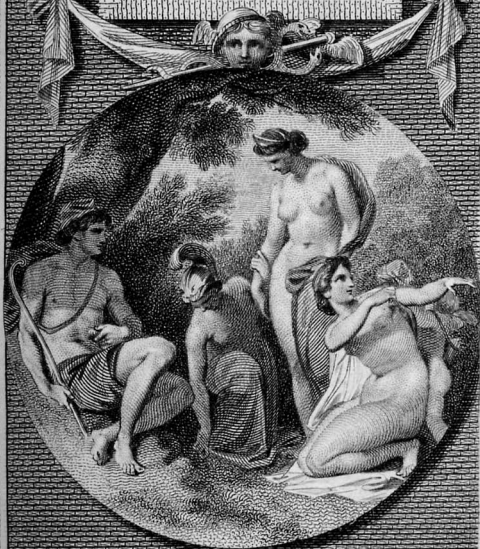




LORD LANSDOWN

BELL'S EDITION.  
THE POETS of GREAT BRITAIN  
COMPLETE, FROM  
CHAUCER to CHURCHILL



LANSLOWNE.

With Gifts their young Dardanian Judge they tryd  
And each bad high to win him to 'her side.  
*The Judgement of Paris*

THE  
POETICAL WORKS

OF THE RIGHT HON.

GEO. GRANVILLE,  
LORD LANSDOWNE.

WITH THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

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For impious greatness vengeance is in store ;  
Short is the date of all ill-gotten pow'r----  
Fearless he sees, who is with virtue crown'd,  
The tempest rage, and hears the thunder sound ;  
Ever the same, let Fortune smile or frown,  
On the red scaffold or the blazing throne ;  
Serenely as he liv'd resigns his breath,  
Meets Destiny half way, nor shrinks at death----  
An honest heart, a conscience free from blame,  
Not of great acts, but good, give me the name----  
Place me, ye Pow'rs ! in some obscure retreat ;  
O keep me innocent, make others great !  
In quiet shades, content with rural sports,  
Give me a life remote from guilty courts,  
Where, free from hopes or fears, in humble ease,  
Unheard of, I may live and die in peace.

IMITAT. SENECAE. THYEST.

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EDINBURG:  
AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS.  
*Anno 1779.*

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T H E  
POETICAL WORKS  
OF THE RIGHT HON.  
GEORGE GRANVILLE,  
LORD LANSDOWNE.

CONTAINING HIS

<p>MISCELLANIES, EPISTLES, SONGS,</p>	<p>        </p>	<p>PROLOGUES, EPILOGUES, IMITATIONS, DRAMATIC POEMS,</p>
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*&c. &c. &c.*

The virtuous nothing fear but life with shame,  
And death 's a pleasant road that leads to fame.  
On bones and scraps of dogs let me be fed,  
My limbs uncover'd, and expos'd my head  
To blakest colds, a kennel be my bed :  
This, and all other martyrdom, for thee  
Seems glorious all, thrice-beauteous Honesty!  
Judge me, ye Pow'rs! let Fortune tempt or frown,  
I stand prepar'd ; my honour is my own----  
For me, unpractis'd in the courtiers' school,  
Who loathe a knave, and tremble at a fool----  
What can I hope in courts, or how succeed?  
Tigers and wolves shall in the ocean feed,  
The whale and dolphin fatten on the mead,  
And ev'ry element exchange its kind,  
Ere thriving Honesty in courts we find.

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VERSES TO MRS. HIGGONS.

EDINBURG:  
AT THE Apollo Press, BY THE MARTINS.  
*Anno 1779.*

G. GRANVILLE, L. LANSDOWNE.

L. LANSDOWNE was descended from an illustrious family, which traced their ancestry from Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy. He was second son of Bernard Granville, and grandson of the famous Sir Bevil Granville, killed at the battle of Lansdowne 1643. This nobleman received the first tincture of his education in France, under the tuition of Sir William Ellis, a gentleman, who was eminent afterwards in many public employments.

