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Alverbank Gosport, le 4 Déc. 1853, John Croker à François Guizot

Auteurs : Croker, John-Wilson (1780-1857)

Les folios

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4 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

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Lieu de rédactionAlverbank Gosport (Angleterre)

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Alverbank
Gosport 4 Dec^r

My dear Anne,

I am still in the land
of the living & tho' my disease
is not removed, nor perhaps
even diminished, I am easy &
comparatively comfortable;
and am not without hopes of
seeing you once again. If you
& William (the laureate whose tie
with me I assure you I have taken
with you) would pay us a visit
in the Spring we should be de-
lighted to have you for as many
days as you could spare to us
from your other friends, who, no
doubt, will be equally anxious
for their share of your visit.

And now for a little literary
question, which I cannot solve
without help, & yours would be
the best I could have. You will
have

have seen no doubt the very curious
volumes of Joseph Bonaparte's
papers published by M. Du Camp.
In the first volume p 129, Napoleon
is lying to persuade Joseph to in-
vest some of his wife's fortune in
an estate, seems to blame what
Joseph was then doing, and adds
"Courir les Echelles hint un peu
"de l'aventurier, on de l'homme
"qui cherche la fortune: Si tu
"es sage &c &c" What does he mean
by "Courir les Echelles en aventurier"
one might say "Courir les Echelles
de Savoie" of a contre-bande trade
across the Alps - or "Courir les
Echelles" des Levants" for mercen-
tile speculations. It seems as if
Joseph was, imprudently in Napole-
on's opinion, adventuring his
wife's fortune in some trading spec-
ulations. How do you under-
stand the phrase? It is of some im-
= portance

importance to
explain Joseph
his wife's fortune
of their condition
appears (p 130) &
only a portion
large portions, &
American friend
has just published
collected from her
her fortune was
about 400,000 fr.
incredible, for
Dean of the Clergy
Joseph's wife &
the father & mother
I cannot imagine
have had so far
I make out that
Joseph with them
during at Gènes
there on, or several
times, would be
gratification? Joseph
one estate in the
seems another &c

the very curi-
Napoleon
by M. Du Capu
Napoleon
graph to in=
fortune in
was that
and adds
into an pen
de l'homme
me. Si tu
has he seen
an "adventurer"
his Scheller
banc de trade
laurier les
the Mercen=
seems as if
by in hapla=
ing his
trading spe=
a wonder
is of some in
=hortener

importance as it might help to
explain Joseph's early wealth.
His wife's fortune was, for people
of their condition, considerable. It
appears (p 130) that 80,000 frs was
only a portion, but no doubt a
large portion, of it. Ingersoll an
American friend of Joseph's, who
has just published anecdotes of him
collected from his own lips, says
her fortune was 80,000 dollars a=
bout 400,000 frs. This seems quite
incredible, for there were 5 chil=
dren of the Clery family, of whom
Joseph's wife was the fourth & as
the father & mother were still living
I cannot imagine how Julia could
have had so large a dot. Nor can
I make out what that family (and
Joseph with them) were so soon after
driving at Gênes - how did they con=
tinue on, or recover from, what, in those
times, would be considered as "emi=
gration?" Joseph very soon bought
one estate in the dept. of Marne & it
seems another near Paris - this, of

of course he would say, with his wife's
fortune; and before Nap. went to
Egypt he had bought Morfontaine
I know not what its value might be,
but it was a fine place & he was li-
ving there as grand seigneur. In
short Joseph's wealth seems to have
been beyond what might be expected of
the dot ^{even} of a rich merchant's daughter.
In 1793 he was a commissaire de Guerre
(see Alm. Nat. Dec II. p 204) Many of
whom made scandalous fortunes &
he tells us that he was employed in
the administration of the army. All
this portion of his & his brother's lives is
full of obscurity, which I was not so
unreasonable as to ask you to help
me to unravel; but you will at least
tell me what you understood by the
phrase "lancer les échelles", and, if
you should happen to know the
value of Morfontaine, you might
mention it - but I suppose it was
rather a fine campagne than a terre.
Love, Mon cher Louis, affectionately
I say nothing on your
solutions - You know mine. *Shaker*