

Dédicace de Cambyses

Auteur : Settle, Elkanah

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4 Fichier(s)

Mots clés

[famille](#)

[de la dédicataire](#), [lecture](#), [rôle de la dédicataire dans la genèse de la pièce](#)

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Auteur de la pièceSettle, Elkanah

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TO THE
Most Excellent, and most Illustrious
PRINCESS,
ANNE, Dutcheſs
OF
BUCLUGH & MONMOUTH:
Wife to the most Illustrious, and High-born
Prince, *JAMES*, Duke of
MONMOUTH.

May it please your Grace;

S*Ince the great Characters, and Subjects of
serious Plays, are representations of the
past Glories of the World, the arrogance
of an Epistle Dedicatory may pretend to some
Justice, in offering the Heroick Stories of past
Ages to their Hands, who are the Ornaments of
the*

The Epistle Dedicatory.

the present. — Once Persia was the Mistress of the Earth, the Royal Seat of the Monarchs of the Universe. Then, as that God, the Sun, which they ador'd, lends his kind Rays to all lesser lights; so all the Tributary Glories of Inferiour Princes shin'd by reflection from the Persian Crown. But now that Sovereignty must cease, and the Eastern Monarch Cambyfes can pretend to no greatness of his own, but comes to borrow Glories from the Western World, in seeking a Patronage from your favourable goodness. The same Cambyfes whom History has represented to be a Blasphemer of the gods, a Prophaner of Religion, and a Defacer of Temples, is by your power become a Convert, and humbly payes his Devotion to that Divinity, to whose protection he commits himself and Fortune. — But whilst I thus boldly proceed to Dedicate this trifle to your Grace, I forget to ask pardon for the meanness of the Offering, and the confidence of him that offers it; a Crime unpardonable, were not your Mercy as signal as your other Virtues: For when kind Heaven honours the World with some Worthy and Illustrious Person, in which Rank your Grace must claim an eminent place; who, besides your late Affinity,

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Affinity, are Allied to that Royal Race, to which England owes its three last Monarchs; Heaven, I say, besides the Great Souls, High Spirits, and Noble Thoughts it lends such Persons, endues them too with more Familiar Virtues; as Courtesy, Generosity, and a Condescension to entertain the Addresses of Inferiour Mankind, and to smile on the Endeavours of the meanest of their Subjects, and Admirers. Else they would be forced, like Planets, to move in a Sphear alone; and Greatest Monarchs, should they admit of none below them, would make their Palaces but solitary Prisons. The assurance therefore of these Virtues, which particularly possess so large a seat in your Heroick Breast, animate me to present this Poem to your Hands, that it may take Sanctuary there, where in its Infancy it received protection. As he that's born under some happy Planet, owes the success of his whole Life to the Predominance of that kinder Star that ruled at his Nativity. The Entertainment you gave it in loose sheets, when it first saw light, encourages me to this presumption, now in its riper growth, to devote it wholly to your Self, and under that Title to stile it happy: Since thus Guarded, I dare expose it to the World;
and

The Epistle Dedicatory.

and stand in less awe of Censures, when your Influence protects it, For, as that timerous Pilot, in a Storm, was Condemn'd for fearing Shipwrack when his Vessel carried Cæsar; this Poem can fear no dangers when it carries your Name for its Defence. But besides the fortunate and glorious Advantages this Piece may justly challenge from the Favour of so Indulgent a Patroneß, it entitles me to this happineß, the opportunity this Dedication gives me, of writing myself,

Madam,

Your Graces most Humble, and
most Obedient Servant,

ELKANAH SETTLE.

The