

Landesbibliothek Oldenburg

Digitalisierung von Drucken

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

Containing, *Silvia; or, The Country Burial. A Ballad Opera.* *George Barnwell, A Tragedy.* *The Life of Scanderbeg.* And *The Christian Hero, A Tragedy*

Lillo, George

London, 1775

Prologue.

urn:nbn:de:gbv:45:1-2376

P R O L O G U E.

Spoken by Mr. CIBBER.

*SACRED to virtue, liberty and truth,
The Muses bloom in everlasting youth.
Press'd like the palm, they rise beneath their weight,
And soar above the reach of time, or fate.
When brass, or marble, faithless to their trust,
No longer bear the name, nor guard the dust
Of kings, or heroes, to their charge consign'd,
But yield to age, and leave no track behind;
The poet's pen, with never dying lays,
Preserves their fame and celebrates their praise.
Let artful Maro, or bold Lucan tell,
How regal Troy, or Rome, more awful fell;
Nations destroy'd re-vive, lost empires shine,
And freedom glows in each immortal line.
In vain would faction, war, or lawless power,
Which marr the patriot's scheme, his fame devour;
When bards, by their superior force, can save
From dark oblivion and defeat the grave.*

*Say, Britons, must this art forsake your isle,
And leave to vagrant apes her native soil?
Must she, the dearest friend that freedom knows,
Driven from her seat, seek refuge with her foes?
Forbid so great a shame, and save the age
From such reproach, you patrons of the stage.*

*Since well we know, there's not a theme so dear,
As virtuous freedom, to a British ear;
T' indulge so just a taste, to night we sing
A pious hero, and a patriot king;
By nature form'd, by Providence design'd
To scourge ambition, and to right mankind:
Such Castriot was. O might it but appear
That he retains the least resemblance here!*



*Should but the smallest portion of that fire,
Which fill'd his ample breast, our scenes inspire,
The abject slave, to his reproach shall see,
That such as dare deserve it, may be free:
And conscious tyranny confess with shame,
That blind ambition wanders from her aim;
While virtue leads her votaries to fame.*

 D R A M A T I S P E R S O N Æ.

T U R K S.

Amurath.	Mr. <i>Quin.</i>
Mahomet.	Mr. <i>W. Mills.</i>
Helena.	Mrs. <i>Thurmond.</i>
Ofmyn.	Mr. <i>Berry.</i>
Kisler Aga.	Mr. <i>Hewit.</i>
Cleora.	Mrs. <i>Pritchard.</i>

C H R I S T I A N S.

Scanderbeg.	Mr. <i>Milward.</i>
Aranthes.	Mr. <i>Mills.</i>
Althea.	Mrs. <i>Butler.</i>
Amasie.	Mr. <i>Gibber.</i>
Paulinus.	Mr. <i>Winston.</i>

Guards, Mutes, Eunuchs, and Attendants.

S C E N E. *The Plain and Mountains near CROIA,
the Metropolis of ALBANIA.*