"Tis not the silver nor gold for itself
That makes men adore it, but 'tis for its power:
For no man does dote upon pelf\(^2\) because pelf,
But all court the lady in hope of her dower:
The wonders that now in our days we behold,
Done by the irresistible power of gold,
Our zeal, and our love, and allegiance do hold.

This purchaseth kingdoms, kings, scepters, and crowns;
Takes bulwarks, and castles, and cities, and towns,
And our prime laws are writ in letters of gold;
'Tis this that our Parliament calls and creates,
Turns kings into keepers, and kingdoms to states,
And peopledoms these into highdoms translates.\(^3\)

This, plots can devise, and discover what they are;
This, makes the great felons the lesser condemn;
This, sets those on the bench, that should stand at the bar,
Who judge such as by right ought to execute them;
Gives the boisterous clown his unsufferable pride,
Makes beggars, and fools, and usurpers to ride,
Whiles ruin'd proprietors run by their side.

This makes your blue aprons Right Worshipful;\(^4\)
And for this we stand bare, and before them do fall;
They leave their young heirs well fleeced with wool,
Whom we must call squires, and then they pay all:
Who with beggarly souls, though their bodies be gaudy,
Court the pale chambermaid, and nickname her a lady,
And for want of good wit, they do swear and talk bawdy.

This marriages makes, 'tis a center of love,
It draws on the man, and it pricks up the woman
Birth, virtue, and parts no affection can move,
Whilst this makes a lord stoop to the brat of a broom-man;
This gives virtue and beauty to the lasses that you woo,

1. When the Puritans marched off to war with the king, they tended to sing hymns of Sion; but their enemies, the Cavaliers, were more original in their versing. They made up satirical ballads about the Puritans and their Rump Parliament, which were collected under the title of “Rump Songs.” From one of these we excerpt some verses distinguished as much for their truth as for their poetry.
2. Goods; riches.
3. Money converts government by people into government by high councils, etc.
4. Apprentices wore blue aprons; mayors were addressed as “Right Worshipful.”
Makes women of all sorts and ages to do;
'Tis the soul of the world, and the worldling too.

This procures us whores, hawks, hounds and hares;
'Tis this keeps your groom, and your groom keeps your gelding;
This built citizens wives, as well as wares;
And this makes your coy lady so coming and yielding;

This buys us good sack, which revives like the spring,
'Tis this your poetical fancies do bring;
And this makes you as merry as we that do sing.

ca. 1650