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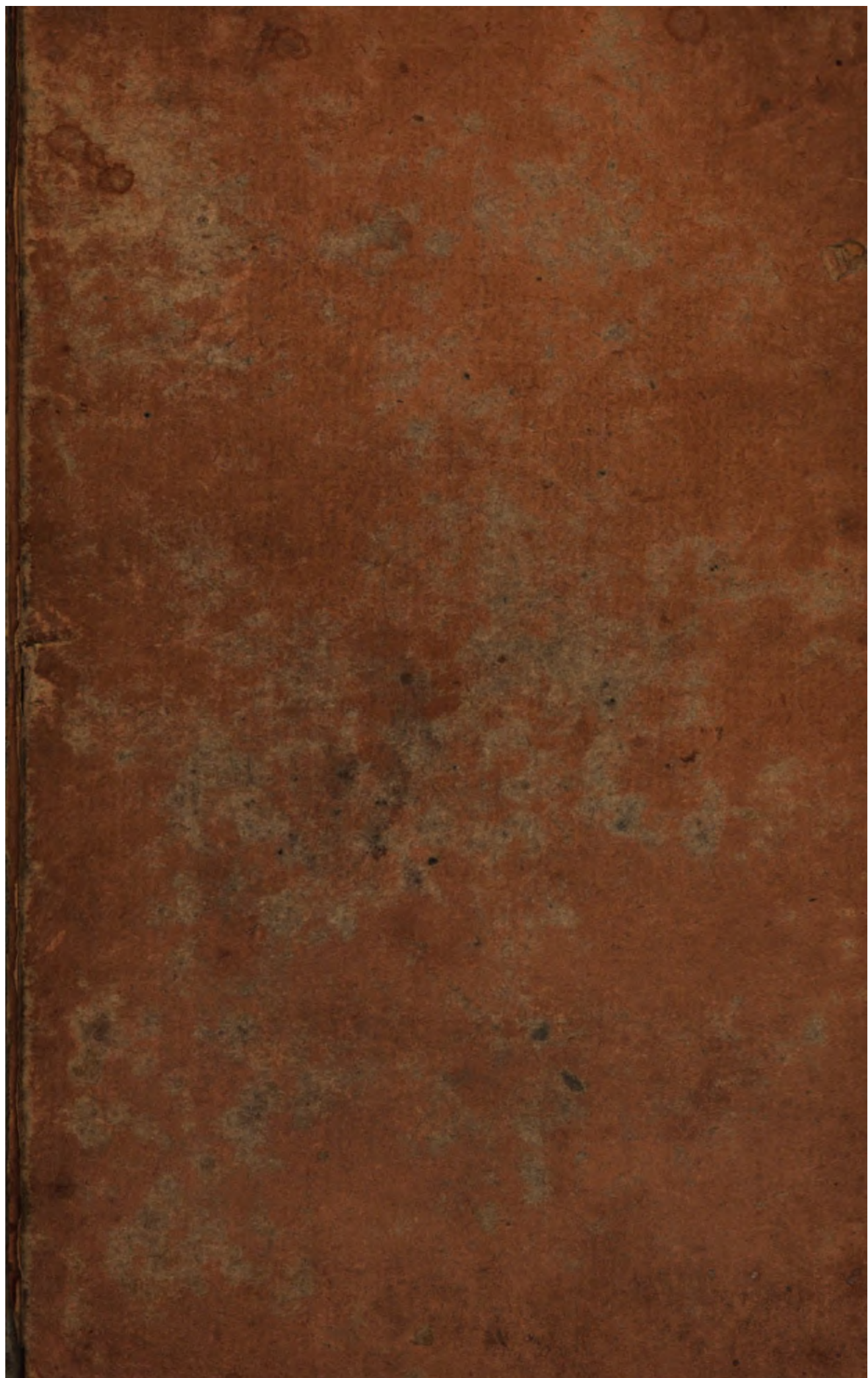
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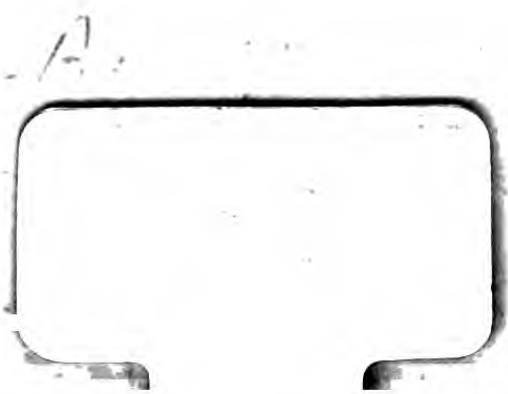
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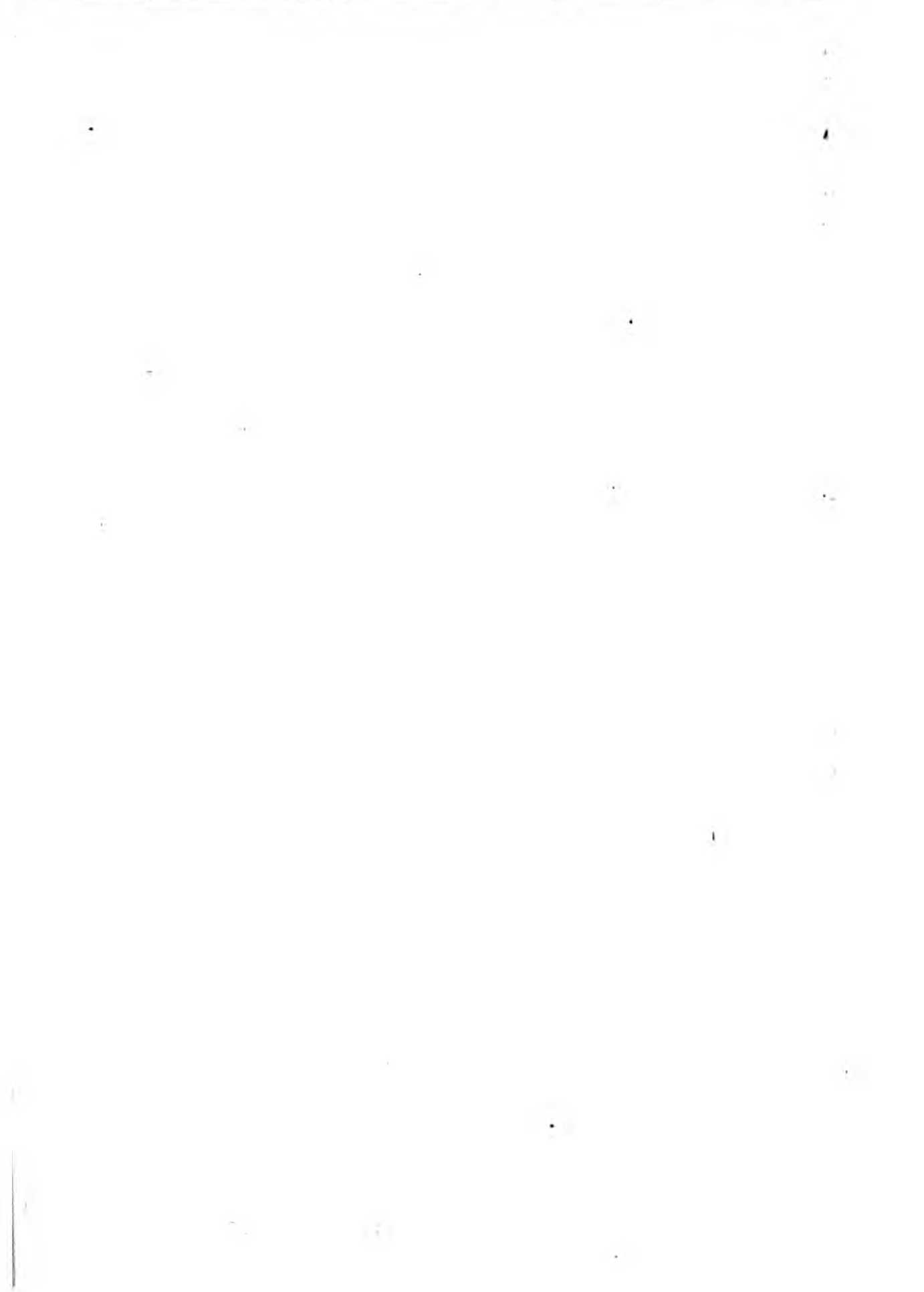
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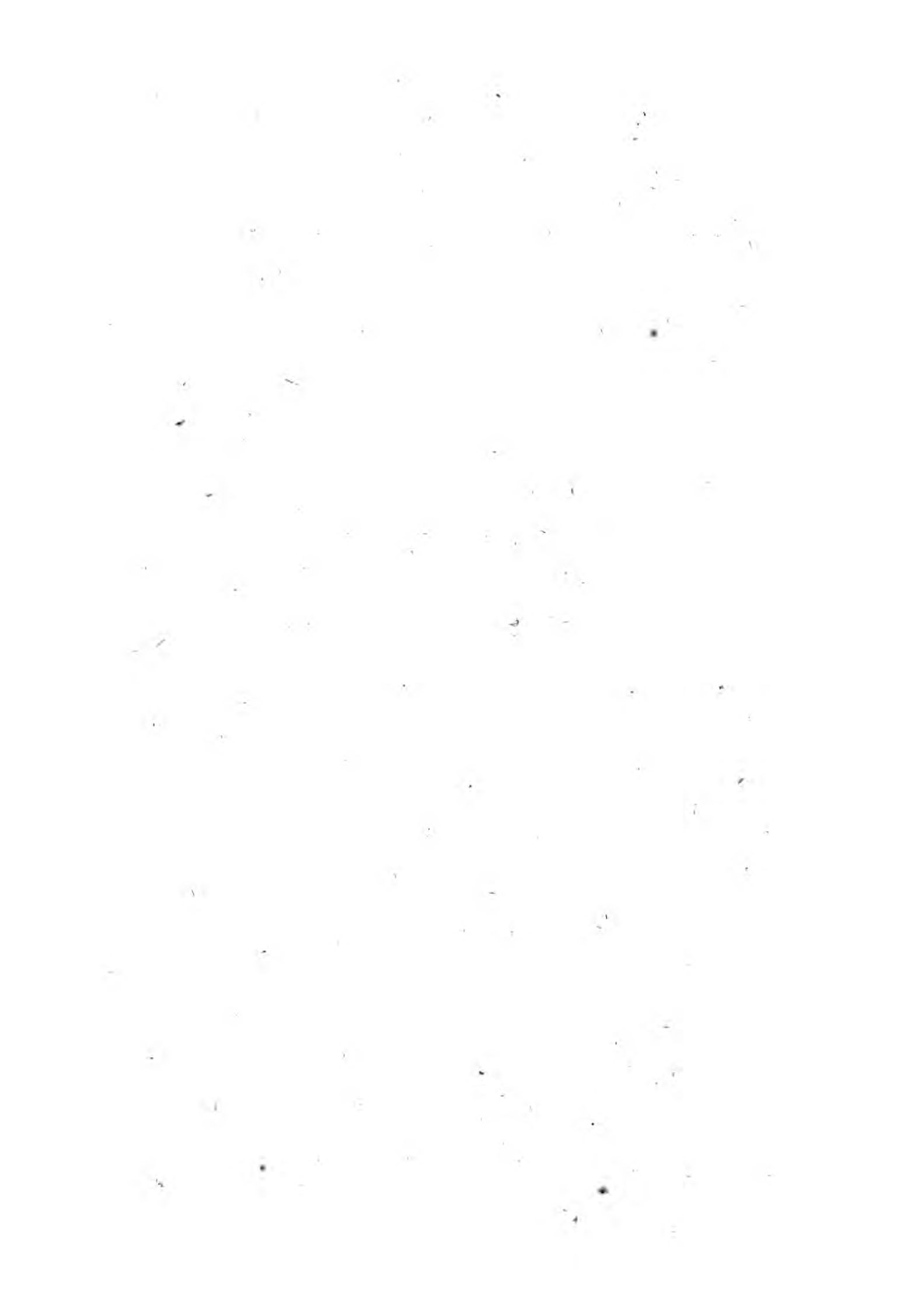
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The first



Dr. Chs Savater

October. 1827







LYDIA STERNE DE MEDALLE .

L E T T E R S

OF THE LATE

Rev. Mr. LAURENCE STERNE,

To his most intimate FRIENDS.

WITH A

FRAGMENT in the Manner of *Rabelais*.

To which are prefix'd,

Memoirs of his Life and Family

Written by HIMSELF

And published by his Daughter, Mrs. MEDALLE,

IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. I.

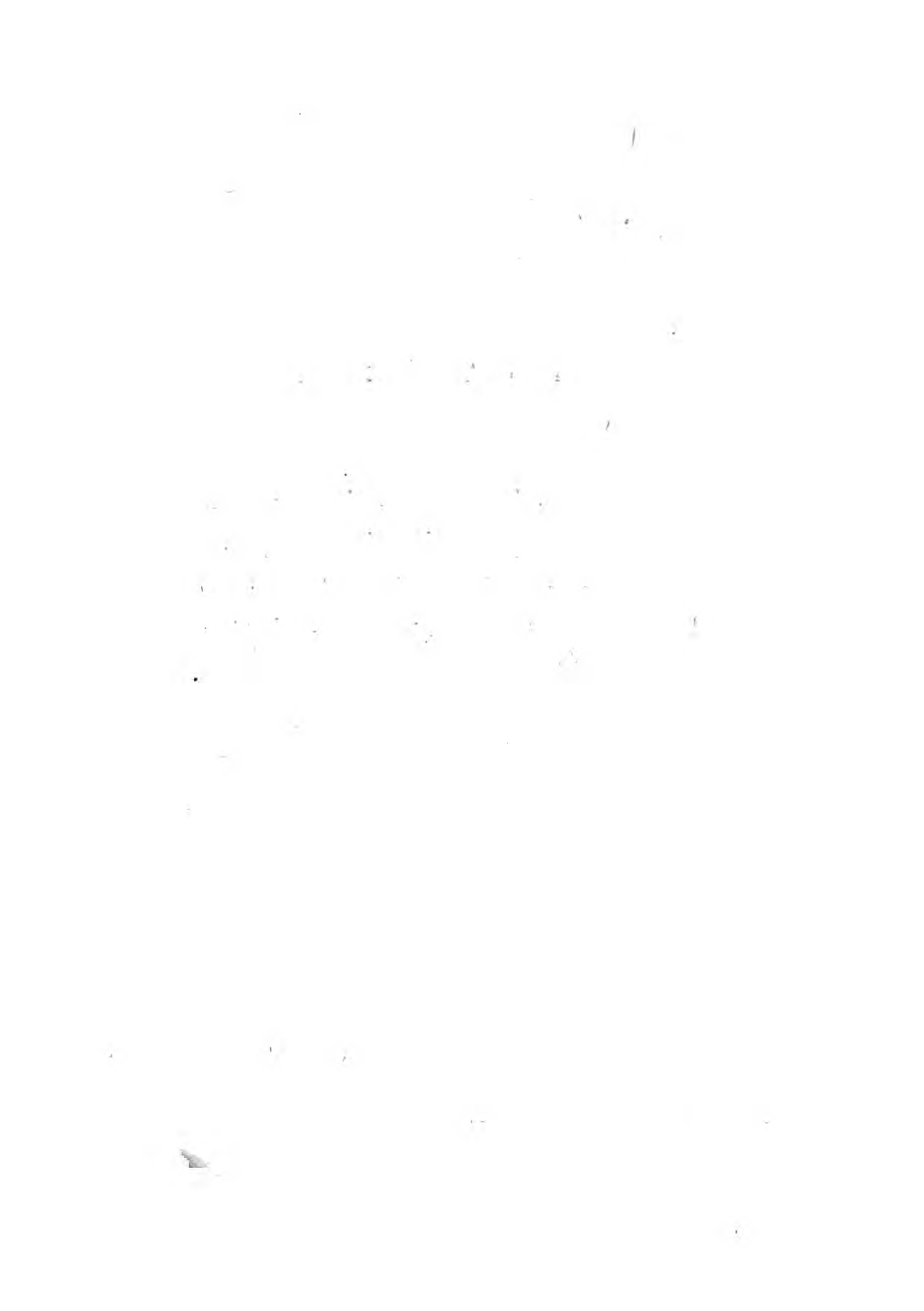
ALTENBURGH:
Printed for RICHTER.
1776.



E P I T A P H.

SHALL pride a heap of sculptur'd marble raise,
Some worthless, un-mourn'd titled fool to praise;
And shall we not by one poor grave-stone learn,
Where Genius, Wit, and Humour, sleep with
S T E R N E ?

D. G.



P R E F A C E.

IN publishing these Letters the Editor does but comply with her mother's request, which was, that if any letters were publish'd under Mr. Sterne's name, that those she had in her possession, as well as those that her father's friends would be kind enough to send to her, should be likewise publish'd——She depends much on the candour of the public for the favourable reception of these,——their being genuine, she thinks—and hopes, will render them not unacceptable——She has already experienced much benevolence and generosity from her late father's friends——the remembrance of it will ever warm her heart with gratitude!

No more thy sad tale, with simplicity told,
 O'er each feeling breast its strong influence hold,
 From the wise and the brave call forth sympathy's sigh,
 Or swell with sweet anguish humanity's eye:
 Here and there in the page if a blemish appear,
 And what page, or what life, from a blemish is clear?
 TRIM and TOBY with soft intercession attend;
 LE FEVRE intreats you to pardon his friend:
 MARIA too pleads, for her favourite distress'd,
 As you feel for her sorrows, O grant her request!
 Should these advocates fail, I've another to call,
 One tear of his MONK shall obliterate all.
 Favour'd pupil of Nature and Fancy, of yore,
 Whom from Humour's embrace sweet Philanthropy
 bore,
 While the Graces and Loves scatter flow'rs on thy urn,
 And Wit weeps the blossom too hastily torn;
 This meed too, kind spirit, unoffended receive
 From a youth next to SHAKESPEARE'S who honours
 thy grave!

thropy, of good will towards man. For the few exception-
 al parts of his works, those small blemishes

Quas aut incuria fudit,

Aut humana parum cavit natura—

suffer them, kind critic, to rest with his ashes!

The above eulogium will, I doubt not, appear to you,
 and perhaps also to many others, much too high for the
 literary character of STERNE; I have not at present
 either leisure or inclination to enter into argument upon
 the question; but, in truth I considered myself as largely
 his debtor for the tears and the laughter he so frequently
 excited, and was desirous to leave behind me, for so long
 at least as this trifle shall remain, some small memorial
 of my gratitude: I will even add, that, although I re-
 gard the memory of *Shakespeare* with a veneration little
 short of idolatry, I esteem the *Monk's horn-box* a relick
 "as devoutly to be wished" as a pipe-stopper, a walking-
 stick, or even an inkstand of the *mulberry-tree*.

L E T T E R S

OF THE LATE

Rev. Mr. LAURENCE STERNE,

TO HIS

MOST INTIMATE FRIENDS.

2 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

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M E M O I R S

O F T H E

L I F E A N D F A M I L Y

O F T H E L A T E

Rev. Mr. LAURENCE STERNE.

ROGER STERNE, grandson to Archbishop Sterne, Lieutenant in Handaside's regiment, was married to Agnes Hebert, widow of a captain of a good family: her family name was, I believe, Nuttle—— though, upon recollection, that was the name of her father-in-law, who was a noted futler in Flanders, in Queen Ann's wars, where my father married his wife's daughter, N. B. he was in debt to him, which was in September 25, 1711, Old Stile.—This Nuttle had a son by my grandmother—a fine person of a man but a graceless whelp—what became of him I know not.—The family, if any left, live now at Clomwel in the south of Ireland,
at

at which town I was born November 24th, 1713, a few days after my mother arrived from Dunkirk.—My birth-day was ominous to my poor father, who was, the day after our arrival, with many other brave officers broke, and sent adrift into the wide world with a wife and two children—the elder of which was Mary; she was born in Lille in French Flanders, July the tenth, one thousand seven hundred and twelve, New Stile.—This child was most unfortunate—she married one Weemans in Dublin—who used her most unmercifully—spent his substance, became a bankrupt, and left my poor sister to shift for herself,—which she was able to do but for a few months, for she went to a friend's house in the country, and died of a broken heart. She was a most beautiful woman—of a fine figure, and deserved a better fate.—The regiment, in which my father served, being broke, he left Ireland as soon as I was able to be carried, with the rest of his family, and came to the family seat at Elvington, near York, where his mother lived. She was daughter to Sir Roger Jaques, and an heiress. There we sojourned for about ten months, when the regiment was established, and our household decamped with bag and baggage for Dublin—within a month of our arrival, my father left us, being ordered to Exeter,

Exeter, where, in a sad winter, my mother and her two children followed him, travelling from Liverpool by land to Plymouth. Melancholy description of this journey not necessary to be transmitted here. In twelve months we were all sent back to Dublin.—My mother, with three of us, for she laid in at Plymouth of a boy, Joram, took ship at Bristol, for Ireland, and had a narrow escape from being cast away by a leak springing up in the vessel.—At length, after many perils, and struggles, we got to Dublin.—There my father took a large house, furnished it, and in a year and a half's time spent a great deal of money.—In the year one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, all unhing'd again; the regiment was ordered, with many others, to the Isle of Wight, in order to embark for Spain in the Vigo expedition. We accompanied the regiment, and was driven into Milford Haven, but landed at Bristol, from thence by land to Plymouth again, and to the Isle of Wight—where I remember we stayed encamped some time before the embarkation of the troops—in this expedition from Bristol to Hampshire we lost poor Joram—a pretty boy, four years old, of the small-pox, my mother, sister, and myself, remained at the Isle of Wight during the Vigo Expedition, and until the regiment
had

had got back to Wicklow in Ireland, from whence my father sent for us.—We had poor Joram's loss supplied during our stay in the Isle of Wight, by the birth of a girl, Anne, born September the twenty-third, one thousand seven hundred and nineteen.—This pretty blossom fell at the age of three years, in the Barracks of Dublin—she was, as I well remember, of a fine delicate frame, not made to last long, as were most of my father's babes.—We embarked for Dublin, and had all been cast away by a most violent storm; but through the intercessions of my mother, the captain was prevailed upon to turn back into Wales, where we stayed a month, and at length got into Dublin, and travelled by land to Wicklow, where my father had for some weeks given us over for lost.—We lived in the barracks at Wicklow, one year, one thousand seven hundred and twenty, when Devijeher, so called after Colonel Devijeher, was born; from thence we decamped to stay half a year with Mr. Fetherston, a clergyman, about seven miles from Wicklow, who being a relation of my mother's, invited us to his parsonage at Animo.—It was in this parish, during our stay, that I had that wonderful escape in falling through a mill-race whilst the mill was going, and of being taken up unhurt—the story is incredible, but known for

for truth in all that part of Ireland—where hundreds of the common people flocked to see me.—From hence we followed the regiment to Dublin, where we lay in the barracks a year.—In this year, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-one, I learned to write, &c.—The regiment, ordered in twenty-two, to Carrickfergus in the north of Ireland; we all decamped, but got no further than Drogheda, thence ordered to Mullengar, forty miles west, where by Providence we stumbled upon a kind relation, a collateral descendant from Archbishop Sterne, who took us all to his castle and kindly entreated us for a year—and sent us to the regiment at Carrickfergus, loaded with kindneffes, &c.—a most rueful and tedious journey had we all, in March, to Carrickfergus, where we arrived in six or seven days—little Devijeher here died, he was three years old—He had been left behind at nurse at a farm-house near Wicklow, but was fetch'd to us by my father the summer after—another child sent to fill his place, Susan; this babe too left us behind in this weary journey—The autumn of that year, or the spring afterwards, I forget which, my father got leave of his colonel to fix me at school—which he did near Halifax, with an able master; with whom I staid some time, 'till by God's care of me my

cousin Sterne, of Elvington, became a father to me, and sent me to the university, &c. &c. To pursue the thread of our story, my father's regiment was the year after ordered to Londonderry, where another sister was brought forth, Catherine, still living, but most unhappily estranged from me by my uncle's wickedness, and her own folly—from this station the regiment was sent to defend Gibraltar, at the siege, where my father was run through the body by Captain Phillips, in a duel, the quarrel begun about a goose, with much difficulty he survived—tho' with an impaired constitution, which was not able to withstand the hardships it was put to—for he was sent to Jamaica, where he soon fell by the country fever, which took away his senses first, and made a child of him, and then, in a month or two, walking about continually without complaining, till the moment he sat down in an arm chair, and breathed his last—which was at Port Antonio, on the north of the island.—My father was a little smart man—active to the last degree, in all exercises—most patient of fatigue and disappointments, of which it pleased God to give him full measure—he was in his temper somewhat rapid, and hasty—but of a kindly, sweet disposition, void of all design; and so innocent in his own intentions, that
 he

he suspected no one; so that you might have cheated him ten times in a day, if nine had not been sufficient for your purpose—my poor father died in March 1731—I remained at Halifax 'till about the latter end of that year, and cannot omit mentioning this anecdote of myself, and school-master—He had the ceiling of the school-room new white-washed—the ladder remained there—I one unlucky day mounted it, and wrote with a brush in large capital letters, LAU. STERNE, for which the usher severely whipped me. My master was very much hurt at this, and said, before me, that never should that name be effaced, for I was a boy of genius, and he was sure I should come to preferment—this expression made me forget the stripes I had received—In the year thirty-two my cousin sent me to the university, where I staid some time. 'Twas there that I commenced a friendship with Mr. H . . . which has been most lasting on both sides—I then came to York, and my uncle got me the living of Sutton—and at York I become acquainted with your mother, and courted her for two years—she owned she liked me, but thought herself not rich enough, or me too poor, to be joined together—she went to her sister's in S——, and I wrote to her often—I believe then she was partly determined to have me, but would not say so—

at her return she fell into a consumption—and one evening that I was sitting by her with an almost broken heart to see her so ill, she said, “my dear Lawrey, I can never be yours, for I verily believe I have not long to live—but I have left you every shilling of my fortune;” —upon that she shewed me her will—this generosity overpowered me.—It pleased God that she recovered, and I married her in the year 1741. My uncle and myself were then upon very good terms, for he soon got me the Prebendary of York—but he quarrelled with me afterwards, because I would not write paragraphs in the news-papers—though he was a party-man, I was not, and detested such dirty work: thinking it beneath me—from that period, he became my bitterest enemy.—By my wife’s means I got the living of Stillington—a friend of her’s in the south had promised her, that if she married a clergyman in Yorkshire, when the living became vacant, he would make her a compliment of it. I remained near twenty years at Sutton, doing duty at both places—I had then very good health.—Books, painting, fiddling, and shooting were my amusements; as to the ’Squire of the parish, I cannot say we were upon a very friendly footing—but at Stillington, the family of the C——s shewed us every kindness—’twas most truly agreeable to be within
a mile

a mile and a half of an amiable family, who were ever cordial friends.—In the year 1760, I took a house at York for your mother and yourself, and went up to London to publish my two first volumes of Shandy. In that year Lord F—— presented me with the curacy of Coxwold—a sweet retirement in comparison of Sutton. In sixty-two I went to France before the peace was concluded, and you both followed me.—I left you both in France, and in two years after I went to Italy for the recovery of my health—and when I called upon you, I tried to engage your mother to return to England, with me—she and yourself are at length come—and I have had the inexpressible joy of seeing my girl every thing I wished her.

I have set down these particulars relating to my family, and self, for my Lydia, in case hereafter she might have a curiosity, or a kinder motive to know them.

IN justice to Mr. STERN'S delicate feelings, I must here publish the following letters to Mrs. STERNE, before he married her, when she was in Staffordshire——A good heart breathes in every line of them.

LET-

L E T T E R S.

L E T T E R I.

To Miss L——.

YES! I will steal from the world, and not a babbling tongue shall tell where I am—Echo shall not so much as whisper my hiding place—suffer thy imagination to paint it as a little sun-gilt cottage on the side of a romantic hill—dost thou think I will leave love and friendship behind me? No! they shall be my companions in solitude, for they will sit down, and rise up with me in the amiable form of my L—— we will be as merry, and as innocent as our first parents in Paradise, before the arch fiend entered that undescribable scene.

The kindest affections will have room to shoot and expand in our retirement, and produce such fruit, as madness, and envy, and ambition have always killed in the bud.—Let the human tempest and hurricane rage at a distance, the desolation is beyond the horizon

of peace.—My L—— has seen a Polyanthus blow in December—some friendly wall has sheltered it from the biting wind.—No planetary influence shall reach us, but that which presides and cherishes the sweetest flowers.—God preserve us, how delightful this prospect in idea! We will build, and we will plant, in our own way—simplicity shall not be tortured by art—we will learn of nature how to live—she shall be our alchymist, to mingle all the good of life into one salubrious draught.—The gloomy family of care and distrust shall be banished from our dwelling, guarded by thy kind and tutelar deity—we will sing our choral songs of gratitude, and rejoice to the end of our pilgrimage.

Adieu, my L——. Return to one who languishes for thy society.

L. STERNE.

LET-

L E T T E R II.

To the same.

YOU bid me tell you, my dear L—— how I bore your departure for S——, and whether the valley where D'Estella stands retains still its looks—or, if I think the roses or jessamines smell as sweet, as when you left it— Alas! every thing has now lost its relish, and look! The hour you left D'Estella I took to my bed.—I was worn out with fevers of all kinds, but most by that fever of the heart with which thou knowest well I have been wasting these two years—and shall continue wasting 'till you quit S——. The good Miss S——, from the forebodings of the best of hearts, thinking I was ill, insisted upon my going to her.—What can be the cause, my dear L—— that I never have been able to see the face of this mutual friend, but I feel myself rent to pieces? She made me stay an hour with her, and in that short space I burst into tears a dozen different times—and in such affectionate gusts of passion that she was constrained to leave the room, and sympathize in her dressing room—I have been weeping for
you

L E T T E R III.

To the same.

BEFORE now my L—— has lodged an indictment against me in the high court of Friendship—I plead guilty to the charge, and intirely submit to the mercy of that amiable tribunal.—Let this mitigate my punishment, if it will not expiate my transgression—do not say that I shall offend again in the same manner, though a too easy pardon sometimes occasions a repetition of the same fault.—A miser says, though I do no good with my money to-day, to-morrow shall be marked with some deed of beneficence.—The Libertine says, let me enjoy this week in forbidden and luxurious pleasures, and the next I will dedicate to serious thought and reflection.—The Gamester says, let me have one more chance with the dice and I will never touch them more.—The Knave of every profession wishes to obtain but independency, and he will become an honest man.—The Female Coquette triumphs in tormenting her inamorato, for fear, after marriage, he should not pity her.

Thy

Thy apparition of the fifth instant, for letters may almost be called so, proved more welcome as I did not expect it. Oh! my L——, thou art kind indeed to make an apology for me, and thou never wilt assuredly repent of one act of kindness—for being thy debtor, I will pay thee with interest.—Why does my L—— complain of the desertion of friends?—Where does the human being live that will not join in this complaint?—It is a common observation, and perhaps too true, that married people seldom extend their regards beyond their own fireside.—There is such a thing as parsimony in esteem, as well as money—yet as the one costs nothing, it might be bestowed with more liberality.—We cannot gather grapes from thorns, so we must not expect kind attachments from persons who are wholly folded up in selfish schemes.—I do not know whether I most despise, or pity such characters—nature never made an unkind creature—ill usage, and bad habits, have deformed a fair and lovely creation.

My L——!—thou art surrounded by all the melancholy gloom of winter; wert thou alone, the retirement would be agreeable.—Disappointed ambition might envy such a retreat, and disappointed love would seek it out.—Crowded towns, and busy societies, may delight the unthinking, and the gay—but solitude

litude is the best nurse of wisdom.—Methinks I see my contemplative girl now in the garden, watching the gradual approaches of spring.—Do'st not thou mark with delight the first vernal buds? the snow-drop, and primrose, these early and welcome visitors, spring beneath thy feet.—Flora and Pomona already consider thee as their handmaid; and in a little time will load thee with their sweetest blessing.—The feathered race are all thy own, and with them, untaught harmony will soon begin to cheer thy morning and evening walks.—Sweet as this may be, return—return—the birds of Yorkshire will tune their pipes, and sing as melodiously as those of Staffordshire.

Adieu, my beloved L—— thine too much
for my *peace*,

L. STERNE,

L E T T E R IV.

To the same.

I HAVE offended her whom I so tenderly love!—what could tempt me to it! but if a beggar was to knock at thy gate, wouldst thou not open the door and be melted with
com-

compassion.—I know thou wouldst, for Pity has erected a temple in thy bosom.—Sweetest, and best of all human passions! let thy web of tenderness cover the pensive form of affliction, and soften the darkest shades of misery! I have re-considered this apology, and, alas! what will it accomplish? Arguments, however finely spun, can never change the nature of things—very true—so a truce with them.

I have lost a very valuable friend by a sad accident, and what is worse, he has left a widow and five young children to lament this sudden stroke.—If real usefulness and integrity of heart, could have secured him from this, his friends would not now be mourning his untimely fate.—These dark and seemingly cruel dispensations of Providence, often make the best of human hearts complain.—Who can paint the distress of an affectionate mother, made a widow in a moment, weeping in bitterness over a numerous, helpless, and fatherless offspring?—God! these are thy chastisements, and require, hard task! a pious acquiescence.

Forgive me this digression, and allow me to drop a tear over a departed friend; and what is more excellent, an honest man. My L——! thou wilt feel all that kindness can inspire in the death of—The event was sudden, and thy gentle spirit would be more alarmed on
that

that account.—But my L—— thou hast less to lament, as old age was creeping on, and her period of doing good, and being useful, was nearly over.—At sixty years of age the tenement gets fast out of repair, and the lodger with anxiety thinks of a discharge.—In such a situation the poet might well say

“The soul uneasy, &c.”

My L—— talks of leaving the country—may a kind angel guide thy steps hither.—Solitude at length grows tiresome.—Thou sayest thou wilt quit the place with regret—I think so too.—Does not something uneasy mingle with the very reflection of leaving it? It is like parting with an old friend, whose temper and company one has long been acquainted with.—I think I see you looking twenty times a day at the house—almost counting every brick and pane of glass, and telling them at the same time with a sigh, you are going to leave them.—Oh happy modification of matter! they will remain insensible of thy loss.—But how wilt thou be able to part with thy garden?—The recollection of so many pleasing walks must have endeared it to you. The trees, the shrubs, the flowers, which thou reared with thy own hands—will they not droop and fade away sooner upon thy departure.—Who will be the successor to nurse them in thy absence.—

Thou

Thou wilt leave thy name upon the myrtle-tree.—If trees, and shrubs, and flowers, could compose an elegy, I should expect a very plaintive one upon this subject.

Adieu, adieu. Believe me ever, ever thine,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R V.

To S—— C——, Esq.

London, Christmas Day.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE been in such a continual hurry since the moment I arrived here—what with my books, and what with visitors, and visitings, that it was not in my power sooner to sit down and acknowledge the favour of your obliging letter; and to thank you for the most friendly motives which led you to write it: I am not much in pain upon what gives my kind friends at Stillington so much on the chapter of *Noses*—because, as the principal satire throughout that part is levelled at those learned blockheads who, in all ages, have wasted their time and much learning upon

points as foolish—it shifts off the idea of what you fear, to another point—and 'tis thought here very good—'twill pass muster—I mean not with all—no—no! I shall be attacked and pelted, either from cellars or garrets, write what I will—and besides, must expect to have a party against me of many hundreds—who either do not—or will not laugh.—'Tis enough if I divide the world;—at least I will rest contented with it.—I wish you was here to see what changes of looks and political reasoning have taken place in every company, and coffee-house since last year; we shall be soon Pruffians and Anti-Pruffians, B——'s and Anti-B——s, and those distinctions will just do as well as Whig and Tory—and for aught I know serve the same ends.—The K. seems resolved to bring all things back to their original principles, and to stop the torrent of corruption and laziness.—He rises every morning at six to do business—rides out at eight to a minute, returns at nine to give himself up to his people.—By persisting, 'tis thought he will oblige his M——s and dependants, to dispatch affairs with him many hours sooner than of late—and 'tis much to be question'd whether they will not be enabled to wait upon him sooner by being free'd from long levees of their own, and applications; which will in all likelihood be transferr'd from them directly to

to himself—the present system being to remove that Phalanx of great people, which stood betwixt the throne and the subjects, and suffer them to have immediate access without the intervention of a cabal—this is the language of others: however the K. gives every thing himself, knows every thing, and weighs every thing maturely, and then is inflexible—this puts old stagers off their game—how it will end we are all in the dark.

