ST. BERNARD'S PRIORY: AN OLD ENGLISH TALE; BEING THE FIRST LITERARY PRODUCTION

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St. Bernard's Priory: An Old English Tale; Being the First Literary Production by A Young Lady

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A YOUNG LADY

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AN OLD ENGLISH TALE;

BEING THE FIRST LITERARY PRODUCTION

A YOUNG LADY.

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MDCCLXXXVI.

1947 ,

TO HER GRACE

THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE.

MADAM,

MAY I hope your Grace's known goodness will plead in favour of the presumption of a semale, who, though conscious of her want of merit, has yet dared to offer the first efforts of her pen to Your patronage. Although personally unknown, yet she is no stranger to the Duchess of Devonshire's amiable disposition: Fame, which is allowed a general detractor, can report nothing of your Grace but what will throw fresh lustre upon your character. Under such auspices no one will surely be condemn

vi DEDICATION.

condemn me, if I entertain some hopes of success; and though St. Bernard's Priory may not afford your Grace any great amusement, yet it may at some time or other kill a sew tedious minutes, if it is possible for your Grace to be ever unemployed.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your Grace's most obedient,

and very humble Servant,

The AUTHORESS.

No. 25, Duke-Street, St. James's, May 1, 1786.

INTRO-

INTRODUCTION.

To the PUBLIC.

THOUGH well aware of the many observations and criticisms to which every publication is exposed, the authors, as well as their works, being unknown; yet, not deterred by these considerations, from slights of ambition, I throw myself upon the candour and indulgence of a liberal Public, and trust entirely to their generosity to pass over lightly the impersections of a young semale's first literary attempt.

St. Bernard's Priory, the fears, will too plainly thew that there has been no other head or pen employed in it but her own. The only thing to recommend

viii INTRODUCTION.

commend it is, she is apprehensive, its novelty; the story not being borrowed from any other author. I mean not, however, to extenuate my own failings, by claiming any merit from the denouement of the story; as I write only for amusement, I hope those that read it will be entirely swayed by the same motive, in expectation of which I patiently abide my sate.

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