

**BOETHIUS'S
CONSOLATION OF
PHILOSOPHY, PP. 1-223**

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Boethius's Consolation of Philosophy, pp. 1-223 by Mr. Philip Ridpath

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MR. PHILIP RIDPATH

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T O
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
HENRY DUNDAS,
TREASURER OF THE NAVY,
KEEPER OF THE SIGNET,
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES
IN SCOTLAND,
AND ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST
HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL.

S I R,

IN every age, Philosophy and
the Muses have been the de-
light of great and eminent men.
They have served to soothe the
anxieties naturally attendant on
high station, and to relieve the
spirits during the intervals of
business. This encourages me to
a present

DEDICATION.

present to your patronage BOETHIUS's eloquent Treatise of THE CONSOLATION OF PHILOSOPHY; a Work which has been translated into most of the languages of Europe, and into the Saxon and our own by two of our most illustrious Princes, Alfred and Elizabeth. There is something congenial in great and noble minds, and what appeared interesting to them, cannot be indifferent to you. Length of time, and the mutability of language, have deprived us of the fruits of their leisure. The present version of this beautiful and philosophical Dialogue has cost me much pains and labour; and, indeed, I should never have presumed, under your protection and patronage, to offer it to the Publick, had I not endeavoured to make it as perfect as I possibly could.

Conscious

DEDICATION.

Conscious of the nature of your talents, you early quitted the humble pursuits of literature, to display the extent of your powers on the great theatre of business and affairs; and envy must allow, you have distinguished yourself in so conspicuous a manner in our national concerns, and supported your manly and generous principles of liberty and government with such force of argument and genuine eloquence, as has rendered you the boast and glory of our country. It is therefore with peculiar satisfaction that I embrace the opportunity afforded me of uniting in the general voice, and expressing my esteem and admiration of your great talents, which you employ with so much zeal, advantage, and success in the publick cause. Your generous exertions to serve our country cannot entirely engross so active
9 and

DEDICATION.

and capacious a mind; and though higher views may have interrupted the studies of your early years, yet you still look with a lover's eye on Letters and the Muses.

That you may long continue to unite the favour of your Sovereign with the confidence of every real patriot, is the sincere wish of,

SIR,

With the greatest esteem and respect,

Your most obedient,

and most humble Servant,

PHILIP RIDPATH.

LONDON, *June*, 1785.

THE

T H E
L I F E
O F
B O E T H I U S.

ANICIUS Manlius Severinus Boethius was descended from an ancient and noble family *. Many of his ancestors were senators and consuls of Rome. He was born at Rome, in the 455th year of the Christian era, 46 years after the taking of that city by Alarick I. king of the Goths. Boethius Severinus, his father, was Prefect of the palace to Valentinian III; and, by the command

* Some of the writers of his life derive his pedigree from the celebrated Manlius Torquatus.

of that emperor, was put to death in the same year which gave birth to his illustrious son. Though deprived of the care of an excellent parent, the young Boethius had the happiness of falling under the tuition of worthy relations, who gave him a good education, and inspired him with an early taste for Philosophy, and the Belles Lettres. They sent him to Athens, where these studies still flourished. He resided eighteen years in that celebrated seminary, where, animated by a noble emulation, he distinguished himself among his fellow-students, and made a surprizing progress in every branch of literature. But Philosophy and Mathematicks were his darling studies; Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, and Ptolemy, his favourite authors. He studied their writings with the utmost attention, and became master of all the treasures of science contained in them.

In

LIFE OF BOETHIUS.

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In this manner did Boethius employ his youth. His progress in virtue, in the mean time, kept pace with his advancement in knowledge: for he was no less remarkable for probity and humanity, than for his fine genius and extensive erudition. Upon his return to Rome, he soon attracted the publick attention. He was considered as a person born to promote the happiness of society. The most distinguished men in the city sought his friendship, perceiving that his merit would soon advance him to the first employments of the state. His alliance was wished for by persons the most respectable. But Elpis, descended from one of the most considerable families of Messina, was the lady on whom Boethius fixed his choice. His choice was fortunate; for in Elpis there was united all the accomplishments of the head and heart. She had a fine taste in literature, par-