

## L E T T E R   CCXLVI.

London, March the 11th, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED by the last post a letter from Abbe Guasco, in which he joins his representations to those of Lord Albemarle, against your remaining any longer in your very bad lodgings at the academy; and, as I do not find that any advantage can arise to you from being *interne* in an academy, which is full as far from the riding-house, and from all your other masters, as your lodgings will probably be, I agree to your removing to an *hôtel garni*; the Abbe will help you to find one, as I desire him by the enclosed, which you will give him. I must, however, annex one condition to your going into private lodgings, which is, an absolute exclusion of English breakfasts and suppers at them; the former consume the whole morning, and the latter employ the evenings very ill, in senseless toasting *à la Angloise* in their infernal claret. You will be sure to go to the riding-house as often as possible, that is, whenever your new business at Lord Albemarle's does not hinder you. But, at all events, I insist upon your never missing Marcel, who is at present of more consequence to you than all the *bureaus* in Europe; for this is the time for you to acquire *tous ces petits riens* which, though in an arithmetical account, addet

to one another *ad infinitum*, they would amount to nothing, in the account of the world, amount to a great and important sum. *Les agréments et les graces*, without which you will never be any thing, are absolutely made up of all those *riens*, which are more easily felt than described. By the way, you may take your lodgings for one whole year certain, by which means you may get them much cheaper; for though I intend to see you here in less than a year, it will be but for a little time, and you will return to Paris again, where I intend you shall stay till the end of April twelve-month, 1752; at which time, provided you have got all *la politesse, les manieres, les attentions, et les graces du beau monde*, I shall place you in some business suitable to your destination.

I have received, at last, your present of the carton, from Dominichino, by Blanchét. It is very finely done; it is pity that he did not take in all the figures of the original. I will hang it up, where it shall be your own again some time or other.

Mr. Harte is returned in perfect health from Cornwall, and has taken possession of his prebendal house at Windsor, which is a very pretty one. As I dare say you will always feel, I hope you will always express, the strongest sentiments of gratitude and friendship for him. Write to him frequently, and attend to the letters you receive from him. He shall be with us at Blackheath, alias *Babiole*, all the time that I propose you shall be there, which I believe, will be the month of August next.

Having

Having thus mentioned to you the probable time of our meeting, I will prepare you a little for it. Hatred, jealousy, or envy, make most people attentive to discover the least defects of those they do not love; they rejoice at every new discovery they make of that kind, and take care to publish it. I thank God, I do not know what those three ungenerous passions are, having never felt them in my own breast; but love has just the same effect upon me, except that I conceal, instead of publishing, the defects which my attention makes me discover in those I love. I curiously pry into them; I analyse them; and, wishing either to find them perfect, or to make them so, nothing escapes me, and I soon discover every the least gradation towards or from that perfection. You must, therefore, expect the most critical *examen* that ever any body underwent: I shall discover your least, as well as your greatest defects, and I shall very freely tell you of them, *Non quod odio habeam, sed quod amem*. But I shall tell them you *tête-a-tête*, and as *Micio*, not as *Demea*; and I will tell them to nobody else. I think it but fair to inform you before-hand, where I suspect that my criticisms are likely to fall; and that is more upon the outward, than upon the inward man: I neither suspect your heart nor your head; but, to be plain with you, I have a strange distrust of your air, your address, your manners, your *tourhure*, and particularly of your *enunciation* and elegance of style. These will be all put to the trial; for, while you are with me, you must do the honours of my house and table,

the least inaccuracy or inelegancy will not escape me; as you will find by a *look* at the time, and by a remonstrance afterwards when we are alone. You will see a great deal of company of all sorts at *Babiole*, and particularly foreigners. Make, therefore, in the mean time, all these exterior and ornamental qualifications your peculiar care, and disappoint all my imaginary schemes of criticism. Some authors have criticised their own works first, in hopes of hindering others from doing it afterwards: but then they do it themselves with so much tenderness and partiality for their own production, that not only the production itself, but the preventive criticism, is criticised. I am not one of those authors; but, on the contrary, my severity increases with my fondness for my work; and if you will but effectually correct all the faults I shall find, I will insure you from all subsequent criticisms from other quarters.

Are you got a little into the interior, into the constitution of things at Paris? Have you seen what you have seen thoroughly? For, by the way, few people see what they see, or hear what they hear. For example; if you go to *les Invalides*, do you content yourself with seeing the building, the hall where three or four hundred cripples dine, and the galleries where they lie; or do you inform yourself of the numbers, the conditions of their admission, their allowance, the value and nature of the fund by which the whole is supported? This latter I call seeing; the former is only staring. Many people take the opportunity of *les vacances*, to go and see the empty  
rooms,



rooms, where the several chambers of the parliament did sit; which rooms are exceedingly like all other large rooms; when you go there, let it be when they are full; see and hear what is doing in them; learn their respective constitutions, jurisdictions, objects, and methods of proceeding; hear some causes tried in every one of the different chambers, *Approfondissez les choses.*

I am glad to hear that you are so well at Marquis de St. Germain's \*, of whom I hear a very good character. How are you with the other foreign Ministers at Paris? Do you frequent the Dutch Ambassador or Embassadref? Have you any footing at the Nuncio's, or at the Imperial or Spanish Embassadors? It is useful. Be more particular, in your letters to me, as to your manner of passing your time, and the company you keep. Where do you dine and sup often? whose house is most your home. Adieu. *Les graces, les graces.*

\* At that time Ambassador from the King of Sardinia at the Court of France.

## L E T T E R CCXLVII.

London, March the 18th, Q. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I ACQUAINTED you in a former letter, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> I had brought a bill into the House of Lords for correcting and reforming our present calendar, which is the Julian; and for adopting the Gregorian. I will now give you a more particular account of that affair; from which reflections will naturally occur to you, that I hope may be useful, and which I fear you have not made. It was notorious, that the Julian calendar was erroneous, and had overcharged the solar year with eleven days. Pope Gregory the 13th corrected this error; his reformed calendar was immediately received by all the Catholic Powers of Europe, and afterwards adopted by all the Protestant ones, except Russia, Sweden, and England. It was not, in my opinion, very honourable for England to remain in a gross and avowed error, especially in such company; the inconveniency of it was likewise felt by all those who had foreign correspondences, whether political or mercantile. I determined, therefore, to attempt the reformation; I consulted the best lawyers, and the most skilful astronomers, and we cooked up a bill for that purpose. But then my difficulty began: I was to bring in this bill, which was necessarily composed of law jargon and astronomical

