

“A Man That's Neither High Nor Low” by Elizabeth Turner (c.1700 – 1756) **Song Text By A Lady**

Two Essex ladies – Lady Margaret & Lady Jennifer (AKA electric voice theatre singers Margaret Cameron and Jenny Miller) are discussing the merits of a good husband at a local ball. They begin with some conversation created from the words of [C17th Natural Philosopher Margaret Cavendish](#) to whom we have dedicated this performance: -

M: I think a bad husband is far worse than no husband.

J: A rude nature is worse than a brute nature by so much more as man is better than a beast: and those that are of civil natures and genteel dispositions are as much nearer to celestial creatures as those that are rude and cruel are to devils.

M: The truth is, we [women] live like bats, or owls, labor like beasts, and die like worms

J: Not that I am ashamed of my mind or body, my birth or breeding, my actions or fortunes, for my bashfulness is in my nature, not for any crime.

M: One may be my very good friend, and yet not of my opinion.

“A Man That's Neither High Nor Low” by [Elizabeth Turner](#)

Verse 1

M: A man that's neither high nor low in party or in stature,

J: a rake, a rattle and a beau and not unused to flatter

M: and not unused to flatter

J: Let him not be a learned fool, who nods o'er musty books,

M: who eats and drinks and lives by rule, and weighs our words and looks,

Both and weighs our words and looks.

Verse 2

J: Let him be easy, free and gay, of dancing never tired,

M: have always something smart to say

J: yet silent when required,

M: yet silent when required.

M: Let him be rich, not covetous, nor gen'rous to excess

Willing that I should keep the purse, and please myself in dress

J: and please myself in dress

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Verse 3

M: A little courage let him have, from insults to protect me,
J: provided that he's not so brave as e'er to contradict me,
Both as e'er to contradict me

J: Ten thousand pounds a year I like, but if so much can't be,
You seven from the ten may strike, I'll be content with three,
M: I'll be content with three

Verse 4

J: His face, no matter if 'tis plain,
M: But let it not be fair,
J: the man is sure my heart to gain who can with this compare
M: who can with this compare

Both: And if some lord should chance agree with this above description
J: Though I'm not fond of quality
M: it shall be no objection
Both: it shall be no objection.