My Dear Lord

I received your obliging Letter; after all our Packets were made up to go off with the Courier & I have just time to write a Line to your Lordship. All your Laughter about my Embarras woud be now Mirth & Wit thrown away: I have recovered the Facility of speaking French and my Presence of Mind, and can bear & reply to, & even take pleasure in the highest Panegyrics that can be made me; tho' really every day produces something new & unexpected of this kind. My Modesty suffers much & will at last, I believe, be quite murdered among these People.

But my real Pleasure in this Place is not noisy Applause, but to find or fancy that I begin to be known & belovd personally by the good Company of Paris. Your Lordship cannot easily imagine how strong my Attachments are every day becoming to Me de Boufflers, and I coud almost be inclind to say as high things in her Praise as ever you did, were not my Mouth stopd by her declard Attachment to me.² My only Affliction is, that she lives in the Marais & I in the Fauxbourg St Germain.³ However we find Occasions to meet frequently and are besides commonly askd to the same Parties.

But has your Lordship no Desire to pay no a Visit? How

can

can you endure the factious & noisy Barbarians of London? For my Part, Matters must be much chang'd before I be tempted to set my Foot among them. I shall take Care of your Letter to Neckar.⁴ Pray how go Stocks? I think very ill. I am with great Sincerity

My Lord

Paris

Your Lordships most obedinet

21. Decr 1763

humble Servant

David Hume

注 1 ヒュームは 1763 年 10 月 18 日、パリに到着した。そして最初の 2 か月間、自分のフランス語の無能さに、またフランス人の追従にまごついた。

2 1763年5月11日、エリバンクはヒュームに次のように書き送った。ブフレー夫人(Mmede Boufflers) は自分〔エリバンク〕を信頼して、「イングランドにおける彼女の唯一の用事には」、ロンドンのデヴィッド・ヒュームに「会う願望がある」と打ち明けてくれたと。エリバンクは次に付け加えている。「良識上、あなたはこうした心地よい好奇心、おそらく

は熱情を満たす機会を、神の創られた世界の一番好感のもてる人物の機会を無視してはいけません」と。『生涯』431頁 (after Royal Society of Edinburgh, Hume MSS, v, 8.)

- 3 ハートフォード卿(Lord Hertford)、後のイギリス大使は、最初、聖ドミニク通りのグランベール邸宅(the Hôtel de Grimberg, reu St. Dominique)に居住した。そこはセーヌ川の北側にあるマレーの寺院から 3 マイルほどであった。パリ旧市街の細い石畳の道を馬車で抜けていく 3 マイルは、ヒュームには試練に思えたであろう。
- 4 ジャック・ネッカー (Jacques Necker. 1732-1804) は、その当時ヴェルネ銀行総裁 (Maître de banque de Vernet) で、後に、ルイ 16世の大蔵大臣 (Director General of Finance and Minister of State to Louis XVI)。
- *1 Heawood, PL. 499. No. 3733. Cf., David Hume collection 3.