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~ Percy Currie  
with Love & affectionate  
remembrance

In Rachel's fair and  
virtuous mind  
See heavenly grace and  
truth combin'd,  
May'st thou like her  
through faith & love  
Thy Saviour's mercies  
seek to prove. T

211 f. 101





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LADY RUSSELL.

*Engraved by A. Warren.*

Printed for C. & J. Rivington, and the other Proprietors

LETTERS  
OF  
LADY RACHEL RUSSELL.



*W. Wood, del.*

*J. H. Warren, sculp.*

*Lord Russell taking leave of his family.*

*Part II.*

LONDON:  
Printed for C. & J. Bivington, and  
the other Proprietors  
1848.





THE CHILDREN

Illustrated by J. M. W. Turner

and other subjects

LETTERS  
OF  
LADY RACHEL RUSSELL.



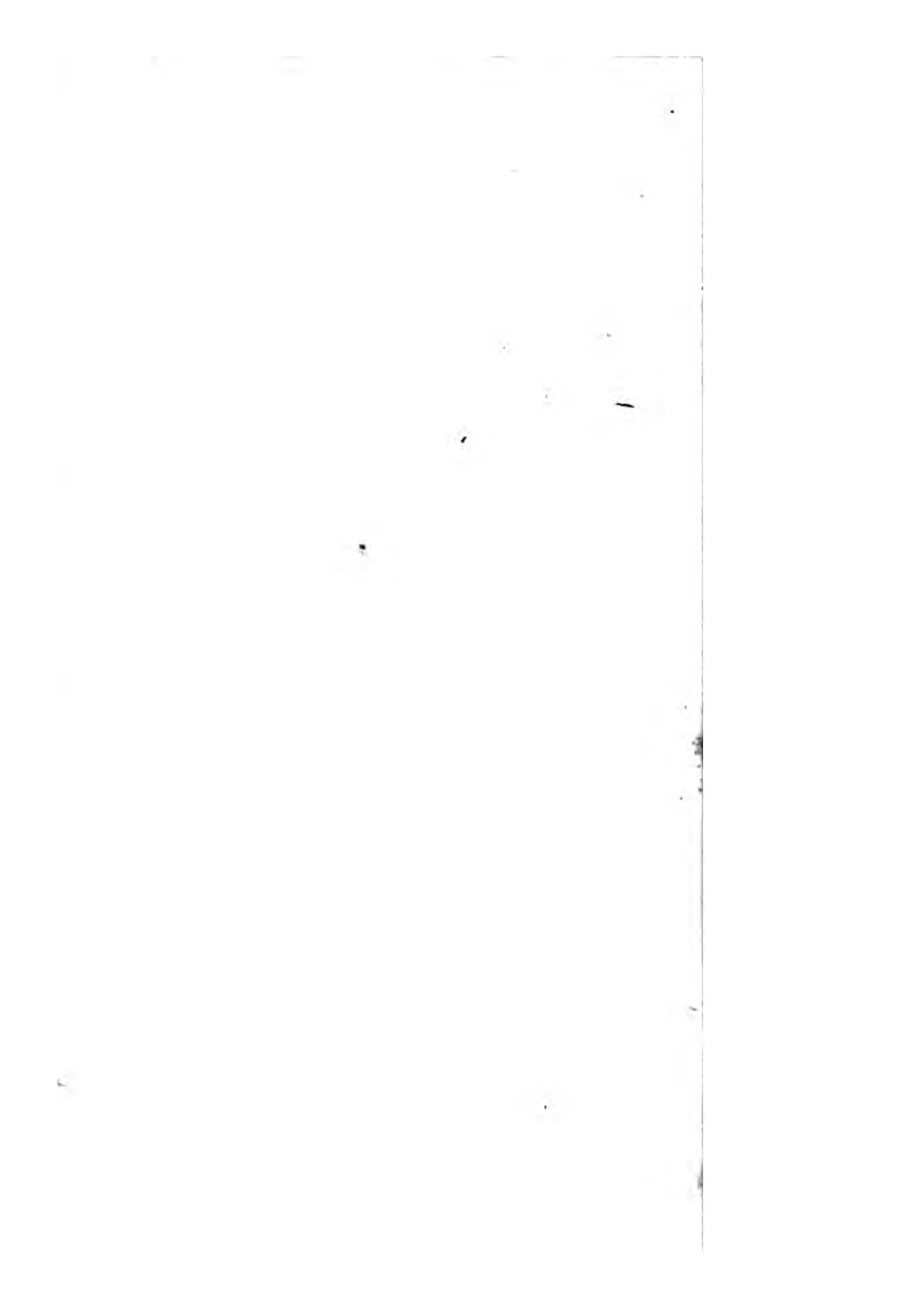
*Carbould del.*

*A.W. Warren sculp.*

*Lord Russell taking leave of his family*

*Page 8*

LONDON;  
Printed for C. & J. Rivington, and  
the other Proprietors:  
1826.



**LETTERS**  
OF  
**LADY RACHEL RUSSELL;**

FROM

*The Manuscript*

IN THE

**LIBRARY AT WOBURN ABBEY.**

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THE NINTH EDITION.

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*LONDON:*

Printed for C. and J. Rivington; J. Nunn; Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green; T. Cadell; G. B. Whittaker; J. Richardson; J. Walker; Newman and Co.; Kingsbury, Parbury, and Allen; Black, Young, and Young; Sherwood and Co.; Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy; Simpkin and Marshall; R. Scholey; Cowie, Low, and Co.; T. Tegg; and J. Duncan.

By T. Davison, Whitefriars.

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1826.

through the whole; and no one in affliction can well read them without being benefited by the humble resignation which they teach, and by the reverential confidence which they evince in the benevolence of the Supreme Being, even under the most trying visitations. The resignation of lady Russell was not the effect of a cold or insensate temperament. Her patient gentleness, and her mild submission under such a heavy weight of suffering, were not owing to any thing like constitutional apathy; for she appears to have been a woman of warm affections and of glowing sensibility. The pangs of grief which she felt were not the counterfeit parade of affliction; but were such as agonized her whole soul. But she did not grieve like one without hope, nor did she complain like one who distrusts the parental government of God. And as there was nothing affected in her grief, so there was nothing like affectation in the fortitude with which she struggled to bear such a weight of woe. Her fortitude was not that of the stoical, but of the christian school. It was not a fortitude, the exhibition of which excites the feeling of repugnance, as something unnatural: but it was a fortitude which interests the sympathies of every breast. Who, for instance, can read the following passage, written above two months after the execution of her lord, without being convinced at once of the sincerity of her piety, and of the intensity of her woe; of the resignation to the Divine Will, which she laboured to practise; and of the force of those tender recollections, which still agitated her soul and contended with the sentiment of providential goodness for the mastery over her will? ‘ You, that knew us both, and how we lived, must allow I have just cause to bewail my loss. I know it is common with others to lose a friend; but to have lived with such a one, it may be questioned how few can glory in the like happiness, so consequently lament the like loss. Who can but shrink

at such a blow, till by the mighty aids of his holy spirit, we will let the gift of God, which he hath put into our hearts, interpose? That reason which sets a measure to our souls in prosperity, will then suggest many things which we have seen and heard, to moderate us in such sad circumstances as mine. But, alas! my understanding is clouded, my faith weak, sense strong, and the devil busy to fill my thoughts with false notions, difficulties and doubts, as of a future condition \* of prayer: but this I hope to make matter of humiliation, not sin. Lord, let me understand the reason of these dark and wounding providences, that I sink not under the discouragements of my own thoughts: I know I have deserved my punishment, and will be silent under it; but yet secretly my heart mourns, too sadly I fear, and cannot be comforted, because I have not the dear companion and sharer of all my joys and sorrows. I want him to talk with, to walk with, to eat and sleep with; all these things are irksome to me now; the day unwelcome, and the night so too; all company and meals I would avoid, if it might be; yet all this is, that I enjoy not the world in my own way, and this sure hinders my comfort; when I see my children before me, I remember the pleasure he took in them; this makes my heart shrink.'

This is not the language of philosophical pride or of stoical insensibility, but it is that of the heart excited into powerful emotion by the most amiable feelings; the excess of which is still moderated by devotional confidence, and by humble adoration.

The deep impression which was left on the mind of lady Russell by the loss she had sustained may be estimated by the following, which was written about four years after the event which she deplored. 'My house is full of company; to-morrow being

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\* Two or three words torn off.



Sunday, I purpose to sanctify it, if my griefs unhallow it not by unjustifiable passions; and having given some hours to privacy in the morning, live in my house as on other days, doing my best to be tolerably composed. 'Tis my first trial; for all these sad years past I have dispensed with the seeing any body, or till late at night; sometimes I could not avoid that without a singularity I do not affect. There are three days I like best to give up to reflection; the day my lord was parted from his family, that of his trial, and the day he was released from all the evils of this perishing world\*.'

The language of philosophical consolation is often made up of cold and heartless truisms. It is often a language which is as little tinged with any of the sweet infusion of the affections, as the lines and angles of a mathematical diagram. The moral nature of man is composed of reason and of the affections. It is reason which makes him dignified; but the affections are what render him amiable. Humanity is exalted by the abstractions of reason; but, without the affections, it could not, in any individual instance, be an object of love. What is called indifference with respect to the vicissitudes of fortune, and the calamities of life, is either the affectation of hypocrisy, or the hardihood of barbarism. The language of lady Russell on this subject is the language not only of common sense but of sympathising tenderness, not only of a reasonable mind but of a feeling heart. 'Tis very fine to say, Why should we complain that is taken back which was but lent us, and lent us but for a time, we know; and so on. They are the receipts of philosophers I have no reverence for, as I have not for any thing which is unnatural. 'Tis insincere. And I dare say they did dissemble, and felt what

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\* Lord Russell was arrested June 26, tried July 13, and beheaded July 21, 1683.

they would not own. I know I can't dispute with Almighty power; but yet, if my delight is gone, I must needs be sorry 'tis taken away, according to the measure it made me glad.'

In public life lord William Russell is deservedly celebrated as one of the most glorious martyrs of English liberty. His name is constantly associated with that of Hampden and of Sydney, when we invoke the memory of departed greatness, in order to kindle in living bosoms the genuine flame of rational freedom and of enlightened patriotism. But in the present Letters, where the death of this nobleman is the topic of unceasing regret, we principally view him as a rare instance of private worth. While his affectionate widow is pouring her tears, and breathing her sighs over his mutilated remains, his image rises up before us principally in the character of the husband, the father, and the friend.

Lord William Russell and his lady were patterns of conjugal harmony and matrimonial happiness. In the paper which his lordship delivered to the sheriff at the moment of his execution, which may be regarded as a solemn protestation of his innocence, and a valedictory exposition of his sentiments, he mentions his lady as 'the best and dearest wife in the world,' and declares that 'for near fourteen years' he had 'lived one of the happiest and contentedest men in the world.'

At the commencement of lord Russell's trial, his lordship inquired whether he might not have somebody to write for him in order to help his memory, and when the lord chief justice Pemberton said, 'Any of your servants shall assist you in writing any thing you please for you;' the noble prisoner replied, 'My wife is here, my lord, to do it for me.' This amiable lady was thus an auxiliary to her husband through the whole of that execrable proceeding, in which the law of treason was strained to take away the life of one of the most upright advocates for constitutional liberty that England ever pro-

duced, and in which justice basely truckled to promote the purposes of despotism.

Bishop Burnet says \* that ' lord Russell from the time of his imprisonment looked upon himself as a dead man, and turned his thoughts wholly to another world. He read much in the scriptures, particularly in the Psalms, and read Baxter's Dying Thoughts.' But he adds, that he exhibited as much serenity as if he had been in no danger. Indeed the unaffected magnanimity which lord Russell displayed in the closing scene of his patriotic life, cannot be too often recorded nor too much admired. It is particularly deserving the attention of young persons, that they may imbibe a passion for genuine liberty by contemplating the gentle virtues of this martyr in its cause. This passion for liberty in lord Russell was not mingled with the slightest tincture of enthusiasm. There was nothing in it unreasonable, or extravagant. It was not, in any degree, inconsistent with that subordination which is the connecting bond of every social tie; nor, in the least, incompatible with that spirit of the British constitution which makes the public good the pervading principle of its beneficent agency.

Burnet and Tillotson, who were both much with him in the interval between his trial and his execution, appear to have exerted all their force of argument, and to have employed no small degree of importunity, to bring him over to their notions with respect to the doctrine of resistance to an established government. Both these divines, however, were not of that school which, in all circumstances, makes unresisting servitude a point of paramount obligation. But they imagined that the fit time for resistance had not then arrived. Lord Russell, with great good sense, and with admirable constancy, maintained that ' a government limited by

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\* *Memoirs*, vol. i. folio, p. 556.

law was only a name, if the subjects might not maintain those limitations by force.' His lordship added that 'otherwise all was at the discretion of the prince\*.'

No circumstance attending the imprisonment or the execution of this martyr to liberty can ever cease to be destitute of interest. The cause in which he suffered, and the gentle, unostentatious magnanimity which he displayed, impart a sort of sanctity to every incidental particular of his closing scene. His departing hour diffuses the glow of affectionate sensibility over every feeling mind that makes it the subject of contemplation. No portion of history can present a picture of more exemplary heroism; for it is a picture in which Roman fortitude is blended with Christian gentleness; in which a love of liberty, not less pure and elevating than that of any patriot in the classic page, is tempered by such fervor of devotional resignation, as proves that the most exalted love of liberty is compatible with the most reverential piety.

When sentence of death had been passed upon lord Russell in the usual form, Burnet † says, that 'he composed himself to die with great seriousness. He said he was sure the day of his trial was more uneasy to him than that of his execution would be.' 'The last week of his life he was shut up all the mornings, as he himself desired: and about noon,' says Burnet, 'I came to him, and staid with him till night. All the while he expressed a very Christian temper, without sharpness or resentment, vanity or affectation. His whole behaviour looked like a triumph over death. Upon some occasions, as at table, or when his friends came to see him, he was decently cheerful. I was by him when the sheriffs came to show him the warrant for his execution. He read it with indifference: and when

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\* See Burnet, vol. i. folio, p. 557.

† Vol. i. folio, p. 556.



they were gone, he told me, it was not decent to be merry with such a matter, otherwise he was near telling Rich (who, though he was now of the other side, yet had been a member of the House of Commons, and had voted for the exclusion), that they should never sit together in that house any more to vote for the bill of exclusion. The day before his death, he fell a bleeding at the nose: upon that he said to me pleasantly, I shall not now let blood to divert this: that will be done to-morrow. At night it rained hard: and he said, such a rain to-morrow will spoil a great show, which was a dull thing in a rainy day. He said the sins of his youth lay heavy upon his mind: but he hoped God had forgiven them, for he was sure he had forsaken them, and for many years he had walked before God with a sincere heart: if in his public actings he had committed errors, they were only the errors of his understanding; for he had no private ends nor ill designs of his own in them. He was still of opinion that the king was limited by law, and that when he broke through those limits, his subjects might defend themselves, and restrain him. He thought a violent death was a very desirable way of ending one's life. It was only the being exposed to be a little gazed at, and to suffer the pain of one minute, which, he was confident, was not equal to the pain of drawing a tooth. He said he felt none of those transports that some good people felt; but he had a full calm in his mind, no palpitation at heart, nor trembling at the thoughts of death. He was much concerned at the cloud that seemed to be now over his country: but he hoped his death should do more service than his life could have done.' 'The day before his death he received the sacrament from Tillotson with much devotion: and I preached two short sermons to him, which he heard with great affection: and we were shut up till towards the evening. Then he suffered his children that were very young, and some few of his friends, to

take leave of him ; in which he maintained his constancy of temper, though he was a very fond father. He also parted with his lady with a composed silence. And as soon as she was gone, he said to me, The bitterness of death is past. For he loved and esteemed her beyond expression, as she well deserved it in all respects. She had the command of herself so much, that at parting she gave him no disturbance. He went into his chamber about midnight : and I staid all night in the outward room. He went not to bed till about two in the morning ; and was fast asleep at four, when, according to his order, we called him. He was quickly dressed, but would lose no time in shaving ; for he said he was not concerned in his good looks that day.' ' He went into his chamber six or seven times in the morning, and prayed by himself, and then came out to Tillotson and me. He drank a little tea and some sherry. He wound up his watch, and said, now he had done with time, and was going to eternity. He asked what he should give the executioner : I told him ten guineas : He said, with a smile, it was a pretty thing to give a fee to have his head cut off. When the sheriffs called him about ten o'clock, lord Cavendish was waiting below to take leave of him. They embraced very tenderly. Lord Russell, after he had left him, upon a sudden thought came back to him, and pressed him earnestly to apply himself more to religion ; and told him what great comfort and support he felt from it now in his extremity. Tillotson and I went in the coach with him to the place of execution. Some of the crowd that filled the streets wept, while others insulted. He was touched with the tenderness that the one gave him, but did not seem at all provoked by the other. When he came to the scaffold, he walked about it four or five times. Then he turned to the sheriff, and delivered his paper. He protested he had always been far from any designs against the king's life and government : he prayed



God would preserve both, and the protestant religion. He wished all protestants might love one another, and not make way for popery by their animosities.' In the paper which his lordship delivered to the sheriffs, he gave a full exposition of his religious and political sentiments, vindicated his public conduct, and asserted his innocence of the treasonable charge for which he was condemned. After the delivery of this paper, the noble patriot 'prayed by himself: then Tillotson prayed with him. After that he prayed again by himself; and then undressed himself and laid his head on the block without the least change of countenance: and it was cut off at two strokes\*.'

History, in all its voluminous records, presents few events which can be paralleled with this in the execrable barbarity of the transaction itself, or in the transcendent virtues of the sufferer. The execution of lord Russell was, to all intents and purposes, a murder of the worst kind, as it was perpetrated for the most unconstitutional end by the most nefarious means. The coloured pretext of law, which was assumed to veil the iniquity of the deed, only served to aggravate its atrocity. The evidence that was produced to substantiate the accusation was in itself, and even allowing its truth, totally insufficient to justify the condemnation; but it was the evidence of accomplices, and was manifestly given with the most interested views, and for the most selfish purposes. It is, however, by such enormities as these that despotism renders itself odious, and ultimately facilitates its own overthrow. The tyranny which shed the innocent blood of Russell and of Sydney excited a general detestation of arbitrary power, while it awakened such a lively sympathy in favour of liberty, as ultimately produced the happy revolution of 1688.

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\* See Burnet's *Memoirs*, folio, vol. i. pp. 556—561.

Lady Russell survived her lord more than forty years. She died on the 29th of September, in the year 1723, and at the advanced age of eighty-six. Her ladyship had been twice married. Her first husband was Francis lord Vaughan, eldest son of the earl of Carberry, with whom her nuptials were celebrated about the year 1653, from which time she resided for several years at the seat of her husband's father, at Golden Grove in Carmarthenshire. This was the place where Jeremy Taylor was a constant resident about the same period. In the calm retreat of Golden Grove, this celebrated divine long found a refuge from sorrow and from indigence, during the troubles in the reign of Charles the first; and in the interval between the execution of that monarch and the restoration. Here he composed most of his immortal works; and it is not at all improbable that the religious sentiments of lady Russell were much improved by the conversation which she had thus an opportunity of enjoying with a divine of so much strength of understanding, so much richness of fancy, so much ardour of devotion, and so much purity of moral worth. This circumstance in the life of lady Russell appears not to have attracted the notice of her biographers.

Lady Russell had only one child by her first husband, and this child did not long survive the period of baptism. She became a mother in 1665, and a widow in 1667. She was married to lord Russell about the end of the year 1669. This marriage appears to have taken place under happier auspices than the preceding; for history hardly furnishes an instance of more perfect suitableness, or more cordial amity, in the nuptial union. The letters of lady Russell which were written to her husband between the years 1672 and 1682, and which have been recently published \*, breathe in every page the

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\* See some account of the life of Rachel Wriothesley lady Russell, by the editor of madame Du Deffand's Letters. London: 1819.

warmest affection and the most artless love. And this love is not shown in exaggerated expressions of transient passion, but in a strain of tender sentiment and of gentle devotedness, which is continued from the beginning to the end of these interesting compositions. Her love was not weakened by enjoyment, nor her respect chilled by familiarity; length of years and continuity of intercourse had made no abatement in the primary fondness of her heart, nor in the original ardour of her regard. Her sensibility, instead of being withered by time, preserved its freshness to the last. The inviolate esteem, and the exclusive attachment, which she felt in the first year of her marriage with lord Russell, her letters and her life prove that she retained to the latest moment of his existence; and, even after his death, she cherished his memory with the most tender recollections. His image was never long absent from her thoughts; and the principal solace of her remaining days was the hope of being associated with him in a more permanent and more hallowed union, in a happier world.

14 December, 1819.

**LETTERS**  
**OF**  
**LADY RACHEL RUSSELL,**  
**&c. &c.**

concerned to find they could have no meeting with my brother to adjust things as they desired; but since he did not apply himself to do it, they hope he is satisfied how they must proceed, in order to their

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Holland (though he had been a bitter enemy to that state) in November, 1682, where he languished about six weeks, surrounded with a few miserable refugees, and then gave up the ghost, January, 1682-3. Ralph says, here let the man of eminent rank, title, fortune, capacity, greatness, and importance, pause and reflect one moment seriously and solemnly on the eminent vanity of all those coveted and envied possessions, when they become the prostitutes of ambition. Ambition was lord Shaftsbury's idol; to ambition he sacrificed all things; ambition made him a courtier; ambition made him a patriot; and to ambition, though not after the usual form, he died a martyr. Mr. Locke ascribes to him a noble saying, viz. 'That it is not the want of knowledge, but the perverseness of the will, that fills men's actions with folly, and their lives with disorder.' And it is greatly to be lamented, that he did not apply it to the regulation of his own life; in which case it had probably proved but one continued scene of happiness and glory to himself, and had been measured by an uninterrupted series of services to his country; whereas, by making all his powers and faculties the slaves of his passions, he was the instrument of tyranny when in power, and of confusion when out; was ever exposed to troubles and disappointments; and was always more hated than beloved by his own associates. Rapin calls him one of the greatest geniuses England had produced for many years; and adds, this is the testimony equally given him by friends and enemies.

It must be allowed that, notwithstanding all his inconstancy, party rage, dissimulation, and ruinous ambition, he was one of the most able and upright

trust; and telling me it was necessary they should speak with the person who managed the estate, and understood it best, I thought it fit to let my brother know it, and so, if he please, the same person (who I suppose to be Holloway) may bring up the papers; and being by so safe a messenger, my brother may consider whether he will not send the original ones; for their council says, they must be here, before they can do any thing effectually. — But my brother will, however, think fit to keep attested copies, and hasten those he sends up as soon as possible. This is what their council advises upon them as necessary, and absolutely so.

My lord presents his service to my brother; I do so too; and heartily pray to God to comfort

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judges that ever presided in the court of chancery. — Smollet.

In 1695, lord Ashley (grandson of the above-mentioned great earl of Shaftsbury), at present famous for his moral tracts, entitled *Characteristics*, being returned a member for Poole, in Dorsetshire (while the bill for regulating trials in cases of high treason was depending), and attempting to utter a premeditated speech in favour of that clause of the bill which allowed the prisoner the benefit of counsel, fell into such a disorder, that he was not able to proceed: but having at length recovered his spirits, and together with them the command of his faculties, he drew such an argument from his own confusion, as more advantaged his cause than all the powers of eloquence could have done: ‘For (said he) if I, who had no personal concern in the question, was so overpowered with my own apprehensions, that I could not find words or voice to express myself, what must be the case of one whose life depended on his own abilities to defend it?’—Ralph. This happy turn did great service in promoting that excellent bill.



him in his sorrows, and direct him in all his actions.  
I am, &c.

6 March, 1679-80.

R. R.

My kindest service to all the dear young ones.

LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As unpleasing reports seldom miss reaching our ears, so did not that of your sickness many days before I could hear how it had pleased God to dispose of you; which I applied myself to do (with a real concern) by my sister Allington, the best way I could think on; and did learn from her the hopes of your recovery, which is better for us that you should abide in the flesh, though I am persuaded you might say, it had been better for you to depart, and to be with Christ! I was glad, good doctor, to see a letter under your own hand; but now you must suffer a little rebuke, why you would not direct it to me: I am resolved to return my thanks no other way for your fine cheeses, which are a large stock for the whole winter.

A true friend, I find, will not be discouraged, or certainly you would, from the toil of a journey to Titchfield (being weak) at this time of year. I wish it may be for the good you design, and then, I believe, your respect and kindness both for the living and the dead will leave you no room for repentance. I am doubtful if this paper will find you, and therefore shall not enlarge, but sign myself, sir,

your ever faithful friend, &c.

20 Sept. 1680.

R. R.

I desire your good prayers in respect to my present condition; I now drawing near my time, looking next month.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WAS sensibly troubled, sir, at the reading your letter, to find you seized with a fresh distemper: self-interest makes me lament it, for such must the concerns of my dear sister's children ever be to me. But I can sincerely assure you, I am sorry doctor Fitzwilliam labours under the sufferings of bodily pains; though the freeness of the mind, and the reasoning, and comfortable reflections you are able to make, are inexpressible comforts, which others want, and few can attain to. Lord grant I may obtain, in the day of trial, a resigned will and a strong belief! How happy then was the day of my birth, which began that of an eternal bliss! With what joy shall we praise God for ever! And in this contemplation, how light should all worldly afflictions seem to us! But here my heart condemns me, who cannot overcome in any degree, as I ought, the late loss of my loved sister. I pray God forgive my weakness, and that it may not provoke him to try me with greater crosses. Join with me, good doctor, as also that God would assist me in my approaching time\*.

My sister Allington was yesterday brought to bed of a fine boy. I wish heartily to hear you are released of your ill companion. The Jesuits' powder is here the infallible cure, and held most safe to be taken by the best doctors. I am, &c.

5 Oct. 1680.

R. R.

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\* Lady Russell, on the 1st of November, 1680, was brought to bed of a son, afterwards duke of Bedford, father of the present duke of Bedford. A. D. 1748.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letters are still the welcome messengers of good news to me, good doctor, and the good-will I know you send them with, engages my receiving them the more kindly; and my best thanks are due to you for them; but where our chiefest thanks should be paid, I desire that neither myself, nor those concerned near as I was, may forget our duty. With your usual favour, oblige me by presenting my service cheerfully to my brother; I hope he still improves in his health. That they may both rejoice many years in the well-being of one another, is the earnest prayer of

their humble servant and yours,  
Tuesday morning. R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL'S LETTER TO THE KING  
(CHARLES II.)

(General Dict. vol. viii. p. 820.—Biog. Brit. vol. v. p. 3538.)

Indorsed by her, 'My letter to the king a few days after my dear lord's death.'

I FIND my husband's enemies are not appeased with his blood, but still continue to misrepresent him to your majesty. 'Tis a great addition to my sorrows, to hear your majesty is prevailed upon to believe that the paper he delivered to the sheriff at his death was not his own. I can truly say, and am ready in the solemnest manner to attest, that

[during his imprisonment \*] I often heard him discourse the chiefest matters contained in that paper, in the same expressions he therein uses, as some of those few relations that were admitted to him can likewise aver. And sure 'tis an argument of no great force, that there is a phrase or two in it another uses, when nothing is more common than to take up such words we like, or are accustomed to in our conversation. I beg leave further to avow to your majesty, that all that is set down in the paper read to your majesty on Sunday night, to be spoken in my presence, is exactly true †; as I doubt not but the rest of the paper is, which was written at my request; and the author of it in all his conversation with my husband, that I was privy to, showed himself a loyal subject to your majesty, a faithful friend to him, and a most tender and conscientious minister to his soul. I do therefore humbly beg your majesty would be so charitable to believe, that he who in all his life was observed to act with the greatest clearness and sincerity, would not at the point of death do so disingenuous and false a thing as to deliver for his own what was not properly and expressly so. And if, after the loss in such a manner of the best husband in the world, I were capable of any consolation, your majesty only could afford it by having better thoughts of him, which when I was so importunate to speak with your majesty, I thought I had some reason to believe I should have inclined you to, not from the credit of my word, but upon the evidence of what I had to say. I hope I have writ nothing in this that will displease

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\* The words included in the brackets are crossed out.

† It contained an account of all that passed between Dr. Burnet and his lordship, concerning his last speech and paper. It is called the *Journal in the History of his Own Time*, vol. i. p. 562.

your majesty. If I have, I humbly beg of you to consider it as coming from a woman amazed with grief; and that you will pardon the daughter of a person who served your majesty's father in his greatest extremities [and your majesty in your greatest posts], and one that is not conscious of having ever done any thing to offend you [before]. I shall ever pray for your majesty's long life and happy reign.

Who am, with all humility, &c.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I NEED not tell you, good doctor, how little capable I have been of such an exercise as this\*. You will soon find how unfit I am still for it, since my yet disordered thoughts can offer me no other than such words as express the deepest sorrows, and confused, as my yet amazed mind is. But such men as you, and particularly one so much my friend, will, I know, bear with my weakness, and compassionate my distress, as you have already done by your good letter and excellent prayer. I endeavour to make the best use I can of both; but I am so evil and unworthy a creature, that though I have desires, yet I have no dispositions, or worthiness, towards receiving comfort. You that knew us both, and how we lived, must allow I have just cause to bewail my loss. I know it is common with others to lose a friend; but to have lived with such a one, it may be questioned how few can glory in the like happiness, so consequently lament the like

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\* Lord Russell, her husband, was executed, or rather murdered, July 21, 1683.



loss. Who can but shrink at such a blow, till by the mighty aids of his holy spirit, we will let the gift of God, which he hath put into our hearts, interpose? That reason which sets a measure to our souls in prosperity, will then suggest many things which we have seen and heard, to moderate us in such sad circumstances as mine. But, alas! my understanding is clouded, my faith weak, sense strong, and the devil busy to fill my thoughts with false notions, difficulties, and doubts, as of a future condition \* of prayer: but this I hope to make matter of humiliation, not sin. Lord, let me understand the reason of these dark and wounding providences, that I sink not under the discouragements of my own thoughts: I know I have deserved my punishment, and will be silent under it; but yet secretly my heart mourns, too sadly I fear, and cannot be comforted, because I have not the dear companion and sharer of all my joys and sorrows. I want him to talk with, to walk with, to eat and sleep with; all these things are irksome to me now; the day unwelcome, and the night so too; all company and meals I would avoid, if it might be; yet all this is that I enjoy not the world in my own way, and this sure hinders my comfort; when I see my children before me, I remember the pleasure he took in them; this makes my heart shrink. Can I regret his quitting a lesser good for a bigger? O! if I did stedfastly believe, I could not be dejected; for I will not injure myself to say, I offer my mind any inferior consolation to supply this loss. No; I most willingly forsake this world—this vexatious, troublesome world, in which I have no other business, but to rid my soul from sin; secure by faith and a good conscience my eternal interests; with patience and courage bear my eminent misfortunes, and ever hereafter be above the smiles and frowns

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\* Two or three words torn off.

of it. And when I have done the remnant of the work appointed me on earth, then joyfully wait for the heavenly perfection in God's good time, when by his infinite mercy I may be accounted worthy to enter into the same place of rest and repose, where he is gone, for whom only I grieve I do \*

fear. From that contemplation must come my best support. Good doctor, you will think, as you have reason, that I set no bounds, when I let myself loose to my complaints; but I will release you, first fervently asking the continuance of your prayers for your infinitely afflicted servant,

Woborne Abby, 30 Sept. 1683.

