

**A SHORT VIEW OF THE  
LIFE AND CHARACTER OF  
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL  
VILLETES**

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A Short View of the Life and Character of Lieutenant-General Villetes by Thomas Bowdler

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**THOMAS BOWDLER**

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VILLETES**



A SHORT VIEW  
OF THE  
LIFE and CHARACTER  
OF  
Lieutenant-General VILLETES,

*Late Lieutenant-Governor and Commander of the Forces  
in Jamaica.*

6320

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

LETTERS

WRITTEN DURING A JOURNEY FROM

CALAIS TO GENEVA, AND ST. BERNARD,

IN THE YEAR 1814.

BY

THOMAS BOWDLER, Esq; F.R.S. & S.A.

*With an APPENDIX,*

CONTAINING A FEW

ORIGINAL LETTERS AND ANECDOTES

OF THE LATE

MADAME ELIZABETH DE FRANCE.

*Elizabeth Philippe de Maria Helou, Princesse de  
France.*

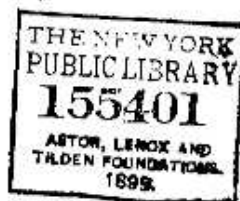
*Published to assist in providing Free Seats for the Poor of  
Swansea, by enlarging the Parish Church.*

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1815.

24



*The following Sketch of the Life of the late Lieut.-General Villettes was written immediately after his death, and was given to his friends in England, Malta, and Jamaica. It is now re-printed, in consequence of the acquisition of a striking likeness of the General, which has been recently obtained from an original picture, in the possession of his sister at Geneva.*

TO  
THOSE PERSONS  
WHO FEEL PLEASURE IN CONTEMPLATING  
A CHARACTER,  
NOT MARKED BY A FEW BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS,  
BUT BY  
CONDUCT UNIFORMLY GOOD AND AMIABLE,  
FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE LATEST PERIOD OF LIFE.

THIS HUMBLE TRIBUTE  
TO  
DEPARTED FRIENDSHIP,  
IS  
MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY  
THE AUTHOR.

BAY OF SWANSEA,  
AN. 1, 1815.

*Mihi præter acerbitatem Amici erepti, auget mæstiam, quod assidere valetudini, fovere deficientem, satiari vultu, complexu, non contigit. Excepissem certe mandata vocesque, quas penitus animo figerem. Omnia sine dubio, Optime Amicorum, superfuere honori tuo; paucioribus tamen lachrymis compositus es, et novissima in luce desideravere aliquid oculi tui.*



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A SHORT VIEW  
OF THE  
LIFE AND CHARACTER  
OF THE LATE  
LIEUT.-GENERAL VILLETTE.

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**T**HIS respectable officer was descended from one of the most ancient families in France. His ancestors were lords of Montdidier in Languedoc, in the thirteenth century, and many of them held considerable offices under different monarchs. During the civil wars, they were much distinguished for their exertions in favour of the Hugonots; and after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, they withdrew from France, and settled in this kingdom. The father of the late Lieut.-General was educated in the diplomatic line, and was many years minister plenipotentiary to the late and the present king; first

at the court of Turin, and afterwards with the Helvetic Cantons. He withdrew from public life in the year 1762, and resided at Bath till 1776, when he died, in the 75th year of his age.\* His second son, William Anne Villetes, was born at Bern, on the 14th of June 1734. He received the early part of his education at Claverton school near Bath, and the latter part of it at the university of St. Andrew's. A mildness of disposition, and a regular performance of whatever it was his duty to do, qualities which through life were distinguished features of his character, were remarkable even at this early period. It was observed at school, that he never received a blow, either from his master, or any of his schoolfellows; nor was he ever known at the university to have experienced a reprimand from any of the professors, or to have been engaged in a quarrel with any of his fellow students.

With Mr. Graves, who was his schoolmaster, and Professor Watson, in whose house he lived, he was the favourite scholar, and the favourite pupil. Friendship was in each of these instances continued through life,

\* An elegant inscription to his memory, may be seen in the parish church of Weston, near Bath.

His father originally intended him for the bar, and he was accordingly entered at Lincoln's Inn, and kept two or three terms; but his ardour for a military life was so great, that Mr. Villetes at last gave way to his son's inclinations, and obtained for him, in the year 1775, a cornetcy in the 10th regiment of dragoons. In this respectable corps, Villetes continued till he rose to the rank of major. In this, as in every other part of his life, a punctual discharge of the duties of his station was constantly observed. By this he obtained the approbation of his superiors, and by his amiable manners he secured the esteem and goodwill of his equals and his inferiors.

During a great part of this period, Captain Villetes attended Sir William Pitt (then commander of the forces in Ireland) as his aid-de-camp and secretary. The character of that venerable officer requires no panegyric; and it certainly was an honour to Villetes, that he lived several years in his family, not only as his secretary, but his confidential friend. His attachment to Sir William Pitt was, indeed, that of a son to a parent; and, like all other attachments that he formed, continued in variable to the end of his life.

In the year 1792, Major Villetes quitted the dragoons, and was appointed lieutenant-colonel