

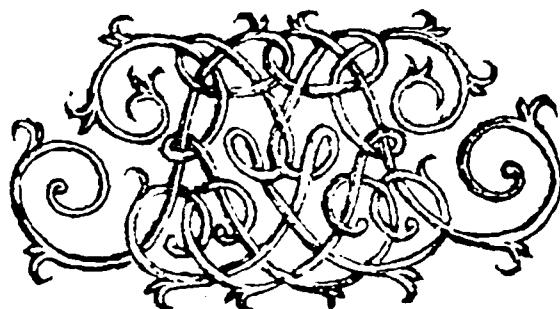
C. G. TESSIN

LETTERS  
FROM AN  
OLD MAN  
TO A  
YOUNG PRINCE;  
WITH THE  
ANSWERS.

TRANSLATED from the SWEDISH.

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## LETTER XLIII.

THIS letter brings Your ROYAL HIGHNESS another of your favourite fables. I am the more willing to translate them into our own language, as it may be a means to give my countrymen, yet unborn, a true idea of your taste, even in the very dawn of life.

## FABLE.

## The ELEPHANT, RHINOCEROS, and Jupiter's MONKEY.

IN former days, as poets chant,  
Rhinoceros and Elephant  
Fell out ; and, if I'm told no lie,  
They quarrell'd for precedence.  
Their side-way looks, and sullen mein,  
Had murmur'd long their jealous spleen,  
But now they could no more dissemble :  
High words made all the forest tremble.

They

They threaten'd, rag'd, and flew from far;  
 Whilst Fame proclaim'd th' impending war.  
 The bloody day was fix'd : and now  
 Sir Elephant was marching slow,  
 Revolving in his martial brain  
 Triumphant heroes, heroes slain,  
 And every stratagem of fight,  
 When Jove's own Monkey came in sight.  
 This Monkey, as the sage aver,  
 Was often chose ambassador,  
 When Merc'ry by the thunder-god,  
 Was sent, perchance, some other road.

‘ THANKS to the gods !’ the hero cry'd,  
 ‘ With me they shall be satisfy'd.  
 ‘ I know to tell me, thou art sent,  
 ‘ That heav'n, impatient, waits th' event.  
 ‘ Of that great day, when I shall wield  
 ‘ My trunk, amid the martial field.—  
 ‘ I, who, in strength and right of birth,  
 ‘ Am 'noblest animal on earth.

‘ Yes,

' Yes, thou'rt descended from the sky  
 ' To see me slay mine enemy,  
 ' And bear the welcome news on high.'  
 ' I CRAVE thy pardon, noble beast.'  
 ' Not such my errand in the least,'  
 Reply'd the Monkey. ' I am sent  
 ' To see if yon poor ants have spent  
 ' Their winter store: that's my intention.  
 ' Of thee, in heav'n, I heard no mention.'

THUS we see that even the heathen world  
 did not believe the great and mighty on earth  
 to be of equal consideration in heaven. How  
 much more reason have we to remember this  
 truth, whose religion teaches, that all sub-  
 lunary grandeur is as nothing in the sight of  
 the Supreme Being; that he is a God of peace,  
 who is greatly offended at the sight of cruel  
 discord and innocent blood: we, I say, who  
 are taught, that the higher he hath been pleased  
 to exalt us, the greater and more extensive are

our

our duties; and that as we perform or neglect those duties, we become pleasing or despicable in the sight of that God, whose boundless providence extends even to the least insect; to whom an honest and religious beggar is an angel, and an unjust and impious monarch a devil.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS's entry into the world gives me reason to believe you will take a happy, and I hope a late, leave of it. I, in the course of nature, must go hence much sooner. God grant that we may meet again in a better life!

I am, &c.

Hellekis, August 25,

1752,

LET-