ~~hand~~ *heart* out of your *the* snares. I don't

conceal it I use all of my endeavours to extricate my self out of this dreadful plight butt my greatest struggles have not been able to accomplish it and it must be for my sinns that I still *am* thus [xxxxxx] to love you

Cel. True your love has certainly no parallell

Al. Yes I may deffie all men on that topic *head* my love is past conception *not to be conceiv'd* and I am sure none has ever lov'd as I do

Cel. True your method is entirely new, for you love people to quarrell with them. It is only in words the most uncouth that your love is expressed and I believe ~~there has never been seen your~~ so quarrelsome a lover was never

Al. Butt is it ~~only~~ owing to you *in your power* to make all this uneasiness vanish, lett us I pray putt by all our contentions and speak with open heart, and find means to stopp and further...

Enter basque

Scene 2

Cel. Al. Basque

Cel. What is the matter?

Bas. Acaste is below

Cel. Well [~~bid~~] desire him to come up

Al. *en bas* What! Can I never be allow'd *a moment* to speak to you in private and will you for ever be ready to receive every comer and not once resolve to leave word you are not at home

Cel. Would you have me bring a quarrell with him upon my hands.

Al. You certainly have such condescentions as I can not *be pleas'd with*

Cel. He is a man never to forgive me if he knew that I did not ~~want~~ *care* to see him.

Al. And what can that be to you, ~~that~~ to occasion ~~any~~ *you the least* uneasiness [~~xxx~~]

Cel. What? You ~~must~~ certainly know such *kind of* people requires great management, they have I don't know how obtain'd the freedom of talking loudly att court, they get themselves admitted in all conversations, they can not be of great use [~~xxxxxx~~] butt they may do a great deal of ~~hurt~~ *harm*, and whatever may be our interest otherwise we are never to fall out with those *loud and* free talkers.

Al. In short lett things turn which way they will, you still find some reasons to receive all the world, and the precautions you use...

Scene 3

Reenter Basque

Basq. Clitandre also Madam.

Al. (~~appears to be~~ *seems* willing to go)

Ay right.

Cel. Where are you going

Al. To withdraw

Cel. Stay.

Al. To what end.

Cel. Stay.

Al. I can not

Cel. Butt I will have you

Al. No those kind of conversations butt tire me and it is too much to ~~force~~
oblige me to bear them.

Cel. I will I will

Al. No. Impossible. ~~xxx~~.

Cel. Well go. Retire you are entirely free so to do.

111r

Scene 4

Eliante Philinte Acaste Clitandre Alceste Celimene and Basque

Eli. Here are the two marquis's coming up after us, have you had notice of it?

Cel. Yes. (to Basque) hand seats for every body (to Al.) what not gone?

Al. No Madam I resolve to make you explain your self for mine and their
sake.

Cel. Be silent.

Al. You shall this day explain your self

Cel. You certainly have lost your senses

Al. Not att all. You shall declare.

Cel. Ah!

Al. You shall make your choice

Cel. You jest I am sure.

Al. No no you shall choose. I have bore *it* too long.

Enter Cli. I come Madam from the Louvre where Cleonte has att the levee ~~appear'd~~ show'd himself the most ridiculous coxcomb has he now some friend who would be so charitable as to give him some good advice on his fulsome way of behaviour

Cel. To ~~tell~~ speak true he makes a wretched appearance in the world, his air carries every where something shocking and after you have been sometime without seeing him he still appears the more uncouth

Ac. If we are ~~indeed to speak~~ upon the subject of of uncouth people I have just now ~~been [xxx] with one~~ *been with one* who is ~~one~~ of the most tiresome *kind*. ~~∅~~ I mean Damon ~~who is the~~ great palaberer *who is so much abounding in words* who has kept me *out of my chair* above an hour in the heat of the sunn

Cel. ~~Tis~~ He's is a strange talker ~~who~~ *and* always has a way of holding long discourses and saying nothing, we can see nothing in all he says and noise is the only thing.

El (low to Ph.) This beginning goes on well and the conversation takes a pretty good turn towards speaking against our *neighbour*

Cli. Timant Madam is another excellent caractere!