'Tis fear'd the war is quite over in Germany; never was known such havock amongst troops—I was told yesterday by a Colonel, from Germany, that out of two battalions of nine hundred men, to which he belong'd, but seventy-one left!—P F has sent word, 'tis said, that he must have forty-thousand men directly sent to take the field—and with provisions for them too, for he can but subsist them for a fortnight—I hope this will find you all got to York—I beg my compliments to the amiable Mrs. Croft, &c. &c.

Though I purpos'd going first to Golden-Square, yet fate has thus long dispos'd of me—so I have never been able to set a foot towards that quarter.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's affectionately

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R VI.

To the same.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just time to acknowledge the favour of yours, but not to get the two prints you mention—which shall be sent you by next post—I have bought them, and lent them to Miss Gilbert, but will assuredly send for them and enclose them to you:—I will take care to get your pictures well copied, and at a moderate price. And if I can be of further use, I beseech you to employ me; and from time to time will send you an account of whatever may be worth transmitting.—The stream now sets in strong against the German war. Loud complaints of ——— making a trade of the war, &c. &c. much expected from Ld. G——’s evidence to these matters, who is expected every hour;—the K. wins every day upon the people, shews himself much at the play, but at no opera, rides out with his brothers every morning, half an hour after seven, till nine—returns with them—spends an hour with them at breakfast, and chat—and then sits down to business. I never
dined

dined at home once since I arrived— am fourteen dinners deep engaged just now, and fear matters will be worse with me in that point than better.— As to the main points in view, at which you hint—all I can say is, that I see my way, and unless Old Nick throws the dice— shall, in due time, come off winner.— Tristram will be out the twentieth— there is a great rout made about him before he enters the stage— whether this will be of use or no, I can't say— some wits of the first magnitude here, both as to wit and station, engage me success— time will shew— Adieu, dear Sir! and with my compliments to Mrs. Croft, &c.

I am your affectionate,

and obliged

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R VII.

To the same.

DEAR SIR,

I THIS moment received the favour of your kind letter.— The letter in the Ladies Magazine about me, was wrote by the noted

C 3

Dr.

Dr. H——, who wrote the Inspector, and undertakes that magazine — the people of York are very uncharitable to suppose any man so gross a beast as to pen such a character of himself.—In this great town no soul ever suspected it, for a thousand reasons—could they suppose I should be such a fool as to fall foul upon Dr. W——n, my best friend, by representing him so weak a man—or by telling such a lye of him—as his giving me a purse, to buy off his tutorship for Triftram!—or I should be fool enough to own I had taken his purse for that purpose!

You must know there is a quarrel between Dr. H—— and Dr. M——y, who was the physician meant at Mr. C—— S——'s, and Dr. H—— has changed the place on purpose to give M——y a lick.—Now that conversation, though perhaps true, yet happen'd at another place, and with another physician; which I have contradicted in this city for the honour of my friend M——y, all which shews the absurdity of York credulity, and nonsense. Besides the account is full of falsehoods—first with regard to the place of my birth, which was at C——, in Ireland—the story of a hundred pounds to Mrs. W——, not true, or of a *pension promised*; the merit of which I disclaim'd—and indeed there are so many other things so untrue, and unlikely to come
from

from me, that the worst enemy I have here never had a suspicion—and to end all Dr. H—— owns the paper.

I shall be down before May is out—I preach before the Judges on Sunday—my sermons come out on Thursday after—and I purpose the Monday at furthest after that to set out for York—I have bought a pair of horses for that purpose—my best respects to your Lady—

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obliged and faithful,

L. STERNE.

P. S. I beg pardon for this hasty scrawl, having just come from a Concert where the D—— of Y—— perform'd—I have received great notice from him, and last week had the honour of supping with him.

L E T T E R VIII,

To the same.

DEAR SIR,

SINCE I had the favour of your obliging letter, nothing has happened, or been said one day, which has not been contradicted the

C 4

next;

next; so having little certain to write, I have forbore writing at all, in hopes every day of something worth filling up a letter. We had the greatest expectations yesterday that ever were raised, of a pitched battle in the H—— of C——, wherein Mr. P—— was to have entered and thrown down the gauntlet, in defence of the German war.— There never was so full a house—the gallery full to the top—I was there all the day—when, lo! a political fit of the gout seized the great combatant—he entered not the lists—B—— got up, and begged the house, as he saw not his right honourable friend there, to put off the debate—it could not be done; so B—— rose up, and made a most long, passionate, incoherent speech, in defence of the Germanick war—but very severe upon the unfrugal manner it was carried on—in which he addressed himself principally to the C—— of the E——, and laid him on terribly.— It seems the chancery of Hanover had laid out 350,000 pounds, on account, and brought in our treasury debtor—and the grand debate was, for an honest examination of the particulars of this extravagant account, and for vouchers to authenticate it.— L—— answered B—— very rationally, and coolly— Lord N. spoke long— Sir F. D—— maintained the German war was most pernicious— Mr. C——, of Surry, spoke

spoke well against the account, with some others—L. B——n at last got up, and spoke half an hour with great plainness, and temper—explained a great many hidden springs relating to these accounts, in favour of the late K.—and told two or three conversations which had passed between the K. and himself, relative to these expences—which cast great honour upon the K's. character. This was with regard to the money the K. had secretly furnished out of his pocket to lessen the account of the Hanoverscore brought us to discharge.

B——d and B——n abused all who sought for peace, and joined in the cry for it; and B——d added, that the reasons of wishing a peace now, were the same as at the peace of Utrecht—that the people behind the curtain could not both maintain the war and their places too, so were for making another sacrifice of the nation, to their own interests.—After all—the cry for a peace is so general, that it will certainly end in one. Now for myself——

One half of the town abuse my book as bitterly, as the other half cry it up to the skies—the best is, they abuse and buy it, and at such a rate, that we are going on with a second edition, as fast as possible.

I am going down for a day or two with Mr. Spencer, to Wimbleton; on Wednesday there is to be a grand assembly at Lady N——.

I have

I have enquired every where about Stephen's affair, and can hear nothing—My friend, Mr. Charles T——, will be now secretary of war—he bid me wish him joy of it, though not in possession.—I will ask him—and depend, my most worthy friend, that you shall not be ignorant of what I learn from him—believe me ever, ever,

Yours,

L. S.

L E T T E R IX.

To the same.

—MY DEAR SIR,

A STRAIN which I got in my wrist by a terrible fall, prevented my acknowledging the favour of your obliging letter. I went yesterday morning to breakfast with Mr. V——, who is a kind of right-hand man to the secretary, on purpose to enquire about the propriety, or feasibility, of doing what you wish me—and he has told me an anecdote which, had you been here, would, I think, have made it wiser

wiser to have deferred speaking about the affair a month hence than now ; it is this—You must know that the numbers of officers who have left their regiments in Germany, for the pleasures of the town, have been a long topic for merriment ; as you see them in St. James's Coffee-house, and the park, every hour, enquiring, open mouth, how things go on in Germany, and what news?—when they should have been there to have furnished news themselves—but the worst part has been, that many of them have left their brother officers on their duty, and in all the fatigues of it, and have come with no end but to make friends, to be put unfairly over the *heads of those* who were left risking *their lives*.—In this attempt there have been some but too successful, which has justly raised ill-blood and complaints from the officers who staid behind—the upshot has been, that they have every soul been ordered off, and woe be to him, 'tis said, who shall be found listening. Now just to mention our friend's case whilst this cry is on foot, I think would be doing more hurt than good, but if you think otherwise, I will go with all my heart and mention it to Mr. T——, for to do more I am too inconsiderable a person to pretend to. You made me and my friends here very merry with the accounts current at York, of my being forbid the court—but they do not
consider

consider what a considerable person they make of me, when they suppose either my going, or my not going there, is a point that ever enters the K's head—and for those about him, I have the honour either to stand so personally well known to them; or to be so well represented by those of the first rank, as to fear no accident of that kind.

I thank God, B——'s excepted, I have never yet made a friend, or connection I have forfeited, or done ought to forfeit—but on the contrary, my true character is better understood, and where I had one friend last year, who did me honour, I have three now.—If my enemies knew that by this rage of abuse, and ill will, they were effectually serving the interests both of myself, and works, they would be more quiet—but it has been the fate of my betters, who have found, that the way to fame, is like the way to heaven—through much tribulation—and till I shall have the honour to be as much mal-treated as Rabelais, and Swift were, I must continue humble; for I have not filled up the measure of half their *persecutions*.

The court is turning topsy-turvy. Lord B——e, le premier—Lord T——t to be groom of the chambers in room of the D—— of R——d—Lord H——x to Ireland—Sir F. D——d in T——'s place—P——t seems
unmoved

unmoved—a peace inevitable—Stocks rise—the peers this moment kissing hands, &c. &c. this week may be christened the kiss-hands week, for a hundred changes will happen in consequence of these. Pray present my compliments to Mrs. C—— and all friends, and believe me, with the greatest fidelity,

Your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

P. S. Is it not strange that Lord T——t should have power to remove the Duke of R——d.

Pray when you have read this, send the news to Mrs. Sterne.

L E T T E R X.

To the same.

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you ten thousand thanks for the favour of your letter—and the account you give me of my wife and girl.—I saw Mr. Ch——y to-night at Ranelagh, who tells me
you

you have inoculated my friend Bobby.—I heartily wish him well through, and hope in God all goes right.

On Monday we fet out with a grand retinue of Lord Rockingham's, in whose suite I move, for Windsor—they have contracted for fourteen hundred pounds for the dinner, to some general undertaker, of which the K. has bargained to pay one third. Lord G—— S——, was last Saturday at the opera, some say with great effrontery—others with great dejection.

I have little news to add.—There is a shilling pamphlet wrote against Tristram.—I wish they would write a hundred such.

Mrs. Sterne says her purse is light; will you, dear Sir, be so good as to pay her ten guineas, and I will reckon with you when I have the pleasure of meeting you.—My best compliments to Mrs. C. and all friends.—Believe me, dear Sir, your obliged and faithful

L. STERNE,

LETTER

L E T T E R XI.

To Mrs. F——.

York, Tuesday, Nov. 19.

DEAR MADAM,

YOUR kind enquiries after my health, deserve my best thanks.—What can give one more pleasure than the good wishes of those we value?—I am sorry you give so bad an account of your own health, but hope you will find benefit from tar-water—it has been of infinite service to me.—I suppose, my good lady, by what you say in your letter, “that I am busy in writing an extraordinary book,” that your intelligence comes from York—the fountain-head of chit-chat news—and—no matter.—Now for your desire of knowing the reason of my turning author? why truly I am tired of employing my brains for other people’s advantage.—’Tis a foolish sacrifice I have made for some years to an ungrateful person.—I depend much upon the candour of the publick, but I shall not pick out a jury to try the merit of my book amongst * * * * *, and—till you read my *Trifram*, do not, like some people, condemn it.—Laugh I am sure you will at
some

some passages.—I have hired a small house in the Minster Yard for my wife, and daughter—the latter is to begin dancing, &c. if I cannot leave her a fortune, I will at least give her an education.—As I shall publish my works very soon, I shall be in town by March, and shall have the pleasure of meeting with you.—All your friends are well, and ever hold you in the same estimation that your sincere friend does.

Adieu, dear lady, believe me, with every wish for your happiness, your most faithful, &c.

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XII.

To Dr. *****.

Jan. 30, 1760.

DEAR SIR,

DE mortuis nil nisi bonum, is a maxim which you have so often of late urged in conversation, and in your letters, but in your last especially, with such seriousness, and severity against me, as the supposed transgressor of the rule;—that you have made me at length

as

as ferious and fevere as yourself:— but that the humours you have stirred up might not work too potently within me, I have waited four days to cool myself, before I would set pen to paper to answer you, “*de mortuis nil nisi bonum.*” I declare I have considered the wisdom, and foundation of it over and over again, as dispassionately and charitably as a good Christian can, and, after all, I can find nothing in it, or make more of it, than a non-sensical lullaby of some nurse, put into Latin by some pedant, to be chanted by some hypocrite to the end of the world, for the consolation of departing lechers.—’Tis, I own, Latin; and I think that is all the weight it has — for, in plain English, ’tis a loose and futile position below a dispute — “*you are not to speak any thing of the dead, but what is good.*” Why so?— Who says so?— neither reason or scripture.— Inspired authors have done otherwise — and reason and common sense tell me, that if the characters of past ages and men are to be drawn at all, they are to be drawn like themselves; that is, with their excellencies, and with their foibles — and it is as much a piece of justice to the world, and to virtue too, to do the one, as the other.— The ruling passion *et les egarements du cœur*, are the very things which mark, and distinguish a man’s character;— in

which I would as soon leave out a man's head as his hobby-horse.—However, if like the poor devil of a painter, we must conform to this pious canon, *de mortuis, &c.* which I own has a spice of piety in the *sound* of it, and be obliged to paint both our angels and our devils out of the same pot—I then infer that our Sydenhams, and Sangrados, our Lucretias,—and Maffalinas, our Sommers, and our Bolingbrokes—are alike entitled to statues, and all the historians, or satirists who have said otherwise since they departed this life, from Sallust, to S——e, are guilty of the crimes you charge me with, “cowardice and injustice.”

But why cowardice? “because 'tis not courage to attack a dead man who can't defend himself.”——But why do you doctors of the faculty attack such a one with your incision knife? Oh! for the good of the living.—'Tis my plea.—But I have something more to say in my behalf—and it is this—I am not guilty of the charge—though defensible. I have not cut up Doctor Kunaastrokius at all—I have just scratch'd him—and that scarce skin-deep.—I do him first all honour—speak of Kunaastrokius as a great man—be he who he will, and then most distantly hint at a drole foible in his character—and that not first reported, to the few who can even understand the hint, by me—but known before by every chamber-

chamber-maid and footman within the bills of mortality—but Kunaftrokius, you fay, was a great man—'tis that very circumftance which makes the pleafantry—for I could name at this infant a fcore of honeft gentlemen who might have done the very thing which Kunaftrokius did, and feen no joke in it at all—as to the failing of Kunaftrokius, which you fay can only be imputed to his friends as a misfortune—I fee nothing like a misfortune in it to any friend or relation of Kunaftrokius—that Kunaftrokius upon occafions fhould fit with ***
 **** and ***** ——— I have put thefe ftars not to hurt your worfhip's delicacy—If Kunaftrokius after all is too facred a character to be even fmiled at, which is all I have done, he has had better luck than his betters:—In the fame page, without imputation of cowardice, I have faid as much of a man of twice his wifdom—and that is Solomon, of whom I have made the fame remark: “That they were both great men—and like all mortal men had each their ruling paffion.

——The confolation you give me, “That my book however will be read enough to anfwer my defign of raifing a tax upon the public”—is very unconfolatory—to fay nothing how very mortifying! by h——n! an author is worfe treated than a common ***** at this rate—“*You will get a penny by your*

sins, and that's enough."—Upon this chapter let me comment.—That I proposed laying the world under contribution when I set pen to paper—is what I own, and I suppose I may be allow'd to have that view in my head in common with every other writer, to make my labour of advantage to myself.

Do not you do the same? but I beg I may add, that whatever views I had of that kind, I had other views—the first of which was, the hopes of doing the world good by ridiculing what I thought deserving of it—or of disservice to sound learning, &c.—how I have succeeded my book must shew—and this I leave entirely to the world—but not to that little world of *your acquaintance*, whose opinion, and sentiments you call the general opinion of the best judges *without exception*, who all affirm, you say, that my book cannot be put into the hands of any woman of *character*. I hope you except widows, doctor—for they are not *all* so squeamish—but I am told they are all really of my party in return for some good offices done their interests in the 176th page of my second volume. But for the chaste married, and chaste unmarried part of the sex—they must not read my book! Heaven forbid the stock of chastity should be lessen'd by the life and opinions of Tristram Shandy—yes, his opinions—it would certainly debauch them!

them! God take them under his protection in this fiery trial, and fend us plenty of Duenas to watch the workings of their humours, 'till they have safely got through the whole work.—If this will not be sufficient, may we have plenty of Sangrados to pour in plenty of cold water; till this terrible fermentation is over—as for the *nummum in loculo*, which you mention to me a second time, I fear you think me very poor, or in debt—I thank God though I don't abound—that I have enough for a clean shirt every day—and a mutton chop—and my contentment with this, has thus far, and I hope ever will, put me above stooping an inch for it, for—estate.—Curse on it, I like it not to that degree, nor envy, *you may be sure*, any man who kneels in the dirt for it—so that howsoever I may fall short of the ends proposed in commencing author—I enter this *protest*, first that my end was *honest*, and secondly, that I wrote not to be *fed*, but to be *famous*. I am much obliged to Mr. Garrick for his very favourable opinion—but why, dear Sir, had he done better in finding fault with it than in commending it? to humble me? an author is not so soon humbled as you imagine—no, but to make the book better by castrations—that is still *sub judice*, and I can assure you upon this chapter, that the very passages, and descriptions you

propose, that I should sacrifice in my second edition, are what are best relish'd by men of wit, and some others whom I esteem as sound criticks—so that upon the whole, I am still kept up, if not above fear, at least above despair, and have seen enough to shew me the folly of an attempt of castrating my book to the prudish humours of particulars. I believe the short cut would be to publish this letter at the beginning of the third volume, as an apology for the first and second. I was sorry to find a censure upon the insincerity of some of my friends—I have no reason myself to reproach any one man—my friends have continued in the same opinions of my books which they first gave me of it—nay indeed have thought better of them, by considering them more; few worse.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

To the B—— of G——.

York, June 9, 1760.

M Y L O R D,

NOT knowing where to send two sets of my Sermons, I could think of no better expedient, than to order them into Mr. Berrenger's hands, who has promised me that he will wait upon your Lordship with them, the first moment he hears you are in town. The truest and humblest thanks I return to your Lordship for the generosity of your protection, and advice to me; by making a good use of the one, I will hope to deserve the other; I wish your Lordship all the health and happiness in this world, for I am

Your Lordship's

Most obliged and

Most grateful Servant,

L. S T E R N E.

P. S. I am just fitting down to go on with Trifram, &c.—the scribblers use me ill, but they have used my betters much worse, for which may God forgive them.

L E T T E R XIV.

To the Rev. Mr. STERNE.

Prior-Park, June 15, 1760.

REVEREND SIR,

I HAVE your favour of the 9th Instant, and am glad to understand, you are got safe home, and employ'd again in your proper studies and amusements. You have it in your power to make that, which is an amusement to yourself and others, useful to both: at least, you should above all things, beware of its becoming hurtful to either, by any violations of decency and good manners; but I have already taken such repeated liberties of advising you on that head, that to say more would be needless, or perhaps unacceptable.

Whoever is, in any way, well received by the public, is sure to be annoy'd by that pest of the public, *profligate scribblers*. This is the common lot of successful adventurers; but such have often a worse evil to struggle with, I mean the over-officiousness of their indiscreet friends. There are two Odes, as they are call'd, printed by Doddsley. Whoever was the author, he appears to be a monster
of

of impiety and lewdness—yet such is the malignity of the scribblers, some have given them to your friend Hall; and others, which is still more impossible, to yourself; though the first Ode has the insolence to place you both in a mean and a ridiculous light. But this might arise from a tale equally groundless and malignant, that you had shewn them to your acquaintances in *M. S.* before they were given to the public. Nor was their being printed by Doddsley the likeliest means of discrediting the calumny.

About this time, another, under the mask of friendship, pretended to draw your character, which was since published in a *Female Magazine*, for dulness, who often has as great a hand as the devil, in deforming God's works of the creation, has *made them*, it seems, *male and female*, and from thence it was transformed into a *Chronicle*. Pray have you read it, or do you know its author?

But of all these things, I dare say Mr. Garrick, whose prudence is equal to his honesty or his talents, has remonstrated to you with the freedom of a friend. He knows the inconstancy of what is called the Public, towards all, even the best intentioned, of those who contribute to its pleasure, or amusement. He, as every man of honour and discretion would, has availed himself of the public favour, to regulate

regulate the taste, and, in his proper station, to reform the manners of the fashionable world; while by a well judged œconomy, he has provided against the temptations of a mean and servile dependency, on the follies and vices of the great.

In a word, be assured, there is no one more sincerely wishes your welfare and happiness, than,

Reverend Sir,

W. G.

L E T T E R XV.

To my Witty Widow, Mrs. F——.

Coxwold, Aug. 3, 1760.

M A D A M,

WHEN a man's brains are as dry as a squeez'd Orange—and he feels he has no more conceit in him than a Mallet, 'tis in vain to think of fitting down, and writing a letter to a lady of your wit, unless in the honest John-Trot-Stile of, *yours of the 15th instant came safe to hand, &c.* which, by the bye, looks like

like a letter of business; and you know very well, from the first letter I had the honour to write to you, I am a man of no business at all. This vile plight I found my genius in, was the reason I have told Mr. ——, I would not write to you till the next post—hoping, by that time to get some small recruit, at least of vivacity, if not wit, to set out with;—but upon second thoughts, thinking a bad letter in season—to be better than a good one, out of it—this scrawl is the consequence, which, if you will burn the moment you get it—I promise to send you a fine set essay in the stile of your female epistolizers, cut and trim'd at all points.—God defend me from such, who never yet knew what it was to say or write one premeditated word in my whole life—for this reason I send you with pleasure, because wrote with the careless irregularity of an easy heart.—Who told you Garrick wrote the Medley for Beard?—'Twas wrote in his house, however, and before I left town.—I deny it—I was not lost two days before I left town.—I was lost all the time I was there, and never found till I got to this Shandy castle of mine.—Next winter I intend to sojourn amongst you with more decorum, and will neither be lost or found any where.

Now I wish to God, I was at your elbow
—I have just finished one volume of Shandy,
and

and I want to read it to some one who I know can taste and relish humour—this by the way, is a little impudent in me—for I take the thing for granted, which their high mightinesses the world have yet to determine—but I mean no such thing—I could wish only to have your opinion—shall I, in truth, give you mine?—I dare not—but I will; provided you keep it to yourself—know then, that I think there is more laughable humour,—with equal degree of Cervantick satire—if not more than in the last—but we are bad judges of the merit of our children.

I return you a thousand thanks for your friendly congratulations upon my habitation—and I will take care, you shall never wish me but well, for I am, Madam,

With great esteem and truth,

Your most obliged

L. STERNE.

P. S. I have wrote this so vilely and so precipitately, I fear you must carry it to a decypherer—I beg you'll do me the honour to write—otherwise you draw *me* in, instead of Mr. — drawing *you* into a scrape—for I should sorrow to have a *taste* of so agreeable a correspondent—and *no more*.

Adieu.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVI.

To Lady —.

Coxwold, Sept. 21, 1761.

I RETURN to my new habitation, fully determined to write as hard as can be, and thank you most cordially, my dear lady, for your letter of congratulation upon my Lord Fauconberg's having presented me with the curacy of this place—though your congratulation comes somewhat of the latest, as I have been possessed of it some time.—I hope I have been of some service to his Lordship, and he has sufficiently requited me.—'Tis seventy guineas a year in my pocket, though worth a hundred—but it obliges me to have a curate to officiate at Sutton and Stillington.—'Tis within a mile of his Lordship's seat, and park. 'Tis a very agreeable ride out in the chaise, I purchased for my wife.—Lyd has a poney which she delights in.—Whilst they take these diversions, I am scribbling away at my Trifram. These two volumes are, I think, the best.—I shall write as long as I live, 'tis, in fact, my hobby-horse: and so much am I delighted with my uncle Toby's imaginary character, that I am become an enthusiast.—My Lydia helps to
copy

copy for me—and my wife knits and listens as I read her chapters.—The coronation of his Majesty, whom God preserve! has cost me the value of an Ox, which is to be roasted whole in the middle of the town, and my parishioners will, I suppose, be very merry upon the occasion.—You will then be in town—and feast your eyes with a sight, which 'tis to be hoped will not be in either of our powers to see again—for in point of age we have about twenty years the start of his Majesty.—And now, my dear friend, I must finish this—and with every wish for your happiness conclude myself your most sincere well-wisher and friend,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XVII.

To J—— H—— S——, Esq.

Coxwold, —, 1761.

DEAR H——,

I REJOICE you are in London—rest you there in peace; here 'tis the devil.—You was a good prophet.—I wish myself back again,

as

as you told me I should—but not because a thin death-doing pestiferous north-east wind blows in a line directly from crazy-castle turret full upon me in this cuckoldly retreat, for I value the north-east wind and all its powers not a straw,—but the transition from rapid motion to absolute rest was too violent.—I should have walked about the streets of York ten days, as a proper medium to have passed through, before I entered upon my rest.—I staid but a moment, and I have been here but a few, to satisfy me I have not managed my miseries like a wise man—and if God, for my consolation under them, had not poured forth the spirit of Shandeism into me, which will not suffer me to think two moments upon any grave subject, I would else, just now lay down and die—die—and yet, in half an hour's time, I'll lay a guinea, I shall be as merry as a monkey—and as mischievous too, and forget it all—so that this is but a copy of the present train running cross my brain.—And so you think this cursed stupid—but that, my dear H—— depends much upon the quotâ horâ of your shabby clock, if the pointer of it is in any quarter between ten in the morning or four in the afternoon—I give it up—or if the day is obscured by dark engendering clouds of either wet or dry weather, I am still lost—but who knows but it may be five—
and

and the day as fine a day as ever shone upon the earth since the destruction of Sodom—and peradventure your honour may have got a good hearty dinner to-day, and eat and drank your intellectuals into a placidulish and a blandulish amalgama—to bear nonsense, so much for that.

'Tis as cold and churlish just now, as, if God had not pleased it to be so, it ought to have been in bleak December, and therefore I am glad you are where you are, and where, I repeat it again, I wish I was also—Curse of poverty, and absence from those we love!—they are two great evils which embitter all things—and yet with the first I am not haunted much.—As to matrimony, I should be a beast to rail at it, for my wife is easy—but the world is not—and had I staid from her a second longer it would have been a burning shame—else she declares herself happier without me—but not in anger is this declaration made—but in pure sober good-sense, built on sound experience—she hopes you will be able to strike a bargain for me before this time twelvemonth, to lead a bear round Europe: and from this hopes from you, I verily believe it is, that you are so high in her favour at present—She swears you are a fellow of wit, though humourous; a funny jolly soul, though somewhat splenetic; and, bating the
 ● love

love of women, as honest as *gold*—how do you like the simile?—Oh, Lord! now are you going to Ranelagh to-night, and I am fitting, sorrowful as the prophet was when the voice cried out to him and said, “What do’st thou here, Elijah?”—’Tis well the spirit does not make the same at Coxwold—for unless for the few sheep left me to take care of, in this wilderness, I might as well, nay better, be at Mecca—When we find we can by a shifting of places, run away from ourselves, what think you of a jaunt there, before we finally pay a visit to the *vale of Jehosophat*—As ill a fame as we have, I trust I shall one day or other see you face to face—so tell the two colonels, if they love good company, to live righteously and soberly as *you do*, and then they will have no doubts or dangers within, or without them—present my best and warmest wishes to them, and advise the eldest to prop up his spirits, and get a rich dowager before the conclusion of the peace—why will not the advice suit both, *par nobile fratrum*?

To-morrow morning, if Heaven permit, I begin the fifth volume of *Shandy*—I care not a curse for the critics—I’ll load my vehicle with what goods *he* sends me, and they may take them off my hands, or let them alone—I am very valourous—and ’tis in proportion

as we retire from the world and see it in its true dimensions, that we despise it—no bad rant!—God above blefs you! You know I am

Your affectionate Coufin,

L. STERNE.

What few remain of the Demoniacs, greet —and write me a letter, if you are able, as foolish as this.

L E T T E R XVIII.

To D—— G——, Esq.

Paris, Jan. 31, 1762.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THINK not that because I have been a fortnight in this metropolis without writing to you, that therefore I have not had you and Mrs. G—— a hundred times in my head and heart—heart! yes, yes, say you—but I must not waste paper in *badinage* this post, whatever I do the next. Well! here I am, my friend, as much improved in my health for

for the time, as ever your friendship could wish, or at least your faith give credit to— by the bye I am somewhat worse in my intellectuals, for my head is turned round with what I see, and the unexpected honours I have met with here. Triftram was almost as much known here as in London, at least among your men of condition and learning, and has got me introduced into so many circles, 'tis *comme à Londres*. I have just now a fortnight's dinners and suppers upon my hands—My application to the Count de Choiseul goes on swimmingly, for not only Mr. Pelletiere, who, by the bye, sends ten thousand civilities to you, and Mrs. G—— has undertaken my affair, but the Count de Limbourg—the Baron d'Holbach, has offered any security for the inoffensiveness of my behaviour in France—'tis more, you rogue! than you will do—This Baron is one of the most learned noblemen here, the great protector of wits, and the Scavans who are no wits—keeps open house three days a week—his house is now, as yours was to me, my own—he lives at great expence—'Twas an odd incident when I was introduced to the Count de Biffie, which I was at his desire—I found him reading Triftram—this grandee does me great honours, and gives me leave to go a private way through his apartments into the palais royal, to view the Duke

of Orleans's collections, every day I have time — I have been at the doctors of Sorbonne — I hope in a fortnight to break through, or rather from the delights of this place, which in the *savoir vivre*, exceed all the places, I believe, in this section of the globe —

I am going, when this letter is wrote, with Mr. Fox, and Mr. Maccartny to Versailles — the next morning I wait upon Monfr. Tiron, in company with Mr. Maccartny, who is known to him, to deliver your commands. I have bought you the pamphlet upon theatrical, or rather tragical declamation — I have bought another in verse, worth reading, and you will receive them, with what I can pick up this week, by a servant of Mr. Hodges, who he is sending back to England.

I was last night with Mr. Fox to see Madle. Clairon, in *Iphigene* — she is extremely great — would to God you had one or two like her — what a luxury, to see you with one of such powers in the same interesting scene — but 'tis too much — Ah! Preville! thou art Mercury himself — By virtue of taking a couple of boxes, we have bespoke this week the Frenchman in London, in which Preville is to send us home to supper, *all happy* — I mean about fifteen or sixteen English of distinction, who are now here, and live well with each other.

I am

I am under great obligations to Mr. Pitt, who has behaved in every respect to me like a man of good breeding, and good nature—In a post or two I will write again—Foley is an honest soul—I could write six volumes of what has passed comically in this great scene, since these last fourteen days—but more of this hereafter—We are all going into mourning; nor you, nor Mrs. G—— would know me, if you met me in my remise—blefs you both! Service to Mrs. Dennis. Adieu, adieu.

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XIX.

To Lady D——.

London, Feb. 1, 1762.

YOUR Ladyship's kind enquiries after my health is indeed kind, and of a piece with the rest of your character. Indeed I am very ill, having broke a vessel in my lungs—hard writing in the summer, together with preaching, which I have not strength for, is ever fatal to me—but I cannot avoid the latter yet,

and the former is too pleasurable to be given up—I believe I shall try if the south of France will not be of service to me—his G—— of Y—— has most humanely given me the permission for a year or two—I shall set off with great hopes of its efficacy, and shall write to my wife and daughter to come and join me at Paris, else my stay could not be so long—“Le Fever’s story has beguiled your ladyship of your tears,” and the thought of the accusing spirit flying up heaven’s chancery with the oath, you are kind enough to say is sublime—my friend, Mr. Garrick, thinks so too, and I am most vain of his approbation—your ladyship’s opinion adds not a little to my vanity.

I wish I had time to take a little excursion to Bath, were it only to thank you for all the obliging things you say in your letter—but ’tis impossible—accept at least my warmest thanks—If I could tempt my friend, Mr. H—— to come to France, I should be truly happy—If I can be of any service to you at Paris, command him who is, and ever will be,

Your Ladyship’s faithful,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XX.

To J—— H—— S——, Esq.

Coxwold, July 28, 1761.

DEAR H——,

I SYMPATHIZED for, or with you, on the detail you give me of your late agitations—and would willingly have taken my horse, and trotted to the oracle to have enquired into the etymology of all your sufferings, had I not been assured, that all that evacuation of bilious matter, with all that abdomical motion attending it, both which are equal to a month's purgation and exercise, will have left you better than it found you—Need one go to D—— to be told that all kind of mild, mark, I am going to talk more foolishly than your apothecary, opening, saponaceous, dirty-shirt, sud-washing liquors are proper for you, and consequently all sryptical potations, death and destruction—if you had not shut up your gall ducts by these, the glauber salts could not have hurt—as it was, 'twas like a match to the gunpowder, by raising a fresh combustion, as all physic does at first, so that you have been let off—nitre, brimstone, and charcoal, which

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is

is blackness itself, all at one blast—'twas well the piece did not burst, for I think it underwent great violence, and, as it is proof, will, I hope, do much service in this militating world—Panty is mistaken, I quarrel with no one.—There was that coxcomb of —— in the house, who lost temper with me for no reason upon earth but that I could not fall down and worship a brazen image of learning and eloquence, which he set up to the perfection of all true believers—I sat down upon *bis altar*, and whistled in the time of his divine service—and broke down his carved work, and kicked his incense pot to the D——, so he retreated, *sed non sine felle in corde suo*.—I have wrote a clerum, whether I shall take my doctor's degrees or no—I am much in doubt, but I trow not.—I go on with Triftram—I have bought seven hundred books at a purchase dog cheap—and many good—and I have been a week getting them set up in my best room here—why do not you transport yours to town, but I talk like a fool.—This will just catch you at your spaw—I wish you incolumem apud Londinum—do you go there for good and all—or ill?—I am, dear cousin,

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXI.

To D. G——, Esq.

Paris, March 19, 1762.

D E A R G——.

THIS will be put into your hands by Doctor Shippen, a physician, who has been here some time with Miss Poyntz, and is this moment setting off for your metropolis, so I snatch the opportunity of writing to you and my kind friend Mrs. G——. I see nothing like her here, and yet I have been introduced to one half of their best Goddeffes, and in a month more shall be admitted to the shrines of the other half—but I neither worship—or fall, much, upon my knees before them; but on the contrary, have converted many unto Shandeism—for be it known I Shandy it away fifty times more than I was ever wont, talk more nonsense than ever you heard me talk in your days—and to all sorts of people. *Qui le diable est ce homme là—said Choiseul, t'other day—ce Chevalier Shandy—* You'll think me as vain as a devil, was I to tell you the rest of the dialogue—whether the bearer knows it or no, I know not—'Twill serve up
after

after Supper, in Southampton-street, amongst other small dishes, after the fatigues of Richard the III^d—O God! they have nothing here, which gives the nerves so smart a blow, as those great characters in the hands of G——! but I forgot I am writing to the man himself—The devil take, as he will, these transports of enthusiasm! apropos—the whole City of Paris is *bewitch'd* with the comic opera, and if it was not for the affairs of the Jesuits, which takes up one half of our talk, the comic opera would have it all—It is a tragical nuisance in all companies as it is, and was it not for some sudden starts and dashes—of Shanderism, which now and then either breaks the thread, or entangles it so, that the devil himself would be puzzled in winding it off—I should die a martyr—this by the way I never will—

I send you over some of these comic operas by the bearer, with the *Sallon*, a satire——The French comedy, I seldom visit it—they act scarce any thing but tragedies—and the Clairon is great, and Madlle. Dumefnil, in some places, still greater than her—yet I cannot bear preaching—I fancy I got a surfeit of it in my younger days.—There is a tragedy to be damn'd to-night—peace be with it, and the gentle brain which made it! I have ten thousand things to tell you, I cannot write—I do a thousand things which cut no figure, *but in*
the

the doing—and as in London, I have the honour of having done and said a thousand things I never did or dream'd of—and yet I dream abundantly—If the devil stood behind me in the shape of a courier, I could not write faster than I do, having five letters more to dispatch by the same Gentleman; he is going into another section of the globe, and when he has seen you, he will depart in peace.

The Duke of Orleans has suffered my portrait to be added to the number of some odd men in his collection; and a gentleman who lives with him has taken it most expressively, at full length—I purpose to obtain an etching of it, and to send it you—your prayer for me of *rosy health*, is heard—If I stay here for three or four months, I shall return more than reinstated. My love to Mrs. G——.

I am, my dear G——

Your most humble Servant,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXII.

To the same.

Paris, April 10, 1762.

MY DEAR G——,

I SNATCH the occasion of Mr. Wilcox, the late Bishop of Rochester's son, leaving this place for England, to write to you, and I inclose it to Hall, who will put it into your hand, possibly behind the scenes. I hear no news of you, or your *empire*, I would have said *kingdom*—but here every thing is hyperbolized—and if a woman is but simply pleased 'tis *Je suis charmée*—and if she is charmed 'tis nothing less, than that she is *ravi-sh'd*—and when *ravi-sh'd*, which may happen, there is nothing left for her but to fly to the other world for a metaphor, and swear, *qu'elle etoit toute extasiée*—which mode of speaking, is, by the bye, here creeping into use, and there is scarce a woman who understands the *bon ton*, but is seven times in a day in downright extasy—that is, the devil's in her—by a small mistake of one world for the other—
Now, where am I got?