nomical calculations, to both which I am an utter stranger. However, it was absolutely necessary to make the House of Lords think that I knew something of the matter; and also, to make them believe that they knew something of it themselves, which they do not. For my own part, I could just as soon have talked Celtic or Sclavonian to them, as astronomy, and they would have understood me full as well: so I resolved to do better than speak to the purpose, and to please instead of informing them. I gave them, therefore, only an historical account of calendars, from the Egyptian down to the Gregorian, amusing them now and then with little episodes; but I was particularly attentive to the choice of my words, to the harmony and roundness of my periods, to my elocution, to my action. This succeeded, and ever will succeed; they thought I informed, because I pleased them: and many of them said, that I had made the whole very clear to them; when, God knows, I had not even attempted it. Lord Macclesfield, who had the greatest share in forming the bill, and who is one of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers in Europe, spoke afterwards with infinite knowledge, and all the clearness that so intricate a matter could admit of: but as his words, his periods, and his utterance, were not near so good as mine, the preference was most unanimously, though most unjustly, given to me. This will ever be the case; every numerous assembly is *mob*, let the individuals who compose it be what they will. ~~More~~ reason and good sense is never to be talked to a mob:

their passions, their sentiments, their senses, and their seeming interests, are alone to be applied to. Understanding they have collectively none; but they, have ears and eyes, which must be flattered and seduced; and this can only be done by eloquence, tuneful periods, graceful action, and all the various parts of oratory.

When you come into the House of Commons, if you imagine that speaking plain and unadorned sense and reason will do your business, you will find yourself most grossly mistaken. As a speaker, you will be ranked only according to your eloquence, and by no means according to your matter; every body knows the matter almost alike, but few can adorn it. I was early convinced of the importance and powers of eloquence; and from that moment I applied myself to it. I resolved not to utter one word, even in common conversation, that should not be the most expressive, and the most elegant, that the language could supply me with for that purpose; by which means I have acquired such a certain degree of habitual eloquence, that I must now really take some pains, if I would express myself very inelegantly. I want to inculcate this known truth into you, which you seem by no means to be convinced of yet, That ornaments are at present your only objects. Your sole business now is to shine, not to weigh. Weight without lustre is lead. You had better talk trifles elegantly to the most trifling woman, than coarse inelegant sense to the most solid man: you had better return a dropped fan genteely, than give a thousand

land pounds awkwardly : and you had better refuse a favour gracefully, than grant it clumsily. Manner is all, in every thing : it is by Manner only that you can please, and consequently rise. All your Greek will never advance you from Secretary to Envoy, or from Envoy to Embassador ; but your address, your manner, your air, if good, very probably may. Marcel can be of much more use to you than Aristotle. I would, upon my word, much rather that you had Lord Bolingbroke's style and eloquence, in speaking and writing, than all the learning of the Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society, and the two Universities united.

Having mentioned Lord Bolingbroke's style, which is, undoubtedly, infinitely superior to any body's ; I would have you read his works, which you have, over and over again, with particular attention to his style. Transcribe, imitate, emulate it, if possible : that would be of real use to you in the House of Commons, in negotiations, in conversation ; with that, you may justly hope to please, to persuade, to seduce, to impose ; and you will fail in those articles, in proportion as you fall short of it. Upon the whole, lay aside, during your year's residence at Paris, all thoughts of all that dull fellows call solid, and exert your utmost care to acquire what people of fashion call shining. *Prenez l'éclat et le brillant d'un galant homme.*

Among the commonly called little things, to which you do not attend, your hand-writing is one, which is indeed shamefully bad, and illiberal ; it is neither

the hand of a man of business, nor of a gentleman, but of a truant school-boy ; as soon, therefore, as you have done with Abbé Nolét, pray get an excellent writing-master (since you think that you cannot teach yourself to write what hand you please), and let him teach you to write a genteel, legible, liberal hand, and quick ; not the hand of a *procureur*, or a writing-master, but that sort of hand in which the first *Commis* in foreign *bureaus* commonly write : for I tell you truly, that were I Lord Albemarle, nothing should remain in my *bureau*, written in your present hand. From hand to arms the transition is natural ; is the carriage and motion of your arms so too ? The motion of the arms is the most material part of a man's air, especially in dancing ; the feet are not near so material. If a man dances well from the waist upwards, wears his hat well, and moves his head properly, he dances well. Do the women say that you dress well ? for that is necessary too for a young fellow. Have you *un gout vif*, or a passion for any body ? I do not ask for whom. An Iphigenia would both give you the desire, and teach you the means to please.

In a fortnight or three weeks you will see Sir Charles Hotham at Paris, in his way to Toulouse, where he is to stay a year or two. Pray be very civil to him, but do not carry him into company, except presenting him to Lord Albemarle ; for, as he is not to stay at Paris above a week, we do not desire that he should taste of that dissipation : you may show him a play and an opera. Adieu, my dear child.

LETTER

## L E T T E R CCXLVIII.

London, March 25th, O. S. 1751.

DEAR BOY,

WHAT a happy period of your life is this ! Pleasure is now, and ought to be, your business. While you were younger, dry rules, and unconnected words, were the unpleasant objects of your labours. When you grow older, the anxiety, the vexations, the disappointments, inseparable from public business, will require the greatest share of your time and attention ; your pleasures may, indeed, conduce to your business, and your business will quicken your pleasures ; but still your time must, at least, be divided : whereas now it is wholly your own, and cannot be so well employed as in the pleasures of a gentleman. The world is now the only book you want, and almost the only one you ought to read : that necessary book can only be read in company, in public places, at meals, and in *ruelles*. You must be in the pleasures, in order to learn the manners of good company. In premeditated, or in formal business, people conceal, or at least endeavour to conceal, their characters ; whereas pleasures discover them, and the heart breaks out through the guard of the understanding. Those are often propitious moments, for skilful negotiators to improve. In your destination particularly, the able conduct of pleasures

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is of infinite use : to keep a good table, and to do the honours of it gracefully, and *sur le ton de la bonne compagnie*, is absolutely necessary for a foreign minister. There is a certain light table chit-chat, useful to keep off improper and too serious subjects, which is only to be learned in the pleasures of good company. In truth, it may be trifling; but, trifling as it is, a man of parts and experience of the world will give an agreeable turn to it. *L'art de badiner agréablement* is by no means to be despised.

