

Memoirs of Laetitia Pilkington in VI.B.45

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Memoirs of Mrs. Laetitia Pilkington, Wife to the Rev. Mr. Matthew Pilkington. Written by Herself. Wherein are occasionally interspersed, All Her POEMS; with Anecdotes of several eminent persons, Living and Dead. Among others, Dean Swift, Alexander Pope, Esq; &c. &c. Dublin printed. London Reprinted. 1748.

She was born in Ireland (c. 1709) the daughter of a well-known doctor. Her turbulent and productive life ended in 1750 but not before she had completed three volumes of her memoirs which contained a significant verse content.

Joyce probably used the 1928 edition edited by Iris Barry for these late Notebook entries. The edition is not available for consultation online. He might also have come across the first edition in Marsh's Library many years before. Units from Volume 1 were transcribed onto VI.B.45.132-133 while a few units from the first pages of Volume 2, following a short index taken from Allen Mawer's book, *The Vikings*, were copied onto page 138.

Source citations, abbreviated as *LP1* and *LP2* are from the first edition (1748) and the 1749 edition, respectively. Both editions can be accessed online at

<https://archive.org/details/memoirsofmrsלטit01pilk>

<https://archive.org/details/memoirsofmrsלטit02pilk>

All but one of the crossed out Notebook entries were used in Book 1 Chapter 6 (Galley Proofs, Second Set) which carried the Issy siglum in draft. They seem to have provided mainly local colour and add an authentic 18th century Irish female voice. The promiscuous Reverend Mr Pilkington (husband of Laetitia) becomes appropriately “the rubberend Mr Polkingtone” (see *FW* 236.16 for a similar pun!). Joyce seems to have made an interesting use of the note “LP breaks into verse / 141” where he mimics the frequent interpolations in the source at *FW* 146.09-12. The only relevant nearby portion of the *Memoirs*, is the passage quoted below.

VI.B.45.132

(d) 'rusty gown

LP1 89: 'Tis to be observed, his [Swift's] Gown was generally very rusty, and his Person no way extraordinary.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrRMA: ^+How vain's that hope in cleric's heart Who still pursues
th' adult'rous art, Cocksure that rusty gown of his Will make fair Sue forget his phiz!
Tame Schwipps.+^ | *JJA* 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 146.11

(e) 'orrery

LPI 111: The next morning a Lady came to visit me, who told me, it being the Dean's
Birth-day, he had received a Book very richly bound and clasped with Gold, from the
Earl of *Orrery*

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrTMA: ^+, baiting at my Lord Ornerys,+^ | *JJA* 49:479 | early
1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 144.09

(f) 'chid

LPI 132: Corrigible People are to be chid; those who are otherwise, may be very safe
from any Lectures of mine

MS 47476a-230, ScrPrRMA: ^+That I chid you, sweet sir?+^ | *JJA* 49:481 | early 1938
| I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.17

(g) 'but an odd

LPI 156: Though I thought this but an odd Manner of Life for a Clergyman [her
husband, with whom she suffered an acrimonious separation.], I did not say so, being
unwilling to offend him.

MS 47476a-230, ScrPrRMA: ^+: and desired she might not take it amiss if I esteemed
her but an odd.+^ | *JJA* 49:481 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.07

(h) 'I desired he w. ask >

MS 47476a-230, ScrPrRMA: ^+: and desired she might not take it amiss if I esteemed
her but an odd.+^ | *JJA* 49:481 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.06

(i) 'a barren ewe

LPI 169-70: I desired he would ask his Lady, who had invited me to use me ill: Which
he said, he hoped she would not do, even in Regard to my Condition (being then
pregnant). But, Heaven knows! had he but considered how cruel all barren Creatures
naturally are, insomuch that I have seen a barren Ewe [169] attempt to kill a young
Lamb, he would rationally have judged what might have, even in Law, been my
Protection, was the very Cause of her Hatred and Displeasure to me.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrBMA: ^+Sink her! May they fire her for a barren ewe!+^ | *JJA*
49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.05

(j) 'as I shall answer to G

LPI 175: as I shall answer it to God

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMA: ^+, as I shall answer to gracious heaven,+^ | *JJA* 49:479
| early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 144.26