Cel. He. is ~~[xx]~~ from head to foot *he appears* all mistery, he give you as he goes by a look full of concern, and shews full of business, tho' he has none in the world. All he tells you is accompanied with odd gestures and he stunn's every body with his compliments. He has ever and anon ~~[some]~~ *breaks off* to whisper some grand secret, and that secret is nothing he makes a wonder of every trifle and even ~~[xx]~~ will come close to your ear to bid you a good morrow

Ac. And Gerald Madam?

Cel. O the dull mortal! He never quits his affectating ~~of being [thought a]~~ the great man; he mingles himself with those of high station and talks of none butt Dukes ~~or [duchesses]~~ or princesses. Quality is his follie and you'll hear him on all occasions bring in his horses equipage and doggs. He'll thee and thou those of the highest rank and the word sir is with him entirely out *of use*.

Cli. He is said to be extreemly well with a certain Lady.

Cel. ~~Oh the~~ O the mean genius of a woman! How dry her conversation. I am never more tormented than when she comes to visit me. One must be in continual pain to find what to say to her and her want *of* knowing how to answer sinks the conversation every moment, in vain one takes *remarks over* all the comon topics to take her out of her dull dumbness. Fair weather rain cold hot *all* are soon exhausted and *what is worst* still her visit is ~~generally~~ *of* an intolerable length, and you may ask what time of day and gape twenty times that she stirs no more than a logg

Ac. What do you think of Adrastus

Cel. Ah what pride! He is a man puff'd up with self love, his meritt is for ever displeas'd with the court he makes a trade a continually railing against the administration and there is no employment, living, or commission given away butt he thinks injustice is done to himself or his friends.

Cli. Butt young Cleon to whom ~~most~~ of the most polite people resort what do you think of him?

Cel. That he has rais'd himself a great deal of merit by *the skill of* his cook and that it is to his table the visits are paid

Eli. He takes care to have it covered with dishes of the nicest table

Cel. Yes. Butt I would fain have him not to [xxxxx] him self for one, [~~it~~] his *foolish silly* person is a very bad dish and spoils in my opinion all ~~the~~ *the best of* his entertainments.

Ph. His uncle Damis is very much estim'd what do you say of him?

Cel. He is in the number of my friends.

Ph. I think him an honest man and of a good disposition.

Cel. True butt he ~~wants to appear too much~~ *strives too much to show himself* a man of witt. He is over much ~~affected~~ *too precise*, and appears in all his discourses to labour in ~~att~~ finding some ~~quaint sayings~~ *saying*. Since he has gott into his head to ~~appear~~ *be learned* *he's so difficult to please that* nothing seems to satisfie his taste, he will find faults in all that is writt and think that it doth not become a man of a refin'd taste to praise any thing; that it is showing one self ~~learned~~ *wise* to find fault and that ~~only~~ *the those are the only it is the* ignorant only who ~~who~~ laugh and admire, ~~the~~ and that we show our selves above the common when we slight all the writing of the present time. He even finds matter for reproaching in the ordinary conversations they consist of too low subjects to draw his attention, and with folded arms he *will* from this towering [x] height of his understanding looks down with pity on all that is said.

Ac. By all that's good his very picture

Cl. You are inimitable in drawing characteres

Al. Well done ~~good sirs~~, go on my ~~fine~~ *good* courtiers, you spare none and each has his turn. But still none *of these offers is will be* mett by you butt you'll hasten to shake him by the hand and with a flattering hugg ~~and~~ strengthen'd with some oaths assure him your being very much his *humble* servants

Cli. Why are we taken to task *reprov'd*, if there is any think in this that offends you, it is to that lady you are to *that your words that your [xxxxxxx] is [xx] directed*

Al. No no 'tis to you, your fawning applause draw from her witt these biting satyrs and her inclination to it is fed by your continual flattery, she would find less pleasure in railing if she was not countenanc'd in it. And it is indeed to *the* flatterers ~~we are~~ *mostly* who are to be reprov'd for all the vices which reign in our days.

