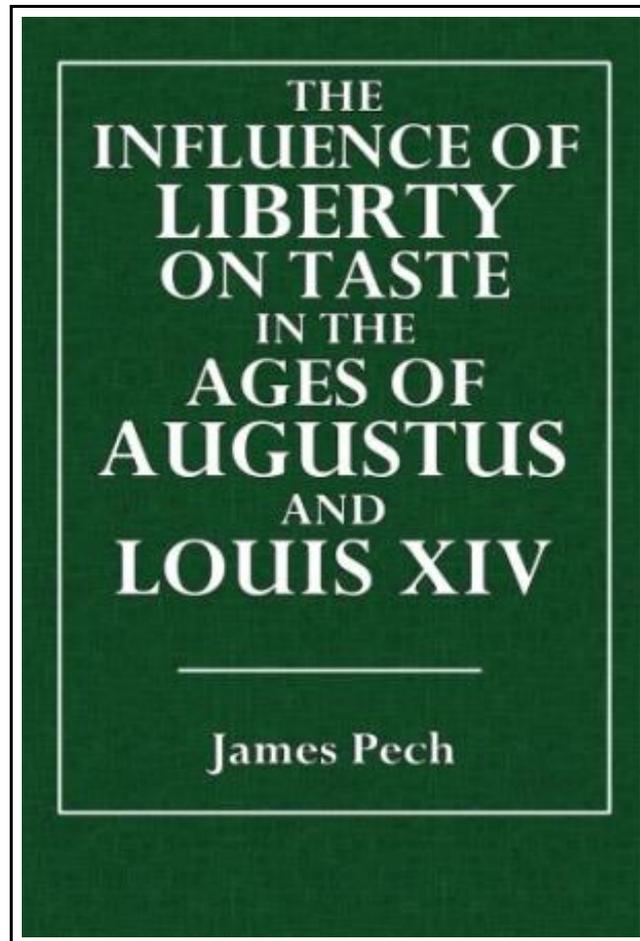


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THE INFLUENCE OF LIBERTY ON TASTE: IN THE AGES OF AUGUSTUS AND LOUIS XIV (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.From the beginning of the first chapter THE AUGUSTAN ERA. It has been stated that the strongest efforts of genius will probably be made by those who enjoy Liberty, and are inspired by its animating influence; but that justness and refinement of Taste will generally be found to be more improved among the subjects of an absolute, than among those of a free, government. That the first of these propositions is true, we shall readily admit. The history of all ages, the noble monuments of all free countries, confirm the truth, that Liberty appears attended with whatever is great, spirited or ingenious. That the second is false, we are persuaded, may be proved from history, too; and the same monuments bear witness that Freedom has also in her train, genuine elegance, severity of taste, natural, simple and unaffected truth. Pope, who was as remarkable for his judgment as a poetical genius, seems inadvertently to have given countenance to the opinion, that an absolute government is more favourable to the improvement of Taste than a free one, in those lines of his Essay on Criticism, where he touches upon the progression of the Fine Arts when they were banished from Italy: But soon by impious arms from Latium chas d Their ancient bounds, the banished muses pass d; Thence arts o er all the northern world advance, But critic learning flourish d most in France: The rules a nation born, to serve, obeys, And Boileau still in right of Horace sways. Pope s authority justly claims the highest respect; but whatever regard is due to so great a name, let it never mislead us to believe, that those who...

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