R. R.

#### DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

A FORTNIGHT ago I received a letter from your honour, which by its date, the 30th of the last, should have been near the same measure of time coming to me; and the reason why I deferred the acknowledgment of it to this minute, was to have gained time to return such an answer to it which should have been accompanied with a little treatise suited to your circumstances: but the want of leisure, occasioned through the destitution of a curate by illness, and the consumption of my time in correcting several copies of a sermon sent me from London with a great many errors of the press, hath hitherto obstructed that design; and I have now no more (because I will defer the cognition of your excellent letter, freighted with divine thoughts, no longer) than will serve me barely to name the heads of those considerations, which, through God's

\* A word torn off.



spirit setting them home upon your heart, may fortify you with patience, to support your condition, as sad as you represent it to yourself, and have been pleased to do in pathetic expressions to me. And if they shall have any way this operation on you, or dispose you but to that, I shall, upon your intimating so much, clothe these dry bones with flesh and skin, and give them some complexion, and last of all, after your use, to whom I devote them first, if they may be made subservient to that of others in the same or like case, make them public. Those, or at least some of those, I shall insist upon, you shall find here annexed, with a prayer to be addressed to Christ Jesus, to enable you to imitate the admirable example of patience, charity, &c. he set you. But though this hath been long a coming, and comes maimed and imperfect, I hope it will not be the less acceptable to your ladyship, or at least the less pardonable.

I am, madam, upon the account you suggest, of knowing in what entire friendship you and your lord lived together, most ready to acknowledge your loss of him, as well as your manner of losing him, to be very afflicting; and to allow you cannot have too deep a sense of it, while it proceeds from the value and estimation a wife ought to have for a dear husband; but then I must add, your thoughts may dwell too long upon that disconsolate theme, and so prejudice both your body and your soul, your natural life and your spiritual; for, as the sense is hurt with conversing too long with a vehement object, though it pleaseth the eye, for example, by gazing too much, or too long on light, so may the mind, by a continued meditation on grief, though it is delighted with the contemplation, and the body so macerated as not only to be made unserviceable to the mind, but to render that so to herself.

This way I am afraid you offend; and then it is, when your thoughts have been saddened to a great degree, by a long fixation on the doleful object,

suppose, that they pass into black and dismal ones of questioning God's providence, and a future state, the devil facilitating the passage, which almost seems natural, with his suggestions then.

And yet, while he is busy to amuse you with these, God's grace, as you most christianly observe, powerfully steps in to correct them, by putting you upon humbling yourself for the rising, or his injection of such an impiety, and enables you to concur with that motion, in having a kind of hatred and detestation of yourself for them.

In this sense, God brings good out of evil; and, as I remember, the devout St. Austin, in his confessions, mentions this as the benefit of sin repented of. He means, that it begets humility; and no doubt but God permits many exalted Christians in the degrees towards perfection, to fall sometimes into some gross, scandalous sin, to abate their more dangerous spiritual pride. I do not charge such imaginations as these, when they enter into your mind, but that yields not its consent to them; as direct, downright sins; nor are you, madam, to do so; but, however, you are to lament them as you do, as the unhappy effects of corruption, and endeavour immediately to suppress them, and reject them with disdain.

Towards getting rid of such importunate, troublesome guests, you can take no more successful method than to transfer your thoughts from the sad object which occasionally excited them, to others; as first, to the making reflection on the emptiness of the world, when most enjoyed, in one respect, that it yields no satisfaction, and its fruitfulness in another, that it produces briers and thorns without number, to scratch and tear the mind. Hereby you will gain another important advantage. Wean yourself from it; and if you are so weaned, you may rather thank God than complain that you have been afflicted, even by the dispensation which makes you heavy, since taking him out of the world whom

you loved most in it hath quite taken away your affections towards it. But because this contemplation, by accident, may produce impatience, render you weary of continuing in a world of vanity and trouble, and where you want the desire of your eyes; you are, in the next place, as you do likewise practise, to ascend thither with your meditations where faith alone, and not reason, can mount them; I mean place them on that happiness above, which is perfect, and not to be disturbed by the interposition of ill accidents, eternal, and not to be concluded by time, reserved for you and \*

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DOCTOR BURNET † TO LADY RUSSELL.

I WAS just sitting down to write an answer to your ladyship's former letter, when I received your last, so now I have two upon me, and therefore I hope you will be so good as to forgive the length of this, since the bearer is sure, I will say many things

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\* The remainder gone.

† After lord Russell's death, doctor Burnet was, by Charles the second's order, discharged from preaching the Thursday lecture at St. Clement's; and for a sermon preached on the 5th of November, on the words—' Save me from the lion's mouth, thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns,' which was thought of dangerous construction, because the lion and unicorn were the two supporters of the king's scutcheon, he was by another order dismissed from being preacher of the Rolls; and having such public marks of jealousy set on him, he thought it convenient to withdraw, and went out of England, 1684.—Burnet's History.

on which I would not venture by the ordinary conveyance. I must begin with your last. I see I was not mistaken in thinking, I durst venture on saying, what occurred to me on a thing which in itself was highly good and charitable, but in such an age might, as I judged, not look so well. I can truly say the vast veneration I have for your ladyship, both upon his account to whom you were so dear, and on your own, which increaseth with every letter I receive from you, makes me impatient if any thing should occur that might be matter of censure. I know you act by noble and worthy principles, and you have so strange a way of expressing yourself, that I sincerely acknowledge my pen is apt to drop out of my hand when I begin to write to you, for I am very sensible I cannot rise up to your strain. I am confident God has not bestowed such talents on you, and taken such pains, both by kind and severe providences, to distinguish you from most other women in the world, but on a design to make you an instrument of much good; and I am very glad you intend to employ so much of your own time in the education of your children, that they shall need no other governess; for, as it is the greatest part of your duty, so it will be a noble entertainment to you, and the best diversion and cure of your wounded and wasted spirits. I long so much to see your ladyship, and them about you, in this employment, that I hope you will pardon me, if I beg leave to come down and wait on you, when the master of the Rolls goes out of town; for, since it was not thought fit that I should go on with the Thursday's lecture, I am master of my own time during the weeks of the vacation; and I will esteem that which I hope to pass at Woborne as the best of them.

I will not touch in all this letter your deep and ever-green and tender wound. I believe the touching of it in the softest manner gives more pain than all I can say about it can mitigate, and therefore I

shall say no more of it, but that it comes in as a large part of my best thoughts that God would give you such an inward sense of his love, and of the wisdom and kindness of his providence, and of the blessed state to which he has raised that dearest part of yourself, and whither the rest will follow in due time, that all these things may swallow up the bitter sense of the terrible stroke you lie under, and may possess you with those true and solid joys that are the only proper cure for so deep a wound. But I will dwell no longer on so dismal a subject, for I am afraid you dwell too much on it.

Now, the business of the printer\* is at an end, and considering how it was managed, it has dwindled to a very small fine, which one may well say was either too much or too little. The true design of the prosecution was to find me in it, and so the printer was tampered with much to name the author.

I have never taken notice to your ladyship of the quick sense I saw you expressed in a letter to Mr. Hoskins on that head; but I had no sure bearer till Mr. Pordage went down, and it did not then occur to my thoughts. I hope you believe I have all the just and high sense of that concern that becomes me, and would have been very little troubled, though they could have †

2 Feb. 1683.

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\* John Darby, the printer, having been convicted of printing a libel, called Lord Russell's Speech, made his submission this term, Feb. 1683-4, and was fined but 20 marks. — Salmon's Chron. Hist.

† What followed is cut off.



## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received, good doctor, your friendly letter and excellent prayers, indeed, very excellent ones; and although neither could have come too soon, yet I could not wonder they staid so long. The rigour of the season has been extreme as ever was known, sure, in England, or in these parts of the world; but a little time of patience has carried us through all the inconveniences and hardship of it, yet not without very great and very sharp sufferings to numbers of the poorer sort; the consideration of which is a most fit contemplation for my sad thoughts, whose sufferings of another nature will have a like period; and, by faith and trust in God, a happy one, when I shall for ever (as is my hope my loved lord is now) be enabled to perform the everlasting race of obedience, which here, by reason of those strong impressions things in this life of sense make upon us, is much weakened. But I am much encouraged by your allowing that I have a just sense of sorrow, and that you saw not my mourning so much to be condemned as you apprehended they were; it excites me better to struggle for my duty, than, when doing all I can, to think I do so ill, that I may have reason to be amazed, and fear a punishment in both states; but my merciful Father truly knows the sharpness of my sorrows, and the weakness of my person, not fitted to stand out against such storms; but with his help we can do all things. As to the two points your letter, doctor, insists upon, I will first say for myself, I am very confident I shall never so take either the reproof, caution, or advice of a friend in such a manner, as I shall never lose a friend for acting the part of one to me, who shall make at least this advantage by finding such, that I



shall be subject to the fewer deliberate follies; by sudden acts, I expect to be guilty of many, left to the trouble and distraction of choice alone, as I must now be. Therefore, good doctor, let me engage you to continue the same way of proceeding, though I may not always comply with what you offer to me, yet that may be best for me, if I could discern it so. Now for the first particular concerning a chaplain, I shall not be untractable. I told you I could not live under my distresses without one: for the delay I touched upon, the distance of time now before I shall be settled, so as to require the use of one, will much take off my former objections; and as to the definition of a prudent person, you and I shall reconcile it to the same thing. I approve with you the church of England the best church, and best offices and services in it, upon the face of the earth that we know of; but, sir, I shall covet one so moderate, as not to be impatient and passionate against all such as can't think so too; but of such a temper as to be able to converse peaceably with such as may have freedom in my family, though not of it, without giving offence, and I take it to be the best way of gaining good people to our opinions.

As to your kind offer of assistance, whenever cause for it, I shall ever use a freedom with you, sir; but, in a fit return, remember an old proverb, not to spur a free horse too fast. Sir, your circumstances, and my heavy ones, may most likely render that unfit; but I shall not in appearance be soon in want, seeing my removes next summer will probably be very short. For having an eye upon any particular person, I must approve and thank you for your kindness in it; but if you have, let it be so; the person may not know it, for this reason, several that had opportunities of seeing me often in my first extremities, urged my doing what you have since done; and to them I answered as I have

to you. Now, if they have been mindful of my necessities, and have any person fit to \*

Woborne Abby, 22 Feb. 1683-4.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

'TIS above a fortnight, I believe, good doctor, since I received your comforting letter; and 'tis displeasing to me, that I am now but sitting down to tell you so; but it is allotted to persons under my dismal title, and yet more dismal circumstances, to have additional cares, from which I am sure I am not exempt, but am very unfit to discharge well or wisely, especially under the oppressions I feel; however, 'tis my lot, and a part of my duty remaining to my choicest friend, and those pledges he has left me. That remembrance makes me do my best, and so occasions the putting by such employments as suit better my present temper of mind, as this I am now about; since if, in the multitude of those sorrows that possess my soul, I find any refreshments, though, alas! such as are but momentary, 'tis but casting off some of my crowded thoughts to compassionate friends, such as deny not to weep with those that weep; or in reading such discourses and advices as your letter supplies me with, which I hope you believe I have read more than once; and if I have more days to pass upon this earth, I mean to do so often, since I profess, of all those have been offered me (in which charity has been most abounding to me), none have in all particulars more suited my humour. You deal with me, sir,

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\* Remainder lost.

just as I would be dealt withal; and 'tis possible I feel the more smart from my raging griefs, because I would not take them off, but upon fit considerations; as 'tis easiest to our natures to have our sore in deep wounds gently handled; yet, as most profitable, I would yield, nay desire, to have mine searched, that, as you religiously design by it, they may not fester. 'Tis possible I grasp at too much of this kind, for a spirit so broke by affliction; for I am so jealous, that time, or necessity, the ordinary abater of all violent passions (nay, even employment, or company of such friends as I have left), should do that my reason or religion ought to do, as makes me covet the best advices, and use all methods to obtain such a relief, as I can ever hope for, a silent submission to this severe and terrible providence, without any ineffective unwillingness to bear what I must suffer; and such a victory over myself, that, when once allayed, immoderate passions may not be apt to break out again upon fresh occasions and accidents, offering to my memory that dear object of my desires, which must happen every day, I may say every hour, of the longest life I can live; that so, when I must return into the world, so far as to act that part is incumbent upon me in faithfulness to him I owe as much as can be due to man, it may be with great strength of spirits, and grace to live a stricter life of holiness to my God, who will not always let me cry to him in vain. On him I will wait, till he have pity on me, humbly imploring, that by the mighty aids of his most holy spirit, he will touch my heart with greater love to himself. Then I shall be what he would have me. But I am unworthy of such a spiritual blessing, who remain so unthankful a creature for those earthly ones I have enjoyed, because I have them no longer. Yet God, who knows our frames, will not expect that when we are weak we should be strong. This is much comfort under my deep dejections, which are surely increased by the subtile malice of

that great enemy of souls, taking all advantages upon my present weakened and wasted spirits, assaulting with divers temptations, as, when I have in any measure overcome one kind, I find another in the room, as when I am less afflicted (as I before complained), then I find reflections troubling me, as omissions of some sort or other; that if either greater persuasions had been used, he had gone away; or some errors at the trial amended, or other applications made, he might have been acquitted, and so yet have been in the land of the living (though I discharge not these things as faults upon myself, yet as aggravations to my sorrows): so that not being certain of our time being appointed, beyond which we cannot pass, my heart shrinks to think his time possibly was shortened by unwise management. I believe I do ill to torment myself with such unprofitable thoughts \*

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

BELIEVE me, good doctor, I find myself uneasy at reading your short letter of the 8th April (which I have but newly received) before I had answered yours of the 11th March. I have several times taken a pen in my hand to do it, and been prevented by despatching less pleasing despatches first, and so my time was spent before I came to that I intended before I laid away the pen.

The future part of my life will not I expect pass, as perhaps I would just choose; sense has been long enough gratified; indeed so long, I know not how to live by faith; yet the pleasant stream that fed it near fourteen years together being gone, I have

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\* Remainder lost.

no sort of refreshment, but when I can repair to that living fountain, from whence all flows: while I look not at the things which are seen, but at those which are not seen, expecting that day which will settle and compose all my tumultuous thoughts in perpetual peace and quiet; but am undone, irrecoverably so, as to my temporal longings and concerns. Time runs on, and usually wears off some of that sharpness of thought inseparable with my circumstances, but I cannot experience such an effect, every week making me more and more sensible of the miserable change in my condition; but the same merciful hand which has held me up from sinking in the extremest calamities, will (I verily believe) do so still, that I faint not to the end in this sharp conflict, nor add sin to my grievous weight of sorrows, by too high a discontent, which is all I have now to fear. You do, I doubt not, observe I let my pen run too greedily upon this subject: indeed 'tis very hard upon me to restrain it, especially to such as pity my distress, and would assist towards my relief any way in their power. I am glad I have so expressed myself to you, as to fix you in resolving to continue the course you have begun with me, which is to set before me plainly my duty in all kinds: 'twas my design to engage you to it; nor shall you be less successful with me, in your desires, could there happen occasion for it, which is most unlikely, doctor Fitzwilliam understanding himself and the world so well. On neither of the points, I believe, I shall give you reason to complain, yet please myself in both, so far of one mind we shall be.

I am entertaining some thoughts of going to that now desolate place Straton for a few days, where I must expect new amazing reflections at first, it being a place where I have lived in sweet and full content; considered the condition of others, and thought none deserved my envy: but I must pass no more such days on earth; however, places are indeed no-



thing. Where can I dwell that his figure is not present to me! Nor would I have it otherwise; so I resolve that shall be no bar, if it proves requisite for the better acquitting any obligation upon me. That which is the immediate one, is settling, and indeed giving up the trust, my dear lord had from my best sister \*. Fain would I see that performed, as I know he would have done it had he lived. If I find I can do as I desire in it, I will (by God's permission) infallibly go; but indeed not to stay more than two or three weeks, my children remaining here, who shall ever have my diligent attendance, therefore shall hasten back to them.

I do not admit one thought of accepting your kind and religious offer, knowing it is not proper. I take, if I do go, my sister Margaret, and believe lady Shaftsbury will meet me there. This I choose, as thinking some persons being there to whom I would observe some rules, will engage me to restrain myself, or keep in better bounds my wild and sad thoughts. This is all I can do for myself. But blest by the good prayers of others for me, they will, I hope, help me forward towards the great end of our creation. I am, &c. R. R.

I hear my lord Gainsborough and my lady will be shortly at Chiltern. She is one I do truly respect: I can never regret being near her, though my design is to converse with none but lawyers and accountants.

Woborne Abby, 20 April, 1684.

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#### DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

THE consolation I long expected, I found by a letter of yours which come to my hands on the third

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\* Elizabeth Wriothesley, afterwards Noel.



instant; for it relieved me of all my little fears, lest the freedom or confidence I took in debating two points, in which I differed from your honour, might have disaffected you, (little I call them, because I had great hopes that your goodness was such as would not be distasted easily by any errors of mine committed through imprudence, which otherwise than with such a mixture would have operated a great deal of trouble and affliction) and cured my solicitousness, that at least if it had not offended you, it was because it had unhappily taken another course than it was directed, and so miscarried clearly on the way. And since you accepted with so much benignity and candour my liberty in urging you upon those particulars, I am abundantly satisfied that you see stronger and more cogent reasons to engage your dissent, than those I offered to gain your concurrence with my judgment, or rather opinion in them. And more, I ought to be, if there were room for that more, since you profess your inclinations to make such a temperament as, though it be not a compliance with what I thought might be no imprudent or wrong advice to one in your circumstances, yet will not be an utter rejection of it. But although this be a satisfaction abundantly to content me, yet the pleasure which another part of your letter gave me was of a finer and nobler kind, or at least transcending it in degree, wherein you gave me more than an intimation, that if I should offend (in doing that which you excite me to do, and tell me it was your primary intention I should), either by not considering your condition or my own, which it's more than probable I may, you will frankly reprove me for any mistake such an inadvertency may make me guilty of. The condescending to take this pains with me, who shall not be incorrigible under your rebukes or instructions, as it is that for which I esteem myself obliged to render your ladyship all real humble thanks, so it will

be the chief motive to animate me to proceed as I have begun, and as you desired I should continue.

I do believe most easily (and should without your declaration have guessed), when you come to Straton, whither business seems rather to summon you, than your own inclinations to carry you, your grief will be apt to renew itself, that the very place where you have so often enjoyed your lord, envying the greater happiness of none, while you possessed him, will refresh this image of him (who is so perpetually in your thoughts and memory now) on your imagination then, and the destitution of his real self, will, when you reflect that all the fruition you have left of him is merely his figure in your fancy, cause a stronger sense of your loss than you have constantly at Woborne, where he and you were not so much conversant as at Straton, so too, a sharper fit of grief than you there feel.

But this is that against which you are to oppose your whole self; and, as I remember I directed you, you are not to permit your thoughts to dwell on the object God hath removed from you, nor permit them perpetually to compare your present sad condition with your former pleasing one, in that place; for, if you do, you will not act according to your professions, much less your duty, in striving against immoderate sorrow; but you lay yourself down under it. And you may as reasonably suppose my thoughts can be fixed on a foul object, and I not corrupted, as that yours can be employed on your lord, and the sweet contentment of enjoying him there, and yet not be saddened to a degree of sin.

You are therefore, madam, to divert your thoughts to another kind of reflection, and consider, not so much what God hath taken from you lately at Straton, as what he has left you still untouched at Woborne. And that if you grieve too much for the one (for I will not think you repine), you may provoke him to increase the troubled stream with

plenteousness of tears, by reseizing into his own hands some parcel of that happiness which he is yet pleased to continue to you in yours there.

Madam, you are to meditate on this, that though you cannot enjoy your lord at Straton, yet you may, unless it be your own fault, your God there. And you are to labour, from such meditations, to say truly with your heart—How amiable and delightful is this place, where he, who is infinitely more valuable to me than the person he gave me, and hath taken away hence, and in whom that person was or ought only to have been dear to me, and this place grateful; the God of all love, and all beauty and perfection, will choose to cohabit with me as a husband, unless I refuse the condescension, and to abide with me as a comforter, unless I reject the offer, and obstinately deny to be comforted!

You are to bring yourself by such contemplation to this pitch, as to say most sincerely, what I believe you say constantly—Thy will be done, my God and Father! Though I could have been pleased to have enjoyed the harmless delights of this place in fellowship with the man thou gavest me, yet I am fully content, seeing it hath been thy pleasure, always directed with wisdom, and tempered with goodness, to demand him from me, to enjoy thee by communication with thee in thy thoughts, and aspirations after thee in my desires. Seeing the one was thy will by thy dispensations to him, and the other was thy will in thy creating and redeeming me, this shall be my will too; and by this identity of will, I will be united to thee, from whose love no tribulation nor distress can separate me; my own voluntary sins alone can divide me.

I beseech God to give a blessing to these hasty prescriptions (for the carrying away of which to the post the messenger stays), that they may conduce to the doing you that good they are designed for. I am, &c.

J. F.

Cottingham, 7 May, 1684.

## DR. SIMON PATRICK TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED your letter of the 11th instant, and give you my late but most humble thanks, for taking in so good part that poor tender of my duty and service, which in the sincerity of my heart I made to your ladyship; and though I now find that there was no occasion at all for it, yet I cannot be sorry for my mistake, since I enjoy the benefit of it, in reading a letter which is so well stored with devout and heavenly thoughts.

I cannot read without rejoicing, your ladyship's submission to the divine Providence, in resolving all to this—That whatever you find will be best, and any thing you could imagine would have been worse; nor without begging of God, in the words of David, 1 Chron. xxix. 18, to keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of your heart. For, as your ladyship cannot have a more honourable and worthy, and just opinion of God, than to believe that all he does is for the best, so neither can you entertain a thought which tends more to your own ease and satisfaction; for it is indeed the very secret of contentment. And sure there cannot be a more reasonable thing in the world than to think well of what God does, and to allow him, who is the fountain of love and goodness, as well as of wisdom and understanding, to choose better and wiselier for us than we possibly can for ourselves. It is true that some particular providences look otherwise at the first sight, and we cannot so readily explain, and make out the benefit and advantages of them. The man, who in riding to a port to take shipping, and by a fall from his horse broke his leg, and thereby was stopped from his intended voyage, did not apprehend the mercy of that Providence at first, till he afterwards understood that that very ship was cast away, and all the passengers



in it. In like manner we are often puzzled in beholding the frame and structure of this visible world; for many things, which at the first appearance seem to be blemishes in the creation, yet, upon further examination, we find to be so very useful and beneficial, that we are forced to bear testimony to that divine approbation, which once pronounced them to be all very good. And so I doubt not, but by a diligent examination, we may give ourselves a very good account of the ways, as well as of the works of God, and discover such advantages and gracious passages in every affliction, as may force us to acknowledge that we should not have been so well without those afflictions, and that he of every faithfulness has caused us to be troubled. And as such sensible and experimental acknowledgments must needs be acceptable to God, because thereby we honour him and speak well of him of our own knowledge, so, on the other hand, it is impossible for our minds to dislike that, which we cannot but acknowledge to be best for us, even we ourselves being judges. Your ladyship's pious determination not to part with the hope of a future state, if all the glorious offers of this present world were set against it, is according to all the rules of prudence, which even worldly men themselves think fit to practise in other matters: for who will sell the reversion of a great estate for a present penny? or who, on the other hand, will not disburse his ready money for some very gainful improvement of it hereafter? And yet there is some proportion in these things, for the most gainful improvement is but the same money multiplied over again, and the greatest estate is but a penny so many times told; whereas an eternal happiness, and this transitory world's false joys, hold no proportion.

I intend to read over the same authors which your ladyship names, and if your ladyship pleases to impart some of your thoughts upon any passages in them, I shall value them as misers are wont to

do their treasure, who envy sight of it to all the world besides. Your ladyship's discourse upon occasion of my lady \* Bedford's death I understand as an instance of your preparation of mind, and readiness to be dissolved, to be with Christ, which is certainly best for you whenever he pleases. But the continuance of your ladyship's life and health, if God see it good, is so absolutely necessary to the support of your noble family, that I hope they will be prolonged, and for the sake of your children ought not to be shortened, so much as by an otherwise innocent wish. My master's education, particularly, does plainly depend on your ladyship's care of yourself in the first place, and then of him, for whose health I the more earnestly pray, because, with grief, I lately heard that he was ill, but I hope it is over before this. I beg your ladyship's pardon for this tedious length; and therefore, as to the other parts of your letter, shall only crave leave to say, that your ladyship ought to take comfort in the inward testimony of your sincerity, and not to be discouraged at any weaknesses that may possibly attend it, for that outweighs them all. I humbly beg your ladyship to present my most humble service to my good lord of Bedford, to whom I should have written upon this occasion, if I had understood that it had been proper for me, and that I should not rather have renewed his grief, and beseech you to accept of my hearty thankful-

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\* Anne countess of Bedford, daughter of Robert earl of Somerset, by Frances, daughter of Thomas Howard, earl of Suffolk, whom he married after she was divorced from the earl of Essex. Francis earl of Bedford gave his son leave and liberty to choose in any family but that: king Charles I. sent the duke of Lennox to move him to give way to it, and he was prevailed on to consent.—Biog. Brit.



ness for all your goodness towards me, who am  
your ladyship's obedient servant,

May, 1684.

S. P.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received yours, good doctor, writ on St. Barnabas's day, and must own, that although in those years my unprofitable life has been preserved, in this vain and wicked world, I have been made acquainted with many sad and mortifying events; yet I am too sure that great work of real mortification to the over-much love to, and expectation from creatures, is so very imperfectly wrought in me to this day, that I never need such instructions, as shall help to wean me from binding up my life and content in them, though in the best of creatures in their best estate: and very perverse 'tis in me towards my heavenly Father, if I do secretly repine at his dispensing to me that which my corrupt nature makes so necessary for me; but it must be his free effectual grace that must perfect the work. He has called me to different encounters, and thereby invites me to stir up that grace he has put into my heart, and known to be so, by him, though not by myself, or I should not be so tried; that power who permits, if not appoints what I endure, having said, we shall not be tempted above what we are able to bear. He has been pitiful to my small grace, and removed a threatened blow, which must have quickened my sorrows, if not added to them, the loss of my poor boy. He has been ill, and God has let me see the folly of my imaginations, which made me apt to conclude I had nothing left, the deprivation of which could be matter of much anguish, or its possession of any considerable refreshment. I have felt the falseness of the first notion,

for I know not how to part, with tolerable ease, from the little creature. I desire to do so of the second, and that my thankfulness for the real blessing of these children may refresh my labouring weary mind, with some joy and satisfaction, at least in my endeavours to do that part towards them, their most dear and tender father would not have omitted. And which, if successful, though early made unfortunate, may conduce to their happiness for the time to come here and hereafter. When I have done this piece of duty to my best friend and them, how gladly would I lie down by that beloved dust I lately went to visit (that is, the case that holds it). 'Tis a satisfaction to me you did not disprove of what I did in it, as some do that it seems have heard of it, though I never mentioned it to any besides yourself.

Doctor, I had considered, I went not to seek the living among the dead; I knew I should not see him any more wherever I went, and had made a covenant with myself, not to break out in unreasonable fruitless passion, but quicken my contemplation whither the nobler part was fled, to a country afar off, where no earthly power bears any sway, nor can put an end to a happy society; there I would willingly be, but we must not limit our time; I hope to wait without impatience.

As to the information you require, 'tis not in my power to be punctual. I reckon my first and chief business is my attendance to these children, that is, their persons; and, till I see the boy in full strength, I dare not leave him, though but for one fortnight. I had fixed on the 20th of May, and from that time to this, good lady Shaftsbury has been in a constant expectation to be summoned to meet me there, but lady Bedford's death, and then the child, has kept me yet in this place. He has three teeth to cut, and till they be, I am apt to think he will hardly recover full strength: they may do so in a week; it may be not in a month, as

the wise folks say. This is the chief of my uncertainty; then indeed I depend on the conveniency (which I suit my journey to) of a gentleman, who has most kindly and helpfully assisted me, by following my business for me, and whom I have engaged (as finding it almost necessary) to my affairs, one Mr. Hoskins: I grew first acquainted with him at lord Shaftsbury's, who used to call him cousin; he is a very worthy and ingenious man. Now he uses to drink Tunbridge waters, therefore I have sent to him, if he chooses to do so, not to alter his course, for I can defer, as I have done, till he has performed it. So you see my uncertainties, but as soon as I am fixed you shall be sure to know it, as hastily as I can send the notice. Being more certain of the other proposition you offer me concerning a charity, what I will do in it, I answer to it more positively, Yes, I will, sir.

If you hear how Watkins has provided for himself, you will be satisfied I have not been injurious to him at all; I am within a few days made acquainted he goes to lord Campden. He has given me notice a good while, that at Midsummer I should be provided, but really I did not guess where; he did not want my assistance to recommend him, and it seems lord Campden was disposed it should be a secret, and so it was to me. I take it not ill from him, because I suppose he is not acquainted with the usual way of respectful proceeding in such cases. I wish, if he means to govern himself in so close a way, that he does no worse in greater matters, for I believe he will be an honest servant.

I have made this letter so long, 'tis high time to break off, but first I must recommend my wants to your retirements, more than ordinary at the return of that time of year my miserable days had a beginning; which, though I suffer to slide away as easily as I can, yet I mistrust I shall not be able to pass

without reflecting what my dismal employment on them was. I am, &c.

R. R.

Woborne Abby, June, 1684.

Lady Northampton writes me word she is going to Chilten; it seems they have left Titchfield with my lady Gainsborough's great good-will. She must have great skill to make Chilten hold them all.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE last letter I writ to you, good doctor, was upon the 21st July; and I find yours dated the 25th; so I conclude you had not read mine. If you have not, yours is the kinder, since I find you had entertained a memory of that return of time my sufferings in this sad and dismal year began; and which indeed I could not pass but with some more than usual solemnity; yet I hope I took the best arts I could to convert my anguish into advantages, and force away from my thoughts those terrible representations they would raise (at such time especially) upon me; but I was so large in my discourse then, that it being possible it may have lighted into your hands before this does, I will not be ever repeating either my own sad story, or my own weak behaviour under it; but rather speak to the question you would be answered in, when I design for Straton, or whether not at all? Truly, I cannot tell you which; since I move but as I am convinced is best in reference to my boy, at present with the care of his sister, the only worldly business I have in this perishing world\*. You hear I am at Totteridge, and why I came thither, and soon

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\* Lady Russell's children were Wriothesley, Rachel, and Catherine.

will know I wanted the auxiliaries you took care to send me; sure I did so; but it hath pleased the Author of all Mercies to give me some glimpse and ray of his compassions in this dark day of my calamity, the child being exceedingly better; and I trust no secret murmur or discontent at what I have felt, and must still do, shall provoke my God to repeat those threatenings of making yet more bitter that cup I have drank so deeply out of; but as a quiet submission is required under all the various methods of divine Providence, I trust I shall be so supported, that though unfit thoughts may haunt me, they shall not break in importunately upon me, nor will I break off that bandage time will lay over my wound. To them that seek the Lord, his mercies are renewed every morning: with all my strength to him I will seek; and though he kill me I will trust in him; my hopes are not of this world; I can never more recover pleasure here; but more durable joys I shall obtain, if I persevere to the end of a short life.

I do congratulate your expectations, they being, sure, well grounded; but I wonder a little you should hesitate whether or no to be hovering thereabouts till the issue is ascertained. If you do not, I hope you will not balk Totteridge if I am here, which I do not intend a day longer than the doctor thinks it best. He is not averse to giving him a taste of Straton air; but it was only touched upon the last day of his being here; 'tis so much further from the doctor, and the court will so quickly go to Winchester (when I am sure you will not think it fit I should be there), that I think it more likely I shall let it alone. If I go at all, it must be suddenly; when I see the doctor next, I will resolve; and wherever I am, and in all conditions, sincerely continue, good doctor, yours, &c. R. R.

3 August, 1684.

I conclude the good bishop is well, because you say nothing to the contrary. I am glad of it.



## DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

RETURNING homewards on the 19th through St. Albans, I apprehended myself to be more happy than I could imagine I should be, i. e. I was entertained for a minute or two with an opinion, that you were passed by to Totteridge, and that you would return thither that afternoon; but it was but like the delusion of a dream, for I soon found the error, which for the pleasure it afforded me in hopes of seeing you there, I could have wished had not been so soon corrected. Missing that contentment, I should have passed on to have found it at Woborne, had not there been almost a necessity of my being at Cotenham the next day, which I thought I could not so easily reach thence.

At my arrival here, I found a letter had been lodged for me, wrote by your ladyship on that day from which you date the beginning of your sorrows, and reckon a new epocha of a sad miserable life. I agree with you, as you judge according to the sight of your eyes, and consulting nature, that it was so, because it deprived you of the enjoyment of him whom you prized above, and in whose fellowship you tasted a sweet beyond what any sublunary things, or all of them together, could yield you. But then if you will estimate that day as a Christian, whose life here is by faith, and who looks for a life of glory, I may venture to say you cannot but esteem it as a happy day, even to yourself, while depriving you of the greatest worldly comfort, it gave the occasion to you of abstracting your heart from the world, whose fashion passeth away; or weaning your affections from things below, and of attracting the one and raising the other to the place where they ought to be; in short, of bringing you nearer towards your God, and uniting you more closely to him, the very contemplation of whom



affords transcendently all the delight it was possible for you to relish in a husband, and how much infinitely more will the vision and fruition of him exceed them? This you would have otherwise been without that day's providential dispensation. A sore one indeed, and such as I could wish its sense were to be mitigated in you, by my own sharing in part of your grief; but, may be, no less mild a method was necessary for the work; and there is no doubt but the great Physician of Souls saw that so rough a medicine was necessary for the cure of that common infirmity in you, or else he had never given you so bitter a potion to have drank.

I could be large in this argument, having matter more than would swell several letters; but I forbear using it for its copiousness, and because I reserve it for what I promised, a little treatise for your benefit, could I find leisure to dispose and order it, as it ought to be, into several topics, afore it can be fit to be presented to you: and besides it will be more agreeable to your inclinations, as well as my function, that I should pray that God would not only comfort you, but illuminate you, give you that discerning eye, whereby you may see that it hath been good for you even to have been thus severely afflicted, and that he hath been gracious in thus sharply dealing with you.

I understood by this your concurrence, which you signified too before with the request I made for the employment of some part of your charity towards the assisting in the instruction of some poor children in my parish, and your pleasure that I should assign the place where it should be paid. For which, as I return you all thanks, so I shall pray that the dispensing it may be a laying up for yourself a treasure in heaven. And since your honour hath not been pleased to name the sum, I shall be so confident as to determine that it shall not exceed 20s. per quarter, because I know you have many channels to derive that part of your sub-

stance you set aside for such ends; and will desire, when you think fit to do any for this particular, you would order the agent you employ to pay it in to Mr. Sim. Miller, bookseller, at the Star, at the west end of St. Paul's Churchyard, near Ludgate. I beseech Almighty God, who hath overcast all your earthly content with so black a cloud as you seem to say, to lift up the light of his countenance, and cause his face to shine upon you, and to support you with his everlasting favour, and to bless you here, if it seem good to his wisdom, by continuing to you the temporal blessings he yet indulgeth you; and thus praying, am, madam, &c.

Cotenham, 13 Aug. 1684.

J. F.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

AT my return from Totteridge, I did resolve one of my first exercises of this nature should be to you; why it was not so, Mr. Taylor might have told you; I desired he would: 'twas his coming to you: and I judged the entertainment of him would be a better diversion to you, than a letter from me; so I deferred it till his return. Whether the report you had, just at parting from him, of the good bishop of Winchester's\* probably hastening to the end of his race, which, without doubt, he will finish with joy, has called you sooner from your habitation than you meant, I know not: it may make this matter the shorter, but not prevent my best thanks offered for yours of the 13th August, and for

\* Morley, bishop of Winchester, died 1684. A very eminent man, zealous against popery, with a considerable share of learning, and great vivacity of thought.—Burnet.

any thing I remember, the 3d also ; but if the last was acknowledged before, I am in no error to do it twice ; yours all merit, ' every one of them, the acknowledgment of my whole life. As they help to slide comfortably away sad hours, so I persuade myself the consequence will be profitable through my whole life, how long soever the Disposer of all things permits it to last ; that it will have an end, every day presents us a convincing argument, by the death of some acquaintance very often, if not a friend : then what the raging war devours is matter of deep meditation, and more amazing than I will discourse of in this paper. But to me death hath come so near as to fetch a portion from my very heart, and by it calls on me to prepare against the second death, from which, by the merits of a great and merciful Redeemer, I hope my best friend is delivered ; and having a reasonable ground for this hope, 'tis unaccountable why I must ever lament what I valued as my own soul, is past all the difficulties of this narrow passage.

I find you have submitted to great mourning for the depravation of a very dear friend, though you are more a conqueror than I, in the lifting yourself out of such depressions as my weak nature has suffered itself to be plunged into ; but we are not all made to be strong alike, and I one of the meanest of God's creatures every way ; yet it is his good pleasure I should be singled out in a calamity. All I have to do is to suffer his good and holy will, and I shall be exalted in due time, though not as Job, yet with divine comfort here, and joy hereafter. 'Tis so grateful to my afflicted mind to run on thus, where I am free, that I doubt I give you true cause to wish I would use you less like a friend. I am sure I intended nothing like this when I took my pen to write, but in a short letter to acquaint you with what I have not yet touched on—my resolve to try that desolate habitation of mine at London this winter. The doctor agrees it is the best

place for my boy, and I have no argument to balance that, nor could take the resolution to see London till that was urged; but by God's permission I will try how I can endure that place, in thought a place of terror to me: but I know if sorrow had not another root, that will vanish in a few days. Now, doctor, as soon as I had formed, or rather submitted to this advice, which was but just as I left Totteridge (for I hastened hither upon it, that lord Bedford might have some weeks of comfort in the child before I took him from him), I took into my thought how the chapel should be supplied—so short a warning as I had given myself could never secure my being supplied as I desire; and I considered one of your order is not to be used as other domestics, so that if unhappily I should have entertained one not agreeable to me, it would have been hard to have relieved myself; so I lighted on this expedient:—to invite an old acquaintance of yours to pass this winter with me, and if her husband, Mr. Hanbury, could dispense for some weeks with officiating himself at Botley, I would be willing he should supply my chapel, being at present unprovided; so I give myself this approaching winter to fix. I am sure he is conforming enough, and 'twill not be difficult to any, if willing, to act that prudent part I formerly hinted, and at which you seemed almost to have some objections against; but I leave that for a discourse. I do not purpose a removal till the end of this month, if the child continues so very well as he is, and the weather be tolerable. My lord Gainsborough and my lady have invited themselves to great honours from the court. My lady writes me word, the charge seems to fright my lord (at present) against another year. I admire her conduct to manage all that company at Chiltern. I hear my lady Digby\* is

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\* Frances, eldest daughter of Edward Noel, earl of Gainsborough, married to Simon lord Digby.

safely laid of a girl; the sex can be no disappointment to them, likely to have so many. I hope they are a very happy couple; then, I believe she does not regret the opportunity of being made a courtier.

The constant uneasy hurry I was in at Totteridge (which a little matter is cause of to so broken a mind as mine) made me forget to send the money for your poor children as I appointed; and since 'tis so, unless you order other, I will now delay the doing it till we meet, or I hear you are at London. In all places I am, &c.

1 Oct. 1684.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE very lately received one of yours from London, and had one also from Cotenham since I wrote; but I had measured your time to be at London so near, that I would not send a sad dull paper to wander up and down, as some did when you was at Farnham with the good bishop, whose present state you do in such a manner describe, as makes me feel at the reading (though 'tis not the first time neither) a lightsomeness I am not used to, and by a kind of reflex-act make it my own in prospect. The consideration of the other world is not only a very great, but (in my small judgment) the only support under the greatest of afflictions that can befall us here; the enlivening heat of those glories are sufficient to animate and refresh us in our dark passage through this world; and though I am below the meanest of God's servants that have not in the least degree lived answerable to those opportunities I have had, yet my Mediator is my judge, and he will not despise weak beginnings, though there be more smoke than flame. He will help us in believing: and though he



suffers us to be cast down, will not cast those off who commit their cause to him.

I have, you find, sir, lingered out my time here; and I think none will wonder at it, that will reflect the place I am going to remove to was the scene of so much lasting sorrow to me, and where I acted so unsuccessful a part for the preservation of a life, I could sure have laid down mine to have had continued. 'Twas, doctor, an inestimable treasure I did lose, and with whom I had lived in the highest pitch of this world's felicity. But I must remember I have a better friend, a more abiding, whom I desire with an inflamed heart to know, not alone as good in a way of profit, but amiable in a way of excellency; then, spiritual joy will grapple with earthly griefs, and so far overcome as to give some tranquillity to a mind so tossed to and fro, as mine has been with the evils of this life; yet I have but the experience of short moments of this desirable temper, and fear to have fewer when I first come to that desolate habitation and place, where so many several passions will assault me; but having so many months mourned the substance, I think (by God's assistance) the shadows will not sink me. To one so lately arrived at London, and engaged as I know you to be, I am too tedious, for one who desires always to approve herself, good doctor, your faithful friend and servant,

Woborne Abby, 17 Nov. 1684.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You pursue, good doctor, all ways of promoting comfort to my afflicted mind, and will encourage me to think the better of myself, for that better temper of mind you judge you found me in, when



you so kindly gave me a week of your time in London. You are highly in the right, that as quick a sense as sharpness on the one hand, and tenderness on the other, can cause, I labour under, and shall, I believe, to the end of my life, so eminently unfortunate in the close of it.

But I strive to reflect how large my portion of good things has been, and though they are passed away no more to return; yet I have a pleasant work to do, dress up my soul for my desired change, and fit it for the converse of angels and the spirits of just men made perfect; amongst whom my hope is my loved lord is one; and my often repeated prayer to my God is, that if I have a reasonable ground for that hope, it may give a refreshment to my poor soul.

Do not press yourself, sir, too greatly in seeking my advantage, but when your papers do come, I expect and hope they will prove such. The accidents of every day tell us of what a tottering clay our bodies are made. Youth nor beauty, greatness nor wealth, can prop it up. If it could, the lady Ossory had not so early left this world; she died (as an express acquainted her father this morning) on Sunday last, of a flux and miscarrying. I heard also this day of a kinsman that is gone; a few years ago I should have had a more concerned sense for sir Thomas Vernon\*; his unfitness (as I doubt) I do lament indeed.

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\* Sir Thomas Vernon, on the jury against sir Samuel Barnardiston, knighted for his service in it, and then made foreman to convict Oates of perjury. Sir Samuel Barnardiston, 14 Feb. 1683-4, was fined 10,000*l.* for writing some letters, in which he used these expressions (*inter alia*). 'The lord Howard appears despicable in the eyes of all men—the brave lord Russell is a-fresh lamented—it's generally said the earl of Essex was murdered—the plot is lost here—the duke of Monmouth said publicly, that

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR conversation, good doctor, is both so instructive and so friendly, that I love to take it all the ways I can, and had before this begun to invite you to such an one as is to be had at this distance; but my own sad affairs have pressed me more than ordinary, since I saw you, in a particular I cannot relate by letter; and I more easily dispense with letters, knowing that when leisure permits you, you are writing for my good and advantage in particular, and perhaps for all that can read in general, if you please to give them opportunity, by making public what you first, I believe, designed for private use. Thoughts so digested, 'tis pity should be obscure, since the subject matter is the exercise of every day, or should be; life being a continued succession of many provocations to great vexation of spirit, till we have grace to remember who is the great Governor of all things.

My cousin Cholmondely died on Sunday, the last child of a couple I loved and valued much. Thus it pleases God I shall outlive one generation after another; but he has wise ends in all his providences, though hid to us in this life.

The parliament met and chose sir John Trevor speaker, and so adjourned till Friday; then 'tis expected the king will speak; in the mean time I will leave you to the enclosed papers, and ever continue very faithfully, doctor Fitzwilliam's friend and servant,

20th May, 1685.

R. R.

Mr. Ireton is escaped out of prison. Several about the city are clapped up, as one Mr. Freak Bateman, a surgeon\*; I can't hit the names of the

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\* Charles Bateman, a surgeon, accused of seditious discourses; but many believed his chief

rest. Mr. Charlton has been asked for at his house, but was not at home.

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### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NEVER shall I, good doctor, I hope, forget your work (as I may term it) of labour and love, so instructive and comfortable do I find it, that at any time, when I have read any of your papers, I feel a heat within me to be repeating my thanks to you anew, which is all I can do towards the discharge of a debt you have engaged me in; and though nobody loves more than I to stand free from engagements I cannot answer, yet I do not wish for it here; I would have it as it is; and although I have the present advantage, you will have the future reward; and if I can truly reap what I know you design me by it, a religious and quiet submission to all providences, I am assured you will esteem to have attained it here in some measure. Never could you more seasonably have fed me with such discourses, and left me with expectations of new repasts, in a more seasonable time, than these my miserable months, and in those this very week in which I have lived over again that fatal day that determined what fell out a week after, and that has given me so long and so bitter a time of sorrow.

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crime consisted in his compassion to Titus Oates, having constantly attended him after his cruel scourgings, and used all his skill to cure his wounds. This man, who did not expect to be accused, grew distracted, during his imprisonment, and the court was so well satisfied of it, that his son was permitted to make his defence for him. But this condition did not prevent his being condemned, and he was executed 18 December, 1685.—Rapin.

But God has a compass in his providences, that is out of our reach, and as he is all good and wise, that consideration should in reason slacken the fierce rages of grief. But sure, doctor, 'tis the nature of sorrow to lay hold on all things which give a new ferment to it, then how could I choose but feel it in a time of so much confusion as these last weeks have been, closing so tragically as they have done; and sure never any poor creature, for two whole years together, has had more awakers to quicken and revive the anguish of its soul than I have had; yet I hope I do most truly desire that nothing may be so bitter to me, as to think that I have in the least offended thee, O my God! and that nothing may be so marvellous in my eyes as the exceeding love of my Lord Jesus; that heaven being my aim, and the longing expectations of my soul, I may go through honour and dishonour, good report and bad report, prosperity and adversity, with some evenness of mind. The inspiring me with these desires is, I hope, a token of his never-failing love towards me, though an unthankful creature for all the good things I have enjoyed, and do still in the lives of hopeful children by so beloved a husband. God has restored me my little girl; the surgeon says she will do well. I should now hasten to give them the advantage of the country air, but am detained by the warning to see my uncle Ruvigny here, who comes to me; so I know not how to quit my house till I have received him, at least into it; he is upon his journey.

My lady Gainsborough came to this town last night, and I doubt found neither her own daughter nor lady Jane in a good condition of health. I had carried a surgeon on the day before to let my niece blood, by Dr. Loure's direction, who could not attend, by reason my lord Radnor lay in extremity, and he was last night past hopes. My niece's complaint is a neglected cold, and he fears her to be something hectic, but I hope youth will

struggle and overcome; they are children whose least concerns touch me to the quick; their mother was a delicious friend; sure nobody has enjoyed more pleasure in the conversations and tender kindness of a husband and a sister than myself, yet how apt am I to be fretful that I must not still do so! but I must follow that which seems to be the will of God, how unacceptable soever it may be to me. I must stop, for if I let my pen run on, I know not where it will end. I am, good doctor, &c.

Southampton-house, 17 July, 1685. R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You cannot make so great a mistake, good doctor, I know, as not to be assured I accept most kindly every method you take for the disposing my sad heart to be submissively content with my portion here; and then to revive it to some thankful temper by various reflections. I do not resist so foolishly as to say they are not proper ones; I can discern so justly as to know you do not err, doctor, in the manner of magnifying your charitable respect, nor in the design nor prosecution of it; the virtue you chiefly recommend to practise is so beautifully set forth, 'tis as a burning shining light, and one is willing to live with that light. But my languishing weary spirit rises up slowly to all good; yet I hope by God's abundant grace, in time, your labours will work the same effect in my spirit; they will indeed in less time on others better disposed and prepared than I am, who in the day of affliction seem to have no remembrance, with due thankfulness of prosperity. Your papers sure, sir, are rarely fitted for the use of all struggling under the



burthen of sin or sorrow, though by a singular and particular charity composed for my lamentable calamity, and as seasonably is this new supply come as is possible, for its first perusal by me. Since I unsealed your packet this very morning, the 21st July, a day of bitterness indeed, I seasoned the first minutes of retirement, I allotted on this day, for prayer and mourning with reading them, and made a stop for some time on those lines—' We may securely depend on the truth of God's promises, to this purpose, that a seed-time of tears shall be followed by a plenteous harvest of joys.' 'Tis a sound I must hereafter be a stranger to, in my pilgrimage here, but that it shall one day belong to me is a contemplation of great comfort, and I bless God it is so; I must not in lowliness of mind deny the grace I sometimes feel, though faint are my best thoughts and performances, as I am sensible.

So willing I am to hearken to arguments of consolation, and so convinced that yours are strong, that though the phrase seemed odd I read in your letter, that you would try to draw comfort to me from the cause of my sorrow, and administer it from the very calamity I feel; yet I did with much eagerness read on, and must acquiesce in much of it with you. You imagine that these late confusions have afforded matter of tumultuous devouring thoughts, and though not so well digested as they are in your letter, yet every clause in it I have tossed up and down.

And now, doctor, I take this late wild attempt \*

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\* Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. He was son to king Charles II. by Lucy Barlow, alias Walters. In his declaration against king James II. among other things, he accuses him of the barbarous murder of Arthur earl of Essex in the tower, and of several others to conceal it; of the most unjust



to be a new project, not depending on, or being linked in the least to any former design, if there was then any real one, which I am satisfied was not no more than (my own lord confessed) talk. And 'tis possible that talk going so far as to consider, if a remedy to supposed evils might be sought, how it could be found? but as I was saying, if all this late attempt was entirely new, yet the suspicion my lord must have lain under would have been great; and some other circumstances I do confess must have made his part an hard one. So that from the deceitfulness of the heart, or want of true sight in the directive faculty, what would have followed God only knows. From the frailty of the will I should have feared but little evil; for he had so just a soul, so firm, so good, he could not warp from such principles that were so, unless misguided by his understanding, and that his own, not an-

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condemnation of William lord Russell and colonel Algernon Sidney, being only accused for meeting in discharge of their duty to God and their country, to consult of extraordinary yet lawful means, to rescue our religion and liberties from the hands of violence, when all ordinary means according to the laws were denied and obstructed.—Concluding, ‘And we do appeal unto the great God concerning the justice of our cause, and implore his aid and assistance, that he would enable us to go forth in his name, and to do valiantly against his and our enemies, for he it is that knows we have not chosen to engage in arms for private and corrupt ends or designs, but out of a deep sense of our duty. We therefore commit our cause unto him, who is the Lord of hosts and the God of battles.’ He was taken, tried, and on the 15th July, 1685, beheaded.—Ralph. His children were named Scott, he having married lady Ann Scott, daughter of Francis earl of Bucleugh.

other's; for I dare say, as he could discern, he never went into any thing considerable, upon the mere submission to any one's particular judgment. Now his own, I know, he could never have framed to have thought well of the late actings, and therefore most probably must have sat loose from them. But I am afraid his excellent heart, had he lived, would have been often pierced from the time his life was taken away to this. On the other hand, having, I trust, a reasonable ground of hope, he has found those mercies, he died with a cheerful persuasion he should, there is no reason to mourn my loss, when that soul I loved so well lives in felicities, and shall do so to all eternity. This I know in reason should be my cure; but flesh and blood in this mixed state is such a slave to sense, the memory how I have lived, and how (as I think) I must ever do for the time to come, does so prevail and weaken my most Christian resolves, that I cannot act the part, that mere philosophy, as you set down many instances, enabled many to an appearance of easiness, for I verily believe they had no more than me, but vainly affected it. As I began the day with your letter and the sheets of discourse both enclosed in one paper, so I conclude it with some prayers you formerly assisted me with. Thus, doctor, you see you have a special right to those prayers you are pleased I should present for the same effect on your spirit, if a portion of suffering should be your lot, as you now wish on mine, which, after my poor fashion, I will not be wanting in, that am, sir, yours, &c. R. R.

Southampton-house, 21 July, 1685.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Now I know where to find you, good doctor

(which I do by your letter writ at my cousin Spencer's), you must be sure to hear from her who is still not ashamed to be on the receiving hand with you. God has given you the abilities, and opportunity for it, and not to me; and what am I, that I should say, Why is it not otherwise?—No, I do not, nor do I grudge or envy you the pious and ingenious pleasure you have in it; my part in this world is of another nature, and I thank you, sir, (but God must give you the recompense) you instruct me admirably how to overcome, that I may once make application of the text, Revel. iii. 12. and raise such hopes as cannot miscarry. The great thing is to acquiesce with all one's heart to the good pleasure of God, who will prove us by the ways and dispensations He sees best, and when He will break us to pieces we must be broken. Who can tell his works from the beginning to the end? But who can praise his mercies more than wretched I, that He has not cut me off in anger, who have taken his chastisements so heavily, not weighing his mercies in the midst of judgments! The stroke was of the fiercest, sure; but had I not then a reasonable ground to hope, that what I loved as I did my own soul, was raised from a prison to a throne? Was I not enabled to shut up my own sorrows, that I increased not his sufferings by seeing mine? How were my sinking spirits supported by the early compassions of excellent and wise christians, without ceasing, admonishing me of my duty, instructing, reprovng, comforting me! You know, doctor, I was not destitute; and I must acknowledge that many others like yourself, with devout zeal, and great charity, contributed to the gathering together my scattered spirits, and then subjecting them by reason to such a submission as I could obtain under so astonishing a calamity: and further, he has spared me hitherto the children of so excellent a friend, giving them hopeful understandings, and yet very tractable and sweet disposi-

tions ; spared my life in usefulness, I trust, to them ; and being I am to linger in a world I can no more delight in, has given me a freedom from bodily pain to a degree I almost never knew, not so much as a strong fit of the headache have I felt since that miserable time, who used to be tormented with it very frequently. This calls for praises my dead heart is not exercised in, but I hope this is my infirmity ; I bewail it. He that took our nature, and felt our infirmities, knows the weakness of my person, and the sharpness of my sorrows.

I should not forget to mention, sir, I did receive your papers and a letter I never had the opportunity to tell you of, dated 13 August ; and another letter after that, where you write of your being in London within a fortnight ; so that time slipping, I know not where to find you, nor how I came to let time do so.

I know not if you have heard some unwished-for accidents in my family have hurried me into new disorders : a young lady my uncle Ruvigny brought with him falling ill of the small-pox. I first removed my children to Bedford-house, then followed myself, for the quieting of my good uncle's mind, who would have it so ; from thence I brought my little tribe down to Woborne, and when I heard how fatal the end was of the young lady's distemper, I returned myself to Bedford-house to take my last leave (for so I take it to be) of as kind a relation, and as zealous tender a friend as ever any body had. To my uncle and aunt their niece was an inexpressible loss, but to herself death was the contrary. She died (as most do) as she lived, a pattern to all who knew her. As her body grew weak, her faith and hope grew strong, comforting her comforters, and edifying all about her ; ever magnifying the goodness of God, that she died in a country, where she could in peace give up her soul to him that made it. What a glorious thing, doctor, 'tis to live and die as sure as she did ! I heard my uncle

and aunt say, that in seven years she had been with them, they never could tax her with a failure in her piety or worldly prudence, yet she had been roughly attacked, as the French gazettes will tell you, if you have leisure to look over them now they are so many; however, I keep them together, and so send them to you, who shall ever be gratified in what you ask from me as a recompense of all your labours: 'tis a poor one indeed, the weak unworthy prayers of, &c. R. R.

Woborne Abby, 11 Oct. 1685.

You say I may direct as I will about those papers now in my custody. I freely give my judgment, 'tis great pity they should be hid like a candle under a bushel; as they are piously designed, they will carry the more effectual blessing with them into the hearts of such in whose hands they fall; and as I believe 'tis an excellent discourse, why should it not serve to excellent purposes? I could say more of my opinion concerning them, but truly methinks 'tis taking too much upon me; my modesty interposes.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As you profess, good doctor, to take pleasure in your writings to me, from the testimony of a conscience, to forward my spiritual welfare, so do I to receive them as one to me of your friendship in both worldly and spiritual concernments: doing so, I need not waste my time nor yours to tell you they are very valuable to me. That you are so contented to read mine, I make the just allowance for; not for the worthiness of them, I know it cannot be, but however, it enables me to keep up an



advantageous conversation without scruple of being too troublesome. You say some things sometimes, by which I should think you seasoned, or rather tainted with being so much where compliment or praising is best learned; but I conclude, that often, what one heartily wishes to be in a friend, one is apt to believe is so. The effect is not nought towards me, whom it animates to have a true, not false title to the least virtue you are disposed to attribute to me. Yet I am far from such a vigour of mind as surmounts the secret discontent so hard a destiny as mine has fixed in my breast; but there are times the mind can hardly feel displeasure, as while such friendly conversation entertaineth it; then a grateful sense moves one to express the courtesy.

If I could contemplate the conducts of providences with the uses you do, it would give ease indeed, and no disastrous events should much affect us. The new scenes of each day make me often conclude myself very void of temper and reason, that I still shed tears of sorrow, and not of joy, that so good a man is landed safe on the happy shore of a blessed eternity; doubtless he is at rest, though I find none without him, so true a partner he was in all my joys and griefs; I trust the Almighty will pass by this my infirmity; I speak it in respect to the world, from whose enticing delights I can now be better weaned. I was too rich in possessions whilst I possessed him; all relish now is gone, I bless God for it, and pray and ask of all good people (do it for me from such you know are so) also to pray that I may more and more turn the stream of my affections upwards, and set my heart upon the ever satisfying perfections of God; not starting at his darkest providences, but remembering continually either his glory, justice, or power, is advanced by every one of them, and that mercy is over all his works, as we shall one day with ravishing delight see. In the mean time I endeavour to suppress all



wild imaginations a melancholy fancy is apt to let in; and say with the man in the Gospel, 'I believe, help thou my unbelief.'

If any thing I say suggest to you matter for a pious reflection, I have not hurt you but ease myself, by letting loose some of my crowded thoughts. I must not finish without telling you, I have not the book you mention of Seraphical Meditations of the bishop of B. and Wells\*, and should willingly see one here, since you design the present. I have sent you the last sheet of your papers, as the surest course; you can return it with the book. You would, sir, have been welcome to lord Bedford, who expresses himself hugely obliged to the bishop of Ely† your friend; to whom you justly give the title of good, if the character he has very generally, belongs to him. And who is good is happy; for he is only truly miserable or wretchedly so, that has no joy here, nor hopes for any hereafter. I believe it may be near Christmas before my lord Bedford removes for the winter, but I have not yet discoursed him about it, nor how long he desires our company; so whether I will come before him, or make one company, I know not; he shall please himself, for I have no will in these matters, nor can like one thing or way better than another, if the use and conveniences be alike to the young creatures, whose service is all the business I have in this world, and for their good I intend all diligence in the power of, sir, yours, &c.

Woborne Abby, 27 Novr. 1685.

R. R.

I am mightily in arrear; pray let me know what, and if I shall direct the paying it, or stay till I see you.

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\* Kenn, bishop of Bath and Wells, of an ascetic course of life, and yet of a very lively temper.

† Turner, bishop of Ely, sincere and good-natured, of too quick imagination, and too defective a judgment.—Burnet.

## DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

IN my opinion it's a long time that I have interrupted that commerce with which you have been pleased to honour me on your part, by my omitting to make the due acknowledgments I ought for the packet of foreign letters, and your own letter more valuable than all the intelligence they contained; though that was, and must be esteemed of great worth to all who have the least honour for the Christian name, and ought to be prized and rated yet higher by me, who do not wear that name only, but have an extraordinary character from him by whose name we are called; since it was composed of the successes of the Christian arms against the infidels and enemies of our faith\*. And therefore I the greedier snatch at this opportunity, the first (except that of Thursday's post, of which too the intervention of company deprived me) which I have had through some employment on my hands these two weeks last, to renew it again.

I am glad to find, by the vigour with which that was wrote, and the constancy of mind you took your leave of your most tender uncle, and bid a final adieu to him, that you have less need of the cordials of my prescribing to fortify you than formerly. I hope the considerations I have offered, assisted with God's grace to impress them on your heart, will have that operation on you, that you will be able entirely to resign and sacrifice your own will, desires, and all that you have, to his wise disposal, and can be content he should govern the world without you, and you, as a part of the great one, according to his own good pleasure.

To this end you must labour to mortify all those

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\* The battle of Gran, 16 Aug. when the duke of Lorraine, and the elector of Bavaria, beat the Turks, and soon after took Newhausel, &c.

regrets you have upon reflecting on your past condition, and comparing it with your present. The comparing them in your mind may not be useful to you, because apt to create disturbance; but, however the judgment you pronounce upon such a review may be erroneous, you may be more happy now than you were when you thought yourself most so, and in a fairer and more probable way to attain to that happiness, which is not to be lost but by your own fault and neglect, nor ravished from you by the injury or violence of another. But if your active mind is for vying things with things, I would direct your honour to look, as I know you do, with eyes of compassion on the afflicted state of those poor people in the neighbouring country, where the husband is divided from his tender wife, the parents from their dear children, and are neither permitted to live, nor yet allowed the favour to die; and then to turn your eyes upon yourself, enjoying, as you confess, your own health and strength in a greater measure than formerly, hopeful children, an affluence of temporal things, and numbers of friends, it may be more than the darlings and favourites of Providence, as it's here dispensed, do; and then recollect with yourself, and try if you can truly and safely pronounce of yourself, that you are miserable.

And if you cannot truly form such a judgment, I know your ladyship will be so sincere and generous as not to complain you are so to your friends, or bemoan yourself with yourself as such. I will not enlarge upon this topic as I might; for in good earnest no person is miserable but comparatively, and almost every man in some respect or other comparatively happy; but shall reserve what can be more said, though it may not be upon this argument, to be handled in the pursuance of that discourse, of which you have already the bigger part in your hands. What remains I will endeavour to finish as fast as my little affairs here will give me

leave ; and I hope I shall be able to transmit some more papers relating to it within three or four more posts.

In the interval, and in all times, and in all events, I resolve to continue, madam, yours, &c.

J. F.

From Mr. Tufton's, St. James's, 27 Nov. 1685.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH I never think the returns come too thick, by which I have the advantage of conversing with Dr. Fitzwilliam, yet I am not captious in the matter, and would always have these favours suit your leisure, sir, which in so busy a life cannot always be regular.

I had not stayed supplying you with new French papers, but that I was doubtful how the last got to you ; I hasten these whilst you are in London, for now your engagements lie in so many places, one knows not where to find you ; but still 'tis in employments of the noblest sort, doing the work of God ; and man being a sociable creature, and of such a composition, that the mind must be acting, how happy is it when all this is done conformable to duty, and serving to the best ends the salvation of men's souls ? 'Tis having chosen the better part ; and carries with it (I make no doubt) peacefulness of mind which excels the strongest delights of earthly enjoyments, where that is shut out, or rather not so fully enjoyed ; for if we weigh temporals against spirituals, how light would that scale be to the smallest grain of spiritual comfort, though it were heaped with all the glories, fame, and wealth, the most carnal heart can wish for ! The one satisfies the immortal part of a man ; the other satisfies the depraved appetite. As buried as I am

in earth myself, and ever mourning the loss of an earthly felicity, which, if through weakness it exceeds, I do bewail; yet I reckon the sufferings for the name of Christ (if to have that honour be my lot), and the obtaining a title to an eternal inheritance in the place described, Rev. ch. xxi. and xxii. to be infinitely above our sufferings in these houses of clay; what I grieve the want of was such an one when here, but now glorified with the spirits of just men made perfect.