(k) 'of facetious memory

LPI 242: the late Earl of *R—ffe*, of facetious Memory

MS 47476a-231, ScrPrRMA: ^+of facetious memory+^ | JJA 49:483 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 147.30-31

(l) **‘bemeshawl**

LPI 243: ‘Arah, by my Shoul (said the old Dame) you would make her one, if you could

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMS: ~~When~~ ^+Beme shawl, when+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 144.04

VI.B.45.133

(a) **‘Mother Brown**

LPI 245: And, in Process of Time, it came to light, that the venerable House-keeper of the Earl, was neither better or worse than the celebrated Mother *Brown* [a bawd]: and indeed I received many Visits from Ladies of her sublime Calling.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMA: ^+, the rubberend Mr Polkingtone, the quoniam fleshmonger who Mother Brawne solicited me for unlawful converse with, with her pot ^+mug+^ of October (a pots on it!),+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 144.31

(b) **‘L.P breaks into verse / 141**

?LPI 245-7: And if every married Man, who has ever attacked me, does not subscribe to my *Memoirs*, I will, without the least Ceremony, insert their Names, be their rank ever so high, or their Profession ever so holy. [245]

*I’ll dash the proud Gamester from his gilded Car;
Bare the mean Heart, that lurks beneath a Star.*

And the more formal Villains, who, in the Robes of Sanctity, commit worse Frauds then Highwaymen, surely ought not to remain unexposed.

*For me, while Heav’n affords me vital Breath,
Let them behold me, as their Scourge, till Death;
Them, thro’ their Serpent Mazes, I’ll pursue,
And bring each latent Vice to public View:
And, what their Cunning studies to conceal,
Shall be my constant Pleasure to reveal;
Till warn’d Mankind shall from their Mischiefs fly,
And hate them more, if possible, than I.*

*Ay, my little good Lord Cardinal!
I’ll scare you worse than did the Midnight Bell, [246]*

When the brown Wench lay kissing in your Arms¹.

I once was acquainted with a Prelate, who had certain stated Prices for all his Sins; as thus:

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For Adultery	—	1	7	0
For Simple Fornication		0	10	6
For Venial Transgressions		0	5	0 each.

And,

Yet he was a B—p, and he wore a Mitre,

Which, all in good Time, may be

Surrounded with Jewels of Sulphur and Nitre.

How nearly this B—p my B—p resembles!

But his has the Odds, who believes and who trembles.

247n1: Mem. My Maid on the Carpet.

MS 47476a-229: ^+How vain's that hope in cleric's heart Who still pursues th' adult'rous art, Cocksure that rusty gown of his Will make fair Sue forget his phiz! Tame Schwipps.+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 146.09-12

(c) **owned his work** >

(d) **'every jot**

LPI 263-4: Mr. *W—e* now began to make some Figure; and tho' he kept me pretty fully employed, he drove an underhand Trade with Mr. *P—n*. And as he was not willing that either of us should believe him incapable of Writing, he used to show Mr. *P—n*'s Work to me, and swear it was his own; and in return, he, with the same modest Assurance, presented mine to him; but we were too well acquainted with each other's Stile to be deceived. At last, Mr. *P—n*, not satisfied with all the Expence he put him to in *London*, made a Demand on him for fifty Pounds; but as Mr. *P—n* had before made the best Penny of me to him he possibly could, and *W—le* finding what I wrote passed every Jot as well as his, he thought it most convenient, if he did disburse any thing, to give it to me, as thinking I most wanted it; so I was now full of Poetical Business, [263] by which my Poverty was relieved, and my Mind amused.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrRMA: ^+For every jot I care! I can pay my club like she.+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 144.02

(e) **he wd be cast**

LPI 265: But this outrageous manner of Proceeding rather injured himself than me; the Delegates were appointed; and as every body whom he consulted, assured him, he

would be cast, his haughty Spirit was willing to capitulate; but nobody would undertake to deliver his Message to me, least he should scandalize them for it; so at length with great Entreaty be prevailed on *W—le* to make a Proposal from him, to me, of giving me a small Annuity, and thirty Pounds in Money, which, in regard to my Children, I rather chose to accept of, than ruin their Father, as I certainly had it in my power to do.

