

MISCELLANIES

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Miscellanies by Earl Stanhope

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P R E F A C E.

THE former series of these Miscellanies, published in 1863, comprised several papers—as the Duke of Wellington's on the Duke of Marlborough and the French Retreat from Moscow, or Sir Robert Peel's on Sir Robert Walpole and on the Position of the House of Lords—which it seemed desirable to place on permanent record. In this second selection there are none perhaps of equal value, but still it is hoped, from the great variety of the subjects treated, that some, at least, may be found to interest more than one class of readers.

S.

January, 1872.

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MISCELLANIES.

ITALIAN MEMOIR BY LADY MARY WORTLEY MONTAGU.

1757.

HORACE WALPOLE says in a letter to Sir Horace Mann, dated August 31, 1751: "Pray tell me if you know anything of Lady Mary Wortley; we have an obscure history here of her being in durance in the Brescian or the Bergamasco." He goes on to state in broad language that this was only the sequel of a love affair, "and her lover," he adds, "has taken it into his head to keep her close prisoner, not permitting her to write or receive any letters but what he sees." In a subsequent letter to Sir Horace (November 22 in the same year) Walpole further observes: "It seems uncertain by your accounts whether Lady Mary Wortley is in voluntary or constrained durance."

When, in 1837, the first Lord Wharnccliffe was editing the Works of Lady Mary Wortley, his great grandmother, these statements drew from him some unexpected information. At vol. iii., p. 431, of his edition, he tells us:—