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Sir

It is a long time that I have not directly addressed you either by word or writ; many years have passed over our heads since I last saw you, and considering the many important events, the total change in the political system of Europe that have taken place within that period, these years appear doubly long; history will reckon them an age. — However I have not lived all this time altogether without hearing of you at least, if not from you, and though my name has perhaps never once been mentioned to you, friends who had seen you, have frequently told me, that neither the vigour of your health, nor the lively, spirited interest you are wont to take in every progress of art and science, have at all abated. — But now that my uncle has communicated to me the very kind letter you had lately written him and wherein you mention my first literary essay with such indulgence, it would be worse than ingratitude in me, not to renew an intercourse which I ever found so advantageous as well as honourable to me.

Having once had occasion to speak of that esquisse of mine, I must beg leave to tell you at once all I have to say on that score. It was certainly very flattering to