

THE COUNTRY BURIAL. 53

WELFORD.

'Tis true I have found it so: and you, by your living so many years in my house in your youth, was frequently an eye-witness of this sad truth: And I further confess that my secret troubles (which were the greater for being so) far exceeded all that ever were visible; but those are not essential to a married state, but might have been prevented by a more prudent choice. But as it was, one darling child not only made them easy, but far o'erpaid them all. [Tho' heaven knows that child is now my greatest trouble.] *[Aside.]*

SIR JOHN.

It is not the lot of every man to be father to a Silvia. The ill conveniences of marriage are certain, the advantages precarious, therefore I determine to persevere in my freedom.

AIR XXXIX. (A Country Life is sweet.)

*Free from confinement and strife,
I'll plow thro' the ocean of life,
To seek new delights,
Where beauty invites,
But ne'er be confin'd to a wife.
The man that is free,
Like a vessel at sea,
After conquest and plunder may roam;
But when either's confin'd,
By wife, or by wind,
Tho' for glory design'd,
No advantage they find,
But rot in the harbour at home.*

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WELFORD.