



LETTERS ON ENGLAND

VOLTAIRE

Global Grey ebooks

LETTERS ON ENGLAND

BY
VOLTAIRE

Letters on England by Voltaire.

This edition was created and published by Global Grey

©GlobalGrey 2019



globalgreeyebooks.com

CONTENTS

Letter I: On The Quakers

Letter II: On The Quakers

Letter III: On The Quakers

Letter IV: On The Quakers

Letter V: On The Church Of England

Letter VI: On The Presbyterians

Letter VII: On The Socinians, Or Arians, Or Antitrinitarians

Letter VIII: On The Parliament

Letter IX: On The Government

Letter X: On Trade

Letter XI: On Inoculation

Letter XII: On The Lord Bacon

Letter XIII: On Mr. Locke

Letter XIV: On Descartes And Sir Isaac Newton

Letter XV: On Attraction

Letter XVI: On Sir Isaac Newton's Optics

Letter XVII: On Infinites In Geometry, And Sir Isaac Newton's Chronology

Letter XVIII: On Tragedy

Letter XIX: On Comedy

Letter XX: On Such Of The Nobility As Cultivate The Belles Lettres

Letter XXI: On The Earl Of Rochester And Mr. Waller

Letter XXII: On Mr. Pope And Some Other Famous Poets

Letter XXIII: On The Regard That Ought To Be Shown To Men Of Letters

Letter XXIV: On The Royal Society And Other Academies

algebraist spends his whole life in searching for astonishing properties and relations in numbers, which at the same time are of no manner of use, and will not acquaint him with the nature of exchanges. This is very nearly the case with most of the arts: there is a certain point beyond which all researches serve to no other purpose than merely to delight an inquisitive mind. Those ingenious and useless truths may be compared to stars which, by being placed at too great a distance, cannot afford us the least light.

With regard to the French Academy, how great a service would they do to literature, to the language, and the nation, if, instead of publishing a set of compliments annually, they would give us new editions of the valuable works written in the age of Louis XIV., purged from the several errors of diction which are crept into them. There are many of these errors in Corneille and Moliere, but those in La Fontaine are very numerous. Such as could not be corrected might at least be pointed out. By this means, as all the Europeans read those works, they would teach them our language in its utmost purity-which, by that means, would be fixed to a lasting standard; and valuable French books being then printed at the King's expense, would prove one of the most glorious monuments the nation could boast. I have been told that Boileau formerly made this proposal, and that it has since been revived by a gentleman eminent for his genius, his fine sense and just taste for criticism; but this thought has met with the fate of many useful projects, of being applauded and neglected.
