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JEREMY BLACK

FRANCE IN 1730: A TOURIST'S ACCOUNT

A valuable unpublished account of a trip through France in 1730 can be found in the Mildmay papers held in the Essex County Record Office in Chelmsford. The reference is D/DMY 15M50/1302.

William Mildmay, the author of the account, was born in 1705, son of William Mildmay, Chief of the East Indian Company settlement of Surat, by Sarah, daughter of – Wilcox, Judge in the Civil Court. He was at Emmanuel College Cambridge in 1728 and was appointed joint Commissioner to France in January 1750 to settle issues provided for in the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. The matters in dispute included the boundaries of Nova Scotia, the right to the islands of St. Lucia, Tobago, St. Vincent and Dominica, and the accounts of prizes taken at sea after the signing of the preliminary articles of peace in 1748. His co-Commissioner was William Shirley, the Governor of Massachusetts. Mildmay was also separately commissioned to effect the exchange of prisoners. The negotiations dragged on for several years without success and are described in Max Savelle's »The Diplomatic History of the Canadian Boundary 1749–63« (New Haven, 1940) in which, somewhat surprisingly and for no apparent reason, Mildmay was described as »a witty young man of good family but not too great intelligence« (p. 32). The talks failed in 1755. The following year Mildmay succeeded to the Moulsham estate in Essex on the death of his cousin Benjamin Mildmay, Earl Fitzwalter (1672–1756) who had held high office during the 1730s, including being first Lord of the Board of Trade, and may well have encouraged William Mildmay in his foreign travels.

William Mildmay was created a baronet in 1765, in which year he was Sheriff of Essex. He was keenly interested in administrative and commercial matters and was the author of several works including »The method and rule of proceeding upon all Elections, Rolls and Scrutinies, at Common Halls and Wardmotes within the City of London« (London, 1743), »The Police of France« (London, 1763), »An Account of the Southern Maritime Provinces of France« (London, 1764), and »The Laws and Policy of England relating to Trade examined« (London, 1765).

He died in Bath in August 1771 where he had gone for the recovery of his health. There is no study of his life or writings and he is only briefly mentioned in H. A. St. John Mildmay, »A brief Memoir of the Mildmay Family« (London, 1913). His surviving papers are divided between Chelmsford and the William L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The latter collection relates only to his period as Commissioner in France. The Chelmsford papers, recently transferred from the

Hampshire Record Office at Winchester, contain a number of interesting journals relating to his travels.

The journal that is here printed covers the months May–July. It is in the form of a long letter sent from Marseilles that covers 64 pages of a notebook. It is not clear that the letter was ever sent. The manuscript herewith printed is valuable as it is not a polished, finished product, but very much a draft document. Sections have been crossed out others added in the facing blank pages. No attempt has been made to alter the spelling or punctuation of the original much of which is of a poor quality. However it is precisely because the work was not intended for publication that it is so valuable, as there is no reason to doubt that Mildmay was expressing his own views, and not altering them to make the piece more attractive to read.

The route followed, Calais–Chantilly–Paris–Rhône Valley–Marseilles, was a conventional one, with the sole exception of a detour to Dunkirk, the cause in the spring of 1730 of a major controversy as to whether the French were repairing the harbour in breach both of the Peace of Utrecht (1713), and of subsequent promises. Mildmay's account is particularly valuable because of his interest in social and economic topics, such as the economy of Lyons and the policing of Paris. He was very curious, and sceptical, and is a thoughtful commentator on France, his account comparable in quality to that of Andrew Mitchell who visited the country in the mid 1730s. His account is particularly interesting as it reflects the ambivalent views of an intelligent Englishman during the last years of the Anglo-French alliance (1716–31), and casts light on the question of whether this alliance had altered attitudes to France. Particularly notable is the strong strain of anti-Catholicism in the account. There is clear hostility towards Catholic religious practises, such as the respect for relics, and overt scepticism towards Catholic accounts of the history of the Church in France. In this the account matches that of other British tourists of the period, such as Lord Quarendon in the late 1730s. Mildmay's response is thus not different to that of other British tourists. Rather it is useful and deserving of publication because of its length and detail. In six years of work on the topic this is the longest and best account of a trip to France in the early eighteenth century that this academic has encountered.

Unless otherwise stated all dates are in new style and the year is taken to have begun of 1 January.

1730

Sir

Marseilles

I belive You will be surpris'd to see a Letter dated by me from this place, when perhaps You have not been before apprized of my being out of England. I purposely kept my departure a secret to avoid the irksome ceremony of taking leave from of all my friends & acquaintance I now therefore chuse to inform You that I am destine'd to accompany my good friend & Relation Mr Wych in his intended travels thro' France into Italy & from thence home thro' Germany & Holland. The Pleasure of going with a Gentleman of so perfect good Sense, Learning Sobriety & goodnature, sufficiently induced me to undertake the Expedition without the further consideration of his generous offer to make it equally my Interest.

On May the 2nd O.S. We sail'd from Dover to Calais in about 3 hours, from thence We did

not set forward directly for Paris, but chose to make a small tour thro' some of the principal Towns of Flandres, & as at that time the repairing of the Harbour of Dunkirk was under the Consideration of our Parlement, & almost the universal topick of conversation in England¹, so We were chiefly eager to pay our first Viset the large & strong fortifications of Gravelins thro' which We pass'd afford an amusement to Us, who had been unaccustomed to such a sight in Our own Country. as to what We cou'd judge of Mardyke, it does not seem to be so strong a blockade, but that a few hours work, wou'd lay it all upon a level again. You must know I travell'd thro all these low Countries, as well as in Holland & in France, some years ago. Dunkirk then seem'd to be in a condition conformable to the treaty of Utrecht; but now instead of a Ditch choak'd up with land & rubbish, We saw a fine deep Canal, regularly cut & containing upwards of 50 large Vessels besides fishing boats; on the side of this, we observ'd they were making a Causeway to reach quite to the Sea, & up & down lay several large peices of timber, brought there for no other Use as We cou'd Conceive, But to line the banks & sides of the Canal, & in the basin at the upper end, They were building a ship of about 80 tun. The Inhabitants wou'd fain persuade Strangers that the Sea has done tm all this Service, by carrying away with it at each reflux great quantities of sand, but the print of Spades, which We saw at low water, were too visible to allow of such a plausibility. all this may likely be remedied in time. but however it now proves to Us the inconsistency of all national faith. The Demolition of the Harbour, was insisted upon as a conditional article of the ensueing friendship², the consequence is that under the umbrage of that very friendship, They are embolden to repair it again.

The Town itself is large, strongly built & the streets regular; formerly with trade rich & flourishing, now without it poor & beggarly. We might therefore naturally excuse their efforts to restore themselves, did not the interest of our Country, forbid it. As our design was only to view these Reparations, We scarce regarded anything else, but hastned on our Journey towards Lisle, passing thro' Bergue & Ypres; this last Town is surrounded by good fortifications, & these again by great quantities of Water, which make an additional Strength & Security. it has a communication by a Canal to several of the principal Towns in the Province, as well as to the Sea, its cheif trade consists in making the finest sort of Table Linnen, which are therefore distinguish'd by the well known term Diaper (d'ypres) it contains a large Square within, where the Town House a long Gothick building makes no mean figure.

Lilse is famous for its fortifications & Citadel, being one of the Masterpeices of the Sieur Vauban, the Town itself is the largest & finest in all the Provinces, & wants nothing but the Court of a Prince to make it the politest. Here are Plays Operas & Assemblies, & Gentlemen's Coaches & Hacks are seen passing thro' the Streets, as in the larger Citys of London & Paris. The Churches indeed abate in that extraordinary neatness & beauty which one sees in those of Antwerp Brussels & Gant³. Over the great altar of St. Peters there is an excellent peice of the Assumption by Rubens. The Carmelites have a great number of Pictures, all by modern hands. none of the rest are worth takeing notice of. The manufactures of this Town not only consist in makeing of Hemp, flax Cordage & Linnen, common to all the other parts of the Province, but it drives a great Trade also in Jack Oil, the country near it being for the most part sowe'd with Linseed, & numbers of windmills are place'd about, in which tis ground.

Tournay is no less remarquable for its Citadel & fortification than Lisle, being the Work of the same Ingenieur. The Citadel here is render'd yet more strong by haveing such curious mines

1 There were fierce opposition attacks on the ministry for supposedly permitting the repair of the harbour, on 21 February and 10 March 1730. The issue aroused enormous parliamentary and press interest. The French chargé d'affaires Chammorel wrote that the repairs 'semblent estre devenues l'unique affaire de la nation', Chammorel to Chauvelin, French foreign minister, 27 Feb. 1730, Paris Quai d'Orsay, Archives du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Correspondance Politique, Angleterre 369 f. 242.

2 The Anglo-French treaty of mutual guarantees 1716.

3 Ghent.

under it. We walk'd upright in Arches 50 foot under ground thro all the Works. On one side there is a long Gallery of about 10 feet in high & double that in breadth as far as I cd. judge by my Eye. They told us t'was sufficient in length to contain 5000 Men. here are conveniences for bakeing & brewing, & stalls may be fixe'd up for Horses & Cattle, tis also made use of in time of a Seige for an Infirmary: Lewis 14th took this cittadel when t'was weak & defenceless, & lost it after haveing made it thus strong &, as He thought, impregnable. tis now garrison'd by the Dutch⁴.

