

friend, Lord Waldegrave, in his embassy to Vienna; and after seeing also Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, and Holland, he ended his tour in Great-Britain; where, meditating upon the springs of that government, in which, says M. Maupertuis, so many, seemingly, incongruous advantages are united, he found all the materials that were wanting to complete the great works which lay wrapt in his imagination.

No sooner was he returned to France, than he retired to La Brede: where, for the space of two whole years, seeing nothing but books and trees, he wrote his *Considerations on the causes of the grandeur and decline of the Roman Empire*, which was published in 1733. To this work he designed to have added a book on the *English government*; but this most excellent treatise has since found a more proper place in his *Esprit des Loix*, with which he obliged the world in the year 1748. The preceding works of M. MONTESQUIEU may be regarded as so many steps leading up to this great temple, which he erected to the felicity of mankind. How happy was it, that a man of his enlightened understanding