

and congregated auditors in the quadrangle of St. James' Palace. He had a letter delivered to her by the Archbishop of Canterbury. But all this was in the nature of blackmail, for he was quieted with a pension of twelve hundred a year. Never was royal mistress less avaricious or selfish than she. In her career she was not able to aggrandize more than the cost of a small villa at Twickenham, known as Marble Hill, the cost of which was but ten or twelve thousand pounds. Gay writes of the building of it: —

"My house was only built for show,  
My lady's empty pockets know ;  
And now she will not have a shilling  
To raise the stairs or build the ceiling.  
'Tis come to what I always thought,  
My dame is hardly worth a groat."

The place was comfortable and tasteful rather than magnificent. Her friends had aided its accomplishing. Lords Burlington and Pembroke designed the house ; Lord Bathurst and Mr. Pope laid out the gardens ; and Gay, Swift, and Arbuthnot had constituted themselves superintendents of the household. Here were spent