

S K E T C H E S
O F T H E
Natural, Civil, and Political State
O F
S W I S S E R L A N D ;
I N A S E R I E S O F L E T T E R S

T O
W I L L I A M M E L M O T H, E s q ;
F R O M

W I L L I A M C O X E, M. A.
Fellow of King's College, Cambridge ; and Chaplain to
His Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*.

LA' HABITE UN PEUPLE SIMPLE, BIENFAISANT, BRAVE,
ENNEMI DU FASTE, AMI DU TRAVAIL, NE CHER-
CHANT POINT D'ESCLAVES, ET NE VOULANT POINT
DES MAÎTRES.

De Mehegan, Tableau de l'Histoire Moderne.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, IN PALL MALL.
M,DCC,LXXIX.



TO THE
C O U N T E S S

O F

PEMBROKE and MONTGOMERY,
BARONESS HERBERT, &c. &c. &c.

M A D A M,

THE following letters relating to Swisserland, naturally claim your Ladyship's protection; for they were written while I had the honour of accompanying Lord HERBERT upon his travels. I feel myself

myself highly flattered, therefore,
in having the permission of in-
scribing them to your Ladyship,
and of thus publicly acknowledg-
ing myself, with great respect,

MADAM,

Your Ladyship's

Obedient

and obliged

humble servant,

WILLIAM COXE.

Vienna, June 26th,
1778.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following letters were written merely as a private tribute of friendship, and without the least view of their passing from the hands of the gentleman to whom they are addressed, into any other but those of the Author's most intimate connections. To the latter they were accordingly communicated; and it was solely in compliance with their unanimous, though perhaps too partial, opinion, that he consented to commit them to the press. For that purpose a revision of them became necessary; in the course of which he availed himself of every means in his power, to render them less unworthy of public inspection: and he feels a just pride in acknowledging, that he has received much additional information from several of his literary acquaintance in Swisserland; that by Captain Floyd's obliging communication of the very accurate journal he kept during their joint tour, he has been enabled to insert several material circumstances which had either slipped his memory, or escaped his observation; and that it is owing to the judicious animadversions of some other of his ingenious friends, that these sheets do not appear with all their original imperfections.

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E R R A T A.

- P. 105. l. ult. after *companies in*, add, *the service of*; and after, *a re-
giment in*, add, *that of*.
P. 147. l. 17. for, *it*, read, *the latter*,
P. 201. l. 16. after, *gulf*, add, *which*.
P. 309. l. 15. for, *prosecution*, read, *fact*.
P. 330. l. 5. for, *com-burghers*, read, *co-burghers*.
P. 447. l. 14. for, *oferwed*, read, *observed*.
P. 476. l. 9. after *globe*, dele the *semicolon*, and place a *comma*.
P. 516. l. 21. for, *potations*, read, *compotations*.

LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

Doneschingen, July 21, 1776:

DEAR SIR,

I Am now at Doneschingen, in my way towards Swisserland; a country long celebrated for the peculiarities of its different governments, and for the singular beauties conferred upon it by nature. As both these circumstances cannot fail of being highly interesting to any one, who has the least degree of curiosity; I propose to myself great satisfaction in this tour: not without some regret, however, that

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our time for this expedition is extremely limited, and that we shall not be able to visit as much as I could wish of so delightful a country. But as it is always one's interest, not so much to regret what we cannot have, as to make the most of what is in our power; I shall endeavour to gain all the information, which the shortness of the time will admit: and, if it will not be trespassing upon your patience, I propose to trouble you with some account of my tour; writing however, only when it may be convenient to me, and without promising that you will find me a very punctual correspondent. I am persuaded, that I shall travel with much greater profit to myself, when I am thus to inform you of all that I have seen; as the reflection that my observations are to be communicated to you, will be one means of rendering me more attentive and accurate in forming them.

We quitted Strasbourg yesterday, and crossed the Rhine to Kehl, formerly an
I
important

important fortress belonging to Strasbourg when an imperial city. It was also strongly fortified by the French, who took possession of it in 1648; but it was ceded to the Empire at the peace of Ryswic: the Emperor consigned it over to the house of Baden, reserving, however, to himself the right of having a garrison therein. Since that period, it has been twice besieged by the French; and as during the last siege, in 1733, the works were considerably damaged, the imperial garrison has been withdrawn: at present, there are only the ruins of the ancient fortifications; and by way of garrison, a few invalids belonging to the Margrave of Baden. From thence we proceeded to Offembourg, a small imperial town; and soon after, entered the beautiful valley of Kinsing; passed through Gengenbach, another small imperial town, finely situated; and went up the valley along the course of the river Kinsing; rising

gradually for several leagues together, until we found ourselves in the midst of the Black Forest. As we ascended, the country became more wild and romantic, and the river more rapid; on each hand mountains, whose sides were finely cultivated, and whose tops were richly covered with a continual forest. Several small streams of the clearest water rolled down the sides of the mountains, forming numberless little cascades in their passage; and uniting, fell into the Kinzig. The views were so exceedingly diversified; the villages so delightfully situated; and the cottages so exceedingly picturesque, that we almost imagined we had anticipated the romantic beauties of Switzerland.

Doneschingen is the principal residence of the prince of Furstenberg: in the court-yard of his palace, the Danube takes its rise. I am this moment returned from visiting the spot:
the

the description of which may be comprised in a few words. Some small springs rising from the ground, form a bason of clear water, of about thirty foot square: from this pool issues the Danube, being at first nothing more than a little brook. And though the two small rivers of Bribach and Brege, uniting below the town, are far more considerable than this stream, which flows into them soon after their junction; yet it is the latter that alone has the honour of being called the source of the Danube, and gives name to the other two. After we had gone through the ceremony of striding across the stream, in order to say, that we had *stepped* over the Danube, we soon satisfied our curiosity; the object itself being in no respect extraordinary, but deriving its principal recommendation from being one of the sources of so considerable a river. Indeed, it was this circumstance alone that induced

us to enter Switzerland by the way of Suabia.

I am, dear Sir,

very affectionately yours,

WILLIAM COXE.

LETTER II.

Schaffhausen, July 22.

I HAVE great pleasure in breathing the air of liberty : every person here has apparently the mien of content and satisfaction. The cleanliness of the houses, and of the people, is peculiarly striking ; and I can trace in all their manners, behaviour, and dress, some strong outlines, which distinguish this happy people from the neighbouring nations. Perhaps it may be prejudice and unreasonable partiality ; but I am the more pleased, because their first appearance very much reminds me of my own

own countrymen, and I could almost think, for a moment, that I am in England.

Schaffhausen is a neat and tolerably well-built town, situated upon the northern shore of the Rhine. It is the capital of the canton of the same name, and owes its origin to the interruption of the navigation of that river by the cataract at Lauffen : huts were at first constructed here for the convenience of unloading the merchandize from the boats ; and these huts, by degrees, increased to a large town. Schaffhausen was formerly an imperial city, and was governed by an aristocracy : it preserved its liberties, which were attacked by the Dukes of Austria, by entering into an alliance with several other imperial towns, and with the Swiss cantons. In 1501, it was admitted a member of the Helvetic confederacy ; being the twelfth canton in rank. Of all the cantons, it is the least in size, being only five leagues in