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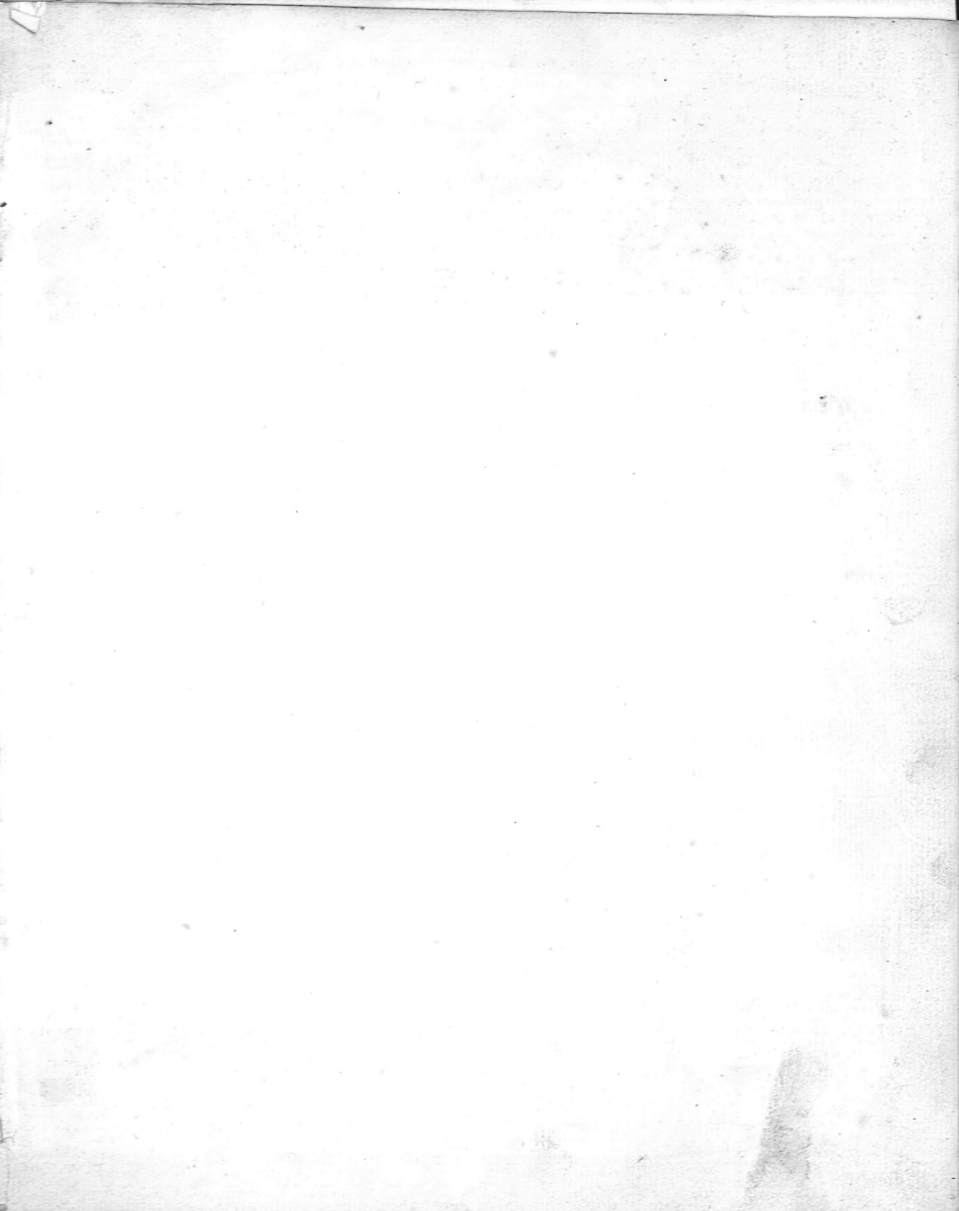
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