



R. Dighton del.

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C. Girgnion fecit.

MR. WESTON in the Character of COSTARD.
— I was taken with none Sir, I was taken with
a Damosel.

Dighton, Robert, artist. *Mr. Weston in the character of Costard [in] Love's Labour Lost*. Charles Girgnion, printmaker. London: Published for Bell's edition of Shakespeare, 1776. Folger ART File W536 no.1 (size XS)

Costard is a comedic, rustic character, meant to contrast with the high ideals of the court in the play-- and in the process point out their instability. In Act 1, Scene 1, he is arrested for violating the King's command that all men of the court avoid contact with women. In this illustration from Bell's 1776 edition of Shakespeare's plays, Costard displays his customary wit by quibbling with the arrest. He was not, he points out, "taken with a wench." "I was taken with none, sir. I was taken with a damsel" (1.1.289).

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