The Benedictines of St. Martin are possess'd of an Estate equall as We were told to the whole Revenue of the Town besides. one is almost induc'd to belive it, by the appearance of their magnificent convent & Church lately beautifyed. the Choir & great altar built of fine marble cost, They said, £10000 English. the Organ is supported by 4 neat Ionick pillars. the whole Church is so whitened & has such a number of windows, that the reflection makes it lighter within, than tis in the open Air. The Choir of Notre Dame the Cathedral is also lined with marble; the front of it is a beautifull peice of Architecture, & so are several monuments about it; on one side is an Altar of a miraculous Madonna, on which is fix'd an Octroy or Dispensatory writ of the Bishop, granting plenary indulgence & pardon for the Sins of 40 days to any one that shall devoutly repeat a perticular number of Ave Maria's to the Image. the Street thro which the Scheld pafses is large & spacious & adorned with a row of trees on each side. In discourseing here at the College of Noviciats with an English Jesuit concerning the Discipline which their Novices undergo for 2 Years in order to learn the forms & ceremonies of their Church, He alledged that it was impossible to know what the Christian religion meant in less time, insinuateing thereby as if the Sum of Christianity consisted in those forms & Ceremonies.

From hence We went to Douai, a large University abounding in Convents & Seminaries of almost all nations, of which here are English Scotch & Irish. the College of the English Jesuits is a noble Odifice built by the Contributions of their zealous partizans in England. this town is the Seat of One of the Parlements of France. So that Divinity & Law seem to be the 2 cheifest branches of its Trade.

Cambray was the last Town we pass'd thro before We enter'd France; the Steeple of the Cathedral is a high Pyramid hollow within & not strenghtned by any crofs beams, which We were inform'd is the only One of that Nature in Europe. here We saw a Picture of the Virgin which They say was drawn by St. Luke. amongst the number of Images of which this Church is fuller than any other I ever saw, there is One which expresses the Agonies of our Saviour in his crucifixion in a most gastly manner, but surely it can be no pleasure to a Christian to see Him represented in such miserable Sufferings⁵. This Town You know has had the Profit of a congress several times; & several Treaties bear their Name from it⁶. by which means it enjoys this further Advantage, that Strangers are often tempted to pay it a Viset, meerly because They have heard it much talk'd of upon that Account. I can't take leave of these low Countries, without exprefsing the Pleasure I had in travelling thro' em. the Roads are every where well pave'd, & oftentimes adorn'd with rows of elm Lime or Oake Trees regularly planted on each Side. the Country rich & fertile, but being flat affords no variety of Prospects. The Cityes lay so near one to the other that You may with Ease pafs thro' 3 in a Day. the Inhabitants are courteous & civil, & affect to imitate the french in their Dress & manner of living. & indeed french is now so

4 Tournai was one of the Barriers forts, the string of forts in the south of the Austrian Netherlands, garrisoned by the Dutch, under the Barrier treaty of 1713.

5 one cannot help regretting (after seeing the vast profusion of paintings in these churches, by the ablest masters), the bestowing so much industry and art upon so silly subjects as the life and actions of one enthusiast and the fabulous martyrdom of a bigot. Corporeal and ridiculous representation of the Diety serve to corrupt and debauch our ideas of him... journal of Andrew Mitchell, London, British Library, Additional Manuscripts (hereafter BL. Add.) 58316 f. 14.

6 The most famons treaty was that of 1559. Cambray had most recently been the seat in 1724-5 of a European Congress that failed to solve the Austro-Spanish differences that were its' principal purpose.

universally talk'd among them, that the flemish language seems in a fair way to be utterly lost. As this country has generally been the Seat of War, so there is scarce a Spot in it which is not memorable for some perticular battle. A Traveller may therefore recive some pleasure in veiwing the several places which are rendred famous for haveing such great & noble Actions perform'd in them. this pleasure is heighthned in an Englishman, when He considers that t'was His Country that came off Conquerours in each of those engagements⁷. Between Peronne & Roi We enter'd upon a fine pave'd Road, which continues almost all the Way from thence to Paris, tis thought this pavement will be carried on quite to Cambray, for there is indeed a want of it, in order to render the communication between the 2 Countries more Easy.

We made it our Way to pass from Pont de Maxence to Chantilly. this Castle being a Pentagon, none of whose sides are equal to one another, makes but a confuse'd appearance, & the appartments consequently are irregular; the furniture also for the most part is rather whimsical than fine, some of the rooms being line'd with paper painted with Indian figures varnish'd over in imitation of Japan. tis its Situation therefore amidst such beautifull Gardens & such noble large woods cut into hundreds of Avenues crosing each other, for the conveniency of hunting, that gains it a preference from some people even to Versailles itself, considering that here the works are not so force'd & artificial. the several parters of flowers & little Wildernefses dorn'd with Jet d'eaus (* & here & there with little lage houses fix'd up as it were for Sketches of some pretty designs in Architecture) & these border'd by a Canal of a mile long thro' which a River is made to pafs, are all only the common beauties of Nature regularly dispose'd & raise'd into a magnificense. The menagerie confines a great variety of the different Species both of Birds & Beasts, amongst which a White Camel was shown Us as a great Rarity. The Stable or Grand Ecurie is a large Building of Stone, in which were kept when We were there 120 manage'd horses⁸.

Thus the present Duke softens his disgrace at Court by affecting to live in the grandeur of an independant Prince, haveing when He was Minister according to the policy of the time, made himself Richer & by so much less glorious than any of his Predecessors⁹.

St. Dennis was next in our Way. the royal convent that bears that name, was founded by Dagobert the 1st. and by Him enrich'd, as the french Historians themselves observe, from the Spoils & ornaments taken by force out of all the other five churches in France. perticularly They say that the famous doors upon the grand Entrance of the Cathedral were rob'd from the Church of St. Hilary at Poitiers*¹⁰. This is the common burial place of the King's of France, & here are numbers of their tombs & Monuments, some of em exceedingly noble, especially those of Francis the 2nd & Henry 3rd that also which was erected by Lewis the 14th in honour of the Marechal de Turenne is in the beauty of its Design no ways inferiour to any of the rest. Over the choir is erected a Crofs of Gold 6 foot high, set with variety of precious stones, a lesser one of the same nature is likewise always expose'd on the great Altar. but the greater Treasure is lock'd up in a separate room, & shown only upon perticular occasions. there we had a sight of the regalia of the King's of France. the robe of fleure de Lys, the globe & Scepter the Ivory rod & sacred Ampouille. there we saw the Crown of Charlemagne, & that with which the present King was

7 Visiting battlefields was a major part of some tourists' itineraries. British tourists visited those in the Low Countries most commonly. In 1730 King Frederick William I of Prussia visited that of Blenheim.

In 1734 Dr William Barnard on a journey from Calais to Paris made a detour through Flanders with company to visit military sites, Barnard to the Duke of Newcastle, 18 Sept. 1734, BL. Add. 32689 f. 379.

8 Four years later Barnard was most impressed with the Chantilly gardens, Barnard to Newcastle, 18 Sept. 1734, BL. Add. 32689 f. 379-80. Robert Trevor had been very impressed by Chantilly in 1728, Trevor to his half brother Thomas Trevor, 19 May 1728, BL. Add. 61684 f. 80.

9 The Duke of Bourbon, owner of Chantilly, was first minister of France, 1723-6.

10 There is a quote to this effect on the facing blank page, taken from an unnamed history of France published in 1720.

crowned, both set off with Diamonds & Rubies of an immense Value. besides these They show'd us the rich Mitre of St. Dennis, several Relicks of other Sts confined in large peices of plate, fashion'd into the several parts to which each relick belonged, as silver Heads Arms & legs. A large Cup made out of a single onyx Stone, the outside cut into figures of an Alto Relievo exceedingly fine; Crucifixes of gold set with variety of Jewels, & several other church ornaments makeing up altogether a treasure not to be bought by the riches of any One single person in Europe. next to this the magnificency of the Building of the Convent, in a great measure discovers the vast wealth & revenues it must necessarily have, since so many Kings in a succession of Reigns have been tempted either thro' Superstition or Hypocrisy to bestow on it the marks of the utmost bounty & Liberality¹¹. From this place a Post Royal brought Us to Paris.

I know tis very needless & almost ridiculous to throw in any of my observations on a City, so much visited & so well known to the English¹², & of which the minutest parts have been so distinctly discribed by many printed books, especially by those entituled the Curiosities of Paris¹³. But however as the same things may make different impressions upon different observers, so I pretend to nothing more than to inform You in what manner I in perticular was affected by them.

Tis so natural for travellers to have an honest partiality to what their own Country contains, that I cant help indulgeing myself in a conceited opinion that Paris is neither so large so magnificent nor so well people'd as London; but still in spight of this prejudice, I am force'd on the other side to allow that in regard to the clearnefs of Air, pavement of Streets & number of great hotels it is by far the finer neater & more agreeable place: tis rather like a Country Town than a Capital City, for from the very gates You enter into a wood on one Side & into Corn feilds, on the other; nor does One meet with that Concourse of people as are always passing thro' & fro in & near London, so that tis as private & retired within One mile's distance, as within forty. the houses are for the most part built of Stone, the Country about abounding with Quarries. the Streets are narrow & consequently inconvenient for foot passagers, there not being room to fix up Posts to protect them from the Coaches. the Squares or places are very beautifull the houses being all built in one taste regularly answering to one another. that of Vandosme especially has an air of the utmost magnificence. in the middle of it is a large Equestrian Statue of Lewis the 14th with a Pompous Inscription; Another Statue of him is fix'd in the place de Victoire, on a Pedestal, Victory holds a Crown of Lawrel over his head, & under his feet lye 4 Statues chain'd representing 4 different Nations which tis pretended He brought under his Subjection. & indeed all the Gates of the City are only so many triumphal Arches erected to his honour, on each of which the cheifest heroical Acts of his Reign are represented in fine basso Relievo, amongst these the Gate of St. Martin, in the grandeur of its design, in exactness of the Execution, is supposed to equal any thing of that Nature amongst the Ancients. The River Seine runs thro the heart of the City, but here tis too far off the Sea to have the Conveniency of a Tide, it borders round 3 Islands within the Compass of the Walls, each of which are well stored with houses & Inhabitants, nor does it want bridges at each convenient distance, an advantage which the roughnefs of the tide will not allow to London. that call'd the New Bridge, altho built in the time of Hen. 4th has a Statue of that King a horseback, in

11 The wealth of Catholic religious foundations was often criticised by British tourists. Lord Parker had been shocked for this reason by Loretto in 1721. Parker to his father, the first Earl of Macclesfield, 15 mar. 1721, BL. Stowe Manuscripts, 750 f. 363.

