

In this Elysium then Sir Charles indulges in debaucheries of every kind, chiefly with young girls who are brought to him by a schoolmistress, a tenant of his. Sir Charles is married, but his Lady Cecilia in no way interferes with his voluptuous idiosyncracies, but joins him in his orgies, and indeed enjoys a little page of her own. However the book is made to finish quasi-tragically. Cecilia, unknown to her husband, has an intrigue with her cousin Lord William; Sir Charles surprises them *en flagrant délit*, a duel is fought on the spot, in which both combatants are slightly wounded; after which the lady enters a convent, and assumes the black veil. Sir Charles now takes a disgust to his villa, which he sells, and retreats, with Phœbe and Chloe, his two female servants, Daphnis, my lady's page, and old Jukes, his housekeeper, to his Herefordshire estate.

He continues: "Having 'lived every day of my life' as the saying is, you will readily suppose that I cannot perform the feats of Venus I once indulged in, but two or three blooming little girls, who pass for the sisters and cousins of Phœbe and Chloe, serve to amuse me by their playfulness, and tumbling about showing their beauties, sometimes stir my sluggish blood into a thrill."

The scenes depicted, many of which are doubtless from the author's own experience, and may be considered to a certain extent auto-biographical, are remarkable for an ultra lasciviousness, and a cynicism worthy of the Marquis de Sade (barring cruelty, which is never practised).

The book, which, for reasons that are not evident, is in the form of letters to various women, is written with ability. In accordance with the false indication of the title page, the scene and costume (of plates as well as text) are thrown back into the last century, but the delusion is very clumsily carried out.

**Doctrinal Rebels:** or, the History of King's-Place, and other Modern Nunneries. Containing their Mysteries, Devotions, and Sacrifices. Comprising also, The Ancient and Present State of Promiscuous Gallantry: With the Portraits of the most Celebrated Demireps and Courtezans of this Period: As well as Sketches of their Professional and Occasional Admirers. By a MONK OF THE ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS. In Two Volumes. Vol. 1. The Second Edition, Corrected and Improved, with a Variety of Additions.

*Il vero est, quod ego mihi puto palmarium,*

*Me reperisse, quo modo adolescentulus*

*Meretricum ingenia & mores possit noscere:*

*Mature ut cum cognorit, perpetuo oderit.*

*Ter. Eun. Act 5. Sc. 4.*

London: Printed for M. GOADBY, Pater-noster-Row. 1779.

12mo.; pp. vol. 1, 20 unnumbered of titles, dedication, and introduction, and 279, vol. 2, pp. 270, excluding the two titles

In the second vol. the Nos. of pages 193 to 252 (inclusive), and chaps. 37 to 42 have a star attached, indicating probably new matter added to this second edition.

It would be a boon to the student if this most entertaining

work, which is also valuable for the vivid picture it gives of the London life of the period, were rescued from the oblivion into which it has fallen, carefully reprinted, and edited by one conversant with the "fast life" of those days, and who could fill out the names which now are only in skeleton. The title does not promise too much. The various "Nunneries" and their inmates are fully described, and some of the entertainments (see vol. 2, p. 24 and 206) provided by the "Lady Abbesses" for their patrons, are portrayed in glowing colours. The houses of rendezvous are not omitted, and sketches of the careers of the most notorious demireps of both sexes are given. Some of the tales, especially that of Miss P-Im-r (vol. 1, p. 76), are quite dramatic. Sam. Foote, George Selwyn, the Duke of Queensberry (Lord Piccadilly), and others of note are introduced. Various curious facts and customs are related; among others: The first brothel on the Continental principle was founded by MRS. GOADBY, whom the author calls "the great Goadby," at Berwick Street, Soho (was Mrs. Goadby any relation to the publisher of the book? the names are identical). The filthy and preposterous fashion in female head-dresses is described, when "the head was not opened" sometimes for more than a month, and became infested with vermin of all kinds. (vol. 1, p. 102). The origin of "Cork Rumps" (vol. 1, p. 201). The general sale and use of Dildos, called here, "Bijoux Indiscrets, Indiscreet Toys," &c. Here is the author's own quaint and terse summary

of the contents of his book: "a variety of pictures of Keepers, Petticoat-Pensioners, Old Virgins, Wives and Widows, troubled with the *furor uterinus*, Young Letchers debilitated, and impotent old Dotards flattered into a belief of their vigour and amorous abilities; the Portraits of the most celebrated Thais's and Demi-reps upon the *Ton*, in a variety of whimsical, lascivious and metretroic devices; &c." (vol. 2, p. 258).

To this I may add that a very full account of Medmenham Priory\* is given in the introduction to the first volume.

In a catalogue of George Peacock,† the two volumes are offered for 8/-.

The work has been translated into French as:

"*Les Sérails de Zouffres, ou Les Amusemens Nocturnes. Contenant Les Scènes qui y sont journellement représentées, les Portraits et la Description des Courtisannes les plus célèbres, et les Caractères de ceux qui les fréquentent. Traduit de l'Anglais. Tome Premier. A Paris, Chez BARBA, Libraire, Palais Egalité, derrière le Théâtre de la République, no. 51. AN IX. (1801.)*"

12mo. (counts 6); pp. vol. 1 xxiv and 150, vol 2 152, vol. 3 146, vol. 4 160, ex titles; to each vol. there is an engraving, as frontispiece, fairly executed and not obscene.‡ This translation contains the same matter as the English original, although the arrangement is somewhat altered.

\* See ante, p. 234.

† That mentioned at p. 303, ante.

‡ Bibliographie des ouvrages relatifs à l'amour, &c., vol. 6, p. 267.