I have

I have been these two days reading a tragedy, given me by a lady of talents, to read and conjecture if it would do for you—'Tis from the plan of Diderot, and possibly half a translation of it—The Natural Son, or, the Triumph of Virtue, in five acts—It has too much sentiment in it, at least for me, the speeches too long, and favour too much of *preaching*—this may be a second reason; it is not to my taste—'Tis all love, love, love, throughout, without much separation in the character; so I fear it would not do for your stage, and perhaps for the very reason which recommend it to a French one.—After a vile suspension of three weeks—we are beginning with our comedies and operas again—yours I hear never flourished more—here the comic actors were never so low—the tragedians hold up their heads—in all senses. I have known *one little man* support the theatrical world, like a David Atlas, upon his shoulders, but Preville can't do half as much here, though Mad. Clairon stands by him, and sets her back to his—she is very great, however, and highly improved since you saw her—she also supports her dignity at table, and has her public day every Thursday, when she *gives to eat*, as they say here, to all that are hungry and dry.

You are much talked of here, and much expected as soon as the peace will let you—
these

these two last days you have happened to engross the whole conversation at two great houses where I was at dinner—'Tis the greatest problem in nature, in this meridian, that one and the same man should possess such tragic and comic powers, and in such an equilibrio, as to divide the world for which of the two nature intended him.

Crebillion has made a convention with me, which, if he is not too lazy, will be no bad *persiflage*—as soon as I get to Thoulouse he has agreed to write me an expostulatory letter upon the indecorums of T. Shandy—which is to be answered by recrimination upon the liberties in his own works—these are to be printed together—Crebillion against Sterne—Sterne against Crebillion—the copy to be fold, and the money equally divided—This is good Swifs-policy.

I am recovered greatly, and if I could spend one whole winter at Toulouse, I should be fortified, in my inner man, beyond all danger of relapsing.—A sad asthma my daughter has been martyr'd with these three winters, but mostly this last, makes it, I fear, necessary she should try the last remedy of a warmer and softer air, so I am going this week to Versailles, to wait upon Count Choiseul to solicit passports for them—If this system takes place, they join me here—and after a month's stay

stay we all decamp for the south of France— if not, I shall see you in June next. Mr. Fox, and Mr. Macartny, having left Paris, I live altogether in French families—I laugh 'till I cry, and in the same tender moments *cry 'till I laugh*. I Shandy it more than ever, and verily do believe, that by mere Shandeism sublimated by a laughter-loving people, I fence as much against infirmities, as I do by the benefit of air and climate. Adieu, dear G—— present ten thousand of my best respects and wishes to and for my friend Mrs. G—— had she been last night upon the Tulleries, she would have annihilated a thousand French goddesses, *in one single turn*.

I am most truly,

my dear friend,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXIII.

To Mrs. S——, York.

Paris, — 16th 1762.

M Y D E A R,

IT is a thousand to one that this reaches you before you have set out—However I take the chance—you will receive one wrote last night, the moment you get to Mr. E—— and to wish you joy of your arrival in town—to that letter which you will find in town, I have nothing to add that I can think on—for I have almost drain'd my brains dry upon the subject.—For Gods sake rise early and gallop away in the cool—and always see that you have not forgot your baggage in changing post-chaises—You will find good tea upon the road from York to Dover—only bring a little to carry you from Calais to Paris—give the Custom-House officers what I told you—at Calais give more, if you have much Scotch snuff—but as tobacco is good here, you had best bring a Scotch mill and make it yourself, that is, order your valet to manufacture it—'twill keep him out of mischief.—I would advise you to take three days in coming
up,

up, for fear of heating yourselves—See that they do not give you a bad vehicle, when a better is in the yard, but you will look sharp—drink small Rhenish to keep you cool, that is if you like it. Live well and deny yourselves nothing your hearts wish. So God in heav'n prosper and go along with you—kiss my Lydia, and believe me both affectionately,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XXIV.

To the same.

Paris, —31, 1762.

M Y D E A R,

TH E R E have no mails arrived here 'till this morning, for three posts, so I expected with great impatience a letter from you and Lydia—and lo! it is arrived. You are as busy as Throp's wife, and by the time you receive this, you will be busier still—I have exhausted all my ideas about your journey—and what is needful for you to do before and during it—so I write only to tell you I am well—

VOL. I.

F

Mr.

Mr. Colebrooks, the minister of Swifferland's secretary, I got this morning to write a letter for you to the governor of the Custom-House-Office at Calais—it shall be sent you next post.—You must be cautious about Scotch snuff—take half a pound in your pocket, and make Lyd do the same. 'Tis well I bought you a chaise—there is no getting one in Paris now, but at an enormous price—for they are all sent to the army, and such a one as yours we have not been able to match for forty guineas; for a friend of mine who is going from hence to Italy—the weather was never known to set in so hot, as it has done the latter end of this month, so he and his party are to get into his chaises by four in the morning, and travel 'till nine—and not stir out again till six; but I hope this severe heat will abate by the time you come here—however I beg of you once more to take special care of heating your blood in travelling and come *tout doucement*, when you find the heat too much—I shall look impatiently for intelligence from you, and hope to hear all goes well; that you conquer all difficulties, that you have received your pass-port, my picture, &c. Write and tell me something of every thing. I long to see you both, you may be assured, my dear wife and child, after so long a separation—and write me a line directly, that I
 may

may have all the notice you can give me, that I may have apartments ready and fit for you when you arrive.—For my own part I shall continue writing to you a fortnight longer—present my respects to all friends—you have bid Mr. C—— get my visitations at P—— done for me, &c. &c. If any offers are made about the inclosure at Rascal, they must be enclosed to me—nothing that is fairly proposed shall stand still on my score. Do all for the best, as He who guides all things, will I hope do for us—so heav'n preserve you both—believe me

Your affectionate

L. STERNE.

Love to my Lydia—I have bought her a gold watch to present to her when she comes.

L E T T E R XXV.

To the same.

Paris, — 1762.

MY DEAR,

I KEEP my promise and write to you again—I am sorry the bureau must be open'd for the deeds—but you will see it done—I

F 2

imagine

imagine you are convinced of the necessity of bringing three hundred pounds in your pocket — if you consider, Lydia must have two slight negligees — you will want a new gown or two — as for painted linens buy them in town, they will be more admired because English than French. — Mrs. H — writes me word that I am mistaken about buying silk cheaper at Toulouse, than Paris, that she advises you to buy what you want here — where they are very beautiful and cheap, as well as blouses, gauzes, &c. — these I say will all cost you sixty guineas — and you must have them — for in this country nothing must be spared for the back — and if you dine on an onion, and lay in a garret seven stories high, you must not betray it in your cloaths, according to which you are well or ill look'd on. When we are got to Toulouse, we must begin to turn the penny, and we may, if you do not game much, live very cheap — I think that expression will divert you — and now God knows I have not a wish but for your health, comfort, and safe arrival here — write to me every other post, that I may know how you go on — you will be in raptures with your chariot — Mr. R — a gentleman of fortune, who is going to Italy, and has seen it, has offered me thirty guineas for my bargain. — You will wonder all the way, how I am to find

find room in it for a third—to ease you of this wonder, 'tis by what the coach-makers here call a cave, which is a second bottom added to that you set your feet upon which lets the person, who sits over-against you, down with his knees to your ancles, and by which you have all more room—and what is more, less heat—because his head does not intercept the fore-glass little or nothing—Lyd and I will enjoy this by turns; sometimes I shall take a bidet—a little post horse, and scamper before—at other times I shall sit in fresco upon the arm-chair without doors, and one way or other will do very well.—I am under infinite obligations to Mr. Thornhil, for accommodating me thus, and so genteely, for 'tis like making a present of it.—Mr. T—— will send you an order to receive it at Calais—and now, my dear girls, have I forgot any thing?

Adieu, adieu!

Yours most affectionately,

L. STERNE.

A week or ten days will enable you to see every thing—and so long you must stay to rest your bones.

L E T T E R XXVI.

To the same.

Paris, June 14, 1762.

MY DEAREST,

HAVING an opportunity of writing by a friend who is setting out this morning for London, I write again, in case the two last letters I have wrote this week to you should be detained by contrary winds at Calais—I have wrote to Mr. E——, by the same hand, to thank him for his kindness to you in the handsomest manner I could—and have told him, his good heart, and his wife's, have made them overlook the trouble of having you at his house, but that if he takes you apartments near him they will have occasion still enough left to shew their friendship to us—I have begged him to assist you, and stand by you as if he was in my place with regard to the sale of the Shandys—and then the copy-right—Mark to keep these things distinct in your head—but Becket I have ever found to be a man of probity, and I dare say you will have very little trouble in finishing matters with him—and I would rather wish you to
treat

treat with him than with another man—but whoever buys the fifth and sixth volumes of Shandy's, must have the nay-say of the seventh and eighth.—I wish, when you come here, in case the weather is too hot to travel, you could think it pleasant to go to the Spaw for four or six weeks, where we should live for half the money we should spend at Paris—after that we should take the sweetest season of the vintage to go to the south of France—but we will put our heads together, and you shall just do as you please in this, and in every thing which depends on me—for I am a being perfectly contented, when others are pleased—to bear and forbear will ever be my maxim—only I fear the heats through a journey of five hundred miles for you, and my Lydia, more than for myself.—Do not forget the watch chains—bring a couple for a gentleman's watch likewise, we shall lie under great obligations to the Abbé M—— and must make him such a small acknowledgement; according to my way of flourishing, 'twill be a present worth a kingdom to him—They have bad pins, and vile needles here—bring for yourself, and some for presents—as also a strong bottle-screw, for whatever Scrub we may hire as butler, coachman, &c. to uncork us our Frontinac—You will find a letter for you at the Lyon D'Argent—Send for your chaise

into the court-yard, and see all is tight—Buy a chain at Calais strong enough not to be cut off, and let your portmanteau be tied on the forepart of your chaise for fear of a dog's trick—so God bless you both, and remember me to my Lydia,

I am yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXVII.

To the same.

Paris, June, 1762.

MY DEAREST,

PROBABLY you will receive another letter with this, by the same post, if so read this the last—It will be the last you can possibly receive at York, for I hope it will catch you just as you are upon the wing—if that should happen, I suppose in course you have executed the contents of it, in all things which relate to pecuniary matters, and when these are settled to your mind, you will have got through your last difficulty—every thing else will

will be a step of pleasure, and by the time you have got half a dozen stages you will set up your pipes and sing Te Deum together, as you whisk it along.— Desire Mr. C—— to send me a proper letter of attorney by you, he will receive it back by return of post. You have done every thing well with regard to our Sutton and Stillington affairs, and left things in the best channel— if I was not sure you must have long since got my picture, garnets, &c. I would write and scold Mr. T—— abominably—he put them in Becket's hands to be forwarded by the stage coach to you as soon as he got to town.— I long to hear from you, and that all my letters and things are come safe to you, and then you will say that I have not been a bad lad—for you will find I have been writing continually as I wished you to do— Bring your silver coffee-pot, 'twill serve both to give water, lemonade, and orjead—— to say nothing of coffee and chocolate, which, by the bye, is both cheap and good at Touloufe, like other things— I had like to have forgot a most necessary thing, there are no copper tea-kettles to be had in France, and we shall find such a thing the most comfortable utensil in the house— buy a good strong one, which will hold two quarts— a dish of tea will be of comfort to us in our journey south— I have
a bronze

a bronze tea-pot, which we will carry also, as China cannot be brought over from England, we must make up a villainous party-coloured tea equipage to regale ourselves, and our English friends whilst we are at Toulouse—I hope you have got your bill from Becket.—There is a good natured kind of a trader I have just heard of, at Mr. Foley's, who they think will be coming off from England to France, with horses, the latter end of June. He happened to come over with a lady, who is sister to Mr. Foley's partner, and I have got her to write a letter to him in London, this post, to beg he will seek you out at Mr. E——'s, and in case a cartel ship does not go off before he goes, to take you under his care. He was infinitely friendly in the same office last year to the lady who now writes to him, and nursed her on ship-board, and defended her by land with great goodwill.—Do not say I forgot you, or whatever can be conducive to your ease of mind, in this journey—I wish I was with you to do these offices myself, and to strew roses on your way—but I shall have time and occasion to shew you I am not wanting—Now, my dears, once more pluck up your spirits—trust in God—in me—and in yourselves—with this, was you put to it, you would encounter all these difficulties ten times told—

Write

Write instantly, and tell me you triumph over all fears; tell me Lydia is better; and a help-mate to you—You say she grows like me—let her shew me she does so in her contempt of small dangers, and fighting against the apprehensions of them, which is better still. As I will not have F——'s share of the books, you will inform him so—Give my love to Mr. Fothergill, and to those true friends which Envy has spared me—and for the rest, *laiffés passer*—You will find I speak French tolerably—but I only wish to be understood.—You will soon speak better; a month's play with a French Demoiselle will make Lyd chatter it like a magpye. Mrs. —— understood not a word of it when she got here, and writes me word she begins to prate a pace—you will do the same in a fortnight—Dear Bess, I have a thousand wishes, but have a hope for every one of them—You shall chant the same *jubilate*, my dears, so God bless you. My duty to Lydia, which implies my love too. Adieu, believe me

Your affectionate,

L. S T E R N E.

Memo-

Memorandum: Bring watch-chains, tea-kettle, knives, cookery book, &c.

You will smile at this last article—so adieu—
—At Dover the Cross Keys, at Calais at the
Lyon D'Argent—the master a Turk in grain.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

L E T T E R S

OF THE LATE

Rev. Mr. LAURENCE STERNE,

To his most intimate FRIENDS.

WITH A

FRAGMENT in the Manner of *Rabelais*.

To which are prefix'd,

Memoirs of his Life and Family

Written by HIMSELF

And published by his Daughter, Mrs. MEDALLE,

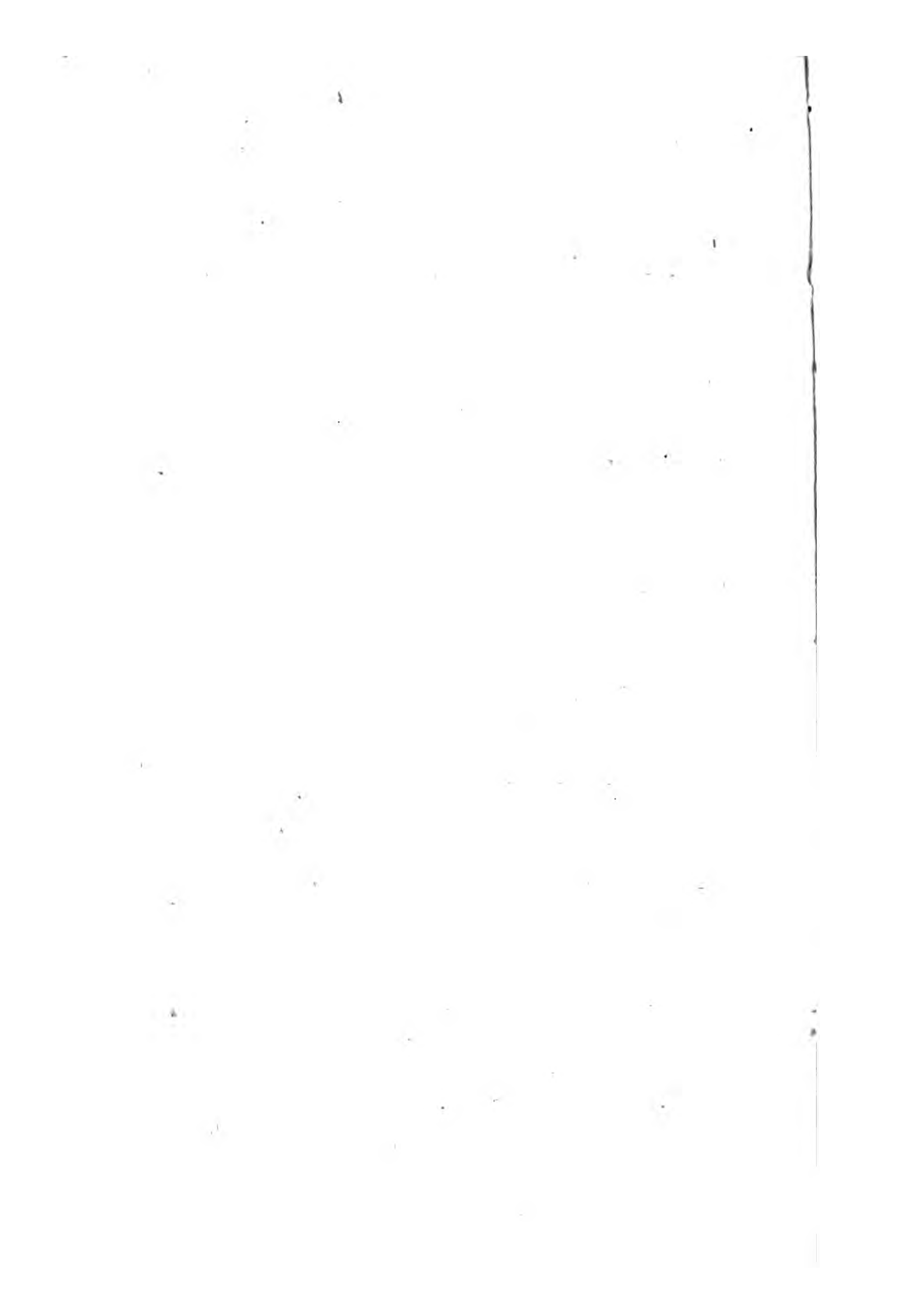
IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. II.

ALTENBURGH:

Printed for RICHTER.

1776.



L E T T E R S

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To Lady D—.

Paris, July 9, 1762.

I WILL not fend your ladyship the trifles you bid me purchase without a line. I am very well pleased with Paris—indeed I meet with so many civilities amongst the people here that I must sing their praises—the French have a great deal of urbanity in their composition, and to stay a little time amongst them will be agreeable.—I splutter French so as to be understood—but I have had a droll adventure here in which my Latin was of some service to me—I had hired a chaise and a horse to go about seven miles into the country, but, *Shandean like*, did not take notice that the horse was almost dead when I took him— Before I got half way the poor animal dropp'd down dead—so I was forced to appear before the Police, and began to tell my story in French, which was, that the poor beast had

to do with a worse beaft than himself, namely *his master*, who had driven him all the day before, Jehu like, and that he had neither had corn, or hay, therefore I was not to pay for the horfe—but I might as well have whistled, as have spoke French, and I believe my Latin was equal to my uncle Toby's *Lilabulero*—being not understood because of it's purity, but by dint of words I forced my judge to do me justice—no common thing by the way in France.—My wife and daughter are arrived—the latter does nothing but look out of the window, and complain of the torment of being frizled.—I wish she may ever remain a child of nature—I hate children of art.

I hope this will find your ladyship well—and that you will be kind enough to direct to me at Toulouse, which place I shall set out for very soon. I am, with truth and sincerity,

Your Ladyship's

Most faithful,

L. S T E R N E.

LETTER

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To Mr. E——.

Paris, July 12, 1762.

D E A R S I R,

MY wife and daughter arrived here safe and sound on Thursday, and are in high raptures with the speed and pleasantness of their journey, and particularly of all they see and meet with here. But in their journey from York to Paris, nothing has given them a more sensible and lasting pleasure, than the marks of kindness they received from you and Mrs. E——. —The friendship, good will and politeness of my two friends I never doubted to me, or mine, and I return you both all a grateful man is capable of, which is merely my thanks. I have taken however the liberty of sending an Indian taffety, which Mrs. E—— must do me the honour to wear for my wife's sake, who would have got it made up, but that Mr. Stanhope, the Consul of Algiers, who sets off to-morrow morning for London, has been so kind, I mean his lady, as to take charge of it; and we had but just time to procure it: and had we miss'd that opportunity,

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as

as we should have been obliged to have left it behind us at Paris, we knew not when or how to get it to our friend.—I wish it had been better worth a paragraph. If there is any thing we can buy or procure for you here, intelligence included, you have a right to command me—for I am yours, with my wife and girl's kind love to you and Mrs. E——.

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXX.

To T. H. S——, Esq.

Toulouse, August 12, 1762.

MY DEAR H——,

BY the time you have got to the end of this long letter you will perceive that I have not been able to answer your last 'till now—I have had the intention of doing it almost as often as my prayers in my head—'tis thus we use our best friends—what an infamous story is that you have told me!—After some little remarks on it the rest of my letter will go on like filk. ****— is a good natured old easy fool and has been deceived by the most artful
of

of her sex, and she must have abundance of impudence and charlatanery to have carried on such a farce. I pity the old man for being taken in for so much money—a man of sense I should have laughed at—My wife saw her when in town, and she had not the appearance of poverty, but when she wants to melt **** heart she puts her gold watch and diamond rings in her drawer.—But he might have been aware of her. I could not have been mistaken in her character—and 'tis odd she should talk of her wealth to one, and tell another the reverse—so good night to her.—About a week or ten days before my wife arrived at Paris I had the same accident I had at Cambridge, of breaking a vessel in my lungs. It happen'd in the night, and I bled the bed full, and finding in the morning I was likely to bleed to death, I sent immediately for a surgeon to bleed me at both arms—this saved me, and with lying speechless three days I recovered upon my back in bed; the breach healed, and in a week after I got out—This with my weakness and hurrying about made me think it high time to haste to Toulouse.—We have had four months of such heats that the oldest Frenchman never remembers the like—'twas as hot as *Nebuchadnezzar's oven*, and never has relaxed one hour—in the height of this 'twas our destiny, or rather destruction, to set out by way of Lyons,

Montpellier, &c. to shorten, I trow, our sufferings—Good God!—but 'tis over—and here I am in my own house, quite settled by M——'s aid, and good-natured offices, for which I owe him more than I can express or know how to pay at present—'Tis in the prettiest situation in Toulouse, with near two acres of garden—the house too good by half for us—well furnished, for which I pay thirty pounds a year.—I have got a good cook—my wife a decent *femme de chambre*, and a good looking *laquais*—The Abbé has planned our expences, and set us in such a train, we cannot easily go wrong—though by the bye the D—— is seldom found sleeping under a hedge. Mr. Trotter dined with me the day before I left Paris—I took care to see all executed according to your directions—but Trotter, I dare say, by this has wrote to you—I made him happy beyond expression with your crazy tales, and more so with its frontispiece.—I am in spirits, writing a crazy chapter—with my face turned towards thy turret—'Tis now I wish all warmer climates, countries, and every thing else at—that separates me from our paternal seat—*ce sera là où reposera ma cendre—et ce sera là où mon cousin viendra repondre les pleurs dues à notre amitié.*—I am taking asses milk three times a day, and cows milk as often—I long to see thy

thy face again once more—greet the Col. kindly in my name, and thank him cordially from me for his many civilities to Madame and Mademoiselle Shandy at York, who send all due acknowledgments. The humour is over for France, and Frenchmen, but that is not enough for your affectionate cousin,

L. S T E R N E.

A year will tire us all out I trow, but thank heaven the post brings me a letter from my Anthony—I felicitate you upon what Messrs. the Reviewers allow you—they have too much judgement themselves not to allow you what you are actually possess'd of, “talents, wit and humour.”—Well, write on my dear cousin, and be guided by thy own fancy.—Oh! how I envy you all at Crazy Castle!—I could like to spend a month with you—and should return back again for the vintage.—I honour the man that has given the world an idea of our parental feat—'tis well done—I look at it ten times a day with a *quando te aspiciam?*—Now farewell—remember me to my beloved Col.—greet Panty most lovingly on my behalf, and if Mrs. C—— and Miss C—— &c. are at G—— greet them likewise with a holy kiss—So God bless you.

L E T T E R X X X I.

To Mr. F——, at Paris.

Toulouse, August 14, 1762.

M Y D E A R F——,

AFTER many turnings, *alias* digressions, to say nothing of downright overthrows, stops, and delays, we have arrived in three weeks at Toulouse, and are now settled in our houses with servants, &c. about us, and look as composed as if we had been here seven years.—In our journey we suffered so much from the heats, it gives me pain to remember it.—I never saw a cloud from Paris to Nismes half as broad as a twenty-four sols piece.—Good God! we were toasted, roasted, grill'd, stew'd and carbonaded on one side or other all the way —and being all done enough, *assez cuits*, in the day, we were eat up at night by bugs, and other unswept out vermin, the legal inhabitants, if length of possession gives right, of every inn we lay at.—Can you conceive a worse accident than that in such a journey, in the hottest day and hour of it, four miles from either tree or shrub which could cast a shade

shade of the size of one of Eve's fig leaves—that we should break a hind wheel into ten thousand pieces, and be obliged in consequence to sit five hours on a gravelly road, without one drop of water or possibility of getting any—To mend the matter, my two postillions were two dough-hearted fools, and fell a crying—Nothing was to be done! By heaven, quoth I, pulling off my coat and waistcoat, something shall be done, for I'll thrash you both within an inch of your lives—and then make you take each of you a horse, and ride like two devils to the next post for a cart to carry my baggage, and a wheel to carry ourselves—Our luggage weighed ten quintals—'twas the fair of Baucaire—all the world was going, or returning—we were ask'd by every soul who pass'd by us, if we were going to the fair of Baucaire—No wonder, quoth I, we have goods enough! *vous avez raison mes amis*—

Well! here we are after all, my dear friend—and most deliciously placed at the extremity of the town, in an excellent house well furnish'd, and elegant beyond any thing I look'd for—'Tis built in the form of a hotel, with a pretty court towards the town—and behind, the best gardens in Toulouse, laid out in serpentine walks, and so large that the company in our quarter usually come to walk

there in the evenings, for which they have my consent—"the more the merrier."—The house consists of a good *salle à manger* above stairs joining to the very great *salle à compagnie* as large as the Baron d'Holbach's; three handsome bed-chambers with dressing rooms to them—below stairs two very good rooms for myself, one to study in, the other to see company.—I have moreover cellars round the court, and all other offices—Of the same landlord I have bargained to have the use of a country-house which he has two miles out of town, so that myself and all my family have nothing more to do than to take our hats and remove from the one to the other—My landlord is moreover to keep the gardens in order—and what do you think I am to pay for all this? neither more or less than thirty pounds a year—all things are cheap in proportion—so we shall live for very very little.—I dined yesterday with Mr. H—— he is most pleasantly situated, and they are all well.—As for the books you have received for D——, the bookseller was a fool not to send the bill along with them—I will write to him about it.—I wish you was with me for two months; it would cure you of all evils ghostly and bodily—but this, like many other wishes both for you and myself, must have its completion elsewhere—Adieu my kind friend, and believe

believe that I love you as much from inclination as reason, for

I am most truly yours,

L. STERNE.

My wife and girl join in compliments to you—my best respects to my worthy Baron d'Holbach and all that society—remember me to my friend Mr. Panchaud.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To J. H. S. Esq.

Toulouse, Oct. 19, 1762.

MY DEAR H——,

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday—so it has been travelling from Crazy Castle to Toulouse full eighteen days—If I had nothing to stop me I would engage to set out this morning, and knock at Crazy Castle gates in three days less time—by which time I should find you and the colonel, Panty, &c. all alone—the season I most wish and like to be with you—I rejoice from my heart, down to my
reins,

reins, that you have snatch'd so many happy and sunshiny days out of the hands of the blue devils—If we live to meet and join our forces as heretofore we will give these gentry a drubbing—and turn them for ever out of their usurped citadel—some legions of them have been put to flight already by your operations this last campaign—and I hope to have a hand in dispersing the remainder the first time my dear cousin sets up his banners again under the square tower—But what art thou meditating with axes and hammers?—“*I know thy pride and the naughtiness of thy heart,*” and thou lovest the sweet visions of architraves, friezes and pediments with their tympanums, and thou hast found out a pretence, *à raison de cinq cent livres sterling* to be laid out in four years, &c. &c. so as not to be felt, which is always added by the D—— as a bait, to justify thyself unto thyself—It may be very wise to do this—but 'tis wiser to keep one's money in one's pocket, whilst there are wars without and rumours of wars within.—

St. —— advises his disciples to sell both coat and waistcoat—and go rather without shirt or sword, than leave no money in their scrip, to go to Jerusalem with—— Now those *quatre ans consecutifs*, my dear Anthony, are the most precious morsels of thy *life to come*, in this world, and thou wilt do well to enjoy that

that

that morsel without cares, calculations, and curses, and damns, and debts—for as sure as stone is stone, and mortar is mortar, &c. 'twill be one of the many works of thy repentance — But after all, if the Fates have decreed it, as you and I have some time supposed it on account of your generosity, “*that you are never to be a monied man,*” the decree will be fulfilled whether you adorn your castle and line it with cedar, and paint it within side and without side with vermilion, or not—*et cetera etant*, having a bottle of Frontinac and glass at my right hand, I drink, dear Anthony, to thy health and happiness, and to the final accomplishments of all thy lunar and sublunar projects.—For six weeks together, after I wrote my last letter to you, my projects were many stories higher, for I was all that time, as I thought, journeying on to the other world—I fell ill of an epidemic vile fever which killed hundreds about me—The physicians here are the errantest charlatans in Europe, or the most ignorant of all pretending fools—I withdrew what was left of me out of their hands, and recommended my affairs entirely to Dame Nature—She, dear goddess, has saved me in fifty different pinching bouts, and I begin to have a kind of enthusiasm now in her favour, and in my own, That one or two more escapes will make me believe I shall
leave

leave you all at last by translation, and not by fair death. I am now stout and foolish again as a happy man can wish to be—and am busy playing the fool with my uncle Toby, who I have got foused over head and ears in love.—I have many hints and projects for other works; all will go on I trust as I wish in this matter.—When I have reaped the benefit of this winter at Touloufe—I cannot see I have any thing more to do with it, therefore after having gone with my wife and girl to Bagnieres, I shall return from whence I came—Now my wife wants to stay another year to save money, and this opposition of wishes, though it will not be as sour as lemon, yet 'twill not be as sweet as sugar candy.—I wish T—— would lead Sir Charles to Touloufe; 'tis as good as any town in the South of France—for my own part, 'tis not to my taste—but I believe, the ground work of my *ennui* is more to the eternal platitude of the French characters—little variety, no originality in it at all—than to any other cause—for they are very civil—but civility itself, in that uniform, wearies and boddens one to death—If I do not mind, I shall grow most stupid and sententious—Miss Shandy is hard at it with musick, dancing, and French speaking, in the last of which she does *à merveille*, and speaks it with an excellent accent, considering she practises within
fight

fight of the Pyrenean Mountains.—If the snows will suffer me, I propose to spend two or three months at Barege, or Bagnieres, but my dear wife is against all schemes of additional expences—which wicked propensity, though not of despotick power, yet I cannot suffer—though by the bye laudable enough—But she may talk—I will do my own way, and she will acquiesce without a word of debate on the subject.—Who can say so much in praise of his wife? Few I trow.—M—— is out of town vintaging—so write to me, *Monsieur Sterne gentilhomme Anglois*—’twill find me.—We are as much out of the road of all intelligence here as at the Cape of Good Hope—so write a long nonsensical letter like this, now and then to me—in which say nothing but what may be shewn, though I love every paragraph and spirited stroke of your pen, others might not, for you must know a letter no sooner arrives from England, but curiosity is upon her knees to know the contents.—Adieu dear H—— believe me,

Your affectionate,

L. S T E R N E.

We have had bitter cold weather here these fourteen days—which has obliged us to sit
with

with whole pagells of wood lighted up to our noses—'tis a dear article—but every thing else being extreme cheap, Madame keeps an excellent good house, with *soupe, boulli, roti*—&c. &c. for two hundred and fifty pounds a year.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

Toulouse, November 9, 1762.

MY DEAR F——,

I HAVE had this week your letter on my table, and hope you will forgive my not answering it sooner—and even to day I can but write you ten lines, being engaged at Mrs. M——'s. I would not omit one post more acknowledging the favour—In a few posts I will write you a long one gratis, that is for love—Thank you for having done what I desired you—and for the future direct to me under cover at Monsieur Brouffe's—I receive all letters through him, more punctual and sooner than when left at the post-house—

H——'s family greet you with mine—we are much together and never forget you—
forget

forget me not to the baron—and all the circle—
—nor to your domestic circle—

I am got pretty well, and sport much with my uncle Toby in the volume I am now fabricating for the laughing part of the world—for the melancholy part of it, I have nothing but my prayers—so God help them.—I shall hear from you in a post or two at least after you receive this—in the mean time dear F—— adieu, and believe no man wishes or esteems you more than your

L. STERNE.

LETTER XXXIV.

To the same.

Toulouse, Dec. 17, 1762.

MY DEAR F——,

THE post after I wrote last—I received yours with the inclosed draught upon the receiver, for which I return you all thanks—I have received this day likewise the box and tea all safe and found—so we shall all of us be in our cups this Christmas, and drink without fear or stint—We begin to live extremely
happy,

shall pay Brouffe for it the day we get it—
We join in our most friendly respects, and
believe me, dear F——y, truly yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

To the same.

Toulouse, March 29, 1762.

DEAR F——,

— **T**HOUGH that's a mistake! I mean
the date of the place, for I write at Mr.
H——'s in the country, and have been there
with my people all the week—how does
Tristram do? you say in yours to him—faith
but so-so—the worst of human maladies is
poverty—though that is a second lye—for
poverty of spirit is worse than poverty of
purse, by ten thousand per cent.—I inclose
you a remedy for the one, a draught of a
hundred and thirty pounds, for which I insist
upon a rescription by the very return—or
I will send you and all your commissaries
to the d——l.—I do not hear they have tasted
of one fleshy banquet all this Lent—you will
make an excellent *grillé*—P—— they can
make

make nothing of him, but *bouillon*—I mean my other two friends no ill—so shall fend them a reprieve, as they acted out of necessity—not choice—My kind respects to Baron d'Holbach and all his household—Say all that's kind for me to my other friends—you know how much, dear F——, I am yours,

L. STERNE.

I have not five Louis to vapour with in this land of coxcombs—My wife's compliments.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

To the same.

Toulouse, April 18, 1763.

DEAR F——,

I THANK you for your punctuality in sending me the rescription, and for your box by the courier, which came safe by last post.—I was not surpris'd much with your account of Lord ***** being obliged to give way—and for the rest, all follows in course.—I suppose you will endeavour to fish and catch something for yourself in these troubled

H 2

waters

waters—at least I wish you all a reasonable man can wish for himself—which is wishing enough for you—all the rest is in the brain.—Mr. Woodhouse, who you know, is also here—he is a most amiable worthy man, and I have the pleasure of having him much with me—in a short time he proceeds to Italy.—The first week in June I decamp like a patriarch with my whole household, to pitch our tents for three months at the foot of the Pyrenean Hills at Bagnieres, where I expect much health and much amusement from the concourse of adventurers from all corners of the earth.—Mrs. M—— sets out at the same time, for another part of the Pyrenean Hills, at Coutray—from whence to Italy—This is the general plan of operation here—except that I have some thoughts of spending the winter at Florence, and crossing over with my family to Leghorn by water—and in April of returning by way of Paris home—but this is a sketch only, for in all things I am governed by circumstances—so that what is fit to be done on Monday, may be very unwise on Saturday—On all days of the week believe me yours,

With unfeigned truth,

L. STERNE.

P. S. All compliments to my Parisian friends.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVIII.

To the same.

Toulouse, April 29, 1763.

MY DEAR F——,

LAST post my agent wrote me word he would send up from York a bill for fourscore guineas, with orders to be paid into Mr. Selwin's hands for me. This he said he would expedite immediately, so 'tis possible you may have had advice of it—and 'tis possible also the money may not be paid this fortnight, therefore as I set out for Bagnieres in that time, be so good as to give me credit for the money for a few posts or so, and send me either a rescription for the money, or a draught for it—at the receipt of which we shall decamp for ten or twelve weeks—You will receive twenty pounds more on my account, which send also—So much for that—as for pleasure—you have it all amongst you at Paris—we have nothing here which deserves the name.—I shall scarce be tempted to sojourn another winter at Toulouse—for I cannot say it suits my health, as I hoped—'tis too moist—and I cannot keep clear of agues here—so that if

H 3

. I stay

I stay the next winter on this side of the water — 'twill be either at Nice or Florence — and I shall return to England in April — Wherever I am, believe me, dear F——, that I am,

Yours faithfully,

L. STERNE.

Madame and Mademoiselle present their best compliments — Remember me to all I regard, particularly Messrs. P——d, and the rest of your *houshold*.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To the same.

Toulouse, May 21, 1763.