12 *there are a good many English now in town*, Waldegrave, envoy in Paris, to Newcastle, 4 Dec. 1727, BL. Add. 32753 f. 104. On the large number of English tourists in France, Robinson, Secretary of Embassy in Paris, to Delafaye, Under-Secretary of State in the Southern Department, 9 July 1729, London, Public Record Office, (hereafter PRO) 78/197 f. 2. On 10 November 1728 the envoy in Paris, Horatio Walpole, gave a dinner to mark George II's birthday. The company included fifty Lords and Gentlemen of the British Nation, A. BOYER, *The Political State of Great Britain*, London 1728, p. 457.

13 A. F. WOODHOUSE, *English Travellers in Paris, 1660-1789: A study of their Diaries* (unpublished D. Phil. Thesis, Stanford, 1976) pp. 7-18.

bronze, of which tis remarked that more people got to see the Horfe than the King, but in truth both of 'em are finifhe'd in a very clumsey manner.

The edifices that first strike a Stranger, are the long incompact buildings of the Louvre & Thuilleries which do but incumber the too great space of ground They take up. They were designe'd for the Residence of the Kings of France, but Lewis 14th upon a perticular grudge against the Parisians made a protestation never to lye in their City, & to induce his Successors to follow his Example, He took care to provide good Appartements for 'em at Versailles. the front of the old Louvre is without dispute, an admirable fine peice of Architecture, a french man will tell you, *il n'y a rien de plus beau dans tout le monde*. All the rest is fit only for the Use to which tis appropriated, being let out into distinct Lodgeings to Merchanicks & working tradesmen. excepting those appartements which are taken up by the Academie of Sciences & Belles Lettres. several of those rooms are fill'd with copies of the best antique Statues, & with a great number of Portraits of the most eminent men in their Society, together with some original History peices of the best Masters. here almost every Evening in Summer time is what They call a Model, being a naked Man place'd in the midst of a circle of the Young Sculptors & Painters that are under the Institution of the Academy, & who take Him down in Stucco, or with a pencil in that perticular attitude in which He appears to them in their respective Lights. so that it was a great pleasure to me to be shown this single figure in 30 several Attitudes for the Scholars sit so close together, that scarce a paralell Line from Him is lost. several of these models who are men of the best Shape that can be found, are allowe'd an annual pension from the King for this purpose. The Gardens of the Thuilleries are finely laid out & adorned with Water works & Statues, some of which are exceedingly noble, tis here that all the Company walk in an Evening, as We do in St. James Park. The Hotel des Invalids being a Hospital for disabled Souldiers, has the Air of a Palace, as the Louvre has that of an Hospital, tis a foundation becomeing the Soul of a military Prince. here is a handsome maintainance for 5000 Men, who have fuffer'd by any wounds recived in the Service of their Country, includeing also officers who are entertained according to the dignity of their several Stations, & no One but a maim'd General can be their Governour. The building is large regular & noble, with proper ornaments over the portals & upon the balustrades, of Trophies & military Ensigns. but what principally demanded our Admiration, is the new Church; the outside is a neat Square with pillars of the Corinthian & composite order, & a Cupola on the top, the inside nevertheless, by cutting of the 4 corners with 4 beautifull Chappels appears to be in the form of a Grecian Cross; the Dome is finely painted, the pilasters neatly finished, & the whole execution in a taste above the tawdry Embellishments of Gilding, which the French so much affect.

I have often heard it observed that in acts of Charity of this publick Nature for the encouragement of Souldiers or Sea Men, the Money which is thus thrown away as it were on building & outward ornament had better have been spared towards makeing a more ample Supply of Provisions & necessaries, & that more beef & worse beds woud give greater contentment to these wretches. however true this may be as to the English, tis not wholly so as to the French, who are generally more taken with outside show & appearance¹⁴: & I believe tis with chearfulness these Men abate a pound of meat in a Week, for the sake of being so magnificently lodge'd.

As I am apprehensive You will not recive an Idea of its form by my discription in words, I have endeavour'd to make a Sketch of its outlines, tho without observeing the regular proportions¹⁵.

This is indeed the most magnificent, but there are several other publick Societies in Paris establish'd either towards the near releif of Indigent persons, or towards the Education of Youth,

14 This view of the French can be seen in contemporary attacks upon French food, held to be insubstantial but showy in contrast to the solid virtues of English fare, The Norfolk Congress (London, 1728).

15 This sketch is on the facing blank page.

& the encouragement of Learning in Men. & strangers are carried to see the Edificies & Curiosities, belonging to each.

The College of 4 Nations which has a regular front toward the Seine, in the form as here represented¹⁶ was founded by Cardinal Mazarin for the instruction of a set number of young persons chosen out of the 4 nations of France Spain Italy & Flanders. this has since been improve'd into a large School, where upwards of 1000 boys & lads are taught the liberal Arts Sciences. They have for the more convenience separated into different Schools or Classis, those that learn Humanity in One, the Mathematicians in another & so on. They have a large Library which twice a week is open to all Strangers. & a handsome chappel in which is the monument as indeed the whole College may be so call'd, of Cardinal Mazarin.

The Sorbonne is an another Establishment towards the propogation of Learning by Riche-lieu, another Cardinal & Prime Minister. You must have often heard of the great learning of the Doctors of this College, & who indeed ought to have a great share, according to the Account I have heard of the strickt Examination & long Exercises They are oblig'd to undergo, to obtain their Degree. here is also a large Library, & a Chappel containing the Monument of the founder, in a taste much superiour to the other.

This is situated in the Quarter of the Town which is calle'd the University, in which all the Convents are so many Seminaries not only for the Instruction of the liberal Arts, but also for the craft of the forms & Institutions of the several religious Orders; amongst these the Jesuits have the greatest number of Scholars.

That these learned Men, especially the Mathematicians & Astronomers might not want a Convenience to turn their Knowledge into Experiment & practise, there is on one Side of the town an observatoire built on an Eminence which is itself a great Instance of the Use & perfection of Geometry, being erected entirely by Arch'd Work, without the assistance of any nails or Joices, iron or wood work. in the rooms are several telescopes & Quadrants & other mathematical Instruments, together with a collection of the mechanical Designs of Mr. Par-rault. at the bottom is dug a deep well, & a proportionable light let in by the hollow of the roof, in order to see the stars in the Daytime.

Amongst the other Houfes founded for the sake of meer Charity, the Hotel de Dieu, & the grand Salpetrie are the cheif. The former is intended for the free admission & releif of all manner of Sick & diseased persons, provided They be Catholicks, who not only have the assistance of Nurses & Physicians, but may also enjoy the prayers & absolutions of the Preists which attend. here even poor big bellyed Women may come in & be laid. this Charity as it is fo extensive, is certainly the greatest of that Nature in Europe, & tis seldom reckon'd that less than 5000 lye sick in it at a time. I can't therefore but think it very wrong that it shd. be situated almost in the very heart of the City, for such kind of Hospitals ought to be place'd alone & at a distance from any other houses, for fear of spreading any contagious distemper.

The Salpetriere is a general Workhouse for all the beggars & Vagabonds that are found in or near Paris, who are here fully employed according to their different Abilities in the manufactu-res of the Country, especially in makeing of coarser kind of Cloath for the Poor, which therefore can be afforded em so much the cheaper, as the charges of the Workmen amount to no more than the common maintenance of bread & Water, & sometimes a slender Soop, besides these, here all the foundling children, in what parish soever born, are educated & brought up to be a service to the Nation, in learning to make the Manufactures of a finer Nature, such as Cloath, Silk, & gold Lace. beyond these, for the House is very large, are kept all the Ideots and Madpeople. the number of Persons confined in this Hospital, are computed in all to amount to about 8000¹⁷ I belive the Monks, like the Ecclesiastical bodies in England, rather chuse to spend

16 An ink line in the text.

17 The asterisk indicates a passage on the facing page: *I wonder that the City of London so well regulated in other respects shd. want the convenience of such a general workhouse. The driveing the Poor from*

their Revenues in eating & drinking. the Carmelites Chappel is the prettiest, being adorn'd with several good Pictures by Le brun, & one by Giudo Rini. Round the little Cloisters also of the Carthusians, is the History of St. Bruno their founder excellently well painted by Mr. Le Seieur, who was call'd the Raphael of France. the other most remarkable Convents are those of St. Germain, in which Montfacon is a father, & St. Genevieve. I will here take the oppurtunity to inform You, of a perticular book I met with in the Library of the latter, containing the works of Peter Valens, amongst which is a small treatise entituled¹⁸ Telemachus (printed 40 Years before that of the Arch Bp. of Cambray) in usum Principis & Ducis Borgoniae, in this He has introduced Minerva under the Disguise of Mentor, instructing the Prince in the forms of Gouvernement, & what is still more remarkable has this Motto. Nil dictum, quod non fuit dictum prius. tis surprizeing that the Arch Bp. who might probably take his first hint from hence, shd. never make the lest acknowledgement of it¹⁹.

