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The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

Advertisement to a Catalogue of the Collection of G. Villiers, Duke of
Buckingham

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ADVERTISEMENT
TO A
CATALOGUE
OF THE CURIOUS
COLLECTION of PICTURES
OF
GEORGE VILLIERS, Duke of BUCKINGHAM.

WE proceed to gratify the curiosity of the public with some other lists of valuable collections: the principal one belonged to that magnificent favourite, George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, and was only such part of his museum as was preserved by an old servant of the family, Mr. Traylman, and by him sent to Antwerp to the young duke, to be sold for his subsistence; great part having been embezzled when the estate was sequestered by the parliament. Some of the pictures, on the assassination of the first duke, had been purchased by the king, the earl of Northumberland, and abbot Montagu. The collection was kept at York-house in the Strand, and had been bought by the duke at great prices. He gave 10,000*l.* for what had been collected by sir Peter Paul Rubens; and sir Henry Wootton, when ambassador at Venice, purchased * many other capital ones for his

* Particularly a Madona and child (probably one of those hereafter mentioned) by Titian; and Abisnag brought to David, by old Palma, in page 9. *Vide Cabala*, p. 399.

grace. One may judge a little how valuable the entire collection must have been, by this list of what remained, where we find no fewer than nineteen by Titian, seventeen by Tintoret, twenty-one by Bassan, two by Julio Romano, two by Giorgione, thirteen by Paul Veronese, eight by Palma, three by Guido, thirteen by Rubens, three by Leonardo da Vinci, two by Corregio, and three by Raphael; besides other esteemed and scarce masters.

Mr. Duart of Antwerp bought some of them; but the greater part were purchased by the archduke Leopold, and added to his noble collection in the castle of Prague. He bought the chief picture, the *Ecce Homo* by Titian, in which were introduced the portraits of the pope, the emperor Charles the fifth, and Solyman the magnificent. It appears by a note of Mr. Vertue, in the original manuscript, that Thomas earl of Arundel offered the first duke the value of 7000 *l.* in money or land for that single piece. There is a copy of it at Northumberland-house.

It may not be improper to mention in this place, that Villiers, when sent with the earl of Holland to the States, to negotiate the restoration of the Palatinate, purchased a curious collection of Arabic manuscripts, collected by Erpinus, a famous linguist; which, according to the duke's designation of them, were, after his death, bestowed on the university of Cambridge, of which his grace had been chancellor.

FUGITIVE SLAVES

One may judge a fair price, should the entire collection be sold, for the fact of their removal would be a great benefit to the country, and the removal of the fugitive slaves would be a great benefit to the country, and the removal of the fugitive slaves would be a great benefit to the country.

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