

**A MISSING HAILES-WALPOLE
LETTER**

IT is unlikely that the Additions and Corrections volume of the *Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence* will appear within the next two decades. It therefore seems worthwhile to publish for the first time a letter from Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, to Horace Walpole which eluded the far-reaching researches of the Yale editors, though they knew of its existence at second hand. The discovery of this new single letter¹ is all the more valuable as there is a marked disparity in the number of surviving letters between the two sides of the correspondence. Of the forty-nine letters printed by the Yale editors only four are by Hailes and the Walpole side of the correspondence is virtually complete.² The Yale editors give the following description of the missing letter from a nineteenth-century catalogue.

From Dalrymple, Tuesday 17 April 1764 Missing. Described in Thomas Thorpe's catalogue of autograph letters, 1843 (lot 1008) as 'relative to some engravings, also respecting Dr. Reid, Professor of Aberdeen, with notice of the third volume of the *Anecdotes of Painters*, etc.' reoffered by Thorpe, 1844, lot 538.³

This catalogue description is accurate as far as it goes. It fails to reveal that the letter also contains interesting observations on Adam Smith, with whom Hailes also corresponded.⁴ The notices by Hailes of Walpole's *Anecdotes* do not seem to have survived the gap between 1844, when they were last seen, and the present day. The letter is reproduced with the punctuation, spelling and capitalisation of the original. The Yale editors have annotated Walpole's letter to Hailes of 9th April, 1764⁵ to which this letter is a reply. My annotation is supplementary to that already supplied.

I am much obliged to you, Dear Sir,

¹The letter is now in the possession of *The Historical Society of Pennsylvania*, and I am much indebted to the society for permission to print it here.

²Cf. *The Yale Edition of Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, ed. W. S. Lewis and others (1937-) Volume XV, Intro. p. xxxv.

³*Yale Walpole*, XV, 101.

⁴A few letters between Smith and Hailes have survived. Cf. W. R. Scott, *Adam Smith as Student and Professor* (Glasgow 1937), p. 265; J. Rae, *Life of Adam Smith* (1895), pp. 246-9 and Newhailes MS 432.

⁵*Yale Walpole*, XV, 100-101.

for the trouble you take about ye prints of Nanteuil. I wish heartily that I had any opportunity of being serviceable to you in the same way or in any other. If Mr. Bathoe will send ye prints Addressed to me, to ye house of Mrs. St clair⁶ Greek street, Soho, they will come safe to me. My only fear is least they should be crumpled or folded, but as Mr. Bathoe is a man of ye trade he will I hope take care of this.

Dr. Reid is a Professor at Aberdeen no less celebrated for his modest reserved character than for his learning.⁷ They talk of him as one of ye persons who are put in ye lists to supply ye chair of Mr. Smith of Glasgow who travels with ye Duke of Buccleugh.⁸ I am afraid Mr. Charles Townshend will make a very indifferent Compagnon de voyage out of a very able professor of Ethics. Mr. Smith has extensive knowledge & in particular has much of what may be termed constitutional knowledge, but he is awkward and has so bad an ear that he will never learn to express himself intelligibly in French.⁹

I shall take care to let Dr. Reid know that you have received his present.

I am much obliged to you for your offer as to John Hales,¹⁰ I am not sure whether you mean to say that a friend of yours has a picture or only a print of him: if it is only a print, I am afraid it will be some poor thing, & if it be good, I should be afraid of its being hurt in ye copying.

⁶ Hailes's widowed aunt, Lady Baird, was married to General St. Clair.

⁷ Cf. *Yale Walpole*, XV, 100. No letters between Hailes and Reid have come to my notice in the Newhailes collection or elsewhere.

⁸ Adam Smith opposed Reid's candidature for the Glasgow chair. Cf. *Scott*, pp. 97; 257. For an account of Townshend's part in Adam Smith's appointment to the tutorship cf. *Rae*, pp. 144; 147; 164-5.

⁹ Townshend's choice of Adam Smith as a tutor was strongly criticised, chiefly on the grounds of Smith's absent-mindedness and awkwardness. See A. Carlyle, *Autobiography*, ed. J. H. Burton (Edin. 1910) pp. 292-4. Ramsay of Ochertyre states that Adam Smith lost most of his awkwardness in France. See *Scotland and Scotsmen in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. A. Allardyce (Edin. 1888) I, 461.