An engaging address, and turn to gallantry, is often of very great service to foreign ministers. Women have, directly or indirectly, a good deal to say in most Courts. The late Lord Strafford governed, for a considerable time, the Court of Berlin, and made his own fortune, by being well with Madame de Wartemberg, the first King of Prussia's mistress. I could name many other instances of that kind. That sort of agreeable *caquet de femmes*, the necessary forerunners of closer conferences, is only to be got by frequenting women of the first fashion, *et qui donnent le ton*. Let every other book then give way to this great and necessary book the World; of which there are so many various readings, that it requires a great deal of time and attention to understand it well : contrary to all other books, you must not stay at home, but go abroad to read it; and, when you seek it abroad, you will not find it in booksellers' shops and stalls, but in Courts, in *hôtels*, at entertainments, balls, assemblies, spectacles,

tacles, &c. Put yourself upon the foot of an easy, domestic, but polite familiarity and intimacy, in the several French houses to which you have been introduced. Cultivate them, frequent them, and show a desire of becoming *enfant de la maison*. Get acquainted as much as you can with *les gens de cour*: and observe, carefully, how politely they can differ, and how civilly they can hate; how easy and idle they can seem in the multiplicity of their business; and how they can lay hold of the proper moments to carry it on, in the midst of their pleasures. Courts, alone, teach versatility and politeness; for there is no living there without them. Lord Albemarle has, I hear, and am very glad of it, put you into the hands of Messieurs de Bissy. Profit by that, and beg of them to let you attend them in all the companies of Versailles and Paris. One of them, at least, will naturally carry you to Madame de la Valiere, unless he is discarded by this time, and Gelliot\* retaken. Tell them frankly, *que vous cherchez à vous former, que vous êtes en mains de maîtres, s'ils veulent bien s'en donner la peine*. Your profession has this agreeable peculiarity in it, which is, that it is connected with, and promoted by pleasures; and it is the only one, in which a thorough knowledge of the world, polite manners, and an engaging address, are absolutely necessary. If a lawyer knows his law, a parson his divinity, and a *financier* his calculations, each may make a figure and a fortune in his profes-

\* A famous Opera-singer at Paris.

sion, without great knowledge of the world, and without the manners of Gentlemen. But your profession throws you into all the intrigues, and cabals, as well as pleasures, of Courts: in those windings and labyrinths, a knowledge of the world, a discernment of characters, a suppleness and versatility of mind, and an elegance of manners, must be your clue: you must know how to sooth and lull the monsters that guard, and how to address and gain the fair that keep, the golden fleece. These are the arts and the accomplishments absolutely necessary for a foreign minister; in which it must be owned, to our shame, that most other nations out-do the English; and, *ceteris paribus*, a French minister will get the better of an English one, at any third Court in Europe. The French having something more *liant*, more insinuating and engaging in their manner, than we have. An English minister shall have resided seven years at a Court, without having made any one personal connexion there, or without being intimate and domestic in any one house. He is always the English minister, and never naturalized. He receives his orders, demands an audience, writes an account of it to his Court, and his business is done. A French minister, on the contrary, has not been six weeks at a court, without having, by a thousand little attentions, insinuated himself into some degree of favour with the Prince, his wife, his mistress, his favourite, and his minister. He has established himself upon a familiar and domestic footing, in a dozen of the best houses of the place, where

where he has accustomed the people to be not only easy, but unguarded before him; he makes himself at home there, and they think him so. By these means he knows the interior of those Courts, and can almost write prophecies to his own, from the knowledge he has of the characters, the humours, the abilities, or the weakneses, of the actors. The Cardinal d'Offat was looked upon at Rome as an Italian, and not as a French Cardinal; and Monsieur d'Avaux, wherever he went, was never considered as a foreign minister, but as a native, and a personal friend. Mere plain truth, sense, and knowledge, will by no means do alone in Courts; art and ornaments must come to their assistance. Humours must be flattered; the *mollia tempora* must be studied and known: confidence acquired by seeming frankness, and profited of by silent skill. And, above all, you must gain and engage the heart, to betray the understanding to you. *Hæ tibi erunt artes.*

The death of the Prince of Wales, who was more beloved for his affability and good-nature, than esteemed for his steadiness and conduct, has given concern to many, and apprehensions to all. The great difference of age in the King and Prince George, presents the prospect of a minority; a disagreeable prospect for any nation! But it is to be hoped, and is most probable, that the King, who is now perfectly recovered of his late indisposition, may live to see his grandson of age. He is, seriously,  
— a most

a most hopeful boy; gentle and good-natured, with good sound sense. This event has made all sorts of people here historians, as well as politicians. Our histories are rummaged for all the particular circumstances of the six minorities we have had since the Conquest, *viz.* those of Henry III, Edward III, Richard II, Henry VI, Edward V, and Edward VI; and the reasonings, the speculations, the conjectures, and the predictions, you will easily imagine, must be innumerable and endless, in this nation, where every porter is a consummate politician. Doctor Swift says, very humorously, "Every man knows that he understands religion and politics, though he never learned them; but many people are conscious they do not understand many other sciences, from having never learned them." Adieu.

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## L E T T E R CCXLIX.

London, April 7th, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HERE you have all together, the pocket-books, the compasses, and the patterns. When your three Graces have made their option, you need only send me, in a letter, small pieces of the three mohairs they

they fix upon. If I can find no way of sending them safely, and directly to Paris, I will contrive to have them left with Madame Morel, at Calais; who, being Madame Monconseil's agent there, may find means of furthering them to your three Ladies, who all belong to your friend Madame Monconseil. Two of the three, I am told, are handsome; Madame Polignac, I can swear, is not so; but however, as the world goes, two out of three is a very good composition.

You will also find, in the packet, a compass ring set round with little diamonds, which I advise you to make a present of to Abbé Guasco, who has been useful to you, and will continue to be so; as it is a mere bauble, you must add to the value of it by your manner of giving it him. Show it him first, and, when he commends it, as probably he will, tell him that it is at his service, *et que comme il est toujours par voie et par chemins, il est absolument nécessaire qu'il ait une boussole*. All those little gallantries depend intirely upon the manner of doing them; as, in truth, what does not? The greatest favours may be done so awkwardly and bunglingly as to offend; and disagreeable things may be done so agreeably as almost to oblige. Endeavour to acquire this great secret; it exists, it is to be found, and is worth a great deal more than the grand secret of the Alchemists would be, if it were, as it is not, to be found. This is only to be learned in Courts, where clashing views, jarring opinions, and cordial hatreds, are softened,

softened, and kept within decent bounds, by politeness and manners. Frequent, observe, and learn Courts. Are you free of that of St. Cloud? Are you often at Versailles? Insinuate and wriggle yourself into favour at those places. L'Abbé de la Ville, my old friend, will help you at the latter; your three Ladies may establish you in the former. The good-breeding *de la Ville et de la Cour* are different; but, without deciding which is intrinsically the best, that of the Court is, without doubt, the most necessary for you, who are to live, to grow, and to rise in Courts. In two years time, which will be as soon as you are fit for it, I hope to be able to plant you in the soil of a *young Court* here; where, if you have all the address, the suppleness, and versatility of a good courtier, you will have a great chance of thriving and flourishing. Young favour is easily acquired, if the proper means are employed; and, when acquired, it is warm, if not durable; and the warm moments must be snatched and improved. *Quite pour ce qui en peut arriver après.* Do not mention this view of mine for you, to any mortal; but learn to keep your own secrets, which, by the way, very few people can do.

