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A Sentimental Journey Through France And Italy

Yorick, ...

London, 1768

The Desobligeant. Calais.

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6 THE DESOBLIGEANT.

C A L A I S.

WHEN a man is discontented with himself, it has one advantage however, that it puts him into an excellent frame of mind for making a bargain. Now there being no travelling through France and Italy without a chaise—and nature generally prompting us to the thing we are fittest for, I walk'd out into the coach yard to buy or hire something of that kind to my purpose: an old * Desobligeant in the furthest corner of the court, hit my fancy at first sight, so I instantly got into it,

* A chaise, so called in France, from its holding but one person.

and finding it in tolerable harmony with my feelings, I ordered the waiter to call Monsieur Dessen the master of the hôtel—but Monsieur Dessen being gone to vespers, and not caring to face the Franciscan whom I saw on the opposite side of the court, in conference with a lady just arrived, at the inn—I drew the taffeta curtain betwixt us, and being determined to write my journey, I took out my pen and ink, and wrote the preface to it in the *Disobligeant*.

