

## Patriotic Poesy

(<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1925319.pdf>)

This is a poem copied into the commonplace book of Milcah Martha Moore in 1768. This poem calls on women to contribute to the Patriot cause by boycotting taxable imports. It is significant because it appeals to women on the basis of public and political responsibility. Although women's roles during this time period were usually restricted to their duties as wife and mother, this document shows that there was a growing recognition that women were capable of political and public behavior. This appreciation would become a catalyst for women to demand their rights as U.S. citizens in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Trivia

**Being a collection, in some cases not wholly unimportant (and veritable), of Advices, both Forreign & Domestick; offered by the PRINTER for the delectation of his Readers, on Occasion (as like Pieces come to Hand). The Editors of the William and Mary Quarterly respectfully urge upon their readers that they submit contributions to TRIVIA. For these, they will receive \$i.oo lawful money when the said items are printed.**

### PATRIOTIC POESY

I

The female Patriots,  
Address'd to the Daughters of Liberty in America, 1768  
Since the Men from a Party, on fear of a Frown,  
Are kept by a Sugar-Plumb, quietly down,  
Supinely asleep, and depriv'd of their Sight  
Are strip'd of their Freedom, and rob'd of their Right.  
If the Sons (so degenerate) the Blessing despise,  
Let the Daughters of Liberty, nobly arise,  
And tho' we've no Voice, but a negative here,  
The use of the Taxables, let us forbear,  
(Then Merchants import till yr. Stores are all full  
May the Buyers be few and yr. Traffick be dull.)  
Stand firmly resolved and bid Grenville to see  
That rather than Freedom, we'll part with our Tea  
And well as we love the dear Draught when adry,  
As American Patriots, our Taste we deny,  
Sylvania's, gay Meadows, can richly afford  
To pamper our Fancy, or furnish our Board,  
And Paper sufficient (at home) still we have,  
To assure the Wise-acre, we will not sign Slave.  
When this Homespun shall fail, to remonstrate our Grief  
We can speak with the Tongue or scratch on a Leaf.  
Refuse all their Colours, the richest of Dye,  
The juice of a Berry our Paint can supply,

To humour our Fancy and as for our Houses,  
They'll do without painting as well as our Spouses,

While to keep out the Cold of a keen winter Morn  
We can screen the Northwest, with a well polish'd Horn.  
And trust Me a Woman by honest Invention,  
Might give this State Doctor a Dose of Prevention.  
Join mutual in this, and but small as it seems  
We may jostle a Grenville and puzzle his Schemes  
But a motive more worthy our patriot Pen,  
Thus acting we point out their Duty to Men,  
And should the bound Pensioners, tell us to hush  
We can throw back the Satire by biding them blush.

**From the Commonplace Book of Milcah Martha Moore, in the possession of  
Miss Sarah A. G. Smith, Philadelphia**