If your course of Experimental Philosophy, with Abbé Nolét, is over, I would have you apply to Abbé Sallier, for a master to give you a general notion of astronomy and geometry; of both which you may know as much as I desire you should, in six months time. I only desire that you should  
have



have a clear notion of the present planetary system, and the history of all the former systems: Fontenelle's *Pluralité des Mondes* will almost teach you all you need know upon that subject. As for geometry, the seven first books of Euclid will be a sufficient portion of it for you. It is right to have a general notion of those abstruse sciences, so as not to appear quite ignorant of them, when they happen, as sometimes they do, to be the topics of conversation; but a deep knowledge of them requires too much time, and engrosses the mind too much. I repeat it again and again to you, Let the great book of the World be your principal study. *Nocturnè versate manu, versate diurnè*; which may be rendered thus in English: *Turn over men by day, and women by night*. I mean only the best editions.

Whatever may be said at Paris of my speech upon the bill for the reformation of the present calendar, or whatever applause it may have met with here, the whole, I can assure you, is owing to the words and to the delivery, but by no means to the matter; which, as I told you in a former letter, I was not master of. I mention this again, to show you the importance of well-chosen words, harmonious periods, and good delivery; for, between you and me, Lord Macclesfield's speech was, in truth, worth a thousand of mine. It will soon be printed, and I will send it you. It is very instructive. You say, that you wish to speak but half as

well as I did; you may easily speak full as well as ever I did, if you will but give the same attention to the same objects that I did at your age, and for many years afterwards; I mean, correctness, purity and elegancy of style, harmony of periods, and gracefulness of delivery. Read over and over again the third book of *Cicero de Oratore*, in which he particularly treats of the ornamental parts of oratory: they are indeed properly oratory; for all the rest depends only upon common sense, and some knowledge of the subjects you speak upon. But if you would please, persuade, and prevail in speaking, it must be by the ornamental parts of oratory. Make them, therefore, habitual to you; and resolve never to say the most common things, even to your footman, but in the best words you can find, and with the best utterance. This, with *les manieres, la tournure, et les usages du beau monde*, are the only two things you want; fortunately they are both in your power; may you have them both! Adieu.

## L E T T E R CCL.

A Londres, 15 d'Avril, V. S. 1751.

MON CHER AMI,

COMMENT vont les Graces, les manieres, les agrémens, et tous ces petits riens si nécessaires pour rendre un homme aimable ? Les prenez vous ? y faites vous des progrès ? Le grand secret c'est l'art de plaire, et c'est un art qu'il ne tient qu'à un chacun d'acquérir, supposant un certain fond de sens commun. Un tel vous plait par tel endroit ; examinez pourquoi, faites comme lui, et vous plairez par le même endroit aux autres. Pour plaire aux femmes, il faut être considéré des hommes. Et pour plaire aux hommes, il faut sçavoir plaire aux femmes. Les femmes, dont la vanité est sans contredit la passion dominante, la trouvent flattée par les attentiones d'un homme qui est généralement estimé parmi les hommes. Quand il est marqué à ce coin, elles lui donnent le cours, c'est-à-dire, la mode. De l'autre côté, un homme sera estimable parmi les hommes, sans pourtant être aimable, si les femmes n'y ont pas mis la dernière main. Il est aussi nécessaire que les deux sexes travaillent à sa perfection qu'à son être ; portez aux femmes le mérite de votre sexe, vous en rapporterez la douceur, les agrémens, et les graces du leur ; et les hommes qui vous estimoient seulement auparavant,

vant, vous aimeront après. Les femmes sont les véritables raffineuses de l'or masculin ; elles n'y ajoutent pas du poids il est vrai, mais elles y donnent l'éclat et le brillant. A propos, on m'assure que Madame du Blot sans avoir des traits, est jolie comme un cœur, et que nonobstant cela, elle s'en est tenue jusqu'ici scrupuleusement à son mari, quoiqu'il y ait déjà plus d'un an qu'elle est mariée. Elle n'y pense pas ; il faut décrotter cette femme là. Décrottez vous donc tous les deux réciproquement. Force, affiduités, attentions, regards tendres, et déclarations passionnées de vôtre côté, produiront au mons quelque velleité du sien. Et quand une fois la velleité est, les œuvres ne sont pas loin.

Comme je vous tiens pour le premier *juris peritus* et politique de tout le corps Germanique, je suppose que vous aurez lu la lettre du Roi de Prusse à l'Electeur de Maïence, au sujet de l'élection d'un Roi des Romains. Et de l'autre côté, une pièce, intitulée, *Représentation impartiale de ce qui est juste à l'égard de l'élection d'un Roi des Romains, &c.* La première est très bien écrite, mais pas fondée sur les loix et les usages de l'Empire ; la seconde est très mal écrite, au moins en François, mais fondée. Je crois qu'elle aura été écrite par quelque Allemand qui s'étoit mis dans l'esprit qu'il entendoit le François. Je suis persuadé pourtant que l'élégance et la délicatesse de la lettre du Roi de Prusse en imposeront aux deux tiers du public en dépit de la solidité et de la vérité de l'autre ~~pièce~~. Telle est la force de l'élégance et de la délicatesse.

Je foudraiterois que vous euffiez la bonté de me détailler un peu plus particulièrement vos allures à Paris. Ou est-ce, par exemple, que vous dinez tous les Vendredis, avec cet aimable et respectable vieillard Fontenelle? Quelle est la maison qui est pour ainsi dire votre domicile? Car on en a toujours une, ou l'on est plus établi, et plus à son aise qu'ailleurs. Qui sont les jeunes François avec lesquels vous êtes le plus lié? Fréquentez vous l'hôtel d'Hollande; et vous êtes vous fourré encore dans celui du Comte de Caunitz? Monsieur de Pignatelli, a-t-il l'honneur d'être du nombre de vos serviteurs? Et le Noncé du Pape vous a-t-il compris dans son Jubilé? Dites moi aussi naturellement comment vous êtes avec Milord Huntingdon; le voyez vous souvent? Le cultivez-vous? Répondez spécifiquement à toutes ces questions dans votre premiere lettre.

On me dit que livre de du Clos n'est pas à la mode à Paris, et qu'on le critique furieusement; c'est apparemment parce qu'on l'entend, et ce n'est plus la mode d'être intelligible. Je respecte infiniment la mode, mais je respecte bien plus ce livre, que je trouve en même tems vrai, solide, et brillant. Il y a même des epigrammes: que veut-on de plus?

