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# **The Works Of Horatio Walpole, Earl Of Orford**

In Five Volumes

**Walpole, Horace**

**London, 1798**

Portrait of Madame la Marquise du Deffand

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[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-59887](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-59887)

A chaplet of immortal bays  
 Shall crown her brows, and guard her lays;  
 Of nectar-sack, an acorn cup  
 Be at her board each year fill'd up;  
 And, as each quarter feast comes round,  
 A silver-penny shall be found  
 Within the compass of her shoe—  
 And so we bid you all adieu.

Given at our palace of Cowslip-castle, the shortest night  
 of the year.

OBERON.

PORTRAIT DE MADAME LA MARQUISE DU DEFFAND.

1766.

WHERE do Wit and Memory dwell?  
 Where is Fancy's favourite cell?  
 Where does Judgment hold her court,  
 And dictate laws to Mirth and Sport?  
 Where does Reason—not the dame  
 Who arrogates the sage's name,  
 And, proud of self-conferr'd degree,  
 Esteems herself Philosophy!  
 But the Reason that I mean,  
 Slave of Truth, and Passion's queen,  
 Who doubts, not dictates, seeks the best,  
 And to Presumption leaves the rest:  
 With whom resides the winning Fair?  
 With Rousseau?—No; nor with Voltaire;  
 Nor where leaf-gold of eloquence,  
 Adorning less than veiling sense,

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Ddd

Dazzles

Dazzles the passions it can heat,  
 And makes them party to the cheat.  
 Where does Patience (tell who know)  
 Bear irremediable woe;  
 And, though of life's best joy bereft,  
 Smile on the little portion left?

Lastly, tell where boundless flows  
 The richest stream that Friendship knows?  
 That neither laves the shores of Love,  
 Nor bathes the feet of Pride above;  
 But, rolling 'twixt disparted coasts,  
 Impartial glides through rival hofts;  
 And, like St. Charity, divides  
 To Gaul and Albion equal tides?

Together all these virtues dwell:  
 St. Joseph's convent<sup>1</sup> is their cell:  
 Their sanctuary, Du Deffand's mind——  
 Cenfure, be dumb! she's old<sup>2</sup> and blind.

<sup>1</sup> The convent at Paris, within whose precincts the marquise du Deffand had apartments.

<sup>2</sup> In the year 1766 she was 65 years old. She died at the age of 83.