

Dédicace d'Ibrahim

Auteur : Settle, Elkanah

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Les folios

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4 Fichier(s)

Mots clés

[famille de la dédicataire \(mari\)](#), [lien à un personnage](#), [présence de la dédicataire à une représentation](#)

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Auteur de la pièce Settle, Elkanah

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TO THE
DUTCHESS
OF
ALBEMARLE.

Madam,

Men I consider what favourable Reception my first bumble Supplications in this kind have had from your Graces hand, I cannot think my Duty fully paid, nor my Adoration sufficiently express, till I Dedicate my whole Life and Labours to your Grace. 'Tis not one act of Devotion that can make a Zealot; and therefore as I made a Present then, I pay you

A 2

The Epistle Dedicatory.

a Tribute now. And though this Poem
has but little Merit of its own, yet en-
couraged by the Honours it has received,
like Pages to Princes, it owes its Boldness
to its Education; and since your Grace
gave it leave to be a troublesome Guest at
New-Hall, it lik'd the Entertainment so
well, that it resolves to Live and Dye
there; and 'tis an Ambition in some respect
to be justified; for Poetry should always
make up part of the Trains of Princes,
especially theirs whose Excellencies are so
Divine a subject for it. Under that shelter
I approach your Grace, when I must own
I have play'd the Plagiary in making the
Duchess of Albemarle the Pattern for my
Roxolana; only with this difference, that
I have copyed below the Life. Your
Grace has all her Virtue, without the al-
lay of her Vanity; and this advantage above
her, that Your Grace possesses those Charms
which Story never attributed to Roxolana;
Her Beauty could subdue, but not secure her
Solyman. But your Graces Victories are
more compleat; For if our English Cro-
nicle

The Epistle Dedicatory.

nicle (spight of the fashionable liberty of
a Licentious Age) would character the per-
fect happiness of a Princeely Pair, it must
describe the Influence of the Dutchess of
Albemarle over the unalterable Affections
of her Lord : And as in Duty to such
eminent Virtues, & such infinite Perfections,
even the most ill-natur'd Age unanimously
speaks of your Grace with Veneration ;
and to secure that Fame your Virtues have
so justly acquired, your Grace is as Cauti-
ous in the Preservation of it : But so im-
pregnable are your Sacred Principles of
Honour, that your Graces Care in that,
is but like His, who raises Bulwarks to
defend that Town, which of it self before
was inaccessible ; nor can I more reasonably
impute the Duke of Albemarles, and your
Graces more frequent Residence at New-
Hall, to any other than a true English Noble-
ness ; as knowing that your Greatness can
better fill a Court than make a part of one.
I could be very prolix on so excellent a
Theme, for 'tis easie to Write where all
Man-kind Dictates ; and I must confess 'tis
the

The Epistle Dedicatory.

the highest Bliss of an Author, to have those Patrons whose Merits are above Flattery, where the Titles of Great and Good may be given without a Blush. This made Horace speak so largely in the Commendations of his Mæcenas, and Juvenal say so little in the praise of Trajan : For my part I account it my chief Happiness to have been a Witness of your Graces Greatness, and my highest Contemplation to be an Admirer of it. The bumblest of which Admirers, is

Madam,

Year Graces most Obliged,

Most Devoted, and

Most Humble Servant,

Elkanah Settle.

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