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The Works Of Mr. George Lillo; With Some Account Of His Life

Containing, The Fatal Curiosity. A Tragedy. Marina. A Tragedy. Elmerick.
A Tragedy. Britannia And Batavia. A Masque. And Arden Of Feversham. A
Tragedy

Lillo, George

London, 1775

To The Right Honourable The Countess of Hertford.

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T O T H E

R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E

The C O U N T E S S of H E R T F O R D .

M A D A M ,

P E R M I T me to hope that you will pardon the honest ambition which has encouraged me to seek a proper patroness for *MARINA* in your ladyship; whose real character gives countenance to the imaginary one, and whose constant practice is a living example of that steady virtue, and exalted piety, which the author of the old play from whence this is taken, has happily described in his *Princes of Tyre*.

Conscious



DEDICATION.

Conscious of no mean views, and secured by the universal acknowledgement of your merit from the imputation of flattery, I approach your ladyship, though a stranger, and without any previous application, with the less diffidence: If this Play should appear on perusal to be designed to promote something better than meer amusement, that will effectually recommend it to the favour of the Countess of Hertford.

To place merit in the gifts of fortune, and happiness in what an hour may, and a few years certainly will bring to an end, is the folly and misery of too many who are reputed wise and great. To be truly so is with your ladyship to regard the finest understanding, the most fruitful invention, the happiest elocution, talents far superior to wealth and dignity, but as they subserve the interest of truth and virtue, and render the possessors of them, in the midst of affluence, moderate even in the use of lawful pleasures, humble in the
most

DEDICATION.

most exalted stations, and capable of living above the world, even in the possession of all it can bestow. I am afraid and unwilling to offend. But as universal benevolence is the perfection of virtue, your ladyship must suffer your own to be spoken of, however painful it may be to you, that others may not want a pattern for their encouragement or reprehension, as they shall improve or neglect it. A truly great mind discovers itself by nothing more than by a benign and well placed condescension; of which your ladyship's known esteem for the late excellent Mrs. Rowe, is a noble instance, and an undoubted proof, amongst many others which you daily give, of the goodness of your heart and understanding, and cannot be mentioned but to your honour.

I can affirm, and I hope I shall be thought sincere, that what I have said doth not proceed from custom as a dedicat^r, but from a mind fully convinced of its truth in every circumstance, and a
heart



DEDICATION.

heart touched with a character so very amiable.

That you may long live an ornament and a support of those excellent principles which you profess and practice, and that your influence and example may do all the good that you yourself can wish, is the earnest desire of,

Your Ladyship's

Most obedient

Humble servant,

GEORGE LILLO.