DEAR SIR,

I TOOK the liberty three weeks ago to desire you would be so kind as to send me fourscore pounds, having received a letter the same post from my Agent, that he would order the money to be paid to your correspondent in London in a fortnight. — It is some disappointment to me that you have taken no notice of my letter, especially as I told you we waited

waited for the money before we set out for Bagnieres,—and so little distrust had I that such a civility would be refused me, that we have actually had all our things pack'd up these eight days, in hourly expectation of receiving a letter.—Perhaps my good friend has waited till he heard the money was paid in London—but you might have trusted to my honour—that all the cash in your iron box, and all the bankers in Europe put together, could not have tempted me to say the thing *that is not*.—I hope before this you will have received an account of the money being paid in London—But it would have been taken kindly, if you had wrote me word you would transmit me the money when you had received it, but no sooner; for Mr. R—— of Montpellier, though I know him not, yet knows enough of me to have given me credit for a fortnight for ten times the sum.

I am, dear F——, your friend

and hearty well-wisher,

L. STERNE.

I saw the family of the H—— yesterday, and asked them if you was in the land of the living—They said yea—for they had just re-

H 4

ceived

ceived a letter from you.—After all I heartily forgive you—for you have done me a signal service in mortifying me, and it is this, I am determined to grow rich upon it.

Adieu, and God fend you wealth and happiness—All compliments to—Before April next I am obliged to revisit your metropolis in my way to England.

L E T T E R XL.

To the same.

Toulouse, June 9, 1773.

MY DEAR F——,

I THIS moment received yours—consequently the moment I got it I sat down to answer it—So much for a logical inference.

Now believe me I had never wrote you so testy a letter, had I not both loved and esteemed you—and it was merely in vindication of the rights of friendship that I wrote in a way as if I was hurt—for neglect me in your heart, I knew you could not, without cause; which my heart told me I never had—or will ever give you:—I was the best friends with you that ever I was, in my life, before my letter had

had got a league, and pleaded the true excuse for my friend, "That he was oppressed with a multitude of business." Go on, my dear F—— and have but that excuse, so much do I regard your interest, that I would be content to suffer a *real evil* without future murmuring — but in truth, my disappointment was partly chimerical at the bottom, having a letter of credit for two hundred pounds from a person I never saw, by me — but which out of a nicety of temper I would not make any use of — I set out in two days for Bagnieres, but direct to me to Brouffe, who will forward all my letters. — Dear F—— adieu. — Believe me,

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R X L I .

To the same.

Toulouse, June 12, 1763.

DEAR F——,

LUCKILY just before I was stepping into my chaise for Bagnieres, has a strayed fifty pound bill found its way to me: so I have sent it

it to its lawful owner inclosed—My noodle of an agent, instead of getting Mr. Selwin to advise you he had received the money, which would have been enough, has got a bill for it, and sent it rambling to the furthest part of France after me, and if it had not caught me just now it might have followed me into Spain, for I shall cross the Pyreneans, and spend a week in that kingdom, which is enough for a fertile brain to write a volume upon.—When I write the history of my travels—Memorandum! I am not to forget how honest a man I have for a banker at Paris.—But, my dear friend, when you say you dare trust me for what little occasions I may have, you have as much faith as honesty—and more of both than of good policy.—I thank you however ten thousand times—and except such liberty as I have lately taken with you—and that too at a pinch—I say beyond that I will not trespass upon your good nature, or friendliness to serve me.—God bless you, dear F——

I am yours whilst,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLII.

To the same.

Montpellier, Oct. 5, 1763.

D E A R F——,

I AM ashamed I have not taken an opportunity of thanking you before now, for your friendly act of civility, in ordering Brouffe, your correspondent at Toulouse, in case I should have occasion, to pay me fifteen hundred livres—which as I knew the offer came from your heart I made no difficulty of accepting.—In my way through Toulouse to Marfeilles, where we have been, but neither liking the place nor Aix, particularly the latter, it being a parliament town, of which Toulouse has given me a surfeit, we have returned here, where we shall reside the winter.—My wife and daughter purpose to stay a year at least behind me—and when winter is over, to return to Toulouse, or to go to Montaubon, where they will stay till they return, or I fetch them.—For myself I shall set out in February for England, where my heart has been fled these six months—but I shall stay a fortnight with my friends at Paris; tho' I verily believe,

believe, if it was not for the pleasure of seeing and chattering with you, I should pass on directly to Bruffels, and so on to Rotterdam, for the sake of seeing Holland, and embark from thence to London.—But I must stay a little with those I love and have so many reasons to regard—you cannot place too much of this to your own score.—I have had an offer of going to Italy a fortnight ago—but I must like my subject as well as the terms, neither of which were to my mind.—Pray what English have you at Paris? where is my young friend Mr. F——? We hear of three or four English families coming to us here.—If I can be serviceable to any you would serve, you have but to write.—Mr. H—— has sent my friend W——'s picture—You have seen the original, or I would have sent it you—I believe I shall beg leave to get a copy of my own from yours, when I come in *propria persona*—till when, God bless you my dear friend, and believe me,

Most faithfully yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLIII.

To the same.

Montpellier, Jan 5, 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOU see I cannot pass over the fifth of the month without thinking of you, and writing to you—The last is a periodical habit—the first is from my heart, and I do it oftner than I remember—however, from both motives together I maintain I have a right to the pleasure of a single line—be it only to tell me how your watch goes—You know how much happier it would make me to know that all things belonging to you went on well.—You are going to have them all to yourself, I hear, and that Mr. S—— is true to his first intention of leaving business—I hope this will enable you to accomplish yours in a shorter time, that you may get to your long wished for retreat of tranquillity and silence—When you have got to your fire-side, and into your arm-chair, and by the by, have another to spare for a friend, and are so much a sovereign as to sit in
your

your furr'd cap, if you like it, tho' I should not, for a man's ideas are at least the cleaner for being dress'd decently, why then it will be a miracle if I do not glide in like a ghost upon you—and in a very unghost-like fashion help you off with a bottle of your best wine.

January 15.—It does not happen every day that a letter begun in the most perfect health, should be concluded in the greatest weakness—I wish the vulgar high and low do not say it was a judgement upon me for taking all this liberty with *ghosts*—Be it as it may—I took a ride when the first part of this was wrote towards Perenas—and returned home in a shivering fit, though I ought to have been in a fever, for I had tired my beast; and he was as unmoveable as Don Quixote's wooden horse, and my arm was half dislocated in whipping him—This quoth I is inhuman—No, says a peasant on foot behind me, I'll drive him home—so he laid on his posteriors, but 'twas needless—as his face was turn'd towards Montpellier he began to trot.—But to return, this fever has confined me ten days in my bed—I have suffered in this scuffle with death terribly—but unless the spirit of prophecy deceive me—I shall not die but live—in the mean time dear F—— let us live as merrily but *as innocently* as we can—It has ever been as good, if not better, than a bishoprick to me
—and

—and *I desire no other*—Adieu my dear friend and believe me yours,

L. STERNE.

Please to give the inclosed to Mr. T——
—and tell him I thank him cordially from my heart for his great *good-will*.

L E T T E R XLIV.

To the same.

Montpellier, Jan. 20.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

HEARING by Lord R——, who in passing through here in his way to Madrid has given me a call, that my worthy friend Mr. Fox was now at Paris—I have inclosed a letter to him, which you will present in course or direct to him.—I suppose you are full of English—but in short we are here as if in another world, where unless some stray'd soul arrives, we know nothing of what is going on in yours.—Lord G——r I suppose is gone from Paris, or I had wrote also to him. I know you are as busy as a bee, and have few
moments

with my little flut, I shall be in high spirits, and every step I take that brings me nearer England, will I think help to fet this poor frame to rights. Now pray write to me directed to Mr. F—— at Paris, and tell me what I am to bring you over.—How do I long to greet all my friends! few do I value more than yourself.—My wife chuses to go to Montauban, rather than stay here, in which I am truly passive.—If this should not find you at Bath, I hope it will be forwarded to you, as I wish to fulfill your commissions—and so adieu—Accept every warm wish for your health, and believe me ever yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S. My physicians have almost poisoned me with what they call *bouillons rafraichissants*—'tis a cock flead alive and boiled with poppy seeds, then pounded in a mortar, afterwards pass'd through a sieve—There is to be one craw-fish in it, and I was gravely told it must be a male one—a female would do me more hurt than good.

LETTER

L E T T E R XLVI.

To Miss S——.

Paris, May 15, 1764.

MY DEAR LYDIA,

BY this time I suppose your mother and self are fixed at Montauban, and I therefore direct to your banker, to be delivered to you.—I acquiesced in your staying in France—likewise it was your mother's wish—but I must tell you both, that unless your health had not been a plea made use of, I should have wished you both to return with me.—I have sent you the Spectators, and other books, particularly *Metafasio*; but I beg my girl to read the former, and only make the latter her amusement.—I hope you have not forgot my last request, to make no friendships with the French-women—not that I think ill of them all, but sometimes women of the best principles are the most *insinuating*—nay I am so jealous of you that I should be miserable were I to see you had the least grain of coquetry in your composition.—You have enough to do—for I have also sent you a guittar—and as you have no genius for drawing, though

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you

you never could be made to believe it, pray waste not your time about it—Remember to write to me as to a friend—in short whatever comes into your little head, and then it will be natural.—If your mother's rheumatism continues and she chooses to go to Bagnieres—tell her not to be stopped for want of money, for my purse shall be as open as my heart. I have preached at the ambassador's chapel—Hezekiah—an odd subject your mother will say. There was a concourse of all nations, and religions too.—I shall leave Paris in a few days—I am lodged in the same hotel with Mr. T—— they are good and generous souls—Tell your mother that I hope she will write to me, and that when she does so, I may also receive a letter from my Lydia.

Kiss your mother from me, and believe me,

Your affectionate,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XLVII.

York, August 6, 1764.

MY DEAR F——,

THERE is a young lady with whom I have sent a letter to you, who will arrive at Paris in her way to Italy—her name is Miss Tuting;

Tuting; a lady known and loved by the whole kingdom—if you can be of any aid to her in your advice, &c. as to her journey, &c. your good nature and politeness, I am sure need no spur from me to do it. I was sorry we were like the two buckets of a well, whilst in London, for we were never able to be both resident together the month I continued in and about the environs.—If I get a cough this winter which holds me three days, you will certainly see me at Paris the week following, for now I abandon every thing in this world to health and to my friends—for the last sermon that I shall ever preach, was preach'd at Paris—so I am altogether an idle man, or rather a free one, which is better. I sent, last post, twenty pounds to Mrs. S—— which makes a hundred pounds remitted, since I got here—You must pay yourself what I owe you out of it—and place the rest to account.—Betwixt this and Lady-day next, Mrs. S—— will draw from time to time upon you to about the amount of a hundred louis—but not more—I think, I having left her a hundred in her pocket.—But you shall always have money beforehand of mine—and she purposes to spend no further than five thousand livres in the year—but twenty pound, this way or that, makes no difference between us—Give my kindest compliments to Mr. P——. I have a thou-

find things to say to you, and would go half way to Paris to tell them you in your ear.— The Messrs. T——, H——, &c. and many more of your friends with whom I am now, send their services—Mine to all friends—
Yours, dear F—— most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

September 4, 1764.

NOW, my dear, dear Anthony—I do not think a week or ten days playing the good fellow, at this very time, at Scarborough so abominable a thing—but if a man could get there cleverly, and every soul in his house in the mind to try what could be done in furtherance thereof, I have no one to consult in this affair——therefore as a man may do worse things, the English of all which is this, that I am going to leave a few poor sheep here in the wilderness for fourteen days—and from pride and naughtiness of heart to go see what is doing at Scarborough—steadfastly meaning afterwards to lead a new life and strengthen my

my faith.—Now some folks say there is much company there—and some say not—and I believe there is neither the one or the other—but will be both, if the world will have but a month's patience or so.—No, my dear H—— I did not delay sending your letter directly to the post—As there are critical times or rather turns and revolutions in * * * * humours, I knew not what the delay of an hour might hazard—I will answer for him, he has seventy times seven forgiven you—and as often wish'd you at the d——l.—After many oscillations the pendulum will rest firm as ever.—

I send all kind compliments to Sir C—— D—— and G——s—I love them from my soul—If G——t is with you, him also.—I go on, not rapidly, but well enough with my uncle Toby's amours—There is no fitting, and cudgeling ones brains whilst the sun shines bright—'twill be all over in six or seven weeks, and there are dismal months enow after to endure suffocation by a brimstone fire-side.—If you can get to Scarborough, do.—A man who makes six tons of alum a week, may do any thing—Lord G——y is to be there—what a temptation!

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R XLIX.

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

York, September 29, 1764.

MY DEAR F——,

I HAVE just had the honour of a letter from Miss T——, full of the acknowledgments of your attention and kind services to her; I will not believe these arose from the D—— of A——'s letters, nor mine. Surely *she needed no* recommendation—the truest and most honest compliment I can pay you, is to say they came from your own good heart, only you was introduced to the object—for the rest followed in course—However let me cast in my mite of thanks to the treasury which belongs to good natured actions. I have been with Lord G——y these three weeks at Scarborough—the pleasures of which I found somewhat more exalted than those of Bagnieres last year—I am now returned to my Philosophical Hut to finish *Trifram*, which I calculate will be ready for the world about Christmas, at which time I decamp from hence, and fix my head quarters at London for the winter—unless

less my cough pushes me forwards to your Metropolis—or that I can persuade some *gras* my Lord to take a trip to you—I'll try if I can make him relish the joys of the *Tuileries*, *Opera Comique*, &c.

I had this week a letter from Mrs. S—— from Montauban, in which she tells me she has occasion for fifty pounds immediately—Will you send an order to your correspondent at Montauban to pay her so much cash—and I will in three weeks send as much to Becket—But as her purse is low, for God's sake write directly.—Now you must do something equally essential—to rectify a mistake in the mind of your correspondent there, who it seems gave her a hint not long ago, “*that she was separated from me for life.*—Now as this is not true in the first place, and may give a disadvantageous impression of her to those she lives amongst—'twould be unmerciful to let her, or my daughter, suffer by it; so do be so good as to undeceive him—for in a year or two she proposes, and indeed I expect it with impatience from her, to rejoin me—and tell them I have all the confidence in the world she will not spend more than I can afford, and I only mention'd two hundred guineas a year—because 'twas right to name some certain sum, for which I beg'd you to give her credit.—I write to you of all my most intimate concerns,

as

as to a brother, so excuse me dear F——,
 God blefs you— Believe me,

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

Compliments to Mr. Panchaud, d'Hol-
 bach, &c.

L E T T E R L:

To J. H. S——, Esq.

Coxwold, — Thursday.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I AM but this moment return'd from Scar-
 borough, where I have been drinking the
 waters ever since the races, and have received
 marvellous strength, had I not debilitated it as
 fast as I got it, by playing the good fellow
 with Lord G——y and Co. too much. I
 rejoice you have been encamp'd at Harrow-
 gate, from which, by now, I suppose you
 are decamp'd—otherwise as idle a beast as I
 have been, I would have sacrificed a few days
 to the god of laughter with you and your
 jolly

jolly fet.—I have done nothing good that I know of, since I left you, except paying off your guinea and a half to K——, in my way through York hither—I must try now and do better—Go on, and prosper for a month,

Your affectionate

L. S T E R N E.

L E T T E R L I.

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

York, November 11, 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I SENT ten days ago, a bank bill of thirty pounds to Mr. Becket, and this post one of sixty—When I get to London, which will be in five weeks, you will receive what shall always keep you in bank for Mrs. S——; in the mean time I have desired Becket to send you fourscore pounds, and if my wife, before I get to London, should have occasion for fifty louis let her not wait a minute, and if I have not paid it, a week or a fortnight I know will break no squares with a good and worthy friend.—I will contrive to send you these two
new

new volumes of Tristram, as soon as ever I get them from the press.—You will read as odd a tour through France as ever was projected or executed by traveller, or travel-writers since the world began—'Tis a laughing good temper'd satyr against travelling, as *puppies* travel, Panchaud will enjoy it—I am quite civil to your Parisians—*et pour cause* you know—'tis likely I may see them in spring—Is it possible for you to get me over a copy of my picture any how? If so I would write to Mademoiselle N—— to make as good a copy from it as she possibly could—with a view to do her service here—and I would remit her the price—I really believe it would be the parent of a dozen portraits to her, if she executes it with the spirit of the original in your hands—for it will be seen by many—and as my phiz is as remarkable as myself, if she preserves the true character of both, it will do her honour and service too.—Write me a line about this, and tell me you are well and happy—Will you present my kind respects to the worthy Baron—I shall send him one of the best impressions of my picture from Mr. Reynolds's——another to Monsieur P——. My love to Mr. S——n and P——d.

I am most truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LII.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

November 13, 1764.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

TIS a church militant week with me, full of marches, and countermarches—and treaties about Stillington common, which we are going to inclose—otherwise I would have obey'd your summons—and yet I could not well have done it this week neither, having received a letter from C——, who has been very ill; and is coming down to stay a week or ten days with me.—Now I know he is ambitious of being better acquainted with you; and longs from his soul for a fight of you in your own castle.—I cannot do otherwise, than bring him with me—nor can I gallop away and leave him an empty house to pay a visit to from London, as he comes half express to see me.—I thank you for the care of my northern vintage—I fear after all I must give it a fermentation on the other side of the Alps, which is better than being on the lees with it—but *nous verrons*—yet I fear as it has got such hold of my brain and comes upon it like
an

an armed man at nights—I must give way for quietness sake, or be hag-ridden with the conceit of it all my life long.—I have been *Mifs-ridden* this last week by a couple of romping girls, *bien mises et comme il faut*, who might as well have been in the house with me, though perhaps not, my retreat here is too quiet for them, but they have taken up all my time, and have given my judgment and fancy more airings than they wanted.—These things accord not well with sermon making.—but 'tis my vile errantry, as Sancho says, and that is all that can be made of it.—I trust all goes swimmingly on with your alum; that the works amuse you, and call you twice out, at least, a day.—I shall see them I trust in ten days, or thereabout.—If it was any way possible, I would set out this moment, though I have no cavalry—*except a she ass*. Give all friendly respects to Mrs. C—— and to Col. H——'s and the garrison, both of Guisbro and Skelton.—I am, dear Anthony, affectionately

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R L I I I .

To Mr. F—— at P——.

York, November 16, 1764.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THREE posts before I had the favour of yours, which is come to hand this moment, I had wrote to fet Mrs. S—— right in her mistake — That you had any money of mine in your hands—being very sensible that the hundred pounds I had sent you, thro' Becket's hands, was but about what would balance with you — The reason of her error was owing to my writing her word, I would send you a bill in a post or two for fifty pounds— which, my finances falling short just then, I deferr'd— so that I had paid nothing to any one—but was however come to York this day, and I have sent you a draught for a hundred pounds— in honest truth a fortnight ago I had not the cash—— but I am as honest as the king, as Sancho Pança says, *only not so rich.*

Therefore if Mrs. S—— should want thirty louis more, let her have them—— and I will balance all, which will not be much, with honour at Christmas, when I shall be in London,

don, having now just finish'd my two volumes of Triftram.—I have some thoughts of going to Italy this year—at least I shall not defer it above another.—I have been with Lord Granby, and with Lord Shelburne, but am now fat down till December in my sweet retirement—I wish you was fat down as happily, and as free of all worldly cares.—In a few years, my dear F—— I hope to see you a real country gentleman, though not altogether exiled from your friends in London—there I shall spend every winter of my life, in the same lap of contentment, where I enjoy myself now—and wherever I go—we must bring three parts in four of the treat along with us.—In short we must be happy within—and then few things without us make much difference.—This is my Shandean philosophy.—You will read a comic account of my journey from Calais through Paris to the Garonne, in these volumes—my friends tell me they are done with spirit—it must speak for itself—Give my kind respects to Mr. Selwin and my friend Panchaud—When you see Baron d'Holbach, present him my respects, and believe me, dear F——,

Your's cordially,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LIV.

To D. G——, Esq.

London, March 16, 1765.

D E A R G——,

I Threatened you with a letter in one I wrote a few weeks ago to Foley, but, to my shame be it spoken, I lead such a life of dissipation I have never had a moment to myself which has not been broke in upon, by one engagement or impertinence or another—and as plots thicken towards the latter end of a piece, I find, unless I take pen and ink just now, I shall not be able to do it, till either I am got into the country, or you to the city. You are teized and tormented too much by your correspondents, to return to us, and with accounts how much your friends, and how much your Theatre wants you—so that I will not magnify either our loss or yours—but hope cordially to see you soon.—Since I wrote last I have frequently slept into your house—that is, as frequently as I could take the whole party, where I dined, along with me—This was but justice to you, as I walk'd in as a wit—but with regard to myself, I balanced

the account thus——I am sometimes in my friend ——'s house, but he is always in Tristram Shandy's—where my friends say he will continue, and I hope the prophecy true for my own immortality, even when he himself is no more.

I have had a lucrative winter's campaign here—Shandy sells well—I am taxing the publick with two more volumes of sermons, which will more than double the gains of Shandy—It goes into the world with a prancing lift of *toute la noblesse*—which will bring me in three hundred pounds, exclusive of the sale of the copy—so that with all the contempt of money which *ma façon de penser* has ever impress'd on me, I shall be rich in spite of myself: but I scorn you must know, in the high *ton* I take at present, to pocket all this trash—I set out to lay a portion of it in the service of the world, in a tour round Italy, where I shall spring game, or the duce is in the dice.—In the beginning of September I quit England, that I may avail myself of the time of vintage, when all nature is joyous, and so saunter philosophically for a year or so, on the other side the Alps.—I hope your pilgrimages have brought Mrs. G—— and yourself back *à la fleur de jeunesse*—May you both long feel the sweets of it, and your friends with you.—Do, dear friend, make my
my

my kindest wishes and compliments acceptable to the best and wisest of the daughters of Eve—You shall ever believe and ever find me affectionately yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LV.

To D. G——, Esq.

Bath, April 6, 1765.

I SCALP you!—my dear G——! my dear friend!—foul befall the man who hurts a hair of your head!—and so full was I of that very sentiment, that my letter had not been put into the post-office ten minutes, before my heart smote me; and I sent to recall it—but failed—You are sadly to blame, Shandy! for this, quoth I, leaning with my head on my hand, as I recriminated upon my false delicacy in the affair—G——’s nerves, if he has any left, are as fine and delicately spun, as thy own—his sentiments as honest and friendly—thou knowest, Shandy, that he loves thee—why wilt thou hazard him a moment’s pain? Puppy! fool, coxcomb, jack-ass, &c. &c.—and so I balanced the account to your

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favour,

favour, before I received it drawn up in *your way*—I say *your way*—for it is not stated so much to your honour and credit, as I had passed the account before—for it was a most lamented truth, that I never received one of the letters your friendship meant me, except whilst in Paris.—O! how I congratulate you for the anxiety the world has and continues to be under, for your return.—Return, return to the few who love you and the thousands who admire you.—The moment you set your foot upon your stage—mark! I tell it you—by some magic, irresistible power, every fibre about your heart will vibrate afresh, and as strong and feelingly as ever—Nature, with glory at her back, will light up the torch within you—and there is enough of it left, to heat and enlighten the world these many, many, many years.

Heaven be praised! I utter it from my soul, that your lady, and my Minerva, is in a condition to walk to Windsor—full rapturously will I lead the graceful pilgrim to the temple, where I will sacrifice with the purest incense to her—but you may worship with me, or not—'twill make no difference either in the truth or warmth of my devotion—still, after all I have seen, I still maintain her peerless.

P——! good Heav'n!—give me some one with less smoke and more fire—There are
who,

who, like the Pharisees, still think they shall be heard for *much* speaking—Come—come away my dear G—— and teach us another lesson.

Adieu!—I love you dearly—and your lady better—not hobbihorfically—but most sentimentally and affectionately—— for I am yours, that is if you never say another word about ——, with all the sentiments of love and friendship you deserve from me,

L. S T E R N E.

L E T T E R L V I.

Bath, April 15, 1765.

M Y D E A R F——,

MY wife tells me she has drawn for one hundred pounds, and 'tis fit that you should be paid it that minute—the money is now in Becket's hands—send me, my dear F—— my account, that I may discharge the balance to this time, and know what to leave in your hands.—I have made a good campaign of it this year in the field of the literati—my two volumes of *Tristram*, and two of sermons, which I shall print very soon, will bring me

a considerable sum.—Almost all the nobility in England honour me with their names, and 'tis thought it will be the largest, and most splendid list which ever pranced before a book, since subscriptions came into fashion.—Pray present my most sincere compliments to lady H—— whose name I hope to insert with many others.—As so many men of genius favour me with their names also, I will quarrel with Mr. H——e, and call him deist, and what not, unless I have his name too.—My love to Lord W——.—Your name, F—— I have put in as a free-will offering of my labours — your list of subscribers you will send—'tis but a crown for sixteen sermons—Dog cheap! but I am in quest of honour, not money.— Adieu, adieu,—believe me, dear F——,

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LVII.

To Mr. W——.

Coxwold, May 23, 1765.

AT this moment am I sitting in my summer house with my head and heart full, not of my uncle Toby's amours with the widow Wadman,

man, but my sermons—and your letter has drawn me out of a pensive mood—the spirit of it *pleaseth me*—but in this solitude, what can I tell or write to you but about myself—I am glad that you are in love—'twill cure you, at least, of the spleen, which has a bad effect on both man and woman—I myself must ever have some *dulcinea* in my head—it harmonises the soul—and in those cases I first endeavour to make the lady believe so, or rather I begin first to make myself believe that I am in love—but I carry on my affairs quite in the French way, sentimentally—“*l'amour*” say they, “*n'est rien sans sentiment*”—Now notwithstanding they make such a pother about the *word*, they have no precise idea annex'd to it—And so much for that same subject called love—I must tell you how I have just treated a French gentleman of fortune in France, who took a liking to my daughter—Without any ceremony, having got my direction from my wife's banker, he wrote me word that he was in love with my daughter, and desired to know what *fortune* I would give her at present, and how much at my *death*—by the bye, I think there was very little *sentiment* on *his side*—My answer was “Sir, I shall give her ten thousand pounds the day of marriage—my calculation is as follows—she is not eighteen, you are sixty-two—there goes five thousand

pounds— then Sir, you at least think her not ugly— she has many accomplishments, speaks Italian, French, plays upon the guittar, and as I fear you play upon no instrument whatever, I think you will be happy to take her at my terms, for here finishes the account of the ten thousand pounds”—I do not suppose but he will take this as I mean, that is— a flat refusal,—I have had a parsonage house burnt down by the carelesness of my curate’s wife —as soon as I can I must rebuild it, I trow —but I lack the means at present— yet I am never happier than when I have not a shilling in my pocket—for when I have I can never call it my own. Adieu my dear friend— may you enjoy better health than me, though not better spirits, for that is impossible.

Yours sincerely,

L. STERNE,

My compliments to the Col.

LETTER

L E T T E R LVIII.

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

York, July 13, 1765.

MY DEAR SIR,

I WROTE some time in spring, to beg you would favour me with my account. I believe you was set out from Paris, and that Mr. Garrick brought the letter with him— which possibly he gave you. In the hurry of your business you might forget the contents of it; and in the hurry of mine in town, tho' I called once, I could not get to see you. I decamp for Italy in September, and shall see your face at Paris, you may be sure— but I shall see it with more pleasure when I am out of debt— which is your own fault, for Becket has had money left in his hands for that purpose.— Do send Mrs. Sterne her two last volumes of Tristram; they arrived with your's in spring, and she complains she has not got them.— My best services to Mr. Panchaud.— I am busy composing two volumes of sermons — they will be printed in September, though I fear not time enough to bring them with me.

Your

of adding a single drop to the stream of sorrow. —As for the dirty trash of this world, I regard it not—the loss of it does not cost me a sigh, for after all, I may say with the Spanish Captain, that I am as good a gentleman as the king, only not quite so rich.

But to the point: Shall I expect you here this summer?—I much wish that you may make it convenient to gratify me in a visit for a few weeks—I will give you a roast fowl for your dinner, and a clean table-cloth every day—and tell you a story by way of desert—in the heat of the day we will sit in the shade—and in the evening the fairest of all the milk-maids who pass by my gate, shall weave a garland for you.—If I should not be so fortunate, contrive to meet me the beginning of October.—I shall stay a fortnight after, and then seek a kindlier climate.—This plaguy cough of mine seems to gain ground, and will bring me to my grave in spite of me—but while I have strength to run away from it I will—I have been wrestling with it for these twenty years past—and what with laughter and good spirits, have prevented its giving me a fall—but my antagonist presses closer than ever upon me—and I have nothing left on my side but another journey abroad.—A-propos—are you for a scheme of that sort? if not, perhaps you will accompany me as far as Dover,
that

that we may laugh together on the beach, to put Neptune in a good humour before I embark—God blefs you, my dear Madam,—and believe me ever your's,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R L X.

To Mr. W——.

Coxwold, December 20, 1765.

THANKS, my dear W—— for your letter—I am juft preparing to come and greet you and many other friends in town—I have drained my ink ftandifh to the bottom, and after I have publifhed, fhall fet my face, not towards Jerufalem, but towards the Alps—I find I muft once more fly from death whilft I have ftrength—I fhall go to Naples and fee whether the air of that place will not fet this poor frame to rights—As to the project of getting a bear to lead, I think I have enough to do to govern myfelf—and however profitable it might be, according to your opinion, I am fure it would be unpleafurable—Few
are

are the minutes of life, and I do not think that I have any to throw away on any one being. —I shall spend nine or ten months in Italy, and call upon my wife and daughter in France at my return—so shall be back by the King's birth-day—what a project!—and now my dear friend am I going to York, not for the sake of society—nor to walk by the side of the muddy Ouse, but to recruit myself of the most violent spitting of blood that ever mortal man experienced; because I had rather, in case 'tis ordained so, die there, than in a post-chaise on the road.—If the amour of my uncle Toby do not please you, I am mistaken—and so with a droll story I will finish this letter—A sensible friend of mine, with whom not long ago, I spent some hours in conversation, met an apothecary, an acquaintance of ours,—the latter asked him how he did? why, ill, very ill—I have been with Sterne, who has given me such a dose of *Attic salt* that I am in a fever—Attic salt, Sir, Attic salt! I have Glauber salt—I have Epsom salt in my shop, &c.—Oh! I suppose 'tis some French salt—I wonder you would trust his report of the medicine, he cares not what he takes himself—I fancy I see you smile—I long to be able to be in London, and embrace my friends there—and shall enjoy myself a week or ten days at Paris with my friends,

parti-

particularly the Baron d'Holbach, and the rest of the joyous set—As to the females—no I will not say a word about them—only I hate borrowed characters taken up, as a woman does her shift, for the purpose she intends to effectuate. Adieu, adieu—I am yours whilst

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R L X I.

To Mr. F——, at Paris.

London, October 7, 1765.

DEAR SIR,

IT is a terrible thing to be in Paris without a perriwig to a man's head! In seven days from the date of this, I should be in that case, unless you tell your neighbour Madame Requiere to get her *bon mari de me faire une peruque à bourse, au mieux—c'est à dire—une la plus extraordinaire—la plus jolie—la plus gentille—et la plus—*

*—Mais qu'importe? jai l'honneur d'etre grand critique—et bien difficile encore dans les affaires de peruques—*and in one word that he gets it done in five days after notice—

I beg

I beg pardon for this liberty, my dear friend, and for the trouble of forwarding this by the very next post.—If my friend Mr. F—— is in Paris—my kind love to him and respects to all others—in sad haste—

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

I have paid into Mr. Becket's hands six hundred pounds, which you may draw upon at sight, according as either Mrs. S—— or myself make it expedient.

L E T T E R LXII.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

Beau Pont Voisin, November 7, 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I FORGOT to desire you to forward whatever letters came to your hand to your banker at Rome, to wait for me against I get there, as it is uncertain how long I may stay at Turin, &c. &c. at present I am held prisoner in this town

town by the sudden swelling of two pitiful rivulets from the snows melting on the Alps—so that we cannot either advance to them, or retire back again to Lyons—for how long the gentlemen who are my fellow-travellers, and myself, shall languish in this state of vexatious captivity, heaven and earth surely know, for it rains as if they were coming together to settle the matter.—I had an agreeable journey to Lyons, and a joyous time there; dining and supping every day at the commandant's—Lord F. W—— I left there, and about a dozen English—If you see lord Offory, lord William Gordon, and my friend Mr. Crawford, remember me to them—if Wilkes is at Paris yet, I send him all kind wishes—present my compliments as well as thanks to my good friend Miss P——, and believe me, dear Sir, with all truth, yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXIII.

To the same.

Turin, November 15, 1765.

D E A R S I R,

AFTER many difficulties I have got here safe and found—though eight days in passing the mountains of Savoy.—I am stopped here for ten days by the whole country betwixt here and Milan being laid under water by continual rains—but I am very happy, and have found my way into a dozen houses already.—Tomorrow I am to be presented to the King, and when that ceremony is over, I shall have my hands full of engagements.—No English here but Sir James Macdonald who meets with much respect, and Mr. Ogilby. We are all together, and shall depart in peace together—My kind services to all—pray forward the inclosed—

Yours most truly,

L. S T E R N E.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X I V .

To the same.

Turin, November 28, 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I AM just leaving this place with Sir James Macdonald for Milan, &c.—We have spent a joyous fortnight here, and met with all kinds of honours—and with regret do we both bid adieu—but health on my side—and good sense on his—say 'tis better to be at Rome—you say at Paris—but you put variety out of the question.—I intreat you to forward the inclosed to Mrs. Sterne—My compliments to all friends, more particularly to those I most value, that includes Mr. F—— if he is at Paris.

I am yours most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R L X V .

To the same.

Florence, December 18, 1765.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE been a month passing the plains of Lombardy—stopping in my way at Milan, Parma, Placenza, and Bologna—with weather as delicious as a kindly April in England, and have been three days in crossing a part of the Apennines covered with thick snow—Sad transition!—I stay here three days to dine with our Plenipo Lords T——d and C——r, and in five days shall tread the Vatican and be introduced to all the Saints in the Pantheon.—I stay but fourteen days to pay these civilities, and then decamp for Naples.—Pray send the inclosed to my wife, and Becket's letter to London.

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X V I .

To Miss S——.

Naples, February 3, 1766.

MY DEAR GIRL,

YOUR letter, my Lydia, has made me both laugh and cry—Sorry am I that you are both so afflicted with the ague, and by all means I wish you both to fly from Tours, because I remember it is situated between two rivers, la Loire, and le Cher—which must occasion fogs, and damp unwholesome weather—therefore for the same reason go not to Bourges en Bresse—'tis as vile a place for agues.—I find myself infinitely better than I was—and hope to have added at least ten years to my life by this journey to Italy—the climate is heavenly, and I find new principles of health in me, which I have been long a stranger to—but trust me, my Lydia, I will find you out wherever you are, in May. Therefore I beg you to direct to me at Belloni's at Rome, that I may have some idea where you will be then.—The account you give me of Mrs. C—— is truly amiable, I

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shall

shall ever honour her—Mr. C—— is a diverting companion—what he said of your little French admirer was truly droll—the Marquis de —— is an impostor, and not worthy of your acquaintance—he only pretended to know me, to get introduced to your mother—I desire you will get your mother to write to Mr. C—— that I may discharge every debt, and then my Lydia, if I live, the produce of my pen shall be yours—If fate reserves me not that—the humane and good, part for thy father's sake, part for thy own, will never abandon thee!—If your mother's health will permit her to return with me to England, your summers I will render as agreeable as I can at Coxwold—your winters at York—you know my publications call me to London.—If Mr. and Mrs. C—— are still at Tours, thank them from me for their cordiality to my wife and daughter. I have purchased you some little trifles, which I shall give you when we meet, as proofs of affection from

Your fond father,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X V I I .

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

Naples, February 8, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I DESIRE Mrs. S—— may have what cash she wants—if she has not received it before now: she sends me word she has been in want of cash these three weeks—be so kind as to prevent this uneasiness to her—which is doubly so to me.—I have made very little use of your letters of credit, having since I left Paris taken up no more money than about fifty Louis at Turin, as much at Rome—and a few ducats here—and as I now travel from hence to Rome, Venice, through Vienna to Berlin, &c. with a gentleman of fortune, I shall draw for little more till my return—so you will have always enough to spare for my wife.—The beginning of March be so kind as to let her have a hundred pounds to begin her year with.—

There are a good many English here, very few in Rome, or other parts of Italy.—The air of Naples agrees very well with me—I

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shall

shall return fat—my friendship to all who honour me with theirs—Adieu my dear friend—
—I am ever yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

Naples, February 5, 1766.