The private houses or hotels of the nobility & gentry are dispersed throughout in great numbers: for almost every Person of fortune in France, has here a house of his own, in which He makes his constant residence; on the contrary but few English gentlemen think themselves at home in London, chuseing to live (or at least They did formerly) upon their own Estates in the Country. & this it is that makes Paris so much more beautifull; as I observed before, than London; at the same time the cheif of this beauty does not appear in the architecture without, but rather in the richness & elegancy of the furniture within. tho in some place the too great profusion of looking glass & painting, the darling taste of the french renders those appartments rather tawdry than noble. Strangers commonly pay a Viset to the Hotels d'Antin, Thoulouse, d'Evreux, de Maine, Mr. Crozat, & the Palais Royal. this last is enrich'd with the greatest collection in Europe of the most famous Italian & flemish Masters. the Duke d'Antin & Mr. Crozat have also a large & well chosen number. besides these We saw several Cabinets of private Gentlemen, the cheifest of whom were Mr. d'Argenville & Mr. Fourgerour 2 Gentlemen from whom We recived the utmost Civilities & good offices, only in return for some common peices of service which We did them when They were in England about 2 Years before.

I cant help takeing notice of another beauty & even very great Convenience, which Paris again posseses Superiour to London, in its being so regularly lighted thro in the night, & so guarded not by weak old men, but by Archers who patroll the Streets on horseback well arm'd. Were I now to take Your thoughts from Paris by pretending to describe the Pomp &

Parish to Parish and shifting the Inconvenience from one to another, does no good to the State in general. Whereas a foundation of this publick nature, establish'd by a common tax or contribution, with proper Officers and Supervisors to set em at work, wd. not only rid the City of that great burden of the Poor, that come from parts of the Kingdom, but turn greatly to the advantage of the Trade of the Nation: for not only our own manufactures might be afforded cheaper, but those foreign manufactures also whose Importation turns to our loss, might be here improved and in time brought to greater perfection, these and such like advantages, I am told, Paris does in a great measure recive from this Hospital. As to the religious houses and regular societies of Priests in this City, They are scarce of any greater Ornament than service to it, for here is not that neatnees and beauty kept up in their convents and Churches, as is in other more superstitious places.

18 Asterisk in text to indicate full title of book on facing page.

19 Asterisk in text indicates passage on facing page: and no less wonderfull that these Monks, who pretend to the greatest share of Learning, shd. not one of em have heard of this Book, before we show'd it them. The place appropriated for the Practise of the Law is the Palais, a large old pile of building containing all the different Chambers of Justice which make up the Parlement, the Hall in which the Avocats meet is set round with book sellers and milliners shops exactly in the manner of Westminster Hall. The other Publick Edifices are the Town House, Bastile and, Arsenal. By the by you must know that tis only a false notion, that whosoever is put Prisoner in the Bastile, can never be release'd from it. The Arsenal is in truth sadly furnished, but however They alledge that their cheifest Magazins lay in the frontier Towns, which are properly the Bulwarks of the Nation, and if taken the Capital City must of course surrender.

Magnificence of the several Palaces of the King, & of some of the Principal nobility that are situated in the Environs, my account wou'd necessarily grow too tedious, sometimes too Romantick to be any ways relish'd. the Description of Versailles itself fills 2 large Volumes in Octavo. & is certainly the most expensive work that cou'd be perform'd by the most ambitious Prince. & yet the Palace is not a new compact building, but rather an old One patch'd up. in the Gallery the Battles which Lewis the 14th. won, but not those which He lost, are painted by Le Brun, tis well this was not the only means taken to perpetuate those actions down to posterity for the colourings are already almost decaye'd. the Gardens or rather the country finely adorne'd about it, may properly be call'd extravagantly noble; tis with regret one sees so much treasure wasted to render a place artificially agreeable, which was not so by Nature: there being not a Tree but what is planted, nor a peice of water but what is forced by Engines at a vast Expence. the very Soil is made, one sees Woods & grassplots flourish on a sandy ground, & ponds & Canals full without the help of Springs; the whole is adorne'd with such a quantity of marble Statues Vases & Colonnades, as are sufficient if hewn to build a large Palace.

Trianon is suppose'd to be as it were a summer House, the form of it is thus²⁰ with marble pilasters in the Ionick Order. the Gardens seem to be contrive'd here for privacy & retirement. Marly being situated on an Eminence, commands a prospect over the Gardens into a natural beautifull Country. this consider'd with the regular contrivance of the Apartments within, renders it more agreeable tho less noble than Versailles. You must have heard much talk of the machine of Marly, which is made to throw up water feet high into a recevoir from whence tis convey'd by a long Aqueduct to supply the Water works in those gardens. this is one of the cheifest peices of Extravagance. the very lead & iron that the pipes are made of They tell You cost upwards of £100000, besides the vast quantities of timber, for which They again say that a whole forest was hewn down. even the common expence of keeping it in repair amounts to several thousand pounds a year. & were I to go on in describing the Variety of forms which these Waters are afterwards made to rise in, I shd. soon be guilty of being what I at first suggested too tedious & too romantick.

St. Cloud is a palace of the Duke of Orleans, as the late Duke was You know brother to Lewis the 14th²¹. so He appears to have had the same Spirit of Extravagance in the grandeur & magnificence of his Gardens & water works; one jet d'eau in perticular is here made to play 94 feet in heighth. He seems too to have made it his consolation that there was but One Person at least that hindred Him from being the great Tyrant of France, which He has signified by several arrogant devices & mottos, painted on the ceiling of the long Gallery. amongst which are these – a Bomb in the Air – *Alter post fulmina terror* – The Sun & Morning Star – *Coram micat Unus* – a Pomgranate cut in two, the larger peice retaining the Crown – *mon prix n'est pas de ma Couronne* – A Pearl – *Inserta Corona dat decus* – An Egle soaring up to the Sky – *Et jam spe Fulminis ardet* – A Porcupine – *tot tela quot hostes* – a swarm of Bees following their King – *Et Solo Jubet exemplo* – A Rainbow – *Solis Opus* – A Rose in its bud – *En naissant Je suis desiré*.

I shall not proceed farther into a detail of all the other Palaces & Houses of Pleasure that Paris is so surrounded with on all Sides, the perticularities of which must either be approve'd or dislike'd according to the taste & fancy of different persons who go to see 'em. Those that love large Veivs & prospects are please'd with St. Germain's & Mindon, Whilst those that rather chuse a flat Situation surrounded with woods are equally fond of Madrid & Vincennes. the regular Gardens & fine Canals at Sau delight some people, whilst the inlaid floors & genteel furniture within side of the House, give no less satisfaction to others. The antient & large building of²² & the new regular & neatly adorn'd house of the Count Berci, have also their

20 Ink sketch in text.

21 Philippe I, Duc d'Orleans (1640–1701) was Louis' brother. He was succeeded first by his son Philippe II (1674–1723) and then by the latter's son Louis (1703–52). St. Cloud was a royal palace.

22 Gap in text.

different Admirers. There is one sort of Men especially that I believe wo'd still recive greater pleasure from seeing the several neat little Summer houses or boxes which are pretty frequent hereabouts, built by some of the nobility by way of retirement with their Mistreses. of this sort, Bagnolet. whether consider'd in its snug & private Situation, or in its convenients baths, with drawing rooms & bed chambers, or in the wanton disposition of the couches & looking Glasses, seems to be the most luxieriously contrive'd for such a purpose. Thus did We spend our time with the utmost pleasure both in our residency at Paris, & in our Viset to the Court & Villas about it, finding every thing still more enlivened by the natural civility freedom & gayety of the Inhabitants²³. Bentivoglio in one of his letters sums up the whole discription, in this manner. *Di si gran Corte ben è degna Stanza Parigi; e la Sena degno fiume d'una tanta Citta; e dignissimo questo sito d'essere il centro domante di si bel Regno. Qui da infiniti villaggi grossi, con fertilissimi campi intorno, vien fatta corona a Parigi per ogni parte.*

We left our post Chaise at Paris & went to Lyons in the Diligence, which was recommended to Us for a more commodious & almost equally expeditious method of travelling, as in effect We found it; for 100 Livres from each paid at once for our Passage, Entertainment & Lodging, whereby We were eased from any further care & trouble than that of contentedly takeing up with what We found ready prepare'd for Us on the road; makeing at the same time an extraordinary dispatch, being drawn sometimes by 7 or 10 or 12 horses according as the steepness or badness of the road require'd it²⁴. We passe'd thro the Town & forest of Fountainbleau. I had viseted this place when I was in France before, & can say no more of it, than that it seems to invite the residence of the King rather from the Variety of Game that is to be found thereabouts than from any extraordinary beauty either in the Palace or Country. from hence We went by the way of Auxerre & so to Chalons, thro the province of Burgundy, a hilly & fertile Country, abounding much in wood & Corn as well as Vinyards. At Chalons leaveing the Coach, We were drawn down the Soane in a boat quite to Lyons; the pafsage down this River is exceedingly pleasant, in respect of the gentleness & wideness of its current, the goodness of its banks, & the many prospects it affords, especially near Lyons, of the several Bastides or Country Houses situated on each side²⁵, but as it runs into the Roan at the Extremity of the City, it not only loses its name, but the colour of its Water, for the Rappidity of that River occasions its Stream to be very muddy & nasty.

