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Class- B. A. I
Paper- II
Topic- Character
Sketch of 'BELINDA'
of the Poem 'The Rape of the Lock'

Belinda is the heroine of the poem. We see her luxuriously slumbering on till noon, when her lap-dog shock awakens her. We are present at her toilet, and watch the progress of the 'Sacred rites of Bride'. We see her with a gay party on its way up the Thames to Hampton Court, smiling impartially upon the 'well-dressed youths' that crowd about her. She is the very type of liveliness, tact and coquetry.

It is through Belinda that the poet laughs at the 'little unguarded follies' of the female sex. Belinda is the Miss Arabella Fermor of real life. She was born between the years 1688 and 1690. She married Francis Perkins of Upton Court in 1714, or early in 1715. According to George Holden, she begot four sons from this marriage. She died in 1738. She was an acknowledged beauty of her time by 1772, when Pope wrote this poem. Miss Mitford, speaking of Miss Fermor's portrait taken at the age of twelve or thirteen, says in *The Ladies Companion*.

The Belinda of the poem, however, is a creation of beauty, wit and poetry. She wakes up at twelve, and the first thing which grasps her attention is a love-letter. Then she paints and decorates her with diamonds, ornaments, perfumes and puffs, powders and patches. Putting on all her arms of beauty and grace, charm and attraction, she starts for the conquest of lovers. Her smiles are sunny, her manners polished, her eyes large. With graceful ease and pride, she cherishes two lovely locks of hair to the destruction of mankind. She