When our Author was but eleven years of age he was sent to Trinity-College in Cambridge, where he remained five years, but at the age of thirteen was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, having before he was twelve years old spoken a copy of English verses, of his own composition, to the Duchess of York, when her Royal Highness paid a visit to that university.

At the time when the nation was embroiled by the public distractions, occasioned by the efforts of King James II. to introduce Popery, Lord Lansdowne did not remain an unconcerned spectator: he had early imbibed principles of loyalty, and as some of his forefathers had fallen in the cause of Charles I. he thought it was his duty to sacrifice his life also for the interest

of his sovereign. However mistaken he might be in this furious zeal for a prince the chief scope of whose reign was to overthrow the law and introduce absolute dominion, yet he appears to be perfectly sincere. In a letter he wrote to his father upon the expected approach of the Prince of Orange's fleet, he expresses the most ardent desire to serve the King in person \*. 'This letter we shall insert, but beg our readers' patience to make a digression, which will justify what we have said concerning James II.

The genuine mark of a tyrant is cruelty; and it is with concern we can produce an instance of the most inhuman barbarity in that prince which ever stained the annals of any reign. Cruelty should be the badge of no party; it ought to be equally the abhorrence of all; and whoever is tainted with it should be set up to view as a terror to the world, as a monster, whom it is the interest of mankind to destroy.

After the suppression of Monmouth's rebellion, many of the unfortunate persons engaged in it fled to London, and took shelter there, till the Act of Indemnity should be published. 'They who afforded them shelter were either of the Monmouth faction or induced, from principles of humanity, to administer to their safety. What would become of the world if our friends were always to forsake us in distress? 'There lived then in London an amiable lady, attached to no

\* General Dict. art. *Granville*.

party, who enjoyed a large fortune, which she spent in the exercise of the most extensive beneficence : she made it her business to visit the jails, and the prisoners who were most necessitous and deserving she relieved : her house was an asylum for the poor : she lived but for charity, and she had every hour the prayers of the widow and orphan poured out to her. It happened that one of the rebels found shelter in her house ; she suffered him to be screened there ; she fed and clothed him. The King had often declared that he would rather pardon those who were found in arms against him than the people who harboured or secretly encouraged them. This miscreant, who sometimes ventured out at night to a public house, was informed that the King had made such a declaration, and it entered into his base heart to betray his benefactress. He accordingly went before a magistrate, and lodged an information, upon which the lady was secured, brought to a trial, and, upon the evidence of this ungrateful villain, cast for her life. She suffered at a stake with the most resigned cheerfulness ; for when a woman is convicted of treason, it seems she is sentenced to be burnt \*. The reader will easily judge what sort of bowels that king must have who could permit such a punishment to take place upon a woman so completely amiable, upon the evidence of a villain so con-

\* See Burnet's History of his own Times.



summately infamous, and he will, we are persuaded, be of opinion, that had his Majesty possessed a thousand kingdoms he deserved to lose them all for this one act of genuine barbarity.

Lord Lansdowne, who did not consider, or was not then capable of discovering, the dangers to which this prince exposed his people, wrote the following letter to his father, earnestly pressing him to permit his entering voluntarily into King James's service.

“ SIR,

“ Your having no prospect of obtaining a commission for me, can no way alter or cool my desire, at this important juncture, to venture my life, in some manner or other, for my king and country. I cannot bear to live under the reproach of lying obscure and idle, in a country retirement, when every man who has the least sense of honour should be preparing for the field. You may remember, Sir, with what reluctance I submitted to your commands upon Monmouth's rebellion, when no importunity could prevail with you to permit me to leave the academy: I was too young to be hazarded; but, give me leave to say, it is glorious, at any age, to die for one's country; and the sooner the nobler sacrifice: I am now older by three years. My uncle Bath was not so old when he was left among the slain at the battle of Newberry, nor you yourself, Sir, when you made your escape from your tutors to join