MY DEAR H——,

TIS an age since I have heard from you—but as I read the London Chronicle, and find no tidings of your death, or that you are even at the point of it, I take it, as I wish it, that you have got over thus much of the winter free from the damps, both of climate and spirits, and here I am, as happy as a king after all, growing fat, sleek, and well liking—not improving in stature, but in breadth.—We have a jolly carnival of it—nothing but operas—punchinellos—festinos and masquerades—We, that is *nous autres*, are all dressing out for one this night at the Princess Francavivalla, which is to be superb.—The English dine with her, exclusive,

exclusive, and so much for small chat—except that I saw a little comedy acted last week with more expression and spirit, and true character than I shall see one hastily again.—I stay here till the holy week, which I shall pass at Rome, where I occupy myself a month—My plan was to have gone from thence for a fortnight to Florence—and then by Leghorn to Marseilles directly home—but am diverted from this by the repeated proposals of accompanying a gentleman, who is returning by Venice, Vienna, Saxony, Berlin, and so by the Spaw, and thence through Holland to England—'tis with Mr. E—— I have known him these three years, and have been with him ever since I reach'd Rome; and as I know him to be a good hearted young gentleman, I have no doubt of making it answer both his views and mine—at least I am persuaded we shall return home together, as we set out, with friendship and good will.—Write your next letter to me at Rome, and do me the following favour if it lies in your way, which I think it does—to get me a letter of recommendation to our ambassador, Lord Stormont at Vienna, I have not the honour to be known to his lordship, but Lords P—— or H——, or twenty you better know, would write a certificate for me, importing that I am not fallen out of the clouds. If this will cost my
 coufin

cousin little trouble, do inclose it in your next letter to me at Belloni,— You have left Skelton I trow a month, and I fear have had a most sharp winter, if one may judge of it from the severity of the weather here, and all over Italy, which exceeded any thing known till within these three weeks here, that the sun has been as hot as we could bear it.— Give my kind services to my friends—especially to the household of faith—my dear Garland—to Gilbert—to the worthy Colonel—to Cardinal S——, to my fellow labourer Pantagruel—dear cousin Antony, receive my kindest love and wishes.

Yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

P. S. Upon second thoughts, direct your next to me at Mr. W—— banker at Venice.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X I X .

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

Naples, February 14, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE last week to you, to desire you would let Mrs. S—— have what money she wanted—it may happen as that letter went inclosed in one to her at Tours, that you will receive this first—I have made little use of your letters of credit, as you will see by that letter, nor shall I want much, if any, till you see me, as I travel now in company with a gentleman—however as we return by Venice, Vienna, Berlin, &c. to the Spaw, I should be glad if you will draw me a letter of credit upon some one at Venice, to the extent of fifty louis—but I am persuaded I shall not want half of them—however in case of sickness or accidents, one would not go so long a rout without money in one's pocket.—The bankers here are not so conscientious as my friend P—— they would make me pay twelve per cent. if I was to get a letter here.—I beg your letters, &c. may be inclosed to Mr. Wat-
son

son at Venice—where we shall be in the Ascension.—I have received much benefit from the air of Naples—but quit it to be at Rome before the holy week.—There are about five and twenty English here—but most of them will be decamp'd in two months—there are scarce a third of the number at Rome—I suppose therefore that Paris is full—my warmest wishes attend you—with my love to Mr. F—— and compliments to all—I am, dear Sir, very faithfully,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

Sir James Macdonald is in the house with me, and is just recovering a long and most cruel fit of the rheumatism.

L E T T E R LXX.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

May 25, near Dijon.

DEAR ANTONY,

MY desire of seeing both my wife and girl has turn'd me out of my road towards a delicious Chateau of the Countess of M——, where

where I have been patriarching it these seven days with her ladyship, and half a dozen of very handsome and agreeable ladies—her ladyship has the best of hearts—a valuable present not given to every one.—To morrow, with regret, I shall quit this agreeable circle, and post it night and day to Paris, where I shall arrive in two days, and just wind myself up, when I am there, enough to roll on to Calais—so I hope to sup with you the king's birth day, according to a plan of sixteen days standing.—Never man has been such a wild-goose chase after a wife as I have been—after having sought her in five or six different towns, I found her at last in *Franche Comte*.—Poor woman! she was very cordial, &c. and begs to stay another year or so—my Lydia pleases me much—I found her greatly improved in every thing I wish'd her—I am most unaccountably well; and most accountably nonsensical—'tis at least a proof of good spirits, which is a sign and token given me in these latter days that I must take up again the pen.—In faith I think I shall die with it in my hand, but I shall live these ten years, my Antony, notwithstanding the fears of my wife, whom I left most melancholy on that account.—This is a delicious part of the world; most celestial weather, and we lie all day, without damps, upon the grass—and that is the whole of

of it, except the inner man, for her ladyship is not stingy of her wine, is inspired twice a day with the best Burgundy that grows upon the mountains, which terminate our lands here.—Surely you will not have decamp'd to Crazy Castle before I reach town.—The summer here is set in good earnest—'tis more than we can say for Yorkshire—I hope to hear a good tale of your alum works—have you no other works in hand? I do not expect to hear from you, so God prosper you—and all your undertakings.—I am, my dear cousin,

Most affectionately yours,

L. STERNE.

Remember me to Mr. G——, Cardinal S——, the Col. &c. &c. &c.

L E T T E R LXXI.—

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

York, June 28, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I WROTE last week to Mr. Becket to discharge the balance due to you—and I have receiv'd a letter from him telling me, that if you will draw upon him for one hundred

dred and sixty pounds, he will punctually pay it to your order—so send the draughts when you please—Mrs. S—— writes me word, she wants fifty pounds—which I desire you will let her have—I will take care to remit it to your correspondent—I have such an entire confidence in my wife, that she spends as little as she can, though she is confined to no particular sum—her expences will not exceed three hundred pounds a year, unless by ill health, or a journey—and I am very willing she should have it—and you may rely, in case it ever happens that she should draw for fifty or a hundred pounds extraordinary, that it and every demand shall be punctually paid—and with proper thanks; and for this the whole Shandean family are ready to stand security.—’Tis impossible to tell you how sorry I was that my affairs hurried me so quick through Paris, as to deprive me of seeing my old friend Mr. F—— and of the pleasure I proposed in being made known to his better half—but I have a probability of seeing him this winter.—Adieu dear Sir, and believe me

Most cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S. Mrs.

P. S. Mrs. S—— is going to Chalon, but your letter will find her I believe at Avignon—she is very poorly——and my daughter writes to me with sad grief of heart that she is worse.

L E T T E R LXXII.

To Mr. S——.

Coxwold, July 23, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

ONE might be led to think that there is a fatality regarding us—we make appointments to meet, and for these two years have not seen each others face but twice—we must try, and do better for the future—having fought you with more zeal, than C—— fought the Lord, in order to deliver you the books you bad me purchase for you at Paris—I was forced to pay carriage for them from London down to York—but as I shall neither charge you the books nor the carriage—'tis not worth talking about.—Never man, my dear Sir, has had a more agreeable tour than your Yorick—and at present I am in my peaceful retreat, writing the ninth volume of *Triftram*—I shall
publish

publish but one this year, and the next I shall begin a new work of four volumes, which when finish'd, I shall continue Tristram with fresh spirit.—What a difference of scene here! But with a disposition to be happy, 'tis neither this place, nor t'other that renders us the reverse.—In short each man's happiness depends upon himself—he is a fool if he does not enjoy it.

What are you about, dear S——? Give me some account of your pleasures—you had better come to me for a fortnight, and I will shew, or give you, if needful, a practical dose of my philosophy; but I hope you do not want it—if you did—'twould be the office of a friend to give it—Will not even our races tempt you? You see I use all arguments—Believe me yours most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

Coxwold, September 21, 1766.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IF Mrs. S—— should draw upon you for fifty louis d'ors, be so kind as to remit her the money—and pray be so good as not to draw

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upon

upon Mr. Becket for it, as he owes me nothing, but favour me with the draught, which I will pay to Mr. Selwin.—A young nobleman is now negotiating a jaunt with me for six weeks, about Christmas, to the Faubourg de St. Germain—I should like much to be with you for so long—and if my wife should grow worse, having had a very poor account of her in my daughter's last, I cannot think of her being without me—and however expensive the journey would be, I would fly to Avignon to administer consolation to both her and my poor girl—Wherever I am, believe me.

Dear Sir, yours,

L. STERNE.

My kind compliments to Mr. F——: tho' I have not the honour of knowing his rib, I see no reason why I may not present all due respects to the better half of so old a friend, which I do by these presents—with my friendliest wishes to Miss P——.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXIV.

To Mr. F—— at Paris.

Coxwold, Oct. 25, 1766.

MY DEAR F——,

I DESIRED you would be so good as to remit to Mrs. S—— fifty louis, a month ago—I dare say you have done it—but her illness must have cost her a good deal—therefore having paid the last fifty pounds into Mr. Selwin's hands, I beg you to send her thirty guineas more—for which I send a bank bill to Mr. Becket by this post—but surely had I not done so, you would not stick at it—for be assured, my dear F—— that the first Lord of the Treasury is neither more able or more willing, nor perhaps half so punctual, in repaying with honour all I ever can be in your books.—My daughter says her mother is very ill—and I fear going fast down by all accounts—'tis melancholy in her situation to want any aid that is in my power to give—do write to her—and believe me, with all compliments to your Hotel,

Yours very truly,

L. STERNE.

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LETTER

L E T T E R LXXV.

To the same.

York, November 25, 1766.

D E A R S I R,

I JUST received yours—and am glad that the balance of accounts is now paid to you— Thus far all goes well— I have received a letter from my daughter with the pleasing tidings that she thinks her mother out of danger—and that the air of the country is delightful, excepting the winds, but the description of the Chateau my wife has hired is really pretty—on the side of the Fountain of Vaucluse—with seven rooms of a floor, half furnished with tapestry, half with blue taffety, the permission to fish, and to have game; so many partridges a week, &c. and the price—guess! sixteen guineas a year—there's for you P———about the latter end of next month my wife will have occasion for a hundred guineas—and pray be so good, my dear sir, as to give orders that she may not be disappointed—she is going to spend the Carnival at Marseilles at Christmas—I shall be in London by Christmas week, and then shall balance this remittance to

to Mrs. S—— with Mr. S—— —I am going to ly in of another child of the Shandaick procreation, in town—I hope you wish me a safe delivery—I fear my friend Mr. F—— will have left town before I get there—Adieu dear Sir—I wish you every thing in this world which will do you good, for I am with unfeigned truth,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

Make my compliments acceptable to the good and worthy Baron d'Holbach—Miss P—— &c. &c.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

London, February 13, 1767.

DEAR P——,

I PAID yesterday, by Mr. Becket, a hundred guineas, or pounds I forget which, to Mr. Selwin—But you must remit to Mrs. S—— at Marseilles a hundred louis before she leaves that place, which will be in less

M 3 than

than three weeks. Have you got the ninth volume of Shandy?—'tis liked the best of all here.—I am going to publish a Sentimental Journey through France and Italy—the undertaking is protected and highly encouraged by all our nobleffe—'tis subscribed for, at a great rate—'twill be an original—in large quarto—the subscription half a guinea—If you can procure me the honour of a few names of men of science, or fashion, I shall thank you—they will appear in good company, as all the nobility here almost have honoured me with their names.—My kindest remembrance to Mr. F—— respects to Baron d'Holbach, and believe me ever ever yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To Miss S——.

Old Bond-street, February 23, 1767.

AND so, my Lydia! thy mother and thyself are returning back again from Marseilles to the banks of the Sorgue—and there thou wilt sit and fish for trouts—I envy you the sweet situation.—Petrarch's tomb I should like to pay a sentimental visit to— —the Fountain
tain

tain of Vacluse, by thy description, must be delightful—I am also much pleased with the account you give me of the Abbé de Sade—you find great comfort in such a neighbour—I am glad he is so good as to correct thy translation of my Sermons—dear girl go on, and make me a present of thy work—but why not the House of Mourning? 'tis one of the best. I long to receive the life of Petrarch, and his Laura, by your Abbé, but I am out of all patience with the answer the Marquis made the Abbé—'twas truly coarse, and I wonder he bore it with any christian patience—But to the subject of your letter—I do not wish to know who was the busy fool, who made your mother uneasy about Mrs. — 'tis true I have a friendship for her, but not to infatuation—I believe I have judgment enough to discern hers, and every woman's faults. I honour thy mother for her answer—"that she wished not to be informed, and begged him to drop the subject."—Why do you say that your mother wants money?—whilst I have a shilling, shall you not both have nine-pence out of it?—I think, if I have my enjoyments, I ought not to grudge you yours.—I shall not begin my Sentimental Journey till I get to Coxwold—I have laid a plan for something new, quite out of the beaten track.—I wish I had you with me—and I would introduce

you to one of the most amiable and gentlest of beings, whom I have just been with—not Mrs. ——, but a Mrs. J—— the wife of as worthy a man as I ever met with—I esteem them both. He possesses every manly virtue—honour and bravery are his characteristics, which have distinguished him nobly in several instances—I shall make you better acquainted with his character, by sending Orme's History, with the books you desired—and it is well worth your reading; for Orme is an elegant writer, and a just one; he pays no man a compliment at the expence of truth.—Mrs. J—— is kind—and friendly—of a sentimental turn of mind—and so sweet a disposition, that she is too good for the world she lives in—Just God! if all were like her, what a life would this be!—Heaven, my Lydia, for some wise purpose has created different beings—I wish my dear child knew her—thou art worthy of her friendship, and she already loves thee; for I sometimes tell her what I feel for thee.—This is a long letter—write soon, and never let your letters be studied one's—write naturally, and then you will write well.—I hope your mother has got quite well of her ague—I have sent her some of Huxham's tincture of the Bark. I will order you a guittar since the other is broke. Believe me, my Lydia, that I am yours affectionately,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

London, February 27, 1767.

D E A R S I R,

MY Daughter begs a present of me, and you must know I can deny her nothing—It must be strung with cat-gut, and of five chords—*si chiama in Italiano la chitera di cinque corde*—she cannot get such a thing at Marfeilles—at Paris one may have every thing—Will you be so good to my girl as to make her happy in this affair, by getting some musical body to buy one, and send it her to Avignon directed to Monsieur Teste?—I wrote last week to desire you would remit Mrs. S—— a hundred louis—'twill be all, except the guittar, I shall owe you—send me your account, and I will pay Mr. Selwin—direct to me at Mr. Becket's—all kind respects to my friend Mr. F—— and your sister.

Yours cordially,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To D. G—— Esq.

Thursday, Eleven o'Clock—Night.

D E A R S I R,

T WAS for all the world like a cut across my finger with a sharp pen-knife.—I saw the blood—gave it a suck—wrapt it up—and thought no more about it.

But there is more goes to the healing of a wound than this comes to:—a wound, unless 'tis a wound not worth talking of, but by the bye mine is, must give you some pain after.—Nature will take her own way with it—it must ferment—it must digest.

The story you told me of Triftram's pretended tutor, this morning—My letter by right should have set out with this sentence, and then the simile would not have kept you a moment in suspense.

This vile story, I say—though I then saw both how, and where it wounded—I felt little from it at first—or, to speak more honestly, though it ruins my simile, I felt a great deal of pain from it, but affected an air usual on such accidents, of less feeling than I had.

I have now got home to my lodgings since the play, you astonished me in it, and have
been

been unwrapping this self-same wound of mine, and shaking my head over it this half hour.

What the devil!—is there no one learned blockhead throughout the many schools of misapplied science in the Christian World, to make a *tutor* of for my Tristram?—*Ex quovis ligno non fit*.—Are we so run out of stock, that there is no one lumber-headed, muddle-headed, mortar-headed, pudding-headed *chap* amongst our doctors?—Is there no one single wight of much reading and no learning amongst the many children in my *mother's* nursery, who bid high for this charge—but I must disable my judgment by choosing a W——n? Vengeance! have I so little concern for the honour of my hero!—Am I a wretch so void of sense, so bereft of feeling for the figure he is to make in story, that I should chuse a præceptor to rob him of all the immortality I intended him? O! dear Mr. G——.

Malice is ingenious—unless where the excess of it outwits itself—I have two comforts in this stroke of it;—the first is, that this one is partly of this kind; and secondly, that it is one of the number of those which so unfairly brought poor Yorick to his grave.—The report might draw blood of the author of Tristram Shandy—but could not harm such a man as the author of the Divine Legation—God bless him! though, by the bye, and according to the

the natural course of descents, the blessing should come from him to me.

Pray have you no interest, lateral or collateral, to get me introduced to his Lordship?

Why do you ask?

My dear Sir, I have no claim to such an honour, but what arises from the honour and respect which in the progress of my work will be shewn the world I owe to so great a man.

Whilst I am talking of owing—I wish, my dear Sir, that any body would tell you, how much I am indebted to you.—I am determined never to do it myself, or say more upon the subject than this, that I am yours,

L. STERNE.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

L E T T E R S 3

OF THE LATE

Rev. Mr. LAURENCE STERNE,

To his most intimate FRIENDS.

WITH A

FRAGMENT in the Manner of *Rabelais*.

To which are prefix'd,

Memoirs of his Life and Family

Written by HIMSELF

And published by his Daughter, Mrs. MEDALLE,

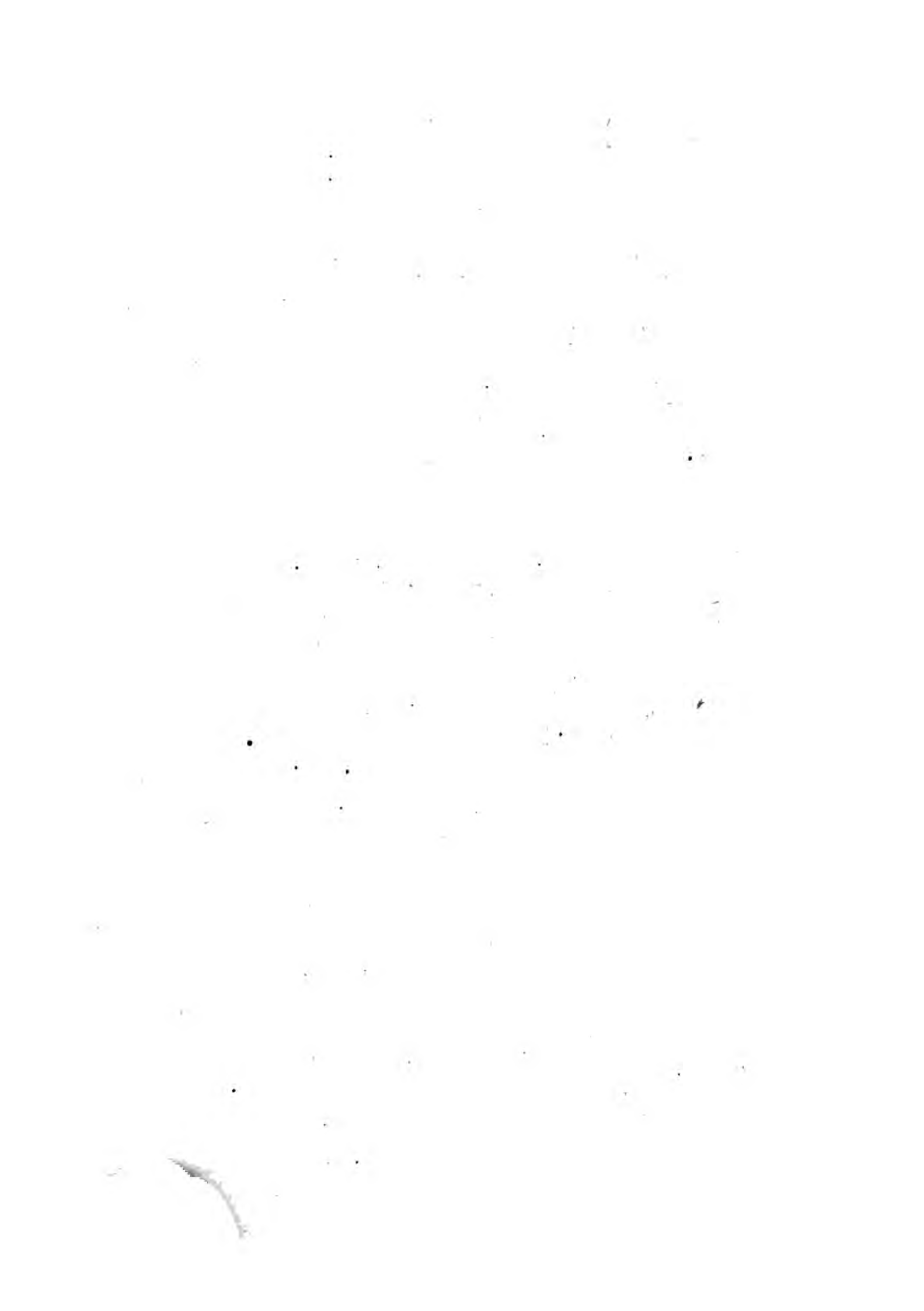
IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. III.

AL TENBURGH:

Printed for RICHTER.

1776.



L E T T E R S

L E T T E R LXXX.

To Miss S—.

Bond Street, April 9, 1767.

THIS letter, my dear Lydia, will distress thy good heart, for from the beginning thou wilt perceive no entertaining strokes of humour in it—I cannot be chearful when a thousand melancholy ideas surround me—I have met with a loss of near fifty pounds, which I was taken in for an extraordinary manner—but what is that loss in comparison of one I may experience?—Friendship is the balm and cordial of life, and without it, 'tis a heavy load not worth sustaining.—I am unhappy—thy mother and thyself at a distance from me, and what can compensate for such a destitution?—For God's sake persuade her to come and fix in England, for life is too short to waste in separation—and whilst she lives in one country, and I in another, many people will suppose it proceeds from choice—besides I want thee near me, thou child and darling of my heart!

heart!—I am in a melancholy mood, and my Lydia's eyes will smart with weeping when I tell her the cause that now affects me.—I am apprehensive the dear friend I mentioned in my last letter is going into a decline—I was with her two days ago, and I never beheld a being so alter'd—she has a tender frame, and looks like a drooping lily, for the roses are fled from her cheeks—I can never see or talk to this incomparable woman without bursting into tears—I have a thousand obligations to her, and I owe her more than her whole sex, if not all the world put together.—She has a delicacy in her way of thinking that few possess—our conversations are of the most interesting nature, and she talks to me of quitting this world with more composure than others think of living in it.—I have wrote an epitaph, of which I send thee a copy.—'Tis expressive of her modest worth—but may heav'n restore her! and may she live to write mine.

*Columns, and labour'd urns but vainly shew,
An idle scene of decorated woe.
The sweet companion, and the friend sincere,
Need no mechanic help to force the tear.
In heart felt numbers, never meant to shine
'Twill flow eternal o'er a hearse like thine;
'Twill flow, whilst gentle goodness has one friend,
Or kindred tempers have a tear to lend.*

Say

Say all that is kind of me to thy mother, and believe me my Lydia, that I love thee most truly—So adieu—I am what I ever was, and hope ever shall be, thy

Affectionate Father,

L. STERNE.

As to Mr. —— by your description he is a fat fool. I beg you will not give up your time to such a being—Send me some *batons pour les dents*—there are none good here.

L E T T E R L X X X I .

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Old Bond-street, April 21, 1767.

I AM sincerely affected, my dear Mr. and Mrs. J—— by your friendly enquiry, and the interest you are so good to take in my health. God knows I am not able to give a good account of myself, having passed a bad night in much feverish agitation.—My physician ordered me to bed, and to keep therein 'till some favourable change—I fell ill the moment I got to my lodgings—he says it is owing to my
 N taking

taking James's Powder, and venturing out on so cold a day as Sunday—but he is mistaken, for I am certain whatever bears that name must have efficacy with me—I was bled yesterday, and again to day, and have been almost dead, but this friendly enquiry from Gerrard-street has poured balm into what blood I have left—I hope still, and next to the sense of what I owe my friends, it shall be the last pleasurable sensation I will part with—if I continue mending, it will yet be some time before I shall have strength enough to get out in a carriage—my first visit will be a visit of true gratitude—I leave my kind friends to guess where—a thousand blessings go along with this, and may heaven preserve you both—Adieu my dear sir, and dear lady.

I am your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R LXXXII.

To the Earl of ———.

Old Bond-street, May 1, 1767.

M Y L O R D,

I WAS yesterday taking leave of all the town, with an intention of leaving it this day, but I am detained by the kindness of lord and lady S——, who have made a party to dine and sup on my account—I am impatient to set out for my solitude, for there the mind gains strength, and learns to lean upon herself—In the world it seeks or accepts of a few treacherous supports—the feigned compassion of one—the flattery of a second—the civilities of a third—the friendship of a fourth—they all deceive, and bring the mind back to where mine is retreating, to retirement, reflection, and books. My departure is fixed for to-morrow morning, but I could not think of quitting a place where I have received such numberless and unmerited civilities from your lordship, without returning my most grateful thanks, as well as my hearty acknowledgments for your friendly enquiry from Bath. Illness, my lord, has occasioned my silence—Death knocked at my door, but I would not admit him—the

call was both unexpected and unpleasant—and I am seriously worn down to a shadow—and still very weak, but weak as I am, I have as whimsical a story to tell you as ever befel one of my family—Shandy's nose, his name, his fast window are fools to it—it will serve at least to amuse you—The injury I did myself last month in catching cold upon James's Powder—fell, you must know, upon the worst part it could—the most painful, and most dangerous of any in the human body. It was on this crisis I called in an able surgeon and with him an able physician, both my friends, to inspect my disaster—'tis a venereal case, cried my two scientific friends—'tis impossible, however, to be that, replied I—for I have had no commerce whatever with the sex, not even with my wife, added I, these fifteen years.—You are, however, my good friend, said the surgeon, or there is no such case in the world—what the devil, said I, without knowing woman?—We will not reason about it, said the physician, but you must undergo a course of mercury—I will lose my life first, said I—and trust to nature, to time, or at the worst to death—so I put an end, with some indignation, to the conference—and determined to bear all the torments I underwent, and ten times more, rather than submit to be treated like a *sinner*, in a point where

where I had acted like a *saint*.—Now as the father of mischief would have it, who has no pleasure like that of dishonouring the righteous, it so fell out that from the moment I dismissed my doctors, my pains began to rage with a violence not to be expressed, or supported. Every hour became more intolerable.—I was got to bed, cried out, and raved the whole night, and was got up so near dead that my friends insisted upon my sending again for my physician and surgeon. I told them upon the word of a man of honour they were both mistaken, as to my case—but though they had reasoned wrong, they might act right; but that sharp as my sufferings were, I felt them not so sharp as the imputation which a venereal treatment of my case laid me under—They answered that these taints of the blood laid dormant twenty years, but they would not reason with me in a point wherein I was so delicate, but would do all the office for which they were called in, namely to put an end to my torment, which otherwise would put an end to me—and so have I been compelled to surrender myself—and thus, my dear lord, has your poor friend with all his sensibilities been suffering the chastisement of the grossest sensualist.—Was it not as ridiculous an embarrassment as ever Yorick's spirit was involved in?—Nothing but the purest con-

science of innocence could have tempted me to write this story to my wife, which by the bye would make no bad anecdote in Trifram Shandy's Life—I have mentioned it in my journal to Mrs. ——— In some respects there is no difference between my wife and herself —when they fare alike, neither can reasonably complain.—I have just received letters from France, with some hints that Mrs. Sterne and my Lydia are coming to England, to pay me a visit—if your time is not better employed, Yorick flatters himself he shall receive a letter from your lordship, *en attendant*. I am with the greatest regard,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most faithful humble servant,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

To J. D——n, Esq.

Old Bond-street, Friday Morning.

I WAS going, my dear D——n, to bed before I received your kind enquiry, and now my chaise stands at my door to take and convey
this

this poor body to its legal settlement.—I am ill, very ill—I languish most affectingly—I am sick both soul and body—it is a cordial to me to hear it is different with you—no man interests himself more in your happiness, and I am glad you are in so fair a road to it—enjoy it long, my D—— whilst I—no matter what—but my feelings are too nice for the world I live in—things will mend.—I dined yesterday with lord and lady S—— we talked much of you, and your goings on, for every one knows why Sunbury Hill is so pleasant a situation.—You rogue! you have lock'd up my boots—and I go bootless home—and fear I shall go bootless all my life—Adieu, gentlest and best of souls—adieu.

I am yours most affectionately,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

Newark, Monday 10 o'Clock in the morning.

MY DEAR COUSIN,

I HAVE got conveyed thus far like a bale of cadaverous goods consigned to Pluto and company—lying in the bottom of my chaise

most of the rout, upon a large pillow which I had the *prevoyance* to purchase before I set out—I am worn out—but press on to Barnby Moor to night, and if possible to York the next.—I know not what is the matter with me—but some *derangement* presses hard upon this machine—still I think it will not be over-set this bout.—My love to G——.—We shall all meet from the east, and from the south, and, as at the last, be happy together.—My kind respects to a few.—I am, dear H——

Truly yours,

L. S T E R N E.

L E T T E R L X X V.

From *Ignatius Sancho*, to Mr. *Sterne*.

R E V E R E N D S I R,

IT would be an insult on your humanity, or perhaps look like it, to apologize for the liberty I am taking.—I am one of those people whom the vulgar and illiberal call negroes.—The first part of my life was rather unlucky,
as

as I was placed in a family who judged ignorance the best and only security for obedience. — A little reading and writing I got by unwearied application. — The latter part of my life has been, through God's blessing, truly fortunate — having spent it in the service of one of the best and greatest families in the kingdom — my chief pleasure has been books — Philanthropy I adore — How very much, good Sir, am I, amongst millions, indebted to you for the character of your amiable Uncle Toby! — I declare I would walk ten miles in the dog-days, to shake hands with the honest Corporal. — Your sermons have touch'd me to the heart, and I hope have amended it, which brings me to the point — In your tenth discourse, page seventy-eight, in the second volume — is this very affecting passage — “Consider how great a part of our species in all ages down to this — have been trod under the feet of cruel and capricious tyrants, who would neither hear their cries, nor pity their distresses. — Consider slavery — what it is — how bitter a draught — and how many millions are made to drink of it.” — Of all my favourite authors not one has drawn a tear in favour of my miserable black brethren — excepting yourself, and the humane author of Sir Geo. Ellifon. — I think you will forgive me; I am sure you will applaud me for beseeching you to give one half hour's
 atten-

attention to slavery, as it is at this day practised in our West Indies.—That subject handled in your striking manner would ease the yoke, perhaps, of many—but if only of one——gracious God! what a feast to a benevolent heart! and sure I am, you are an epicurean in acts of charity.—You who are universally read, and as universally admired—you could not fail.—Dear Sir, think in me you behold the uplifted hands of thousands of my brother Moors. Grief, you pathetically observe, is eloquent: figure to yourself their attitudes; hear their supplicating addresses!—alas! you cannot refuse.—Humanity must comply—in which hope I beg permission to subscribe myself,

Reverend Sir, &c.

IGNATIVUS SANCHO.

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

From Mr. *Sterne*, to *Ignatius Sancho*.

Coxwold, July 27, 1766.

THERE is a strange coincidence, Sancho, in the little events, as well as in the great ones, of this world: for I had been writing a
tender

tender tale of the sorrows of a friendless poor negro-girl, and my eyes had scarce done smarting with it, when your letter of recommendation, in behalf of so many of her brethren and sisters, came to me—but why *her brethren?* or yours, Sancho! any more than mine? It is by the finest tints, and most insensible gradations, that nature descends from the fairest face about St. James's, to the foulest complexion in Africa:—at which tint of these is it, that the ties of blood are to cease? and how many shades must we descend lower still in the scale, ere mercy is to vanish with them? But 'tis no uncommon thing, my good Sancho, for one half of the world to use the other half of it like brutes, and then endeavour to make them so.—For my own part, I never look *westward*, when I am in a pensive mood at least, but I think of the burthens which our brothers and sisters are *there* carrying, and could I ease their shoulders from one ounce of them, I declare I would set out this hour upon a pilgrimage to Mecca for their sakes—which by the bye, Sancho, exceeds your walk of ten miles in about the same proportion, that a visit of humanity should one of mere form.—However, if you meant my Uncle Toby more he is your debtor.—If I can weave the tale I have wrote into the work I am about—'tis at the service of the afflicted.—and a much greater

greater matter; for in serious truth, it casts a sad shade upon the world, that so great a part of it are, and have been so long bound in chains of darkness, and in chains of misery; and I cannot but both respect and felicitate you, that by so much laudable diligence you have broke the one—and that by falling into the hands of so good and merciful a family, Providence has rescued you from the other.

And so good-hearted Sancho adieu! and believe me I will not forget your letter.

Yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER LXXXVII.

To *Ignatius Sancho*.

Bond Street, Saturday.

I WAS very sorry, my good Sancho, that I was not at home to return my compliments by you for the great courtesy of the Duke of M—g—'s family to me, in honouring my list of subscribers with their names—for which I bear them all thanks.—But you have something to add, Sancho, to what I owe your
good

good will also on this account, and that is to send me the subscription money, which I find a necessity of duning my best friends for before I leave town—to avoid the perplexities of both keeping pecuniary accounts, for which I have very slender talents, and collecting them, for which I have neither strength of body or mind, and so, good Sancho dun the Duke of M—— the Duchefs of M—— and Lord M—— for their subscriptions, and lay the sin, and money with it too, at my door—I wish so good a family every blessing they merit, along with my humblest compliments. You know, Sancho, that I am your friend and well-wisher,

L. STERNE.

P. S. I leave town on Friday morning—and should on Thursday, but that I stay to dine with Lord and Lady S——.

LETTER

L E T T E R L X X X V I I I .

To *Ignatius Sancho*.

Coxwold, June 30.

I MUST acknowledge the courtesy of my good friend Sancho's letter, were I ten times busier than I am, and must thank him too for the many expressions of his good will, and good opinion—'Tis all affectation to say a man is not gratified with being praised—we only want it to be sincere—and then it will be taken, Sancho, as kindly as yours. I left town very poorly—and with an idea I was taking leave of it for ever—but good air, a quiet retreat, and quiet reflections along with it, with an ass to milk, and another to ride out upon, if I chuse it, all together do wonders.—I shall live this year at least, I hope, be it but to give the world, before I quit it, as good impressions of me, as you have, Sancho. I would only covenant for just so much health and spirits, as are sufficient to carry my pen through the task I have set it this summer.—But I am a resign'd being, Sancho, and take health and sickness as I do light and darkness, or the vicissitudes of seasons—that is, just as it pleases God to send them—and accommodate myself

myself to their periodical returns, as well as I can—only taking care, whatever befalls me in this silly world—not to lose my temper at it.—This I believe, friend Sancho, to be the truest philosophy—for this we must be indebted to ourselves, but not to our fortunes.—Farewel—I hope you will not forget your custom of giving me a call at my lodgings next winter—in the mean time I am very cordially,

My honest friend Sancho,

Yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

To Mrs. H——.

Coxwold; October 12, 1767.

EVER since my dear H—— wrote me word she was mine, more than ever woman was, I have been racking my memory to inform me where it was that you and I had that affair together.—People think that I have had many, some in body, some in mind, but as I told

told you before, you have had me more than more than any woman—therefore you must had me, H——, both in mind, and in body.—Now I cannot recollect where it was, nor exactly when—it could not be the lady in Bond-street, or Grosvenor-street, or —— Square, or Pall-mall.—We shall make it out, H—— when we meet—I impatiently long for it——’tis no matter—I cannot now stand writing to you to-day—I will make it up next post—for dinner is upon table, and if I make Lord F—— stay, he will not frank this.—How do you do? Which parts of Triftram do you like best?—God bless you.

Yours,

L. S T E R N E.

L E T T E R X C.

To Mrs. H——.

Coxwold, November 15, 1767.

NOW be a good dear woman, my H——, and execute these commissions well—and when I see you I will give you a kifs——
there’s

there's for you!—But I have something else for you which I am fabricating at a great rate, and that is my Sentimental Journey, which shall make you cry as much as it has affected me—or I will give up the business of sentimental writing—and write to the body—that is H—— what I am doing in writing to you—but you are a *good body*, which is worth half a score mean souls.—

I am yours, &c. &c.

L. SHANDY.

L E T T E R X C I.

To his Excellency Sir G. M——.

Coxwold, December 3, 1767.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

FOR though you are his Excellency, and I still but parson Yorick—I still must call you so—and were you to be next Emperor of Russia, I could not write to you, or speak of you, under any other relation—I felicitate you, I don't say how much, because I can't—I always had something like a kind of re-

vellation within me, which pointed out this track for you, in which you are so happily advanced—it was not only my wishes for you, which were ever ardent enough to impose upon a visionary brain, but I thought I actually saw you just where you now are—and that is just, my dear Macartney, where you should be.—I should long, long ago have acknowledged the kindness of a letter of yours from Petersbourg; but hearing daily accounts you was leaving it—this is the first time I knew well *where* my thanks would find you—how they will find you, I know well—that is—the same I ever knew you. In three weeks I shall kiss your hand—and sooner, if I can finish my Sentimental Journey.—The duce take all sentiments! I wish there was not one in the world!—My wife is come to pay me a sentimental visit as far as from Avignon—and the *politeffes* arising from such a proof of her urbanity, has robb'd me of a month's writing, or I had been in town now.—I am going to ly-in; being at Christmas at my full reckoning—and unless what I shall bring forth is not *press'd* to death by these devils of printers, I shall have the honour of presenting to you a *couple of as clean brats* as ever chaste brain conceiv'd—they are frolicksome too, *mais cela n'empeche pas*—I put your name down with many wrong and right *honour-ables,*

ables, knowing you would take it not well if I did not make myself happy with it.

