

Appendix 5.14: R. L. E., “Verses sent to a Lady with Dr. Darwin's Botanic Garden,” *The Monthly Magazine* 5 (June 1798)

R. L. E. might be ED's friend and fellow Lunar Society member Richard Lovell Edgeworth (1744–1817), educational writer and engineer, and father of the novelist Maria Edgeworth (1768–1849). Edgeworth's best-known work, *Practical Education* (1798), co-written with Maria, emphasizes learning through doing experiments.

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VERSES *sent to a Lady with Dr. DARWIN'S*
“Botanic Garden.”

WHEN Eve walk'd forth at early hour,
Her only care was fruit, or flow'r;
Vacant of science was her mind,
To all the world of wisdom blind;
From idleness, her heart she set,
On the first prating* *brute* she met—
Do thou, whom early sense supplies
With all that's good, and fair, and wise,
Not like unbidden Eve of yore,
With furtive hand, these sweets explore;
Pluck knowledge with each flow'r and fruit,
Nor fear a tempter in a brute. R. L. E.

* Milton, B. 9. l. 354.¹

¹ Presumably a reference to the scene in *Paradise Lost* where Eve is tempted by Satan in the form of a serpent able to speak (“Into the Heart of *Eve* his words made way, / Though at the voice much marvelling”, 9:550–51). This line number, however, corresponds with Adam's speech to Eve about reason and free will: “But bid her [Reason] well beware, and still erect, / Lest by some fair appearing good surpris'd / She dictate false, and misinform the Will / To do what God expressly hath forbid” (9:353–56).