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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

Inscription for the neglected Column in the Place of St. Mark

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I N S C R I P T I O N
 FOR THE
 NEGLECTED COLUMN

IN THE PLACE OF
 ST. MARK AT FLORENCE.

[Written in the Year 1740.]

ESCAP'D a * race, whose vanity ne'er rais'd
 A monument, but when themselves it prais'd,
 Sacred to truth O! let this column rise,
 Pure from false trophies and inscriptive lies!
 Let no enslavers of their country here
 In impudent relieve dare appear:
 No pontiff by a ruin'd nation's blood
 Lusting to aggrandize his bastard brood:
 Be here no † Clement, ‡ Alexander seen,
 No pois'ning § cardinal, or pois'ning || queen:

* The family of Medici.

† Cardinal Julio de' Medici, afterwards Clement VII.

‡ Alexander, the first duke of Florence, killed by Lorenzino de' Medici.

VOL. I.

§ Ferdinand the Great was first cardinal and then became Great duke, by poisoning his elder brother Francis I. and his wife Bianca Capello.

|| Catherine of Medici, wife of Henry II. king of France.

D

No

No Cosmo, or the bigot * duke, or † he
 Great from the wounds of dying liberty.
 No ‡ Lorrainer----one lying arch § suffice
 To tell his virtues and his victories:
 Beneath his fust'ring eye how || commerce thriv'd,
 Beneath his smile how drooping arts reviv'd:
 Let it relate, e'er since his rule begun,
 Not what he has, but what he should have done.

Level with freedom, let this pillar mourn,
 Nor rise, before the radiant bliss return;
 Then tow'ring boldly to the skies proclaim
 Whate'er shall be the patriot hero's name,
 Who, a new BRUTUS, shall his country free,
 And, like a GOD, shall say, LET THERE BE LIBERTY!

* Cosmo III.

† Cosmo the Great enslaved the republics of
 Florence and Siena.

‡ Francis II. duke of Lorraine, which he gave
 up to France, against the command of his mo-
 ther, and the petitions of all his subjects, and
 had Tuscany in exchange.

§ The triumphal arch erected to him without

the porta San Gallo.

|| Two inscriptions over the lesser arches call
 him "Restitutor Commercii, and Propagator
 Bonarum Artium," as his equestrian statue tram-
 pling on Turks, on the summit, represents the vic-
 tories that he was designed to gain over that peo-
 ple, when he received the command of the em-
 peror's armies, but was prevented by some fevers.

THE