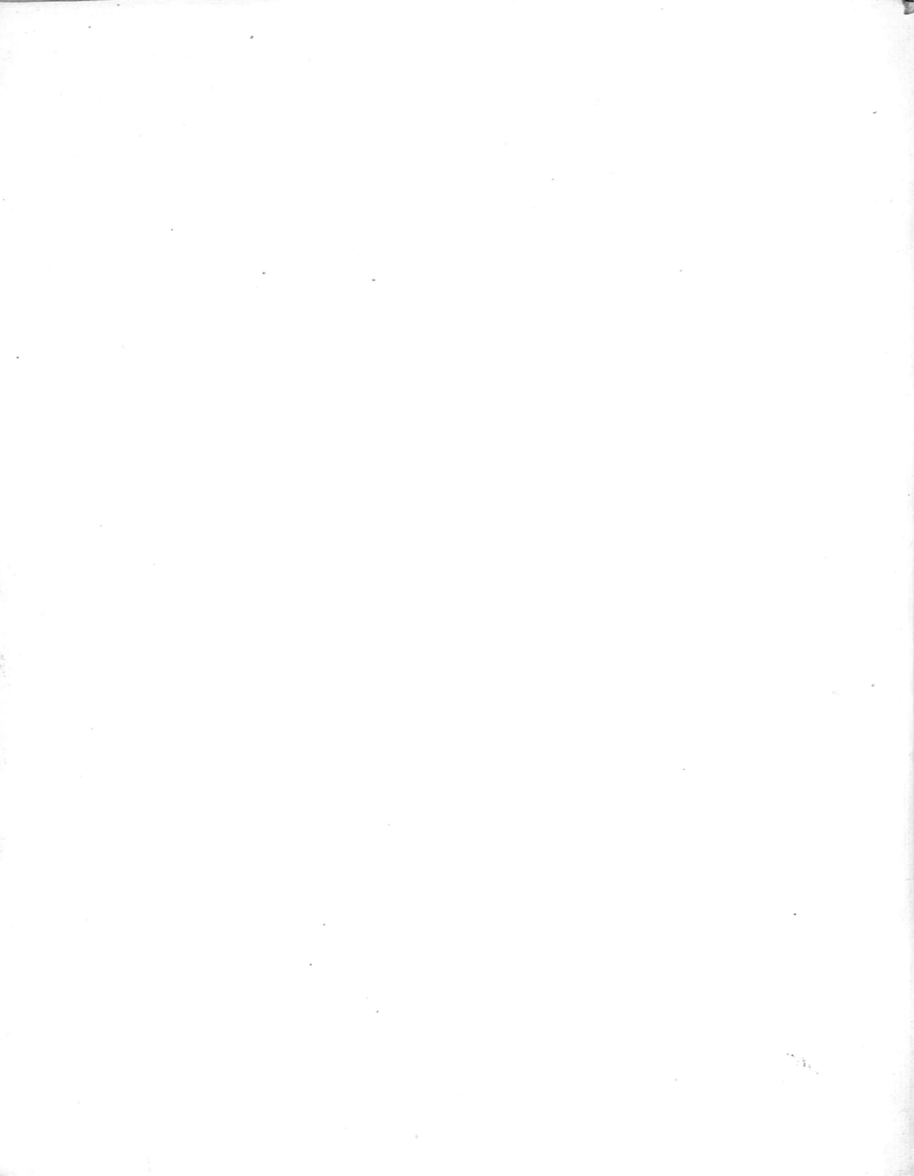
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A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF  
THE ESCURIAL.