Ph. Butt ~~why~~ *should you so much* take the part of those that have been censur'd. You who would certainly condemn what is reprov'd *in them*

Cel. Why must not this gentleman be continually of the contrary side ~~contradicting~~, will *would* you have him follow the common opinion, and not make use of that ~~contradictory~~ *turn spirit of contradiction* he has in his constitution, he is never pleas'd with other peoples sense of things and never fails of taking the other [*adverse*] side, he would think himself too much of the common if he was of the same opinion with any one. The honour of contradicting has so many charms for him that he even *often turns the weapon against himself* ~~the weapons against himself~~ *uses against*, for his very sentiments are attack'd by him if he sees them adopted by any body else

Al. The laughers are on your side, Madam that's enough and you may go on with your satirising against me

Ph. But in short it is true that you are too apt to stand against any thing that's said and that from that [*xxxx*] uneasiness you own your self to be in you can not bear any one should blame or approve

111v

Al. And a very good reason why. Because men are never in the right [*xxx*] *in reason*, and ~~the~~ *their* *my spleen is* [*xxx xxxx*] they raise in me is always in season *to find things* since in all transactions they either praising impertinently or blaming unseasonably

Cel. Butt...

Al. No Madam should it cost me my life I must tell you you delight in what I can I never bear and nothing is of worse tendency than to see you prais'd here for the very faults you seem to be so much given to

Cli. As for my part I shall not scruple to own openly that I have hitherto ~~thought~~ *seen no faults in this lady* ~~without~~

- Aca. I see her blooming in her charms butt as for any faults I never observ'd them.
- Al. ~~They are full~~ *I have them all* in my view and farr from concealing them she knows I don't fail to mark them ~~and tell her of them~~ *reprove her for and make her sensible of them*. The more we love the less we ought to flatter, and it is in not passing by any fault without animadversion that we shew the greater affection, and *was I a woman* I would banish from my presence all those fawning lovers who by *their* allowing of all I say should admire and praise all the extravagancies I might runn into
- Cel. In short if we admit of your opinion we ought ~~to~~ if we love well bid adieu to all courtship and make love to consist in scolding att and reprovng those we love
- Eli Love seldom follows those rules, and we see lovers always extoll *the object of* their choice, they never see any thing faulty in it all is *becomes* lovely, the very blemishes ~~become~~ *turn to* perfections and are ~~changed to~~ *call'd* by other names. Thus the pale complexion is compar'd to the jasmin flower, the dark is a brunett, the lean is well shap'd and free, the fatt commely and walks stately, the sloving appears ~~in~~ *as* a beauty in negligée, the tall is a goddy and the dwarf is contains in little the wonders of the creation, the proud is deserving of a crown the cunning passes for *a* witt, the dull is all goodness. The talker is full of good humour the dumb is ~~modest~~ *bashful*. It is thus that a lover blind with passion adores the very faults of the object he loves
- Al. And I will maintain that...
- Cel. Come lett us make an end of this long controversie ~~and lett us walk go~~ *and take a turn* in the gallery. (to Cli. and Aca.) What! Are you going gentlemen.
- Cli and Aca. No no Madam
- Al. ~~You appear much~~ *The fear they should go gives you much concern'd* Madam. You may go when you please gentlemen butt be assur'd I shall not stirr 'till you are gone

Aca As for my part unless I should be troublesome to the lady I have nothing all this day that call me

Cli And I if [xx] I am butt att the king's

Cel. I think you intend to jest

Al. No, in no wise we shall see whether it is I whom you choose should go away first

Enter Basq

Basq Sir ~~ther~~ somebody is there who would speak with you for an affaire which requires haste

Al. Tell him I have no affaires so pressing

Basq He wears a jacket with ~~gr~~ large folds and daubd with gold

Cel. Go see what it is or bidd him come in

Al. What is your pleasure sir come in

Enter guard of the Mareschal of France

Gua. Sir I'd speak a word with you

Al. Sir you may speak aloud and let me know it

Gua I am order'd from the Mareschale of France to to tell you they require your immediate attendance

Al. Who? I sir?

Gua. Your self sir.

Alc. What to do!

Ph. It is for the ridiculous affaire you have draw ~~up~~ on you with Oronte

Cel. How?

Ph. Oronte and ~~him~~ *he* have had some high words on certain verses which he would *have* not approv'd, and I suppose they want to hinder the affair from proceeding any further

Al. !! I shall never be so *show any* meanness

Ph. Butt you must comply with the order come dispose yourself to

Al. What accommodation will they make between us, will those gentlemen condemn me to approve those verses as good which are the subject of our quarrel I shall not alter my opinion and will stand to what I said. I find them bad.

