

My Lord

Your Lordship's first Letter gave me some Surprize; because I had not usually the Misfortune to differ so much from you in Taste: But I find how much one's Relish of every thing depends on the present Disposition of the Mind & Body; and that a Man after a violent Colic is not so proper a Judge of tender & amorous Sentiments as when he enjoys a full & perfect Health. I had intended to have acknowlegd to you that I sometimes thought Julie & her Lover a little too recherchés in their Sentiments; but I only say sometimes and a little; and this was all the Concessions I intended to have made in order to accommodate Matters between us. But I am now afraid, that in saying so I shall have a Quarrel with your Lordships directly contrary to the other.¹

Pray did your Lordship know when at Paris, Madame la Contesse de Boufflers? My Reason for asking is that I had from her last Night a long Letter, the most obliging I ever receivd, and liker a Dedication than a Letter of Civility.² I dare not say, that it is full of good Sense & Elegance & Spirit; because she has so much bribd me with her Praises that I dare not trust my own Judgement on that head: But I imagine, if I dare depend upon my Impartiality, that she is a Lady of great Merit; and tho there may seem to be an Affectation in writing to a Stranger, she excuses it so handsomely, that I can venture almost to acquit her of that Failing. She is an Acquaintance of Mr Murray,³ and finding him also to be my Acquaintance, had given him this Letter, which he was so good as to send me. He says that she is the most amiable & accomplishd Lady of that Kingdom or indeed of any other; and has intimate Connections with all the Men of Genius in France. Her Purpose of writing seems to be that she might make the obliging Offer of her Civilities in case I visit Paris after the Peace, which, she says, she hears is my Intention: As indeed it is, at least if the Peace happen

next

next Winter, when I shall be in London.⁴

I was glad to hear that your Lordship was so well amus'd at London. I beg my Compliments to Lady Elibank; and to Lady Bell, whom I thank for her Card. I am

	My Lord
Edinburgh	Your Lordships
9 April 1761	Most humble & most obedint Servant
	David Hume

注1 この争いはルソーの『新エロイズ』(Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *La Nouvelle Héloïse*)に関するものである。本書はオランダで1760年11月に出版され、12月にイングランドに輸入された。そして1761年4月までにフランス語で2度再刊された。英語訳も4月に出ている(Henri Roddier, *J.-J. Rousseau en Angleterre au XVIIIe Siècle*. Paris, 1950. pp.64-66.)。ヒュームとエリバンクは明らかに本書をフランス語で読んでいる。本書に関するヒュームの実際の意見は1766年の書簡にある。「私は、この書が彼の最高傑作だと思います。彼自身は、『社会契約論』を最も評価していると私に告げているのですが。『社会契約論』は、ミ

ルトンの判断と同じように本末転倒です。ミルトンは、自分のその他のすべての業績よりも『復樂園』Paradise regainedの方が好きでした」(HL, II,28)。

2 1761年3月13日の書簡。『生涯』425-426頁で訳出。

3 Alexander Murray.

4 パリ条約は1763年2月まで調印されなかった。

*1 Heawood, PL. 350. No. 2744. Cf., David Hume collection 3, 4, 5.