“ your brother in the defence of Scilly. The same cause  
“ is now come round about again. The King has been  
“ misled; let those who misled him be answerable for  
“ it. Nobody can deny but he is sacred in his own per-  
“ son, and it is every honest man’s duty to defend it.  
“ You are pleased to say it is yet doubtful if the Hol-  
“ landers are rash enough to make such an attempt.  
“ But be that as it will, I beg leave to be presented to  
“ his Majesty as one whose utmost ambition is to de-  
“ vote his life to his service and my country’s, after the  
“ example of all my ancestors. The gentry assembled  
“ at York to agree upon the choice of representa-  
“ tives for the county, have prepared an address to  
“ assure his Majesty they are ready to sacrifice their  
“ lives and fortunes for him upon this and all other  
“ occasions; but at the same time they humbly beseech  
“ him to give them such magistrates as may be agree-  
“ able to the laws of the land, for at present there is  
“ no authority to which they can legally submit. By  
“ what I can hear, every body wishes well to the King,  
“ but would be glad his ministers were hanged. The  
“ winds continue so contrary, that no landing can be  
“ so soon as was apprehended, therefore I may hope,  
“ with your leave and assistance, to be in readiness be-  
“ fore any action can begin. I beseech you, Sir, most  
“ humbly, and most earnestly, to add this one act of  
“ indulgence more to so many testimonies I have so  
“ constantly received of your goodness, and be plea-

“ fed to believe me always, with the utmoſt duty and  
“ ſubmiſſion, Your’s,” &c.

We are not told whether his father yielded to his importunity, or whether he was preſented to his Ma- jeſty; but if he really joined the army, it was without danger to his perſon, for the Revolution was effected in England without one drop of blood.

In 1696 his comedy called *The She Gallants* was acted at the Theatre Royal in Lincoln’s-Inn Fields \*. He afterwards altered this comedy, and publiſhed it among his other Works, under the title of *Once a Lover and Always a Lover*, which, as he obſerves in the preface, is a new building upon an old foundation.

“ It appeared firſt under the name of *The She Gal-*  
“ *lants*, and, by the preface then prefixed to it, is ſaid  
“ to have been the child of a child. By taking it ſince  
“ under examination ſo many years after, the Au-  
“ thor flatters himſelf to have made a correſt comedy  
“ of it; he found it regular to his hand; the ſcene con-  
“ ſtant to one place, the time not exceeding the bounds  
“ preſcribed, and the action entire. It remained only  
“ to clear the ground, and to plant, as it were, freſh  
“ flowers in the room of thoſe which were grown into  
“ weeds, or were faded by time; to retouch and vary  
“ the characters, enliven the painting, retrench the  
“ ſuperfluous, and animate the action, where it ap-  
“ peared the young Author ſeemed to aim at more  
“ than he had ſtrength to perform.”

\* General Dict. art. *Granville*.

The same year also his tragedy, entitled *Heroic Love*, was acted at the Theatre. Mr. Gildon observes, "That this tragedy is written after the manner of the Ancients, which is much more natural and easy than that of our modern dramatists." Though we cannot agree with Mr. Gildon that the ancient model of tragedy is so natural as the modern, yet this piece must have very great merit, since we find Mr. Dryden addressing verses to the Author upon this occasion, which begin thus,

Auspicious Poet! wert thou not my friend,  
How could I envy what I must commend?  
But since 'tis Nature's law, in love and wit,  
That youth should reign, and with'ring age submit,  
With less regret those laurels I resign,  
Which dying on my brow revive on thine.

Our Author wrote also a dramatic poem called *The British Enchanters* \*, in the preface to which he observes, "That it is the first essay of a very infant Muse, rather as a task at such hours as were free from other exercises than any way meant for public entertainment. But Mr. Betterton, having had a casual sight of it, many years after it was written, begged it for the stage, where it found so favourable a reception as to have an uninterrupted run of at least forty days." To this Mr. Addison wrote the epilogue. Lord Lansdowne altered Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, under the title of *The Jew of*

\* It was called *A Dramatic Opera*, and was decorated at a great expence, and intermixed with songs, dances, &c.