Ph. Butt still a milder disposition.

Al. I'll not retract the verses are execrable

Ph. You must shew a ~~softer~~ *milder* temper come lett us go

Al. I'll go butt nothing shall oblige me to retract my opinion

Ph. Come *you must* show your self

Al. Without an express command from the king to bid me to own for good the verses which cause this trouble, I shall still maintain them to be bad and that he makes such deserved to be hang'd to Cli. and Aca., who laugh³ hey! I did not think gentlemen I could be the subject of so much mirth as I find I am

Cel. Go. And appear speedily where you are order'd

Al. I'll go Madam, butt will immediately return ~~and~~ *to* decide our controversie

³ Again, these appear to be stage directions, despite the absence of the parentheses Mascarene sometimes used to distinguish such notes from the text.

Act III

Scene 1

Clitander Acast

Cli I see thee my dear friend in a wonderfull good humour, every thing seems to contribute to keep it up and nothing to impair it, butt in good earnest can'st thou believe, without deceiving *being blind* that thou has such mighty reasons to appear so gay

Aca I can not perceive on the strictest examination that I have any reason to be dull. I have a good estate am young and ~~am descended of~~ *spring from* a family which may with good reason claim a distinction in the world and by the title it gives me there are few employments I may not aspire to. As for courage which generally distinguishes a gentleman it is well know without vanity that I am not wanting there, and I *have* shown proofs of it in an affaire I push'd with sufficient vigour. As for witt I have without doubt ~~a reasonable~~ *my share* and of a good taste and can without study argue and decide upon every *any* subject. I have a free use of my limbs, good air, good looks good teeth and a good shape as for dressing I think without flattery few will dispute it with me. I am ~~in a~~ generally estim'd, lov'd by the fair sex and well with the king. I may very freely think ~~after all this~~ my dear that a man with all these advantages may ~~may~~ by very satisfied with his person.

Cli Very well, butt since ~~you~~ *thou* can'st find such easy conquests every ~~well~~ *where* why shouldst thou vainly pursue any here

Aca Who? I? I am neither of a make nor of a humour to bear with a lady's ~~xxxx~~ *frowns* those indeed who are ill favour'd in their make or *can* claim butt a little share of meritt may constantly follow a cruel fair, languish at ~~their~~ *her* feet and find relief in sighs and tears and *and* *endeavour* by a long course of attendance to obtain what is refus'd to their meritt butt people of my shape, my dear, are not wont *to love upon*

~~trust and to love upon trust~~, whatever may be the lady's deserts we may think without offence ours *to be* as good, and that the conquest of such a heart of mine can not be obtain'd without some expence on their side and requires att least the costs to be equal.

Cli Thou fanciest then to be well accepted here?

Aca I have indeed some reason to believe it so

Cli Believe me gett out of that mistake. Thou flatterest and blindest thy self.

Aca True I *positively* flatter and blind my self

Cli Butt from whence can you get the notion of your being lik'd.

Aca From I flatter myself

Cli On what can you ground your presumption

Aca I am blind

Cli Hast thou any certain proofs?

Aca I deceive my self I tell ~~you~~ *thee*.

Cli Has Celimene own'd any inclination?

Aca No I am ill us'd.

Cli. Butt come answer me if thou wilt

Aca (Alca) I meet with nothing butt scorn.

Cli Come let us leave off jesting and tell me plainly what hopes have been given thee?

Aca I am the unfortunate and thou the fortunate lover. My person is held in great aversion and I shall be oblig'd one of these days to go and hang my self

Cli Well shall we agree in order to adjust our pretentions that he who shall be able to show a sure token of his having the best share of Celimene's affection shall carrie it and the other shall withdraw and leave him full room

Aca Ah thou now pleasest me with this proposal and I yield to it with all my heart, butt hold...

Enter Celimene

Cel What! Here still?

Cli Love detains us

Cel I just now hear'd a coach stop att the door do you know who it can be?

Basq

Basq Arsinoe Madam is coming up to see you ~~[xx]~~

Celi What business can this woman have with me?

Basq Eliante is below talking with her [xx]

Celi What ~~doth~~ *spirit* possessess her and prompts her to come?

