

A 5
MEDITATION
UPON A ^R
Broom-Stick,
AND
Somewhat Beside ;
OF
The Same A U T H O R ' S .

—Utile dulci.

L O N D O N :

Printed for E. Curll, at the Dial and Bible against
St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet ; and sold by
J. Harding, at the Post-Office in St. Martini-Lane.
1710.

(Price 6 d.)

Given me by John Cliffe Esq, who had
them of the Bp. of Meath in Ireland
whose daughter he married & was
my lodger. — Cluck.

A
MEDITATION
UPON A
Broom-Stick.

THIS single Stick, which you now behold Ingloriously lying in that neglected Corner, I once knew in a Flourishing State in a Forest, it was full of Sap, full of Leaves, and full of Boughs; but now, in vain does the busie Art of Man pretend to Vye with Nature, by tying that
5 wither'd Bundle of Twigs to its sapless Trunk; 'tis now at best but the Reverse of what it was, a Tree turn'd upside down, the Branches on the Earth, and the Root in the Air; 'tis now handled by every Dirty Wench,

Title] A / MEDITATION / UPON A / Broom-Stick.] A / MEDITATION / UPON A / Broom-Stick. / According to the Style and Manner of the Honourable Robert Boyle's Meditations. / Written August, 1704. 1711, 1713; A / MEDITATION ... Robert Boyle's Meditations. 1727; A / MEDITATION ... Robert Boyle's Meditations. / Written in the YEAR 1703. 1735, 1738 2 Forest, it] Forest; it 1713; Forest: It 1727, 1735, 1738 3 Boughs; but now,] Boughs; but now 1710b; Boughs: But now, 1727, 1735, 1738

The present text has been taken from *A Meditation upon a Broom-Stick and Somewhat Beside; Of the Same Author's* (London: E. Curll, 1710) (Price 6 *d*), pp. 5-7 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 1A), located at Guildhall Library (Bay H.2.1). It has been collated with the second edition of 1710 (Price 2*d*), pp. 3-4 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 1), with David Woolley's copies both of the Scholar Press reprint of *A Meditation upon a Broom-Stick* (Menston, Yorkshire, 1970), which contains Woolley's collations, and *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse* (London: John Morphew, 1711), pp. 231-34, now at the Ehrenpreis Centre (EC 8076; EC 8142) (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 2 [1b]); *Miscellanies in Prose and Verse*, 2nd ed. (London: John Morphew, 1713), pp. 229-32 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 2 [2]); *Miscellanies. The Second Volume* (London: Benjamin Motte, 1727), 265-67 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 25 [2a]); *The Works of J.S. D.D. D.S.P.D.: In Four Volumes* (Dublin: George Faulkner, 1735), I, 235-37 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 49), and *The Works of J.S. D.D. D.S.P.D.: In Six Volumes* (Dublin: George Faulkner, 1738), I, 55-57 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 42).

condemn'd to do her Drudgery, and by a Capricious kind of Fate,
 destin'd to make other Things Clean, and be Nasty it self: At Length,
 worn to the Stumps in the Service of the Maids, 'tis either thrown out
 of Doors, or condemn'd to its last use of kindling Fires. When I beheld
 this, I sigh'd, and said within my self, Surely Man is a Broom-stick; Nature
 sent him into the World Strong and Lusty, in a Thriving Condition,
 wearing his own Hair on his Head, the proper Branches of this Reasoning
 Vegetable, till the Axe of Intemperance has lopt off his Green Boughs,
 and left him a wither'd Trunk: He then flies unto Art, and puts on a
Peruque, valuing himself upon an Unnatural Bundle of Hairs, all cover'd
 with Powder that never grew on his Head: But now, should this our
Broom-Stick pretend to enter the Scene, proud of those *Birchen* Spoils it
 never bore, and all cover'd with Dust, tho' the Sweepings of the Finest
 Lady's Chamber, we should be apt to Ridicule and Despise its Vanity,
 Partial Judges that we are! of Our own Excellencies, and other Men's
 Faults.

But a *Broom-stick*, perhaps you'll say, is an Emblem of a Tree standing
 on its Head; and pray what is Man, but a Topsy-turvy Creature, his Animal
 Faculties perpetually a Cock-Horse and Rational; His Head where his
 Heels should be; groveling on the Earth! And yet, with all his Faults, he
 sets up to be an universal Reformer and Corrector of Abuses, a Remover
 of Grievances, rakes into every Slut's Corner of Nature, bringing hidden
 Corruptions to the Light, and raises a mighty Dust where there was
 none before, sharing deeply all the while, in the very same Pollutions he
 pretends to sweep away: His last Days are spent in Slavery to Women, and
 generally the least deserving; 'till worn to the Stumps, like his Brother
Bezom, he's either kickt out of Doors, or made use of to kindle Flames, for
 others to warm Themselves by.

1 Drudgery, and] Drudgery, and, 1713, 1727; Drugery; and 1735, 1738
 2 Length,] length 1710b 4 its] the 1713+ 4 Fires] a Fire 1711+ 5 sigh'd,]
 sigh'd 1710b 5 Surely] Surely flortal 1711+ 7 Reasoning] Reasonable 1710b
 9 unto] into 1710b; to 1711+ 10 Peruque] Perewig 1711+ 11 Head: But now,]
 1735; Head; but now 1710a, 1710b, 1711, 1713, 1727 14–15 Vanity, Partial]
 Vanity; Partial 1711; Vanity. Partial 1713+ 15 are!] are 1711+ 15 Men's] Mens
 1710b, 1713+ 16 Faults.] Defaults! 1711+ 18 Creature, his] Creature? His 1735,
 1738 19 Cock-Horse and] mounted on his 1711+; a Cock-Horse on his 1980
 19 Rational; His] Rational, his 1713, 1727; Rational; his 1735 20 be;] be, 1711+
 20 Earth! And yet,] 1713, 1727; Earth, and yet 1710a, 1710b, 1711; Earth. And yet,
 1735, 1738 21 an] a 1710b, 1735, 1738 21 Abuses,] Abuses; 1735, 1738
 22 Slut's] Sluts 1711, 1713, 1727 24 before,] before; 1735 24 while,] while
 1710b, 1727, 1735, 1738