Mr. \* \* \* fera parti (je compte) de Paris pour son séjour de Toulouse. J'espère qu'il y prendra des manieres, au moins en a-t-il bien besoin. Il est gauche, il est taciturne, et n'a pas le moindre *entre-gent*: Qualités pourtant très nécessaires pour se distinguer ou dans les affaires, ou dans le beau monde. Au vrai, ces deux choses sont si liées, qu'un homme

ne figurera jamais dans les affaires qui ne sçait pas briller aussi dans le beau monde. Et pour réussir parfaitement bien dans l'un ou dans l'autre, il faut être *in utrumque paratus*. Puissiez vous l'être, mon cher ami ! et sur ce, nous vous donnons le bon soir.

P. S. Lord and Lady Blessington, with their son Lord Mountjoy, will be at Paris next week, in their way to the South of France ; I send you a little packet of books by them. Pray go to wait upon them, as soon as you hear of their arrival, and show them all the attentions you can.

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TRANSLATION.

London, April 15th, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHAT success with the Graces, and in the accomplishments, elegancies, and all those little nothings so indispensably necessary to constitute an amiable man ? Do you take them, do you make a progress in them ? The great secret is the art of pleasing ; and that art is to be attained by every man who has a good fund of common-sense. If you are pleased with any person, examine why ; do as he does ; and you will charm others by the same things which please you in him. To be liked by women, you must be esteemed by men ; and to please men,

you

you must be agreeable to women. Vanity is unquestionably the ruling passion in women; and it is much flattered by the attentions of a man who is generally esteemed by men: when his merit has received the stamp of their approbation, women make it current, that is to say, put him in fashion. On the other hand, if a man has not received the last polish from women, he may be estimable among men, but he will never be amiable. The concurrence of the two sexes is as necessary to the perfection of our being, as to the formation of it. Go among women with the good qualities of your sex, and you will acquire from them the softness and the graces of theirs. Men will then add affection to the esteem which they before had for you. Women are the only refiners of the merit of men; it is true, they cannot add weight, but they polish and give lustre to it. *A propos*, I am assured that Madame de Blot, although she has no great regularity of features, is, notwithstanding, excessively pretty; and that, for all that, she has as yet been scrupulously constant to her husband, though she has now been married above a year. Surely she does not reflect, that woman wants polishing. I would have you polish one another reciprocally. Force, assiduities, attentions, tender looks, and passionate declarations, on your side, will produce some irresolute wishes, at least, on hers; and when even the slightest wishes arise, the rest will soon follow.

As I take you to be the greatest *jeuiss peritus* and politician of the whole Germanic body, I suppose



you will have read the King of Prussia's letter to the Elector of Maïence, upon the Election of a King of the Romans; and, on the other side, a memorial, intitled, *Impartial representation of what is just with regard to the election of a King of the Romans*, &c. The first is extremely well written, but not grounded upon the laws and customs of the Empire. The second is very ill written (at least in French), but well grounded; I fancy the author is some German, who has taken into his head that he understands French. I am, however, persuaded, that the elegance and delicacy of the King of Prussia's letter will prevail with two-thirds of the public, in spite of the solidity and truths contained in the other piece. Such is the force of an elegant and delicate style!

I wish you would be so good as to give me a more particular and circumstantial account of the method of passing your time at Paris. For instance, Where is it that you dine every Friday, in company with that amiable and respectable old man, Fontenelle? Which is the house where you think yourself at home? for one always has such a one, where one is better established, and more at ease, than any where else. Who are the young Frenchmen with whom you are most intimately connected? Do you frequent the Dutch Ambassador's? Have you penetrated yet into Count Caunitz's house? Has Monsieur de Pignatelli the honour of being one of your humble servants? And has the Pope's Nuncio included you in his jubilee? Tell me also freely how you are with Lord

Huntingdon: Do you see him often? Do you connect yourself with him? Answer all these questions circumstantially in your first letter.

I am told that du Clos's book is not in vogue at Paris, and that it is violently criticised; I suppose that is, because one understands it; and being intelligible is now no longer the fashion. I have a very great respect for fashion, but a much greater for this book; which is, all at once, true, solid, and bright. It contains even epigrams; what can one wish for more?

Mr. \* \* \* will, I suppose, have left Paris by this time, for his residence at Toulouse. I hope he will acquire manners there; I am sure he wants them. He is awkward, he is silent, and has nothing agreeable in his address: most necessary qualifications to distinguish one's self in business, as well as in the *polite world*! In truth, these two things are so connected, that a man cannot make a figure in business, who is not qualified to shine in the great world; and to succeed perfectly in either the one or the other, one must be *in utrumque paratus*. May you be that, my dear friend! and so we wish you a good night.

## L E T T E R CCLI.

London, April the 22d, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I APPLY to you now, as to the greatest *virtuoso* of this, or perhaps any other age; one whose superior judgment and distinguishing eye hindered the King of Poland from buying a bad picture at Venice, and whose decisions in the realms of *virtù* are final and without appeal. Now to the point. I have had a catalogue sent me, *d'une vente à l'amiable de tableaux des plus grands maitres appartenans au Sieur Araignon Aperén, valet de chambre de la Reine, sur le quai de la Mégisserie, au coin de l'Arche Marion*. There I observe two large pictures of Titian as described in the enclosed page of the catalogue, N<sup>o</sup> 18, which I should be glad to purchase upon two conditions; the first is, that they be undoubted originals of Titian, in good preservation; and the other, that they come cheap. To ascertain the first (but without disparaging your skill) I wish you would get some undoubted connoisseurs to examine them carefully; and if, upon such critical examination, they should be unanimously allowed to be undisputed originals of Titian, and well preserved, then comes the second point, the price: I will not go above two hundred pounds sterling for the ~~two~~ together; but as much less as you can get them for. I acknowledge that two hundred pounds

pounds seems to be a very small sum for two undoubted Titians of that size; but, on the other hand, as large Italian pictures are now out of fashion at Paris, where fashion decides of every thing, and as these pictures are too large for common rooms, they may possibly come within the price above limited. I leave the whole of this transaction (the price excepted, which I will not exceed) to your consummate skill and prudence, with proper advice joined to them. Should you happen to buy them for that price, carry them to your own lodgings, and get a frame made to the second, which I observe has none, exactly the same with the other frame, and have the old one new gilt; and then get them carefully packed up, and sent me by Rouen,