Adieu my dear friend,

Believe me yours, &c.

L. STERNE.

P. S. If you see Mr. Crawford, tell him I greet him kindly.

L E T T E R X C I I .

To J. H. S——, Esq.

LITERAS vestras lipidiffimas, mi confobrine, confobrinis meis omnibus carior, accepi die Veneris; sed postea non rediebat versus aquilonem eo die, aliter scripsissem prout desiderabas: nescio quid est materia cum me, sed sum fatigatus et aegrotus de mea uxore plus quam unquam—et sum possessus cum diabolo qui pellet me in urbem—et tu es possessus cum eodem malo spiritu qui te tenet in deserto esse tentatum ancillis tuis, et perturbatum uxore tua—crede mihi, mi Antoni, quod isthaec non est via ad salutem siue hodiernam, siue aeternam; num tu incipis cogitare de pecunia,

cunia, quae, ut ait Sanctus Paulus, est radix omnium malorum, et non satis dicis in corde tuo, ego Antonius de Castello Infirmo, sum iam quadraginta et plus annos natus, et expleui octauum meum lustrum, et tempus est me curare, et meipsum Antonium facere hominem felicem, et liberum, et mihi met ipsi benefacere, ut exhortatur Solomon, qui dicit quod nihil est melius in hac vita, quam quod homo viuat festiue, et quod edat et bibat, et bono fruatur, quia hoc est sua portio et dos in hoc mundo.

Nunc te scire vellemus, quod non debeo esse reprehendi pro festinando eundo ad Londinum, quia Deus est testis, quod non propero prae gloria, et pro me ostendere; nam diabolus iste qui me intrauit, non est diabolus vanus, ut consobrinus suus Lucifer— sed est diabolus amabundus, qui non vult sinere me esse solum; nam cum non cumbendo cum vxore mea sum mentulatioꝛ quam par est— et sum mortaliter in amore— et sum fatuus; ergo tu me, mi care Antoni, excufabis, quoniam tu fuisti in amore, et per mare et per terras iuisti et festinaſti ſicut diabolus, eodem te propellente diabolo. Habeo multa ad te ſcribere— ſed ſcribo hanc epiſtolam, in domo coffeataria et plena ſocioꝛum ſtrepitoꝛum, qui non permittunt me cogitare vnā cogitationem.

Saluta

Saluta amicum Panty meum, cuius literis respondebo — saluta amicos in domo Gifbrofensi, et oro, credas me vinculo confobrinitatis et amoris ad te, mi Antoni, devinctissimum,



L. STERNE.

L E T T E R X C I I I .

To A. L——e, Esq.

Coxwold, June 7, 1767.

DEAR L——e,

I HAD not been many days at this peaceful cottage before your letter greeted me with the seal of friendship, and most cordially do I thank you for so kind a proof of your good will—I was truly anxious to hear of the recovery of my sentimental friend—but I would not write to enquire after her, unless I could have sent her the testimony without the tax, for even how-d'yes to invalids, or those that have lately been so, either call to mind what is past or what may return—at least I find it so.—I am as happy as a prince, at Coxwold—and I wish you could see in how princely a manner I live—'tis a land of plenty. I sit

down alone to venison, fish and wild fowl, or a couple of fowls or ducks, with curds, and strawberries, and cream, and all the simple plenty with a rich valley under, Hamilton Hills, can produce—with a clean cloth on my table—and a bottle of wine on my right hand to drink your health. I have a hundred hens and chickens about my yard—and not a parishioner catches a hare, or a rabbit, or a trout, but he brings it as an offering to me. If solitude would cure a love-sick heart, I would give you an invitation—but absence and time lessen no attachment which virtue inspires.—I am in high spirits—care never enters this cottage—I take the air every day in my post chaise, with my two long tail'd horses—they turn out good ones; and as to myself, I think I am better upon the whole for the medicines, and regimen I submitted to in town—May you, dear L——, want neither the one, nor the other.

Yours truly,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R X C I V .

To the same.

Coxwold, June 30, 1767.

I AM in still better health, my dear L——e, than when I wrote last to you—owing I believe to my riding out every day with my friend H—— whose castle lies near the sea—and there is a beach as even as a mirror, of five miles in length before it—where we daily run races in our chaises, with one wheel in the sea, and the other on the land.—D—— has obtain'd his fair Indian, and has this post sent a letter of enquiries after Yorick, and his Bramine. He is a good soul and interests himself much in our fate—I cannot forgive you, L——e, for your folly in saying you intend to get introduced to the——I despise them, and I shall hold your understanding much cheaper than I now do, if you persist in a resolution so unworthy of you.—I suppose Mrs. J—— telling you they were sensible, is the ground-work you go upon—by—they are not clever; tho' what is commonly call'd wit, may pass for literature on the other side of Temple-bar.—You say Mrs. J—— thinks them amiable—the judges too favourably;

but I have put a stop to her intentions of visiting them.—They are bitter enemies of mine, and I am even with them. La Bramine assured me they used their endeavours with her to break off her friendship with me, for reasons I will not write, but tell you.—I said enough of them before she left England, and though she yielded to me in every other point, yet in this she obstinately persisted.—Strange infatuation!—but I think I have effected my purpose by a falsity, which Yorick's friendship to the Bramine can only justify.—I wrote her word that the most amiable of women reiterated my request, that she would not write to them. I said too, she had conceal'd many things for the sake of her peace of mind—when in fact, L——e, this was merely a child of my own brain, made Mrs. J——'s by adoption, to enforce the argument I had before urged so strongly.—Do not mention this circumstance to Mrs. J——, 'twould displease her—and I had no design in it but for the Bramine to be a friend to herself.—I ought now to be busy from sun rise, to sun set, for I have a book to write—a wife to receive—an estate to sell—a parish to superintend, and what is worst of all, a disquieted heart to reason with—these are continual calls upon me.—I have receiv'd half a dozen letters to press me to join my friends at Scarborough, but I
am

am at present deaf to them all.—I perhaps may pass a few days there something later in the season, not at present——and so dear L——e, adieu.

I am most cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R X C V .

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Coxwold, July 6, 1767.

IT is with as much true gratitude as ever heart felt, that I sit down to thank my dear friends Mr. and Mrs. J—— for the continuation of their attention to me; but for this last instance of their humanity and politeness to me, I must ever be their debtor—I never can thank you enough, my dear friends, and yet I thank you from my soul—and for the single day's happiness your goodness would have sent me, I wish I could send you back thousands—I cannot, but they will come of themselves—and so God bless you.—I have had twenty times my pen in my hand since I came down to write one letter to you both in Gerrard-street

freet—but I am a shy kind of a soul at the bottom, and have a jealousy about troubling my friends, especially about myself.—I am now got perfectly well, but was a month after my arrival in the country in but a poor state—my body has got the start, and is at present more at ease than my mind—but this world is a school of trials, and so heaven's will be done!—I hope you have both enjoyed all that I have wanted—and to compleat your joy, that your little lady flourishes like a vine at your table, to which I hope to see her preferred by next winter.—I am now beginning to be truly busy at my Sentimental Journey—the pains and sorrows of this life having retarded its progress—but I shall make up my lee-way, and overtake every body in a very short time.—

What can I send you that Yorkshire produces? tell me—I want to be of use to you, for I am, my dear friends, with the truest value and esteem,

Your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R X C V I.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

York, July 20, 1767.

M Y D E A R P——,

BE so kind as to forward what letters are arrived for Mrs. S—— at your office by to-day's post, or the next, and she will receive them before she quits Avignon, for England—she wants to lay out a little money in an annuity for her daughter—advise her to get her own life ensured in London, lest my Lydia should die before her.—If there are any packets, send them with the ninth volume of Shandy, which she has failed of getting—she says she has drawn for fifty louis—when she leaves Paris, send by her my account.—Have you got me any French subscriptions, or subscriptions in France?—Present my kindest service to Miss P——, I know her politeness and good nature will incline her to give Mrs. J—— her advice about what she may venture to bring over.—I hope every thing goes on well, though never half so well as I wish.
—God

—God prosper you, my dear friend—Believe me most warmly

Yours,

L. STERNE.

The sooner you send me the gold snuff box, the better—'tis a present from my best friend.

L E T T E R X C V I I .

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Coxwold, August 2, 1767.

MY dear friends Mr. and Mrs. J—— are infinitely kind to me in sending now and then a letter to enquire after me—and to acquaint me how they are.—You cannot conceive, my dear lady, how truly I bear a part in your illness.—I wish Mr. J—— would carry you to the south of France in pursuit of health—but why need I wish it when I know his affection will make him do that and ten times as much to prevent a return of those symptoms which alarmed him so much in the spring—Your politeness and humanity is always contriving to treat me agreeably, and what you promise next winter, will be perfectly so—
but

but you must get well—and your little dear girl must be of the party with her parents and friends to give it a relish—I am sure you shew no partiality but what is natural and praiseworthy in behalf of your daughter, but I wonder my friends will not find her a play-fellow, and I both hope and advise them not to venture along through this warfare of life without two strings at least to their bow.—I had letters from France by last night's post, by which, by some fatality, I find not one of my letters has reached Mrs. S—— This gives me concern, as it wears the aspect of unkindness, which she by no means merits from me.—My wife and dear girl are coming to pay me a visit for a few months; I wish I may prevail with them to tarry longer.—You must permit me, dear Mrs. J—— to make my Lydia known to you, if I can prevail with my wife to come and spend a little time in London, as she returns to France.—I expect a small parcel—may I trouble you before you write next to send to my lodgings to ask if there is any thing directed to me that you can enclose under cover?—I have but one excuse for this freedom which I am prompted to use from a persuasion that it is doing you pleasure to give you an opportunity of doing an obliging thing—and as to myself I rest satisfied, for 'tis only scoring up another debt of thanks to the
millions

millions I owe you both already—Receive a thousand and a thousand thanks, yes and with them ten thousand friendly wishes for all you wish in this world—May my friend Mr. J—— continue blest'd with good health, and may his good lady get perfectly well, there being no woman's health or comfort I so ardently pray for.—Adieu my dear friends—believe me most truly and faithfully yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S. In Eliza's last letter dated from St. Jago she tells me, as she does you, that she is extremely ill—God protect her.—By this time surely she has set foot upon dry land at Madras—I heartily wish her well, and if Yorick was with her, he would tell her so—but he is cut off from this, by bodily absence—I am present with her in spirit however—but what is that you will say?

LETTER

L E T T E R XCVIII.

To J. H. S——, Esq.

Coxwold, August 11, 1767.

M Y D E A R H——,

I AM glad all has passed with so much amity *inter te et filium Marcum tuum*, and that Madame has found grace in thy sight—All is well that ends well—and so much for moralizing upon it. I wish you could, or would, take up your parable, and prophecy as much good concerning me and my affairs.—Not one of my letters have got to Mrs. S—— since the notification of her intentions, which has a pitiful air on my side, though I have wrote her six or seven.—I imagine she will be here the latter end of September, though I have no date for it, but her impatience, which having suffered by my supposed silence I am persuaded will make her fear the worst—if that is the case she will fly to England—a most natural conclusion.—You did well to discontinue all commerce with James's powder—as you are so well, rejoice therefore, and let your heart be merry—mine ought upon the same score—for I never have been so well since I left college—

lege—and should be a marvellous happy man, but for some reflections which bow down my spirits—but if I live but even three or four years, I will acquit myself with honour—and—no matter! we will talk this over when we meet.—If all ends as temperately as with you, and that I find grace, &c. &c. I will come and sing *Te Deum*, or drink *poculum elevatum*, or do any thing with you in the world.—I should depend upon G——'s critick upon my head, as much as Moliere's old woman upon his comedies—when you do not want her society let it be carried into your bed-chamber to flay her, or clap it upon her bum—to——and give her my blessing as you do it—

My postillion has set me a-ground for a week by one of my pistols bursting in his hand, which he taking for granted to be quite shot off—he instantly fell upon his knees and said: Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, at which like a good Christian, he stopped, not remembering any more of it—the affair was not so bad as he at first thought, for it has only *bursten* two of his fingers, he says.—I long to return to you, but I sit here alone as solitary and sad as a tom cat, which by the bye is all the company I keep—he follows me from the parlour, to the kitchen, into the garden, and every place—I wish I had

had a dog—my daughter will bring me one
—and so God be about you, and strengthen
your faith—I am affectionately, dear cousin,
yours,

L. STERNE.

My service to the C—— though they are
from home, and to Panty.

LETTER XCIX.

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Coxwold, August 13, 1767.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

IBUT copy your great civility to me in
writing you word, that I have this moment
received another letter wrote eighteen days
after the date of the last from St. Jago—If our
poor friend could have wrote another letter to
England, you would in course have had it—
but I fear from the circumstance of great hurry
and bodily disorder in which she was, when
she dispatched this, she might not have time.
—In case it has so fallen out, I send you the
contents of what I have received—and that is a
melancholy history of herself and her sufferings,

since they left St. Jago—continual and most violent rheumatism all the time—— a fever brought on with fits, and attended with delirium, and every terrifying symptom—the recovery from this left her low and emaciated to a skeleton.—I give you the pain of this detail with a bleeding heart, knowing how much at the same time it will affect yours.—The three or four last days of her journal leave us with hopes she will do well at last, for she is more chearful—and seems to be getting into better spirits; and health will follow in course. They have crossed the line—are much becalmed, which with other delays she fears they will lose their passage to Madras— and be some months sooner for it at Bombay.—Heav'n protect her, for she suffers much, and with uncommon fortitude.—She writes much to me about her dear friend Mrs. J—— in her last packet.—In truth, my good lady, she loves and honours you from her heart, but if she did not, I should not esteem her, or wish her so well as I do.—Adieu, my dear friends—you have few in the world more truly and cordially

Yours,

L. STERNE.

P. S.

P. S. I have just received, as a present from a man I shall ever love, a most elegant gold snuff box, fabricated for me at Paris—'tis not the first pledge I have received of his friendship.—May I presume to enclose you a letter of chit-chat which I shall write to Eliza? I know you will write yourself, and my letter may have the honour to *chaperon* yours to India—they will neither of them be the worse received for going together in company, but I fear they will get late in the year to their destined port, as they go first to Bengal.

L E T T E R C.

To Miss S——.

Coxwold, August 24, 1767.

I AM truly surpris'd, my dear Lydia, that my last letter has not reached thy mother, and thyself—it looks most unkind on my part, after your having wrote me word of your mother's intention of coming to England, that she has not received my letter to welcome you both—and though in that I said I wish'd you would defer your journey 'till March, for before that time I should have published my sentimental work, and should be in town to

receive you—yet I will shew you more real politeffes than any you have met with in France, as mine will come warm from the heart.—I am sorry you are not here at the races, but *les fêtes champêtres* of the Marquis de Sade have made you amends.—I know B—— very well, and he is what in France would be called admirable—that would be but so here—You are right—he studies nature more than any, or rather most of the French comedians—If the Empress of Ruffia pays him and his wife a pension of twenty thousand livres a year, I think he is very well off.—The folly of staying 'till after twelve for supper—that you two excommunicated beings might have meat!—“his conscience would not let it be served before.”—Surely the Marquis thought you both, being English, could not be satisfied without it.—I would have given not my gown and cassock, for I have but one, but my topaz ring to have seen the *petits maitres et maitresses* go to mafs, after having spent the night in dancing.—As to my pleasures they are few in compass.—My poor cat sits purring beside me—your lively French dog shall have his place on the other side of my fire—but if he is as devilish as when I last saw him, I must tutor him, for I will not have my cat abused—in short I will have nothing devilish about me—a combustion would spoil a sentimental thought.

Another

Another thing I must desire—do not be alarmed—'tis to throw all your rouge pots into the Sorgue before you set out—I will have no rouge put on in England—and do not bewail them as ——— did her silver feringue or glyfter equipage which she lost in a certain river—but take a wise resolution of doing without rouge.—I have been three days ago bad again—with a spitting of blood—and that unfeeling brute * * * * * came and drew my curtains, and with a voice like a trumpet, halloo'd in my ear—z——ds, what a fine kettle of fish have you brought yourself to, Mr. S——! In a faint voice, I bad him leave me, for comfort fure was never administered in so rough a manner.—Tell your mother I hope she will purchase what either of you may want at Paris—'tis an occasion not to be lost—so write to me from Paris that I may come and meet you in my post-chaife with my long-tailed horses—and the moment you have both put your feet in it, call it hereafter yours.—Adieu dear Lydia—believe me, what I ever shall be,

Your affectionate father,

L. STERNE.

I think I shall not write to Avignon any more, but you will find one for you at Paris—once more adieu.

L E T T E R . C I .

To Sir W——.

September 19, 1767.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOU are perhaps the drollest being in the universe—Why do you banter me so about what I wrote to you?—Though I told you, every morning I jump'd into Venus's lap, meaning thereby the sea, was you to infer from that, that I leap'd into the ladies beds afterwards?—The body guides you—the mind me.—I have wrote the most whimsical letter to a lady that was ever read, and talk'd of body and soul too—I said she had made me vain, by saying she was mine more than ever woman was—but she is not the lady of Bond-street nor —— square, nor the lady who supp'd with me in Bond-street on scollop'd oysters, and other such things—nor did she ever go *tête-à-tête* with me to Salt Hill.—Enough of such nonsense.—The past is over—and I can justify myself unto myself—can you do as much?—No faith!—“You can feel!” Aye so can my cat, when he hears a female caterwauling on the house top—but
cater-

caterwauling disgusts me. I had rather raise a gentle flame, than have a different one raised in me.—Now, I take heav'n to witness, after all this *badinage* my heart is innocent—and the sporting of my pen is equal, just equal, to what I did in my boyish days, when I got astride of a stick, and gallop'd away—The truth is this—that my pen governs me—not me my pen.—You are much to blame if you dig for marle, unless you are sure of it.—I was once such a puppy myself, as to pare, and burn, and had my labour for my pains, and two hundred pounds out of pocket.—Curse on farming, said I, I will try if the pen will not succeed better than the spade.—The following up of that affair, I mean farming, made me lose my temper, and a cart load of turneps was, I thought, very dear at two hundred pounds.—

In all your operations may your own good sense guide you—bought experience is the devil.—Adieu, adieu!—Believe me

Yours most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C I I .

To the same.

Coxwold, Sept. 27, 1767.

D E A R S I R,

YOU are arrived at Scarborough, when all the world has left it—but you are an unaccountable being, and so there is nothing more to be said on the matter—You wish me to come to Scarborough, and join you to read a work that is not yet finish'd—besides I have other things in my head.—My wife will be here in three or four days, and I must not be found straying in the wilderness—but I have been there.—As for meeting you at Bluit's, with all my heart—I will laugh, and drink my barley water with you—As soon as I have greeted my wife and daughter, and hired them a house at York, I shall go to London where you generally are in spring—and then my Sentimental Journey will, I dare say, convince you that my feelings are from the heart, and that that heart is not of the worst of molds—praised be God for my sensibility! Though it has often made me wretched, yet I would not exchange it for all the pleasures
the

the grossest sensualist ever felt.— Write to me the day you will be at York—'tis ten to one but I may introduce you to my wife and daughter. Believe me,

My good Sir,

Ever yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R CIII.

To Mr. P—— at Paris.

York, October 1, 1767.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE order'd my friend Becket to advance for two months your account which my wife this day deliver'd—she is in raptures with all your civilities.—This is to give you notice to draw upon your correspondent—and Becket will deduct out of my publication.—Tomorrow morning I repair with her to Coxwold, and my Lydia seems transported with the sight of me.—Nature, dear P——, breathes in all her composition; and except a little
little

little vivacity—which is a fault in the world we live in—I am fully content with her mother's care of her.—Pardon this digression from business—but 'tis natural to speak of those we love.—As to the subscriptions which your friendship has procured me, I must have them to incorporate with my lists which are to be prefix'd to the first volume.—My wife and daughter join in millions of thanks—they will leave me the 1st. of December.—Adieu, adieu—believe me,

Your's most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C I V .

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Coxwold, October 3, 1767.

I HAVE suffered under a strong desire for above this fortnight, to send a letter of enquiries after the health and the well-being of my dear friends, Mr. and Mrs. J——, and I do assure you both, 'twas merely owing to a little modesty in my temper not to make my good-will troublesome, where I have so much,
and

and to those I never think of, but with ideas of sensibility and obligation, that I have refrain'd.—Good God! to think I could be in town, and not go the first step I made to Gerrard Street!—My mind and body must be at sad variance with each other, should it ever fall out that it is not both the first and last place also where I shall betake myself, were it only to say, “God blefs you.”—May you have every blessing he can send you!—'tis a part of my litany, where you will always have a place whilst I have a tongue to repeat it.—And so you heard I had left Scarborough, which you would no more credit, than the reasons assign'd for it—I thank you for it kindly—though you have not told me what they were, being a shrewd divine, I think I can guess.—I was ten days at Scarborough in September, and was hospitably entertained by one of the best of our Bishops; who, as he kept house there, press'd me to be with him—and his household consisted of a gentleman, and two ladies—which, with the good Bishop, and myself, made so good a party that we kept much to ourselves.—I made in this time a connection of great friendship with my mitred host, who would gladly have taken me with him back to Ireland.—However we all left Scarborough together, and lay fifteen miles off, where we kindly parted—Now it was

was supposed, and have since heard, that I e'en went on with the party to London, and this I suppose was the reason assign'd for my being there.—I dare say charity would add a little to the account, and give out that 'twas on the score of one, and perhaps both of the ladies—and I will excuse charity on that head, for a heart disengaged could not well have done better.—I have been hard writing ever since—and hope by Christmas I shall be able to give a gentle rap at your door—and tell you how happy I am to see my two good friends.—I assure you I spur on my Pegasus more violently upon that account, and am now determined not to draw bit, till I have finish'd this Sentimental Journey—which I hope to lay at your feet, as a small, but a very honest, testimony of the constant truth, with which I am,

My dear friends,

Your ever obliged

And grateful,

L. STERNE.

P. S. My wife and daughter arrived here last night from France.—My girl has return'd
an

an elegant accomplish'd little flut—my wife
—but I hate to praise my wife—'tis as much
as decency will allow to praise my daughter.
—I suppose they will return next summer to
France.—They leave me in a month to reside
at York for the winter—and I stay at Cox-
would till the first of January.

L E T T E R C V.

To Mrs. F——.

Coxwould, Friday.

DEAR MADAM,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for
your obliging enquiry after me—I got down
last summer very much worn out—and much
worse at the end of my journey—I was forced
to call at his Grace's house, the Archbishop of
York, to refresh myself a couple of days
upon the road near Doncaster—Since I got
home to quietness, and temperance, and good
books, and good hours, I have mended—
and am now very stout—and in a fortnight's
time shall perhaps be as well as you yourself
could wish me.—I have the pleasure to ac-
quaint you that my wife and daughter are
arrived

arrived from France.—I shall be in town to greet my friends by the first of January.—Adieu dear madam—believe me

Yours sincerely,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R. CVI.

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Coxwold, November 12, 1767.

FORGIVE me, dear Mrs. J——, if I am troublesome in writing something betwixt a letter and a card, to enquire after you and my good friend Mr. J——, whom 'tis an age since I have heard a syllable of.—I think so however, and never more felt the want of a house I esteem so much, as I do now when I can hear tidings of it so seldom—and have nothing to recompence my desires of seeing its kind possessors, but the hopes before me of doing it by Christmas.—I long sadly to see you—and my friend Mr. J——. I am still at Coxwold—my wife and girl (*) here.—
She

(*) Mrs. Medalle thinks an apology may be necessary for publishing this letter—the best she can offer is—that it was written by a fond parent, whose commendations she is proud of, to a very sincere friend.

She is a dear good creature—affectionate, and most elegant in body, and mind—she is all heaven could give me in a daughter—but like other blessings, not given, but lent; for her mother loves France—and this dear part of me must be torn from my arms, to follow her mother, who seems inclined to establish her in France where she has had many advantageous offers.—Do not smile at my weakness, when I say I don't wonder at it, for she is as accomplish'd a slut as France can produce.—You shall excuse all this—if you won't, I desire Mr. J—— to be my advocate—but I know I don't want one.—With what pleasure shall I embrace your dear little pledge—who I hope to see every hour encreasing in stature, and in favour, both with God and man!—I kiss all your hands with a most devout and friendly heart.—No man can wish you more good than your meager friend does—few so much, for I am with infinite cordiality, gratitude and honest affection,

My dear Mrs. J——,

Your ever faithful,

L. STERNE.

P. S.

P. S. My Sentimental Journey will please Mrs. J——, and my Lydia—I can answer for those two. It is a subject which works well, and suits the frame of mind I have been in for some time past—I told you my design in it was to teach us to love the world and our fellow creatures better than we do—so it runs most upon those gentler passions and affections, which aid so much to it.—Adieu, and may you and my worthy friend Mr. J—— continue examples of the doctrine I teach.

L E T T E R C V I I .

To A. L. E——e, Esq.

Coxwold, November 19, 1767.

YOU make yourself unhappy, dear L——e, by imaginary ills—which you might shun, instead of putting yourself in the way of.—Would not any man in his senses fly from the object he adores, and not waste his time and his health in increasing his misery by so vain a pursuit?—The idol of your heart is one of ten thousand.—The duke of —— has long sigh'd in vain—and can you suppose a woman will listen to you, that is proof against titles, stars, and red ribbands?—Her heart, believe me,

me, L——e, will not be taken in by fine men, or fine speeches—if it should ever feel a preference, it will chuse an object for itself, and it must be a singular character that can make an impresson on such a being—she has a platonic way of thinking, and knows love only by name—the natural reserve of her character, which you complain of, proceeds not from pride, but from a superiority of understanding, which makes her despise every man that turns himself into a fool—Take my advice, and pay your addresses to Miss —— she esteems you, and time will wear off an attachment which has taken so deep a root in your heart.—I pity you from my soul—but we are all born with passions which ebb and flow, else they would play the devil with us, to different objects—and the best advice I can give you, L——e, is to turn the tide of yours another way.—I know not whether I shall write again while I stay at Coxwold.—I am in earnest at my sentimental work—and intend being in town soon after Christmas—in the mean time adieu.—Let me hear from you, and believe me, dear L——

Yours, &c.

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C V I I I .

To the Earl of —.

Coxwold, November 28, 1767.

M Y L O R D,

'T IS with the greatest pleasure I take my pen to thank your Lordship for your letter of enquiry about Yorick—he was worn out both his spirits and body with the Sentimental Journey—'tis true that an author must feel himself, or his reader will not—but I have torn my whole frame into pieces by my feelings—I believe the brain stands as much in need of recruiting as the body—therefore I shall set out for town the twentieth of next month, after having recruited myself a week at York.—I might indeed solace myself with my wife, who is come from France, but in fact I have long been a sentimental being—whatever your Lordship may think to the contrary.—The world has imagined, because I wrote Tristram Shandy, that I was myself more Shandean than I really ever was—'tis a good-natured world we live in, and we are often painted in divers colours according to the ideas each one frames in his head.—A
 very

very agreeable lady arrived three years ago at York, in her road to Scarborough—I had the honour of being acquainted with her, and was her *chaperon*—all the females were very inquisitive to know who she was—“Do not tell, ladies, ’tis a mistress my wife has recommended to me—nay moreover has sent her from France.”—

I hope my book will please you, my Lord, and then my labour will not be totally in vain. If it is not thought a chaste book, mercy on them that read it, for they must have warm imaginations indeed!—Can your Lordship forgive my not making this a longer epistle?—In short I can but add this, which you already know——that I am with gratitude and friendship,

My Lord,

Your obedient faithful,

L. STERNE.

If your Lordship is in town in Spring, I should be happy if you became acquainted with my friends in Gerrard-street—you would esteem the husband, and honour the wife—she is the reverse of most her sex—they have various pursuits—she but one—that of pleasing her husband.—

L E T T E R C I X.

To A. L——e, Esq.

Coxwold, December 7, 1767.

D E A R L——,

I SAID I would not perhaps write any more, but it would be unkind not to reply to so interesting a letter as yours—I am certain you may depend upon Lord ——'s promises—he will take care of you in the best manner he can, and your knowledge of the world, and of languages in particular, will make you useful in any department—If his Lordship's scheme does not succeed, leave the kingdom—go to the east, or the west, for travelling would be of infinite service to both your body and mind—But more of this when we meet—now to my own affairs.—I have had an offer of exchanging two pieces of preferment I hold here; for a living of three hundred and fifty pounds a year, in Surry, about thirty miles from London, and retaining Coxwold, and my prebendaryship—the country also is sweet—but I will not, cannot come to any determination, till I have consulted with you, and my other friends.—I have great offers too
in

in Ireland—the bishops of C——, and R——, are both my friends—but I have rejected every proposal, unless Mrs. S——, and my Lydia could accompany me thither—I live for the sake of my girl, and with her sweet light burthen in my arms, I could get up fast the hill of preferment, if I chose it—but without my Lydia, if a mitre was offered me, it would fit uneasy upon my brow.—Mrs. S——’s health is insupportable in England.—She must return to France, and justice and humanity forbid me to oppose it.—I will allow her enough to live comfortably, until she can rejoin me.—My heart bleeds, L——e, when I think of parting with my child—’twill be like the separation of soul and body—and equal to nothing but what passes at that tremendous moment; and like it in one respect, for she will be in one kingdom, whilst I am in another.—You will laugh at my weakness—but I cannot help it—for she is a dear, disinterested girl—As a proof of it—when she left Coxwold, and I bad her adieu, I pulled out my purse and offered her ten guineas for her private pleasures—her answer was pretty, and affected me too much. “No, my dear papa, our expences of coming from France may have straiten’d you—I would rather put an hundred guineas in your pocket than take ten out of it”—I burst into tears—but why

do I practice on your feelings—by dwelling on a subject that will touch your heart?—It is too much melted already by its own sufferings, L——e, for me to add a pang, or cause a single sigh.—God blefs you—I shall hope to greet you by New-years-day in perfect health—Adieu my dear friend—I am most truly and cordially yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R CX.

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

York, December 23, 1767.

I WAS afraid that either Mr. or Mrs. J——, or their little blossom, was drooping— or that some of you were ill, by not having the pleasure of a line from you, and was thinking of writing again to enquire after you all— when I was cast down myself with a fever, and bleeding at my lungs, which had confined me to my room near three weeks— when I had the favour of yours, which till to-day I have not been able to thank you both kindly for, as I most cordially now do— as well as for all your professions and proofs of good will to me.—

me.—I will not say I have not balanced accounts with you in this—All I know is, that I honour and value you more than I do any good creatures upon earth—and that I could not wish your happiness, and the success of whatever conduces to it, more than I do, was I your brother—but, good God! are we not all brothers and sisters who are friendly, virtuous, and good? Surely, my dear friends, my illness has been a sort of sympathy for your afflictions upon the score of your dear little one.—I am worn down to a shadow—but as my fever has left me, I set off the latter end of next week with my friend Mr. Hall for town—I need not tell my friends in Gerrard-street, I shall do myself the honour to visit them, before either Lord —— or Lord ——, &c. &c.—I thank you, my dear friend, for what you say so kindly about my daughter—it shews your good heart, for as she is a stranger, 'tis a free gift in you—but when she is known to you, she shall win it fairly—but, alas! when this event is to happen, is in the clouds.—Mrs. S—— has hired a house ready furnish'd at York, till she returns to France, and my Lydia must not leave her.—

What a sad scratch of a letter!—but I am weak, my dear friends, both in body and mind—so God bless you—you will see me enter like a ghost—so I tell you before-hand

not to be frightened.—I am, my dear friends,
with the truest attachment and esteem, ever
yours,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C X I .

To Lady P——.

Mount Coffee-house, Tuesday 3 o'Clock.

THERE is a strange mechanical effect produced in writing a billet-doux within a stone-cast of the lady who engrosses the heart and soul of an innamorato—for this cause, but mostly because I am to dine in this neighbourhood, have I, Tristram Shandy, come forth from my lodgings to a coffee-house the nearest I could find to my dear Lady ——'s house, and have called for a sheet of gilt paper, to try the truth of this article of my creed—
Now for it—

O my dear lady—what a dishealout of a soul hast thou made of me?—I think, by the bye, this is a little too familiar an introduction, for so unfamiliar a situation as I stand in with you—where heaven knows, I am kept at a distance—and despair of getting one inch
nearer

nearer you, with all the steps and windings I can think of to recommend myself to you— Would not any man in his senses run diametrically from you—and as far as his legs would carry him, rather than thus causelessly, foolishly, and fool-hardily expose himself afresh—and afresh, where his heart and his reason tells him he shall be sure to come off loser, if not totally undone?— Why would you tell me you would be glad to see me?— Does it give you pleasure to make me more unhappy—or does it add to your triumph, that your eyes and lips have turned a man into a fool, whom the rest of the town is courting as a wit?— I am a fool—the weakest, the most ductile, the most tender fool that ever woman tried the weakness of—and the most unsettled in my purposes and resolutions of recovering my right mind.— It is but an hour ago, that I kneeled down and swore I never would come near you—and after saying my Lord's Prayer for the sake of the clove, of not being led into temptation—out I sallied like any Christian hero, ready to take the field against the world, the flesh, and the devil; not doubting but I should finally trample them all down under my feet—and now am I got so near you—within this vile stone's cast of your house—I feel myself drawn into a vortex, that has turned my brain upside

upside downwards, and though I had purchased a box ticket to carry me to Miss ***** benefit, yet I know very well, that was a single line directed to me, to let me know Lady ——— would be alone at seven, and suffer me to spend the evening with her, she would infallibly see every thing verified I have told her.—I dine at Mr. C——r's in Wigmore-street, in this neighbourhood, where I shall stay till seven, in hopes you purpose to put me to this proof—If I hear nothing by that time I shall conclude you are better disposed of—and shall take a sorry hack, and sorryly jog on to the play—Curse on the word. I know nothing but sorrow—except this one thing, that I love you, perhaps foolishly, but

Most sincerely,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R CXII.

To Mr. and Mrs. J——.

Old Bond-street, January 1.

NOT knowing whether the moisture of the weather will permit me to give my kind friends in Gerrard Street a call this morning for five minutes—I beg leave to send them all the good wishes, compliments, and respects I owe them.—I continue to mend, and doubt not but this, with all other evils and uncertainties of life, will end for the best. I send all compliments to your fire sides this Sunday night—Miss Ascough the wife, Miss Pigot the witty, your daughter the pretty, and so on.—If Lord O—— is with you, I beg my dear Mrs. J—— will present the enclosed to him—'twill add to the millions of obligations I already owe you.—I am sorry that I am no subscriber to Soho this season—it deprives me of a pleasure worth twice the subscription—but I am just going to send about this quarter of the town, to see if it is not too late to procure a ticket, undisposed of, from some of my Soho friends, and if I can succeed, I will either send or wait upon you with it by half
an

an hour after three to-morrow—if not, my friend will do me the justice to believe me truly miserable.—I am half engaged, or more, for dinner on Sunday next, but will try to get disengaged in order to be with my friends.—If I cannot, I will glide like a shadow uninvited to Gerrard Street some day this week, that we may eat our bread and meat in love and peace together.—God blefs you both!—I am with the most sincere regard,

Your ever obliged,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R CXIII.

To the same.

Old Bond Street, Monday.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I HAVE never been a moment at rest since I wrote yesterday about this Soho ticket—I have been at a Secretary of State to get one—have been upon one knee to my friends Sir G—— M——, Mr. Lascelles—and Mr. Fitzmaurice—without mentioning five more—I believe

believe I could as soon get you a place at court, for every body is going—but I will go out and try a new circle—and if you do not hear from me by a quarter after three, you may conclude I have been unfortunate in my supplications.—I send you this state of the affair, lest my silence should make you think I had neglected what I promised—but no—Mrs. J—— knows me better, and would never suppose it would be out of the head of one who is with so much truth

Her faithful friend,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C X I V .

To the same.

Thursday, Old Bond Street.

A Thousand thanks, and as many excuses, my dear friends, for the trouble my blunder has given you. By a second note I am astonish'd I could read Saturday for Sunday, or make any mistake in a card wrote by Mrs. J——s, in which my friend is as unrival'd, as in a hundred greater excellencies.