Venice, which was acted with applause, the profits of which were designed for Mr. Dryden, but upon that poet's death were given to his son.

In 1702 he translated into English *The Second Olynthian of Demosthenes*. He was returned member for the county of Cornwall in the parliament which met in November 1710, and was soon after made Secretary of War, next Comptroller of the Household, and then Treasurer, and sworn one of the Privy Council. The year following he was created Baron Lansdowne of Biddeford in Devonshire.

On the accession of George I. in 1714, he was removed by that prince from his Treasurer's place; the next year he entered his protest against the bills for attainting Lord Bolingbroke and the Duke of Ormond, and entered deeply into the scheme for raising an insurrection in the west of England, of which, Lord Bolingbroke says, he was at the head, and represents him as possessed of the same political fire and frenzy for the Pretender as he had shown in his youth for the father. Accordingly he was seized as a suspected person, and on the 26th of September 1715 was committed prisoner to the Tower, where he continued till the 8th of February 1717, when he was set free from imprisonment. Being confined in the same room in which Sir Robert Walpole had been prisoner, and had left his name on the window, he wrote these lines under it :

Good unexpected, evil unforeseen,  
 Appear by turns, as Fortune shifts the scene:  
 Some rais'd aloft come tumbling down again,  
 And fall so hard they bound and rise again.

In 1719 he made a speech in the House of Lords against the practice of occasional conformity, which is printed among his works, and among other things he says this: "I always understood the toleration to  
 "be meant as an indulgence to tender consciences,  
 "not a license for hardened ones; and that the act to  
 "prevent occasional conformity was designed only  
 "to correct a particular crime of particular men, in  
 "which no sect of Dissenters was included but these  
 "followers of Judas which came to the Lord's Sup-  
 "per from no other end but to sell and betray him.  
 "This crime, however palliated and defended by so  
 "many right reverend fathers in the Church, is no  
 "less than making the God of truth, as it were, in  
 "person, subservient to acts of hypocrisy; no less than  
 "sacrificing the mystical blood and body of our Sa-  
 "viour to worldly and sinister purposes, an impiety  
 "of the highest nature! which in justice called for  
 "protection, and in charity for prevention. The bare  
 "receiving the holy Eucharist could never be in-  
 "tended simply as a qualification for an office, but as  
 "an open declaration, an undubitable proof, of being  
 "and remaining a sincere member of the Church.  
 "Whoever presumes to receive it with any other view  
 "profanes it, and may be said to seek his promotion

“in this world by eating and drinking his own damnation in the next.”

In 1722 his Lordship withdrew to France, and continued abroad about ten years. At his return in 1732 he published a fine edition of his Works in two volumes quarto. The remaining years of his life were passed in privacy and retirement.

This accomplished nobleman died on the 30th January 1735, leaving no male issue. By his lady, widow of Thomas Thynne, Esq. (father of Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth) and daughter of Edward Villiers, Earl of Jersey, he had issue four daughters, Anne, Mary, Grace, and Elizabeth. His lady died but a few days before him.

Mr. Pope, with many other poets of the first eminence, have celebrated Lord Lansdowne, who seems to have been a good-natured agreeable nobleman. The lustre of his station, no doubt, procured him more incense than the force of his genius would otherwise have attracted; but he appears not to have been destitute of fine parts, which were, however, rather elegantly polished than great in themselves.

Lord Lansdowne likewise wrote a mask called *Peleus and Thetis*. His Lordship's Works have been often printed both in quarto and in duodecimo\*.

\* This edition is printed from the quarto of 1732, published under his Lordship's inspection. See the following *Preface* for the reasons of that edition.