I hear much of your conversing with *les beaux esprits* at Paris; I am very glad of it; it gives a degree of reputation, especially at Paris; and their conversation is generally instructive, though sometimes affected. It must be owned, that the polite conversation of the men and women of fashion at Paris, though not always very deep, is much less futile and frivolous than ours here. It turns at least upon some subject, something of taste, some point of history, criticism, and even philosophy; which, though probably not quite so solid as Mr. Locke's, is however better, and more becoming rational beings, than our frivolous dissertations upon the weather, or upon whist. Monsieur du Clos observes, and I think very justly, *qu'il y a à présent en France une fermentation universelle de la raison qui tend à se développer*. Where-

as, I am sorry to say, that here that fermentation seems to have been over some years ago, the spirit evaporated, and only the dregs left. Moreover, *les beaux esprits* at Paris are commonly well-bred, which ours very frequently are not; with the former your manners will be formed; with the latter wit must generally be compounded for at the expence of manners. Are you acquainted with Marivaux, who has certainly studied, and is well acquainted with the heart; but who refines so much upon its *plis et replis*, and describes them so affectedly, that he often is unintelligible to his readers, and sometimes so, I dare say, to himself? Do you know *Crébillon le fils*? He is a fine painter, and a pleasing writer; his characters are admirable, and his reflections just. Frequent these people, and be glad, but not proud of frequenting them: never boast of it, as a proof of your own merit, nor insult, in a manner, other companies, by telling them affectedly what you, Montesquieu, and Fontenelle, were talking of the other day; as I have known many people do here, with regard to Pope and Swift, who had never been twice in company with either: nor carry into other companies the *ton* of those meetings of *beaux esprits*. Talk literature, taste, philosophy, &c. with them, *à la bonne heure*; but then, with the same ease, and more *enjouement*, talk *pompons*, *moires*, &c. with Madame de Blot, if she requires it. Almost every subject in the world has its proper time and place; in which no one is above or below discussion. The point is, to talk well upon the subject you talk upon; and

and the most trifling frivolous subjects will still give a man of parts an opportunity of shewing them. *L'usage du grand monde* can alone teach that. This was the distinguishing characteristic of Alcibiades, and a happy one it was ; that he could occasionally, and with so much ease, adopt the most different, and even the most opposite habits and manners, that each seemed natural to him. Prepare yourself for the great world, as the *athletæ* used to do for their exercises ; oil (if I may use that expression) your mind, and your manners, to give them the necessary suppleness and flexibility ; strength alone will not do, as young people are too apt to think.

How do your exercises go on ? Can you manage a pretty vigorous *sauteur* between the pillars ? Are you got into stirrups yet ? *Faites-vous assaut aux armes* ? But, above all, what does Marcel say of you ? Is he satisfied ? Pray be more particular in your accounts of yourself ; for, though I have frequent accounts of you from others, I desire to have your own too. Adieu.

Yours, truly and tenderly.

## L E T T E R CCLII.

London, May the 2d, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

TWO accounts which I have very lately received of you, from two good judges, have put me into great spirits; as they have given me reasonable hopes, that you will soon acquire all that I believe you want; I mean, the air, the address, the graces, and the manners, of a man of fashion. As these two pictures of you are very unlike that which I received, and sent you some months ago, I will name the two painters; the first is an old friend and acquaintance of mine, Monsieur d'Aillon. His picture is, I hope, like you; for it is a very good one: Monsieur Tollot's is still a better; and so advantageous a one, that I will not send you a copy of it, for fear of making you too vain. So far I will tell you, that there was only one *but* in either of their accounts; and it was this: I gave d'Aillon the question, ordinary and extraordinary, upon the important article of manners; and extorted this from him: \* *Mais si*

\* "But, since you will know it, he still wants that last beautiful varnish, which raises the colours, and gives brilliancy to the piece: Be persuaded that he will acquire it; he has too much sense not to know its value; and, if I am not greatly mistaken, more persons than one are now endeavouring to give it him."

VOUS



*vous voulez il lui manque encore ce dernier beau vernis qui relève les couleurs, et qui donne l'éclat à la pièce. Comptez qu'il l'aura; il a trop d'esprit pour n'en pas connoître tout le prix, et je me trompe bien, ou plus d'une personne travaille à le lui donner. Monsieur Tollot* says, † *Il ne lui manque absolument, pour être tout ce que vous souhaitez qu'il soit, que ces petits riens, ces graces de détail, cette aisance aimable que l'usage du grand monde peut seul lui donner. A cet égard on m'assure qu'il est en de bonnes mains; je ne sçais si on ne veut pas dire par-là dans des baux bras.* Without entering into a nice discussion of the last question, I congratulate you and myself upon your being so near that point at which I so anxiously wish you may arrive. I am sure that all your attention and endeavours will be exerted; and, if exerted, they will succeed. Mr. Tollot says, that you are inclined to be fat; but I hope you will decline it as much as you can; not by taking any thing corrosive to make you lean, but by taking as little as you can of those things that would make you fat. Drink no chocolate, take your coffee without cream: you cannot possibly avoid suppers at Paris, unless you avoid company too, which I would by no means have you do: but eat as little at supper as you can, and make

† "In order to be exactly all that you wish him, he only wants those little nothings, those graces in detail, and that amiable ease, which can only be acquired by usage of the great world. I am assured that he is, in that respect, in good hands; I do not know whether that does not rather imply, in fine arms."

even

even an allowance for that little\* at your dinners. Take, occasionally, a double dose of riding and fencing; and now that the summer is come, walk a good deal in the Tuilleries: it is a real inconvenience to any body to be fat; and, besides, it is ungraceful for a young fellow. *A propos*, I had like to have forgot to tell you, that I charged Tollot to attend particularly to your utterance and diction; two points of the utmost importance. To the first he says, \* *Il ne s'énonce pas mal, mais il seroit à souhaiter qu'il le fit encore mieux; et il s'exprime avec plus de feu que d'élégance. L'usage de la bonne compagnie mettra aussi ordre à tout cela.* These, I allow, are all little things separately; but, aggregately, they make a most important and great article in the account of a gentleman. In the House of Commons you can never make a figure without elegance of style, and gracefulness of utterance: and you can never succeed as a Courtier, at your own Court, or as a Minister at any other, without those innumerable *petits riens dans les manières, et dans les attentions*. Mr. Yorke is by this time at Paris; make your court to him, but not so as to disgust, in the least, Lord Albemarle; who may possibly dislike your considering Mr. Yorke as the man of business, and him as only *pour orner la scene*. Whatever your opinion may be upon

\* "His enunciation is not bad, but it is to be wished that it were still better; and he expresses himself with more fire than elegance. Usage of good company will instruct him likewise in that."

*that point*, take care not to let it appear ; but be well with them both, by showing no public preference to either.

