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**John Rees Moore**

*Dr. Sam Johnson*

That great hulk of a man, Dr. Johnson,  
Had many ills both of mind and body  
As Boswell shows; in spite of melancholy  
He could be merry, and simply bent on fun.  
His opinions were bold, and I can tell you,  
His authority was kingly, his generosity as well.  
To his verbal sword Lord Chesterfield fell.  
A writer writes better than he lives, it is true,  
Nine years on his dictionary, what a noble feat!  
Hester Thrale “betrayed” him; he loved her still.  
God might punish her; he never will.  
He had a stroke, got back on his feet,  
Wrote *Lives of the English Poets*, a masterpiece.  
Let this master of words lie in perpetual peace.

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