Doctor, I will take your advice, and vie my state with others, and begin with him in the highest prosperity, as himself thinks, the king of a miserable people; but truly the most miserable himself, by debasing, as he does, the dignity of human nature; and though, for secret ends of Providence, he is suffered to make those poor creatures drink deep of a most bitter cup, yet the dregs are surely reserved for himself. What a judgment is it upon an aspiring mind, when perhaps half the world knows not God, nor confesses the name of Christ as a Saviour, nor the beauty of virtue, which almost all the world has in derision, that it should not excite him to a reformation of faith and manners; but with such a rage turn his power to extirpate a people that own the Gospel for their law and rule! How infamous to his fame is the one! How glorious to his memory would the other have been! But he is too wicked to be an instrument of so much good to his degenerate age. Now, sir, I cannot choose but think myself less miserable than this poor king. For the vast numbers of sufferers\*,

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\* The Edict of Nantes, made 1598, in favour of the Protestants in France, and confirmed 1622, was unjustly revoked 22 Oct. 1685, and the Hugonots cruelly persecuted. The liberties of the Protestants in France were founded upon solemn laws, upon perpetual, irrevocable, and sacred edicts, and



the sound thereof is more terrible to those at a distance than the calamity of a single person; but taken asunder, the sufferings of any one, and those I have and do feel, are not perhaps at so wide a distance as it appears, theirs being heaped together; but as you very well note, there is no state to be pronounced extremely miserable, but a state of sin, which will deprive us of a future state of glory, without a deep repentance, which I wish to all sinners. I hear our king has given leave for collection for those Protestants which have been drove hither. God make his people thankful for it.

My lord Gainsborough and all that family sent in here as they went by to Dunstable last week.

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which could not be recalled without violating at once the public faith, the royal word, and sacredness of an oath. "How often did our king, Lewis XIV. promise us to preserve us in our privileges? How many declarations, how many edicts did he set out to that purpose? How many oaths were taken to confirm those edicts? Did not this very king himself solemnly promise, by several edicts and declarations, to maintain us in all the liberties which were granted us by the Edict of Nantes? And yet, after all, what scruple was there made to violate so many laws, so many promises, and so many oaths?" —Letter from French Refugees in Germany, 1687, on king James II. Declaration. Burnet says, "We see what feeble things edicts, coronation oaths, laws and promises repeated over and over again, proved to be where the Romish religion prevails; the great Lewis gave his Protestant subjects assurances of his observing still the Edict of Nantes, even after he had resolved to break it; and a promise in the edict that repealed it, that no violence should be used to any for their religion, in the very time that he was ordering all possible violences to be put in execution against them."

I know you will use your power, and I wish you could prevail with my nephew to settle himself in a family of his own. I trust God will be gracious to the child of so good a mother, and incline him to what shall be in the end best for him.

Though I am in the country, I should call to memory you are in London. I do so, and therefore close this, from, sir, &c. R. R.

Woborne Abby, Nov. 1685.

The papers are swelled to a great bigness, but if you care for them in London, I will direct them weekly, though I may not happen to write; for sometimes indeed I have occasion to do so too much, for so heavy a mind as mine is. 'Tis my present case this morning.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHEN I tell you, doctor, this is the seventh letter despatched for this morning, any one of which could not be omitted, and that I have still before noon French despatches to make, you will not, though I write but a few lines, believe I willingly decline the writing more. Letters of compliment I would lay aside for it, I assure you, if I had more time. Yes, doctor, the liberty I take when I write to you gratifies much more my weary mind, than the matter one fills up paper with to others; yet something of that sort must be, while we drag on here, especially when one has more than one's own miserable carcass to have a regard for, which while my children are, I have, and with a diligent concern will I wrestle to support them, and make them great, or worthy to be so, who have been so early (by a special Providence) unfortunate. But who knows, says Solomon, what is good for a man in his life? all the days of his vain life. Yet there is an

inseparable connexion between God's wisdom and his will: so his work is perfect; for all his ways are judgment; and this is a necessary reflection at the astonishing changes of this age. If I look upon your letter, doctor, I shall never end, but begin anew upon one part or other of it. Indeed that figure only of a man, if one speaks of him, engages to say a great deal: but I refrain.

I read a letter last night from my sister at Paris. She writes as every body that has humane affections must; and says that of 1,800,000, there is not more than 10,000 esteemed to be left in France, and they, I guess, will soon be converted by the dragoons, or perish. So that near two millions of poor souls, made of the same clay as himself, have felt the rigour of that savage man. What you utter in a prophetic rage, I agree will come to pass. I have had reports of my nephew, but I will not proceed; yet I show you how hard 'tis not to do so, by yours, &c.

R R.

Woborne Abby, Nov. 1685.

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#### DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

(Birch's Life of Tillotson.)

WHEN I look back upon the date of your ladyship's letter, I blush to see it hath lain by me so long unanswered. And yet I assure you no day passeth, in which your ladyship and your children are not in my mind. But I know not how, in the hurry I am in in London, one business presseth so hard upon another, that I have less time for the things to which I have most inclination. I am now for a while got out of the torment and noise of that great city, and do enjoy a little more repose.

It was a great trouble to me to hear of the sad

loss your dear friend sustained during his short stay in England \*. But in some circumstances, to die is to live. And that voice from heaven runs much in my mind, which St. John heard in his vision of the last (as I think) and most extreme persecution, which should befall the faithful servants of God, before the final downfall of Babylon, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth;" meaning, that they were happy, who were taken away before that terrible and utmost trial of the faith and patience of the saints. But however that be, I do greatly rejoice in the preservation of your children from the great danger they were in upon that occasion, and thank God heartily for it, because, whatever becomes of us, I hope they may live to see better things.

Just now came the news of the prorogation of the parliament to the 10th of February, which was surprising to us. We are not without hopes, that in the mean time things will be disposed to a better agreement against the next meeting. But when all is done, our greatest comfort must be, that we are all in the hands of God, and that he hath the care of us. And do not think, madam, that he loves you the less for having put so bitter a cup into your hand. He whom he loved infinitely best of all mankind, drank much deeper of it.

I did hope to have waited upon my lord of Bedford at my return to London; but now I doubt this prorogation will carry him into the country before that time. I entreat you to present my most humble service to his lordship, to dear little master, and the young ladies. I am not worthy the consideration you are pleased to have of me; but I pray continually for you all, and ever shall be, madam, &c.

J. T.

Canterbury, Nov. 21, 1685.

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\* The death of her cousin, niece of Mons. Ruigny, mentioned in the letter of 11th Oct. to Dr. Fitzwilliam.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I PRESUME, doctor, you are now so settled in your retirement (for such 'tis in comparison of that you can obtain at London) that you are at leisure to peruse the enclosed papers; hereafter I will send them once a week, or oftener if you desire it.

Yesterday the lord Delamere passed his trial, and was acquitted\*. I do bless God that he has caused some stop to the effusion of blood has been shed of late in this poor land. But, doctor, as diseased bodies turn the best nourishments, and even cordials into the same sour humour that consumes and eats them up, just so do I. When I should rejoice with them that do rejoice, I seek a corner to weep in. I find I am capable of no more gladness; but every new circumstance, the very comparing my night of sorrow after such a day, with theirs of joy, does, from a reflection of one kind or other, rack my uneasy mind. Though I am far from wishing the close of theirs like mine, yet I can't refrain giving some time to lament mine was not like theirs; but I certainly took too much delight in my lot, and would too willingly have built my tabernacle here: for which I hope my punishment will end with life.

The accounts from France are more and more astonishing; the perfecting the work is vigorously pursued, and by this time completed, 'tis thought;

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\* Henry Booth, lord Delamere, tried for partaking in Monmouth's rebellion. Finch, solicitor general, was very violent against him, but Saxon, the only positive evidence, appearing perjured, he was acquitted by his peers. He afterwards strenuously promoted the Revolution; in 1690, was created earl of Warrington, and died 1693.



all, without exception, having a day given them; only these I am going to mention have found so much grace as I'll tell you. The countess de Roy\* is permitted, with two daughters, to go within fourteen days to her husband, who is in Denmark, in that king's service; but five other of her children are put into monasteries. Mareschal Schomberg † and his wife are commanded to be prisoners in their house, in some remote part of France appointed them. My uncle and his wife are permitted to come out of France. This I was told for a truth last night, but I hope it needs a confirmation.

'Tis enough to sink the strongest heart to read the relations are sent over. How the children are torn from their mothers, and sent into monasteries; their mothers to another. The husband to prison or the galleys. These are amazing providences,

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\* Countess du Roy, wife of Frederic Charles du Roy, knight of the Elephant, and generalissimo to the king of Denmark; his daughter, Henrietta, was the 2d wife of William Wentworth, earl of Strafford.

† Frederic de Schomberg, marshal of France, was created by king William, duke Schomberg, &c. 1689; killed at the battle of the Boyne, 1 July, 1690. He was son of count Schomberg, by lord Dudley's daughter. The count was killed, with several sons, at the battle of Prague, 1620. The duke was a man of great calmness, application, and conduct; of true judgment, exact probity, and an humble, obliging temper. The persecution of the Protestants induced him to leave France and enter into king William's service. He was 82 years old at his death.—Rapin. His death, says Ralph, was indeed an irreparable loss. The historian says, we cannot do too much honour to his memory, which will make a considerable figure in history, whilst the world lasts. His son Charles was mortally wounded at the battle of Marsiglia, 24 Sept. 1693.

doctor. God out of infinite mercy strengthen weak believers. I am too melancholy an intelligencer to be very long, so will hasten to conclude, first telling you lord Talbot \* is come out of Ireland, and brought husbands for his daughters-in-law; one was married on Tuesday to a lord Rosse; the other lord is Dungan; Walgrave, that married the king's daughter, is made a lord †. The brief for the poor Protestants was not sealed on Wednesday, as was hoped it would be; the chancellor bid it to be laid by when it was offered him to seal. I am, &c.

Jan. 15, 1685-6.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received and read your letters, good doctor. As you never fail of performing a just part to your friend, so it were pity you should not consider enough to act the same to yourself. I think you do; and all you say that concerns your private affairs is justly and wisely weighed; so I let that rest. I acknowledge the same of the distinct paper which touches more nearly my sore; perhaps I ought to do it with some shame and confusion of face, and perhaps I do so, doctor; but my weakness is invincible, which makes me, as you phrase it excellently, possess past calamities. But he who

\* Lord Richard Talbot, afterwards earl of Tyrconnel, a papist.

† Henry, lord Waldegrave, of Chewton, married the lady Henrietta Fitz-James, natural daughter to king James II. by Arabella Churchill, sister to John duke of Marlborough; he retired to France in 1689, and died at Paris the same year.

took upon him our nature, felt our infirmities, and does pity us; and I shall receive of his fulness at the end of days, which I will silently wait for.

If you have heard of the dismal accident in this neighbourhood, you will easily believe Tuesday night was not a quiet one with us. About one o'clock in the night I heard a great noise in the square, so little ordinary, I called up a servant, and sent her down to learn the occasion. She brought up a very sad one, that Montague-house was on fire; and it was so indeed; it burnt with so great violence, the whole house was consumed by five o'clock. The wind blew strong this way, so that we lay under fire a great part of the time, the sparks and flames continually covering the house, and filling the court. My boy awaked and said he was almost stifled with smoke, but being told the reason, would see it, and so was satisfied without fear; took a strange bedfellow very willingly, lady Devonshire's youngest boy, whom his nurse had brought wrapt up in a blanket. Lady Devonshire\* came towards morning and lay here; and had done so still, but for a second ill accident. Her brother, lord Arran †, who has been ill of a fever twelve days, was despaired of yesterday morning, and spots appeared; so she resolved to see him, and not return hither, but to Somerset-house, where the queen offered her lodgings. He is said to be dead, and I hear this morning 'tis a great blow to the family; and that he was a most dutiful son and kind friend to all his family.

Thus we see what a day brings forth! and how momentary the things we set our hearts upon! O! I could heartily cry out, When will longed-for

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\* Mary, daughter to James Butler, duke of Ormond; married to William Cavendish, earl, afterwards duke of Devonshire.

† He died Jan. 26, 1685-6.

eternity come! But our duty is to possess our souls with patience.

I am unwilling to shake off all hopes about the brief, though I know them that went to the chancellor\* since the refusal to seal it, and his answer does not encourage one's hopes. But he is not a lover of smooth language; so in that respect we may not so soon despair †.

I fancy I saw the young man you mentioned to me about my son. One brought me six prayer-books as from you; also distributed three or four in the house. I sent for him, and asked him if there was no mistake? He said, No. And after some other questions, I concluded him the same person. Doctor, I do assure you I put an entire trust in your sincerity to advise; but, as I told you, I shall ever take lord Bedford along in all the concerns of the child. He thinks it early yet to put him to learn in earnest; so do you, I believe. My lord is afraid, if we take one for it, he will put him to it; yet I think perhaps to overcome my lord in that, and assure him, he shall not be pressed. But I am much advised, and indeed inclined, if I could be fitted to my mind, to take a Frenchman, so I shall do a charity, and profit the child also, who should learn French. Here are many scholars come over, as are of all kinds, God knows.

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\* George, lord Jefferies, baron of Wem, very inveterate against lord Russell. He was, says Burnet, scandalously vicious, drunk every day, and furiously passionate; and when lord chief justice, he even betrayed the decencies of his post, by not affecting to appear impartial, as became a judge, and by running upon all occasions into noisy declamations. He died in the Tower, April 18, 1689.

† Doctor, afterwards bishop Beveridge, objected to the reading the brief in the cathedral of Canterbury, as contrary to the rubric. Tillotson replied, "Doctor, doctor, charity is above rubrics."—Birch.

I have still a charge with me, lady Devonshire's daughter, who is just come into my chamber ; so must break off. I am, &c. R. R.

22 January, 1685-6.

The young lady tells me lord Arran is not dead, but rather better.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I INTENDED you, good doctor, a letter before I left Windsor, but I question if it succeeded, for the day I sent it to the coach, that was newly gone; and the next you was gone, I believe. However, the French papers were the greatest loss, so it is pretty indifferent how it fell out; if a like fate befalls this, it will be of a like consequence, setting aside the information I write this on purpose to give you, which is—I have just dated my letter to my lady Digby, of Coleshal, writ in answer to hers, by which she desires me, in pursuance of a dying brother's advice, and her son's inclination, to propose to lord Gainsborough a marriage between the present lord\* and lady Jane. I have done it; though I wished she had made choice of any other person than myself, who desiring to know the world no more, am utterly unfitted for the management of any thing in it, but must, as I can, engage in such necessary offices to my children, as I cannot

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\* William lord Digby, deservedly called *the Good*.—Whiston speaks highly of him; Pope mentions him as full of days and honour. He married Jane, second daughter to Edward earl of Gainsborough, and died November 1752, aged ninety years, nine months.



be dispensed from, nor desire to be, since 'tis an eternal obligation upon me, to the memory of a husband, to whom, and his, I have dedicated the few and sad remainder of my days, in this vale of misery and trouble. But to suspend this and hasten my report, the proposition is accepted; my lord declares himself willing to do all he can for his children; he offers 8000*l.* paid as with the last, and leaves out the 2000*l.* coming back if lord Campden should happen to die. I believe lord Digby and his mother will be soon in town. My sister Alington came to Bedford-house three or four days ago. Lord Northampton's great match is crossed; and now the lord Mulgrave\* is an attendant on her person; he went down in great equipage a week past. Lord Northampton challenged Seymour, but he does not use to fight, so that matter rests. I expect my old uncle Ruvigny and his family in two or three days. Doctor, I must not choose my entertainments, so can continue this no longer, but ever continue, &c. R. R.

15 February, 1685-6.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

With my best respects, good doctor, I send you the gazettes. I take the town to be very barren of news, but I was out of it yesterday at Greenwich to

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\* Lord Mulgrave, John Sheffield, afterwards duke of Buckingham, a person of the highest accomplishments, but of a sceptical turn. He married, first, Ursula, widow of the earl of Conway; second, Catharine Grevile, widow of Baptist earl of Gainsborough; third, the lady Catharine Darnley, (natural daughter to king James II. by Catharine

see my old uncle Ruvigny, so know the less. 'Tis concluded the princess is with child. The duke of Berwick is ill of the small-pox, and likely to be very ill with them; it will be the flux-pox, the doctors say. The intercourses between England and Holland do not look calm, nor give content. Mr. Talmidg\* has a regiment there, and a privy seal from hence, but I think, he will not feel the seizure can be made, so he will stand by his regiment. We talk of a parliament just as men feel agues, once in so many days. Now 'tis to be in May; 'tis thought that will wear off. The earl of Bolingbroke is dead; he died in a boat, as he lived.

Lady Gainsborough sends me word her lord mends still. Lady Campden's woman is in town to furnish lying-in things; I had the favour to have her come, and give me a compliment on her lady's part. I am glad when they remember to do civil things for their own sakes; but I a little wonder he has not been to see his father. My sister Alington is coming to town presently.

I have told my news, and now must yield to a less liked employment, being called upon to a little business. Yours, &c.

R. R.

23 March, 1685-6.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter lies before me, doctor, but I dare not read it over, it would furnish me with so much

Sedley) who was the widow of James Annesley, earl of Anglesey, from whom she was separated by act of parliament, for his cruel and causeless ill usage.

\* Probably Henry Talmash, afterwards a general.

to say, and I must not take time to do it; the lowness of my spirits, and the sadness of my constant thoughts, make me fancy myself hurried with some of my own pitiful affairs, and the entertaining my sister, who came to me this day se'nnight.

The present temper of your mind appears so suitable to what mine ever must remain, that I could talk and not fear to give new oppressions to your mind so tendered with the loss of an excellent friend, and man. You carefully and religiously prescribe yourself limits and bounds to your lamentations; but I would willingly observe if you exceed them not; so natural it is to spy out the faults and infirmities of others, as if we had reason to think the better of ourselves for the charging others. But I will not run on; leave you to the French prints. As to English news, I have none would serve the purpose I would have it, which is, to divert your thoughts so touchingly fixed upon mortifying objects; but I hear of no other.

The disposers of the brief-money met the first time yesterday; I am told the chancellor carried it in a manner, he sent away many with sad hearts, he concluded so strictly on the qualifications of such as were to partake of the charity; I think he would admit none to receive of it, that did not take the sacrament from his own chaplain. I doubt not you will be better informed than I can do it.

The reports from France are still the worst that can be. Duke de la Force is thrust into a convent, to be vexed till he will change. At home I fear no amicable composition of the disaster between lord D—— and my sister. My mean endeavours must not be wanting, and that indeed employs my time and thoughts, there being few days to determine that matter in, the term beginning so soon. Her being here keeps me from Stratton, where I proposed to be the end of this month. But God does not dispose of things and persons as we form designs. I am, sir, &c.

R. R.

14 April, 1686.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter, sir, dated June 27, and sheets of paper that accompanied it, found me at Woborne; by a letter from sister Alington, I understood you were with her that very day, and had completed your intention towards her, as you have most admirably your pious one towards distressed me; for which the world may hereafter stand indebted to my uncommon sad fate, for all that good they may share out of it.—'Tis most certain, if you give me the power you speak of, I dare not deprive this wanting generation so rich a supply, when I may have the dispensing of it. Your errors, doctor, would be others' perfections; for I must believe your being master of very much matter, gives a vast advantage over others; yet I allow a cause of some trouble to yourself, by restraining that flux of words and notions that flow so fast from you; but 'tis a rare excellency when the pain is more to refuse than choose. I cannot tell, doctor, whether your papers met me in a better temper now than at some other times to relish them; yet sure I esteem these sheets to be so fine, that it brought into my mind the loss you have lately sustained of a much loved friend; and to conclude, that a new experience grief had, in your struggles to overcome all unfit discontent, raised your fancy to the highest pitch of framing arguments against it: 'tis an happy effect of sorrow, and a sure evidence to the soul, that the promises of the holy word belong to her; that the work of grace is apt, and grows towards those degrees, where, when we arrive, we shall triumph over imperfections, and our wills desire nothing but what shall please God. We shall, as your phrase is, be renewed like eagles; and we like eagles mount up to meet the Lord coming in the clouds, and ever tarry with him, and be no more faint or weary in

God's service. These are ravishing contemplations, doctor! They clasp the heart with delight for such moments, or to say more truly, part of a moment that the soul is so well fixed. 'Tis true, we can (you are sure) bear the occasions of grief without being sunk and drowned in those passions; but to bear them without a murmuring heart then is the task, and in failing, there lies the sin. O Lord, lay it not to the charge of thy weak servant; but make me cheerfully thankful that I had such a friend to lose; and contented that he has had dismissal from his attendance here (an expression you use I am much pleased with). When my time comes that I shall have mine, I know not how it will find me then; but I am sure it is my best reviving thought now; when I am plunged in multitudes of wild and sad thoughts, I recover and recollect a little time will end this life, and begin a better that shall never end, and where we shall discover the reasons and ends of all those seeming severe providences we have known. Thus I seem to long for the last day, and yet 'tis possible if sickness, or any other fore-runner of our dissolution were present, I would defer it if I could; so deceitful are our hearts, or so weak is our faith. But I think, one may argue again, that God has wisely implanted in our nature a shrinking at the approach of a separation; and that may make us content, if not desire a delay. If it were not so implanted there, many would not endure the evils of life, that now do it, though they are taught duty that obliges us thereto.

I know, sir, I am very tedious; and if it be impertinent, I know also you will take it as if it were not so. Now I take this freedom scarce with any body else; but 'tis a great indulgence to myself, and I am very certain you are pleased I should use it. I find it most especially useful on the return of these my saddest days, when dismal and yet astonishing remembrances crowd fastest into my mind: however I shall, by God's goodness to me, stick



close to those helps you have provided me, and read every day these new sheets, till the bitterest of all be past. On Tuesday, my sister Alington designs to be here; I am sorry it happens to be just that day, since I affect nothing that is particular or singular; but as yet I have not yet seen any body besides my children on that day, being 13 July; nor does it seem decent for me to do it, almost, when I remember the sad scene I saw and attended at all that day, and the miserable accidents of it, as the unfortunate end of lord Essex\*, to me so fatal, if the duchess of Portsmouth told me true; that they said the jury could not have condemned my lord, if my lord Essex had not died as he did.

But I will do as I can; I hope she will not misconstrue what I shall do. I am sure I will never fail to her (by God's grace), because I know how tenderly he loved her, though I am apt to think now, she returned it not in love to a degree I once thought she had for him, and that sure he merited from her. But we are not loved most always by those we love best: she is very engaging where and when she pleases: but enough of this.

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\* Arthur Capel, earl of Essex (son of Arthur who was taken at Colchester, condemned and beheaded 9th March, 1648-9); he was a true patriot, and for delivering a petition against the parliament sitting at Oxford, was accused of the Ryehouse plot, (Brit. Compend.) and committed to the Tower. He might (says Burnet) have made his escape, but his tenderness for lord Russell, and a fear that his absence might have an ill influence at his trial, made him stay at his country house till a party of horse were sent to bring him up; he was found with his throat cut, not without suspicion of his being murdered in the Tower, 13th July, 1683, the morning of lord Russell's trial, against whom this circumstance was used as an argument to prove the truth of the conspiracy, and condemn him.

I will make no answer to that part of your letter, where you express some resentment at the joining hands by another than yourself. I had no part in it, but the disappointment of not seeing Dr. Fitz. on a day I thought I should. When I heard who was to do it, I did conclude they thought the dean would be disoblged by laying him aside, being in his parish. I let pass the misfortunes fallen on another dean, or rather on his parishioners; but God is the supreme pastor, who still lives, and to him we may still go, should we be bereaved of all others.

I hear by my sister Montague \* she found a sickly family at Paris; her daughter in a languishing condition, worn to nothing almost with a fever, which has hung about her for these last six weeks; the doctors apprehend a hectic, but youth, I hope, will overcome it.

I have sent you the gazettes, doctor, though they will be so old, all the use of them will be to practise your French tongue. I am, with great sincerity, &c.

11 July, 1686.

R. R.

Sir William Coventry † left a noble charity when he died, 2000*l.* to the French refugees, and 3000*l.* to redeem slaves. His four executors are, Harry Savil, James and Harry Thin, which are two brothers of the lord Weymouth, and Frank Coventry, his nephew. He died at Tunbridge, and was buried at Penthurst.

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\* Elizabeth, married to the earl, afterwards (1705) duke of Montague.

† A man hearty for the protestant religion and interest of England, and had a perfect knowledge of affairs.—Burnet.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM sure my heart is filled with the obligation, how ill soever my words may express it, for all those hours you have set apart (in a busy life) for my particular benefit, for the quieting my distracted thoughts, and reducing them to a just measure of patience for all I have or can suffer. I trust I shall with diligence, and some success, serve those ends they were designed to. They have very punctually, the time you intended them for, the last two sheets coming to my hands the 16th of this fatal month; 'tis the 21st completes my three years of true sorrow, which should be turned rather into joy; as you have laid it before me, with reasons strongly maintained, and rarely illustrated. Sure he is one of those has gained by a dismissal from a longer attendance here: while he lived his being pleased led me to be so too, and so it should do still; and then my soul should be full of joy; I should be easy and cheerful, but it is sad and heavy; so little we distinguish how, and why we love, to me it argues a prodigious fondness of one's self; I am impatient that is hid from me I took delight in, though he knows much greater than he did here. All I can say for myself is, that while we are clothed with flesh, to the perfectest, some displeasure will attend a separation from things we love. This comfort I think I have in my affliction, that I can say, unless thy law had been my delight, I should have perished in my trouble. The rising from the dead is a glorious contemplation, doctor! nothing raises a drooping spirit like it; his holy spirit in the mean time, speaking peace to our consciences, and through all the gloomy sadness of our condition, letting us discern that we belong to the election of grace, that our persons are accepted and justified. But still I will humble myself for my own sins, and those of our families, that brought such a day on us.

I have been under more than ordinary care for my eldest girl; she has been ill of St. Anthony's fire, as we call it, and is not yet free from it. I had a doctor down with her, but he found her so likely to do well, he staid only one day. I have sent you these gazettes, and will send no more, for I reckon you will be in your progress of visits.

I wish with you lord Campden would marry; but I want skill to prevail by what I can say. I hope I need employ none to persuade Dr. Fitzwilliam that I am very acknowledging, and very sincerely his friend, &c.

18 July, 1686.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I CAN divine no more than yourself, good doctor, why a letter writ the 18th of July should come to you before one that was writ the 13th; they went from hence in order, I am very sure. I answer yours as soon as I can, and yet not soon enough to find you at Cotenham, as I guessed, being you say you intended to be at Windsor the middle of September, and the greatest part of the interval at Hereford; and I remember you have in a former letter told me, you intended a visit at lord Gainsborough's; so that this paper being likely to be a wanderer, and so in hazard of not coming to you at all it may be, I will not charge it with those letters you ask for; they are too valuable to me to be ventured, especially since mine loiter so by the way; therefore I will hear again from you before I send them, with particular directions where they shall come to you. I read with some contentment, doctor, that as either to speak or write a compliment would ill become you, 'tis your opinion my

nature is averse to be so treated. It is so indeed, if I know myself; and I thank you for your justice to me. I have long thought it the meanest inclination a man can have, to be very solicitous for the praise of the world, especially if the heart is not pure before God. 'Tis an unfaithfulness I have been afraid of, and do not fear to say it has often excited me to be what I found good people thought me.

I do confess there is a beauty in godliness, that draws our love to those we find it in; and it does give a secret pleasure to have that attributed to one's self that one finds so charming in another. I am very certain, doctor, your judgment is without error, that the fastest cement of friendship is piety. One may love passionately, but one loves unquietly, if the friend be not a good man; and when a separation comes, what veneration do we give to their memory, we consider as loved by God from all eternity!

As to your papers, sir, I would not by any means abuse the power you give me, nor can I think I do so, if I am a cause that others have it in their power to try the same cordial I have found comfortable when under great heaviness of heart. I have read those books you have avoided to read, and must say as you do, the same matter may be handled several ways. In mixing cordials for faint spirits, we often make them differ in the taste; yet one is as useful and effectual as the other; perhaps one is most so to the one, when the other is to another; but that is not known till both tried. As to the commonness of the subject, why should that hinder? No man is at all times laying himself out to the uttermost of his ability, that is, in treating the deepest points; yet, if some such work ought to be public before one of this sort, I will not be contentious, nor tyrannical, in the power which is in my hands, because you have given it: it would be an unjust return to your compositions in my great distress. I would acquiesce, and be content with copies, for such to



whom I would recommend the reading of them also. I will tell you another scruple just now (as I write) risen in my thoughts, and therefore not at all digested, that though you do not own the work by your name before it, yet the author seldom fails being known, and the peculiar occasion, when there is one. Whether the politic part were good then in the publishing of it, 'tis advisable to consider of, perhaps. And pray do so, and not from a quickness of mind answer me presently; you put it not in balance when the design is to serve one you profess a particular respect to. But remember my end is served, and theirs, we know, may be so too; those we know not, will be the losers. This is my highest objection, and what I will not too easily pass over. We live in difficult times. God in mercy fit each one for his lot. My letters lie ready, and some prayers you sent with the first papers.

My sister Alington we have kept still here; she threatens to leave us every week. Rachel is very well again; I desire to bless God for it. My sister's girl is recovering. Our news letters say her lord has a new friendship with lord Danby; but nothing is strange in such as follow courts.

Not knowing the fate of this letter, I will add no more from, good doctor, yours, &c.

Woborne Abby, 12 August, 1686.

R. R.

#### DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I CANNOT, very honoured and good madam, be better pleased than when I am doing any service for my friends, especially in that way where no power of man can render me unserviceable while it permits me to breathe, in administering to their spiritual

estate; because this is doing God service, and glorifying my great master while I can bring any one soul forward to glory.

Certainly to be able to comfort and refresh any sad dejected spirits in a dark and gloomy day of trouble, or to aid such an one to submit with patience, if the resigning or offering up itself with cheerfulness cannot be effected, to God's correction, which is so oft misapprehended for the mark of his displeasure, is to make the passage easier to another life, and consequently to assist such an one in his journey towards the happy state of that, when all the discouragements on the road thither are either removed, or much lessened. If then that which I sent you assuaged the pain of the wound, by pouring any oil into it; or if it helped you to bear the smart of it with contentedness, while the return of the season opened it afresh, and your sense of it, I cannot but from such a reflection, that any performance of mine contributed to the ease or the courage of a person whom I regard so much, and ought to do so; for whose welfare I am so solicitous, and should be culpable if I were less, reap a great deal of satisfaction. The shortest method of gaining this contentedness in all the stages of our lives we are to pass through, is to love God with all our hearts and souls, and to love nothing here below, even what He allows us to love with the tenderest affection, but in Him, and for Him; and then we cannot complain of his taking away the object on which we were enamoured, from our fruition, when it was only He we loved and enjoyed in it; and Him we may still enjoy, though we are dispossessed of that, because He is ever with us. And because the object may be such we may enjoy again, of which nature all our friends are, who are taken out of the sight of our eyes; for this end we are therefore to express our love towards God, in aspiring, in thirsting after a more immediate and intimate fruition of Him than this life affords, that we may in Him

again enjoy those we are separated from. This is the great argument of consolation that St. Cyprian makes use of against the fear of death, in his treatise of Mortality, that it will bring us to the sight and fruition of a number of friends, who have preceded us, taking a shorter or earlier course to happiness than we have done.

I have a meditation on this subject fitted to my own use, and since disposed to the use of two other friends, for it was designed to serve more than myself, which I may take some opportunity of transcribing, and sending to you. In the mean time, and in all seasons, I will ever continue, with my prayers for you and yours, good and honoured madam, &c.

Chilton, August 12th.