Though I must necessarily fall into repetitions, by treating the same subject so often, I cannot help recommending to you again the utmost attention to your air and address. Apply yourself now to Marcel's lectures, as diligently as you did formerly to Professor Mascow's ; desire him to teach you every genteel attitude, that the human body can be put into ; let him make you go in and out of his room frequently, and present yourself to him, as if he were by turns different persons ; such as a minister, a lady, a superior, an equal, an inferior, &c. Learn to sit genteelly in different companies ; to loll genteelly, and with good manners, in those companies where you are authorized to be free ; and to sit up respectfully where the same freedom is not allowable. Learn even to compose your countenance occasionally to the respectful, the chearful, and the insinuating. Take particular care that the motions of your hands and arms be easy and graceful ; for the genteelness of a man consists more in them than in any thing else, especially in his dancing. Desire some women to tell you of any little awkwardness that they may observe in your carriage : they are the best judges of those things ; and if they are satisfied, the men will be so too. Think, now, only of these decorations. Are you acquainted with Madame Geoffrain, who has a great deal of wit ; and who, I am informed, receives only the very best company

in her house? Do you know Madame du Pin, who, I remember, had beauty, and I hear has wit and reading? I could wish you to converse only with those, who, either from their rank, their merit, or their beauty, require constant attention; for a young man can never improve in company, where he thinks he may neglect himself. A <sup>new</sup> bow must be constantly kept bent; when it grows older, and has taken the right turn, it may now and then be relaxed.

I have this moment paid your draught of £.89.15s. it was signed in a very good hand; which proves that a good hand may be written without the assistance of magic. Nothing provokes me much more, than to hear people indolently say, that they cannot do what is in every body's power to do, if it be but in their will. Adieu.

## L E T T E R CCLIII.

London, May the 6th, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THE best authors are always the severest critics of their own works; they revise, correct, file, and polish them, till they think they have brought them to perfection. Considering you as my work, I do not look upon myself as a bad author, and am therefore

fore a severe critic. I examine narrowly into the least inaccuracy or inelegancy, in order to correct, not to expose them, and that the work may be perfect at last. You are, I know, exceedingly improved in your air, address, and manners, since you have been at Paris; but still there is, I believe, room for farther improvement, before you come to that perfection which I have set my heart upon seeing you arrive at: and till that moment, I must continue filing and polishing. In a letter that I received by last post, from a friend of yours at Paris, there was this paragraph: \* *Sans flatterie, j'ai l'honneur de vous assurer que Monsieur Stanhope réussit ici au-delà de ce qu'on attendroit d'une personne de son age; il voit très-bonne compagnie, et ce petit ton qu'on regardoit d'abord comme un peu décidé et un peu brusque, n'est rien moins que cela, parce qu'il est l'effet de la franchise, accompagnée de la politesse et de la déférence. Il s'étudie à plaire, et il y réussit. Madame de Puisieux en parloit l'autre jour avec complaisance et intérêt: vous en serez content à tous égards.* This is extremely well, and I rejoice at it: one little cir-

\* "I have the honour to assure you, without flattery, that  
 "Mr. Stanhope succeeds beyond what might be expected from  
 "a person of his age. He goes into very good company; and  
 "that kind of manner, which was at first thought to be too de-  
 "cisive and peremptory, is now judged otherwise; because it is  
 "acknowledged to be the effect of an ingenuous frankness, ac-  
 "companied by politeness, and by a proper deference. He stu-  
 "dies to please, and succeeds. Madame de Puisieux was the  
 "other day speaking of him with complacency and friendship.  
 "You will be satisfied with him in all respects."

cumstance only may, and I hope will, be altered for the better. Take pains to undeceive those who thought that *petit ton un peu décidé et un peu brusque*; as it is not meant so, let it not appear so. Compose your countenance to an air of gentleness and *douceur*: use some expressions of diffidence of your own opinion, and deference to other people's; such as, *Il m'est permis de le dire—je croirois—ne seroit-ce pas plutôt comme cela? Au moins j'ai tout lieu de me défier de moi-même*: such mitigating, engaging words, do by no means weaken your argument; but, on the contrary, make it more powerful, by making it more pleasing. If it is a quick and hasty manner of speaking that people mistake *pour décidé et brusque*, prevent their mistakes for the future by speaking more deliberately, and taking a softer tone of voice; as in this case you are free from the guilt, be free from the suspicion too. Mankind, as I have often told you, is more governed by appearances, than by realities: and, with regard to opinion, one had better be really rough and hard, with the appearance of gentleness and softness, than just the reverse. Few people have penetration enough to discover, attention enough to observe, or even concern enough to examine, beyond the exterior; they take their notions from the surface, and go no deeper; they commend as the gentlest and best-natured man in the world,

\* If I might be permitted to say—I should think—Is it not rather so? At least I have the greatest reason to be diffident of myself.

that



that man who has the most engaging exterior manner, though possibly they have been but once in his company. An air, a tone of voice, a composure of countenance to mildness and softness, which are all easily acquired, do the business; and, without farther examination, and possibly with the contrary qualities, that man is reckoned the gentlest, the modestest, and the best-natured man alive. Happy the man, who, with a certain fund of parts and knowledge, gets acquainted with the world early enough to make it his bubble, at an age, when most people are the bubbles of the world! for that is the common case of youth. They grow wiser when it is too late; and, ashamed and vexed at having been bubbles so long, too often turn knaves at last. Do not therefore trust to appearances and out-side yourself, but pay other people with them; because you may be sure that nine in ten of mankind do, and ever will, trust to them. This is by no means a criminal or blameable simulation, if not used with an ill intention. I am by no means blameable in desiring to have other people's good word, good will, and affection, if I do not mean to abuse them. Your heart, I know, is good, your sense is sound, and your knowledge extensive. What then remains for you to do? Nothing, but to adorn those fundamental qualifications, with such engaging and captivating manners, softness, and gentleness, as will endear you to those who are able to judge of your real merit, and which always stand in the stead of merit with those who are not. I do not mean by this to recommend to you *le fads douxereux*, the insipid



softness of a gentle\*fool: no, assert your own opinion, oppose other people's when wrong; but let your manner, your air, your terms, and your tone of voice, be soft and gentle, and that easily and naturally, not affectedly. Use palliatives when you contradict; such as, *I may be mistaken, I am not sure, but I believe, I should rather think, &c.* Finish any argument or dispute with some little good-humoured pleasantry, to show that you are neither hurt yourself, nor meant to hurt your antagonist; for an argument, kept up a good while, often occasions a temporary alienation on each side. Pray observe particularly, in those French people who are distinguished by that character, *cette douceur de mœurs et de manières*, which they talk of so much, and value justly; see in what it consists; in mere trifles, and most easy to be acquired, where the heart is really good. Imitate, copy it, till it becomes habitual and easy to you. Without a compliment to you, I take it to be the only thing you now want: nothing will sooner give it you than a real passion, or, at least, *un goût vif*, for some women of fashion; and, as I suppose that you have either the one or the other by this time, you are consequently in the best school. Besides this, if you were to say to Lady Hervey, Madame Monconseil, or such others as you look upon to be your friends, \* *On dit que j'ai un certain*  
*petit*

