



A receipt for a Pudding

A rhyming recipe by Mrs Austen, from Martha Lloyd's Household Book

If the vicar you treat,
You must give him to eat,
A pudding to hit his affection;
And to make his repast,
By the canon of taste,
Be the present receipt your
direction.

First take two pounds of Bread,
Be the crumb only weigh'd,
For the crust the good house-
wife refuses;
The proportion you'll guess,
May be made more or less,
To the size that each family
chuses.

Then its sweetness to make
Some currants you take
And Sugar of each half a pound
Be not butter forgot
And the quantity sought
Must the same with your
currants be found

Cloves & mace you will want,
With rose water I grant,
And more savory things if well
chosen;

Then to bind each ingredient,
You'll find it expedient,
Of Eggs to put in half a dozen.
Some milk dont refuse it,
But boiled ere you use it,
A proper hint this for its maker;
And the whole when compleat,
In a pan clean and neat,
With care recommend to the
baker.

In praise of this pudding,
I vouch it a good one,
Or should you suspect a fond
word;
To every Guest,
Perhaps it is best,
Two puddings should smoke on
the board.

Two puddings! – yet – no,
For if one will do,
The other comes in out of
season;
And these lines but obey,
Nor can anyone say,
That this pudding's with-out
rhyme or reason.