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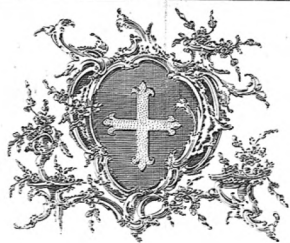
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*J. Leroux. Arch. Delin*

*T. Miller Sculp*

To Edwin Lascelles Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Is most Humbly Dedicated.



This Perspective View of the Scorial,  
BY  
His most obedient humble Servant,  
George Thompson.



A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
ROYAL PALACE,  
AND  
MONASTERY OF ST. LAURENCE,  
CALLED  
THE ESCURIAL;  
AND OF THE  
CHAPEL ROYAL OF THE PANTHEON.

TRANSLATED

From the SPANISH of FREY FRANCISCO DE LOS SANTOS,  
Chaplain to his Majesty PHILIP the Fourth.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COPPER-PLATES.

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By GEORGE THOMPSON, of York, Esq.

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LONDON,

Printed by DRYDEN LEACH,

For S. HOOPER, at Cæsar's Head, in the Strand.

M DCC LX.





E R R A T A.

Page 2. lin. 12. *riad' exalt,* *for* exult.

33. - 8. *r.* eulogiums, *for* elogiums.

11. *r.* form, *for* from.

38. - 15. *r.* fluted, *for* straited.

49. - 9. *r.* in the interval, *for* the intervals.

76. - 20. *r.* affervatur, *for* afinatur.

77. - 14. *r.* gradibus, *for* grandibus.

93. - 4 and 5. *r.* Caput Sancti Laurentii, *for* Casent Sancti Laurentis.



TO  
THE MOST NOBLE AND PUISSANT PRINCE,  
**CHARLES WATSON-WENTWORTH,**  
MARQUIS OF ROCKINGHAM,  
EARL OF MALTON,  
VISCOUNT HIGHAM OF HIGHAM FERRERS,  
BARON ROCKINGHAM OF ROCKINGHAM,  
BARON OF MALTON, AND OF WAITH, AND OF HARROWDEN,

ALSO  
EARL OF MALTON IN IRELAND;  
LORD OF THE BEDCHAMBER TO THE KING,  
LORD LIEUTENANT AND CUSTOS ROTULORUM  
OF THE WEST-RIDING,  
CUSTOS ROTULORUM OF THE NORTH-RIDING,  
VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE WHOLE COUNTY OF YORK,  
AND THE MARITIME PARTS THEREOF,  
F. R. S. AND KNIGHT OF THE NOBLE ORDER  
OF THE GARTER;

THIS  
**DESCRIPTION OF THE ESCURIAL,**

Out of Gratitude for the many Favors received, is Dedicated

By HIS LORDSHIP'S

Most obedient,

Humble Servant,

GEO. THOMPSON.



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T H E

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

**A**T a time, when the polite arts are protected and encouraged; when the British nobility and gentry are proud of declaring themselves the patrons of science, and of animating their countrymen to rival the finest artists in Europe; when the writings of those travellers, who have minutely described the beautiful paintings and sculptures, which adorn the churches and palaces of Italy, are read with avidity: I was desirous, and at the same time requested, to add my mite to the public treasury of science, by making my countrymen acquainted with an edifice that deserves their attention, and to which the greatest part were strangers; few knowing any thing more of the Escorial than its name, though described in the most beautiful and accurate manner by the famous FRANCISCO DE LOS SANTOS.

x    The TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

INFLUENCED by these motives, I undertook to translate his celebrated performance, written in obedience to an order of his Catholic Majesty; being persuaded, that an account of this superb structure would be agreeable to every reader, who has a taste for the fine arts. A structure, which has not, perhaps, its equal on the surface of the globe, either with regard to magnitude, beauty, or magnificence. It is decorated with the most elegant performances of art, and the most curious productions of nature: the beauties of architecture, painting, and sculpture, are there blended with a profusion of riches, astonishing to the beholder. The statues and basso relievos might be owned by Praxiteles himself, and the enchanting productions of the pencils of the greatest painters are displayed in amazing profusion. In short, whatever art could furnish, or munificent monarchs procure, are collected in the Escorial, and render the edifice what it is truly stiled by the author, a miracle of art.

SUCH is the Escorial; and its splendid decorations are so elegantly displayed by the Spanish writer, that his descriptions convey an idea almost equal to the objects themselves; a circumstance, which, at once, enhances the value of the original, and renders a translation almost impossible;

