Critic's Choice

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

A Self-Contained Dialogue Between
An Overly Credulous Critic and a Self-Deprecating Author

TOO MANY TIMES, FOR WANT OF RHYMES,
I'VE PENNED SOME SORRY VERSE;
THIS POEM'S SO BAD, IT'S SAFE TO ADD
ONE COULDN'T MAKE IT WORSE.

Crit.
"But tarry, friend, and look again
At that first line and scan it:
There's counterpointed rhythm there!
You say you didn't plan it?

"That line's also alliterative;
So's the second. That's good timing!
And gaze at one and three again;
They've got internal rhyming!"

Auth.
"To analyze ex post facto
Does wonders for a work!"

Crit.
"What's that? You think I'm fetching far?
You say it's all a quirk?

"You say the third line's "hissing"
Makes it sound too harsh, too hard?
You say you've "jammed your consonants?"
So what! That's AVANTE GARDE!

"How dare you scorn a monument
To the noble Bard's profession
When perhaps his spirit moved your pen
To yield your theme's expression!"

Auth.
"Yes, I've come to the conclusion
That I cannot make it better:
This little masterpiece of mine
Is perfect to the letur."