

and estates of Claremont, Cobham and Painshill, before passing through Guildford to Portsmouth. After Portsmouth they travelled west, first visiting Wilton House, the home of Lord Pembroke, before reaching Bath and then to Bristol, the most westerly point of their journey. On 9 September they were in Burford in the Cotswolds and proceeded to Stowe, “ce superbe parc” (f. 77v.), before visiting Blenheim Palace, where they had a long and amusing conversation with the gardener about earlier Russian visitors to the park, who included Nikita Demidov and Grigorii and Vladimir Orlov (f. 81v.). (a) They spent two nights in Oxford and were assiduous in visiting many colleges, the Bodleian and other libraries and museums, and the observatory. The diarist details the way of life and form of instruction of the students, but on seeing the academic dress of students and teachers, he confesses that “je n’ai jamais rencontré un de ces messieurs sans être obligé de rire” (f. 84v.).

Back in London by 14 September, he had another month during which he continued his hectic round of sight-seeing. He paid frequent visits to Drury Lane and Covent Garden theatres, where he was upset by the irreverence of the audience at a per-

---

(a) The gardener also mentions the very recent visit of “le comte Ouronsou”, who, the author suggests, is really “Woronzoff”. If it were, it would not have been Aleksandr Vorontsov, who had been in England at the very beginning of Catherine’s reign, or his brother Semen, who only arrived in June 1785.