

**THE BEST LETTERS
OF
HORACE WALPOLE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649073092

The Best Letters of Horace Walpole by Horace Walpole & Anna B. McMahan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HORACE WALPOLE & ANNA B. MCMAHAN

**THE BEST LETTERS
OF
HORACE WALPOLE**

THE BEST LETTERS
OF
HORACE WALPOLE

Edited with an Introduction

By ANNA B. McMAHAN



CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG AND COMPANY
1890

Br 2123.5.48

COPYRIGHT,
BY A. C. McCLURG AND CO.
A. D. 1890.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	9
 LETTER	
I. Pleasures of Youth, and Youthful Recollections	25
II. Mountains of Savoy, — Grande-Chartreuse	27
III. Sir Robert Walpole's Resignation. — Created Earl of Orford	30
IV. On his Father's Death	33
V. Enclosing Gray's Ode "On a Distant Prospect of Eton College"	35
VI. Description of Strawberry Hill. — Dissolution of Parliament, — Measures for carrying the Elections	36
VII. Description of Strawberry Hill, — Clandestine Marriage Bill, — Execution of Dr. Cameron	39
VIII. Gray's "Odes" to be Printed at Strawberry Hill	46
IX. Disasters in Flanders. — Gray's "Odes." — The Printer's Letter	47
X. History of Charles V. — History of Learning	51
XI. Congratulations on Pitt's Administration	55
XII. From a Sick Room	57
XIII. George III., the New King. — Funeral of George II.	59
XIV. Acknowledging Receipt of Warton's "Observations on Spenser"	63
XV. A Friendly Greeting	65
XVI. Acknowledging the Receipt of Mason's Poems	66
XVII. On Mr. Conway's Dismissal from all his Employments	67
XVIII. Picture of "The Town"	70
XIX. Origin of the "Castle of Otranto"	74
XX. With a Copy of the "Castle of Otranto"	78
XXI. Consolations of Authorship	80

LETTER	PAGE
XXII. French Society and Taste	82
XXIII. Vanity of Court Honors	86
XXIV. Concerning a Particular Friend, and Friendship in general	89
XXV. Visits a Wesley Meeting	95
XXVI. Resigning his Seat in Parliament	96
XXVII. In Paris again, with Madame du Deffand	99
XXVIII. Literary and Dramatic Criticism	102
XXIX. Gloomy View of Contemporary Literature and Politics	104
XXX. Improvements at Strawberry Hill	107
XXXI. On the Death of the Poet Gray	111
XXXII. Disaster at Strawberry Hill	115
XXXIII. Tribute to Gray's Genius. — Depreciation of Garrick	118
XXXIV. Selection of Gray's Letters for Publication	120
XXXV. Ruin and Desolation of the Family Property	124
XXXVI. On a Performance of Mason's "Elfrida"	125
XXXVII. Garrick's "Christmas Tale." — In Praise of Music	127
XXXVIII. Tribute to Mason as Editor and Author. — Con- cerning Slavery in America	130
XXXIX. Houghton and Lawyers. — Literary Property	133
XL. Inducements to visit Strawberry Hill	137
XLI. Degeneration of the Present Time. — Pleasures of Old Age	139
XLII. An Adventure on the Thames	141
XLIII. Cautions relating to Paris	143
XLIV. Distressed State of the Kingdom	147
XLV. Conduct of America contrasted with that of Eng- land	149
XLVI. On Public Affairs	151
XLVII. Preparations for War with America	153
XLVIII. On a Performance of Jephson's "Braganza"	155
XLIX. On Mason's Life of Gray	158
I. Charm of Madame de Sévigné's Letters. — The American War	162
II. America and the Administration	164
III. Miserable Situation of England	168
LIII. On the Declaration of Independence	171
LIV. On the Suicide of Mr. Damer	174

CONTENTS.

