

## THE TWO TOM LUCYS

[*April, 1686*]

In mid-March, 1686, the young and impulsive George Fitzroy, Duke of Northumberland, privately married Katherine, the beautiful widow of Captain Thomas Lucy of Charlecote. The new duchess had neither dowry nor rank, and her reputation was not beyond reproach. It was reported that her father was a poulterer near Fleet Bridge; in fact, he was a country gentleman, Robert Wheatley of Bracknell, Berks. King James II was chagrined at his nephew's folly, especially because at the time the King was "in treaty" for a wealthy wife for Northumberland, a daughter of the Duke of Newcastle.

Repenting his folly, Northumberland sought the help of his older brother, Henry, Duke of Grafton, who advised divorce. When they learned that divorce was impossible, the two dukes, on March 22, kidnapped the duchess aboard a barge at Chelsea, took her to Gravesend, and there embarked for Flanders. At Ghent they placed the lady, "a Papist," in a nunnery, and on April 3 they returned to England. On May 18, at the King's order, a yacht was sent for the duchess. She was restored to her native land, acknowledged by her husband, and presented at Court.

The author of the satire, written (c. April) before the duchess returned, used the scandalous affair as the opening for his shotgun libel, and played on it in his title. Northumberland, of course, is the second foolish "Tom Lucy." The copy text is Add. MS. 29,497, pp. 41-43. In Dyce MS. 43, II, 662, the satire is undated and called "Ballad. The Widows and Maids." In Harleian MS. 7319, p. 430, the poem, undated, is called "A New Ballad." In Harleian MS. 6914, p. 109, and Stowe MS. 969, f. 61, it is "Song, to the Old Tune of Taking of Snuff is the Mode at Court," a title repeated in *POAS*, 1705, p. 440. For a recent edition see *POAS*, Yale, IV, 67.

Young widows and maids  
Now hold up your heads,

THE TWO TOM LUCYS

There are men to be had for all uses.  
But who could presage  
That ever one age 5  
Should be furnished with two Tom Lucys?

No reason I see  
Our Goodman should be  
So very much angry with her son;  
For though her estate 10  
Be encumbered with debt,  
She always was free of her person.

Since his grace would prefer  
The poulterer's heir  
To the great match his uncle had made him, 15  
T'were just if the King  
Took away his blue string,  
And sewed on two to lead him.

That the lady was sent  
To a convent in Ghent 20  
Was the counsel of kidnapper Grafton;  
And we may foretell  
That all will do well,  
Since the rough blockhead governs the soft one.

King John, who once passed 25  
For a coward, at last  
Gave evident proof of his courage;  
There's many a one  
Scorns pistol and gun,  
Would not venture on such a marriage. 30

Moll Hinton best knows  
Why Newburgh keeps close,  
But it need never trouble her conscience;

'Tis duty to clap  
 That impertinent fop, 35  
 For then the town's free of his nonsense.

For one that loves peace  
 And would live at his ease,  
 Northampton the best way has chosen;  
 Leaves courting the fair 40  
 To his uncle's care,  
 And the combating part to his cousin.

In Shrewsbury we find  
 A generous mind  
 So kindly to live with his mother, 45  
 And never try yet  
 To revenge the sad fate  
 Of his father and only brother.

Since fighting we see  
 With some don't agree, 50  
 A witness the much safer post is,  
 And though Ford, Lord Grey,  
 In the field ran away,  
 He can charge in a court of justice.

'Tis pleasant to hear 55  
 An eminent peer  
 Make whoring a case of conscience,  
 When 'tis so well known  
 His favor begun  
 By pimping to Portsmouth not long since. 60

It is plain case  
 The countess's disgrace  
 The Catholic cause advances,  
 And 'tis also as plain

That Tyrconnel's chief aim 65  
Was to bring in his daughter Frances.

That church will dispense  
With no heretic wench,  
But yet we have this for our comfort:  
If the priest at the Court 70  
Denies us the sport,  
The Chancery allows us a Mountfort.

Thrice fortunate boy  
Who can give double joy,  
And at every turn be ready, 75  
With pleasures in store,  
Both behind and before,  
To content both my lord and my lady.

6. *Lucy*. Thomas Lucy (1641–84), Captain of a Troop of the Household Guards, had inherited Charlecote in 1677. He died of smallpox in November, 1684.

8. *Goodman*. Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland, the Duke of Northumberland's mother and mistress of a famous actor, Cardell Goodman. The "her" in line 10 refers to the new Duchess of Northumberland.

14. *poulterer*. "The Duke of Northumberland hath lately married Captain Lucy's widow, who was a poulterer's daughter" (Luttrell, I, 373).

17. *blue string*. The ribbon of the Order of the Garter.