Aca She ~~goes~~ *is held* everywhere for a consumate prude and *the fervour of* her zeal...

Celi *ay ay all meer grimace show, she in her heart loves the world in her heart* and all her [views] ~~[are tending to]~~ *have no other end butt to snapp up some body without being which however she is not able to compass it.* She can not see without spight ~~the~~ lovers *openly* paying attendance to ~~any~~ one and her merite deserted by them all putts her in the worst

temper against the ~~xxxxx~~ *blindness of the age*. She strives to cloak under the affectation of a prude her uneasiness for all the lonesomness she is reduc'd to and to preserve the honour of her weak charms she pretends those that have any must ~~employ~~ be guilty of some [BLANK] A lover however would be acceptable to the lady, she ~~has~~ expresses some kindness for Alceste and charges me with robbery because I deprive *[prevent]* her of *his paying* his addresses to her and ~~she xxxxx~~ her jealous spight which she takes great care to conceal *makes her bellow out* against *me in all places*. In short I never saw a more foolish behaviour and in my opinion she is the most impertinent mortal...

Enter Arsinoe and Cli and Aca [xx]

Ars. and Celi

Celi Ah Madam what good ~~fortune~~ *luck* am I oblig'd to for this visit? I was in truth under some concern on your account

Arsi I come Madam with some advice I thought my self bound to give you

Celi O how I am glad to see you.

Ars. Their going away could never happen more seasonably

Celi. Shall we sitt down

112v

Arsi There is no need. Our friendship Madam can never be better ~~express'd~~ *We can never better express our friendship Madam [I appear] than by the share we take in what is of most concern in expressing to our friends than by showing the our concern [xxxxxxx] have for what most interests our friends* and as there can be nothing that can so nearly affect us as our honour and good name I come to testifie ~~my~~ *the regard I have* for you by imparting an ~~xxx~~ advice to you which ~~which~~ *concerns touches* your honour. I was yesterday with people of exemplary virtue and who are in *have a general good estime caractere* where the discourse happen'd to fall on you. Your too free and shewy way of living had the ill fortune not to be approv'd ~~with~~ that crowd of people you admitt ~~and the talk it~~

~~occasions~~ and the courtship you allow to be paid you and the talk it occasions met with *censures* more *than enough* severe ~~censures than~~ and more than I could have wish'd. You may easily think *conceive* what side I took. I did all I could to defend your caractere. I excus'd you on your intentions being good and made my self answerable for the [BLANK] of your heart. Butt you know Madam there are certain points which ~~whatever we may have~~ *how desirous we may be* we can not entirely excuse and I found my self oblig'd to own that your manner of living did you some prejudice and has a bad aspect in the world and that ~~there is~~ ~~no~~ a hundred malicious stories are handed every where about it. That if you would use a little more discretion you would give less hold to evil *malicious* tongues not that I think ~~that~~ for all these your honour tainted God forbid I should have such a thought, butt the very shadows of an [impudent behave] *vice* easily believ'd [*credited*] and it is not enough to be satisfied within our selves *of our innocence*. I am confident Madam that you have too much good sense not to take in good part this usefull advice and to be owing to no other cause than the ~~zeal~~ *concern* I have for every thing ~~which may concern~~ *that may affects* you

Celi

I [~~can~~] return you my hearty thanks Madam such advice can not butt oblige me and farr from shewing any dislike I intend *here* to acknowledge the favour by an advice which touches your honour and as *I see* your shewing your self my friend by acquainting me with the idle stories every where handed about of me: I will in my turn follow so good an example in advising you of the reports that go about of you. In a certain place where I was visiting some days ago I mett with some people of distinguish'd merit, who speaking of the means us'd by people who lead a good life, made the conversation fall on you. There your starchness and shews of zeal were not cited as *taken for* a good model that affectation of a grave outside those continual discourses on honour and sobreness, your wry faces and cries [~~xx~~] *att* the least shaddows of indecencies which a word may happen to ~~have~~ *carrie*, that high veneration you seem to have of your self and those looks of pity you ~~throw~~ *cast* on all, your frequent documents and censures on things purely innocent. All these Madam [~~xx~~] if I may speak plainly ~~was~~ *were* unanimously blam'd. Of what use *can be* said they that air of modesty and fair outside which all the rest beliees she is exact *very nicely* att her prayers, butt she beats ~~servants~~ *maids* and wrongs them of their wages. She exerts a great zeal in all places of

