



## Universitätsbibliothek Paderborn

### 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**

The Translator's Preface To The Reader.

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The TRANSLATOR'S  
P R E F A C E  
T O T H E  
R E A D E R.

**M***Y* Design in attempting this Translation, was to present my Country with a true Copy of a very brave Original. How far I have succeeded in that Design, is left to every one to judge; and I expect to be the more gently censured, for having myself so modest an Opinion of my own Performance, as to confess that the Author has suffered by me as well as the former Translator; though I hope, and dare affirm, the Misinterpretations I shall be found guilty of, are neither so numerous, nor so gross. I cannot discern my own Errors; it were unpardonable in me if I could, and did not mend them; but I can see his (except when we are both mistaken) and those I have corrected; but I am not so ill natur'd as to shew where. In Truth, both Mr. Florio and I are to be excused, where we miss of the Sense of the Author, whose Language is such in many Places, as Grammar cannot reconcile, which renders it the hardest Book to make a justifiable Version of that I ever yet saw in that or any other Language I understand; insomuch, that though I do think, and am pretty confident, I understand French as well as any Man, I have yet sometimes been forced to grope at his Meaning. Peradventure, the greatest Critick would, in some Places, have found my Author abstruse enough. Yet are not these Mistakes I speak of either so many, or of so great Importance, as to cast any scandalous Blemish upon the Book, but such as few Readers can discover, and they that do, will, I hope, easily excuse.

The Errors of the Press I must in part take upon myself, living at so remote a Distance from it, and supplying it with a stubber'd Copy from an illiterate Amanuensis, the last of which is provided against in the Quires that must succeed.