(f) 'unlawful converse

LPI 264: Mr. *P—n* was so vexed at losing his Chap, that in Revenge he endeavoured to insinuate that we conversed unlawfully together; but this met no Credit, as I very seldom saw him, and never alone.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMA: ^+, the rubberend Mr Polkingtone, the quoniam fleshmonger who Mother Brawne solicited me for unlawful converse with, with her ~~pœt~~ ^+mug+^ of October (a pots on it!),+^ | *JJA* 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 144.31

(g) in labour

LPI 267: But Heav'n knows, as I had every thing to provide for a Child, and myself, and Rent also to pay, this Sum lasted not long, especially as I had no Friend near me.— No; nor any honest Person; for my Landlady, of whom before I had conceived a good Opinion, when she found I was in Labour, insisted either on my paying double the Rent, I had engaged for, or quitting her House, which, as it was then too late for me to do, I was necessitated to comply with her exorbitant Demand, which made her very complaisant.

(h) 'fleshmonger

LPI 269-70: Thus may one see how early Priestcraft began; from the very first, they were Flesh-[269]mongers; and Priests of all Religions are the same.

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMA: ^+, the rubberend Mr Polkingtone, the quoniam fleshmonger who Mother Brawne solicited me for unlawful converse with, with her ~~pœt~~ ^+mug+^ of October (a pots on it!),+^ | *JJA* 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 144.30

(i) cloven tongue

LPI 282: But, Courage my Spouse; tho' it cannot be said, / That one cloven Tongue ever sat on your Head; / I'll hold you a Groat, and I wish I could see't, / If your Stockings were off, you could shew cloven Feet.

(j) p 160

Note: Probably a page reference to the edition that Joyce used.

(k) 'sink you / or fire you

LPI 295: D—n you! Sink you! G-d fire you!

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrBMA: ^+Sink her! May they fire her for a barren ewe!+^ | *JJA* 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.04-05

VI.B.45.138

(a) 'LP ombre

LP2 2: My Landlady, who was really a Gentlewoman, and he, and I, diverted away the Time with Ombre, [a card game] Reading, and Pratling, very tolerably
MS 47476b-290v, PrPrLPS: coming here ~~f???~~ ^+, the ombre ~~pay~~ players, to rake your gravel and+^ | JJA 50:032 | early 1938 | I.1§1.8/2.8 | FW 024.36

(b) 'pay my club

LP2 3: But the worst Circumstance of all was, that they used to sit up drinking all Night, and forced me to pay my Club for their Wine, though I never even saw it. [...] I always permitted him to pay my Club; but, like a true Levite, he began to offer a little more of his Civility than I was willing to accept of; so, finding that would not do, he made me a Present of a Ginger-bread-nut, curiously wrapt up in white Paper, and after making me give him a Promise to write to him, he left us.
MS 47476a-229, ScrPrRMA: ^+For every jot I care! I can pay my club like she.+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 000.00

(c) 'bait at inn

LP2 4: However, we all baited at the same Inn at *Barnet* [took food & lodgings], and this prodigious Man insisted on having the Ladies for his Guests
MS 47476a-229, ScrPrTMA: ^+, baiting at my Lord Ornerys,+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 144.08-09

(d) 'October (ale) >

MS 47476a-229, ScrPrLMA: ^+, the rubberend Mr Polkingtone, the quoniam fleshmonger who Mother Brawne solicited me for unlawful converse with, with her ~~pøt~~ ^+mug+^ of October (a pots on it!),+^ | JJA 49:479 | early 1938 | I.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | FW 144.32

(e) 'sweet sir

LP2 5: S I R,

Your Ginger-bread, unbroken,
Remains a true Love Token.

I am assured, by your honourable Countrymen, that you pass for a Wit in *Wales*; it is therefore my sincere Advice to you, never to quit it, lest the rest of the World should be malicious enough to refuse you your due Praise. As for the Favour you offered to me, why you offered it like a Priest, and I refused it like a Fool; if you write to me, direct, To the Right Honourable the Lady *W—lp—le*, in *Downing-street, Westminster*. I will endeavour to prevail on my Spouse elect to send you a Fiddle and a Hogshead of good *October*, to entertain your Parishioners every *Sunday*.

I am, sweet Sir Crape,

Yours.

MS 47476a-230, ScrPrRMA: ^+That I chid you, sweet sir?+^ | *JJA* 49:481 | early 1938
| L.6§1.8/2.5/3.11/4.7 | *FW* 145.17