

**MEMOIRS OF THE ABBÉ  
EDGEWORTH: CONTAINING  
HIS NARRATIVE OF THE  
LAST HOURS OF LOUIS XVI**

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Memoirs of the Abbé Edgeworth: Containing His Narrative of the Last Hours of Louis XVI by  
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HENRY ESSEX EDGEWORTH DE FIRMONT & C. SNEYD EDGEWORTH

**MEMOIRS OF THE ABBÉ  
EDGEWORTH: CONTAINING  
HIS NARRATIVE OF THE  
LAST HOURS OF LOUIS XVI**



*W. M. G. G. G.*

**MEMOIRS**  
**OF**  
**THE ABBÉ EDGEWORTH;**  
**CONTAINING HIS**  
**NARRATIVE OF THE LAST HOURS**

**OF**  
**LOUIS XVI.**

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**BY**



**C. SNEYD EDGEWORTH.**

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TO

HIS MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY,

LOUIS XVIII.

King of France and Navarre,

*&c. &c. &c.*

SIRE,

WHEN these Memoirs were sent to the press, your Majesty filled the throne of St. Louis; but France, too long estranged from religion and public virtue, knew not the value of the blessings your Majesty's influence was beginning to diffuse.

The ways of Providence are inscrutable, but they are just; and when remorseless ambition shall have become its own victim, and a guilty generation shall have atoned by its afflictions for its crimes, I trust that we shall see the Bourbons

restored to their people, France to Freedom, and the world to repose.

But at no period could I have approached your Majesty with sentiments of more profound veneration, or with a prouder feeling have laid at your Majesty's feet the records of the fidelity of the Abbé Edgeworth to your Majesty's illustrious House.

May devoted loyalty like his, inspire every heart in your Majesty's dominions, and may the result of impending events be such as may most redound to the honor of your Majesty and the happiness of mankind.

I have the honor to be,

With the utmost respect,

Your Majesty's

Obedient humble Servant,

**C. SNEYD EDGEWORTH.**

*London, May 1, 1815.*



MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
ABBÉ EDGEWORTH.

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AT this moment of universal peace, when we see the Bourbons re-established on the throne of their ancestors, the mind passing over the scene of bloodshed and tyranny that has intervened, naturally looks back to that period, when a legitimate sovereign swayed the sceptre of France.

It is twenty-two years since the murder of Louis the Sixteenth; and yet his funeral sermon has but just been delivered; the mournful procession has but lately blackened the streets of Paris;

and many a faithful heart, that long had grieved in secret, has at length received the consolation of public sympathy, and the elevating sanction of religion. At such a period, it is impossible not to recollect him, whose pious heroism supported that unfortunate monarch in his last moments.

The Editor of the following memoir, who is one of the Abbé Edgeworth's nearest surviving relations, has endeavoured to collect some particulars of his life.

This he considered as a tribute justly due to the memory of a man, who has acted such a distinguished part in the events of the French revolution.

The Editor has perhaps felt another motive for writing these memoirs,—an honest pride in claiming relationship.

with one, whose virtues have so distinguished him among his fellow-creatures, and whose conduct must secure for him such an honourable place in history.

An ancient writer has observed, that the great or good actions of a distinguished character not only confer dignity upon his posterity, but reflect a lustre upon his ancestors; consequently, some account of the ancestors of so distinguished an individual as the Abbé Edgeworth, cannot be uninteresting.

Henry Essex Edgeworth, the subject of this memoir, was descended from Francis Edgeworth, who came with his brother Edward to Ireland, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, about the year 1562. Francis was clerk of the hanaper in the reign of James the First, and Edward was, about the same time, Bi-