I am

I am now tyed down neck and heels, twice over, by engagements every day this week, or most joyfully would have trod the old pleasing road from Bond to Gerrard Street.—My books will be to be had on Thursday, but possibly on Wednesday in the afternoon.—I am quite well, but exhausted with a room full of company every morning till dinner—How do I lament I cannot eat my morsel, which is always sweet, with such kind friends!—The Sunday following I will assuredly wait upon you both—and will come a quarter before four, that I may have both a little time, and a little day light, to see Mrs. J——'s picture.—I beg leave to assure my friends of my gratitude for all their favours, with my sentimental thanks for every token of their good will.—Adieu, my dear friends—

I am truly yours,

L. STERNE.

LETTER

L E T T E R CXV.

To L. S——, Esq.

Old Bond Street, Wednesday.

D E A R S I R,

Y O U R commendations are very flattering. I know no one whose judgement I think more highly of, but your partiality for me is the only instance in which I can call it in question.—Thanks, my good sir, for the prints—I am much your debtor for them—if I recover from my ill state of health, and live to revisit Coxwould this summer, I will decorate my study with them, along with six beautiful pictures I have already of the sculptures on poor Ovid's tomb, which were executed on marble at Rome.—It grieves one to think such a man should have dy'd in exile, who wrote so well on the art of love.—Do not think me encroaching if I sollicit a favour—'tis either to borrow, or beg, to beg if you please, some of those touched with chalk which you brought from Italy—I believe you have three sets, and if you can spare the imperfect one of cattle on colour'd paper, 'twill answer my purpose, which is namely
this,

this, to give a friend of ours.—You may be ignorant she has a genius for drawing, and whatever she excels in, she conceals, and her humility adds lustre to her accomplishments—I presented her last year with colours, and an apparatus for painting, and gave her several lessons before I left town.—I wish her to follow this art, to be a compleat mistress of it—and it is singular enough, but not more singular than true, that she does not know how to make a cow or a sheep, though she draws figures and landscapes perfectly well; which makes me wish her to copy from good prints.—If you come to town next week, and dine where I am engaged next Sunday, call upon me and take me with you—I breakfast with Mr. Beauclerc, and am engaged for an hour afterwards with Lord O—— so let our meeting be either at your house or my lodgings—do not be late, for we will go half an hour before dinner, to see a picture executed by West, most admirably—he has caught the character of our friend——such goodness is painted in that face, that when one looks at it, let the soul be ever so much unharmonized, it is impossible it should remain so.—I will send you a set of my books—they will take with the generality—the women will read this book in the parlour, and Tristram in the bed-chamber.—Good night, dear sir—I am
going

going to take my whey, and then to bed.
Believe me,

Yours most truly,

L. STERNE.

L E T T E R C X V I.

February 20, Old Bond-street.

M Y D E A R E S T L Y D I A,

MY Sentimental Journey, you say, is admired in York by every one—and 'tis not vanity in me to tell you that it is no less admired here—but what is the gratification of my feelings on this occasion?—the want of health bows me down, and vanity harbours not in thy father's breast—this vile influenza—be not alarm'd, I think I shall get the better of it—and shall be with you both the first of May, and if I escape 'twill not be for a long period, my child—unless a quiet retreat and peace of mind can restore me.—The subject of thy letter has astonish'd me.—She could but know little of my feelings, to tell thee, that under the supposition I should survive thy mother, I should bequeath thee as a legacy

to ——. No, my Lydia! 'tis a lady, whose virtues I wish thee to imitate, that I shall entrust my girl to—I mean that friend whom I have so often talk'd and wrote about—from her you will learn to be an affectionate wife, a tender mother, and a sincere friend—and you cannot be intimate with her, without her pouring some part of the milk of human kindness into your breast, which will serve to check the heat of your own temper, which you partake in a small degree of.—Nor will that amiable woman put my Lydia under the painful necessity to fly to India for protection, whilst it is in her power to grant her a more powerful one in England.—But I think, my Lydia, that thy mother will survive me——do not deject her spirits with thy apprehensions on my account.—I have sent you a necklace, buckles, and the same to your mother.—My girl cannot form a wish that is in the power of her father, that he will not gratify her in—and I cannot in justice be less kind to thy mother.—I am never alone.—The kindness of my friends is ever the same—I wish though I had thee to nurse me—but I am deny'd that.—Write to me twice a week, at least.—God bless thee, my child, and believe me ever, ever thy

Affectionate father,

L. STERNE.
LETTER

L E T T E R C X V I I .

To Mrs. J——.

Tuesday.

YOUR poor friend is scarce able to write—he has been at death's door this week with a pleurisy—I was bled three times on Thursday, and blister'd on Friday—The physician says I am better—God knows, for I feel myself sadly wrong, and shall, if I recover, be a long while of gaining strength.—Before I have gone through half this letter, I must stop to rest my weak hand above a dozen times.—Mr. J—— was so good to call upon me yesterday. I felt emotions not to be described at the sight of him, and he overjoy'd me by talking a great deal of you.—Do, dear Mrs. J——, entreat him to come to-morrow, or next day, for perhaps I have not many days, or hours, to live—I want to ask a favour of him, if I find myself worse—that I shall beg of you, if in this wrestling I come off conqueror—my spirits are fled—'tis a bad omen—do not weep my dear Lady—your tears are too precious to shed for me—bottle them up, and may the cork never be drawn.—

R 2

Dearest,

Dearest, kindest, gentlest, and best of women! may health, peace, and happiness prove your handmaids.—If I die, cherish the remembrance of me, and forget the follies which you so often condemn'd—which my heart, not my head betray'd me into. Should my child, my Lydia want a mother, may I hope you will, if she is left parentless, take her to your bosom?—You are the only woman on earth I can depend upon for such a benevolent action.—I wrote to her a fortnight ago, and told her what I trust she will find in you.—Mr. J—— will be a father to her—he will protect her from every insult, for he wears a sword which he has served his country with, and which he would know how to draw out of the scabbard in defence of innocence—Commend me to him—as I now commend you to that Being who takes under his care the good and kind part of the world.—Adieu——all grateful thanks to you and Mr. J——.

Your poor affectionate friend,

L. S T E R N E.

LETTER

L E T T E R CXVIII.

To Mr. B——.

Exeter, July, 1775.

S I R,

THIS was quite an *Impromptu* of Yorick's after he had been thoroughly *soused*.—He drew it up in a few moments without stopping his pen. I should be glad to see it in your intended collection of Mr. Sterne's memoirs, &c. If you should have a copy of it, you will be able to rectify a misapplication of a term that Mr. Sterne could never be guilty of, as one great excellence of his writings lies in the most happy choice of metaphors and allusions—such as shewed his philosophic judgement, at the same time that they displayed his wit and genius—but it is not for me to comment on, or correct so great an original. I should have sent this fragment as soon as I saw Mrs. Medalle's advertisement, had I not been at a distance from my papers. I expect much entertainment from this posthumous work of a man to whom no one is

more indebted for amusement and instruction,
than,

Sir,

Your humble servant,

S. P.

AN IMPROMPTU.

No—not one farthing would I give for such a coat in wet weather, or dry—If the sun shines you are sure of being melted, because it closes so tight about one—if it rains it is no more a defence than a cobweb—a very sieve, o' my conscience! that lets through every drop, and like many other things that are put on only for a cover, mortifies you with disappointment and makes you curse the impostor, when it is too late to avail one's self of the discovery. Had I been wise I should have examined the claim the coat had to the title of “defender of the body”—before I had trusted my body in it—I should have held it up to the light like other suspicious matters I have seen, how much it was likely to admit of that which I wanted to keep out—whether it was no more than such a frail, flimsy con-
texture

texture of flesh and blood, as I am fated to carry about with me through every tract of this dirty world, could have comfortably and safely dispensed within so short a journey—taking into my account the chance of spreading trees—thick hedges o’erhanging the road—with twenty other coverts that a man may thrust his head under—if he is not violently pushed on by that d——d stimulus—you know where—that will not let a man sit still in one place for half a minute together—but like a young nettlesome tit is eternally on the fret, and is for pushing on still farther—or if the poor scared devil is not hunted tantivy by a hue and cry with gives and a halter dangling before his eyes—now in other cases he has not a minute to throw away in standing still, but like king Lear must brave “the peltings of a pitiless storm” and give heaven leave to “rumble its belly full—spit fire—or spout “rain”—as spitefully as it pleaseth, without finding the inclination or the resolution to slacken his pace lest something should be lost that might have been gained, or more gotten than he well knows how to get rid of—Now had I acted with as much prudence as some other good folks—I could name many of them who have been made b——ps within my remembrance for having been hooded and muffled up in a larger quantity of this dark

drab of mental manufacture than ever fell to my share—and absolutely for nothing else—as will be seen when they are undressed another day—Had I had but as much as might have been taken out of their cloth without lessening much of the size, or injuring in the least the shape, or contracting aught of the doublings and foldings, or continuing to a less circumference, the superb sweep of any one cloak that any one b——p ever wrapt himself up in—I should never have given this coat a place upon my shoulders. I should have seen by the light at one glance, how little it would keep out of rain, by how little it would keep in of darkness—This a coat for a rainy day? do pray madam hold it up to that window—did you ever see such an *illustrious* coat since the day you could distinguish between a coat and a pair of breeches?—My lady did not understand derivatives, and so she could not see quite through my splendid pun. Pope Sixtus would have blinded her with the same “darkness of excessive light.” What a flood of it breaks in through this rent? what an irradiation beams through that? what twinklings—what sparklings as you wave it before your eyes in the broad face of the sun? Make a fan out of it for the ladies to look at their gallants with at church—It has not served me for one purpose
—it

— it will serve them for two—This is coarse stuff—of worse manufacture than the cloth—put it to its proper use, for I love when things fort and join well—make a philtre *) of it—while there is a drop to be extracted—I know but one thing in the world that will draw, drain, or suck like it—and that is—neither wool nor flax—make—make any thing of it, but a vile, hypocritical coat for me—for I never can say *sub Jove*, whatever Juno might, that “it is a pleasure to *be wet*.”

L. STERNE.

The

*) This allusion is improper. A philtre originally signifies a love potion--- and it is used as a noun from the verb *philtrate*--- it must signify a *strainer*, not a *sucker* -- cloth is sometimes used for the purpose of *draining* by means of its pores or capillary tubes, but its action is contrary to *philtration*. His meaning is obvious enough; but as he drew up this fragment without stopping his pen, as I was informed, it is no wonder he erred in the application of some of his terms.

THE FRAGMENT.

C H A P. I.

Shewing two Things; first, what a Rabelaic Fellow LONGINVS RABELAICVS is, and secondly, how cavalierly he begins his Book.

MY dear and thrice reverend brethren, as well archbishops and bishops, as the *rest* of the inferior clergy! would it not be a glorious thing, if any man of genius and capacity amongst us for such a work, was fully bent within himself, to sit down immediately and compose a thorough—stitch'd system of the KERUKOPAEDIA, fairly setting forth, to the best of his wit and memory, and collecting for that purpose all that is needful to be known, and understood of that art?—Of what art cried PANURGE? Good God! answered LONGINUS, making an exclamation, but taking care at the same time to moderate his voice, why, of the art of making all kinds of your theological, hebdomical, rostrummical, humdrummical what d'ye call
'ems

'ems—I will be shot, quoth EPISTEMON, if all this story of thine of a roasted horse, is simply no more than S—— Sausages? quoth PANURGE. Thou hast fallen twelve feet and about five inches below the mark, answer'd EPISTEMON, for I hold them to be *Sermons*—which said word, as I take the matter, being but a word of low degree, for a book of high rhetoric—LONGINUS RABELAICVS was foreminded to usher and lead into his dissertation, with as much pomp and parade as he could afford; and for my own part, either I know no more of Latin than my horse, or the KERUKOPAEDIA is nothing but the art of making 'em—And why not, quoth GYMNAST, of preaching them when we have done?—Believe me, dear souls, this is half in half—and if some skilful body would but put us in a way to do this to some *tune*—Thou wouldst not have them *chanted* surely, quoth TRIBOULET, laughing?—No, nor *canted* neither, quoth GYMNAST, crying!—but what I mean, my friends, says LONGINUS RABELAICUS, who is certainly one of the greatest criticks in the western world, and as Rabelaic a fellow as ever existed, what I mean, says he, interrupting them both and resuming his discourse, is this, that if all the scatter'd rules of the KERUKOPAEDIA could be but once carefully collected into one
code

code, as thick as PANURGE'S head, and the whole *cleanly* digested—pooh, says PANURGE, who felt himself aggrieved, and bound up continued LONGINUS, by way of a regular institute, and then put into the hands of every licensed preacher in Great Britain, and Ireland, just before he began to compose, I maintain it—I deny it flatly, quoth PANURGE—What? answer'd LONGINUS RABELAICUS with all the temper in the world.

CHAP. II.

In which the Reader will begin to form a Judgment, of what a Historical, Dramatical, Anecdotal, Allegorical, and Comical Kind of a Work he has got hold of.

HOMENAS who had to preach next Sunday, before God knows whom, knowing nothing at all of the matter—was all this while at it as hard as he could drive in the very next room:—for having fouled two clean sheets of his own, and being quite stuck fast in the entrance upon his third general *division*, and finding himself unable to get either forwards or backwards with any grace—“Curse it,” says he, thereby excommunicating every mother's son who should think differently,
“why

“why may not a man lawfully call in for help in this, as well as any other human emergency?”—So without any more argumentation, except starting up and nimming down from the top shelf but one, the second volume of CLARK—though without any felonious intention in so doing, he had begun to clap me in, making a joint first, five whole pages, nine round paragraphs, and a dozen and a half of good thoughts all of a row; and because there was a confounded high gallery—was transcribing it away like a little devil.—Now—quoth HOMENAS to himself “though I hold all this to be fair and square, yet, if I am found out, there will be the deuce and all to pay.”—*Why are the bells ringing backwards, you lad? what is all that crowd about, honest man?* HOMENAS was got upon Doctor CLARK’S back, sir—and what of that, my lad? *Why an please you, he has broke his neck, and fractured his skull, and befouled himself into the bargain, by a fall from the pulpit two stories high.* Alas! poor HOMENAS! HOMENAS has done his business!—HOMENAS will never preach more while breath is in his body.—No, faith, I shall never again be able to tickle it off as I have done. I may sit up whole winter nights baking my blood with hectic watchings, and write as solid as a FATHER of the church—or, I may sit down

down whole summer days evaporating my spirits into the finest thoughts, and write as florid as a MOTHER of it.—In a word, I may compose myself off my legs, and preach till I burst—and when I have done, it will be worse than if not done at all.—*Pray Mr. Such-a-one, who held forth last Sunday? Doctor CLARK, I trow; says one. Pray what Doctor CLARK says a second? Why HOMENAS'S Doctor CLARK, quoth a third. O rare HOMENAS! cries a fourth; your servant Mr. HOMENAS, quoth a fifth.*—'Twill be all over with me, by Heav'n—I may as well put the book from whence I took it.—Here HOMENAS burst into a flood of tears, which falling down helter skelter, ding dong without any kind of intermission for six minutes and almost twenty five seconds, had a marvellous effect upon his discourse; for the aforesaid tears, do you mind, did so temper the wind that was rising upon the aforesaid discourse, but falling for the most part perpendicularly, and hitting the spirits at right angles, which were mounting horizontally all over the surface of his harangue, they not only play'd the devil and all with the sublimity—but moreover the said tears, by their nitrous quality, did so refrigerate, precipitate, and hurry down to the bottom of his soul, all the unsavory particles which lay fermenting, as you saw, in the middle of his conception, that
 he

he went on in the coolest and chafteft stile, for a *soliloquy* I think, that ever mortal man uttered.

“This is really and truly a very hard case,” continued HOMENAS to himself—PANURGE, by the bye, and all the company in the next room hearing all along every syllable he spoke; for you must know, that notwithstanding PANURGE had open’d his mouth as wide as he could for his blood, in order to give a round answer to LONGINUS RABELAICUS’S interrogation, which concluded the last chapter—yet HOMENAS’S rhetoric had pour’d in so like a torrent, flapdash through the wainscot amongst them, and happening at that *uncritical* crisis, when PANURGE had just put his ugly face into the above-said posture of defence—that he stopt short—he did indeed, and though his head was full of matter, and he had screw’d up every nerve and muscle belonging to it, till all cryed *crack* again, in order to give a due projectile force to what he was going to let fly, full in LONGINUS RABELAICUS’S teeth who sat over against him.—Yet for all that, he had the continence to contain himself, for he stopt short, I say, without uttering one word except, Z——ds—many reasons may be assign’d for this, but the most true, the most strong, the most hydrostatical,
and

and the most philosophical reason, why P A-
N U R G E did not go on, was—that the fore-
mention'd *torrent* did so *drown* his voice, that
he had none left to go on with.—God help
him, poor fellow! so he stopt short, as I have
told you before, and all the time H O M E N A S
was speaking he said not another word, good
or bad, but stood gaping, and staring, like
what you please—so that the break, mark'd
thus—which H O M E N A S'S grief had made
in the middle of his discourse, which he could
no more help than he could fly—produced no
other change in the room where L O N G I N U S
R A B E L A I C U S, E P I S T E M O N, G Y M-
N A S T, T R I B O U L E T, and nine or ten more
honest blades had got Kerukopædizing together,
but that it gave time to G Y M N A S T to give
P A N U R G E a good squashing chuck under his
double chin; which P A N U R G E taking in
good part, and just as it was meant by G Y M-
N A S T, he forthwith shut his mouth—and
gently fitting down upon a stool though some-
what excentrically and out of neighbours row,
but listening, as all the rest did, with might
and main, they plainly and distinctly heard
every syllable of what you will find recorded
in the very next chapter.



T H E E N D.

4
STERNE'S LETTERS

T O

H I S F R I E N D S

O N

V A R I O U S O C C A S I O N S .

T O W H I C H I S A D D E D ,

H I S H I S T O R Y

O F A

W A T C H C O A T ,

W I T H

E X P L A N A T O R Y N O T E S .

A N E W E D I T I O N .

A L T E N B U R G H :
P r i n t e d f o r R I C H T E R .

1776.



I N T R O D U C T I O N.

THE ensuing letters have been some years in the possession of the Editor; their publication was deferred, as he was in daily expectation that time and opportunity would happily have been productive of a larger acquisition; but despairing of any further success, he has ventured to present them to the public, with whom he must sincerely regret the loss we sustain by not retrieving a larger correspondence.

The odious light in which many posthumous publications are deservedly viewed, by the discerning few, would have sunk these letters in oblivion, if they had reflected the least discredit on the morals

or literary merit of an author who so justly deserves the very distinguished attention he has received; but, on the contrary, as they reflect honour on the author in every capacity, and place him in the most pleasing point of view, and as they carry with them evident and convincing marks of originality, he thinks the most incredulous must applaud his undertaking, and be fully satisfied of their authenticity, as he would be always happy to add to, rather than diminish the lustre of literary fame; thinking it almost as criminal to commit a literary as a corporal murder.

Some apology may be thought necessary for subjoining the last letter, as it has already appeared in a small pamphlet about seven years ago; but as it was never attended to for want of being sufficiently
known,

known, the editor hopes the public will unite with him in wishing not a dash of his author's pen might be lost; for which reason he could not resist the temptation of preserving it, though it might be of a temporary nature—The following account of it is taken from some anecdotes of Mr. Sterne's life, lately published, and prefixed to the before-mentioned pamphlet, as an advertisement.

—“For some time Mr. Sterne lived, in a retired manner, upon a small curacy in Yorkshire, and, probably, would have remained in the same obscurity, if his lively genius had not displayed itself upon an occasion which secured him a friend, and paved the way for his promotion—A person who filled a lucrative benefice, was not satisfied with enjoying it during his
own

own life-time, but exerted all his interest to have it intailed on his wife and son after his decease: the gentleman that expected the reversion of this post was Mr. Sterne's friend, who had not, however, sufficient influence to prevent the success of his adversary.—At this time Sterne's satirical pen operated so strongly, that the intended monopolizer informed him, if he would suppress the publication of his sarcasm, he would resign his pretensions to the next candidate."

The title of this piece, it appears, was to have been, "The History of a good
 "warm Watch Coat, with which the pre-
 "sent Possessor is not content to cover his
 "own shoulders, unless he can cut out of
 "it, a Petticoat for his Wife, and a pair
 "of Breeches for his Son."

When-

Whenever genius is distinguished, it will, naturally, excite our attention—No man ever claimed a greater right to that attention than the author of *Tristram*:—a natural vivacity, united with a sentimental delicacy, and a tenderness felt by every susceptible soul, deserves commendation: we must rank Sterne as one of the most celebrated originals. “He plays with the fancy, and sometimes, perhaps, too wantonly; but, while he thus designedly masks his main attack, he comes at once upon the heart, refines it, amends it, softens it, beats down each selfish barrier from about it, and opens every source of pity and benevolence.”—This is the true characteristic of our Author, whose poignant wit, and sentimental tenderness, will ever immortalize his memory, while taste exists; and, though I must, unwillingly, subscribe

scribe to the opinion of my Author, that
“It is not in the power of every one to
“taste humour, however he may wish it
“—It is the gift of God,”—yet, I trust,
the majority of my readers are possessed of
that gift, and will heartily rejoice, with
me, in the opportunity of preserving these
marks of genius, and handing them to
posterity.

* L E T T E R I.

Thursday 11 'Clock at Night,

DEAR SIR,

— **T** WAS for all the world like a
cut across my finger with a
sharp knife—I saw the blood—gave it a
suck—wrapt it up—and thought no more
about it—

— But there is more goes to the heal-
ing of a wound than this comes to;—a
wound, unless it is a wound not worth
talking of, but by-the-bye mine is, must
give

* A friend of the Author of the **DIVINE**
LEGATION suspecting, from report, that
STERNE had a design to make that learned
prelate **TRISTRAM**'s Tutor, in the conti-
nuation of his work; hinted his suspicions to
him in a letter, to which this is an answer.

give you some pain after—nature will take her own way with it—it must ferment—it must digest—

—————The story you told me of Trisram's pretended tutor this morning—My letter, by rights, should have set out with this sentence—and then the simile would not have kept you a moment in suspense—this vile story, I say, though I then saw both how and where it wounded—I felt little from it at first—or, to speak more honestly, though it ruins my simile, I felt a great deal of pain from it, but affected an air usual on such accidents, of less feeling than I had—

I have now got home to my lodgings, and have been unwrapping this self-same wound of mine, and shaking my head over it this half hour.—What the devil!—Is there no one learned blockhead throughout

out

out the many schools of misapplied science in the christian world to make a tabour of for my Tristram?—*Ex quovis ligno non fit.*—Are we so run out of stock', that there is no one lumber-headed, muddle-headed, mortar-headed, pudding-headed chap amongst our doctors?—Is there no one single wight, of much reading and no learning, amongst the many children in my mother's nursery, who bids high for this charge, but I must disable my judgment by choosing a W——?—Vengeance! have I so little concern for the honour of my hero? Am I a wretch so void of sense, so bereft of feeling for the figure he is to make in story, that I should choose a preceptor to rob him of all the immortality I intended him? O my dear friend!

Malice is ingenious—unless where the excess of it out-wits itself—I have two comforts in this stroke of it;—the first is,
that

that this one is partly of this kind ; and secondly, that it is one of the number of those which so unfairly brought poor *Yorick* to his grave.—The report might draw blood of the Author of *Tristram Shandy*—but could not harm such a man as the Author of the *Divine Legation*—God bless him! though by-the-bye, and according to the natural course of descents, the blessing should come from him to me.

Pray have you no interest lateral or collateral to get me introduced to his lordship?

Why do you ask?

My dear Sir, I have no claim to such an honour, but what arises from the honour and respect, which, in the progress of my work, will be shewn the world I owe to so great a man. Whilst I
am

TO HIS FRIENDS. 127

am talking of owing—I wish, dear Sir, that any body would tell you—how much I am indebted to you—I am determined never to do it myself, or say more upon the subject than this, that I am yours,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

I LET.

L E T T E R II.

*From Dr. EUSTACE in America, to the
Rev. Mr. STERNE with a Walking
Stick.*

S I R!

WHEN I assure you that I am a great admirer of Tristram Shandy, and have, ever since his introduction into the world, been one of his most zealous defenders against the repeated assaults of prejudice and misapprehension, I hope you will not treat this unexpected appearance in his company as an intrusion.

You know it is an observation, as remarkable for its truth as for its antiquity,
that

that a similitude of sentiments is the general parent of friendship.—It cannot be wondered at, that I should conceive an esteem for a person whom nature had most indulgently enabled to frisk and curvet with ease through all these intricacies of sentiments, which from irresistible propensity, she had impelled me to trudge through without merit or distinction.

The only reason that gave rise to this address to you, is my accidentally having met with a piece of true Shandean statuary, I mean according to vulgar opinion, for to such judges both appear equally destitute of angularity or design.—It was made by a very ingenious gentleman of this province, and presented to the late Governor Dobbs, after his death Mrs. D. gave it me: its singularity made many desirous of procuring it, but I had resolved, at first, not to part with it, till, upon reflection,

130 LETTERS FROM STERNE

fection, I thought it would be a very proper and probably not an unacceptable compliment to my favourite author, and in his hands might prove as ample a field for meditation as a button-hole, or a broomstick.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

LET-

L E T T E R III.

Mr. STERNE'S Answer.

London, Febr. 9, 1768.

S I R,

I This moment received your obliging letter and Shandean piece of sculpture along with it, of both which testimonies of your regard I have the justest sense, and return you, dear Sir, my best thanks and acknowledgement. Your walking stick is in no sense more Shandaick than in that of its having more handles than one; the parallel breaks only in this, that in using the stick every one will take the handle which suits his convenience. In Tristram Shandy the handle is taken which suits the passions, their ignorance, or their sensibility. There is so little true feeling in the

herd of the world, that I wish I could have got an act of parliament, when the books first appeared, that none but wise men should look into them. It is too much to write books, and find heads to understand them; the world, however, seems to come into a better temper about them, the people of genius here, being to a man on its side; and the reception it has met with in France, Italy, and Germany, has engaged one part of the world to give it a second reading. The other, in order to be on the strongest side, has at length agreed to speak well of it too. A few hypocrites and tartuffes, whose approbation could do it nothing but dishonour, remain unconverted.

I am very proud, Sir, to have had a man like you on my side from the beginning; but it is not in the power of every one to taste humour, however he may wish

with it; it is the gift of God: and, besides, a true feeler always brings half the entertainment along with him; his own ideas are only called forth by what he reads, and the vibrations within him, intirely correspond with those excited.—'Tis like reading himself—and not the book.

In a week's time I shall be delivered of two volumes of the Sentimental Travels of Mr. Yorick through France and Italy; but, alas! the ship fails three days too soon, and I have but to lament it deprives me of the pleasure of presenting them to you.

Believe me, dear Sir, with great thanks for the honour you have done me, with true esteem,

Your obliged humble servant,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

L E T T E R I V.

To * * * * *

IT is even as you told me, my good friend,—a beckon from an old female acquaintance has led me a dance to * * * * *. It was too great a temptation to be thrown in the way of such a sinner;—so I have bid adieu to Shandy Hall till the beginning of October—which, by-the-bye, is one of the finest months in the year in this part of the kingdom—this is added, by the way, to induce you to return to me at that time: if you cannot, let me know where you are to be the beginning of the following month, and the wheels of my chariot shall roll rapidly towards you.

I have not been quite idle since you left me, but, amidst a thousand impediments,
 have

have snatched one volume more for a gouty and a splenetic world. I suppose this will overtake you at the Hot-wells, as you are walking a sentimental foot-pace beside some phthifical nymph of the fountain—if so—protect and cherish her whosoever she be; and tell her, that she has *Tristram Shandy's* wishes for her recovery and happiness.—Had I lived in days of yore, when virtue and sentiment bore a price, I should have been the most peerless knight of them all!—Some tender-hearted damsel in distress would ever have been my object:—to wipe away the tears from off the cheek of such a friendless fair one, I would go to *Mecca*—and for a friend—to the end of the world.—

In this last sentiment my best friend was uppermost in my thoughts!

But wherefore do I think of arms and *Dulcineas*,—when, alas, my spear is grown rusty, and is fit only to be hung in
the

the old family-hall, among pistols without *cocks*, and helmets that have lost their vizard.

As for my health, which you so kindly inquire after—I cannot brag of it—it is not so well with me this year as it was the last—and I fear I have little on my side but laughter and good spirits! These have stood me in great stead for twenty years past, how long they may be able to keep the field, and prolong the combat—for at best it is but prolonging a contest which must at last end in their defeat—I know not!—Nevertheless, for the days that are past, as well as those which are to come, I will eat my bread in peace: and be it but bread and water, and I have such a friend as you, I will find a way, some how or other, to make merry over it.

Adieu,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET-

L E T T E R V.

To * * * * *

—THE first time I have dipped my pen into the inkhorn is to write to you—and to thank you most sincerely for your kind epistle!—will this be a sufficient apology for my letting it lay ten days upon the table without answering it?—I trust it will;—I am sure my own feelings tell me so—because I feel it to be impossible for me to do any thing that is ungracious towards you. It is not every hour, or day, or week, in a man's life, that is a fit season for the duties of friendship:—sentiment is not always at hand—folly and pride, and what is called business, oftentimes

times keep it at a distance: and without sentiment, what is friendship?—a name!—a shadow!—But, to prevent a misapplication of all this, though why should I fear it from so kind and gentle a spirit as yours? you must know, that by the carelessness of my curate, or his wife, or his maid, or some one within his gates, the parsonage-house at———was, about a fortnight ago, burnt to the ground, with the furniture which belonged to me, and a pretty good collection of books—the loss about three hundred and fifty pounds.—The poor man, with his wife, took the wings of the next morning and fled away.—This has given me real vexation—for so much was my pity and esteem for him, that as soon as I heard of the disaster, I sent to desire he would come and take his abode with me, till another habitation was ready to receive him—but he was gone; and, as I am told, for fear of my
perfe-

persecution—Heavens! how little did he know me, to suppose that I was among the number of those wretches, who heap misfortune on misfortune—and when the load is almost insupportable still add to the weight.—God, who reads my heart, knows it to be true, that I wish rather to share than to increase the burden of the miserable—to dry up instead of adding a single drop to the stream of sorrow.—As to the dirty trash of this world, I regard it not; the loss of it does not cost me a sigh—for, after all, I may say with the Spanish Captain, that I am as good a gentleman as the King, only not quite so rich.—But to the point.—

Shall I expect you here this summer? I much wish that you may make it convenient to gratify me in a visit for a few weeks. I will give you a roast fowl for your dinner, and a clean table-cloth every day;

day; and tell you a story by way of desert.—In the heat of the day we will sit in the shade; and in the evening the fairest of all the milk-maids, who pass by my gate, shall weave a garland for you.

If I should be so unfortunate as not to see you here, do, contrive to meet me the beginning of October—I shall stay here about a fortnight, and then seek a kinder climate.—This plague cough of mine seems to gain ground, and will bring me at last to my grave, in spite of all I can do; but while I have strength to run away from it I will!—I have been wrestling with it for these twenty years past; and what with laughter and good spirits have prevented its giving me a fall; but my antagonist presses me closer than ever, and I have nothing left on my side but another journey abroad!—apropos,—are you for a scheme of that sort?—If not—
perhaps

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perhaps you will accompany me as far as Dover, that we may laugh together upon the beach, to put Neptune in good humour, before I embark.—God bless you——

Adieu,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET.

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and delighted me, become a clod of the valley!—Here, my *Cordelia*, I will weed clean thy grave—I will stretch myself upon it—will wet it with tears—and the traveller shall not turn aside to observe me.—

But whither am I led? Do, my kind friend, excuse the wanderings of my pen; it governs me, I govern not it—Farewel; and receive the warmest affection of,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET.

L E T T E R VII.

To * * * * *

—**I** Fear, that ere this, you may have oftentimes accused me of negligence, in not answering your last letters; but you addressed them to me in London, and I was dying in the country.—I have been more forely afflicted this last time than I ever was before: had I followed the advice of the faculty, it had been over with me; and, contrary to their opinion, I ventured to order myself a stout bleeding;—this, in all probability, saved me; for how long, God only knows!—I am still weak, and can hardly make myself heard across my table.—My spirits, the best friends I ever had in this world, stuck close by me in this last conflict; by their

kind assistance I have been able to bear the heavy load of life, and walk so merrily along the wilderness of this world:—thanks to them I have been able to whistle and sing in its most uncheery paths!—As it has pleased heaven to let them accompany me thus far on my journey, I hope and trust they will not be suffered to leave me now that I am almost at the end of it.—I know and feel, my friend, that this last sentiment will give you pain!—this, believe me, is most foreign to my wishes; but I always write from my heart—and supposing it to be my practice to cheat the world, I have ever considered the character of a friend too respectable to make the sport of an idle imagination. To deceive is a base trade at best;—but to deceive those we love and value, is a folly so totally inexcusable, that I defy all the arts of sophistry to frame an argument in its favour.—When I open my heart—I shew all
its

its follies—its caprices—its wantonness—its virtues are all exposed to view; and though by this means I lay myself open to the illiberal and the ill-natured, who are ever ready to seize the opportunity of gratifying their dirty passions;—and withal are so numerous, that hypocrisy, with respect to them, is accounted a virtue.—*But I shew all!*—this may be imprudent—and I am told by some sentimental prudes—that it is indecent;—if so, let them put their fans before their faces, or walk on the other side of the way.—Disguise is the fashion; and the man who does not use it, is called a Libertine:—for my part—I hate a mask, and will never wear one! I am not ashamed of my failings, while I feel that I have some little stock of virtue to counterbalance them.—The man who hides nothing, who varnishes nothing, when applause, when honour comes, and come it must to such, finds no busy some-
 K 3 thing

thing in his breast that gives the lie to it.—'Tis his own,—and his heart will answer it.—Of all sycophants, scourge me those who flatter themselves!—He who speaks peace to himself, when there is no peace, is acting a part he cannot long support—the scene closes—the curtain drops—and he is himself again. The follies, the errors of mankind, I sincerely forgive, as I hope to be forgiven;—and when a man is mounted on his hobby-horse, let him amble or trot, or gallop, so he will be quiet, and not let his heart do mischief—God speed him!—And if I feel an inclination to put on my fool's cap, and jingle the bells for two or three hours of the four-and-twenty—or the whole twenty-four hours together—what is that to any one?—O, Sir, you will be called trifling, foolish, &c. &c.—with all my heart!—Pray, good folks, fall on—never spare!—Fair ladies, have you got your bellies full?

full?—if so, much good may it do you!—
 But, Sir, we must prove you to be a
 rogue, a rascal, an hypocrite.—Alas! I
 have nothing to give you but my fool's cap
 and my hobby-horse—if they are not suf-
 ficient, I must beg leave to recommend you
 to that pale-faced, solemn, stiff-starched
 figure who is this moment entering that
 church; fall upon him!—and for once in
 your lives, perhaps, you may hit the mark.

I fear, my good friend, you will begin
 to think, that however my speaking facul-
 ties are obstructed, that one of writing
 still remains free and large—but here is the
 grief—It is but writing!—My pen is a
 leaden one, and it is with some difficulty
 I trail it on to assure you of my being most
 cordially,

Yours,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

L E T T E R VIII.

To * * * * *

I Have not been a furlong from Shandy-hall since I wrote to you last—but why is my pen so perverse? I have been to ****, and my errand was of so peculiar a nature, that I must give you an account of it.— You will scarce believe me, when I tell you, it was to out-juggle a juggling attorney; to put craft, and all its power, to defiance; and to obtain justice from one— who has a heart foul enough to take advantage of the mistakes of honest simplicity, and who has raised a considerable fortune by artifice and injustice. However, I gained my point!—It was a star and garter to me!—the matter was as follows:—

“A poor

“A poor man, the father of my Vestal,
 “having, by the sweat of his brow, dur-
 “ing a course of many laborious years,
 “saved a small sum of money, applied to
 “this scribe to put it out to use for him;
 “this was done, and a bond given for the
 “money.—The honest man, having no
 “place in his cottage which he thought
 “sufficiently secure, put it in a hole in the
 “thatch, which had served instead of a
 “strong box, to keep his money.—In this
 “situation the bond remained till the time
 “of receiving his interest drew nigh.—
 “But, alas!—the rain which had done no
 “mischief to his gold, had found out his
 “paper security, and had rotted it to pie-
 “ces!”—It would be a difficult matter to
 paint the distress of the old countryman
 upon this discovery;—he came to me
 weeping, and begging my advice and as-
 sistance!—it cut me to the heart!

