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The Works of George Lord Lyttleton

Lyttelton, George <Lord>

London, 1774

To The Right Honourable Thomas Lord Lyttelton, Baron Of Frankley, [et]c.

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THOMAS LORD LYTTELTON,

BARON OF FRANKLEY, &c.

My LORD,

IT is to your goodness, and to that friendship with which you have long honoured me, that I owe several of the following papers, the works of your late excellent father, and my much respected uncle; and I now take the liberty in this public manner to make you my most grateful acknowledgements.

When your lordship was so kind as to bestow on me several of the new pieces, you were pleased to leave it to my discretion to select those which I thought most proper for publication. I have therefore ventured, on my own feeble judgement, to give the greater part of them to the world, for the following reasons:

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First,

First, Because I esteem it an injury done to this country, and to the many admirers of your noble father, to keep papers written by his lordship, and preserved by him at any period of his life, locked up in private cabinets.

Secondly, Because almost every line of these tracts conveys the most useful instructions and admonitions to mankind, and are calculated to aid the great causes of public and private virtue.

If it should be asked, Why I chose to publish the juvenile letters of his lordship, written during his travels through France and Italy? Perhaps it would be sufficient to answer, Because they are replete with profitable and entertaining accounts of the political transactions of those times, together with the most sensible and pertinent remarks on the state of Europe at that period; but I shall further add, that I have stronger and more weighty reasons for their publication, not only because they are the produce of the best of *heads*, but because they are effusions from the best of *hearts*; and because they are the early and wonderful proofs of his generosity, piety, and above all his filial reverence; and may be justly deemed the first ebullitions of virtues, which, being afterwards matured by age and experience, extended their beneficent influence over mankind in general, and were more immediately felt by the inhabitants of this free country.

I must now beg leave to assure your lordship, that it is my desire that this work may not only give satisfaction to the publick, but also be honoured with your lordship's particular approbation. I am proud to confess that I have ever had the highest veneration for your refined taste, sound judgement, and ripened abilities; and, at the same time, permit me to add my most ardent wishes that these great talents, which are certainly equal

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to those your father possessed, may, like his, be exerted with indefatigable zeal in the service of your country; and that, like him, your lordship may hereafter prove a shining ornament of the senate, and one of the firmest pillars of the constitution.—*Sed quid verbis opus est?* Your lordship has already forestalled my hopes; and my wishes, even at this early period, are nearly accomplished.

I remain,

My L O R D,

Your Lordship's

Much obliged and

Most affectionate friend,

and

Obedient, humble servant,

C O N-

GEORGE EDWARD AYSCOUGH.

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