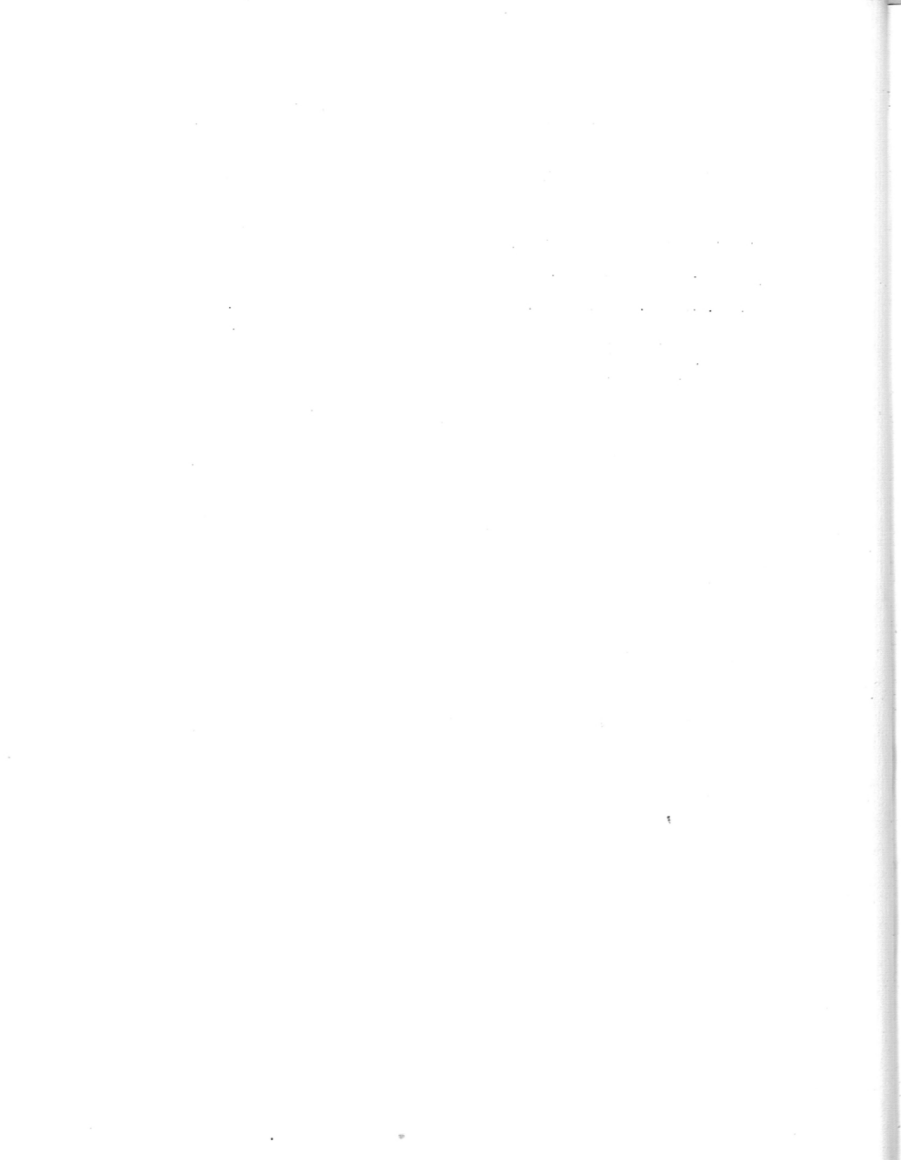


The TRANSLATOR's PREFACE. xi

impossible; nor could any other motive, than that of serving my countrymen, have induced me to engage in the laborious undertaking. I well know the difficulty of preferring the beauties of the original in a translation, especially when the author has minutely described objects with which he has been long acquainted, or the productions of arts, in which he was himself a master; and, therefore, am far from thinking I have been able to do justice to the inimitable FRANCISCO DE LOS SANTOS; notwithstanding I have been favored with the assistance of persons, whose taste and judgment do honor to their country.

I have, however, endeavoured to convey his ideas, in the best manner I was able, to the English reader, though not in that lofty and elegant pomp of diction, which characterizes the writings of the Spanish author. In one particular, indeed, the translation has an advantage over the original, I mean the plates: those in the Spanish being badly designed and worse engraved; and, at the same time, fewer in number than will be found in this performance.

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Containing the principal Motives, which induced PHILIP II. to erect the magnificent Palace of the Escorial, &c.

A Description of the Escorial.

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