

Written at Winchester on Tuesday the 15th July 1817

When Winchester races first took their beginning
It is said the good people forgot their old Saint
Not applying at all for the leave of Saint Swithin
And that William of Wykeham's approval was faint.

The races however were fixed and determined
The company came and the Weather was charming
The Lords and the Ladies were satine'd and ermined
And nobody saw any future alarming. –

But when the old Saint was informed of these doings
He made but one Spring from his Shrine to the Roof
Of the Palace which now lies so sadly in ruins
And then he addressed them all standing aloof.

'Oh! Subjects rebellious! Oh Venta depraved
When once we are buried you think we are gone
But behold me immortal! By vice you're enslaved
You have sinned and must suffer, then farther he said

These races and revels and dissolute measures
With which you're debasing a neighboring Plain
Let them stand – You shall meet with your curse in your pleasures
Set off for your course, I'll pursue with my rain.

Ye cannot but know my command o'er July
Henceforward I'll triumph in shewing my powers
Shift your race as you will it shall never be dry
The curse upon Ventra is July in showers.

J.A.

From The Courier (newspaper) 23^d July – 1817

Died at Winchester on the 18th In^t: Miss Jane Austen, youngest Daughter of the late Rev^d: G: Austen formerly Rector of Steventon in this County –

Authoress of Emma, Mansfield Park, Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility –

Her manners were most gentle; her affections ardent, her candor was not to be surpassed and she lived and died as became a humble Christian.