The View of Lyons is very noble & somewhat uncommon, it being built on the banks of 2 such large Rivers, under a range of Mountains, riseing almost perpendicular from it, cover'd with vinyards & Gardens on the Sides & convents on the top. The Streets indeed are narrow, it being an antient City, & formerly more large, as may be seen by the extent of the Ruins of the old Walls. the houses are built of a yellow sandy colour'd Stone, dug out of the neighbouring Hills, which has a very ugly Effect. but the deficiency of beauty in the common Streets is amply made up by the beauty & grandeur of the great Squares. that which was formerly call'd the bel Cour, was by an Arret of Lewis the 14th order'd for the future to be name'd La place de Louis le Grand & an Equestrian statue of Him fix'd up in the middle, so eager was that Man of takeing all measures to perpetuate his name & title. this Square is almost as large as Lincolns in feilds²⁶, & 2 Sides built in as regular a design of Architecture as the Place de Vandosme at Paris. it was thus finish'd by several of the principal Merchants agreeing upon a general plan, & then each building his house answerable to it. tis pity the same method was not taken in building of

23 The happiness of the French under despotic rule was often noted by British tourists.

24 Many British tourists took and praised this route.

25 Many British tourists took and praised this river trip.

26 Lincoln's Inn Fields was a very exclusive neighbourhood whose occupants included the Duke of Newcastle.

the new Squares at London²⁷. the place de terreau is adorn'd with a large & regular Town House, & other publick edifices, & another square has a Pyramid fix'd up in it, on which the titles & different names ascribed to God are engraved as They say in 24 different Languages. the appartments of the Prison of this Town are cut out of a hard Rock.

In the Cathedral of St. John there is a remarkable, whimsical Clock. just before the Hour is to strike, a Cock wch. is place'd on the top, claps his Wings & crows 3 times, then 4 Angels which are placed on a Square tower underneath, & which contains a small Chime of bells, beat a tune with little Silver hammers, in the mean time from a Story lower a Door opens & discovers our Saviour sitting, an Angel comes out & pays obedience, A Dove the emblem of the Holy Gost descends, & rests sometime over his head, & God the father in the Shape of an old Man place'd over Him, moves his hands by way of Benediction, when the tune is finish'd all retire, the Doors shut, & the Clock begins to strike. there is nothing extraordinary in these movements, but that it was made so long a time ago. There is a good picture in the Church of the Jacobins of St. Thomas conviction by putting his fingers into the wounds of our Saviour. At St. Just where Pope Innocent 3rd live'd when He was beat out of Italy by the Emperour Frederick 2nd they show'd us His antient Habits & Mitre & a golden Rose which He presented to the Convent together with several Relicks, amongst which as They pretended was the Skeleton of one of the Innocents which were murder'd by Herod²⁸. The situation of the Carthusian Convent on the top of a high Hill, affords a large & full prospect of the Town & Country about. tis well built, & endowd, haveing as many Vinyards as employ, if They spoke truth, 500 Men to make the Wines which They annually produce. In the refectoire of the Minims is an excellent set of Pictures by a french Master of all the several parts of the old & new Testament which bear an allusion to one another by way of type & Antitype. But t'was the Convent of the Jesuits that more principally took up our time & attention. The Church has a great deal of Marble & the great Altar especially is entirely built of it in a fine manner. The Library contains a good collection of well chosen books, haveing recive'd a large Donation from Father de la Chaise Confessor to Lewis 14th who also left em an excellent & compleat Set of Medals in Copper & gold & Silver, of the Roman Emperours, together with several Modern Ones, amongst these We saw some of Q Elizabeth, & 2 of Oliver Cromwell very curious. here are also a great number of antient Urns, & Instruments of Sacrifice, together with variety of little Statues of the heathen Deities both Roman & Egyptian. perticularly the God Mithra or the Sun, in all its different Shapes. for as the Egyptians, You know, worship'd every thing that was usefull, so the Sun principally was the more immediate Object of their Adoration, & from them all other Pagans borrowed the same kind of Superstition. but then Each worship'd Him in the different Shape of that Part of the Zodiack, in which He was most usefull to them in perticular. thus in some places He was adored as a Virgin, in others a Scorpion a Bull or a Ram, which several figures We saw; But what I took the most notice of, was the figure of this same Mithra with a Lyon's head, & which They have a tradition was dug from the old Ruins of this City, if so, tis probable the Sun was worship'd here when in the Sign of Leo, & from thence perhaps the Town might have taken its name. but all this is only a Conjecture of my own.

There are some other small remains of Antiquities in this Town; as a part of a Wall of an Amphitheatre; about 7 or 8 Arches of the Aqueduct which M. Antony built to supply the Army of Julius Caesar which lay on the Distant mountains, with Water, & a Recevoir which if suppose'd by some people to have contain'd the Water, which was carried thro those Aqueducts, but then surely it ought to have been higher than the Aqueduct & not several hundred yards

27 Mildmay is here referring to the westward expansion of the fashionable quarter in London and the construction of such squares as Grosvenor, Berkeley and Portman Squares.

28 For criticism of relics in Aachen and Cologne made the previous October, Dr. Joseph Atwell, 'Bearleader' of the second Earl Cowper, to Lady Cowper, 28 Oct. 1729, Hertford, Hertfordshire County Record Office, Panshanger manuscripts (hereafter Panshanger) D/EP 234, P. 7, 22.

lower, as it really is. the *Viae Agrippinae* are quite efface'd, there are indeed some Arches to be seen which tis thought supported the Causeway near the River. The Court of the Church of Notredame d'Ainai is supported by 4 Columnes, which formerly were only 2 large ones at the Entrance of a temple dedicated to Augustus Caesar. Upon the Entrance into the Hotel de Ville on one Side is a large Stone on which is engraven the Speech which Claudius made in the Senate of Rome in order to make the Lyonnois free of that City. it seems to have been so recommended down to this time, rather for the occasion of it, than for any thing there is in the Speech itself. At Mr Borgeois a Merchand there is an antient altar erected in memory of a Tauriboleum, it has a Bull's head engraven on it with this Inscription. Pro Salute Imp Caef. Titi Alii Hadriani Ant. Aug. Pii Pat. Patriae, liberarumq ejus & status Coloniae Lugduniensis. You may have heard perhaps that this ceremony of the Tauriboleum was perform'd by drenching a Priest all over with the blood of a Bull, whereby He himself not only became Sacred, being wash'd clean from all manner of Sin, but also the Wellfare & Prosperity of the Emperour & State for whom t'was instituted was to be prolong'd and Secured. As appears by the Inscription above. Some persons are of Opinion that this Ceremony was instituted in ridicule of the Baptism of Cians²⁹, but I think we may very well suppose it to have been exercis'd by the Pagans without any hurt to Ctianity, since by several other of their more antient Ceremonies, We find They had a notion of the Expiation of Sin by blood. This is all I thought observable relateing to the peices of Antiquity which are to be found here. those that are more curious after such dry searches may have an ample Acct. of em in 2 large Volumes in Quarto printed by the Present Library Keeper in the Jesuits College. for my part I found that in a City so remarkable for trade, several other things offer'd themselves to my observation much more usefull & satisfactory. Such a Situation of a City between 2 such great Rivers comeing from different inland parts, & uniteing here in one full Course towards the Sea, must necessarily make it the center of Commerce from all those several Towns by which the 2 Rivers pass, but as at the same time the Current from hence to the Sea is too rapid to suffer any Vessels to be brought up against it, so this Situation proves a Conveniency only for Exportation; this by some people may be deem'd a Disadvantage, but in effect tis the contrary. for as tis easier for Lyons to send out its own Manufactures than to import foreign, the Return must be made by an Exchange in bullion, & consequently it must gain the ballance in trade. the cheifest of its Manufactures are flowerd Silks Brocades tissues & Silver Lace. & here You may percive how that fondness for Luxury in outward show & dress amongst the french, has been improved to the advantage of the poor of that Nation for the single makeing of Silver lace only in this district, is computed to afford a livelyhood to upwards of 50000 people. I cou'd not help here being exceedingly pleased at several Merchants takeing Notice of the Lace upon our Cloaths which was made in England, & which They confes'd both for Strength neatness of work & luster, exceeded any thing that cd. be made there³⁰. There is one perticular policy in this town, which seems hard to the Inhabitants, & yet is what wd. be well to be generally imitated in England. You must know the Country near it, produces very bad Wine, for which reason all the better wine of Burgundy & other parts are prohibited. because if better Wines cou'd be had, all that tract of ground, greatest part of which belongs to the Marchall Villeroi, might remain uncultivated. From Lyons We went in a Batteau de Poste down the Roan to Avignon, the passage is safe & pleasant in good Weather but equally dangerous & uncomfortable in bad. We experience'd both & in the latter by ye violence of the Wind added to the force of the current, were twice unavoidably driven on some of the rocks which lye hid under

29 Christians

30 In 1716 Lord Henry Grey had written of the poverty of Lyons: *the ruin of that City, where the number of poor that I saw in passing was a terrible and pitiable sight. The manufactures are quite down... and the Journeymen retire most to Turin*, Grey to his father the Duke of Kent, 20 July 1716, Bedford, Bedfordshire County Record Office, Lucas papers, 30/8/34/4. I would like to thank Lady Lucas for permission to consult these papers.

the Water in shoals almost all the Way³¹. Vienne situated about 6 Leagues from Lyons, is the Town say They where Pontius Pilate was born, & in which He lived as Governour or Praefectus Provinciae several Years after He had given Judgement on our Saviour, as a proof of it They pretended to show Us the Consistory Court in which He heard Causes. others will have it, That He live'd there only in Exile & Disgrace, & that He was particularly banish'd from Rome to the Place of his birth, that He might there recive the mortification of being upbraided by his old friends & Relations for haveing so impiously condemne'd the Son of God. but this latter Supposition contains 2 palpable Absurdities, for first what punishment is it to be banish'd to one's own native place amongst one's old friends & Relations, & 2dly. as those friends & Relations were certainly Pagans, how likely is it That They wd. upbraid him for haveing condemn'd one who came into the world to destroy their Religion. however as a Mark that He certainly was here, They show'd us further down near the banks of the River, an old Castle which is still called after his Name. I observe'd there were Ruins of such atient Castels at almost every Village in our Way, built on very high steep Rocks, & sometimes the under Apartments seem'd to be cut out from within. these I imagine to have been the retirement safeguard of the several Seigneurs or Lords of Mannors in time of any hostile Invasions or intestine Quarrels, there being remains of Antiquity of that Nature allmost in all parts of England.