devotion butt she paints and affects to appear handsom: she has *the naked parts* her pictures cover'd ~~when drawn too much naked,~~ butt *then she* loves those that are real. As for my part I stood against every body in your deffence and strongly insisted that all those [xxx] were malicious aspersions butt I had every body's opinion against mine, and they concluded that you would do well to have less concern for others people's affairs and show some more for your own. That we ought to examine ourselves with care *very strictly* before we offer to condemn others, that the corrections we intend *give* for others ought to *carrie along with them* the weight of an exemplary life in ourselves, and that then it is even better to leave them to [xxx] administered by those to whom heaven has committed the care of it. I am also confident Madam that you have too much good sense not to take in [x] good part this usefull advice and to think ~~be~~ *it* owing to no other cause than the concern I have for every thing that may affect you.

Arsi Whatever we may ~~expect~~ be lyable to when we give advice I did not Madam expect this answer and I can very well perceive by the bitterness it contains that the sincere advice I have given you has touch'd you to the quick.

Celi Not att all Madam and if we were wise these mutuall good offices should be ~~in use~~ [*praise'd*], we should thereby in acting faithfully wipe off the blinders which every body is in on his own account. It will be intirely in your power to ~~keep up~~ have this mutual confidence continued with the same zeal between us, taking care to tell to each other you what you hear of me and I what I hear of you.

Arsi Ah Madam I can hear nothing of you worth *any* notice, it is *in* me that much may be found worthy of *reproof*.

Celi There may be reasons found to praise and blame in all and each may be in the right according to ~~the~~ age or taste, there is a season for gallantry another for reservedness; pollicy may oblige us to take *use* this last when we have pass'd our bloom, it helps to cover many disappointments, I may *some time hence* very likely oblig'd [*xx*] to follow your steps, age will bring an alteration, butt it is not a time as every body knows to be a prude att twenty.

Arsi Indeed you pride yourself much on a slight advantage and *you* sett off your youth att a strange ~~and~~ rate. It doth not appear that the few years one may have above you deserves such great [BLANK] and I can not conceive Madam why you should sett your self so much against me

Celi And I Madam I can not *also* conceive *why* you are every where running out against me, must you call me to task for whatever causes of vexation you may have and can I help your not being address'd to. If my person inspires love and ~~and~~ draws on me those addressess which you would be glad I should not have [~~xxx~~] it is none of my fault and I can not help it ~~you~~ the way is open'd to you and I don't hinder your having charms to draw them to you.

Arsi Ah! And do you think one is concern'd att the crowd of lovers who raise your vanity so high and that it is not very easy to judge att what price they may be retain'd? Can you persuade people when they see how every thing is carried on that your meritt alone draws them and that ~~very~~ honourable love only [~~xxxxx~~] *accomplishes suffices* keeps them and that they only covet your virtues? The world is not blind nor easily deceiv'd. I see some who are of a make to inspire love butt who notwithstanding have no followers and from thence we may very well conclude that they *lovers* are not easily drawn without bold stepps [*taken*] on our side, that none sighs for our looks only

113r

butt that a price must be paid for their attendance, don't then be puff'd up with the *mean* glitterings of an ugly victory, and learn to abate something of the pride you assume on your charms for treating treating people with contempt. If our eyes grudged the conquests made by others I fancy we might take the same way others do that is not to value what the world may say and *show you that one may* have lovers as [~~xxx~~] as ~~you~~ when they have a mind for them.