Frame to yourself the picture of a man upwards of sixty years of age—who having with much penury and more toil, with the addition of a small legacy, scraped together about fourscore pounds to support him in the infirmities of old age, and to be a little portion for his child when he should be dead and gone—lost his little hoard at once; and to aggravate his misfortune, through his own neglect and incaution.—“If I was young, Sir, said he, “my affliction would have been light—“and I might have obtained it again!—but “I have lost my comfort when I most “wanted it!—My staff is taken from me “when I cannot go alone; and I have no “thing to expect, in future life, but the “unwilling charity of a Parish-Officer.”—Never, in my whole life, did I wish to be rich, with so good a grace, as at this time!—What a luxury it would have been to have said, to this afflicted fellow-creature,

ture,

ture,—“There is thy money—go thy
 “ways—and be at peace,”—But, alas! the
 Shandy family were never much encum-
 bered with money; and I, the poorest of
 them all, could only assist him with good
 counsel:—but I did not stop here.—I went
 myself with him to * * * * *, where
 by persuasion, threats, and some art,
 which, by-the-bye, in such a cause, and
 with such an opponent, was very justifi-
 able—I sent my poor client back to his
 home, with his comfort and his bond
 restored to him.—Bravo!—Bravo!—

If a man has a right to be proud of any
 thing,—it is of a good action, done as it
 ought to be, without any base interest
 lurking at the bottom of it.—Adieu—
 Adieu—

LAWRENCE STERNE.

L E T.

L E T T E R IX.

To Mrs. V——.

OF the two bad cassocs, fair lady, which I am worth in the world, I would this moment freely give the latter of them to find out by what irresistible force of magic it is, that I am influenced to write a letter to you upon so short an acquaintance.—Short—did I say?—I unsay it again—I have been acquainted with Mrs. V—— this long and many a day: for, surely, the most penetrating of her sex need not be told, that intercourses of this kind are not to be dated by hours, days, or months—but by the slow or rapid progress of our intimacies, which are measured only by the degrees of penetration by which we discover

discover characters at once—or by the openness and frankness of heart which lets the observer into it without the pains of reflection: either of these spares us what a short life could ill afford—and that is the long and unconscionable time in forming connections, which had much better be spent in tasting the sweets of them.—Now of this frame and contexture is the fair Mrs. V—; her character is to be read at once—I saw it before I had walked twenty paces beside her—I believe, in my conscience, dear lady, if truth was known, *that you have no inside at all.*

That you are graceful, elegant, and desirable, &c. &c.—every common beholder who can stare at you, as a Dutch boor does at the Queen of Sheba,—can easily find out—but that you are sensible, gentle and tender, and from one end to the other of you full of the sweetest tones
and

and modulations, requires a deeper research.—You are a system of harmonic vibrations—the softest and best attuned of all instruments.—Lord! I would give away my other cassock to touch you—But in giving my last rag of priesthood for that pleasure, I should be left naked—to say nothing of being quite *disordered*—so divine a hand as your's would presently put me into *orders* again—but if you suppose this would leave me as you found me, believe me, dear Mrs. V——, you are much mistaken,—All this being duly put together, pray, dear lady, let me ask you, What business you had to come here from ———? or, to speak more to the purpose, what business have you to return back again?—The deuce take you with your musical and other powers; could nothing serve you, but you must turn *Tristram Shandy's* head, as if it was not turned enough already—as for your turning

ing

ing my heart—I forgive you, as you have been so good as to turn it towards so excellent and heavenly an object.—

Now, dear Mrs. V——, if you can help it, do not think of *yourself*—

But believe me to be,

With the highest esteem

For your character and self,

Your's,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET-

L E T T E R X.

To * * * * *

I Snatch half an hour, while my dinner is getting ready, to tell you I am thus far on my way to Shandy-hall:—two more stages and I shall be at the end of a tedious journey.—Report, for the fourth time, has numbered me with the dead;—and it was generally believed in this part of the world, that my bones were laid in classic ground.—This I do not much wonder at—for, to make the best of it, my constitution is but a scurvy one, and to keep the machine a going a little longer, has been the only motive for my running away from my friends and my country so much as I have done of late;—though weak as it is, it has
some

some how or other weathered more storms than many a stouter one has been able to do:—could I but transform myself into a bird of passage, and go and come with the summer—I think I should give the lie to a few more reports of this nature—before I am called in good earnest to make a report of myself and all my actions to the Being who made me.

The book of engravings, which I left with you, I must recommend to your care for a few weeks longer:—nay,—if you think they are worthy your acceptance—keep them for ever!—for to tell you the truth, I have now no occasion for them:—this is rather an ungracious way of making an offering, but you will excuse me when I tell you,—that the dear young lady, at whose feet I intended to lay them down,—and for whose sake I had preserved them with so much care, is gone

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to

to that country from whence no one returns.—Genius,—wit,—beauty,—goodness,—all, all were united in her!—Every virtue,—every grace!—I could write for ever on such a theme—but I must have done.

Surely the pleasures which arise from contemplating such characters,—embracing the urn which contains their ashes,—and shedding the tears of friendship over it—are far, far superior to the highest joys of sense,—or sensuality.

If you do not like the last word,—I pray you be so kind as to scratch it out;—for that is a liberty I have never yet ventured to take myself with any thing I write.

Adieu,—adieu—

Yours most truly,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

E T.

L E T T E R XI.

To * * * * *

—**I** Beheld her tender look—her pathetic eye petrified my fluids—the liquid desolation drowned those once-bright orbs—the late sympathetic features, so pleasing in their harmony, are now blasted—withered—and are dead;—her charms are dwindled into a melancholy which demands my pity.—Yes—my friend—our once sprightly and vivacious Harriot is that very object that must thrill your soul.—How abandoned is that heart which bulges the tear of innocence, and is the cause—the fatal cause of overwhelming the spotless soul and plunging the yet-untainted mind into a sea of sorrow and repentance.—Though born to protect the fair, does not man act the

part of a Demon?—first alluring by his temptations, and then triumphing in his victory—when villany gets the ascendancy it seldom leaves the wretch 'till it has thoroughly polluted him—T*****, once the joyous companion of our juvenile extravagances, by a deep-laid scheme, so far ingratiated himself into the good graces of the old man—that even he, with all his penetration and experience, of which old folks generally pique themselves, could not perceive his drift, and, like the goodness of his own heart, believed him honourable:—had I known his pretensions—I would have flown on the wings of friendship—of regard—of affection—and rescued the lovely innocent from the hands of the spoiler:—be not alarmed at my declaration—I have been long bound to her in the reciprocal bonds of affection;—but it is of a more delicate stamp, than the gross materials nature has planted in us for procreation

tion

tion—I hope ever to retain the idea of innocence and love her still:—I would love the whole sex were they equally deserving.

—————taking her by the hand—the other thrown round her waist—after an intimacy allowing such freedoms—with a look deceitfully pleasing, the villain poured out a torrent of protestations—and though oaths are sacred—swore, with all the fortitude of a conscientious man—the depth of his love—the height of his esteem—the strength of his attachment;—by these, and other artful means to answer his abandoned purpose, for which you know he is but too-well qualified,—gained on the open inexperienced heart of the generous Harriot, and robbed her of her brightest jewel.—Oh, England! where are your senators?—where are your laws?—Ye Heavens! where rests your deadly thunder?—why are your bolts restrained from o'er-

whelming with vengeance this vile seducer.—I,—my friend,—I, was the minister sent by justice to revenge her wrongs—revenge—I disclaim it—to redress her wrongs.—The news of affliction flies—I heard it, and posted to * * * *, where forgetting my character—this is the stile of the enthusiast—it most became my character—I saw him in his retreat—I flew out of the chaise—caught him by the collar—and in a tumult of passion—demanded:—sure, if anger is excusable, it must be when it is exerted by a detestation of vice.—I demanded him to restore:—alas! what was not in his power to return—Vengeance!—and shall these vermin—these spoilers of the fair—these murderers of the mind—lurk and creep about in dens, secure to themselves and pillage all around them?—Distracted with my rage—I charged him with his crime—exploded his baseness—condemned his villany—while co-
ward

ward guilt sat on his sullen brow, and, like a criminal conscious of his deed, tremblingly pronounced his fear.—He hoped means might be found for a sufficient atonement—offered a tender of his hand as a satisfaction, and a life devoted to her service as a recompence for his error.—His humiliation struck me—'twas the only means he could have contrived to assuage my anger.—I hesitated—paused—thought—and still must think on so important a concern:—assist me—I am half afraid of trusting my Harriot in the hands of a man, whose character I too well know to be the antipodes of Harriot's.—He all fire and dissipation;—she all meekness and sentiment!—nor can I think there is any hopes of reformation;—the offer proceeds more from surprise or fear, than justice and sincerity.—The world—the world will exclaim, and my Harriot be a cast-off from society—Let her—I had rather see her thus,

than miserably linked for life to a lump of vice.—She shall retire to some corner of the world, and there weep out the remainder of her days in sorrow—forgetting the wretch who has abused her confidence, but ever remembering the friend who consoles her in retirement.—You, my dear Charles, shall bear a part with me in the delightful task of whispering “peace to those who are in trouble, and healing the broken in spirit.”

Adieu,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET.

L E T T E R XII.

To * * * * *

S I R!

I Feel the weight of obligation which your friendship has laid upon me, and if it should never be in my power to make you a recompence, I hope you will be recompensed at the “Resurrection of the just.”—I hope, Sir, we shall both be found in that catalogue;—and we are encouraged to hope, by the example of Abraham’s faith, even “Against hope.”—I think there is, at least, as much probability of our reaching, and rejoicing in the “Heaven where we would be,” as there was of the old Patriarch’s having a child by his old wife.—There is not any person living
or

or dead, whom I have so strong a desire to see and converse with as yourself:—indeed I have no inclination to visit, or say a syllable to but a few persons in this lower vale of vanity and tears besides you;—but I often derive a peculiar satisfaction in conversing with the ancient and modern dead,—who yet live and speak excellently in their works.—My neighbours think *often alone*,—and yet at such times I am in company with more than five hundred mutes—each of whom, at my pleasure, communicates his ideas to me by dumb signs—quite as intelligibly as any person living can do by *uttering* of words.—They always keep the distance from me which I direct,—and, with a motion of my hand, I can bring them as near to me as I please.—I lay hands on fifty of them sometimes in an evening, and handle them as I like:—they never complain of ill-usage,—and when dismissed from my presence,—though
 ever

ever so abruptly—take no offence. Such convenience is not to be enjoyed—nor such liberty to be taken—with the living:—we are bound—in point of good-manners to admit all our pretended friends when they knock for an entrance, and dispense with all the nonsense or impertinence which they broach 'till they think proper to withdraw: nor can we take the liberty of humbly and decently opposing their sentiments without exciting their disgust, and being in danger of their splenetic representation after they have left us.

I am weary of talking to the *many*,—who though quick of hearing—are so “Slow of heart to believe”—propositions which are next to self-evident;—you and I were not cast in *one mould*,—corporal comparison will attest it,—and yet we are fashioned so much alike, that we may pass for twins:—were it possible to take an inventory

ventory of all our sentiments and feelings—just and unjust—holy and impure—there would appear as little difference between them as there is between instinct and reason;—or—wit and madness, the barriers which separate these—like the real essence of bodies—escape the piercing eye of metaphysics, and cannot be pointed out more clearly than geometers define a straight line, which is said to have length without breadth.—O ye learned anatomical aggregates, who pretend to instruct other aggregates! be as candid as the sage whom ye pretend to revere—and tell them, that all you know is, that you know nothing!

————— I have a *mort* to communicate to you on different subjects—my mountain will be in labour 'till I see you—and then—what then?—why you must expect to see it bring forth—a mouse.—I therefore beseech you to have a watchful eye to the
cats;

cats;—but it is said that mice were designed to be killed by cats.—Cats to be worried by dogs, &c. &c.—This may be true—and I think I am made to be killed by my cough,—which is a perpetual plague to me; what, in the name of sound lungs, has my cough to do with you—or—you with my cough?

I am, Sir, with the most

Perfect affection and esteem,

Your humble Servant,

LAWRENCE STERNE.

LET-

L E T T E R XIII.

To * * * * *

IN my last, for want of something better to write about, I told you what a world of fending and proving we have had of late, in this little * village of ours, about an old cast-off pair of black plush-breeches, which † *John*, our parish clerk, about ten years ago, it seems, had made a promise of to one *Trim* ††, who is our sexton and dog-whipper.—To this you write me word, that you have had more than either one or two occasions to know a good deal of the shifty behaviour of the said master *Trim*—and that you are astonished, nor can you for your soul conceive, how so
worth-

* York. † Dr. Fount—n, Dean of York.

†† Dr. T—ph-m.

worthless a fellow, and so worthless a thing into the bargain, could become the occasion of so much racket as I have represented.—

Now, though you do not say expressly, you could wish to hear any more about it, yet I see plainly enough I have raised your curiosity, and therefore, from the same motive that I slightly mentioned it at all in my last letter, I will in this give you a full and very circumstantial account of the whole affair.

But, before I begin, I must first set you right in one very material point, in which I have misled you, as to the true cause of all this uproar amongst us—which does not take its rise, as I then told you, from the affair of the breeches, but, on the contrary, the whole affair of the breeches has taken its rise from it.—To understand which you must know, that
the

the first beginning of the squabble was not between *John* the parish-clerk and *Trim* the sexton, but betwixt the * parson of the parish and the said master *Trim*, about an old *watch-coat* that had hung up many years in the church, which *Trim* had set his heart upon; and nothing would serve *Trim* but he must take it home in order to have it converted into a *warm under-petticoat* for his wife, and a *jerkin* for himself against winter; which, in a plaintive tone, he most humbly begged his reverence would consent to.

I need not tell you, Sir, who have so often felt it, that a principle of strong compassion transports a generous mind sometimes beyond what is strictly right;—the parson was within an ace of being an honourable example of this very crime—for no sooner did the distinct words—*petticoat*
—*poor*

* Apb. H—tt—n.

—*poor wife—warm—winter*, strike upon his ear—but his heart warmed—and before *Trim* had well got to the end of his petition, being a gentleman of a frank open temper, he told him he was welcome to it with all his heart and soul.—But, *Trim*, says he, as you see I am but just got down to my living, and am an utter stranger to all parish matters, knowing nothing about this old watch-coat you beg of me, having never seen it in my life, and therefore cannot be a judge whether 'tis fit for such a purpose, or, if it is, in truth know not whether 'tis mine to bestow upon you or not—you must have a week or ten days patience, till I can make some inquiries about it—and, if I find it is in my power, I tell you again, man, your wife is heartily welcome to an under-petticoat out of it, and you to a jerkin, was the thing as good again as you represent it.

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It

It is necessary to inform you, Sir, in this place, that the parson was earnestly bent to serve *Trim* in this affair, not only from the motive of generosity, which I have justly ascribed to him, but likewise from another motive, and that was by making some sort of recompence for a multitude of small services which *Trim* had occasionally done, and indeed was continually doing, as he was much about the house, when his own man was out of the way.—For all these reasons together, I say, the parson of the parish intended to serve *Trim* in this matter to the utmost of his power. All that was wanting, was previously to inquire if any one had a *claim* to it, or whether, as it had time immemorial hung up in the church, the taking it down might not raise a clamour in the parish. These inquiries were the things that *Trim* dreaded in his heart—he knew very well, that, if the parson should but
 say

say one word to the churchwardens about it, there would be an end of the whole affair. For this, and some other reasons not necessary to be told you at present, *Trim* was for allowing no time in this matter—but on the contrary doubled his diligence and importunity at the vicarage-house—plagued the whole family to death—prest his suit morning, noon, and night, and, to shorten my story, teased the poor gentleman, who was but in an ill state of health, almost out of his life about it.

You will not wonder when I tell you, that all this hurry and precipitation, on the side of master *Trim*, produced its natural effect on the side of the parson, and that was a suspicion that all was not right at the bottom.

He was one evening fitting alone in his study, weighing and turning this doubt

every way in his mind, and after an hour and a half's serious deliberation upon the affair, and running over *Trim's* behaviour throughout—he was just saying to himself—*it must be so*—when a sudden rap at the door put an end to his soliloquy, and in a few minutes to his doubts too; for a labourer in the town, who deemed himself past his fifty-second year, had been returned by the constables in the militia list—and he had come with a groat in his hand to search the parish-register for his age. The parson bid the poor fellow put the groat into his pocket, and go into the kitchen—then shutting the study door, and taking down the parish register—*who knows*, says he, *but I may find something here about this selfsame watch-coat?* He had scarce unclasped the book, in saying this, when he popped on the very thing he wanted, fairly wrote in the first page, pasted to the inside of one of the covers, whereon

was

was a memorandum about the very thing in question in these express words—*Memorandum.* “The great watch-coat was
 “purchased and given, above two hundred
 “years ago, by the lord of the manor to
 “this parish church, to the sole use and
 “behoof of the poor sexton thereof, and
 “their successors for ever, to be worn by
 “them respectively in winterly cold nights
 “in ringing *complines, passing bells, &c.*
 “which the said lord of the manor had
 “done in piety to keep the poor wretches
 “warm, and for the good of his own
 “soul, for which they were directed to
 “pray, &c.” *Just heaven!* said the parson to himself looking upwards, *what an escape have I had! give this for an under-petticoat to Trim’s wife! I would not have consented to such a desecration to be Primate of all England—nay, I would not have disturbed a single button of it for all my tithes.*

Scarce were the words out of his mouth, when in pops *Trim* with the whole subject of the exclamation under both his arms—I say under both his arms—for he had actually got it ript and cut out ready, his own jerkin under one arm, and the petticoat under the other, in order to carry to the taylor to be made up, and had just stepped in, in high spirits, to show the parson how cleverly it had held out.

There are now many good similies subsisting in the world, but which I have neither time to recollect or look for, which would give you a strong conception of the astonishment and honest indignation which this unexpected stroke of *Trim's* impudence impressed upon the parson's looks—let it suffice to say, that it exceeded all fair description—as well as all power of proper resentment—except this, that *Trim* was ordered, in a stern voice, to lay

lay the bundles down upon the table—to go about his business, and wait upon him, at his peril, the next morning at eleven precisely.—Against this hour, like a wise man, the parson had sent to desire *John* the parish clerk, who bore an exceeding good character as a man of truth, and who, having moreover a pretty freehold of about eighteen pounds a year in the township, was a leading man in it; and, upon the whole, was such a one of whom it might be said, that he rather did honour to his office than that his office did honour to him—him he sends for with the churchwardens, and one of the sidersmen, a grave, knowing old man, to be present—for, as *Trim* had withheld the whole truth from the parson touching the watch-coat, he thought it probable he would as certainly do the same thing to others. Tho' this, I said, was wise, the trouble of the precaution might have been spared—because

the parson's character was unblemished—and he had ever been held by the world in the estimation of a man of honour and integrity.—*Trim's* character on the contrary was as well known, if not in the world at least in all the parish, to be that of a little, dirty, pimping, pettyfogging, ambidextrous fellow—who neither cared what he did or said of any, provided he could get a penny by it. This might, I said, have made any precaution needless—but you must know, as the parson had in a manner but just got down to his living, he dreaded the consequences of the least ill impression on his first entrance among his parishioners, which would have disabled him from doing them the good he wished—so that out of regard to his flock, more than the necessary care due to himself—he was resolved not to lie at the mercy of what resentment might vent, or malice lend an ear to.—

Ac-

Accordingly the whole matter was rehearsed, from first to last, by the parson, in the manner I've told you, in the hearing of *John* the parish clerk, and in the presence of *Trim*.

Trim had little to say for himself, except "that the parson had absolutely promised to befriend him and his wife in the affair to the utmost of his power; that the watch-coat was certainly in his power, and that he might still give it him if he pleased."

To this the parson's reply was short, but strong, "That nothing was in his *power* to do but what he could do *honestly*—that, in giving the coat to him and his wife, he should do a manifest wrong to the *next* sexton, the great watch-coat being the most comfortable part of the place—that he should moreover injure the right
of

of his own successor, who would be just so much a worse patron as the worth of the coat amounted to, and, in a word, he declared, that his whole intent in promising that coat was charity to *Trim*, but *wrong* to no man—that was a reserve, he said, made in all cases of this kind: and he declared solemnly, *in verbo sacerdotis*, that this was his meaning, and was so understood by *Trim* himself.”

With the weight of this truth, and the great good sense and strong reason which accompanied all the parson said on the subject—poor *Trim* was driven to his last shift—and begged he might be suffered to plead his right and title to the watch-coat, if not by *promise*, at least by *servitude*—it was well known how much he was intitled to it upon these scores: that he had black'd the parson's shoes without count, and greased his boots above fifty times—
that

that he had run for eggs in the town upon all occasions—whetted the knives at all hours—caught his horse, and rubbed him down—that, for his wife, she had been ready upon all occasions to char for them; and neither he nor she, to the best of his remembrance, ever took a farthing, or any thing beyond a mug of ale.—To this account of his services, he begged leave to add those of his wishes, which, he said, had been equally great—he affirmed, and was ready he said, to make it appear, by a number of witnesses, “he had drank his reverence’s health a thousand times, by the bye he did not add out of the parson’s own ale,—that he had not only drank his health but wished it, and never came to the house but asked his man kindly how he did; that in particular, about half a year ago, when his reverence cut his finger in paring an apple, he went half a mile to ask a cunning woman what was good to staunch blood,

lets the parson alone, and to revenge himself falls foul upon the clerk, who had no more to do in the quarrel than you or I—rips up the promise of the old—cast—pair of black—plush—breeches; and raises an uproar in the town about it, notwithstanding it had slept ten years—but all this, you must know, is looked upon in no other light but as an artful stroke of generalship in *Trim* to raise a dust, and cover himself under the disgraceful chastisement he has undergone.—

If your curiosity is not yet satisfied—I will now proceed to relate the *battle* of the *breeches* in the same exact manner I have done that of the watch-coat.—

Be it known then, that about ten years ago, when *John* was appointed parish-clerk of this church, this said *Trim* took no small pains to get into *John's* good
graces,

graces, in order, as it afterwards appeared, to coax a promise out of him of a pair of breeches, which *John* had then by him, of black plush, not much the worse for wearing—*Trim* only begged, for God's sake, to have them bestowed upon him when *John* should think fit to cast them.—

Trim was one of those kind of men who loved a bit of finery in his heart, and would rather have a tatter'd rag of a better body's than the best plain whole thing his wife could spin him.

John, who was naturally unsuspecting, made no more difficulty of promising the breeches than the parson had done in promising the great coat; and indeed with something less reserve—because the breeches were *John's own*, and he could give them, without wrong, to whom he thought fit.

It

It happened, I was going to say unluckily, but I should rather say most luckily, for *Trim*, for he was the only gainer by it, that a quarrel, about some six or eight weeks after this, broke out betwixt *the late* parson of the parish and *John* the clerk. Somebody, and it was thought to be nobody but *Trim*, had put it into the parson's head, "that *John's* desk in the church was at the least four inches higher than it should be—that the thing gave offence, and was indecorous, inasmuch as it approached too near upon a level with the parson's desk itself."—This hardship the parson complained of loudly, and told *John*, one day after prayers, "he could bear it no longer—and would have it altered, and brought down as it should be." *John* made no other reply, but "that the desk was not of his raising:—that 'twas not one hair breadth higher than he found it—and that as he found it so he would leave

leave it.—In short, he would neither make an encroachment, neither would he suffer one.”—The * *late* parson might have his virtues, but the leading part of his character was not *humility*—so that *John's* stiffness in this point was not likely to reconcile matters.—This was *Trim's* harvest.

After a friendly hint to *John* to stand his ground, away hies *Trim* to make his market at the vicarage.—What passed there I will not say, intending not to be uncharitable; so shall content myself with only guessing at it from the sudden change that appeared in *Trim's* dress for the better—for he had left his old ragged coat, hat, and wig, in the stable, and was come forth strutting across the church-yard, yclad in a good charitable cast coat, large hat, and wig, which the parson had just given him.—Ho! ho! hollo! *John*, cries *Trim*,

iii

* Abp. H—rr—g.

in an insolent bravo, as loud as ever he could bawl—see here, my lad, how fine I am.—The more shame for you, answered *John* seriously—Do you think, *Trim*, says he, such finery, gained by such services, becomes you, or can wear well? —Fy upon it, *Trim*, I could not have expected this from you, considering what friendship you pretended, and how kind I have ever been to you—how many shillings, and sixpences, I have generously lent you in your distresses.—Nay, it was but the other day that I promised you these black plush breeches I have on.—Rot your breeches, quoth *Trim*, for *Trim*'s brain was half turn'd with his new finery, rot your breeches, says he—I would not take them up were they laid at my door—give them, and be d—d to you, to whom you like—I would have you to know I can have a better pair of the parson's any day in the week.—*John* told him plainly,

as

as his word had once passed him, he had a spirit above taking advantage of his insolence in giving them away to another—but, to tell him his mind freely, he thought he had got so many favours of that kind, and was so likely to get many more for the same services, of the parson, that he had better give up the breeches, with good nature, to some one who would be more thankful for them.

Here *John* mentioned * *Mark Slender*, who it seems the day before had asked *John* for them, not knowing they were under promise to *Trim*—“Come, *Trim*, says he, let poor *Mark* have them—you know he has not a pair to his a—, besides, you see he is just of my size, and they will fit to a T, whereas if I give ’em to you, look ye, they are not worth much, and besides, you could not get your back-side into them, if you had them, without

N 2

tearing

* Dr. Braith—t.

tearing them all to pieces."—Every tittle of this was most undoubtedly true, for *Trim*, you must know, by foul feeding, and playing the good-fellow at the parson's, was grown somewhat gross about the lower parts, *if not higher*; so that, as all *John* said upon the occasion was fact, *Trim* with much ado, and after a hundred hums and hahs, at last, out of mere compassion to *Mark*, *signs, seals, and delivers up ALL RIGHT, INTEREST, AND PRETENSIONS WHATSOEVER, IN, AND TO THE SAID BREECHES, THEREBY BINDING HIS HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ASSIGNS, NEVER MORE TO CALL THE SAID CLAIM IN QUESTION.*—All this renunciation was set forth, in an ample manner, to be in pure pity to *Mark's* nakedness—but the secret was, *Trim* had an eye to, and firmly expected, in his own mind the great green
pulpit-

pulpit-cloth, and old velvet cushion, which were that very year to be taken down—which, by the by, could he have wheedled *John* a second time, as he had hoped, would have made up the loss of the breeches seven fold.

Now, you must know, this pulpit-cloth and cushion were not in *John's* gift, but in the church-wardens, &c. However, as I said above, that *John* was a leading man in the parish, *Trim* knew he could help him to 'em if he would—but *John* had got a surfeit of him—so, when the pulpit-cloth, &c. were taken down, they were immediately given, *John* having a great say in it, to * *William Doe*, who understood very well what use to make of them.

As for the old breeches, poor *Mark* lived to wear them but a short time, and they got into the possession of *Lorry*

N 3

Slim,

* Mr. Birdm—e.

*Slim**, an unlucky wight, by whom they are still worn—in truth, as you will guess, they are very thin by this time.

But *Lorry* has a light heart, and what recommends them to him is this, that, as thin as they are, he knows that *Trim*, let him say what he will to the contrary, still envies the *possessor* of them, and with all his pride would be very glad to wear them after *him*.

Upon this footing have these affairs slept quietly for near ten years—and would have slept for ever, but for the unlucky kicking bout, which, as I said, has ripped this squabble up afresh; so that it was no longer ago than last week, that *Trim* met and insulted *John* in the public town-way before a hundred people—tax'd him with the promise of the old cast pair of black breeches, notwithstanding *Trim's* solemn renunciation—twitted him with the pulpit-cloth

* Lawrence Sterne.

cloth and velvet cushion—as good as told him he was ignorant of the common duties of his clerkship; adding, very insolently, that he knew not so much as to give out a common psalm in tune.

John contented himself by giving a plain answer to every article that *Trim* had laid to his charge, and appealed to his neighbours who remembered the whole affair—and, as he knew there was never any thing to be got by wrestling with a chimney-sweeper, he was going to take his leave of *Trim* for ever. But hold—the mob by this time had got round them, and their high mightinesses insisted upon having *Trim* tried upon the spot.—

Trim was accordingly tried, and, after a full hearing, was convicted a second time, and handled more roughly by one or more of them than even at the parson's.—

Trim, says one, are you not ashamed of yourself to make all this rout and distur-

bance in the town, and set neighbours together by the ears, about an old—worn—out—pair of cast—breeches not worth half a crown? Is there a cast coat, or a place in the whole town, that will bring you in a shilling, but what you have snapped up like a greedy hound as you are.—

In the first place, are you not sexton and dog-whipper, worth three pounds a year? Then you begged the church-wardens to let your wife have the washing and darning of the churchlinen, which brings you in thirteen shillings and fourpence; then you have six shillings and eightpence for oiling and winding up the clock, both paid you at Easter—the pounder's place, which is worth forty shillings a year, you have got that too—you are the bailiff, which the late parson got you, which brings you in forty shillings more.

Besides all this, you have six pounds a year, paid you quarterly, for being mole-catcher

catcher to the parish. Aye, says the luckless wight above-mentioned, who was standing close by him with the plush breeches on, "you are not only mole-catcher, *Trim*, but you catch *STRAY CONIES* too in the *dark*, and you pretend a licence for it, which, I trow, will be looked into at the next quarter sessions." I maintain it, I have a licence, says *Trim*, blushing as red as scarlet—I have a licence, and, as I farm a warren in the next parish, I will catch conies every hour of the night. *You catch conies!* says a toothless old woman just passing by.

This set the mob a laughing, and sent every man home in perfect good humour, except *Trim*, who waddled very slowly off with that kind of inflexible gravity only to be equalled by one animal in the creation, and surpassed by none.

I am,

Sir, yours, &c. &c.

POST-

bours pity him, thinking the poor fellow cracked-brained, and that he actually believed what he said.

After this *Trim* dropped the affair of the breeches, and began a fresh dispute about the reading-desk, which I told you had occasioned some small dispute between the *late* parson and *John* some years ago.—This reading-desk, as you will observe, was but an episode wove into the main story by the bye, for the main affair was *the battle of the breeches and the great coat*.

However, *Trim* being at last driven out of these two citadels—he has seized hold, in his retreat, of this reading-desk, with a view, as it seems, to take shelter behind it.

I cannot say but the man has fought it out obstinately enough, and, had his cause been good, I should have really pitied him. For, when he was driven out of
the

the *great watch-coat*, you see he did not run away; no—he retreated behind the breeches; and, when he could make nothing of it behind the breeches, he got behind the reading-desk. To what other hold *Trim* will next retreat, the politicians of this village are not agreed. Some think his next move will be towards the rear of the parson's boot; but, as it is thought he cannot make a long stand there, others are of opinion, that *Trim* will once more in his life get hold of the parson's horse, and charge upon him, or perhaps behind him: but, as the horse is not easy to be caught, the more general opinion is, that, when he is driven out of the reading-desk, he will make his last retreat in such a manner, as, if possible, to gain the *closestool*, and defend himself behind it to the very last drop.

If *Trim* should make this movement, by my advice he should be left, beside his citadel,

tadel, in full possession of the field of battle, where 'tis certain he will keep every body a league off, and may hop by himself till he is weary. Besides, as *Trim* seems bent upon *purging* himself, and may have abundance of foul humours to work off, I think he cannot be better placed.

But this is all matter of speculation—
Let me carry you back to matter of fact, and tell you what kind of stand *Trim* has actually made behind the said desk: “Neighbours and townsmen all, I will be sworn before my lord mayor, that *John* and his nineteen men in *buckram* have abused me worse than a dog; for they told you that I play'd fast and go loose with the *late* parson and him in that old dispute of theirs about the *reading-desk*, and that I made matters worse between them and not better.”

Of this charge *Trim* declared he was as innocent as the child that was unborn—
that

that he would be book-sworn he had no hand in it.

He produced a strong witness, and moreover insinuated, that *John* himself, instead of being angry for what he had done in it, had actually thanked him—Aye, *Trim*, says the wight in the plush-breeches, but that was, *Trim*, the day before *John* found thee out. Besides, *Trim*, there is nothing in that, for the very year that you was made town's pounder, thou knowest well that I both thanked thee myself, and moreover gave thee a good warm supper for turning *John Lund's* cows and horses out of my hard corn close, which if thou hadst not done, as thou toldst me, I should have lost my whole crop; whereas *John Lund* and *Thomas Patt*, who are both here to testify, and are both willing to take their oaths on't, that thou thyself was the very man who set the gate open—and after all, it
was

was not thee, *Trim*, 'twas the blacksmith's poor lad who turned them out—so that a man may be thanked and rewarded too for a good turn which he never did, nor ever did intend.

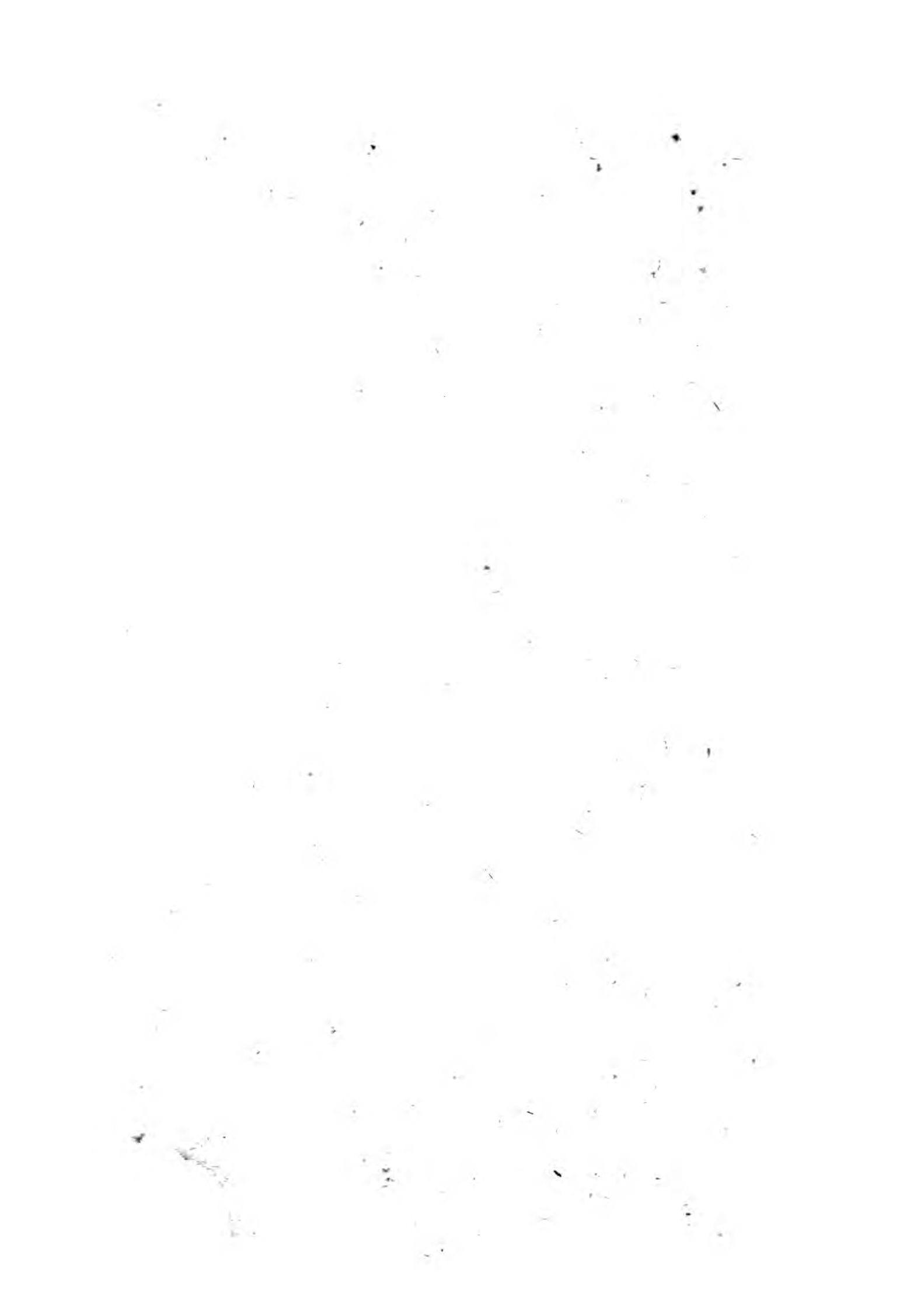
Trim could not sustain this unexpected stroke—so *Trim* marched off the field without colours flying, or his horn sounding, or any other ensigns of honour whatever.—Whether after this *Trim* intends to rally a second time—or whether he may not take it into his head to claim the victory—none but *Trim* himself can inform you.

However, the general opinion upon the whole is this, that, in three several pitch'd battles, *Trim* has been so *trimm'd* as never disastrous hero was *trimm'd* before.



F I N I S.





193.

of Green



