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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

Inscription on a Picture of the late Pope

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-54372](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-54372)

INSCRIPTION
ON A
PICTURE of the late POPE,
Prospero Lambertini

BISHOP of ROME

by the Name of BENEDICT XIV.

Who, though an absolute Prince,
reigned as harmlessly
as a DOGE of VENICE:
HE restored the Lustre of the TIARA
by those Arts alone,
by which alone HE obtained it,
HIS VIRTUES.
Beloved by PAPISTS,
Esteemed by PROTESTANTS:
A Priest, without Insolence or Interestedness;
A Prince, without Favourites;
A Pope, without Nepotism;
An Author, without Vanity;
In short, a MAN,
Whom neither Wit nor Power
could spoil.
The SON of a favourite MINISTER,
But One who never courted a Prince,
Nor worshipped a Churchman,
Offers in a free PROTESTANT Country
This deserved Incense
To the BEST of the ROMAN PONTIFS.
MDCCLVII.

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This

This inscription having been sent to sir Horace Mann at Florence, and by him shown to the abbate Niccolini, the latter translated and sent it to cardinal Archinto, who gave it to the pope. The good old man was so pleased with this testimony borne to his virtues, that he gave copies to all that came near him, and wrote it in a letter to one of his particular friends at Bologna, concluding with this expression of amiable humility; "Noi mandiamo tutto al nostro Canonico Peggi, acciò conosca che fiamo come le statue della facciata di San Pietro in Vaticano, che, a chi è nella piazza e così lontano, fanno una bella comparfa, ma a chi poi viene vicino, fanno figure di orridi Mascheroni."