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PADERBORN

The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl Of Orford

In Five Volumes

Walpole, Horace

London, 1798

The Parish Register of Twickenham

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THE PARISH REGISTER OF TWICKENHAM:

WRITTEN ABOUT 1758.

WHERE silver Thames round Twit'nam meads
 His winding current sweetly leads;
 Twit'nam, the Muses' fav'rite seat,
 Twit'nam, the Graces' lov'd retreat;
 There polish'd Essex¹ went to sport,
 The pride and victim of a court!
 There Bacon² tun'd the grateful lyre
 To soothe Eliza's haughty ire;
 —Ah! happy had no meaner strain
 Than friendship's dash'd his mighty vein!
 Twit'nam, where Hyde³, majestic sage,
 Retir'd from folly's frantic stage,
 While his vast soul was hung on tenters
 To mend the world, and vex dissenters:
 Twit'nam, where frolic Wharton⁴ revel'd,
 Where Montague⁵ with locks dishevel'd
 (Conflict of dirt and warmth divine)
 Invok'd—and scandaliz'd the Nine;
 Where Pope in moral music spoke
 To th' anguish'd soul of Bolingbroke,
 And whisper'd, how true genius errs,
 Preferring joys that pow'r confers;
 Blifs, never to great minds arising
 From ruling worlds, but from despising:
 Where Fielding⁶ met his bunter muse,
 And, as they quaff'd the fiery juice,

¹ Robert Devereux, earl of Essex.² Sir Francis Bacon.³ Lord Clarendon.⁴ The duke of Wharton.⁵ Lady Mary Wortley Montague.⁶ Henry Fielding, author of Tom Jones, &c.
&c. &c.

Droll.

MISCELLANEOUS VERSES. 383

Droll Nature stamp'd each lucky hit
 With unimaginable wit:
 Where Suffolk¹ fought the peaceful scene,
 Resigning Richmond to the queen,
 And all the glory, all the teasing,
 Of pleasing one not worth the pleasing:
 Where Fanny², ever-blooming fair,
 Ejaculates the graceful pray'r,
 And, 'scap'd from sense, with nonsense smit,
 For Whitfield's cant leaves Stanhope's³ wit:
 Amid this choir of founding names
 Of statesmen, bards, and beauteous dames,
 Shall the last trifler of the throng
 Enroll his own such names among?
 —Oh! no—Enough if I consign
 To lasting types their notes divine:
 Enough, if Strawberry's humble hill
 The title-page of fame shall fill.

POSTSCRIPT.

ADDED I 1784.

HERE Genius in a later hour
 Selected its sequester'd bow'r,
 And threw around the verdant room
 The blushing lilac's chill perfume.
 So loose is flung each bold festoon,
 Each bough so breathes the touch of noon;
 The happy pencil⁴ so deceives,
 That Flora, doubly jealous, cries,
 "The work's not mine—yet trust these eyes,
 "'Tis my own Zephyr waves the leaves."

¹ Henrietta Hobart, countess of Suffolk.
² Lady Fanny Shirley.

³ Philip Stanhope, earl of Chesterfield.
⁴ Of lady Diana Beauclerc.

Countess.