A little distance from Vienne on the north side of the River is a continued mountain of a League in length, the Side opposite to the Southern Sun is call'd le Cote roti, & from thence also the Wine made of the Grapes produced on that part bear the same name. on the other Side near Valence is another very high Mountain, on the top of which is a Hermits Cell, thence also the Wine which is there produce'd is call'd Hermitage. both these Wines are much esteem'd; & accordingly even in London a greater quantity is sold under their names, Than They can possibly be supposed to furnish to all Europe. [The black & muddy River Yser mingling its streams near Valence with the Roan, renders its waters from this place entirely useless to any other purpose than that of bearing of boats or turning of mills]³².

Avignon was formerly a Seignurie of the Countess of Provence & by Her made a Donation of it to the Papal Crown, under whose Jurisdiction it has ever since remain'd without any Lett or Disturbance from the Kings of France³³. it is situated in a fertile Valley surrounded by a strong high Wall, & adorn'd on the outside with agreeable walks, but indeed has little else to recommend it, the Streets are narrow, the houses ill built [and such a smell of Onyons & Garlick throughout, that I am apt to believe the Common people scarce live on any thing else]³⁴. the Palace of the Vice legat is but an old irregular building, tho the Apartments both for winter & summer are tolerably handsome. [there is only the remains of an old bridge upon the River, which is never likely to be repaire'd, the K of France refuseing to contribute towards it for the conveniency of a Town which belongs to the Pope, & the Pope alledgeing that tis not his business to build a bridge over a River that belongs to the King of France]³⁵. The Choir of the Cathedral is adorn'd with a great deal of gilding, & has in it the monuments of the several Popes who died in this town, [Some of these were obliged to take up their residence here on account of their broils with the Emperours of Germany, & some by reason of the civil commotions of even the Inhabitants of Rome itself, who like their illustrious predecessors, made several Efforts to maintain themselves as a free republick, exempt from any temporal Jurisdiction of the Pope, untill the same Superstition which at first submitted them to his

31 Travel on the Rhone from Lyons was common for tourists.

32 Section on the facing page.

33 This statement would have surprised several seventeenth century Popes.

34 Section on the facing page.

35 Section on the facing page.

ecclesiastical Authority, in time made em yeild to his Civil Power³⁶. and the people of this town seem to have imbibed a more than ordinary degree of that Superstition, by being in like manner put thus under a double Subjection³⁷. as appears pretty much by the vast number of votive pictures hung up in the Churches in gratitude to their respective favorite Saints for their pretended Miracles³⁸, perticularly at the Carmes, where Thomas the titular St. of this place, is described by several wretched daubings in Paint to have raised more dead & cured more diseased persons than our Saviour himself, The Independancy of this Town of the Prince amidst whose very territories it is situated, renders it very poor & miserable; since He is not only induced thro policy to deny it ye common benefit of his favour & protection in vending of its manufactures, but is even engaged to give em the utmost molestation & hindrance, thereby to cause a quicker circulation in the adjacent towns that are under his own Jurisdiction who by advanceing in the increase of trade in propotion to the want of it in this town, are by so much the better enabled to pay the taxes & Impositions which He lays upon them. The italian Garrifon is here so small, the Arsenal so slenderly furnish'd, the fortifications so weak, & the Inhabitants so weary of their present yoke, that it seems to be in the Power of the K of France to make it His own, when ever any pious quarrel shall give Him Spirit enough to do it.

Between this place & Nismes We first began to have a veiw of a Country fertile in Corn wine & oil together, the olive trees being planted amidst the Vinyards or Corn feilds. We went a little out of our Way to see that noble finish'd peice of Antiquity now call'd Pont de Garde, which is a part of the Aqueduct which Adrian built from a neighbouring spring quite to Nismes 4 leagues distance, this is built cross a Valley to convey the Water from the Summit of one Mountain to the other, & therefore instead of One, contains 3 Arcades one upon the other in the tuscan order. the first row which goes from the feet of the mountains & is of course the shortest has only 6 Arches of 20 feet in length 5 in breadth & in heigth; the second one which is carried on further upon the Sides of the Mountains, takes up 11 Arches of the same length & wideness but of feet in heigth, the last row which reaches quite from the 2 Summits contains 36 Arches, & are but one third part so large & wide as the others, & so in proportion in heigth. the Canal for water which these support is 300 feet long 5 feet high & 1/4 wide. the stones which tis built are very large, some of 8 or 10 feet in length & 4 wide, these according to the Roman manner are not fix'd by any Cement or Mortar, but are laid smooth & close one upon another. its light & airy appearance at a distance & its strength & solidity upon a nearer approach, gave us the first Idea of that inimitable Art of the Romans in their buildings Several remains of which are in these parts as well as in Rome still likely to continue for Ages longer a Mark of the Genius & capacity of that People. Of which Nismes, formerly the favourite residence of the Emperour Adrian, can boast to show not the least excellent nor hitherto the least entire testimony.

The Amphitheatre is a stupendious peice of Architecture. whether We consider the largeness & strength, or the neatness & regularity of it. it has 3 stories of Benches, to which You are led by side Iles or corridores, each story containing 10 benches so that the whole is computed to have been able to hold 20000 persons. the stones are some of 10 or 12 feet in length, & in one place, there is 6 steps of the stairs cut out of one single stone. on the outside They are so finely polish'd

36 That Catholicism threatened liberty was a common theme in the political ideology of eighteenth century Britain. *The Flying-Post; or Post-Master* 15 Aug. (os) 1728.

37 Section on the facing page.

38 Lord Quarendon recorded of his visit to Saumur in June 1739, *nothing worth observation except a chapell to the Virgin which does great miracles, the walls are all surrounded with the Tabulae Votivae of persons sav'd from eminent dangers, ... the whole quarter of the town consists of people whose only trade is to make chaplets, these when rubb'd over the Virgin's lap are greatly efficacious, the Peres de l'Oratorie are the actors of this comedy which indeed they perform as if they themselves believe it.* Quarendon's travel journal, Oxford, Oxfordshire Conty Record Office, Dillon papers XX/a/7a, notebook 2 f. 2.

& laid so close, as to have an effect as if almost all was of one stone, there being no crack or crevice to be seen. in some parts we observed Basso Relievo's of Romulus & Remus, suckled by the wolf, & sometimes priapus's, but for what these were cut out I can't pretend to divine. there is but a small part of this Amphitheater demolish'd, haveing withstood even the force of Gunpowder, for the Vandals tis said trye'd to blow it up, but found it of too great a weight for the Quantity of Powder They put under³⁹. the inside or Arena is now so filled & choaked up with streets of little poor Cottages, that the view of the whole is much intercepted.

La Maison quarrée as tis now call'd tho tis not square was formerly some say a Basilique of Augustus, others think of Adrian, but most agree that it was rather a temple it being built without any windows dedicated by Adrian to his Wife Plotina, for the signal Services She did in putting an End to the dissentions in Alexandria concerning their god Apes, whilst He himself was in England however in compliment as it were to these different opinions tis now consecrated to Christ under the title of King of Kings. it serves now as well for a Roman Catholick Chapple as it did antiently for a pagan temple, since the Ceremony of burning of lamps within side, & worshiping their Deity as if he lived in the dark, is an absurdity common to both those Religions. the Pilasters which surround the outside are of the Corinthian Order, & the Capitals & frieze extreemly finely work'd.

There is a little to be seen of a Temple of Diana, half of it lyes buried under ground, but the Pillars even of this 2d. story are 12 feet high all of one single peice of stone.

Upon a Hill near the Town are the ruins of an old Tower, tis supposed to have been a Sea Mark or light house, for They have a tradition that the Sea formerly came within a mile or 2 of this Place, tho now tis 6 leagues. From Nismes We pasd thro a flat & fertile Country to Montpellier, which Town being situated on a little Hill from whence it takes its Name, is esteem'd the finest Air almost in Europe⁴⁰. tho by experience lately they have found that the Air in a little Village of about a Leagues distance is much more salutary.

The Esplanade which is a fine long walk on one side of the Town, commands a prospect of the Country at one End, & of the Meditteranean on the other, which is about 3 miles off. as this Walk runs along the backside of several old Houses, the Inhabitants have cover'd the Veiw of em, by building a range of small Summer houses in one regular manner all the Way, in these They keep their Assemblies, in the place d'ormeaux there is a good Equestrian Statue of Lewis 14th by Coizevoux; as to the Town itself tho the Houses are for the most part strong & well built, yet the streets are but narrow & run irregularly one into another. As the University is here establish'd principally for Physicians, who are cheifly famous for their perticular method of cureing the french Disease⁴¹, so ever if a Stranger that make any residence in it is suspected either to be a Doctor, or to want One, & that in fact He must either come to study Physick, or to take it. The River that passes by this Town & runs into the Sea, might safely be rendred navigable, & there even appears a perfect necessity that it shd. be so, for the Production of the Country is richer & greater than what the Inhabitants can consume, consequently the want of a convenient exportation, obliges em to traffick amongst themselves at a very cheap & under rate. a Stranger here may keep a very good table of a small expence⁴², for there is not only a large abundance of Corn Wine & oil, but also of all manner of fowles & Game. & where

39 It is generally supposed that gunpowder was not in use in Europe for several centuries after this period.

40 Many British tourists visited Montpellier for their health, though some were disappointed by the results. Dr Josiah Hort, Bishop of Ferns did not think his health improved by his long and expensive journey to Montpellier and Marseilles, Bishop Downes of Neath to Bishop Nicolson of Derry, 18 Mar. (os) 1725, J. Nichols (ed.) Letters on various subjects Literary, political and ecclesiastical to and from William Nicolson (2 Vol., London, 1809, cont. pagination) II, 599.

