

'In the 4th chapter of St Mark's Gospel at the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th verse⁴ you will find these words:

- 3rd. Hearken, behold there came in a *sower* to *sow*.
 4th. And it came to pass, as *she* sowed, some stitches fell on a *farm yard*, and the fowls of the air came and dwelt therein.
 5th. And some fell on stony ground, where there was not much earth and immediately it was *hung* up, because it had no depth of earth.
 6th.⁵ And some fell among *reeds*, and the reeds grew up and almost choked a stork and a setting dog that fought therein.
 7th. And some fell on good grounds and did yield *fruit* and flowers that sprang up, and some brought forth *dogs* and horses and sheep, and some brought forth men thirty years old and some sixty, and some a woman *spinning* an hundred years old.
 8th. He that hath eyes to see, let him see.'

I wished I could repeat the discourse which the Doctor *canvassed* very ably, but I was mightily pleased with his saying that it was easier for a *Campbell*⁶ to go through the eye of a needle than for the wicked and slothful to imitate the good sower in the Gospel.⁷

I am,

Your Ladyship's most faithful humble servant,

H. W.

Lacy (ca 1742-76), M.A., who held his post from 1765 till his death (R. S. Cobbett, *Memorials of Twickenham*, 1872, p. 126; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*). For a portrait of Costard, see Edward Ironside, *History and Antiquities of Twickenham*, 1797, facing p. 123.

4. Each verse alludes to some picture of her Ladyship's worsted work, of which there are twenty-two now hung up in the drawing-room at Park Place. 1784 (MS note of Mrs Philip Lybbe Powys). One of them (in the possession of Commander Colin Campbell-Johnston), show-

ing a basket of flowers, some grapes and a parrot, is illustrated in Ursula Powys, loc. cit.; they were bequeathed to Mrs Damer, and of them 'seven are in the possession of various descendants' (ibid.). For the worsted-work pictures of Lady Ailesbury at SH, see *ante* 16 Sept. 1757 and 1 Sept. 1764.

5. This and the following two verses parody verses 7-9 in the original; verse 6 is omitted.

6. A pun, of course, on Lady Ailesbury's family name before marriage.

7. See Matthew 19. 24.