

fathered a son, the noted poet and friend of Pushkin, Petr Viazemskii. (a) The diarist indeed noted his womanizing tendencies, which he evidently shared with the Russian ambassador Simolin: “ils courroient ensemble les filles. Ils firent regulièment la chasse de St James parc pour faire la curée du gibier” (f. 95v.). (b)

He was singularly unimpressed with Ivan Matveevich Simolin (1720-99), who had been ambassador since 1779 and who was “le seul ministre de Russie, que j’ai connu dans mes voyages, qui traite les jeunes russes, à lui recommandés, avec si peu de politesse” (ibid.). He mentions elsewhere Simolin’s disputes with his mistress and his servants (f.110). He met on several occasions Prince Petr Gagarin, an ‘embassy gentleman’, who had been in England since 1773 and was to be recalled the following year. Gagarin was “un misanthrope à plaindre don’t le seul plaisir est de s’enfermer entre quatre murailles dans la plus grande ville d’Angleterre” (f. 18). More distinguished members of the embassy whom he

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(a) On Viazemskii’s travels, see *Arkhiv kniazia A.I. Viazemskogo* (Spb., 1881), pp. lviii- lxii. Unfortunately, Viazemskii’s travel diary (pp. 293-350) breaks off in Holland, just prior to his visit to England. Incidentally, Viazemskii mentions both Gagarin and Kolychov (see note 13), taking the waters at Spa (p. 342-3).

(b) It might be noted that the diarist himself showed great interest in English prostitutes, whom he first encountered in Rochester, describing them in some detail (ff. 5v.-6). He mentions their presence in the theatres (f. 12); he is again accosted (ff. 18-18v.); and finally, remarks on them at Chatham (f.120).