

**OBSERVATIONS ON
LEONARDO DA VINCI'S
CELEBRATED PICTURE
OF THE LAST SUPPER**

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Observations on Leonardo Da Vinci's Celebrated Picture of the Last Supper by J. W. de Goethe
& G. H. Noehden

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J. W. DE GOETHE & G. H. NOEHDEN

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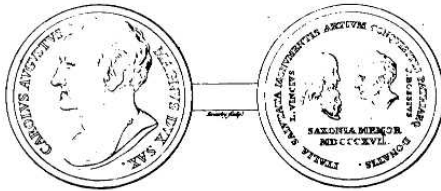
OBSERVATIONS
ON
LEONARDO DA VINCI'S CELEBRATED PICTURE
OF
THE LAST SUPPER.

BY J. W. DE GOETHE,

*Minister of State to H. R. H. the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, Author of Werther, Faust,
Goetz of Berlichingen, &c. &c.*

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN, AND ACCOMPANIED WITH AN INTRODUCTION, AND
A FEW NOTES,

BY G. H. NOEHDEN, LL. D. F. R. S. &c.



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MESSRS. RIVINGTON, WATERLOO PLACE.

1821.

TO
HER IMPERIAL
AND
ROYAL HIGHNESS,
MARY PAULOWNA,
GRAND DUCHESS OF RUSSIA,
AND
HEREDITARY GRAND DUCHESS
OF
SAXE-WEIMAR.

MADAM,

To lay at the feet of your Imperial Highness the translation of the following Essay, which may be deemed worthy of attention, both on account of the subject, and of the original author, I might have been prompted by several reasons: but there is none more powerful than the desire I feel, of expressing that profound regard, with which the character of your Imperial Highness has inspired me.

To have been placed in circumstances, enabling me to witness the virtues and distinguished endowments of your Imperial Highness, I consider as an instance of good fortune, which marks an interesting period of my life. The world acknowledges the exalted qualities which adorn your Imperial Highness, and the august families, with which you are connected: but to behold them in the sphere of domestick intercourse, falls not to the lot of many, among those who admire them.

Princely grandeur yielding its pre-eminence to the endearing affections of wife and mother; the commanding supe-

riority of rank softened by the most pleasing affability; a rich and capacious mind graced by unparalleled modesty: these form such arguments of just encomium, that my feelings, I am persuaded, are in unison with the sentiments of all who approach your Imperial Highness.

Of those virtues which you cherish, it cannot fail that your Imperial Highness will reap the fruits: but no earthly blessing, which a bountiful Providence may bestow, will, in your estimation, I know, be equal to that, which consists in the happiness and prosperity of your beloved children. As there cannot be a mother, whose anxious solicitude is more alive to the welfare and the interests of her offspring, whose love and tenderness are more ardent and genuine; so there is none, whose comprehensive understanding is better calculated to employ the fittest means for the accomplishment of their education: and the disposition and abilities of the children are such, as promise a successful co-operation with the endeavours of the mother.

The kindness, which I experienced at the hands of your Imperial Highness, during my residence at Weimar, has left an impression on my mind, which will live in the unalterable feelings of gratitude. Among other proofs of condescension, with which I was honoured by your Imperial Highness, was the opportunity afforded me of seeing that Illustrious Sovereign, your Imperial Brother; whose amiable deportment in private life, is only equalled by the transcendent talents, displayed in his publick station. The Emperour ALEXANDER truly deserves to be called GREAT and GOOD: and posterity will assuredly do him that justice, which even

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the envy of the present time cannot withhold. The mother of this great Monarch, and of your Imperial Highness, is the pattern of maternal perfection: and it constitutes a proud recollection, that I had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty by your Imperial Highness.

May it please your Imperial Highness to accept the homage of that profound, and unfeigned regard, with which I presume to subscribe myself,

MADAM,

*Your Imperial,
and Royal Highness's*

*devoted,
and most obedient*

humble

Servant,

GEORGE HENRY NOEHDEN.

London, May 16, 1821.