J. F.

I know not how it happened that your letter to me was postponed so, that lady Gainsborough had received a letter from you of congratulation, before I could acquaint her with your intention to do so. Lady G. your niece, Mrs. Napier, are your very humble servants. The last is like to be very happy in a husband, if I am not grossly mistaken: I am sure I am not that he is a very ingenious and well-natured man.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM so persuaded of Dr. Fitzwilliam's concern for me and mine, that though I omitted a report at the end of the week, which was occasioned by a desire to get all the time alone I could, which is but a little, notwithstanding I use all my skill to get more, by denying to see all company; though, as I said, I omitted the end, I will not the beginning,

to tell you how good God has been to me in the person of my child, whose eye is as well as the other. I shall another time rely the more on Dr. Lower's judgment, who named eight days, and it was so to a day. I hope this has been a sorrow I shall profit by; I shall, if God will strengthen my feeble resolves to return him a continual praise, and make this the season to chase all secret murmurs from grieving my soul for what is past, letting it rejoice in what it should rejoice, his favour to me, in the blessings I have left, which many of my betters want, and yet have lost their chiefest friend also. But, O doctor! the manner of my deprivation is yet astonishing.

I must not abide on this subject. I had your very good letter, and think myself, &c.

4 Oct. 1686.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As I think time very well spent in reading your letters, good doctor, I am ever disposed to thank you for them, and all the consolation they bring with them, the excitations to all good directions relating to practice or contemplation, by all pious arts, seeking a cure to an unhappy creature, and faulty in giving too much scope to nature and passion, not duly considering the great blessings God still continued to me; for that must have softened the sharpness of other thoughts, that have subdued me but too absolutely; yet as you exceedingly well remember me, I might reflect how my son was raised in my great day of trouble, and that I felt lately I could yet be more miserable, if the evil threatened had fallen on another beloved child; but God has been gracious to me in healing her sorrow, and I will

endeavour religiously to perform my resolution, made in my agonies for her, of some cheerful thankfulness.

Your last, doctor, I received since my return to Woborne; the date was the 10th October. I have been the less quick in my answer, from some expectation, if you came to London, I should hear again from you; but I think your usual time is not till November, and that is too long to stay, to send this to Windsor.

I will not argue about the sheets of paper, since there can't well be any determination, till you have, I guess, those papers you once ordered to be sent to you to Cotenham; but your letter came not so timely for me to think fit to send them, by reason of your journey to Herefordshire. I am very solicitous you should be safe in the first place; and then 'tis fit to wish all good people all the benefit they can have by the pious labours of such as are blessed with gifts to prepare it for them. Alas! doctor, I am as far as yourself can be from imagining, that any the most forward to take his life (in whose all the innocent delights of mine were bound) had the least thought to embitter mine; or indeed thought of me at all. The point in that kind is no more, as I conceive it, than the sense of an officiousness to one that so sadly laments what they would have all rejoiced at; but this is a matter so far sought for, that I think there is nothing in it, and the less from the acquaintance, which is so notoriously known, and your dependence once upon my father. I will let it rest this time, with my hearty wishes, you may advise and choose best in this and all other concerns; I do it as one very sincerely yours, &c.

Woborne Abby, 27 Oct. 1686.

R. R.

I have now received a letter from lady Gainsborough, as surprising as any thing of that kind can be to one. 'Tis to tell me that lord Camden was come from his sister Digby's, the night before, to



ask his father's leave to marry the lord Brook's eldest daughter\*, and was returning in haste to accomplish it. My lady indeed writ to me, as long ago as when they were entertaining the king at Portsmouth, that a Warwickshire knight had writ to her lord to propose this young lady to his son, but I expected no other effect from it, than has been from so many other motions of that kind; however, the wise man says, there is a time for all things. I am certain there can be none in which I do not wish their mother's children happy as my own. I think myself hugely obliged to my lady in taking care I may not have all the advertisements from a newspaper, or the hand of those as little concerned, as I had now, and happened to open it before hers, not knowing it, the superscription not being her hand. 'Twas a matter so unlooked for by me, it gained no credit, till I read my lady's own letter.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I do not love, good doctor, to let your letters lie by me unanswered. I ever find much in them that expresses my obligation to you, and as soon inclines me to be saying something by the way of thankfulness. The gratefulness I can make, I am persuaded, is to do myself good, by letting into my soul deep

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\* Wriothesley Baptist, lord Camden, son to Edward earl of Gainsborough, by lady Eliz. Wriothesley; married Catharine, daughter to Fulk Greville, lord Brook. Catharine, sister to William, earl (afterwards duke) of Bedford, was married to Robert, father of Fulk, lord Brook.

impressions of those necessary duties you so elegantly urge. I do promise you my endeavours, and assure you, you treat me as I would be treated. All the fault I can find is in your apologies; they are too humble towards yourself in the mistrusts of your proceeding. Indeed, doctor, you observe too punctually respects to err on the one hand, and are too stout and sincere a Christian to do it on the other, so that 'tis safe to be under your conduct. If high quality shuts out a freedom in those cases, I bless the goodness of God I am out of that exalted rank, for I would choose to be told my smallest errors.

I join my wishes most sincerely with yours for the prosperity of lord Camden, and that his happiness in marriage may exceed his expectation. Some years past I should have been mightily pleased at the double relation this marriage gives me to him, but there is a stain in the father can never be washed off to my sight. I am sorry for it; however, that will not lessen my respect to the young lady, and especially when she is my nephew's wife. I hear from all but himself he is a transported lover. I fear he will be gone before I get to London; I fear it, because I could be content to see him since his inflexibility is conquered. My sister Alington, I hear, has much of his company; I doubt not but she has some of yours also. More discourse of the papers is deferred till we meet, which, if God permit, may be under three weeks, or thereabouts.

19 Nov. 1686.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NOTHING less fatal than what happened last week in my poor sister's family, I think, should

have kept me, I am sure not willingly, from writing to you, good doctor; but you will not wonder I found no time for such an exercise as this, when you know it has been the will of God to take the life of her eldest son \*, after lying ill of a fever eight days. I believe she takes it heavily, for truly I have not seen her since the child died on Sunday morning, and her lord and herself went on Saturday night to lady Harvey's †. She gave me her girl to take home to me; the other boy being then feverish also, continues in the house. Now my own sad trials making me know how mean a comforter I can be, I think my best service is to take some care of her two children, who are both well now, and hope God will be pleased to keep them so, and teach her to be content. God should place his creatures where he knows 'tis best for them to be, and when 'tis best for us, we shall go to them, but they must not come back to us, who remain to struggle in an unquiet world, in all appearance; yet God's hand is not shortened that he cannot save; however, if he will not here, he will hereafter, if we patiently wait the day of consolation that will endure for ever. Join your fervent prayers with my weak and cold ones, good doctor, that no secret murmurs of heart may stand between me, and hinder my hopes of the admirable comforts of that great day, for which my mourning soul longs.

The poor princess is wonderful sad, I hear ‡.

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\* Ralph, son to Ralph and Elizabeth Montague, died about twelve years old.

† Lady Harvey, Eliz. daughter of Edward (father of Ralph) lord Montague, was married to sir Daniel Harvey, knt. ambassador to Constantinople.

‡ Princess Anne, married to prince George, second son of Frederic III. king of Denmark, in 1683. They had four daughters, and two sons, who all died young—lady Mary, born 2 June, 1685, and

'Tis said the king is not pleased with the envoy extraordinary the States are sending over; he is one, it seems, entirely in the interest of the prince. The chief justice Benefield\* died suddenly in the church last Sunday; and a master in chancery did so since, but I do not know his name. I must desire you once more to write how to direct my letters, for the last, which was to send them on Thursday, is so blotted, I fear to mistake, therefore this is by the post to assure you I am very faithfully yours, &c.

9 February, 1686-7.

R. R.

Ash Wednesday.

Lord Newport † gave up his staff on Tuesday. The gazette this day says lord Waldegrave has the lord Mainard's; and lord Yarmouth Newport's ‡ staff. Prince George is ill of a fever. Both

lady Anne Sophia, born 10 May, 1686; the last died, Feb. 2, 1686-7; and the other Feb. 8; William, duke of Gloucester, a very hopeful prince, born in 1689, died in 1700: prince George of Denmark, with whom she lived in matchless love and content, died, to her unspeakable grief, in Oct. 1708; a prince universally beloved and lamented.—Hist. of the Royal Family. Queen Anne, who during the whole course of her marriage had been a most tender and affectionate wife to him, in his last illness, which lasted some years, would never leave his bed, but sat up sometimes half the night in bed with him, with such care and concern, that she was looked on very deservedly as a pattern of conjugal affection. She was also a prudent indulgent mother.—Tindal.

\* Benefield, probably sir Henry Bedingfield, lord chief justice of the Common Pleas.

† Francis lord Newport, afterwards earl of Bradford, married Diana, sister to William earl (duke) of Bedford.

‡ William Paston, earl of Yarmouth, treasurer

the children were opened; the eldest was all consumed, but the youngest very sound, and likely to live.

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## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I MUST keep still to Friday, since I have not a new direction from you, as I asked by the post last week. I will not repeat the sad intelligence I gave you then, because I am sure you cannot be without the information now.

The good princess has taken her chastisement heavily; the first relief of that sorrow proceeded from the threatening of a greater, the prince being ill. I never heard any relation more moving than that of seeing them together. Sometimes they wept, sometimes they mourned; in a word, then sat silent, hand in hand; he sick in his bed, and she the carefullest nurse to him that can be imagined. As soon as he was able, they both went to Richmond, which was on Tuesday last.

My sister continues still at lady Harvey's, much afflicted at her loss; it seems as if they would not return again at this time to Montague-house, but take some house near Windsor. Her daughter is still with me, but the boy at Montague-house; though now very well, he is not suffered to go further than the next room; the present terror upon loss of the other has occasioned more care for him than was necessary. This is a fine lively child; I hope God will spare it to them to their comfort, and not in wrath, as sometimes one would judge

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of the household, married the lady Charlotte Jemima Henrietta Maria Boyle, or Fitzroy, natural daughter to Charles II. by Elizabeth Killegrew.



children are. We little know what we earnestly ask for, when we do so for the lives of children or friends.

The king refuses audience to monsieur Dykvelt, till matters are adjusted with his new ambassador in Holland, for he has not had his yet. The ministers have been to visit this, that is, lord Sunderland \*, for he is as the whole. Every one has their guess what his business is, but all together are of one mind, that he might as well have stayed away for any advantage he will have in his journey. 'Tis supposed lord Clarendon † is kept in Ireland by the winds, as the other was in England. There is great astonishment amongst that people, lord Ormond yet walking with his white staff ‡. The reports are divers: some say he has answered the question unmannerly; but the king told him, in consideration of his age, he should wear his staff; others are apt to think he will be absent; and more are of this last opinion, as also that the parliament shall continue still to be prorogued. The lord Sunderland said to that effect a few days ago; but the words of ministers are not easily understood in their true meaning.

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\* Robert Spencer, earl of Sunderland, said to be the greatest politician of his age.—Brit. Comp.

† Henry Hide, earl of Clarendon, displaced; earl of Tyrconnel made lord deputy of Ireland.

‡ Duke of Ormond was steward of the household; he died 26 July, 1688, eminent for zeal, loyalty, and fidelity. His son, Thomas earl of Ossory, honoured and esteemed by all for his courage, virtue, and many excellent qualities, died 1679; by his lady, Amelia de Nassau, he left several children; his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married to James Stanley, earl of Derby. He defended his father's conduct in parliament with spirit and success.

The talk is great that France will early in the spring fall into Alsace, but my French friends will not allow it; they agree he would fain make a peace of the truce, and fright them into it (if nothing else will do) with the threats of a war, yet will engage in none.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

18 Feb. 1686-7.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE is so much reason, doctor, to think that time well spent is so in reading your excellent letters, that 'tis time lost to spend any in telling you I esteem it to such a height, I shall be very defective in expressing, if I went about it. But you must conclude one knows nothing of good or bad, and is contented with that sordid ignorance, before you can believe what you write is read with indifference; and since you have conceived better thoughts of me, I will hope (notwithstanding my many frailties) you will never find cause to let them sink so low as to doubt whether I use some strict care to be prepared for all future events, and to receive with thankfulness the counsel and instruction of good and wise men, whose friendship, zeal, and compassion dispose them with painful labour and pious arts, to win us to that is infinitely best for us. I often think, could but this single particular be fixed firmly in our hearts, that God knows where 'tis best to place his creatures, and is good to all, delighting not to punish what he has made, how easily and safely could we live by rule, and despise the world; not as perhaps I do, because I cannot recover what was a perpetual bliss to me here, but as considering we are strangers and pil-

grims upon earth, travelling to a better country, and therefore may well bear with bad accommodations sometimes in our way to it. None are so dealt with, I believe, as not to live some days of joy, yet we can lay no claim to do so, nor are the happiest here below without tasting the bitter cup of affliction at some time of their life; so imperfect is this state, and doubtless wisely and mercifully ordered so, that through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may be the most apt to thrust forward towards, and in the end (with inexpressible joy) attain, that state, where, as you express it, we shall feel no more storms, but enjoy a perpetual calm. What can be more! The thought clasps one's heart, and causes the imprisoned soul to long to take her flight! But 'tis our duty to wait with patience each of us our appointed time.

My sister is just now at Mr. Winwood's, by Windsor; when she comes back, I shall make her know how much you have considered her; and I pray God to lay it close to her heart, that she may retire into the strengths of grace, the more sincerely she is assaulted with discomfits here. She has a fine lovely boy left. The poor princess continues still at Richmond, too sad I fear.

Monsieur Dykvelt had his audience on Monday, and was retired with the king half an hour in his closet. He is allowed to be a man of parts and integrity: what his business is, every one is left to his own guess as yet\*.

Lord Clarendon landed on Monday last: 'tis affirmed the new governor lays heavy weight on him, as that he leaves the people under great discouragements, occasioned by the sad stories he has told them, and using all arguments to bring them away by whole families; that in a little time he did

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\* Dykvelt's instructions were drawn up by Dr. Burnet.—History of his Own Times, p. 708.

not doubt to reassume them, when they would be made sensible no harm was meant to them.

The king is marrying the lady Mary Tudor to one Mr. Radcliffe\*, a gentleman of great estate in the North, and ancient family; a papist.

Sir John Talbot is to be made a lord presently: the king says he finds him to be a gentleman of better understanding than almost any he knows in England, and judges him to be a person of integrity; which is more than can be pronounced of Mr. Jenkins † of the north, heir to an estate of 1200 pounds per annum.

He was accused as the author of lady Mary Pawlet's grievous misfortune, but with great asseverations he denied it to persons of the best quality that were concerned for her; yet now owns himself her husband more than a year past. Enough of so bad a story. Lord Northampton on Monday last presented, on the bishop's behalf, a petition to the king, to which there is yet no answer. The ‡ peti-

\* Sir Francis Ratcliff, of Dilston, Northumberland, married the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to Charles II. by Mary Davis. He was created earl of Derwentwater, March, 1687-8.

† Toby Jenkins, Esq. of Grimston, Yorkshire, married lady Elizabeth Pawlet, youngest daughter of Charles marquis of Winchester (afterwards duke of Bolton). Lady Mary died unmarried.—Brit. Comp.

‡ George Compton, earl of Northampton, nephew to Henry bishop of London, a family eminently distinguished for their courage and loyalty to Charles I. and II. The bishop (Burnet says) applied himself more to his function than bishops had commonly done; he was an humble and modest man (a friend to the Revolution); he was suspended *ab officio*, 26 September, 1686, by the high commission, for refusing to suspend Dr. John Sharpe, as

tion contained no more than expressing a deep sense of lying under the king's displeasure, and begging that might be taken off. They say a declaration will presently come out, to show the king's dispensing power \*. Mr. Savil was yesterday morning in the king's closet.—The event is expected. Many are persuaded the French king is bent for action this spring; my French friends will not allow it. If my paper did not put me in mind, I know not how long I should have rambled on. Room must be left for all my good things: the best turkey, the best pork and cheese that can be eat: the last bit of pork eat last night. This is not lent-fare, doctor.

25 February, 1686-7.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ALTHOUGH I take your life, good doctor, to be a continual doing good to souls, and am very certain you would not exclude mine from the best benefits you can help it with; and therefore, from the general course of your actions, do rely upon being profited

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directed by the king, the doctor having preached on controversial points, contrary to the king's letter prohibiting it. The bishop's petition was ineffectual; his suspension not being taken off till 30 September, 1688. Sharpe, whom Burnet calls a very pious man, and says he read his sermons with much life and zeal, was, in 1691, consecrated archbishop of York.

\* February 12, 1686-7, a proclamation for liberty of conscience in Scotland. April 4, 1687, king James Second's declaration suspending the penal laws and test.



by your precepts, examples, and pious prayers; yet I know myself to owe you, as one you have distinguished from others by your particular labours, to make my sorrowful soul find comfort in what true joys are only to be found. Therefore, if I knew how, I would, both in my actions and words, make my acknowledgments distinguished from others. I know of what sort they are you would like best; to preserve myself with better care to receive those comforts you can but externally administer, with prayer, that God by his good spirit would deal inwardly in our hearts, and work his work of grace upon us; then we should do mighty things. I am sorry for my unaptness, and sometimes think, that certainly in my more pleasant days, I lived as if I knew no higher delight, and 'tis that makes my separation still so bitter to me, that, to my shame and sorrow, I must confess to you my heart seems so bound down to a perpetual sadness, that even the solemnity of this blessed time, which calls for our most exalted praises, could not stir it, nor yet does it melt at the meditations of my dear Saviour's suffering for sinners; but a flood of tears are ever ready, when I permit the least thought of my calamity. This is matter of great humiliation, and, I hope, I make it such; and must rest in doing the duty, till God sees it fit to let me know better refreshments, and taste of those joys in which his servants are often so transported; but I will wait with a quiet submission.

Here has appeared no great changes since you went; the liberty of conscience is so notorious a matter, I meddle not with it, confining myself to lower matters, as I may tell you. He who was admiral Herbert\* is forbid to go out of England.

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\* Arthur Herbert, created earl of Torrington, 1689, by king William, for his great services; being pressed by king James II. to vote the repeal of the

Mr. Forester, who has been in Holland some considerable time, is sent for by a privy seal.

There is a sheet of paper writ, as the king has said, by doctor Burnet, to give reasons against taking away the test. It is hard to get; when I have it you shall see it. Some think it is not Burnet's\*.

The prince and princess have consented to see him no more. Lady Rochester† lies still in a languishing condition. Lord Peterborough‡ is declared a Roman Catholic: the report is, two more, the chancellor§ and lord president||, will next Sunday. I remember no more, so leave you to the gazette, ever continuing your real friend, &c.

1 April, 1687.

R. R.

test, he told the king that he could not do it in honour or in conscience; and though he was poor and had much to lose (having places to the value of 4000*l.* a year), yet he would choose to lose them all, rather than comply. He was accordingly deprived of his commission, and went to Holland to the prince of Orange.

\* Burnet wrote the reasons against repealing the test.

† Henrietta, daughter of Richard Boyle, earl of Burlington and Corke, wife of Lawrence Hide, earl of Rochester.

‡ Henry Mordaunt, earl of Peterborough; he died without issue male, 1697.

§ Jefferies.

|| Earl of Sunderland.



## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By Dr. Fitzwilliam's letter from Windsor, I have a demonstration to add to many others, that he remembers me wherever he is. A piece of paper which I scribbled out to you, lies, I believe, at your house at Cotenham. However foolish a thing it may be to say, the head-ach has hindered me again writing to you, since I knew you to be at Windsor, yet so it is: it is God's will I should be something more afflicted with bodily pains than for some late years I have been. I am well contented, and hope he will not lay them so heavy as to disable me from my duties to my family, that is my great request; for truly I am totally disabled when I have those pains upon me. However, this last fit was not so fierce; as I was indulging to myself, out of great care not to disappoint an afternoon journey into the country, which the company would not make without me, therefore for two or three days till yesterday was past, would not do any thing might increase the pain. 'Tis now over, and I am pretty well this morning; but being uncertain whether you would read this or not, by reason of your journey to Cotenham, I write only to tell you, you have a just title to all my best wishes, and consequently to the best recommendations I can make in my imperfect prayers for you under all hardships upon you. And now I will fold up the gazettes, and till the holy week is past, bid you adieu, recommending ever me and mine to your thoughts in your choicest hours.

May, 1687.

R. R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE morning I left London I received a letter from you, dated 30 May, which informed me of your good intentions to have seen me at this place, if I could have kept mine of being here a week sooner than I was. To have met at my first coming so pious and so kind a friend would have been an advantage to me I am not at all worthy of, who entertain with so heavy a heart those many and great mercies God still preserves to me his murmuring servant, who am indeed brimful with the memory of that unfortunate and miserable change in my own condition, since I lived regularly here before.

The poor children are well pleased to be a little while in a new place, ignorant how much better it has been, both to me and them; yet I thought I found Rachel not insensible, and I could not but be content with it in my mind. Those whose age can afford them any remembrance, should, methinks, have some solemn thoughts for so irreparable a loss to themselves and family; though after that I would cherish a cheerful temper in them with all the industry I can; for sure we please our Maker best, when we take all his providences with a cheerful spirit.

Lord Camden has sent to see me, but whether I shall see him or no, I can't tell. I find my time is spent, so will put up the gazettes, and bid you adieu for this time, ever continuing your faithful friend, &c.

R. R.

My sister Alington, her sister, and daughter Alington, and my brother Robert, have made me a visit of two days. I am thankful, though I wished

it longer. I hear Mr. Cheek is put from the Tower, and sir — Hales \* in his place.

Stratton, 13 June, 1687.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE just received yours of the 21st; seasonable enough it comes to me, this being the eve of the sad day that ushered in the great calamity of my life; the same day my dear lord was carried from his house, I entertained the sad assurance of quickly after losing the sight of him for ever in this world; what the manner of it will be in the next is dark and unknown to us; 'tis enough that we shall be happy eternally.

I think you judge amiss, good doctor, that because those excellent rules and discourses I have by me do not fix me in a better (by a more settled) state of comfort, therefore your presence would not have had some useful influence. Our senses are quick, and a reflection as soon made as an object is presented; also the inconvenience of indulging it is as soon confessed when a reasoning friend is present; but we cannot have recourse to papers, and will not, or cannot, being before prepossessed, recollect by memory, and make application just then. However, doctor, though I am not cured, my ill is less inveterate than sure it would have been without your pious labours.

I spoke with Mr. Nutt about the printing them, and he put me in mind of the hopes I had given him

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\* Sir Edward Hales, a papist, had a regiment of foot, and was made lieutenant of the Tower.



of the employment; to which I answered, I could not do that till you was in town.

My house is full of company; to-morrow being Sunday, I purpose to sanctify it, if my griefs unhallow it not by unjustifiable passions; and having given some hours to privacy in the morning, live in my house as on other days, doing my best to be tolerably composed. 'Tis my first trial; for all these sad years past I have dispensed with the seeing any body, or till late at night; sometimes I could not avoid that without a singularity I do not affect. There are three days I like best to give up to reflection; the day my lord was parted from his family, that of his trial, and the day he was released from all the evils of this perishing world\*.

I thank you again, good doctor, for your seasonable prayer. It may be this shall be the last letter I send you from hence, though I stay till Monday se'nnight; variety of care and little affairs 'tis possible may prevent other exercises I stand more inclined to. When I come to Woborne, if no sooner, I will again repeat that I hold myself to be,

25 June, 1687.

R. R.

Miss Montague is with me.

I hope breeding prevents my seeing my sister.

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\* Lord Russell was arrested June 26, tried July 13, and beheaded July 21, 1683.

THE PRINCESS OF ORANGE TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

I DID not expect so many thanks, my lady Russell, as I find in your letter by Mr. Dykvelt, who has said so much to me of all the marks of kindness you showed both to the prince and myself, that I should be ashamed not to have answered it sooner, but that you know one is not always provided with an opportunity of sending letters safely, of which indeed I am as much to seek now as ever, but hoping Mrs. Herbert will sooner find one than I, I resolve to leave this with her, not knowing when it may come to you, but whenever it does, pray do me the justice to believe, that I have all the esteem for you which so good a character deserves, as I have heard given you by all people both before I left England and since I have been here. And have had as much pity as any could have of the sad misfortunes you have had, with much more compassion when they happen to persons who deserve so well, and yet those are they we often see the most unlucky in the world, as you find by experience; but I hope your son will live to be a comfort to you, which under God, I believe, will be the best you can have. As for myself, I can only assure both you and my lord of Bedford, that I should be very glad it lay in my power to do you any kindness; the same I can answer for the prince; and indeed you have expressed so much for us both to Mr. Dykvelt, that if it were possible it would increase the esteem I had before for you, which I shall be very glad of any occasion to show, and more to be better known to you, that I might persuade you myself of the desire I have that you should be one of my friends.

Honslerdyke, 12 July, 1687.

MARIE.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD doctor, I can still but do the same thing over again, thank you infinitely for all your good deeds to me. I must observe to you how kindly Providence (I will imitate you, and not call it chance) disposes of your letters to my hands. I read yours of 11 July on the 20th, the eve of that day—I will not suffer my hand to write, fatal, because the blow struck on it was that which gave eternal rest to my beloved friend. I do not contend on these days with frail nature, but keep her as innocent as I can. And now having laid all my sorrows at the foot of the throne of grace, I allow some of the remaining portion of my time to what disposes me best to cool my thoughts and entertain a tired mind, writing where I may do it freely; where my weakness shall be pitied, not censured; yet I shall be short, being forced to admit an interruption, not a welcome one this day; lady Sunderland \* in her way to Windsor making a visit, which I refused not in the afternoon to receive. To my best I took the method you offered me, and I must tell you, that when I came to that part of your letter, where you put the case, if my heart tells me so, as indeed it does, I made a full stop, and would read no further till I had considered, and accused myself: then I compared how you had stated it for me, and found it just the same in matter. I had made him my idol though I did not know it; loved man too much, and God too little; yet my constant

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\* Lady Sunderland, daughter of George Digby, earl of Bristol, who, though a Roman catholic, in 1673, spoke in favour of the Test Bill in general, as proper at that time, declaring himself a catholic of the church, but not of the court of Rome.

prayer was not to do so ; but not enough fervent I doubt. I will turn the object of my love all I can upon his loved children, and if I may be directed and blessed in their education, what is it I have to ask in relation to this perishing world for myself ? 'Tis joy and peace in believing that I covet, having nothing to fear but sin.

This must find you at Windsor, so my letter shall be the shorter ; I know how you will be taken up there. I perceive your business is a friendly charity : 'tis a happy thing to be going about doing good ; may you do so long, doctor. I hope you will find my sister carrying on a great belly.

I will ever remain, &c.

21 July, 1687.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOURS of the 28th September telling me you will be long enough at the Bath, to be told that you are kindly remembered by your friends, I desire, good doctor, to be one of those that do so, and esteem myself much obliged to you for taking a portion out of your time (to let me know you thought on me) when it was so precious, as I take time to be to travellers. I wish you all the benefit of the waters you wish yourself ; the same I do assure you, sir, in all other occurrences of your life. It seems I must remit seeing you, as you once kindly intended. When I received your services to them, the lady and mistress of Herseheath were both here ; they left us last Thursday, but I guess you may meet them at London, about the beginning of the term. My sister says she intends but a week's stay. I am in expectation to see my niece Digby in her way to Warwickshire ; she sends me

word she will dine here, and give me a sight of her little boy. Lord Camden and his lady have been at Bremen with their cousin Kingston\*. I am told the two cousins agree the country is a dull place in winter. I am easily drawn to believe my lord Gainsborough might be sensible of a change at Titchfield, finding a mistress of it, and remembering those he had known there before; but almost all changes seem strange, yet this world we are so apt to dote upon is a perpetual passing from one thing to another, and rarely to more pleasing objects. But 'tis our duty to be contented with all—a hard task sometimes, doctor.

I hear the French king, as a finishing stroke, is preparing an edict which all new converts shall sign; though so weak as to have signed before, yet they must now again, how they have been instructed, and are in their hearts convinced, of the doctrine and practice of the Roman church, even to the article of transubstantiation, that their sufferings have not been for religion, but their disobedience to the king's commands.

Doctor Burnet is outlawed in Scotland, and I am told a few days before (he knew it would be so) he invited all his friends to dinner, and after that was over took his solemn leave of them, resolved to converse no more with them †.

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\* William Pierrepont, earl of Kingston, married Anne, eldest daughter to Robert Greville, lord Brook; and lord Camden, Wriothsley Baptist (afterwards earl of Gainsborough), married Catharine, eldest daughter to Fulk lord Brook, Robert's brother.

† King James II. provoked at Burnet's papers, (viz. Remarks on the Earl of Melfort's Letter to the Scotch Presbyterian Ministers.—Apology for the Church of England.—Reasons against repealing the Test.—Reflections on the Proclamation for Tole-



I can easily and with much satisfaction spend much time with you, but for expedition's sake, having an opportunity to send this by one just going to London, I will add no more than to sign a great truth, that I am, &c.

5 Oct. 1687. ,

R. R.

I have a large bundle of gazettes can easily be conveyed to London; but then you are at no leisure to read them, so unless you send for them, their resting place will be at Woborne.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ALTHOUGH your letter, good doctor, is dated 15th October, I read it not till the 20th, having received that with many others so late, I believe it was past midnight before I had done; yours was not the last neither, for when I had run over my common and impertinent ones (such I term compliments of course or feigned ones), I hastened to yours; indeed you make me greater compliments than any body else; but I have no charge against you for doing so; what they exceed in I must bring the

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ration in Scotland.—Reflections on his Majesty's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience concerning Religion, &c.) and his making pretensions to a lady of fortune at the Hague, ordered a process against him in Scotland for high treason, which came at last to an outlawry. Burnet published the citation with his answers, and three letters to the earl of Middleton.—Also an Inquiry into the Reasons for abrogating the Test imposed on all Members of Parliament, offered by Samuel (Oxon) Parker.

accusation against myself. The near and pleasing concern you make the well being of me and mine to be to you, I believe most hearty and sincere, and kindly engages me to great thankfulness; but amongst your choicest expressions, you are induced to say you could rather envy my condition than pity it, from an opinion of being supported and comforted, with a well-grounded persuasion of my having a right and title to those precious promises, that will give a pleasant and perpetual rest to the weary and heavy laden soul. This, doctor, is perhaps what you mistake in; and I have led you into the error by speaking too well of my own thoughts or exercises, which are truly all mean, and encompassed with uncomfortable weakness; yet I have not the confusion to reflect I have said any thing from a false glory; I should, if I can discern right, wrong my own heart by it, and that grace of God which disposes me, though in the meanest degree, to ask for, and thirst after such comforts as the world cannot give. What it can give I am most sure I have felt, and experienced them uncertain and perishing; such I will never more (grace assisting) look after; and yet I expect a joyful day, after some more mournful ones; and though I walk sadly through the valley of death, I will fear no evil, humbling myself under the mighty hand of God, who will save in the day of trouble: he knows my sorrows and the weakness of my person, I commit myself and mine to him.

I had, as you guess, doctor, the satisfaction of seeing lady Digby, and her prosperous son, and hope she will maintain that house with an honourable and virtuous race. Lord Tiviot has been here two days of this week, full fraught with stories out of Hampshire, some of them too much at the expense of such as must ever have a title to my best wishes, which fetched sighs from me. Yet the beauty of Providence should reconcile us to all sorts of dispensations. I have sent a large packet of

gazettes; and have no other papers, I believe, you have not seen. If I had that which you mention of Remarks upon the Declaration, I have mislaid it, or 'tis taken away \*. Another paper sent me with

\* ' Letter to a Dissenter on the Declaration of Indulgence,' wrote by George Saville, marquis of Halifax, who was made lord privy seal by king William, and died 1695. He wrote also the ' Anatomy of an Equivalent.' Reresby says, in 1685 (Nov.) he was dismissed from the office of president of the council; being generally esteemed a wise man and an excellent subject, the removal of him injected a fear that a change of councils was in consequence to ensue a change of counsellors. He adds, ' I conducted a gentleman to my lord Halifax to ask his pardon for some things he had been reported to have said against his lordship; in good policy we ought to suffer no man to be our enemy if we can possibly avoid it; but such was his lordship's natural disposition, that in the whole course of my life, I never knew a man more ready at all times to forgive, and shall never forget his expression upon this occasion—' Sir, if you did not say the words, I am very glad of it; and even if you did, I am glad you find cause to be of another mind.' '

In the reign of James II. many pieces were written for and against liberty of conscience; one in 1685, intituled ' A short Discourse upon the Reasonableness of Men's having a Religion, &c. by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.' Ralph says, that on 16th April, 1687, he died in neglect, and almost in obscurity, at his house in Yorkshire, the prodigal son of a most rapacious father, who was visited with wealth, beauty, parts, dignity, place, and power, only to show their eminent insignificance, when unaccompanied with wisdom and virtue. He had above 30,000*l.* a year at the re-

the Letter to the Dissenter, vanished, so that I never read it; that kind of title has kept it in my head ever since. Your curiosity, doctor, is sure blameless, though very mean are most of the amusements of a life to endure so little a while, as the longest is upon earth.