24. *the rough blockhead*. Grafton. *the soft one*. Northumberland.

20. *a convent*. "Yesterday morning the Dukes of Grafton and Northumberland took her new grace and carried her on board a yacht, which is to convey her to a convent, much against her will, who was seduced into the snare under the pretense of taking the air and being reconciled to the Duke of Grafton" (*Savile Correspondence*, p. 280, March 23, 1686).

25. *King John*. John, Earl of Mulgrave, was called "fearful Mulgrave" in "Satire," 1680 (*POAS*, Yale, II, 207), and directly accused of cowardice at Tangier, whither he had been sent in June, 1680 ("The Female Laureat," *POAS*, 1716, II, 147).

30. *marriage*. On March 15, 1686, Mulgrave married Ursula (Stawell), the wealthy young widow of Edward, Earl of Conway.

31. *Hinton*. Mall Hinton, a famous prostitute; see Appendix.

32. *Newburgh*. Foppish Charles Livingston, Earl of Newburgh (c. 1662–94).

39. *Northampton*. In December, 1685, George Compton, fourth Earl of Northampton (1664–1727), and his uncle, Henry Compton, Bishop of London, went awooing Ursula, widowed Lady Conway. There were some mysterious underhand deal-

ings between Lord Mulgrave and the lady's step-father, Mr. Henry Seymour. The result was "such a riddle as everybody both laughs and wonders at." In February, 1686, Northampton sent Seymour a challenge by his young cousin, Hatton Compton, but Seymour refused to fight. On February 17, Hatton Compton and Edward Seymour's second son "grew very warm, and this morning [February 18] fought near Kentish Town; nobody was killed, but both the principals and one of the seconds wounded" (*Rutland MS*, II, 99, 103, 104; *Downshire MS*, I, Pt. 1, 123).

43. *Shrewsbury*. The father of Charles Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury had died as the result of a duel in 1668 with the Duke of Buckingham. Shrewsbury's brother, John, was slain by the Duke of Grafton in a duel on February 2, 1686.

52. *Ford*. Ford, Lord Grey of Werke, who had a leading part in Monmouth's Rebellion, was accused of leading his troop of horse in flight at the skirmish of Bridport. After Monmouth's defeat, Grey, to save his own life, appeared as a witness against Lord Brandon Gerard, accused of complicity in the Rye House plot, and against Henry Booth, Lord Delamere, accused as one of Monmouth's accomplices. Gerard was convicted but later pardoned. Delamere was acquitted.

55-60. The stanza, not in the copy text, is from Stowe MS. 969, f. 62v.

56. *an eminent peer*. Marginal gloss in *POAS*, 1705, "Sund-land." Robert Spencer, Earl of Sunderland and Secretary of State, took a prominent part in persuading King James II to dismiss his Protestant mistress, Katherine Sedley (he made "whoring a case of conscience"). In earlier years Sunderland had been a sycophant of Louise, Duchess of Portsmouth, mistress of King Charles II.

62. *the countess*. Katherine Sedley, daughter of Sir Charles Sedley, was created Countess of Dorchester on January 19, 1686. On January 26, it was announced that "Mrs. Sedley, Countess of Dorchester, was turned out of Court on Saturday, though she is with child" (*Portland MS*, III, 393). Apparently she went to Ireland in mid-February and returned to London in September, 1686. King James's priests considered her dangerous to their plans for Catholicizing England.

65. *Tyrconnel*. Colonel Richard Talbot (1630-91), created Earl of Tyrconnel on June 20, 1685, was one of the four Catholic lords who tried to persuade King James to dismiss the Countess of Dorchester. The satirist implies that Tyrconnel's purpose was "to bring in" as a new royal mistress, his stepdaughter, Frances, eldest of the three daughters of his second wife, Frances (Jennings), widowed Lady Hamilton. But Tyrconnel seems to have had a more honorable project. On February 23, 1686, it was rumored that there was a design afoot to marry James Fitzjames, King James's son by Arabella Churchill, to Tyrconnel's stepdaughter, Frances (*Ellis Correspondence*, I, 48). The design failed, and eventually Frances married Henry, eighth Viscount Dillon.

68. *dispense with*. Condone by dispensation, pardon.

72. *Mountfort*. In 1686 William Mountfort, popular actor and playwright, was in the service of Lord Chancellor Jeffreys as an entertainer and mimic. See *Reresby, Memoirs*, p. 408. For his supposed bisexual activities, see "Vindication, Part I," (*Harleian MS*. 7319, p. 453),

There's a story of late  
That the Chancellor's mate  
Has been fucked and been fucked by player Mountfort;  
Which though false, yet's as true,  
My lord gave him his due,  
For he had a small tilt at his bum for it.