41 The 'French Disease' was venereal disease. The 'Montpellier Bolus' was the cure for it most regularly advertised in the British press of this period.

42 On the cost of living in Aix-en-Provence, J. Mapletoft to Burrell Massingberd. - Oct. 1717, Lincoln, Lincolnshire Record Office, Massingberd papers, VII/1D/24.

commodities are in plenty & money scarce, there a great deal may be afforded for a little Sum. however the Town in its present Situation drives no inconsiderable trade in its produce of raw silk, there being great quantity of Mulberry trees hereabouts, & in the making of all kind of strong Liquors & Waters such as Brandies Citron Water, Sirrop of Capillaire & more particularly what is call'd Hungary Water.

We went about 6 Miles from the Town to see the palace of the Arch Bishop, remarquable only for its gardens & water works, not far from it also lyes the Seat of Mr. Moigny, which They told Us cost Him £ 30000 in building, tis a very pretty house, but rather too much in the french taste.

At this time was held the great fair of Beauaire, *(A Town situated between Avignon & Arles)⁴³, esteem'd the largest in Europe, being the general Mart for all sorts of Commodities, & the rendezvous of all Nations; but it happen'd to be no more our Inclination than it was our Business, to fatigue ourselves by going into so great a Croud & hubbub at a time when the heat of the sun was but too great & inconvenient without it. We therefore pass'd to Arles by the shortest & most private Way. This Town has a great many remains of Antiquities, but they are too much decayed & efface'd to be of any Significancy. The Amphitheatre tho at first much larger than that of Nismes, has not now so much remaining of it, nor is it any ways comparable to it, in its Architecture. In the town house is a Copy of the famous Diana which was found in the River Roan, the original is now at Versailles; the worship of this Goddess was carried on antiently in these provinces with a great deal of Superstition; & the antiquiraries have here a Tradition, that annually before her Temple a Infant Child was sacrificed, & that this Sacrifice was made under the very Obelisque of Granite which is now erected in the Square where the Town house is. This again if true shows that the Pagans had a Notion of the Expiation of Sin by blood, & that of an innocent person. perhaps too You may find some further Mistery, in such a Sacrifice being made in honour of a Virgin Goddess. there are but pillars of that temple now remaining. this above mention'd obelisque formerly supported the head of Apollo, with Rays of glory in imitation of the Sun round it, at present the Head of Lewis 14th is put in the middle of that Glory, & the pillar dedicated to him under the title of le Soleil. In the palace of the Bishop are several old Urns & lacrymatory vessels: I observed in one of the Rooms wrote upon the Wall in the manner of Geneologies of families the Catalogue of all the Bishops of Arles drawn in a regular Succession from St. Peter to the present Person. with the proper time fixe'd when They enter'd upon that Office, & when They died. At a small distance from the Town is what They call the Elysian feilds, where there are a prodigious quantity of antient tombs both of Christians & Pagans, those of the former are distinguish'd by a Cross, the Latter have D. M (ic Diis Manibus) inscribed upon them. twas an old fancy of the Pagans that being buried in this place gave em an easier admission into the Elysian feilds, & accordingly dead bodies They say were set a float from all the towns up the River, which never fail'd to stop at this place to be taken up & buried. At one end of this Burying ground, there is a Chappel dedicated to Notre Dame, where there is a Catacomb in which a stone Coffin always contains a large quantity of Water, tho place'd between 2 others one at top & the other at bottom, both which are always dry; to make the miracle yet greater They affirm that this Water rises & falls by the Influence of the Moon as regularly as the tide.

In passing from hence to Aix We traversed over the large barren plain call'd the Crau, which is full of loose stones; tis most probable that the Sea formerly cover'd all this space, tho others will have it that these stones were raised by an Earthquake. But Ennius, who, says Mr. Spon, had a liberty of lying as well as other Poets relates that twas here that Hercules being too much oppress'd by the Giants, pray'd for Assistance to Jupiter, who soon rain'd down Such a Shower of Stones as destroyed his Antagonists, & that these are the very stones. Salons is situated at the extremity of this plain, where at the Church of the Cordeliers We saw the tomb of Nostradamus who was a great Astrologor, but by the common people passed for a Conjuror, & as many romantick Stories are told of Him, as are in England of fryar Bacon or Dr. Faustus.

43 Section on the facing page.

*From hence We cou'd not help takeing notice, that Province⁴⁴ has nothing of that fertility in its soil, as appears in Languedoc; Aix is situated in a plain which seems to be the best part of it, the prospect of which is enrich'd by a vast number of the Bastides that are disperse'd throughout This Town both in respect of the good & solid buildings of its houses, the wideness & regularity of its streets & the length & grandeur of its Course, fully answer'd the high Expectations that had been raised in us by the character of its being by far the prettiest Town in all the Provinces. It cannot have any great pretence to trade, being inland without the conveniency of any River, but at the same time it does not want a good circulation of money, since Parlement is there establish'd, which of course not only obliges all that have offices & places in it to a constant residence, but also draws to it for a time all Strangers who are parties in any of the Affairs which are brought into their Courts⁴⁵. *(These Courts or Chambers 24 in Number, are all neat & well furnish'd, & some adorn'd with gilding & history paintings)⁴⁶.*

Mr. Guidan the Avocat General, with whose Lady We travell'd quite from Paris to Avignon, not only handsomely entertain'd Us at his own house, but carried Us to see the several Cabinets of the most curious Gentleman of this Place. Mr. Lauthier has a great variety of shells, some roman & aegyptian Deities, & a small collection of flemish paintings; but his Pierres graves (of which Mr. Spon takes Notice) are most of em sold to the K of france) so that We saw only their Impression on Wax. Mr. Borelli has several sorts of the Ancient Instruments of War, a small parcel of Shells, but a large tho not regular collection of Medals. He has too an eccelent fine little ritratto by Annibal Carracci. Mr. Lintand has a few paintings most of em by french hands, excepting a landskip by Salvator Rosa, & 2 portraits by Vandyke, one of which is the original. He has also some little bronze Statues copies of the best Antiques. In the Cathedral there is Chappel where They say Mary Magdalen did Her penance, for They have a tradition that t'was she that first came over & introduce'd Christianity in these provinces. but that She shd. be able to introduce it so suddenly as to perform publick worship in a Cathedral remains yet a further Question. the baptistiere is a dome separate from the Church supported by neat marble pillars.

The Oratory of the Jesuits has a great deal of gilding, & several pictures but none of em worth looking at, except that of the Annonciation of the Virgin, by Puget the famous Sculptor.

At one End of the Town are the famous baths taken notice of by old Historians for being scalding hot, at present They are only of a tolerable & pleasant warmth, & We took a great deal of pleasure in bathing our selves in them.

A little Journey of 5 leagues over some rugged Mountains brought Us to Marseilles the most noted Seaport of France⁴⁷. before We came to it We were surprized at the Vast Number of Bastides which lay upon a plain betwixt the Town & the Mountains which rise at about 2 leagues distance from it, being as They say about 8000 in number.

This City is large & populous, They reckoning upwards of 100000 Souls in it, but the cheifest part of it being built with narrow Streets upon the Side of a Hill, makes the passage thro em very troublesome & inconvenient. & what is still worse is that there are no Aqueducts under em to convey away the filth & nastiness thrown out from all the houses, which have no where any Conveniences belonging to them, so that the perpetual stink in all these Streets, is enough either to create an Infection of itself, or guard one from any other. I have heard much talk of the nastiness of this Nature in the towns in Scotland, but cannot think that They come up to this. The Course indeed & some few Streets lately built near it, are large & spacious, & so more free from this Complaint. The Cathedral Church dedicated to M Magdalen is dark & sombrous & was antiently a Temple of Diana. here they show'd Us some of M Magdalen, the Head of

44 Sic. for Provence.

45 These courts were to become notorious the following year when the Jesuit Girard was accused of seducing Mademoiselle Cadière.

46 Section on facing page.

47 Quarendon liked the broad streets of Marseilles.

Lazarus & a tooth of St. Peter. St. Victor is supposed to have been the most antient Aeian⁴⁸ Church, being They say the first that was consecrated by M Magdalen, but how She came by a Power of consecrateing churches & ordaining Priests must be left to them to make out, who assert that She had that Power.

At the Convent of the observance, We saw the great head of Bosduni, & a monstrous one indeed it is, [being from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the shin just 1 foot, from the crown of the head to the bottom of the chin 1 foot 6 Inches & ½ & round the Head 2 feet 8 Inches]⁴⁹ the Man upon whose Shoulders this head was place'd altho upon examination t'was found to be full of brains, was so remarkable a fooll, as to become a perfect proverb & byword. this same head was so weighty & cumbersome to the poor fellow, that They say He was oblige'd to have props made to support it regularly on each side.

The Carmelites Church is line'd with a perticular Composition or Parte in imitation of Marble, but whatever it might have had in appearance, it wanted in hardness, & now discovers itself by its decay, the common fate of all false resemblancy.

