

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

B.A.(HONS.) PART-II, PAPER-III

TOPIC- SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

BY DR.PRABHAT RANJAN KARN

ASSOC. PROF., DEPT.OF ENGLISH

DR.L.K.V.D. COLLEGE, TAJPUR

EXPLANATIONS

Explain with reference to the context the lines given below:

Q.NO.3- “In the first place I shall be seen, and that is no small advantage to a girl who brings her face to market. Then I shall perhaps make an acquaintance, and that’s no small victory gained over one who never addresses any but wildest of her sex. But my chief aim is, to take gentleman off his guard, and, like an invisible champion of romance, examine the giant’s force before I offer no combat.”

ANS.

These lines are spoken by Miss Hardcastle in Act III Scene I of Goldsmith’s play, “She Stoops to Conquer”.

When Miss Hardcastle met her suitor, Marlow last evening, she came to know that he became totally nervous before a respectable young lady like her due to his modesty and bashfulness. She gets the hint he could be even more free with a woman of lower class, so she decides to appear before him as a domestic maid. At this her maid asks her what she would gain by doing so. Miss Hardcastle replies that the first advantage would be that Mr. Marlow would be able to see her closely which is a great advantage to a girl in matrimonial matters. Then she will also make a closer acquaintance of him which is also a great advantage specially in respect of a young man also who, on account of his modesty, would address even the socially most distant woman. But her chief purpose is to judge her suitor unawares, and like an invisible hero in a popular romance, assess the strength of the giant before actually challenging him.

This situation is sufficient enough to justify the title of the play, "She Stoops to Conquer", Miss Hardcastle stoops to the level of a maid in order to win her suitor.
