

Royal Highness,

The King, my Sovereign, after entrusting me with the general direction of the Royal Museums, of the Royal library, and of the excavations in search of Antiquities, could not, recently, impose on me a more grateful duty, than that with which he has vouchsafed to charge me in desiring I would see executed under my care, and with the most scrupulous attention, the casts which He desired to present to Your Royal Highness. I have strictly complied with this injunction, and thus Your August Person will be soon in possession of the casts of our Flora, of our two Venuses (namely the Victrix, and the Callipygia - καλλιπυγας aux belles fesses) of our Aristides, and, finally, of our Apollo. I hope they will reach Your Royal Highness in good condition, and without suffering any untoward accident from the long voyage; to prevent which, I have, up to the last moment, personally superintended also the placing them in the packing-cases.

To the Prime Regent
of England.
London.

May

May it please Your Royal Highness to receive them graciously, and may they, at the same time, be favourably received by all England, who has uniformly distinguished herself as a friend to the fine arts, and has ever been highly valued by me.

While, by the above transmissal, I have fulfilled, or, at least, have endeavoured, as far as lay in my power, to fulfil, the Commission given me by my Sovereign, I humbly beseech Your Royal Highness to deign, in Your goodness, to extend indulgence to me on account of a bold step which I have taken in regard to some drawings and prints, likewise of works of Art now at Naples, of which drawings and prints Your Royal Highness will find a List, annexed to this my respectful Letter, and which, deposited in a Tin Box, I could not refrain from forwarding to Your Royal presence. "Necdum finitus" "Crestes." It has been well observed, that, if a man once transgresses the bounds of decorum, he commonly grows bolder

and

and bolder. This remark may certainly be applied to my present case; for, having, at intervals, published a variety of Treatises, intended chiefly to elucidate ancient Monuments, these, too, are ambitious of being viewed by Your Royal Highness, who is known to possess an eye full of penetration and intelligence; and such a generous ambition will, they flatter themselves, meet from Your Royal person with a generous pardon.

I conclude, at length, by imploring Your Royal Highness with earnest solicitude to condescend to receive me under the illustrious shade of Your August Protection. This boon, the object of my ardent wishes, I will strive to merit by sentiments of profound veneration, sentiments which will accompany me to the end of my life, and which I will take along with me into my grave.

Your Royal Highness's

Naples
from the Royal
Bourbon Museum
Febr. 21. 1820.

(signed)
most humble
most devoted
and most faithful servant
Michele Arditi
knight of Jerusalem
and Marquis of
Castelvetero, in the
ulterior abruzzo.

Translation

To the King,
From

The Marques Cavaliere
Artille

Director General of the
Royal Museums, Library
and excavations at Naples
Febr. 21. 1820.

Transmitted to A. M., by
order of the King of Naples,
Copies of some ancient
Statues,
as also some prints
drawings, and literary
performances of his own

1. Enclasure