

vices, un peuple dont les lois sages et les institutions les plus utiles et les mieux entendus pourroient le rendre parfaitement heureux, si l'abus du pouvoir politique, et les travers auxquels l'esprit humain pourroit être généralement assujéti ne frustreroient l'homme de tous les avantages d'une bonne constitution" (f. 117).

The diary bristles with the names and initials of numerous people, Russian and British, whom the author met during his stay. Many remain as elusive as he himself. He left Calais as one of a party of four – his companions were "le P.P., le Cte W. et Mr. de K." (f. 2), none of whom can be identified with any certainty. As we have seen, Prince P. was to be the author's constant companion during his tour, joining him on the excursion to Bath and returning with him to France. Nevertheless, he was constantly described in unflattering terms: he was a fop, who was extravagantly interested in his hairstyle, only willing to see the sights of Bristol, "après avoir fait bien arranger trois boucles de chaque côté" (f. 72); he infuriated the author on their return to London because of the time he took over his "toilette" (f. 105v.); and he was "toujours si occupé à barbouiller du papier, que je ne le vois qu'au déjeuner, au diner et à la comédie" (f. 97v.), seemingly out of an interest in architectural drawing. "Le Cte W." is named on only one further occasion in the diary. On 27 September he introduced the author to "Mr de Guriew, lieutenant du Regt. d'Ismaïlowsky" and also the