A cosmopolitan actor, David Garrick and his French friends

Hedgcock Frank Arthur
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Author: Hedgcock Frank Arthur

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DAVID GARRICK

AND

HIS FRENCH FRIENDS
David Garrick Esq
From the picture painted by Luckard at Paris in 1751.
A COSMOPOLITAN ACTOR

DAVID GARRICK
AND HIS FRENCH FRIENDS

BY

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WITH PHOTOgravure FRONTISPICE AND SIXTEEN ILLUSTRATIONS IN HALF-TONE FROM PICTURES, ENGRAVINGS, ETC., OF THE PERIOD

LONDON
STANLEY PAUL & CO
31 ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C.
du Protestantisme français, and to M. Creuse, of Bordeaux, for information as to Garrick's ancestors; to MM. Cirot and Courteault, Professors in the University of Bordeaux, who have, in connection with the same subject, made investigations for us in that town; to Lieut.-Colonel Picard, head of the Historical Section of the Staff of the French Army; to M. Lévy-Schneider, of the University of Lyons; to M. Maurice Tourneux; to M. Gaiffe, Professor at the Lycée Carnot, Paris; to M. Funck-Brentano, librarian of the Arsenal, all of whom have placed themselves, with much kindness, at our disposal; to Sir John O. S. Thursby, of Ormerod House, Burnley, who has sent us a copy of a letter from Garrick to Mme Riccoboni; to A. M. Broadley, Esq., of The Knapp, Bridport, who has allowed us to make use of his celebrated collection of engravings; and, lastly, to M. Balder- sperger, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Paris, who has examined our study, and has given us the assistance of his well-informed criticism.

Paris, January, 1911.

The above is a translation of the Preface to the original French edition of this work, which was presented to the University of Paris as a thesis for the Doctorat ès-Lettres. Little needs to be added here. The present volume is a very free rendering and adaptation of the former essay. It is, too, an enlargement of it: in the desire to make the book more attractive to the general public and, at the same time, more useful to students of Anglo-French relations, opportunities have been seized for digressions on subjects concerning the social life of the two countries. Thus, when speaking of Monnet (Part II.), we
have made a rapid résumé of former visits of French actors to England; in connection with Garrick’s visit to Paris in 1765 (Part III.), we have attempted to retrace the evolution of Shakespeare’s reputation in France during the first half of the eighteenth century, so that the influence exerted by the actor might be more clearly evident; in Part IV. we have interpolated a brief review of the mode Parisienne in England up to 1760. We have treated in greater detail certain minor points, such as the curious, and little-known, history of Le Texier (Part IV.), and the visit of Garrick’s nieces to Paris—the latter chiefly on account of its human interest. We have added biographical notes on those Frenchmen of the eighteenth century who might well be unknown to many English readers: here we have had to exercise a certain discretion, as otherwise our little book threatened to expand into a dictionary. We are quite aware that the form of this study, originally perfectly clear if somewhat thin, has not profited by these changes; but we hope that its general interest has been increased.

We have added, too, illustrations drawn from the Musée de l’Opéra, and from the Cabinet des Estampes de la Bibliothèque Nationale, at Paris; and a portrait of J. G. Noverre, for which we are indebted to Mr. Ed. Noverre.

Finally, we have corrected several slips in dates or references; and though, in a book which embodies a good deal of minute detail, we cannot expect to be free from fault, we trust that no grave error has been overlooked.

Bois des Falaises,
Villennes.
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