

### *Joan of Arc*

OF the Maid of Orleans I have somewhere read that a bundle of faggots was substituted for her, when she was supposed to have been burnt by the Duke of Bedford. None of our historians notice this anecdote; though some have mentioned that after her death an impostor arose, and was even married to a French gentleman, by whom she had several children. Whether she deserved to have been distinguished by the appellation of *The Maid of Orleans* we have great reason to suspect; and some in her days, from her fondness for man's apparel, even doubted her *sex*. We know little of one so celebrated as to have formed the heroine of epics. The following epitaph on her I find in Winstanley's "Historical Rarities;" and which, possessing some humour, merits to be rescued from total oblivion.

Here lies *Joan of Arc*; the which  
 Some count *saint*, and some count *witch*;  
 Some count *man*, and something *more*;  
 Some count *maid*, and some a *whore*.  
 Her *life's* in question, wrong or right;  
 Her *death's* in doubt, by laws or might.  
 Oh, innocence! take heed of it,  
 How thou too near to guilt doth sit.  
 (Meantime, *France* a wonder saw—  
 A woman rule, 'gainst Salique law!)

But, reader, be content to stay  
 Thy censure till the judgement day;  
 Then shalt thou know, and not before,  
 Whether *saint, witch, man, maid, or whore.*"