Celi With all my heart Madam gett them, *as soon as you please* ~~and~~ lett us see your management in it and [~~xxxxx~~] use your best endeavours to please by this rare secret, and withouth

Arsi Lett us break off ~~Madam this~~ *off Madam* such *kind of* discourse would too much raise your temper and mine. I should have *taken already* the leave that is proper if I was not oblig'd to stay for my coach

Celi Tarry as long as you please Madam ~~and~~ you need not be in haste, butt without troubling you with any ceremonie on my side I am a going to give you more agreeable company and that gentleman who happens *to come* very luckily ~~to~~ will fill my place and entertain you better. Alcest I have two or three words to write which I can not defferr without doing my self a prejudice, stay with this lady she will easily excuse my rudeness—
incivility

Alcest Arsinoe

Arsi You see she has a mind we should converse together whils't I stay for the coming of my coach. She could never offer me any thing I value so much as the opportunity of conversing with you, men of an exalted meritt can not butt be lov'd and estim'd by all and yours has some secret charm that makes me take part in ~~all your~~ every thing that concerns you, I wish the court would look as favorably on your real worth, you certainly have reason to complain of its treatment and I am *every day vex'd to the heart* to see nothing is done for you.

Alc. For me Madam? And on what could I ground any pretentions? What service have I done for the nation? And what *shining action* pray have I perform'd, that can occasion my complaining that nothing is done for me?

Arsi All those on whom the court bestows favours have not always perform'd those shining actions, these must *it requires* opportunity as well as power *should be [given]* for performing them, ~~and~~ butt in short the meritt we see in you ought

Alc Pray Madam let putt by this *have done with* this meritt, what trouble would you bring on the court ~~to be in putting it~~ *it would have be no small business [xxxxx]* under obligation to go every where and ferret out the meritt of people

Arsi So shining a meritt appears of it self and yours is extol'd every where, and I can tell you that yesterday in two places where I happen'd to be a great many praises were bestowed on you

Alc Ah! Madam every body is *has* now a days praises [~~bestow'd~~], [xxxxx *will*], the present age confounds all things all is equally endow'd with exalted meritt, all is full of encomiums they are thrown to every body head. My very valet de chambre has been putt in the gazette

Arsi I wish for my part that to make your worth the better appear you could be willing to accept of a post att court, would you butt show the least inclination towards it one might putt some ingines att work and I have people att command who may make your way *very* easy to it.

Alc And what would you have me do there Madam? ~~Of~~ the temper I am of requires I should banish my self from thence. Heaven has not made me of a constitution to bear with a courtly air, I have not those virtues requisite to procure me any success in that climat. My greatest talent is to be franc and sincere. I have no words adapted to flatter *and deceive* people, and he who has not the gift of concealing his thoughts has need of making *to make* as little stay there as he can. Tis true *out of the court* one can not have ~~that~~ *those* advantages or those titles it can give, butt att the same time if we ~~lose~~ *must be without* them we *are* on the other hand *are* not oblig'd to act low and mean parts we have not *to bear with* many hard rebukes to bear w ~~we are not oblig'd to~~ praise Mr. Such a One's compositions to fawn on Madam such a one, and are not forc'd the hear the impertinent tattle of our empty [smarts].

Arsi Lett us talk no more of the Court since you will have it so, butt I can not butt show you my concern for your love, I could wish it was plac'd on a better object, you certainly deserve a better fate and she who has the power to charm you is unworthy of you

Alc Butt in saying this do you ~~xxx~~ consider *Madam* that this lady is your friend!

Arsi Yes butt my conscience is truly wounded and can not any longer bear to see the wrong that is done you the condition I see you in gives me too ~~great~~ *much* a concern not to tell you *give you notice* that your love is betray'd

Alc 'Tis indeed to show your self very tender of my concerns, and such notices are very obliging to a lover

Arsi Yes, for all the friend she is to me she is unworthy ~~to~~ of the heart of a man of worth, [~~xxx xx xxx~~] butt whatever kindness hers shows towards you is all feign'd

Alc This may be Madam we can not look into the hearts of people, butt your good will towards me might have very well spar'd throwing such a doubt in me

Arsi If you choose to continue in your error, one must say nothing to you, the task is easy.

Alc That is not the case, butt on such a subject whatever may be said to us doubts of all things are the most *poignant* sensible and I for my part I would have nothing told me butt what can be clearly prov'd

Arsi Well, that's enough, you will have lights sufficiently clear given you on that head, yes I desire nothing butt that your own eyes convince you of the whole. Give me butt your hand to lead me home, *and* there I shall show you [~~x~~] certain proof of the falsness of ~~your~~ the object of your wishes and if you can be brought to ~~x~~ turn them an other way you will meet ~~with~~ wherewith to make up your loss.