The result of the matter of Magdalen College is known to you before this, and will be to us here, I hope, to-morrow\*.

I am glad my sister has the advantage of so good company as yourself in her solitude, so I reckon Windsor now, and suppose her lord makes frequent visits to London; there I expect to meet you when

storage; at last 2500*l.* a year was all he had left; much too little for his profuse way of living. He took with him a company of ruffians into Yorkshire; got money from the tenants by force; was guilty of a riot at an inn, and died. The family and estate expired in the second generation.—Oldmixon.

\* The king ordered the vice-president and fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, to choose one Farmer their president; they elected Dr. John Hough (afterwards bishop); the ecclesiastical commissioners, with Cartwright (the time-serving bishop of Chester) at their head, declared the election void; then the king sent a second mandate for them to choose Samuel Parker, bishop of Oxford (who wrote for the repeal of the test, a man covetous, ambitious, and proud, and seemed, says Burnet, to have no other sense of religion but a politic interest); on their refusal, sentence of expulsion was pronounced against the fellows by visitors the king appointed, and by the ecclesiastical commissioners they were disabled to hold any church preferments.—Salmon.

December is begun, that am your obliged sincere servant,

22 Oct. 1687.

R. R.

We have just heard the very ill news of the princess's miscarriage. God comfort her, poor lady.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

'Tis a reproach to myself, good doctor, that I have not once since you went given you this mark of my respect; but it has come to pass, I think, from an invincible necessity; nothing else can excuse it to myself, and that I know will to you, who I believe will not soon accuse me of a crime I intend never to deserve to have laid to my charge. The truth is, sir, the great affair you know me engaged in takes up both my time and thoughts. Many difficulties are met with by the manner of the settlements, and yet not got over: one week more I hope will make me guess at the issue.

This day Miss Noel is made a wife, and my girls are but just come from the ceremony; I should have spoke properly to have said yesterday, for I hear it strike one o'clock, yet I had company would sit to see my girls come home; and I could not leave this to be written to-morrow, for I am to be in my coach at seven o'clock to dine with my sister Montague at Windsor.

The news most talked of is, the king has sent to call over the English forces out of Holland; the French papers will tell the rest. The town is full of what you or I have little to do with, balls and



rejoicings\*. 'Tis time to close this from yours,  
&c.

27 Jan. 1687-8.

R. R.

One o'clock in the morning.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM

JUST after I had retrieved time enough to scribble to you, and enclose some French papers, I received yours of 24th Jan. which though you would not term it such, I made as a sort of kind reproof, and indeed I had a guilt upon me, that it might justly be so, for I am ready to own I have received obligations enough from doctor Fitzwilliam to make me careful to give him the mean content of such letters as mine. But in earnest I am in a great and constant hurry, from my careful endeavours to do my duty to my child, and to my friend, sister Margaret Russell †, which, by God's grace, I design to do as cordially as to my children. I meet with many difficulties in both; yet, in my girl's, there is no stop but such as the former settlements cause, which from any we can learn of yet, will hinder a conclusion till he is sixteen.

I thank you, good doctor, for your kind offer,

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\* On the 23d Dec. 1687, a proclamation issued, appointing the 15 January to be observed as a thanksgiving for the queen's being with child, within the bills of mortality; and the 29th of January in the rest of the churches of England.

† Lady Rachel's intended marriage, and lord Strafford's addresses to lady Margaret Russell.

which, whether I accept or not, I am sure I shall do all in a kind respect to you, and preserve the sense of your esteem to me and mine, and shall be sorry if I make not use of it in the way you desire I would take liberty to do.

I trust, if I perfect this great work, my careful endeavours will prosper; only the Almighty knows what the event shall be; but sure 'tis a glimmering of light I did not look for in my dark day. I do often repeat in my thoughts, the children of the just shall be blessed: I am persuaded their father was such; and if my heart deceive me not, I intend the being so, and humbly bless God for it.

I can send you no good news; the best (in my opinion at least) is, if true what some say, we shall have no war, nor parliament. Here was lately great talk of setting out twenty sail to join the French fleet; many are divided about a parliament, whether one shall be called or not. My boy said at dinner, 'tis a year of great wars, marriages, and robbing. To make good the second, 'tis reported lord Halifax is treating for the lord Kent's son, and lady Essex for lord Carlisle's\*. Something of both I fancy there is. Some murders here have been, which no doubt have reached you before this will. But there is a private piece of news I know you will be sorry for. Poor lord Gainsborough was seized on Tuesday was se'nnight with a dead palsy all on one side; his speech returned quickly, and the last news was, he was much mended, had stirred his leg, but not his arm, and my niece writ they feared he did not see with the eye on that side, but were loath to ask, for fear of disheartening him: if we hear he has passed a week, I hope he may recover to some degree.

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\* Charles Howard, afterwards earl of Carlisle, married lady Elizabeth Capel, only surviving daughter of Arthur earl of Essex.

Queen dowager's \* resolutions for Portugal can't be new to you ; it occasions much talk ; her humour and way of living not warning any to suspect she would retire out of the world. Lord Oxford has at last his regiment taken from him †. It is said the king told him, he did not do it in regard to his religion, but his factiousness of mind, for his majesty would have the test. The queen goes on prosperously ; has seen two plays at Whitehall. Now you have all the reports I can make, I take my leave, and turn you to the gazettes. Here are some pamphlets, but I know not if you care to have them sent this way, and perhaps you have them already ; as, Reflections on Fagell's Letter ; also, Reflections on the Relation of the English Reformation, lately printed at Oxford ‡. I am, good doctor, yours, &c.

10 Feb. 1687-8.

R. R.

The late audience at court was new ; Dominicans in their habits as ambassadors from Cologne. Corker § that was tried is the chief, and is to live here at St. James's or Lincoln's-inn-fields ; for the papists have bought lord Barkley's in the one place, and lady Bath's in the other.

\* Catharine, queen dowager of Charles II., did not go to Portugal till March 30, 1692.

† Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford, who died in 1703, without male issue.

‡ Fagell's letter contained the prince and princess of Orange's sentiments and objections against the repealing the test.

§ James Corker, a (Benedictine) monk, was tried for being concerned in the popish plot, but acquitted in July, 1679.—Salmon.

PRINCESS OF ORANGE \* TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

I HOPE my lady Russell will do me the justice to believe I would not have kept three of the letters so long without answering, had I not wanted an opportunity of sending mine. But I hope Mr. Russell

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\* A princess more conspicuous for her personal accomplishments of understanding and disposition, than her external dignity. She died 28th December, 1694, in her 33d year. Burnet says, she was a singular instance of conjugal affection, insomuch that when it was put to her, what she intended the prince should be, if she came to the crown; her answer was, that the rule and authority should be his, for she only desired that he would obey the command of husbands, love your wives; as she should do that of wives, be obedient to your husbands in all things. King William told archbishop Tension, that he could not but grieve since he had lost a wife, who in seventeen years had never been guilty of an indiscretion. She had no relish for those indolent diversions which are too common consumers of most people's time, and which make as great wastes on their minds, as they do on their fortunes. She was a perfect example of conjugal love, chastity, and obedience. By her example, it became as much a fashion among the ladies of quality to work, as it had been formerly to be idle. She thought it a barbarous diversion which resulted from the misfortunes, imperfections, or follies of others. She had read the best books in English, French, and Dutch, which were almost equally familiar to her—but gave the most of her retired hours to the reading of the Scriptures, and books relating to them.

who brought me one, will find a way to send this to you, for I can stay no longer from desiring you to make no more excuses for writing. If you knew the esteem I have for you, you would be persuaded your letters could not be too troublesome; and since you will make me believe 'tis some satisfaction to you, I shall desire you to continue, for I assure you I am extreme glad to contribute any way I can to that. I hope this match of your daughter's will afford you all the joy and comfort you can desire. I don't question but you have made a very good choice; and since I wish so well to my lord Devonshire, I can't but be glad 'tis his son, believing you will have taught your daughter, after your own example, to be so good a wife, that lord Cavendish can't choose but be very happy with her. I assure you I wish it with all my heart, and if that could contribute any thing to your content, you may be sure of as much as 'tis possible for you to have; and not only my wishes, but upon all occasions I shall be glad to show more than by words, the esteem I have for you.

Hague, 13 February, 1687-8.

MARIE.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE read your letter enough to know your thoughts upon several matters, but not as I would do deliberately, or to examine how heartily I join with you in every point; nor will I defer writing till I do; though I never had less time (if so little) at my own disposal; so that unless I despatch this, 'tis very likely I may delay till next post. I meet with hard difficulties in the lawyers' hands; we are forced to be with a great many of that profession, which is very troublesome at this time to me, who



would fain be delivered from them, conclude my affair, and so put some period to that inroad methinks I make in my intended manner of living the rest of my days on earth. But I hope my duty shall always prevail above the strongest inclination I have. I believe, to assist my yet helpless children is my business; which makes me take many dinners abroad, and do of that nature many things, the performance of which is hard enough to a heavy and weary mind; but yet I bless God I do it.

Letters came out of Holland on Wednesday night, which, in as respectful terms as is possible in that case, refuse to send the troops, saying, they have cost them a great deal, they are threatened on all hands, and know of no capitulation which obliges them to send them, the king being quiet at home and abroad. But if his majesty had occasion, they would soon send them, and many more to his aid; and for such officers as would retire from them they were at liberty.

I have been told the king should say, Amsterdam had better intentions, but the parts of the States prevailed, who, perhaps, had a mind to quarrel, but seemed to imply he had none. This piece of news I would insert, though I have a man of business by me, whom I must speak to when I have closed this.

Sister Alington has sold her house to lord Bristow, so is kept still in town. Lady Manchester was married last Wednesday to a fourth son\* of

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\* Charles Montague, afterwards earl of Halifax, descended from a younger branch of the Manchester family; he had the reputation of a fine taste, and of being master of polite literature, as well as an encourager of men of parts and learning. His skill as a speaker and manager was unquestionable; he had a part in writing the *British Merchant*, in opposition to D. De Foe's *Mercator*.—Tindal.

George Montague, a man of twenty-four; the same was said to have writ the answer to the Hind and Panther. Lord Gainsborough is better. I have writ your compliments this morning to sister Montague.

Next week you shall have the letters you ask for, and the Reflections on the Reformer. I do not justify the sharpness of them; though I wish him very well that is guilty of the fault, the other justly deserves it.

17 February, 1687-8.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Good doctor, take my good-will in good part; if I were not mightily employed this morning, I should not send you so short a letter, but I enclose the gazettes. I know no news worth sending down; the talk is, three new regiments shall be raised; lord Salisbury and Abergavenny are talked of. A new memorial is sent into Holland concerning the forces. Rachel's affair is creeping forward; my next, I believe, will tell you more. 'Tis not very considerable, but 'tis very true, that I am doctor Fitzwilliam's faithful and kind friend and servant,

2 March, 1687-8.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You are the most encouraging doctor I ever knew. If I went fast in that affair which perhaps takes up my thoughts too much, I believe you

would seek and find some parallel to comfort me in my proceedings, which I am apt enough to think are done with a very poor conduct. Certainly to work alone, as it's said, so it often leaves one doubtful, but none can do more than they are fitted for; my will is with the best, I am sure, and my hope is great that I am assisted with the best Director of our minds, and Disposer of all events: so I go quietly on, desire great diligence in all my actions, and expect by that slowness you so well approve of, to discover at one time what I cannot in another, that so I may complete this great work with as few errors as I can reasonably expect to make. I have a well-bred lord to deal with, yet inflexible, if the point is not to his advantage. I am to meet him this morning at eleven o'clock at the lawyer's chambers, proposing to give a finishing stroke to the agreement between us, and then the deeds will be drawn in a few more weeks, I hope, and this matter perfected. That of lady Margaret is to lord Strafford. God knows there are many exceptions, but the gentleman is a worthy, honest man, and made an indulgent husband to the earl of Derby's daughter. He is afflicted with stone and gout\*.

I could not have imagined the accident of the penknife would have proved so bad a business; you must owe it to your own neglect; and your

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\* William Wentworth, earl of Strafford, married first, lady Mary Stanley, daughter to James earl of Derby, who, and lord Strafford's father, were both beheaded; the latter was the greatest subject in power, not less in wisdom, and little less in fortune, at that time in the three kingdoms.—Brit. Comp. His second wife was Henrietta Du Roy before mentioned. The match with lady Margaret Russell did not succeed. (He died in 1695, without issue.) She was married to admiral Russell.

happy and profitable reflections upon it, to the goodness of God.

I now send you the book you would have; there are two sheets more as answers, or resolutions to the bishop of Oxford: one sheet treats of idolatry; the other of transubstantiation, more loosely writ than the first; the party, I hope, stands corrected. I can't yet procure a sight of them, for more time than I just took to read them, the bulk of them being seized. But there is a Treatise of the Nature of Idolatry, which eclipses all others, as the wise say; if you want it I will send it next week; as also a *Parliamentum Pacificum* \*, which is hugely cried up.

You know my appointment, and while I am thus employed have something to do to remember it. I am undressed at ten o'clock. Good doctor, I am, &c.

16 March, 1687-8.

R. R.

Nothing but one so unthoughtful as myself could forget to thank you for your cheeses; when eating will not remember one, I know not what can. All our supping company are your servants.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I CANNOT omit this, because I know I shall gain true, and the best advantages by it; what is our own

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\* *Parliamentum Pacificum*, or the happy Union of King and People in an healing Parliament, asserting Fagel's letter to be a forgery, or at least not approved by the prince and princess. Burnet confuted this in his *Reflections on Parliamentum Pacificum*.

interest we are seldom wanting to ourselves in. That which I expect from you, you will know when I tell you Rachel is now ill of the measles, which in your best hours I desire you will remember, with praises for her hopeful condition; 'tis the third day, so I hope the danger is over, but bad effects so often follow afterwards, my fears still continue: yet I trust God will direct and bless my care. I will add no more, but in haste sign a truth very heartily, that I am your constant friend, &c.

23 March, 1687-8.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

'TIS so late before I sit down to write, that I would let it alone, if I did not mistrust doctor Fitzwilliam has concern enough for me to be uneasy, if I do not tell him how Rachel does, after having given him the report of her being ill of the measles. I bless God for it (with all the powers of my soul), she is very well freed from that distemper, and yesterday began to purge. I continue yet parted from the other two, but, so they are well, I can endure the absence as well as any body; no more in this unkind world, considering how to please myself but them, and intent upon their good, which is the end I hope I live for.

My sister Alington went hastily down yesterday morning, upon hearing her eldest daughter had the measles; I wish it proves no more, for should it be the small-pox, I shall be afraid for herself, who has never had them, and I doubt her suddenness of temper would make her go to the child, she being very fond. She promised us she would not; if she considers, sure she ought not, for her skill is none, and her life irreparable to the poor girls, and she



has a skilful friend by her, whom she dares trust; and then she can look after the other children. Poor doctor Cligat's wife is very ill of the small-pox at doctor Sharpe's house, whither she came as soon as her husband died. The dean is removing, having never had them. I know no news but who has the measles or small-pox. I have sent you a book cried up to be very well writ, but which has offended the States in a high measure; so much, as it is said they have desired the licence to be called in. Doctor Burnet, as I hear the king says, has writ a sheet of answer, the most seditious he ever writ yet; nobody but the king has it. They speak as if the queen's going to Windsor began to be doubtful. I am, &c.

6th April, 1688.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH I know how very little my letters are worth, yet I regret you had none last Friday, because you looked for it; I meant to have writ the day before, doubting my want of time on Good Friday, yet my little affairs and care came so fast upon me, I did it not; if I had had a pleasing answer to have given you in respect of your Magdalen College man, I had not failed.

They tell me they are resolved to send a gentleman that is their chaplain now, who they give a great character to. As to lord Exeter's son, I know little of him, did once hear a gentleman say my lord had such thoughts, but never afterwards. For some reasons I will not set down here, I don't think it proper for me to meddle there.

The princess has miscarried, and the queen much indisposed, but is better they say. It is a very

barren time for news, except what relates to transactions beyond sea, and that the French or English gazettes inform.

I am full of small affairs, and called away by a gentleman's coming to me. I am faithfully, good doctor, yours, &c.

19th April, 1688.

R. R.

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THE PRINCESS OF ORANGE TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

I CANNOT let Mr. Russell \* go back without answering the letter I received by him, and assuring you, my lady Russell, that you shall never want any from me, since you will have me believe they are of any satisfaction to you. I am sure I may learn from yours to consider God's providence in such a manner as to make it easy. I hope you will have no more occasion to exercise that submission as you have for all that comes from him in such sad manner as formerly, but that the happiness of your daughters, and the success of all else you undertake, may give you all the content you can desire. I should be very glad I could any way contribute to any thing of that kind, or have an opportunity of showing how much I desire to be your friend.

Hague, 21 May, 1688.

MARIE.

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\* Admiral Russell.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHEN I tell you, good doctor, the errand of this paper (that is, the immediate one), you will not expect it should be long. It is to tell you my child was married yesterday\*. I hope the prospect is

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\* Lady Rachel Russell (daughter of lord William and lady Russell) was married to lord William Cavendish, son of William, who became earl of Devonshire in 1684, who had been a true friend to lord Russell. Burnet says he had the courage of a hero with an unusual proportion of wit and knowledge, and a peculiar softness in his exterior deportment. He had been fined 30,000*l.* for striking Col. Culpepper in the verge of the court: king James offered to excuse the fine, but it had no effect on that brave and generous nobleman; he chose rather to expose himself and fortune to the rigour of the court, than to desert the interest of his country in such a time of peril (1688), so he joined in the undertaking with great readiness and resolution.—Oldmixon. Ralph says, he was told, that soon after the severe sentence was passed on lord Cavendish, the countess, his mother, who had long absented herself from court, made her appearance in the circle, and having acquainted his majesty that she was come to pay her son's fine, presented him with an acknowledgment under the hand of king Charles I. that he stood indebted to the father for the like sum that was now to be squeezed out of the son. In 1694 he was created duke, the preamble to his patent setting forth, ' That the king and queen could do no less for one who had deserved the best of them—one who, in a corrupted age, and striking into the basest flattery, had constantly retained the manners of the ancients, and would never suffer himself to be moved either

good, and God's holy spirit has been my director in this whole affair. I do not ask your prayers; I know I have had them, and have them still. Dean Sharp performed the office. And now I take leave for this time; 'tis the only letter I shall write to-day, I guess, being yet in some hurry. We all dine at lord Devonshire's to-day. One week more will set me at leisure, I trust, to consider of this sad season of the year; to me, though sadly, not unusefully, I trust in God.

I am your faithful friend,

22 June, 1688.

R. R.

Lady Devonshire interrupted me yesterday morning as I was just going to put up my letter, to make his present of a pair of diamond pendants, and staid so long, I forgot this letter till it was too late, so I send it now by the post.

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by the insinuations or the threats of a deceitful court; but equally despising both, like a true asserter of liberties, stood always for the laws; and we advising with him how to shake off that tyranny, he, with many other peers, drawn over to us by his example and advice, gave us the greatest assistance towards gaining a most absolute victory without blood, and so restoring the ancient rights, religion, &c.' William, his son, succeeding in 1701, queen Anne conferred on him his father's places of dignity and trust, with this most gracious expression, 'That she had lost a loyal subject and a good friend in his father, but did not doubt to find them both again in the son.'—British Compendium.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR congratulations are very welcome, good doctor, to me, and I will give them to my young woman, to whom I undertake they will be so. I trust in the mercy of God for his blessing on her, even to the measure you wish them. We have all the promising hopes that are (I think) to be had; of those I reckon riches the least, though that ingredient is good if we use it rightly. We found difficulty enough in getting things despatched to have the day of marriage when it was, and if it had not been on that day, I had asked doctor Fitzwilliam to have taken a journey, for our dean would have been gone; but my lord Devon hurried it off, being in great haste to go to the Bath, and had the writings, sent but on Tuesday night out of town to be signed by lord Exeter\* and lord Gainsborough, here again on Thursday morning early enough for them to be married, because we could get no licence to do it in the afternoon. I do not justly remember any expression I have used that intimated my opinion of your hard thoughts of that state, which undoubtedly affords the sweetest comforts of life, or the bitterest sorrow of it. No indeed, doctor, I have only thought you had respect for a single state of life, when persons remained so by choice; and all your part, in the course of your life, I have ever considered as acted and directed by true piety.

As early as my mournful heart can, I will pass over those sad days, which, at the return of the year, will, let me struggle all I can, set more lively

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\* John Cecil, earl of Exeter, married Anne, daughter to William Cavendish, earl of Devonshire, as Edward earl of Gainsborough did lady Russell's sister.



than at other times, sad objects before my sight; but the reviving hope of that immortal life my dear friend is already possessed of, is my best support.

This very solemnity has afforded me, alas! many a thought I was forced to check with all my force, they making me too tender; though in retirement they are pleasant; and that way I can indulge myself in at present. Sure, if departed souls know what we do, he approves of what I have done, and 'tis a reward upon his children, for his patience, and so entire submission during his sufferings.

I will keep this paper as long as I can, to give you some report from Westminster\*.

I learn nothing; and so will close it by signing myself, yours, &c.

Southampton-house, 29 June, 1688. R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHETHER I say little or find time to say more, I am not easy in my mind if I do not seal a paper up to good doctor Fitzwilliam once a week; and if I examine justly, I believe it may appear more my interest than I am apt to think myself guilty of, for 'tis a sort of trading I get extremely by, and the

\* The seven bishops tried for petitioning to be excused from reading the Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, and acquitted, viz. 1. Sancroft of Canterbury; 2. Loyd of St. Asaph; 3. Turner of Ely; 4. Lake of Chichester; 5. Ken of Bath and Wells; 6. White of Peterborough; 7. Trelawny of Bristol. The 1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, afterwards refused to take the oaths to king William.

income it brings is very valuable to me. I know your next letter will be particularly so, and indeed your friendship is very remarkable in it, that you carry times and seasons in your mind purely on account to do me good, if that is to be done. I shall expect it, and use it as a help, and part of my best entertainment in these my most sad days. I cannot but own there is a sort of secret delight in the privacy of one of those mournful days; I think, besides, a better reason, one is, that I do not tie myself up as I do on other days; for, God knows, my eyes are ever ready to pour out marks of a sorrowful heart, which I shall carry to the grave, that quiet bed of rest.

I shall deliver all your compliments. I find they must wait one other life for that estate, and be content with a legacy of 200*l.* at present to buy mourning.

The French papers will give you more news than I can write, unless of so late a date as Wednesday, when the two judges Holloway and Powell were put out; who were such cross fellows as not to suffer six or twelve charters, that were to be destroyed that morning, to be so, putting by the consideration to the next term; so they lie undetermined\*. There were four judges; two drew one way, two the other; and so no judgment could be given. There are several conjectures concerning the bishops, but I write only matter of fact; and therefore say nothing of any new converts are like to be, only that the lord president is one, and has carried the torch, and asked pardon for his heresy. Lady

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\* In less than a week after the bishops were acquitted, the king struck Holloway and Powell off the list of judges, as a public mark of his displeasure.—Ralph. Perhaps their want of compliance in the affair of the charters was partly the cause of their being dismissed.

Essex's daughter was married yesterday to the lord Carlisle's son, a young bride, like mine at home. Mrs. Alington has been in town, I hear, for two or three days, but I saw her not; she is gone down with lady Dorset to Knowls, lord Dorset's house, near Tunbridge. I am called away. Sir,

your obliged friend and servant,

6 July, 1688.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Good doctor, my careful attendance on my young couple at London kept me in so perpetual a hurry, that I had not my mean ordinary comprehension in things. For an instance to you, I could not by your last of the 5th find where you were; from home I saw, but did not see the W. before the date, which I do not wonder at from the badness of my eyes, and reading hastily; but I do, that by your discourse in it, I should not find you at Windsor; but so it was, I did not, nor guessed at it, till sister Montague told me at nine o'clock at night you were there. I did as soon resolve to send you a line or two, but was defeated; company I found at home great store, and business, when rid of them; so that having no time my own all day, when I heard it strike two o'clock I went to bed, hoping for a moment in the morning; but though I rise at five I was mistress of none; at half an hour past six was to be in the coach, and which I was the more careful to be, because lord Bedford, who went earlier, would stay dinner for me; we drove so well he did not, and that night, I bless God, we got all well to this place. The pensive quiet I hope for here, I think, will be very grateful to my wearied body and mind; yet when I contemplate the fruits of the trial

and labour of these last six months, it brings some comfort to my mind, as an evidence that I do not live only to lament my misfortunes, and be humbled by those heavy chastisements I have felt, and must for ever in this life press me sorely. That I have not sunk under the pressure, has been I hope in mercy, that I might be better fitted for my eternal state; and form the children of a loved husband before I go hence. With these thoughts I can be hugely content to live; and the rather as the clouds seem to gather and threaten storms; though God only knows how I may acquit myself, and what help I may be, or what example I shall give to my young creatures; I mean well towards them, if I know my heart. I wish I could advise you substantially, to the end you ask it for about a lawyer. I know few, and made use of but one, who appears to me an ingenious and honest man; 'tis Mr. Evers of Lincoln's-inn, but he is so exceeding full of business, it makes him slow to despatch; he seems to be a man of integrity, and I think not a high-churchman in his principles. I give the hint, that if you should happen to converse with him, you may know the better how to do it without distaste.

You caution me to mollify, by a right construction, any expression of yours that may be hardly worded: you need not do it, for if at any time there should be cause (as I know none), I shall not fail to do as you desire, who in all things will endeavour to appear your most grateful friend and servant,

19 July, 1688.

R. R.

If you call here, you will be very welcome.

## LADY RUSSELL TO LADY ALINGTON.

I PERCEIVE, sister, you are very tender in regard to the persons of others, but rigid to your own self, or you would never imagine a remaining guilt where I fancy there was never any; for I can either allow myself to think my brother in some fault, or have such a deference to your judgment as to believe there was none any where. However it was, my request was not scorned, and so my end was served, and I am yours with great respect, and very sorry you have had any new interruption in your health; I learn from my lord Bedford it was accidental, by putting ice to a wrong use. I take it to be an ingredient almost as dangerous in a family as ratsbane, servants being so ill judges of its use. The good consequence of country air, I believe, would be as much advantageous to you, if you would take it, as we shall find it: the season is temperate and pleasant. The rest and pensive quiet of it is very grateful to me, whose body nor mind is fitted for the hurry of the last six months; and I wish I may so profit of the time I may make my own here, as to repair in some measure my want then, by being so busy in worldly matters. Yet it was such a duty, and in appearance I was so blessed in it, that this reflection was sometimes a refreshment to me, that I did not live only to grieve at, and be humbled, for those heavy chastisements my soul has felt and must still feel, till my eternal rest, where we shall weep nor sorrow no more. I am so apt to exceed all bounds when I let myself loose on some subjects, that nothing can recover me but a short breaking off, which I will do with this assurance of my being your humble servant and sister,

25 August, 1688.

R. R.



## DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED yours the night before I was going for Tunbridge, at my return from whence I did fully design to have sent a line or two, to have inquired after the welfare of your ladyship and your children; but I see it is in vain to contend with a goodness which doth always prevent the most forward of your friends and servants. I am now newly returned from thence, where I left the good princess very well, and I think much better than ever I saw her. That very evening I parted from your ladyship at the Tabernacle I received by two messengers two letters from my wife, who in the first told me she feared my child was dying, which troubled me much; in the other, that she was perfectly well, which amazed me more.—Thus it was—when the child was grown very weak, all on the sudden there gushed from her head down her nose with great violence a good quantity of water, which brought along with it a pretty big piece of cork, which either the child herself or one of her little brothers had thrust up into her nose, where it had remained above six weeks; by the stoppage and pain whereof the child was extremely wasted, but from the moment it came away was at perfect ease; so soon can God when he pleases turn our mourning into joy. I trouble your ladyship with a more particular account of this, because you are pleased to be concerned for me; and your advice to leave off syringing, which I told your ladyship did always put the child into grievous agonies, was by God's good providence very happy for the child, because it would probably have forced up the cork so far that it could not have been got down.

I came to town on purpose two or three days after, to have prevented your ladyship's further trouble of searching out the papers, for which I

most humbly thank you, and have no occasion now to call for them. But I found your ladyship gone the day before; and now it is time to come to your letter, and to tell your ladyship how glad I am to hear that all your family are well, and that you meet with some rest after your toil and labour in a business, from which I heartily pray that you and your good daughter may reap all the comfort and satisfaction that you can wish, and that the present appearances of things seem so fairly to promise. But I need not tell to your ladyship how little reckoning is to be made of any of the comforts of this world. All our hopes but those of another world are built upon uncertainty and vanity. Till we come to the regions above we shall never be out of the reach of storms and tempests. Thither let us always be aspiring in our minds, and pressing forward towards that blessed state. But why do I say this to one that hath a much more lively sense of these things?

I pray God to preserve my lord Cavendish in his travels from the hazards of all kinds to which he is likely to be exposed, and to return him to you and to his excellent lady greatly improved in all true, noble, and virtuous qualities. My mind doth pre-  
sage much happiness to you in him; I am sure I earnestly wish it. I will not forget your commands of congratulation when I see my lord. As for my friend \* who is so mindful in the midst of his prosperity of his old friends, I beg of your ladyship, when you have the opportunity to let him know, that I have a true sense of his constant friendship. For the paper he mentions, I believe it is well received generally on both sides †. For men's heats are much allayed, and they have now patience to

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\* Supposed to be doctor Fitzwilliam.

† Sam. Johnson's Way to Peace among all Protestants, &c.

hear of their faults, if they be told them in a civil way, without anger and ill-will, as that paper does with great skill, considering the nicety and tenderness of the subject. So that, if it hath not fully pleased both, it hath the good fortune to have provoked neither. It is too much according to my mind for me to be fit to commend it. I will only say this of it, that it is both very artificial, and very honest — two things which seldom meet together.

I ought now to make a long apology for this long trouble I have given you, but I will not, in excuse of one fault, commit another.

I pray God to preserve you and yours, and to send us a good meeting at your return to London. In the mean time, and for ever, I must remain, honoured madam, yours, &c.

Canterbury, 6 Sept. 1688.

J. T.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO LORD CAVENDISH.

I DESIRE this may assure lord Cavendish he had furnished the last post with the most agreeable entertainment I can receive by it, since I can have no better content in this world than to have your lordship confirm my hope that you are pleased with your so near relation to us here, that you believe us kind to you, and value our being so.

There is nothing that is tender, or of service to your person, which it does not engage me to, with a passion no words can tell you, but my actions will, if ever I have an opportunity to do it.

Your news is of great importance to the public concerns, and 'tis to my private ones that you believe me very well pleased that I can sign this with the title of, my lord, your lordship's most humble servant, &c.

