

After an absence of near three years, he began to think of returning home; and a slight circumstance which he used to mention, may serve to shew, that however great may have been the delight which he derived from residence in a country that Raffaello and Michael Angelo had embellished by their genius and their works, the prospect of revisiting his native land was not unpleasing. When he was at Venice, in compliment to the English gentlemen then residing there, the manager of the opera one night ordered the band to play an English ballad-tune. Happening to be the popular air which was played or sung in almost every street, just at the time of their leaving London, by suggesting to them that metropolis with all its connexions and endearing circumstances, it immediately brought tears into our author's eyes, as well as into those of his countrymen who were present.

On his arrival in London in 1752,¹⁵ he very soon attracted the publick notice; and