

# TO THE EARL OF LEICESTER

PRESIDENT OF THE ANTIQUARY SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*Naples January 1. 1797.*

M Y L O R D

**I**F your Lordship will consider the unquiet state of Italy for several years passed, and upon my situation at this Court, you will easily conceive, that other occupations must have taken up the time, which wou'd have been necessary for the publication of a work requiring much leisure and tranquility, and I must confess, that without the constant assistance of my very worthy and learned friend the Chevalier Italinski, it wou'd not now have been in my power to offer this third volume to the Public.

The explanations, which the Chevalier has been so kind as to prepare for the forth volume, are so far advanced, that the appearance of them can not be long retarded; they will be the last, as it is not my intention to prosecute the work any further. The scarce and valuable Collection of Vases, of which I am in possession, wou'd be sufficient to furnish matter for a work of a much greater extent, but I am persuaded, that when the fourth volume shall have been added to the preceeding ones, the Public will have before it a sufficient number of drawings from my vases to be convinced, of the great service they may render to the arts, and of the great light which they may throw upon many curious and interesting passages in the History of ancient Greece. The