5 Oct. 1688.

R. R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

IF you could, good doctor, see the letter I left in my closet at London, it would be a demonstration to you, that no hasty or irregular motion puts my friends out of my mind, for though I failed in the executive part, yet I was not careless in that took up more of my time. I very formally writ my letter, laid by the gazettes, and then, as in our best endeavours we often do spoil all, by some defect in the close, so did I now, by forgetting to give my letter to be sent to you.

I was but two whole days in town, went on Saturday, was early back on Tuesday, found all here well, as, I bless God, I left them, and all at London in amaze, all talking of the same matter; and I believe there is no considerable change since, for it was then agreed the prince of Orange could not be ready for sailing till this day. This sort of weather and wind keeps the apprehensions at a distance, and if it continues any time, may possibly disperse them altogether; but 'tis known to God alone what shall be the event of these things. We may wonder, and heartily say, his ways are unsearchable, and past finding out.

Those are happy, who in the midst of confusions can faithfully believe the end of all shall be rest; and if we can evidence to our hearts, we have a title according to the promises of the gospel, to that happy rest, what can be a very uneasy disturbance? Nothing should be, I am certain; yet we find pretences for it. I think I fear not for myself, but I am afraid what risk my children may run; and if that were not, our weak faith would furnish us out with some other reason to justify, as we fancy, our too great carefulness. I will do what I can not to exceed, and so bid you adieu for this time.

5 Oct. 1638.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

SUCH letters as yours, sir, do not disturb my quiet, but quiet my disturbance. Before this, I guess, if mine of the 5th does not miscarry one way, as that will tell you another did another way, you will know I wanted not yours to draw your return from me. I forgot, when I writ on Friday, to put up the gazettes, nor are they entire now, for my journey to London put me and them out of order, and all of late date are wanting. The winds keep them back, as it does, as the king says, the Dutch at a distance from us. Thus we are experimenting how much God can restrain the spirit of princes, and by holding in the winds, disappoint the greatest, and doubtless, as they think, the wisest laid designs.

What has passed between the bishops and the king is, we are told, a secret; but things are coming about into their old channel, above any expectation you or I had when we met last\*.

I have scarce had time to run over your philosophical lecture, but I suppose if I had, or when I have read it at more leisure over, I shall not find myself very well furnished to use many words in my answer; now I have none, for my letters are called for, and the company come into my cham-

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\* On the 30th of September the bishop of London's suspension was taken off. The 3d of October, the king having desired the advice of the archbishop of Canterbury, nine bishops attended him with ten articles, as the best means to restore his affairs. In consequence of which the ecclesiastical commission was dissolved, popish magistrates were displaced, and an order for restoring Magdalen College to its rights, and a proclamation for restoring the charters of corporations.—Salmon.



ber, which I keep for a great cold. I have been complaining in most of my letters how near to nothing I am when this poor carcass is diseased, so very feeble in my mind and body; but I mend my opinion of myself now I read how listless you are upon such another occasion. I am glad yours is near over; mine is but begun, nor would my letter be more, I think, if I had time to enlarge. The Anatomy of an Equivalent is the newest good paper I know; I have been lent it only to read, and have it not any more\*.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO LORD CAVENDISH.

As yours writ 16th Oct. has lain by me many days, so I may say, and justify the saying it, that I have as often been desirous to tell you how welcome these marks of respect and remembrance are to me; but I will not by insignificant letters make often waste of so precious a thing as time is, which, if mispent, can never be recovered, since it can never be recalled; and if employed as such by you, as I doubt not but it is, you are then a gainer by every

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\* Of the Equivalent, Ralph says, when the king undertook to soften the clergy with the promise of an equivalent, he as effectually deceived himself as he designed to deceive them. Churchmen can have no equivalent for wealth, power, dignity, and importance; and they knew by themselves, that if the priests and partisans of Rome ever procured themselves a legal establishment in the constitution, they would not bear the shadow of a rival. The marquis of Halifax employed his excellent pen against the Equivalent.

moment of it, to the honour and pleasure, I trust, of many years: and that you may do so, and then be so rewarded for your ingenious labour, you have the strongest wish of my affectionate heart, and constant prayers to the great Dispenser of all good to us his creatures.

I am glad that in your solitude (for such I esteem your stay at Brussels) you have met with so good a companion as lord Kingston. I resist my will when I do not urge you \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* &c. But finding you are going further from us, I must tell you how concernedly my prayers and best wishes attend you. Your return would be a time of more sensible content to me, and yet if I were to dispose of your person, what you are to do should be my choice for you; for to live well in the world, 'tis for certain most necessary to know the world well. We are under the same protection in all places where we can be. 'Tis very true the circumstances of our beings do sometimes require our better diligence and watch over ourselves than at other times; and 'tis now going to be so with your lordship: you are launching into the ocean; if you steer wisely, you secure a calm for your whole life; you will discern the vanity of all the pomps and glories of this world; how little intrinsic good there is in the enjoyment! and how uncertain 'tis how long we shall enjoy that good there is in them! And by observation you will be made sensible how much below the dignity of human nature 'tis to gain one's point, let the matter be what it will, by any mean or insincere way.

Having proved all, I hope you will choose the best, and take under your care the whole compass of virtue and religion.

Oct. 1688.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

My good intention has been hid from you, good doctor, by my letter, &c. failing to come to your hands, which I sent the 21st of this month, as I find it upon record in my noted paper; there is nothing lost by it, except that mark which writing gives of my respect towards you; and that you do not question, I believe.

We in the country are still kept under wonder and expectation; the cloud is very thick that is spread over us; but this is our support (if we can but maintain our courage for a while), that nothing that can befall us can hurt as much; being the power of man reaches no further than these frail bodies, that must, however, in a little while lie down, till that glorious day of the Lord, when all men's works shall be tried by a right judgment. Then shall we see many justified that have stood condemned with the world; till then I desire to wait with patience.

I have told you before, if my paper has at all come to you, that lord Bedford is preparing to remove from this place, if the prince lands northwards, to Chenies, in Buckinghamshire.

I hear lord Cavendish is well at Brussels; he says he has much of my lord Kingston's company, who being there, will stay till he hears a little more from hence. God have you in his protection, is the prayer of your friend and servant.

28th October, 1688.

The duchess of Somerset, I hear, has a girl.

## LADY RUSSELL TO LADY ALINGTON.

IF I did not know myself to be the worst correspondent in the world, I should be more careful to improve that which you so kindly begun with me; yet to let my sister see I am not careless in taking advantage of the first pretence I think is offered me to justify sending a dull letter, I take that of your coming to your new house. 'Tis usual to congratulate or condole at changes; I am glad I begin with the first; and I hope the time you are to pass in this imperfect state will be so happy to you, that in all the various events of a changing world, your friends that survive the few remaining days I have to stay in it, shall still have cause to be glad, not mourn with you. If wishes were not unprofitable, I should contribute towards it; and think myself too inconsiderable to do it any other way, except by my too unworthy prayers, which are ever presented before the throne of grace for good to all my friends, in which number I sincerely desire I may find you, and that you will receive as such to you, dear sister, yours affectionately,

1688.

R. R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM very sorry the motion you made me about money was not for yourself, and that by my receiving it, I might at such a time as this have had the opportunity of doing you some little service; for it was purely upon that consideration I accepted to take it; and being it was not so, I am glad the party was not met with, lest my expression in the

matter was not clear to you, who seemed to understand me as if I would still deal in the things, by saying it may rest till you hear from her, or see me. I easily believe my thoughts might be confused to a degree that I could speak nothing plain, for if I had, you would have understood that my saying, Get it in if you can, and I will secure it for you (which, I think, were the words), was purely in relation to Dr. Fitzwilliam himself; for whose convenience I would most willingly have had the trouble I must have met by taking it; but desire to be excused from it, since it is not so. I am of the mind you want more advice than my former, which was to lay in provision beforehand; now it is to be honest to yourself, a caution you little thought to meet with, but upon my word I think I can maintain the phrase; nay, I could go further, and say you are not honest to your neighbour; but I will give over, only repeat the old saying to make good my point, 'Too much pity spoils a city.' I have rambled the more, because one is in prudence confined not to speak of matters one is strangely bent to be talking of\*.

The use you would (if there is cause for it) put my gallery to, you may, sir, very freely; for my own part, I don't think that great house to be so well chosen; 'tis too much in view, I doubt; however, that is left to your consideration.

I wish you very heartily well directed in all your concerns, little and great, and am, with true cordial kindness, your friend, &c.

16 November, 1688.

R. R.

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\* The prince of Orange being now landed, his declaration—the king's answering it—the association—desertion of the king's troops—some of the prince's friends taken—petitions for a parliament—with the other circumstances at that time, must fill all minds with apprehensions and anxiety.



LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
STRAFFORD.

I HAVE very justly obeyed the commands of your lordship's last letter, 30th October, both to my lord Bedford and my sister; and had not failed sooner to have made my report of doing so to your lordship, and with what sentiments they received your valuable esteem, and so resolved an affection, as you express; but I had put my letter into lady Clinton's hands before I had showed it to my lord Bedford, and so staid for its return to me, which that good lady took care it should do, with some advantage, sending with it a particular how the money for Stowel was disposed of. I believe I might accidentally induce her to it, though my words did not require it; which were only, that if the money was not so paid, as that the portion would clear the jointure, I foresaw a rock not to be got over, if times should so settle, that business of such a nature could proceed. And truly, my lord, I think discouragements do visibly wear \* \* \*, but the storm rather increases, that will not admit of leisure for despatches of this nature. I am charged with more respectful compliments from my lord Bedford than I know how to express; and when our troubles are, by the power and mercy of God, less violent, I shall watch the time to please your lordship in my reports better than it has been my fortune of late to do, though I have at all times equally desired to approve myself.

25 November, 1688.

## LADY RUSSELL TO LADY CLINTON.

'Tis fit your ladyship should know I received your letter, and the inclosed, which was more than looked for, the meaning I had being only to hint what blocks I feared might be found, when other difficulties might be surmounted; but you are too watchful a friend to leave any thing undone, which may be of the least use. I hope the money is well husbanded, though I want skill to know justly what the portion may discharge.

But, madam, nothing, I think, can just now occasion a resolution for a treaty, the cloud over us hangs too heavy. I have writ this post to my lord, and hope he will not complain, at least not of \* \*  
25 November, 1688.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

TRULY, good doctor, you are very condescending, to take my pretending to advise in so good part; I thought I had a good assurance you would do so, or I should not have been so free, being nobody abounds less in their own sense than I believe I do; but where I wish well, and suppose it will be well taken, I speak freely. I was not apt to think you ever were vain or lavish in your own layings out, only, perhaps, not restraining enough in very allowable expenses; nay, commendable ones in another age: but the prospect at home called upon us to provide; yet, while I am reflecting thus wisely, I feel who wants severe reproof, and cannot draw up so unblamable a particular as you have taken the pains to do; but however 'tis, we can

only do our best for the time to come; and I pray God to put the same earnest care into the hearts of all the people of this nation. There is no time so hazardous but the righteous and the repentant may run unto him and be safe; and if we must not escape the judgments of the sword, yet I trust it shall cut off only such as most notoriously cumber God's ground: and that in the midst of wrath He will remember mercy, if we will but meet him in his judgments, as miserable sinners ought to do; and as I question not but numbers in this land do.

It was surprising to hear of the princess's absenting herself\*, but one hears every day so much, which is so, that unless one would write a volume, 'tis not easy to enter on the subject of news; and yet it being more difficult to rest on any other, I will conclude this from your ever affectionate friend and servant,

30 November, 1688.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WISH you prosperous, good doctor, in your new economy, and hope it is so far off being too late, that it is too early to begin, more than is very decently prudent; since, I trust, we have some reasonable prospect to believe such as you yourself may live, and enjoy what is their own.

So great a change has appeared in the space of one month. May the great Dispensator of all these wonderful events dispose our hearts and minds, and direct them to a right use of so much mercy; and let it be his will to perfect the work he

\* Princess Anne went away Nov. 25.

has to do among us, to the comfort of every serious and thoughtful Christian. It is a time, I confess, one would be very glad to spend some hours in free discourse with a friend there is no need to disguise any thought before; when 'tis denied one must be content as one can.

I think, having staid so long in the country, in the hurly burly, we shall try it a little longer. The carriers and coachmen that come from the North, inform us many gentlemen in the North are in arms, all horse; that in Yorkshire, they may have 10,000 as soon as they please; but they refuse all except horse; and that many papists were got into Hull. This night's letters signify the surprising of that place, and declaring for a free parliament\*.

I am, sir, &c.

8 December, 1688.

R. R.

We have now got gazettes again, so have sent them; though you hear too much, perhaps, to read where you are.

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LADY RUSSELL TO (SUPPOSED) DR.  
BURNET.

BECAUSE I think I cannot be deceived, when I persuade myself that my writing a few lines, to bear a testimony of my grateful remembrance and

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\* The earl of Danby made himself master of York; colonel Copley surprised Hull, and seized lord Langdale, the governor, a Roman catholic; lord Delamere did good service in the North; the earl of Devonshire at Derby; York and Berwick declared for a free parliament.

faithful respects, will not be tedious to you, I choose to send it, as often as I can find ways to the \*        nay, I have, I may say, created this, since the bearer of it has no other errand than to carry this paper, and return charged, I hope, with such good reports as every good soul wishes for. Curiosity may be too eager, and therefore not to be justified, but sure it is unavoidable.

I do not ask you should satisfy any part of it, further than you can in six lines; but I would see something of your hand-writing upon English ground, and not read in print only, the labour of your brain. Here has, of late, been some sheets laid to your charge (as †        ) and so much justice you receive, that the world never lays a dull one upon you. I will consider the compass of a letter is too narrow to contain all I could find to say to you; and you are too busy to urge such an employment, as reading my epistles on you.

I have pleased myself, and now I will retire to such contemplations as the wondrous Providence of every day furnishes to all thinking creatures.

May our hearts and minds be directed to a due use of them, and ever full of praise to God, and prayers for the visible Mover, that causes so mighty a revolution as we see; and how much greater is it like to be if they go on blessed, and carry the cause they so gloriously manage with a happy success.

December 8, 1688.

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LADY RUSSELL TO ———.

THE suspense we have been under was very tedious; I every day hoped you would have found

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\* Words omitted.

† Words omitted.



some way or other to let me hear from the quarters you are in, but I believe a prudent caution has kept me ignorant.

I am certain my best wishes have attended him you went away with from hence; and, as I apprehend, he has been prosperous to his desires, and I hope he will ever be so. If I could see how I could do more than wish or pray for it, I would readily make it appear how faithfully I would serve him and his interest.

What you may write or tell the messenger who brings you this will be very acceptable; and much more to see you, and lead you the three mile walk, which I would walk again upon that condition, though I have not done it since I walked it with you. I suppose you are at all times better employed than you will be in reading this paper; for your ease, not my own, I close it from yours, &c.

8 December, 1688.

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LADY RUSSELL TO (SUPPOSED) DR.  
FITZWILLIAM.

THERE needs no art to engage your belief of so sincere a truth, as I am going to write to you; that since I purposely read the last verse of the 73d psalm, I have had more mind to scribble a few lines to you than I ever had in my life; not from any hope I have to speak any thing will please me; my thoughts are too much crowded to get a passage to express what I feel. My religion and my country are dear to me, and my own hard fate will ever be as a green wound. I need say no more to you. I have been but too impatient to say so much. I have fancied it a sort of guilt not to do it, and a want of ingenuity not to find an opportunity; yet I

met it not till now. If I had writ two months ago, I had had something to say from some of your friends that would be loss to your time to repeat. I will only say the words of one whose opinion you then desired concerning a sheet had been writ \* : they were these—‘ I know not how to commend what is so exactly my own sense, and the words I could have been glad to have said †.’ I met with none of another mind. I was two or three days in London at that very instant of time, when the first consternation was upon some, for what has since fallen out, which is marvellous indeed ! Those who have lived longest, and therefore seen the most change, can scarce believe it is more than a dream : yet 'tis indeed real, and so amazing a reality of mercy, as ought to melt and ravish our hearts into subjection and resignation to Him who is the dispenser of all providences.

1688.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You have, since I saw you, good doctor, so shifted places, that my letters cannot find you. I writ to Windsor, when you were gone to Cotenham, and yesterday I directed to Cotenham ; at night I heard upon what melancholy account you were gone from

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\* The sheet referred to, was probably Samuel Johnson's Way to Peace among all Protestants, being a letter of reconciliation sent by bishop Ridley to bishop Hooper, with observations, licensed July, 1688, afterwards seized by order of lord Sunderland.

† Tillotson's.

thence to poor lady Gainsborough's \*. I imagine your compassionate temper, and true christian disposition to mourn with them that mourn (which I have had full proof of), will not let you quit that distressed family. So soon as this will reach you, be so kind to me as to say something to my lady; I will own all you can say that is kind and respectful, and suitable to her present circumstances: I consider her as one has been a blessing to the family: she must have known much sorrow and care in it, but she cannot miss a reward for her good works; as to herself, I have ever esteemed her person.

I pity good lady Betty, though I believe lady Julian may have the greater loss; the first, I fancy, may have the greater sense what the want of parents is; but I have a good hope their mother's children shall feel the mercies of God. I should be glad to hear the father has done his part towards their provision.

Parliament news can be nothing before Monday; then the house of commons are to take the state of the nation into consideration †, and the lords do so on Tuesday.

I must repeat a question to you I made in my letter yesterday. It was to ask you if I am right, that you ordered me to lay down four guineas for you towards the redemption of some French protestants, taken going into Holland, and made slaves in Algiers. They are now redeemed, four ministers or five, and the rest proposers. My cousin Ruvigny has paid the money, and I am to gather to reimburse him the greatest part if I can. I have some time since writ to lord Campden for his contribution, and he bid me lay down for him, but the time was not come till now, so I will remind him again

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\* Edward earl of Gainsborough's death.

† January 28, the Abdication was voted by the Commons.

in a few days, but I think it not fit yet in his present circumstances. I will add no more at this time, from your true friend, &c.

26 January, 1688-9.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I GIVE you a thousand thanks for taking so very kindly of me all my impertinences, as most others would call them, but a good meaning excuses all to a good man. I do so little doubt of my interest to serve you, in the point you ask, at any time, that unless you urge the despatch of it, I will defer the execution of it. I cannot now stay to expostulate why I would do so; but, in short, a hasty asking may alarm, and be thought to be an occasion of putting others on the same: and perhaps, also, before you would use the liberty you ask, accidents may abdicate your opinion. The reason of my haste is expecting every minute doctor Lower to my daughter Cavendish, who was taken ill last night, in a manner, if she had not had the small-pox, one would guess she would have it. My sister Montague's son has been so too, that I forbore seeing him, but yesterday that fear passed over. I am very faithfully your friend, &c.

Thursday, March, 1688-9.

R. R.

I hear the doctor's coach.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO LORD HALIFAX.

THAT this is burthened with a humble request you will soon guess. What that is, and how I am

engaged to it, if you will please to read the letter, you will know the first; and the address will tell the latter. It was the furthest in the world from my intention to break in thus upon your lordship, and give you a trouble in a time I take such as yourself to be (if you could be so) overwhelmed with business; but I was uneasy to resist a friend I love so well as lady Shaftsbury, finding her so heartily interested in this affair as she is: and both the ladies so fixed in their belief, that this would be most effectually done, if your lordship would act in it. I am the more easy to move your lordship to do so, from the professions I have had the honour to hear you make, that you would readily and gladly serve good lady Shaftsbury, who is disconsolate enough, and imagines it would be a refreshment to please a friend so very much as the obtaining this suit would my lady Cowper, whom she has a great esteem for, and I take her to be worthy of it. Sir William is more known to your lordship. My lady Shaftsbury is so zealous in this matter, that if she had believed her request more immediately from herself to your lordship would have been better to her purpose, you would have that separate from this; but being I was to do something, I thought we might do it jointly, and that better, because the shortest trouble to your lordship.—An apology added to all this, would begin another from your lordship's most humble servant.

Feb. 1688-9.

Before I attempted to move this request to your lordship, I tried what Pollexfen could object against the fitness of it. He made no objection, as to the gentleman, but, as many others do, gave him a very good character; yet, as 'tis in all trades not to help another to a shop to work in, said, it might be the undoing young men. His friends are secure in him, and that others, as well as he, have done very well.



## LADY RUSSELL TO LORD HALIFAX.

You must needs be so well acquainted with the solitudes most persons have in such affairs as touch them very near, that you will not think it very strange, lady Shaftsbury and I have been prevailed upon by Mr. Cowper's \* friends once again to press your lordship to weigh his case, and serve him in it if it may be. If his majesty, when he granted this request in the behalf of Mr. Cowper, was pleased (as I understood from your lordship to express his sense of that favour as a thing extraordinary, and to make the irregularity of it an instance of his grace to lady Shaftsbury and myself, we are ready to embrace his majesty's concessions in the largest sense, being disposed to think as highly of his goodness as any circumstance can render it, and therefore would not controvert that point, though very understanding men, and several eminent disinterested persons of the profession of the law, are of a contrary opinion; and the frequent instances that are given of its having been done before, seem rather to prove it has been used as an encouragement for young gentlemen to serve the king in that difficult profession, and consequently is most proper for such, and is likely to induce such to qualify themselves to serve their king and country with more honour and integrity, than persons whose first steps and advances in the world teach them shifting. But to lay our partiality aside, I think we may say, that it is hard to guess, after the king has given the place to Mr. Cowper, under the notion of its being irregular in respect of his age, what worse representations the commissioners can have made of him to the king; except they have mistaken the

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\* William, afterwards earl Cowper, and lord chancellor. He died October 10, 1723.

matter of fact, and told his majesty that a man of twenty-four is under age; an age his majesty has found is not incapable of great actions.

It must be some strange inconveniency attending this grant they have pressed, that could move the king to determine his pleasure so soon to one that yet has not been capable of offending in that station; and every day mends the fault he took it in with. Sure this is a matter below the envy of the lords commissioners; and what other reasons they can have in suppressing him, we think it not proper to inquire into. Mr. Cowper says, that if the testimony of able and worthy men of the same profession to the contrary of their suggestions will remove the obstructions they have laid to his majesty's grace, he is able to produce them, though men of the same profession are naturally not very forward in those offices.

The readiness your lordship has expressed to undertake this matter, first in compliment to lady Shaftsbury and myself, and since to the family, makes it unnecessary to urge zeal. I deliver mine with submission to your judgment, that advantages every thing it undertakes. Your lordship's, &c.

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LADY RUSSELL TO SIR H. POLLEXFEN,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL.

WHAT I offer in this paper to Mr. Attorney General, I should with a better will do personally, if I were not very sure it would be very much more a trouble to you to tell you in your chamber my true joy for the eminent station you are in, and that the reason you are so, is because you are worthy of it; which will, I hope, be the prevailing rule in this our new world; though I must think there has been

a failure already in the person of one about you, who offered some discourse to me when I was last with you. I have done all you desired of me then; and as I have practised silence under long sufferings, I can do so in any case: the day of consolation I wait for is not to be met with in this lower world. But now, sir, I must, before I release you, earnestly entreat your good-will on the behalf of sir William Cowper's son, whom I did name to you, and also the request his friends desired to make for him, which was to be made one of the king's council. 'Tis very true you did not approve the thing, though you spoke well of the man; but your exceptions seemed to me to be especially in regard to young gentlemen; that it was not advisable, proving for the most part a ruin to them. His friends persisting in their desire, taking assurance from his temper he would do well, lady Shaftsbury and myself so engaged in it, that, by the means of lord Halifax, we obtained the king's promise; and Mr. Cowper kissed the king's hand for it. Lord Shrewsbury\* gave the warrant, and now it stops at the

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\* Charles Talbot, earl, afterwards duke of Shrewsbury (son to Francis, who was killed in a duel by the duke of Buckingham in 1667, and brother to John, killed in a duel by Henry duke of Grafton), after mortgaging his estate, he remitted 40,000*l.* to the prince of Orange, went to Holland, and drew with him several other persons of honour: for that and other good services, he was by king William preferred to be secretary of state, and to many other employments, and created a duke. He died 1717-18.—Br. Comp. He had been bred a papist, but had forsaken that religion, upon a critical inquiry into the points of controversy; in which he was assisted by Tillotson. He was a man of strict honour and probity, with a large share of learning, a correct judgment, sweetness of temper, and modesty of deportment, that charmed all who knew him.—Burnet.

commissioners of the great seal; and as they tell me, because Mr. Attorney is not contented at it. I am sorry if it is so; and if the business had not proceeded so very far, I would not urge it. But the reflection will be very heavy upon Mr. Cowper, and not easy to my lady Shaftsbury and myself; as for a favour to us, the king expressed he did it, and after some difficulty at the irregularity of it.

Pray consider, Mr. Attorney, all dispensing powers are not unlawful. I undertake very few things, and therefore do very little good to people; but I do not love to be balked, when I thought my end compassed; and though you would not promote us in it, I hope you will not destroy us.

Let me know, if you please, how it stands, and if you can be inexorable to the earnest solicitudes of a mother, who I must bring to you. I know not what to say more, but that I am sorry they were ever made to hope for it; lady Shaftsbury and I being yours, &c.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO LADY ESSEX\*.

BEING I read your ladyship's obliging and so very moving letter, on Sunday, I must say why I have not waited on you since; it is because I was then engaged both the next days to be out of town; yet on both of them I endeavoured the same performance I am now about, but still broke off by slight but unavoidable interruption less acceptable than usual, since it might hazard my seeming to receive your ladyship's kindness and your orders

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\* Elizabeth, widow of Arthur earl of Essex, daughter of Algernon Piercy, earl of Northumberland.

with less cordial respect than I do, and ever will do. If any labour I could take might be of the meanest service to you, I assure you, madam, you should feel the effects of my good will. But, alas ! I am not qualified, nor have opportunity to do what I should find content in doing, as most certainly I should, if in the least degree I could help to soften those thoughts, which by so long and so constant a fretting on a tender body consumes you with grief. I do feelingly mourn with you at the new embittering of that cup you have so deeply drank out of already. But, madam, be careful you do not aggravate circumstances to your own wrong. That melancholy which has so long possessed your soul, is apt, I believe, to turn the darkest side towards you ; and a sore not skinned is soon made to smart, nay to shrink, when any thing comes near to it, as if it were touched, though really 'tis not. This perhaps may be your case at present. Rest your thoughts in your own innocence, madam ; nothing that is worthy can slander you in their most secret thoughts, much less sir H. C. who is abroad, also most secure in his own merit. All those intimated in your letter are perfectly new to me ; and I must consent to say the same thing your ladyship does of them.

In what I can serve the just end you aim at, I will be very diligent. And I beseech God one day to speak peace to our afflicted minds, and let us not be disappointed of our great hope. But we must wait for our day of consolation till this world passes away ; an unkind and trustless world it has been to us. Why it has been such, God knows best ; all his dispensations serve the end of his providences ; and they are ever beautiful, and must be good, and good to every one of us ; and even these dismal ones are to us, if we can bear evidence to our own souls, that we are better for our afflictions ; which God often makes them to be, who suffer wrongfully. We may reasonably believe our friends find that rest we yet but hope for ; and what better comfort can your



ladyship or I desire in this valley of the shadow of death we are walking through! The rougher our path is, the more delightful and ravishing will the great change be to us.

Wednesday, 19 March, 1688-9.

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LADY RUSSELL TO \_\_\_\_\_.

THOUGH I am personally a stranger to you, yet that disadvantage does not discourage me from presenting to your consideration a young gentleman, who is very solicitous I would do so. And being a man of quality (and his father the earl of Anglesea, my uncle \* by marriage) I was not willing to refuse his request, which he does urge very powerfully with me, because very modestly and reasonably. His father has left him very destitute, and, as he says, he thinks he should be wanting to himself if he did not seek to obtain an honest livelihood; so I think too.

He aims at clerk of the Presentations, which he says is not honestly worth more, at the most, than 200*l.* a year. He believes himself qualified for the fit execution of it, and if you find him not so, I would be no more willing than yourself he should be accepted of, being I would have all places in this blessed change of times given to those who are most fit to execute them, and therefore am glad to hear the universal approbation of that trust is reposed in you, which I wish you a long enjoyment of, as, sir, yours, &c.

22 March, 1688-9.

R. R.

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\* Lady Elizabeth Manners, daughter to John earl of Rutland, married James Annesley, earl of Anglesea

blessed change of times given to none that should not discharge them with both honesty and understanding. I am, &c.

5 April, 1689.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I LOOKED in vain for your calling here in your way to Cotenham ; that which I desired it most for (though I love your company at all times) was to have discoursed you about the pass for your going abroad. I took the opinion of a gentleman you think well of, and meet here often. He agreed with me that it could not miss at any time ; however, some time since that, the doctor I think to do it by, being with me, I asked his opinion, that if I should perceive I should gratify a friend of mine by obtaining such a liberty, being in his power, whether he thought it would be hard to be obtained, or would assist me in it ? He replied, he should be very sorry at the thing ; it would not look well, unless some young gentlemen went at the same time, and so, it might be alleged he would see him placed abroad, or desired to spend some time with ; something of this kind would give it a grace, but he believed there would be no cause to enforce any one's desire to be absent. So I left it till I know more of your mind in it. I cannot imagine but by them or some other, I shall not fail to serve you in your own way, yet I would not defer it without your liking I do so, lest I should be disappointed when I try, for there is no certainty in this poor world. But I will watch if any thing is doing, that you should wish to make use of such a liberty.

This is the day the house of commons take the act of oblivion into consideration, and they say will begin upon the ecclesiastical court. Lady

Sunderland is come over to solicit in her lord's behalf. We heard yesterday that poor lord Gainsborough is dead. Possibly your friendship in their time of need may have carried you thither, and so this will miss you, and every thing I can put in it be so old before you read it, that I will not say much more. My sister Alington is in town, and Miss Die was to come last night. I am told my niece Digby comes this week or the next.

I am, good doctor, yours, &c.

5 April, 1698.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF STRAF-  
FORD.

YOUR lordship's of the 2d of April puts me under very great obligations of a perpetual acknowledgment both of your kind acceptation of my disposition to serve you, in the whole progress of this treaty, and the justice I find from your lordship, when you consider my part in it. My lord, if my letter of the 26 March fixes your lordship's doubts to more certainty, that this matter at last must fall, I am sorry it is my lot to speak the most displeasing to your lordship on a subject your lordship has taken so deep and so obliging impressions of it into your mind, and with so much constancy and generosity pursued, to the eternal engagements of all honourable and most respectful acknowledgments from a family whose sentiments must be mine: consequently I must always be your lordship's humble servant; and as such, as much as in a just pursuance of a principle I would never depart from, if I speak at all I must speak clearly, and not doubtfully, if I apprehend no doubt remains; and indeed, my lord, by all the judgment I can make here, 'tis so in this case, yet without abating any part of that

perfect esteem and honour my lord of Bedford has established in his heart and thoughts of your lordship; but the bad state of Ireland \* does so affect him that he is satisfied he should give his daughter, whether she was so or not, a just cause to complain he did not consider her whole interest, if he should provide her no better provision of fortune than your lordship's present circumstances can make for her. However, I wish your lordship a true prophet, that a few months may recover Ireland; and I do very particularly for your lordship's share in it, as a person that is, with great respect, yours, &c.

20 April, 1689.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF STRAF-  
FORD.

I AM so very sensible of that great civility your lordship chooses still to preserve towards me, who have been no fortunate instrument and perhaps sometimes a faulty one through ignorance, in this so long depending treaty, that I cannot obtain my own good will to be altogether silent, but tell your lordship how I value your good opinion, and that excellent temper which disposes your lordship to bear so calmly, and so respectfully, a behaviour, you say you see yourself injured in. I am infinitely sorry it has proved so, and so are, I must affirm, all persons concerned; but continual repetitions would be too tedious to your lordship, and I would not again disturb your rest, by your reading at an unseasonable hour a letter you do not like.

