

LOUIS LE GRAND: OR. FONTAINEBLEAU AND VERSAILLES,

A COMEDY & SPECTACLE IN THREE ACTS.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

LOUIS QUATORZE, King of France.

COUNT DE LAUZUN, } Courtiers.

COUNT DE GUICHE, }

COUNT DE ST. AIGNAN, Director of Pageants

CHAMARANTE, Premier Valet de Chambre.

BONTEMPS, Valet de Chambre in Ordinary.

PAGE to Duchess de Navailles.

MADAME, DUCHESS D'ORLEANS.

COUNTESS DE SOISSONS.

DUCHESS DE NAVAILLES, Intendante of Maids
of Honour.

ANNE LUCIE DE HOUDANCOURT, }

LOUISE DE LA VALLIERE, }

Mlle. MONTALAIS, }

Mlle. CHALAIS, }

} Maids of
Honour.

Dancer., Mousquetaires, Workmen, &c.

PERIOD ABOUT 1662.

ACT I.

SCENE 1st. — *The Gardens at the Palace of Fontainebleau, evening. Parterres, shrubs and flowers; statues, fountains and jets d'eau. A marble balustrade across the stage with landing steps leading to a canal, on which are seen barges bearing flags, lights, &c. In perspective, avenues of trees, statues, &c.*

Enter Madame and Countess.

MAD.—Depend upon it my dear Countess, there is more danger than you imagine; he is already half enamoured, and unless we can contrive to divert his attention from this girl, she will speedily acquire an influence which will assuredly put an end to ours.

COUX.—Oh, you attach too much importance to a trifling flirtation. There can be little to fear from Louise de la Valliere, a timid silly rustic, with her blushes and her bashfulness.

MAD.—The qualities you mention, from their very novelty, are of all others those best adapted to captivate the king.

COUX.—To ensnare but not enslave—believe me a permanent *liason* is little to be apprehended. LOUIS, surnamed Le Grand, although susceptible, is incapable of lasting impressions, at least so far as love is concerned—fickle as the wind—he is constant only in inconstancy.

MAD.—Inconstant! true—did you remark how he slighted me this morning? But men are so perverse, there is no knowing, he might become constant by way of variety. His present foible, as you know, is a sentimental longing to inspire, what he calls a disinterested passion; and, as he is not fastidious, (I would forgive him if he were,) any woman not absolutely old or hideous, who can insinuate that she pines in secret for the man—and not the monarch—is certain of success.

COUX.—But surely the girl you mention just imported from the country, for the purpose of withdrawing attention from Louis' intimacy with your Highness, cannot already be so designing.

MAD.—Oh, Countess, it comes by instinct. Do you not know that during the storm which interrupted the last *fete champetre*, the king, separating La Valliere from the rest of the company, took shelter with her under a tree, and although the rain poured down in torrents he remained uncovered, *chapeau bas* for a full hour, uttering common place compliments, which she received with undissembled satisfaction?

COUX.—Mere conventional gallantry, depend upon it—the affectation of *politesse*. His Majesty you know piques himself on never remaining covered