\* It is said that I have a kind of manner which is rather too decisive and too peremptory; it is not my intention that it should be so: I intreat you to correct, and even publicly to punish me, whenever I am guilty. Do not treat me with the least indulgence, but criticise to the utmost. So clear-sighted  
 a judge

*petit ton trop décidé et trop brusque ; l'intention pour-  
tant n'y est pas : corrigez-moi, je vous en supplie, et  
châtiez-moi même publiquement, quand vous me trouverez  
sur le fait. Ne me passez rien, poussez votre critique  
jusqu'à l'excès ; un juge aussi éclairé est en droit d'être  
sévere, et je vous promets que le coupable tâchera de se  
corriger.*

Yesterday I had two of your acquaintances to dine  
with me, Baron B. and his companion Monsieur S.  
I cannot say of the former, *qu'il est paîtri de graces*;  
and I would rather advise him to go and fettle quietly  
at home, than to think of improving himself by far-  
ther travels, *Ce n'est pas le bois dont on en fait.* His  
companion is much better, though he has a strong  
*tocco di tedesco*. They both spoke well of you, and so  
far I liked them both. \* *Comment vont nos affaires  
avec l'aimable petite Blot ? Se prête-t-elle à vos fleu-  
rettes ? êtes-vous censé être sur les rangs ? Madame du  
— est-elle votre Madame de Lursay, et fait-elle quel-  
quefois des nœuds ? Seriez-vous son Meilcour ? Elle a,  
dit-on, de la douceur, de l'esprit, des manieres ; il y a à  
apprendre dans un tel apprentissage †.* A woman like  
a judge as you has a right to be severe ; and I promise you that  
the criminal will endeavour to correct himself.

\* How go you on with the amiable little Blot ? Does she listen  
to your flattering tale ? Are you numbered among the list of her  
admirers ? Is Madame du—— your Madame de Lursay ? does  
she sometimes knot, and are you her Meilcour ? They say she has  
softness, sense, and engaging manners ; in such an apprentice-  
ship much may be learned.

† This whole passage, and several others, allude to Crébillon's  
*Egaremens du Cœur et de l'Esprit*, a sentimental novel written  
about that time, and then much in vogue at Paris.

her, who has always pleased, and often been pleased, can best teach the art of pleasing; that art, without which *ogni fatica è vana*. Marcel's lectures are no small part of that art: they are the engaging forerunner of all other accomplishments. Dress is also an article not to be neglected, and I hope you do not neglect it; it helps in the *premier abord*, which is often decisive. By dress, I mean your clothes being well made, fitting you, in the fashion, and not above it; your hair well done, and a general cleanliness and spruceness in your person. I hope you take infinite care of your teeth: the consequences of neglecting the mouth are serious, not only to one's self, but to others. In short, my dear child, neglect nothing; a little more will complete the whole. Adieu. I have not heard from you these three weeks, which I think a great while.

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## L E T T E R CCLIV.

London, May the 10th, O. S. 1751.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED, yesterday, at the same time, your letters of the 4th and the 11th, N. S.; and, being much more careful of my commissions than you are of yours, I do not delay one moment sending you my final instructions concerning the pictures. The Man, you allow to be a Titian, and in good preservation; the Woman is an indifferent and a damaged

maged picture; but, as I want them for furniture for a particular room, companions are necessary; and therefore I am willing to take the Woman for better for worse, upon account of the Man; and, if she is not too much damaged, I can have her tolerably repaired, as many a fine woman is, by a skilful hand here; but then I expect the Lady should be, in a manner, thrown into the bargain with the Man; and in this state of affairs, the Woman being worth little or nothing, I will not go above fourscore Louis for the two together. As for the Rembrandt you mention, though it is very cheap if good, I do not care for it. I love *la belle nature*; Rembrandt paints caricaturas. Now for your own commissions, which you seem to have forgotten. You mention nothing of the patterns which you received by Monsieur Tollot, though I told you in a former letter, which you must have had before the date of your last, that I should stay till I received the patterns pitched upon by your ladies; for as to the instructions which you sent me in Madame Monconseil's hand, I could find no mohairs\* in London, that exactly answered that description: I shall, therefore, wait till you send me (which you may easily do in a letter) the patterns chosen by your three Graces.

I would, by all means, have you go now and then, for two or three days, to Maréchal Coigny's, at Orli: it is but a proper civility to that family, which has been particularly civil to you; and, more-

\* \* By mohairs we suppose his Lordship means tabbies.

over, I would have you familiarize yourself with, and learn the interior and domestic manners of people of that rank and fashion. I also desire that you will frequent Versailles and St. Cloud, at both which Courts you have been received with distinction. Profit by that distinction, and familiarize yourself at both. Great Courts are the seats of true good-breeding; you are to live at Courts, lose no time in learning them. Go and stay sometimes at Versailles for three or four days, where you will be domestic in the best families, by means of your friend Madame de Puiseux; and mine, L'Abbé de la Ville. Go to the King's and the Dauphin's levees; and distinguish yourself from the rest of your countrymen, who, I dare say, never go there when they can help it. Though the young Frenchmen of fashion may not be worth forming intimate connections with, they are well worth making acquaintance of; and I do not see how you can avoid it, frequenting so many good French houses as you do, where, to be sure, many of them come. Be cautious how you contract friendships; but be desirous, and even industrious, to obtain an universal acquaintance. Be easy, and even forward, in making new acquaintances; that is the only way of knowing manners and characters in general, which is, at present, your great object. You are *enfant de famille* in three Ministers houses; but I wish you had a footing, at least, in thirteen: and that, I should think, you might easily bring about, by that common chain, which, to a certain degree, connects  
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those you do not, with those you do know. For instance, I suppose that neither Lord Albemarle, nor Marquis de St. Germain, would make the least difficulty to present you to Comte Caunitz, the Nuncio, &c. *Il faut être rompu au monde*, which can only be done by an extensive, various, and almost universal acquaintance.

When you have got your emaciated Philomath, I desire that his triangles, rhomboids, &c. may not keep you one moment out of the good company you would otherwise be in. Swallow all your learning in the morning, but digest it in company in the evenings. The reading of ten new characters is more your business now, than the reading of twenty old books; showish and shining, people always get the better of all others, though ever so solid. If you would be a great man in the world when you are old, shine and be showish in it while you are young; know every body, and endeavour to please every body, I mean exteriorly; for fundamentally it is impossible. Try to engage the heart of every woman, and the affections of almost every man you meet with. Madame Monconseil assures me, that you are most surprisngly improved in your air, manners, and address; go on, my dear child, and never think that you are come to a sufficient degree of perfection; *Nil actum reputans, si quid superesset agendum*; and in those shining parts of the character of a Gentleman, there is always something remaining to be acquired. Modes and manners vary in different places, and at different times; you must

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