

**THE NEW AERA; OR,
ADVENTURES OF JULIEN
DELMOUR: RELATED
BY HIMSELF, VOL. II**

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The New Aera; Or, Adventures of Julien Delmour: Related by Himself, Vol. II by Stéphanie Félicité Genlis

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STÉPHANIE FÉLICITÉ GENLIS

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THE
NEW ÆRA;

OR,

Adventures of Julien Delmour:

RELATED BY HIMSELF.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY MADAME DE GENLIS.

ne faut point mettre au ridicule où il n'y en point: c'est se gêner le goût: c'est corrompre son jugement et celui des autres. Mais le ridicule qui est quelque part, il faut s'y voir, l'en tirer avec grâce et d'une manière qui plaise et qui instruisse. *Caractères de la Bruyère.*

VOL. II.

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THE NEW ÆRA

OR

ADVENTURES

OF

JULIEN DELMOUR,

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

CHAPTER I.

Departure of the Viscount for Normandy.—He is accompanied by his Wife and Julien.—They go to a Neighbouring Castle belonging to Count Joseph.—Account of the Persons they meet there.—Inexplicable conduct of the Viscount.

As soon as the winter was over, we departed for an estate of the Viscount's in Normandy, and situated within six leagues of one which belonged to Count

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Joseph, who was already there, with Edelic. Ever since his marriage, the Count acted with great prudence; for he not only broke off his acquaintance with the Baroness de Blimont, but entirely gave up play. The Viscount, who showed the utmost friendship for him, had been extremely kind to the Count in several little affairs of pecuniary interest, and as he imagined I must have had some share in these transactions, we were on the best terms.

It was in this year I had, for the first time, an opportunity of witnessing the mode of living in our noblemen's country seats, which pleased me exceedingly on account of the perfect liberty it seemed to afford. This estate had belonged to the illustrious house of Inglar above four hundred years; but the Marchioness, who was not fond of old castles, on the plea of their remoteness from the Court, where she had a place, could never be induced to live here, infinitely preferring her neat villa at Etioles, to the finest country house in France.

As we went over all the rooms, on the first night of our arrival, I was soon enabled to admire the nobleness and grandeur of the apartments, together with the surprizing solidity of the whole building. It was here, that I first saw cabinets formed within the thickness of the walls : good heavens ! I would exclaim, they must have built for eternity in those days ! . . . Yes, replied the Viscount, people then not only thought of their children but of posterity ; aye ! continued he, and honour to that excellent Baron d'Inglar, who, under the reign of Charles VIII, on returning covered with glory, from the brilliant expedition to Naples, caused this castle to be built, at an enormous expence, for me and my descendants ; for if not demolished, this vast edifice may yet serve to accommodate many generations.—Certainly, said I, we ought to revere the memory of such men, and all other heads of families, who have left similar monuments of paternal tenderness behind them !—Here, rejoined

the Count, every thing recalls our ancestors to mind ; all the hangings and tapestry you see, were made by some female progenitor ; the chapel is full of fine pictures, with which my grand-father decorated it after returning from his embassies to Spain and Italy, where he purchased these specimens of art. It was after the battle of Marignano, that a Peter d'Inglar, covered with honorable wounds, came, at the age of seventy, to finish his days at this castle, and that he founded a gratuitous school in the village for poor children. It was he who repaired the church, and that caused the erection of a superb mausoleum of marble in it, to his father-in-law ; he also built the parsonage house ;*

* It ought to be said in praise of the ancient nobility, that all these acts of beneficence were performed on the large estates ; previous to the revolution, you every where saw charity-schools, and tombs raised by filial piety, in the church-yards and villages ; there was a superb one in that of Genlis ; and several are yet to be seen round Paris, particularly in the Gothic churches of Liancour, Villars-Saint-Pol, &c,

these, my friend are the traditions that really ennoble families, and which alone render them respectable. Memory was only given to man for the purpose of civilizing him, and for the advancement of science and art ; to perpetuate the noblest recollections, and the finest sentiments of the human heart, those of admiration and gratitude ; in fact, when nations fall into barbarism, remembrance is no longer encouraged ; it is extinguished, and with that, useful emulation and every generous feeling : as he pronounced these words, we entered the long gallery containing the portraits of all his ancestors ; this sight produced a striking effect on my mind, reminding me of those Roman Patricians, who caused the statues of their forefathers to be carried in funereal procession ; I could not help thinking it was as ridiculous for any one to be proud of having five or six hundred thousand livres left to him, as it is natural to glory in being able to count a number of great men in his pedigree.