

Side 6 Archer and Aimwell

Aimwell: So Cherry is the daughter of the house?

Archer: The landlord is so blind as to think so; but I dare swear she has better blood in her veins.

Aimwell: What makes you think so?

Archer: Because she has a pert je ne sais quoi; she reads plays.

Aimwell: By which discoveries I guess that you know more of Cherry...

Archer: Not yet, faith.

Aimwell: Let me take her in hand.

Archer: Say one word more of that, and I'll declare myself, spoil your sport there, and everywhere else. Every man in his own sphere, Aimwell. But to our business. [Archer starts fussing with Aimwell's tie and grooming him.] You are so well dressed, Tom, and make so handsome a figure, that I fancy you would find lady admirers in a country church.

Aimwell: [Thoughtfully] A country church! There's something in that which may turn to advantage. The appearance of a stranger in a country church draws as many gazers as a blazing-star; no sooner he comes into the cathedral, but a train of whispers runs buzzing round the congregation: Who is he? Whence comes he? Do you know him? Then I tip the parson; he pockets the simony, and inducts me into the best pew in the church; I turn myself

round, single out a beauty, rivet both my eyes to hers, and show the whole church my concern, by my endeavouring to hide it; after the sermon, the whole town gives me to her for a lover, and by persuading the lady that I am dying for her, the tables are turned, and she in good earnest falls in love with me.

Archer: Instead of riveting your eyes to a beauty, try to fix 'em upon a fortune; that's our business at present.

Aimwell: Psha! A beauty without a fortune is like a keg without ale. Let me alone, I'll be fine!

Archer: Tom!

Aimwell: Ay.

Archer: Have you ever been to a church before?

Aimwell: Um—I was probably there at my—baptism? Christening? Is there a difference?

Archer: And how can you expect a blessing by going to church now?

Aimwell: Blessing! nay, Frank, I don't ask for a blessing, but for a wife. [Exit.

Archer: Sounds reasonable. [Exit at the opposite door.