¹⁰ *Yale Walpole*, XV, 101. According to Hailes's letters to Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke, Hailes presented 'large-paper' copies of his *The Works of the Ever Memorable John Hales of Eaton* (Glasgow, 1765) to his friends. There is no record of Walpole receiving one.

You have here inclosed some slight notices concerning your third volume of painters. They will serve to show that I have had ye pleasure of reading yt work, & they will do no more. Adieu Dear Sir
Believe me with great respect
your most obedient & obliged servant
Dav: Dalrymple
Edinburgh 17th April 1764.

R. H. CARNIE.

**PROPOSALS OF MARRIAGE IN
"PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"
AND "PAMELA"**

THE hero of *Pamela* began the honourable phrase of his courtship by a letter in which Pamela "found the following agreeable contents. 'In vain, my Pamela, do I struggle against my affection for you . . .'" Pamela's humility allowed her to find nothing objectionable in this opening. It is likely, however, that Jane Austen, "whose knowledge of Richardson's works was such as no one is likely again to acquire,"¹ noted with some amusement Mr. B.'s unflattering turn of phrase and remembered it when Mr. Darcy came to make his first, uncivil, declaration to Elizabeth Bennet. "In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be suppressed."

E. E. DUNCAN-JONES.

¹ *Pamela*, Everyman Edition, 1950, 1. p. 222.

² *Memoir of Jane Austen* by J. E. Austen Leigh, 1871, p. 84.

³ *Pride and Prejudice*, O.U.P. 1946, p. 189.

LYDIA LANGUISH'S LIBRARY

IT has been conjectured that Sheridan's inclusion of *The Whole Duty of Man* in Lydia Languish's library¹ "may have been prompted by the publication of a new and revised edition" of that religious work in 1773.²

The dramatic portrayal of a family conflict over a young lady's choice of books seems more likely to have stemmed from certain didactic writings by Defoe, which had an extraordinary vogue in the eighteenth century. Olivia Primrose assured her father of her competence as a religious controversialist partly because she was reading *Religious Courtship*.³ *The Family Instruc-*

¹ *The Rivals*, I, ii.

² G. H. Nettleton, *The Major Dramas of Richard Sheridan*, Boston [1906], p. lxxiii.

³ *The Works of Oliver Goldsmith*, edited by J. W. M. Gibbs, London, 1884, I, 97.

tor, the first book by Defoe to be reprinted in America, had reached its tenth London edition as early as 1725, and a copy from the royal library is preserved in the British Museum.

In eighteenth century England, any literate man, of whatever social class, would have been likely to have made some acquaintance with these two books. Sheridan would have been an unlikely convert to their moral teachings, but he would have been interested in the effective semi-dramatic form in which so much of Defoe's instruction is presented.

The uncle in *Religious Courtship* who teases his pious wife by having "Chevy Chase" bound into her prayer-book⁴ may be passed over as a mere scoffer at religion. But Sheridan's episode of Lydia Languish's library, in which *The Innocent Adultery* is to be concealed from the aunt by being hidden in *The Whole Duty of Man*, had been partly anticipated sixty years before in *The Family Instructor*. There the mother had burned her elder daughter's sentimental and licentious books, and had replaced them with a prayer-book, *The Practice of Piety*, and *The Whole Duty of Man*.⁵

Defoe allowed his readers no opportunity to overlook the moral, and he repeated it in three passages: the elder daughter discovers that her library has been replaced by the works of piety, a "flash-back" tells more explicitly of the mother's action, and the younger daughter brings her own "songs, plays, novels, romances, and such like stuff" as a voluntary sacrifice to the fire.

The maid who brings Lydia's borrowings from the circulating library appears in Defoe as the servant who aids the younger daughter in carrying the forbidden volumes to the fire. Defoe's firm but tender mother lacks the special attributes of Lydia's aunt, Mrs. Malaprop; and his reference to "all the French novels" is an inadequate substitute for Sheridan's delightful reference to Scarron's romance. But one could not expect to find exactly the same qualities in one of the most popular didactic books and one of the most popular comedies of the century.

JOHN ROBERT MOORE.

Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

⁴ *Religious Courtship* (Tegg edition of Defoe, London, 1840, XIV, 38).

⁵ *The Family Instructor* (Tegg edition, XV, 74-77, 99, 104-105).