We haveing gain'd a License from the grand Vicair to got within side of the Nunnery of St. Lauveur, to viset the Vaults & Caves it being antiently a temple of Apollo, were conducted to them by 2 handsome modern Penfionaires, which soon made Us regardelefs of the Antiquities. after haveing takeing some refreshments in the Lady Abbesses Apartments, We were carried into a long Gallery, & there with a great deal of freedom & good Nature were permitted to dance Minuets & Mirlittons in the provincial manner along with our lovely Girls, from hence We began an Acquaintance, & use'd to pay em frequent Visets, tho for the most part seated on the wrong side of the Grate. the watchfull old Lady being unwilling to let 'em come on our Side upon any other terms than that of our takeing them for good & all.

The Manufactures of this town are not so considerable as one might expect from so large a Sea port, They being overpower'd by the vast quantity made at Lyons. We visited their silk Combs & found em only weaveing of Silks, as the fashion then was into whimsical Indian figures fit only for furniture of Apartments, The Silk for weaveing apparel & the lace & silver tissues being brought hither from Lyons. & I belive most of the Ships which come into the Harbour are consigne'd to Merchants of that City.

This Harbour is about half a mile in length & near a Quarter in breadth, tho the entrance into it is not above 10 Yards wide, protected on each side by a strong fortresses. You may imagine therefore that it is a safe & commodious rideing; but as the Galleys & Ships are perpetually throwing out their nastiness, & there being no tide to clense it, the stench & colour of its water in hot & calm weather is like that of a stagnated lake or pond: sometimes, they say, the riseing & falling of the Water is very perceptible, but this irregular is more likely to proceed from the different blowing of the winds in other parts than from any flux & reflux. At the upper End of this Harbour are all the Dockyards & Storehouses, tho nothing comparable to those of Portsmouth & Chatham. there too is the Arsenal, not so remarkable for the quantity of Arms, as for the neat disposition of em, & the various figures They are made to represent. in one part is the head of Lewis 14 surrounded by such a ray of glory composed of Bayonets halberts & fussels as to make it as dreadfull as the head of Medusa itself.

Great number of Slaves are brought from the Galleys & put to work in these Docks. Some are confined in the long rooms where They are employed in the manufactureing of their own Cloaths; for as all these Slaves are condemned for the Service of the King only, so He gives to each a woollen Jacket & cap as a badge of that Slavery to Him; but the expence of so cloathing them is scarce any more than the first prime Cost of the Yarn. for some are made to spin it, others to weave it into Cloath, & others to fasshion it into Habits.

The Policy of maintaining Galley Slaves in this manner, however shocking it may seem in a Re-

48 Christian.

49 Section on facing page.

publick, is certainly very usefull & necessary in a monarchical Government; for such a Band of Men, who were a Disturbance to the tranquillity of the people, are made to turn doubly to the Advantage of the King, who at the same time that He has his Gallies man'd & rowe'd by 'em, saves also the expence of Hireing such a number of men in the very building of those Gallies; & these too are not only kept in such necessary Services, but their own Industry is made use of to lessen the Charges of their being so kept. Nevertheless several of these Slaves, who became so for slender offences, by interest made to the Intendant have liberty to work at any trade for their own private Advantage, these are chain'd down in their Shops all along the Key, & each night must retire to their allotted Stations in the Galley. others upon paying 3 Souds per Diem to the Capt. & giveing Him up the King's allowance which is 1 Soud a Day more are still further indulge'd to walk up & down the Town upon their occupations, but for the greater security are couple'd together, & sometimes have a poor moorish Slave tack'd to em, together with a Guard to whom They must pay 1 Soud a Day for his undesired Attendance. Others again have a liberty even to walk with only an iron ring round one of their legs, for which They not only pay the usual price to the officer, but must have a Person also responsible for em under a Bond of 600 Livres forfeiture in case of an Escape.

At This time there are 16 Gallies in the Harbour containing in all 5000 Men, about 500 of whom are let out upon the Condition aforementioned of paying 3 Souds p Diem besides giveing up their allowance of 1 Soud. this comes to 100 Livres per Diem, & so amounts to 36500 livres or 1659 pounds Sterling p Ann. which divided equally amongst 16 Capts produces to each £103 11 Shill. a year.

And thus You percive that the Indulgence to these Wretches arifes from the perquisite which it makes to every Capt. beyond the fix'd Salary of his office. but the turkish Slaves who were made so by being taken prisoners in War, are allowed all this Indulgence, without paying for it.

Thus far shall suffice for such memorandums as I to myself thought proper to write down & communicate to You only as a friend, concerning the Situation building & Trade of those Cities I pass'd thro in france; wh. I confess to have done more with a view of regulateing my thoughts & implanting every thing more strongly on my memory than with any vain notion of amuseing other people with a dry acct. of the meer outside of things: Since I am conscious tis as much impossible any one shd. recive the same Idea of it.

For my own part I shall never reflect on the tour I made thro these provinces but with the utmost pleasure. the fineness of the Climate the beauty of the Country & above all the Civility of the Inhabitants conspired to give us the ease & satisfaction. I have hitherto purposely forbore to mention what I observe'd of the manners of the People. The temper of the people is certainly the best adapted in the world to the constitution of the Government. the grandeur of their Monarch is their principal Glory as tis their principal ruin. & They are proud to contribute to his Pomp & magnificency even at the expence of their own fortunes & liberty. the very Cost & extravagancy that appears in his palaces, fills em with raptures, which wou'd be apt to have quite a different Effect upon Us who rather chuse to see the wealth of our Kingdom disperse'd amongst the community than amasse'd together to discharge the ambitious projects of a single Person. tis strange that what wou'd make one Nation miserable, shou'd make another happy; & yet more strange that Poverty & opprefion shou'd afford such a life & gayety to one, as neither Riches Wine nor liberty can draw from another. We, said a frenchman to Us, are the merriest & the wisest people in the universe, We are always a laughing, but You Englishmen are grave like so many fools. This chearfullness of temper wou'd certainly make em more aimable, was it not too often mix'd with a kind of levity, & sometimes too much Vanity. A French Man not only esteems himself happy meerly because He is a Frenchman, but is apt also to think every Person his inferiour who was born in another Country⁵⁰.

Perhaps You'll account it but an illnated reflection, when I impute their well known

50 ›Let France grow proud, beneath the Tyrant's Lust‹, Northampton Mercury 6 Mar. (os) 1738.

civility to Strangers from this kind of Vanity. for his Complacency in readily showing & communicateing what lyes in his power, does not always arise so much from a view of obligeing as of surprizing a foreigner, He will make You a hundred Compliments only to show that He can make 'em, & will walk half the Town over with You, only to inchant You as the phrase is with the beauties of it. nor is there any necessity to pay Him personal thanks for this, for if You do but highly praise what You see, He assumes part of the merit to Himself, & thinks the return sufficient. upon my speaking to a Gentleman of Paris in great commendation of that City, He made me a low bow, thank'd me for the honour I did Him, & beg'd to see me often.

Their publick Diversions rather consist in show & farce than in true wit & solid Sense, if there be but frequent interludes of singing & danceing, & the scenes made fine & glareing, no matter what the words are, much like their fancy in dress, so there be a good deal of lace & tinsel, it signifies nothing how coarse the Cloath is. I was once at an Opera at Paris where in a Scene to represent a Storm, the waves were tip't with Silver to have an effect like the froth of the Sea. the Gentleman that sat by me assure'd me this was the finest sight in the world, for observe, says He, the Tempest is all Gilt.

Lewis the 14th You know gave great Encouragement to Learning in France by the Establishment of the Academie of Sciencies, & it seems at present to be confine'd only to that Society, excepting that share which the Jesuits endeavour to keep to themselves. for the Education of the Young Gentry does not consist so much in the study of Humanity & Letters, as in learning to dance fence or ride the great Horse, & accordingly the being a fine Schollar or good Mathematician are not esteem'd equall qualifications to a genteel Dancer or nimble fencer. As to the professions of Law & Physick, or the exerciseing of any trade, They are all look'd on as below the dignity of a Gentleman. & therefore the younger Sons if They cant' be put into the Army, must lead an idle life, for fear of degradeing the family by raiseing a new Estate to it. In travelling thro the provinces, We found the people there have a much greater veneration for the Parisians, than our Country Gentlemen in England generally have for Londoners. The common Question used to be if We had seen Paris, & upon our informing them that We came from thence, then Monsieur, vous avez vu tout ce qu'il y a de beau dans tout le Monde & I remember at Aix upon speaking of our intended Travels thro Italy, a Marquis inform'd the company that for his part, He did not know if He had leifure time & money (by the by t'was the latter He seem'd to want the most) but that He shd. as soon undertake a Tour thro Rome Naples & Venice, as to go even to Paris itself.

I Must own I found the Complacency of these Provincial Gentry oftens irksome & disagreeable. that politeness & good breeding which is natural to those that live near the Court, is stiffen'd into too much form & ceremony by these that dwell at a Distance. tis difficult, upon takeing leave, to desengage Yourself clear off of their hands under a Quarter of an hour. They lay so much stress upon this outward circumstances of Behaviour, that la Politesse & la vivacite, are made the distinguishing mark of every great Character. We heard one Person prognosticate that the then new elected Pope⁵¹ wou'd make a noble figure in his Chair, for says He, Je vous assure il est un Joli Homme, bien poli, & fort aimable. But the good Lady Abbess of St. Sauveur of Marseilles was of opinion that He wou'd make an excellent Pope, for that There was One of his family a Saint.

July 25th 1730

I am your humble
Servt.

Wm. Mildmay

51 Clement XII, Pope 1730-40.