

**MEMOIRS OF THE BASTILE:
TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH
REGISTERS, RECORDS, AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS, FOUND
IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE CASTLE**

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Memoirs of the Bastille: Translated from French Registers, Records, and Other Authentic Documents, Found in the Archives of the Castle by Francis Gibson

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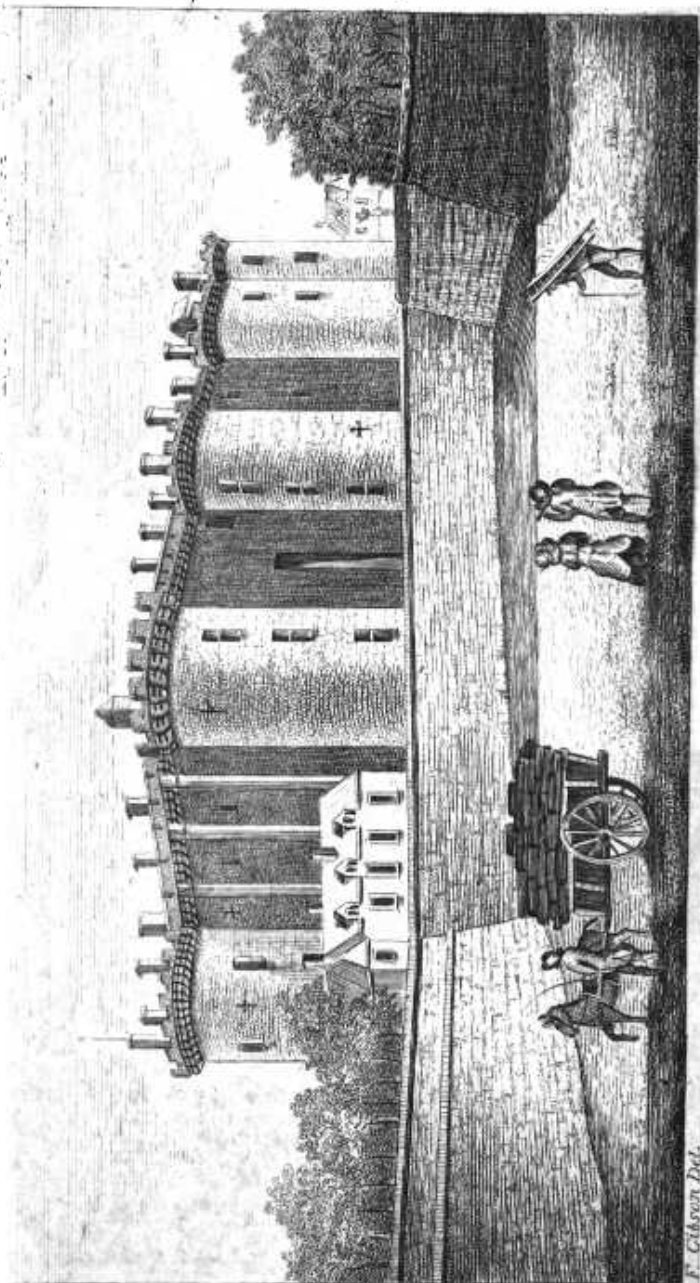
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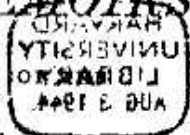
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VIEW of the BASTILLE.

Geo. Stouthoun

MEMOIRS



BASTILLE:

Translated from the French Registers, Records, and other authentic Documents, found in the

ARCHIVES of the CASTLE

At the Time of its Surrender, on the 14th of July, 1789; and published under the Sanction of the

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF FRANCE.

Interperfed with Anecdotes of the moft remarkable Prifoners who have been confined in that Fortrefs; particularly that Perfon ufually ftyled

The Man in the Iron Mask.

By FRANCIS GIBSON, Efq. F. A. S.

"Hear all, and then let Juftice hold the Scale."

Whitby,

Printed for the Editor by Thomas Webfter.

Sold by Rodgers, Clarke, and Layburn, Whitby; Law, Ave-Maria-Lane, London; Mitchell, Newcastle; Peck, York; &c. &c.

1802.

TO THE
HONOURABLE
EDMUND PHIPPS, M.P.

MAJOR GENERAL OF HIS MAJESTY'S
FORCES, &c. ;

THIS TRANSLATION,
THE TRIBUTE OF AN UNFEIGNED
ESTEEM,

IS,

BY PERMISSION,

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,


BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT,

F. GIBSON.

WHITBY, Oct. 11th, 1802.

P R E F A C E.



AS the capture and subsequent demolition of the Bastile form a primary feature in the annals of the French Revolution, a true relation of that remarkable event must be of the first importance to the historian, whose duty it is to transmit to posterity, an impartial account of an unexampled ebullition of popular fury, that has convulsed Europe to her centre, and effected the most alarming changes in her political and territorial division.

Having lately met with a work, published by authority of the National Assembly of France, giving an account of the surrender of the Bastile, totally different from those hitherto received as genuine, I thought it highly worthy of a translation.

Its

Its title is, "The Bastile Unveiled; or, a recital of authentic pieces, useful in forming its history; the produce of the sale being appropriated to the relief of the widows and children of those patriotic citizens who were victims to their zeal, in the attack on that fortress. The original papers found in the archives of the Bastile, on its surrender, were deposited in the Lyceum, from the 14th of July to the close of August, for the public inspection, and afterwards removed to the Hotel de Ville."

In this work, I was surprised to find the pamphlet printed for Grangè and sold by Goujon in Paris, under the title of "Remarks and anecdotes on the castle of the Bastile," a shameful imposition on the public. A much better account might have been expected from the pen of M. Linguet, who was some time confined there: but in the subsequent pages it will be found, that what he published in England relative to that state prison, was the offspring of resentment and spleen, and as replete with errors as the plan of the building attached to it.

Signora Piozzi, in her last curious work entitled *Retrospection*, (with her *usual* attention to veracity,) asserts, That only six prisoners were found in the Bastile on the day of its capture; one of whom was M. de la Tude, who, according to her, was afterwards brought to the guillotine by the insurgents,

I have observed, and not without a sentiment of uneasiness, that the editors of a literary compilation so respectable as the *Encyclopædia Londinensis*, have too readily admitted as matters of fact, (in their relation of this event,) several circumstances which seem destitute of foundation: this will be evident, by comparing the following extract from that work with the authentic accounts published by the French National Assembly.

“Upwards of 12000 citizens, armed with musquets, sabres, and hatchets, and headed by the grenadier guards, assembled early in the morning of the 14th of July, 1789, and demanded of the governor, M. de Launay, that the prisoners should be set at liberty, and that the Bastile should be surrendered

rendered into their hands. The governor dissembled, but said he would comply ; and ordered the outer gate to be opened, under pretence of admitting a party to take possession of it : but no sooner had they entered, than the gate was shut upon them, and the drawbridge over which they had passed was instantly taken up. The governor then ordered the soldiers of the garrison to fire upon them through loop-holes and turrets, until every person admitted was either killed or wounded. The people without, on hearing the firing, and learning the perfidy of the governor, instantly assaulted the castle in all quarters, when a breach was made, and it was carried by storm. The governor being taken, was executed at the Greve ; and M. de Lolme Saibray, major of the Bastile, was killed in defending it.

“ The prisoners at this time confined in the fortress were no more than seven ; a high proof of the mildness of the government under Louis XVI.—The people, who anxiously look after the wonderful, though in scenes of misery, seemed surprised and even disappointed to find so few.

“ The