



Montagu, Lady Mary (Pierrepont)
Wortley, 1682-1762

Nº 2



Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.
1720.

Engraved by Caroline Watson.
(Engraver to her Majesty)
from a picture by Sir Godfrey Kneller, in
the collection of the Marquis of Bute.

Published June 1. 1803, by Richard Phillips, N^o 71, St Pauls Church Yard, London.



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THE
WORKS
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LADY
MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU.

INCLUDING
HER CORRESPONDENCE, POEMS
AND ESSAYS.

PUBLISHED BY PERMISSION FROM HER GENUINE
PAPERS.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



LONDON:
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ADVERTISEMENT.

As a preliminary observation, it may be necessary to assure the Public, that no single production, either in prose or verse, already printed and attributed to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, had ever received the sanction of herself, or her representatives. It is for that important reason, a respect due to the literary world, to inform them, that no letter, essay, or poem, will find a place in the present edition, the

original manuscript of which is not at this time extant, in the possession of her grand-son, THE MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF BUTE.

The high sense of obligation which the Editor begs to express to that distinguished Nobleman for so great a confidence as that which he has reposed in him, in the present instance, will continue to demand his latest gratitude; and the Public will be no less sensible of Lord Bute's liberality, in so complete a gratification of long-excited curiosity, by permitting an access to the stores of literary amusement, which have descended to him, from one

of the most accomplished of her sex, in any age or country. It is not to discriminate Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's epistolary writings with unmerited commendation, to assert that in them are combined the solid judgment of Rochefoucault, without his misanthropy, and the sentimental elegance of the Marchioness Sevigné, without her repetition and feebleness.

J. DALLAWAY.

Herald's College, London,

June 4, 1803.

MEMOIRS
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LADY
MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU.
BY
THE EDITOR.

MEMOIRS
OF
LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU.

LADY Mary Pierrepont was the eldest daughter of Evelyn duke of Kingston, and the Lady Mary Fielding daughter of William Earl of Denbigh*. She was

* Lady Mary had two sisters. Lady Frances, who married John Ereskine of Mar, and Lady Evelyn, the wife of John Leveson Lord Gower, who was the mother of the present Marquis of Stafford. The late duke of Kingston was her nephew.

born at Thoresby, in Nottinghamshire, about the year 1690, and lost her mother in 1694. The first dawn of her genius opened so auspiciously, that her father resolved to cultivate the advantages of nature by a sedulous attention to her early instruction. A classical education was not usually given to English ladies of quality, when Lady Mary Pierrepont received one of the best. Under the same preceptors, as Viscount Newark her brother, she acquired the elements of the Greek, Latin, and French languages with the greatest success. When she had made a singular proficiency, her studies were superintended by Bishop Burnet, who fostered her superior talents with every expression of dignified praise. Her translation of

the *Enchiridion* of Epictetus received his emendations*.

For so complete an improvement of her mind she was much indebted to uninterrupted leisure and recluse habits of life. Her time was principally spent at Thoresby and at Acton, near London, and her society confined to a few friends, among whom the most confidential appears to have been Mrs. Anne Wortley, a lady of sense and spirit, the heiress of the Wortley estate in Yorkshire. She was the wife of the honorable Sidney Montagu, second son of the heroic Earl of Sandwich, who died in the arms of victory during the

* Preserved with her other MSS. Epictetus has been obliged for translation to another English classical lady, Mrs. Carter.

memorable battle of Solebay, in the reign of Charles the second.

In this intimacy originated her connection with Edward Wortley Montagu, Esq. the eldest son of the Lady above-mentioned. After a correspondence of about two years they were privately married by special licence, which bears date August 12, 1712. He had received a classical education, and had travelled through Germany to Venice, in 1703, where he remained about two years. For more than three years after their marriage, as the duke of Kingston and Mr. Sidney Montagu were both living, their establishment was limited; and Lady Mary resided chiefly at Warncliffe Lodge, near Sheffield, where her son Edward Wortley Montagu was born, and his father was principally engaged

in London, in his attendance upon his parliamentary duties, and his political friends *. In his cousin Charles Montagu Mr. Wortley found an able patron, who, as he was the universal protector of men of genius, was strictly associated with Addison and Steele. The temper of Addison did not admit of unreserved intimacy, and Mr. Wortley had not to regret that any man was favoured with a greater share of his friendship than himself.

Mr. Wortley was possessed of solid rather than of brilliant parts. The soundness of his judgment and the

* Mr. Wortley, at different periods of life, represented in parliament the cities of Westminster and Peterborough, and the boroughs of Huntingdon and Bossiney.