

(Philolaches enter from L, disturbed by )

Contemplating, cogitating, deep inside my head I've thought!—

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Agitating, aggravating, is my brain a brain or not?

I think the think I think I think /cannot be, /you'll agree, /merely/ simplistic analogy

That what young men resemble most/ has to be/ patently/ easy/ for everyone here to see:

(gesturing upstage)

(should develop a building theme here, very percussive, staccato to marcato)

A man/when he's born/what's he like?

He's a house that's newly built,/straight and true,/ spic and span.

Everybody loves the builder/ and the house,/

Wants a place just like it, / no expenses spared.

Then a lazy, loafer moves in/—what a louse!—

Pack of yahoos joins him;/ new house needs repaired.

Like his friends, a man's home is his hassle!

So, wouldn't you know it:

A storm brews/and batters/the rooftiles/and shutters.

The rain falls,/ the roof leaks,/ the beams rot,/ the walls seep./

The builder's work is wasted, though the fault lies with another;

That lazy loser lounges, when repair costs could be cheap.

His house a total wreck, a man's home is his hassle!

A man/as a child/from the first

Has two parents building him/on a base/strong and firm,

So both high and low admire them/ and the son,/

For the skills they bought him,/ no expenses spared;

Army service as some uncle's/ adjutant.

Builders' work completed:/ is this house prepared?

With kin, a man's home's not *his* hassle!

So, shouldn't you know it?  
Released from parental/design fundamentals,  
My virtue respected/now sorely neglected,  
My structure fails beneath hard hail and savage squalls  
That drench my heart and soak my soul, now unprotected.  
His interior exposed, a man's home is his hassle!

So I/as a man/on my own,  
Getting doused by storms of love,/love and lust,/ night and day,  
have abandoned all my virtues/ and my goals.  
Leaky roof has left a puddle in my head.  
See my life once full of promise,/ full of holes.  
Now I'm nobody—this love will leave me dead.

Like his love, a man's home is his hassle!