

James Austen's prologue to Mrs Cowley's *The Wonder!*
A Woman Keeps a Secret

*But thank our happier Stars, those times are o'er
And Woman holds second place no more;
Now forced to quit their long held usurpation,
These Men, all wise, these 'Lords of the Creation',
To our superior sway themselves submit,
Slaves to our charms and vassals to our wit;
We can with ease their ev'ry sense beguile,
And melt their Resolutions with a smile.*