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Montaigne's Essays

In Three Books. With Notes and Quotations. And an Account of The Author's Life ; With a short Character of the Author and Translator, by the late Marquis of Halifax; With the Addition of A Complete Table to each Volume

Montaigne, Michel Eyquem de

London, 1743

To the Right Honourable George Marquiss, Earl, and Viscount Hallifax, Baron of Eland, Lord Privy Seal, and one of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

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To the Right Honourable

GEORGE

Marquis, Earl, and Viscount *Hal-*
lifax, Baron of *Eland*, Lord
Privy Seal, and one of his Ma-
jesty's most Honourable *Privy*
Council.

MY LORD,

I F I have set down the only Opportunity I ever
had of kissing your Lordship's Hands amongst
the happy Encounters of my Life, and take
this Occasion, so many Years after, to tell you
so, your Lordship will not, I hope, think your-
self injured by such a Declaration from a Man
that honours You; nor condemn my Ambition,
when I publish to the World, that I am not alto-
gether unknown to You. Your Lordship, perad-
venture, may have forgot a Conversation so little
worthy your Remembrance: But the Memcry of
your Lordship's obliging Fashion to me all that
Time, can never die with me; and though my
Acknowledgment arrives thus late at you, I have
never left it at home when I went abroad into
the best Company. My Lord, I cannot, I would
not flatter you, I do not think your Lordship ca-
pable of being flattered, neither am I inclined to

DEDICATION.

do it to those that are : But I cannot forbear to say, that I then received such an Impression of your Virtue and noble Nature, as will stay with me for ever. This will either excuse the Liberty I presume to take in this Dedication, or, at least, make it no Wonder ; and I am so confident in your Lordship's Generosity, that I assure myself you will not deny your Protection to a Man whose greatest publick Crime is, that of an ill Writer. A better Book (if there be a better of the Kind) (in the Original I mean) had been a Present more fitly suited to your Lordship's Quality and Merit, and to my Devotion. I could hardly wish it such : But as it is, I lay it at your Lordship's Feet, together with,

My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP's most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

Charles Cotton.