

Rt. Hon. Joseph Addison.

A LETTER FROM ITALY

TO THE RT. HON. CHARLES MONTAGU, LORD HALIFAX,

1701.

*Salve magna parens frugum Saturnia tellus,
Magna Virum! tibi res antiquæ laudis et artis
Aggredior, sanctos ausus recludere fontes.*

VIRGIL, Georgics, II.

WHILE you, my Lord! the rural shades admire,
And from BRITANNIA'S Public Posts retire;
Nor longer, her ungrateful sons to please,
For their advantage, sacrifice your ease:
Me into foreign realms my fate conveys,
Through nations fruitful of immortal Lays;
Where the soft season and inviting clime
Conspire to trouble your repose with rhyme.

For wheresoe'er I turn my ravished eyes,
Gay gilded scenes and shining prospects rise!