vii

LETTER		PAGE
LV.	Gray's Cenotaph. — Mason's "Caractacus" . . .	176
LVI.	Concerning Voltaire's Abuse of Shakspeare . . .	179
LVII.	On Sir John Hawkins's "History of Music" . . .	181
LVIII.	On Sensibility as a Factor in Happiness . . .	183
LIX.	Discouraging Outlook of Affairs in America . . .	186
LX.	Disclaiming Responsibility for Chatterton's Suicide	189
LXI.	Advice to a Dramatic Writer	191
LXII.	Sympathizing with the Americans	194
LXIII.	England offers Peace. — Retrospection	196
LXIV.	Lord Chatham's Last Appearance in the House of Lords	199
LXV.	Death of Voltaire. — The Uncertainty of Worldly Matters in general	202
LXVI.	Infatuation of England	204
LXVII.	Genius and Villany of Chatterton	208
LXVIII.	Expression of Filial Affection and Family Pride	211
LXIX.	Grief at the Sale of the Houghton Pictures. — Depreciation of Garrick	214
LXX.	New Difficulties in the Conduct of the American War	218
LXXI.	Europe paying its Debts to America	222
LXXII.	Johnson's Criticism on Gray. — Gibbon's Quarrel	225
LXXIII.	Self-Criticism as an Author	227
LXXIV.	Differs with Lady Ossory on the American Question	229
LXXV.	On the Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown	232
LXXVI.	A Visit from a Learned Editor of Shakspeare	235
LXXVII.	Renewed Motion for an Address of Pacification with America	236
LXXVIII.	On a Performance of Southern's "The Fatal Marriage," with Mrs. Siddons as Isabella	238
LXXIX.	On the Receipt of Pownall's "Character of Sir Robert Walpole"	241
LXXX.	On the "Good Things" of Life	247
LXXXI.	Strawberry Hill Landscapes	250
LXXXII.	On the Publication of Private Letters	252
LXXXIII.	Criticism on Poetry. — Madame de Sévigné	254
LXXXIV.	On the Receipt of "Florio," dedicated to himself	261

LETTER	PAGE
LXXXV. Acknowledging the Receipt of a Cameo	262
LXXXVI. A Chat with Mrs. Siddons	266
LXXXVII. Concerning Voltaire, Mrs. Piozzi, and others	268
LXXXVIII. On Meeting the Misses Barry	271
LXXXIX. Acceptance of an Invitation	276
XC. On Darwin's "Botanic Garden"	277
XCI. On the Receipt of "Bishop Bonner's Ghost"	279
XCII. With a Contribution for Charity	282
XCIII. A Letter of Farewell	283
XCIV. On Some New Books	286
XCV. On his Accession to the Title Earl of Orford	290
XCVI. On French Affairs	293
XCVII. Declining the Dedication of a Translation of Aulus Gellius	296
XCVIII. With a Subscription. — Comments on the French Revolution	298
XCIX. On the Receipt of "Lorenzo de' Medici"	300
C. Picture of His Old Age	304

INTRODUCTION.

EARLY in the present century Lord Byron wrote, "It is the fashion to underrate Horace Walpole;" and one has only to turn to the reviews of that period to confirm the truth of the statement. Successive volumes of Walpole Letters, appearing at intervals between the years 1798 and 1857, when the first complete edition was issued, seem in general to have been greeted by the critics with a half-patronizing, half-scornful tone, which matched ill with the sale of the volumes and their popularity with the general public. On the appearance of the Montagu collection (1818), a writer in the "Edinburgh Review" says: "His mind as well as his house was piled up with Dresden china and illuminated through painted glass; he was the slave of elegant trifles, and could no more screw himself up into a decided and solid personage than he could divest himself of petty jealousies and miniature animosities." Macaulay's famous dictum in the same Review (1833), "his mind was a bundle of inconsistent whims and affectations; his features were covered by mask within mask; when the outer disguise of obvious affectation