I will venture it, if ever I can write one which shall (as I think) be welcome to you; if any man

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\* King James's invasion, &c.

can conquer, your lordship's zeal and kindness must. But, my lord, this is a time of so much threatening and distraction, that all private concerns, though never so great, must rest, I think ; though, as your lordship hints very justly, it were unreasonable to be required on either side, that there should not be an entire freedom to choose as may be agreeing to either side \*.

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## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By your last letter, writ some day in Passion week, I find where you were then ; yet having heard nothing of you since, it gives me some doubts where you are now, being, I apprehend, lady Gainsborough might be solicitous to see so faithful and so useful a friend, especially in this time of her need, and if she does, I never make a doubt of your gratifying her.

I cannot tell you I have taken any notice of that part of your last letter which concerns lord Bedford, and the Cambridgeshire clergy ; for really and truly, unless I made it a business to do it, (which you did not seem to require,) I have had no time ; the parliament hours are so extravagant that I see him little. He has with him now a concerned lady in the privileges of your country, lady Alington ; but though she is in London she would not walk yesterday, which I do not commend her for : I am not sure what you may do ; I had no sister there yesterday. You hear all the new honours, I suppose ; not many new creations, but all are stepping higher ; as, lord Winchester † is duke of Bolton ;

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\* Unfinished.

† Charles Paulet, marquis of Winchester. Reres-



lord Montague an earl\*, called still Montague; Falconbridge † an earl, called the same; Mordaunt ‡ earl of Monmouth; Churchill § an earl; lord Lumley || made viscount; Bentinck ¶ is an earl; Sidney \*\* a viscount. Those that saw this and the last coronation tell me this was much finer and in better order; and if the number of the ladies were fewer, yet their attendance was with more application near the queen all the time, and with more cheerful faces by a great deal. By what is heard from Scotland, they mean to take the example from England. The last reports from Ireland says that king James was moving with his army towards

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by relates, that in the midst of the impending dangers which seemed to threaten us, there was a nobleman (the M. of W.) who had by his conduct persuaded some people to think him mad; but notwithstanding his irregularity, he was a man of great sense, and it is certain his meaning was to keep himself out of the way of more serious censure in those ticklish days.

\* Ralph Montague, lord, earl, afterwards duke.

† Thomas Bellasis, viscount Fauconberg; his second wife was Mary, daughter of Oliver Cromwell.

‡ Charles Mordaunt, who afterwards succeeded his uncle Henry, as earl of Peterborough.

§ John Churchill, earl, afterwards duke of Marlborough. He said to Rouvigny in 1685, If the king is ever prevailed on to alter our religion, I will serve him no longer, but withdraw from him.—Burnet.

|| Richard Lumley, afterwards earl of Scarborough. He secured Newcastle for king William, to whom he was otherwise very serviceable.

¶ William Bentinck, earl, afterwards duke of Portland.

\*\* Henry Sidney, esq. fourth son of Robert earl of Leicester, afterwards earl of Romney.

the north. And yesterday lord Burlington said, Colerain, a great town, was besieged by 6000 men, but that lord Blaine\* had sallied out, and so behaved himself, that they had raised the siege. D'Avaux, who was the French ambassador in Holland, would not speak in council, till all the protestants were put out: so they were, and, as they say, afterwards discharged all together, as the lord Grenard, &c. I am called away, and 'tis too late to defer sending this from yours, &c.

12 April, 1689.

R. R.

The mother lady Aylesbury is dead very suddenly.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THIS comes to ask a courtesy of you, good doctor, if I can get this letter to you time enough. The business is this: lord Devonshire is to be installed at Windsor on St. George's† day. My

\* In 1689, king James, before he left Ireland, sent to invite Henry lord Blaney into his service, promising him a pardon for what had passed: the said lord answered, that he had a new king upon whose word he could depend and trust, but never would to his without his sword in his hand; and heading a body of protestants in the province of Ulster, he took the pass of Lough Bricklan, seized Armagh, and caused king William and queen Mary to be proclaimed there, and at several other places, with great solemnity.—Irish Comp.

† William, earl, afterwards duke of Devonshire, installed knight of the garter, May 14; but accord-

young folks have a longing desire to see the ceremony, and they cannot do it without a night's lodging in Windsor. If I can have that accommodation of your house I will think it a great favour, and will go with them, and look to your house while every body is gone to the show.

I doubt the post can't bring me a return time enough, so I am put in hopes this may come to you by a coach; if it does, I do not question your order to your housekeeper to let us in. In confidence of it, I think to send to her, that I believe I shall come and air your beds for a night.

I have had opportunity since I writ last to tell lord Bedford what you said about the clergy. He answered, he believed there would be no change made, but if there were, you should have good reasons for it; such as he knew would satisfy you. But he was sure he should not be forward to impose upon the clergy.

'Tis church time, and therefore I bid you farewell for this time. Ever your friend, &c.

Sunday.

R. R.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR last spoke of being in town so soon, that it has made me (who manage writing to the best advantage) be longer than otherwise I would have been without inquiring of you where you are, and where you design to spend your time? Where you shall do it, God only knows; for we can only propose, and 'tis best for us, who can judge so poorly

ing to lady Russell, designed to be April 23, St. George's day.

as we do, when we do it best. Those who have lived long enough to reflect, may give themselves many instances how certain a truth it is, that we would often choose what is worst for us. I have had six books, and distributed them, and mean to buy six more, so good and useful I take them to be. My stay here is not intended above ten or twelve days. I will not turn my paper, so I rest your true friend and servant,

R. R.

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DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED, good madam, by yours of the 11th, a further testimony of that kindness of which I had abundant proof and full conviction before, and of your readiness to employ your interest to procure that for me which I requested some three months since. I made that petition then, in prospect of what is now come upon us, and in hope, that having obtained previous leave to go abroad before the oaths had been pressed, I should not have been immediately compelled to return back to take them. What now I shall do in this present emergency I am irresolved; but if, having first debated it with myself, and advised with my friends, it shall seem most expedient to make such a retreat, I will depend upon your honour's mediation for that favour.

I have a project which, if feasible, would please me more than any thing in the world, and by such an interest as yours may be in this court, upon the merits of your lord's sufferings, and the actings of his family, I should not question it might be obtained for one so unworthy of any ray of grace as myself. But if the thing be set on foot, it must be

with great caution and secrecy, till I am secure of the king's promise for it; and therefore I cannot tell whether you had best acquaint the prelate mentioned in your last with it, unless you have more confidence in him, that he will entirely serve you, than I can that he will descend to make himself an instrument to serve me. It is to get a person presented to my living, upon my resignation, by the crown, in whom I may confide, without any the least capitulation direct or indirect beforehand. He whom I design is one Mr. Jekyl, minister of the new chapel, Westminster, a very good man, and a favourite enough of the government. I could do this now another way before the first of August; but that I would take a longer time to consider, and did not I withal apprehend that the bishop of Ely\*, who is the original patron of it, would scruple to administer the oath to any upon institution, while he is unsatisfied about taking them himself. I cannot tell what my dear friend the B. of B. and W. may do in this case. I find him, by a letter to me, and another I saw in the hands of a person of honour of your sex, to be fluctuating; but if the consideration of the church's peace should, without a full persuasion of the lawfulness of the matter of the oath of allegiance, and of the authority which imposeth it, induce him to take it, neither his example or advice, though I have used him as a spiritual guide, should steer me in this point; for I could never hear that doctrine of the Roman casuist defended to a probability, that a good intention, or a holy end, could sanctify actions in order to that end, which were dubious and questionable in themselves.

It may be I have as sad thoughts for the divisions of the church, and as ardent desires for its peace as

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\* Turner of Ely, and Kenn of Bath and Wells, nonjurors.



any; and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem before my chief joy. But I cannot esteem it a good way to seek the attainment of this by any act which shall disturb my own peace; and yet this I must of necessity do, if I make use of such means as may be conducive to that end, when I am not first convinced of the justice of them. I did not doubt but the deans of some of the greatest name in the city would take the oaths, nor do I suspect but they will proceed to the doing so upon grounds which seem in their own judgment very solid. And yet I ought not to act or defend what I do by the example of others. This is like clearing one's self by reckoning up the faults of others; as St. Hierome, writing to Celantia, observes; but, however, as he proceeds, it argues a lightness and vanity of mind, for a man to leave his own conscience to follow the opinion of others. It may be their judgment, that at least, in such a case as ours was, the people have power to alter the succession; and that the convention was a full representative of them.

I sucked in other more monarchical principles with the first knowledge I had, from the breasts of my mother the university, and then and ever since took them, as far as I could understand, to be more agreeable to our frame of constitution of government. Or they may look on this revolution as a tacit and virtual conquest. I wish it had been owned to be such; for then I had known from the resolutions of civilians and casuists, and my own reason, what to have done without difficulty. In the mean time I entreat you, very good madam, not to call boggling at an oath, clashing against another, as far as I can discern, which I formerly took, an unnecessary scruple. I believe, were you under such an engagement, your tenderness and circumspection would be rather greater than mine.

The former oath of allegiance runs thus:—'I will bear faith and true allegiance to his majesty

king Charles, or king James, and his heirs and successor, and him and them will defend.' Of supremacy, 'I will bear faith and true allegiance to the king's highness (Charles or James), his heirs and lawful successors, and to my power shall assist and defend all jurisdictions, privileges, preeminences, and authorities granted or belonging to the king's highness, his heirs and successors, or united and annexed to the imperial crown of this realm.'

Now I am informed by the statute 1 Jac. c. 1. that lineal succession is a privilege belonging to the imperial crown, and by 12 Car. 2. c. 30. 17. that by the undoubted and fundamental laws of this kingdom, neither the peers of this realm, nor the commons, nor both together, in parliament, or out of parliament, nor the people collectively, nor representatively, nor any persons whatsoever, hath, or ought to have, any coercive power over the kings of this realm.

The present oath runs thus:—'I will bear true allegiance to their majesties king William and queen Mary.' Now let any impartial person resolve me, whether one of these, king James having abdicated, be his heir, or lawful successor, or could be made so, had the people met either collectively or representatively, which they did neither\*?

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\* In 1674-5, on a bill to prevent dangers from disaffected persons, lord Halifax, with that quickness of learning and elegance which are inseparable from all his discourses, made it appear that as there was no real security to any state by oaths, so no private person, much less statesman, would ever order his affairs as relying on it, for no man would ever sleep with open doors, or unlocked up treasure, or plate, should all the town be sworn not to rob. So that the use of multiplying oaths had been most commonly to exclude or disturb some honest conscientious men, who would never have prejudiced

In the mean time, I protest to your ladyship, upon the truth of a christian and a priest, that, divesting myself of all prejudices, and, as far as it is possible, of all passions which darken the light of the judgment, I will examine the matter to the bottom, and if I find I can take the oath, I will. But if I find I cannot, without declaring, or an admission of such a declaration, that I never intend, nor will be thought by construction or implication by such swearing, to recognise the legal title of king William and queen Mary, I then beg of your honour these three things:

1. That you would have the same good opinion of my integrity, and of my zealous addiction to you, or to any thing relating to your service, as ever you had heretofore.

2. That you would permit me, in entire trust and confidence, to make over all my worldly goods to you; for I fear that some men's heats may drive affairs so far, as to bring all recusants of it into a premunire.

3. That I may have some room in your house, if any can be spared, to set up my books in, and have recourse to them, if, on refusal, we may be permitted to stay in the town.

The first petition I with more earnestness would press upon you, your sister the lady Montague, and

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the government. As for promissory oaths, it was desired the learned prelates would consider the opinion of Grotius de Jure B. et P. c. ii. 13. who seems to make it plain that those kind of oaths are forbidden by our saviour Christ, Matt. v. 34. 37. and whether it would not become the fathers of the church, when they have well weighed that and other places in the New Testament, to be more tender in multiplying oaths than hitherto the great men of the church have been.—P. Debates. Ralph says the marquis lived till 1700.

all other friends, than the rest, because I look upon it as the worst sort of martyrdom, to suffer in the opinion of friends I have extremely loved and honoured, either as indiscreet or factious.

But yet, if such a martyrdom cannot be avoided, I will endeavour to sustain it with patience and courage.

Mrs. Alington, for whom I have always had a tender regard from her childhood, sensibly wounded me when she called this standing out of the bishops factious.

As to the second, if you shall see fit to decline it, I will apply with the same request to my very honoured friend the lady Gainsborough.

The third is with supposition only, that such a concession may not bring any great inconvenience upon your house.

I hope your honour will excuse the mean accommodation mine at Windsor Castle could yield you, and the meaner it may be because I could not be there to direct. I wrote twice that Dr. Scot might spare you a room, and if it had come into my head earlier than to-day, I am sure the dean of Winchester would, upon my writing, have spared you any in Dr. Fulham's house, which is in his command.

I entreat your honour to present my very humble respect and service to the lord Russell, lady Cavendish, madam Catherine. I commend you and them to God's protection, and continue, as I shall by your permission, &c.

13 May, 1689.

J. F.

LADY RUSSELL TO ———.

FOR my part, I think the man a very indifferent reasoner, that to do well, he must take with indif-

ference whatever happens to him. 'Tis very fine to say, why should we complain that is taken back which was but lent us, and lent us but for a time, we know; and so on. They are the receipts of philosophers I have no reverence for, as I have not for any thing which is unnatural. 'Tis insincere. And I dare say they did dissemble, and felt what they would not own. I know I can't dispute with Almighty power; but yet if my delight is gone, I must needs be sorry 'tis taken away, according to the measure it made me glad.

The christian religion only, believe me, my lord, has a power to make the spirit easy under great calamity; nothing less than the hope of being again made happy can satisfy the mind: I am sure I owe more to it than I could have done to the world, if all the glories of it had been offered me, or to be disposed of by me. And I do sincerely desire your lordship may experience the truth of my opinion. You know better than most, from the share you have had of the one, what they do afford; and I hope you will prove what tranquillity the other gives. If I had a better wish to make, your lordship's constant expressions of esteem for me, and willingness, as I hope, to have had me less miserable than I am, if you had found your power equal to your will, engages me to make it; and that alone would have bound me, though my own unworthiness and ill fortune had let you have forgot me for ever after my sad lot. But since you would not do so, it must deserve a particular acknowledgment for ever, from your lordship's \* \* \*

July, 1689.



BISHOP OF SALISBURY TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

IF it were for no other cause but to have peace at home, I must write to your ladyship; for, madam, my wife\* is scarce in charity with me, for my not offering her most humble service to your ladyship and your children; and therefore, that I may not forget it again, I must now begin with it, and so be again in her favour. She is not a little proud of the many honours you have done her; and desires most earnestly to be looked on by you as one that has all the value and admiration for you which she can possibly pay you. I do, in the next place, on my own account, make my most humble acknowledgments for the great care you have had of my books, which I have now cased up in your ladyship's cases for Salisbury. I have been so long accustomed to be obliged to your ladyship, and have so long a score to reckon for, that I will never offer to clear

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\* About 1687, Dr. Burnet married, in Holland, Mrs. Mary Scott, a Dutch lady of large fortune, and noble extraction. Her ancestor, on the father's side, was of the family of Buccleugh, who settled in Holland; on the mother's side, who was a de Ruyter, she was related to the principal families in Guelderland. With these advantages of birth, she had those of a fine person; was well skilled in drawing, music, and painting; and spoke Dutch, English, and French, equally well. Her knowledge in matters of divinity was such as might rather be expected from a student than from a lady. She had a fine understanding and sweetness of temper, and excelled in all the qualifications of a dutiful wife, a prudent mistress of a family, and a tender mother of children.—Biog. Brit.

it. All I can say is, that as I have met with all the noble marks of a most obliging goodness and friendship from your ladyship, so no heart can possibly be fuller of a deep sense of it than mine is. And as long as I live I will reckon myself as much a property to you, as any thing can be that eats your bread; and you and yours may ever depend upon all that I can ever do, as much as if I were bought with your money. You will, perhaps, wonder how I have got into this strain, that am so little apt even to say what I ought to do upon such subjects; but a heart that is very full will sometimes give itself a little vent; and therefore forgive me for saying that at some times, which I think at all times.

I will not undertake to write much news to your ladyship, only that from Londonderry is so good, that there is now great reason to hope for a speedy issue of that siege\*. Murrarty's † driving so many

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\* Londonderry was relieved 19 July, 1689.

† Murrarty, query Maccarty, who commanded at Inniskilling. Ralph relates, that Conrade de Rosen, marshal general of king James's forces in Ireland, 30th June, 1689 (during the siege of Londonderry), had recourse to a device which, for every kind of barbarity, is not to be paralleled in history: he threatened to gather the Irish protestants, and cause them immediately to be brought to the walls of Londonderry, where (he said) it shall be lawful for those that are in the town, in case they have any pity for them, to open the gates and receive them into the town, otherwise they will be forced to see their nearest relations and friends all starved for want of food; he having resolved not to leave one of them at home, nor any thing to maintain them, unless the besieged surrendered the next day, and to give no quarter, nor spare either age nor sex, if the town should be taken by force. He fulfilled

thousands of Irish protestants to Londonderry, either to die before it, or to be let in to eat up their provisions, is a piece of cruelty, that if persisted in, will bring on great barbarities; and will raise our mobile again on the papists of England. We are not quite sure whether the French fleet is out or not; for though there is some reason to believe it, yet there is much reason to doubt of it. If it is true, there will be a speedy decision at sea, upon which a great deal will depend. You will know that there has been much heat to-day in the house of commons, with relation to the two marquisses \* for removing them both. I dined to-day with one of them, who seems not to be much troubled at it; perhaps he thought it was a victory, because the

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his first menace without waiting for a reply; for 4000, or some say 7000, of all ages and conditions, stripped and deprived of food, were drove before Londonderry; and a great part of them perished by fatigue, grief, or want.

\* The marquisses of Halifax and Carmarthen; the latter, Thomas Osborne, afterwards (viz. 1694) duke of Leeds, co-operated in the restoration of king Charles II. was the chief instrument in procuring the match between the princess Mary and the prince of Orange, and acted with great zeal in the placing him on the throne, which was rewarded with great trusts and honours. He died 1712.—Brit. Comp. (His daughter Bridget was first married to Charles Fitz-Charles, earl of Plymouth, natural son of king Charles II. by Catharine Peg.) Burnet says, he gained the highest degree in Charles II.'s confidence, and maintained it longer than any that ever served him; he was likewise in great favour with king William. It was the marquis of Halifax who put this question, Whether the prince and princess of Orange should be declared king and queen?—Oldmixon.

debate was adjourned ; but, after all, those wounds are no desirable things. I know your ladyship has all our news from other hands, so I will give you no other trouble, but to assure you, that I am, with all possible duty, madam, yours, &c.

Saturday night.

G. I. SARUM.

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### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter came to me, good doctor, just as you designed it. I must, or be very injurious to you, say, you are a very mindful friend, and I should be injurious to myself, if I did not say I am a very thankful receiver of your compassionate charity ; and your sense of my loss touches me very obligingly.

'Tis very natural, I believe, to be pleased another thinks as I do, to some degree, of my pain or pleasure, and that one does not foolishly affect either. You instance very right, sir, 'twas an entire affection which was between us ; and no time, I believe, can ever waste my sorrow. All I desire is to make it innocent.

For the late circumstances in relation to the family, I would have assisted to my power for the procuring thereof ; but for any sensible joy at these outward things, I feel none : I think I should, if I live to see him a worthy man.

Your discourse is very fine, gathered from the philosophers, but that would not do my business. I know there is no disputing with an Almighty Power ; and what he gives us he may take away at his own time, and we have no reason to complain ; but yet, if my delight is gone, I must be sorry 'tis taken. But your christian doctrine has much more power in it. There you tell us the particular ad-

vantage that all good people have by particular trials of faith, if they behave themselves as they ought. We gain the content in our mind that our faith is sincere, by our willing obedience to all providences; and God will not forget any good thing in us; we shall have a reward; there is a promise of everlasting life; and what would not one do to obtain it? For we love ourselves too well, not to desire to be well always. I may say 'tis a great bait to do our duty, so that if we have faith, we shall have love and obedience.

Your prayer I like so well, that I have used it with such fervour as I can, more than once this serious day. And hope I shall more and more acquiesce in these dark providences.

I received a letter from my sister, which I have just read; she says her son is well recovered of the measles, but is very lean, and her daughter pale; that she is going in a few days to Boughton. I believe country air will be to their advantage; I pray God spare them to her, poor woman.

London is like to be my retreat from hence, for lord Bedford seems to have no hope of getting yet to Woborne; and I am not prepared at Stratton; but what one seems so directed to, I hope will do well. Lord Carberry's lady is dead. It is kept very carefully from the princess, who goes very long for one so big as she was. I hear lady Gainsborough is recovering. The dowager lady writes me word she had some thoughts of sending lady Julian to the bath; that lady Northampton was to take the opinion of doctor Lower. Truly I wish he may advise it, for I have believed a good while 'twas the best thing she could do, and I am glad she is in hands will leave nothing undone may be thought to her advantage, for that, I do firmly believe, my lady will not, as I do that I shall always be Dr. Fitzwilliam's faithful friend, &c.

July 21, 1689.

R. R.



## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I KNEW not where to find you, good doctor, because your last said you would go to lord Gainsborough's, and then to Windsor. Now I hear lord Gainsborough and his lady are at Banbury waters; but I have heard no more of you than that Mr. Hoskins told me he saw you at my sister Alington's. However, I can willingly lose a sheet of paper of my scribbling in search of one I wish so well to. We have been leaving London ever since I came to it, but lord Bedford has been indisposed, and that delayed it from day to day; so that it will be Monday before he thinks of it now. Here is no news but what the gazette tells. Two expresses did come yesterday, one from Ireland, the other Scotland, but I know nothing of them: they were sent to Hampton Court. However, I do so little know when you will read this, that it shall not be enlarged by yours, &c.

23 August, 1689.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM most ready, good doctor, to furnish you towards a correspondence; but any matter, I am sure, serves you if mine does. Now the matter you supply me with is too fine, or too strong, indeed both, for me to meddle with. I am sorry you missed lord Montague, though I despair of argument winning you, who, I believe, have gone through all; but his power and good-will might be useful to you, and all the service which can be done you, I

wish you may find friends to do it, and would refuse no part I can act.

I am very sorry the case stands with you as it does in reference to the oath; and still wonder (unless I could find kings of divine right) why it does so! and all this is the acceptation of a word which I never heard two declare the meaning of but they differed in their sense of it. You say you could have taken it in the sense some worthy men have done. Why will you be more worthy than those men? 'Tis supererogation.

If you can avoid mental reservation, that is the biggest thing to me, for I hate that to God or man; properly I know we can have none to God, though we may wish to have it: but I abhor that wish. But you seem to say, though you are permitted to declare, that is not enough, as not being consistent with the simplicity of an oath, and that it ought to be taken according to the mind of the imposers. If you can take it, as those you mention have done, declaring they meant legal obedience, and peaceable submission, I dare say you do so; no more is meant to be imposed, especially by the king and queen. And does not being content with the construction your friends put upon it signify their permission to take it in such a sense? It was my lord Nottingham's \* misfortune to pitch upon that

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\* Daniel Finch, earl of Nottingham. He opposed the prince's accession, as contrary to law, yet said, that since his highness was here, and we must owe our protection to him as king *de facto*, he thought it but just and legal to swear allegiance to him.—(Ralph.) He was with some difficulty prevailed on to be secretary of state to king William. He told the friends to the revolution he could not go along with them, but he would so far assist them as his good wishes would avail, and be so far cri-

word which gives such scruples. But methinks (with submission to wiser heads) it should be a greater to weaken the interest of the church, and the protestant religion all the world over, to the degree, so many able men incapacitating themselves to serve in the church will do, if God in much mercy prevent it not.

'Tis above great and good men to regard reflections, if they give not a just cause of scandal; and in serving the cause of God the best we can, there is none given. It may very well be passive obedience went too high. Some drove Jehu like. If it appears they perceive they did so, ought there to be shame in that; or ought it not to be borne cheerfully? If their nakedness is laid open, and some Hams do insult \*, still they should be above

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minal as concealment would make him.—(Burnet.) He had great credit with the church party; in 1721 he received the thanks of the university of Oxford, for his defence of the Trinity against Whiston. He died 1729-30, having a few months before succeeded to the title of earl of Winchester. His father Heneage, Burnet calls a man of probity, an uncorrupt judge, and in that province resisted the strongest applications, even of the king himself, though he did it nowhere else; he also commends him as chancellor, for filling the church livings with learned men, and obliging them to constant residence.

\* The papists accused the church of England of innovation and contradiction, with respect to resistance, or taking up arms against the king. Ralph observes, that in 1685 the clergy began to abate of their extravagant loyalty. When the bishops were ordered to publish the king's declaration of indulgence, as this was publishing what they thought to be illegal, or highly inconvenient, and being levelled at their own interests, says the champion

it, and overcome evil with good. I never thought good men had any harm by the ill-natured speeches of malicious spirits. God knows the very best of men have infirmities; but they are ill men that retort them. However, after all is said or can be said, a man must be quiet in his own breast if he can. When I began to write in this paper, I meant not one word of all I have said on this subject, but I know, good doctor, you will take it right, accept well of my good meaning towards you, and excuse my defects. I pretend not to argue, but where my wishes are earnest, I speak without reserve, sometimes by surprise; but take it as it is; I will not look back to examine; I know I need not to you.

I am just now, when I have signed this, going to write to my sister, and will remember your charge.

Knowing you could not be at lord Gainsborough's, I writ to Cotenham: I guess you have missed it. The waters did exceedingly well with the children. After they had done, Rachel was ill for twenty-four hours of a feverish distemper; but bleeding got it over. I am your willing friend to serve you, though others may more effectually than

31 Aug. 1689.

R. R.

On the 10th Sept. 1689, Dr. Tillotson wrote from Edmonton to lady Russell, giving her an account of the king's having conferred the bishopric of Chi-

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for the orthodox sons of the church (Caveat), 'they could not either in reason or conscience obey; this was putting violence on the consciences of the king's best subjects.' Thus it was confessed at last, that the laws are the measure of obedience, that men have a right to withhold their obedience when it is likely to prove inconvenient to their own interest, and that some regard is due to the consciences of legal protestants, though none had been shown by them to protestant dissenters.

chester on Dr. Patrick; and the rectory of St. Paul's, Covent-Garden, falling to his majesty's disposal by this promotion, dean Tillotson informed her ladyship, that he believed the king would not dispose of that living but to one whom the earl of Bedford, the patron of it, should approve, and therefore asked her, whether his lordship and she would be willing that the earl of Nottingham should mention to his majesty on that occasion Dr. John More. In the same letter the dean takes notice of his having spoken to the king the Sunday before concerning Mr. Samuel Johnson; and that his majesty seemed well inclined to what he had moved for that divine, but did not positively determine to take that course. This refers to some request which lady Russell had desired the dean to make to his majesty in favour of Mr. Johnson, for whom she had great zeal, out of regard both to the memory of her husband, whose chaplain he had been, and to the merit of his writings and sufferings.—Birch.

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#### DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

London, Sept. 19, 1669.

I RECEIVED both your letters, and before the latter came to my hands, I gave your ladyship some kind of answer to the first, as the time would let me, for the post staid for it. But having now a little more leisure, you will, I hope, give me leave to trouble you with a longer letter.

I was not at Hampton Court last Sunday, being almost tired out with ten weeks attendance, so that I have had no opportunity to try further in the business I wrote of in my last, but hope to bring it to some issue the next opportunity I can get to



speaking with the king. I am sorry to see in Mr. Johnson \* so broad a mixture of human frailty, with so considerable virtues. But when I look into myself, I must think it pretty well, when any man's infirmities are in any measure overbalanced by his better qualities. This good man I am speaking of has at some times not used me over well; for which I do not only forgive him, when I consider for whose sake he did it, but do heartily love him.

The king, besides his first bounty to Mr. Walker †,

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\* In a paper to justify lord Russell's opinion, 'that resistance may be used in case our religion and rights should be invaded,' as an answer to the dean's letter to his lordship of 20 July, 1683, Johnson observes, that this opinion could not be wrested from his lordship at his death, notwithstanding the disadvantages at which he was taken, when he was practised upon to retract that opinion, and to bequeath a legacy of slavery to his country. And, indeed, the dean was so apprehensive of lady Russell's displeasure at his pressing his lordship, though with the best intentions, upon that subject, that when he was first admitted to her after her lord's death, he is said to have addressed her in this manner: that he first thanked God and then her ladyship, for that opportunity of justifying himself to her; and they soon returned to the terms of a cordial and unreserved friendship.—Birch. Mr. Johnson wrote Julian the Apostate, to prove the legality of resistance; and an address to king James the Second's army: he was fined, imprisoned, pilloried, and whipped, after being degraded. The revolution restored him to his liberty; the judgment against him in 1686 was declared illegal and cruel, and his degradation null; and the house of lords recommended him to king William. He died in 1703.—Birch. He refused the rich deanry of Durham.

† Mr. George Walker, justly famous for his de-

whose modesty is equal to his merit, hath made him bishop of Londonderry, one of the best bishoprics in Ireland; that so he may receive the reward of that great service in the place where he did it. It is incredible how much every body is pleased with what the king hath done in this matter, and that it is no small joy to me to see that God directs him wisely.

I will now give your ladyship a short account of his majesty's disposal of our English church preferments, which I think he has done as well as could be expected, in the midst of the powerful importunities of so many great men, in whom I discern too much of court art and contrivance for the preferment of their friends; yea, even in my good lord Nottingham, more than I could wish. This is a

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fence of Londonderry, in Ireland, (when Lunde the governor would have surrendered it to king James II.) was born of English parents in the county of Tyrone in that kingdom, and educated in the university of Glasgow, in Scotland; he was afterwards rector of Donnoghmore, not many miles from the city of Londonderry. Upon the revolution, he raised a regiment for the defence of the protestants; and upon the intelligence of king James having a design to besiege Londonderry, retired thither, being at last chosen governor of it. After the raising of that siege he came to England, where he was most graciously received by their majesties; and on the 19th of November, 1689, received the thanks of the house of commons, having just before published an account of that siege, and had a present of 5000*l*. He was created D. D. by the university of Oxford on the 26th of Feb. 1689-90, in his return to Ireland, where he was killed the beginning of July, 1690, at the passage of the Boyne, having resolved to serve that campaign before he took possession of his bishopric.—Birch.

melancholy consideration to one in my station, in which I do not see how it is possible so to manage a man's self between civility and sincerity, between being willing to give good words to all, and able to do good to very few, as to hold out an honest man, or even the reputation of being so a year to an end.

I promised a short account, but I am long before I come to it. The dean of St. Paul's\*, bishop of Worcester; the dean of Peterborough†, of Chichester; an humble servant of yours, dean of St. Paul's; the dean of Norwich‡ is dean of Canterbury; and Dr. Stanley, clerk of his majesty's closet, is residentiary of St. Paul's; and Dr. Fairfax dean of Norwich. The warden of All Souls§ in Oxford is prebendary of Canterbury; and Mr. Nixon hath the other prebend there, void by the death of Dr. Jeffreys. These two last merited of the king in the west, Mr. Finch by going in early to him, and Mr. Nixon, who is my lord of Bath's chaplain, by carrying messages between the king and my lord of Bath, as the king himself to me, with the hazard of his life. St. Andrew's and Covent-Garden are not yet disposed. Dr. Birch (which I had almost forgot) is prebendary of Westminster; and, which grieves me much, Mons. Allix put by at present; but my lord privy seal || would not be denied. The whole is as well as could easily be in the present circumstances.

But now begins my trouble. After I had kissed the king's hand for the deanry of St. Paul's, I gave his majesty my most humble thanks, and told him, that now he had set me at ease for the remainder of my life. He replied, 'No such matter, I assure

\* Dr. Stillingfleet.

† Dr. Simon Patrick.

‡ Dr. John Sharp.

§ Leopold William Finch, fifth son of Heneage, earl of Winchelsea.—Birch.

|| Marquis of Halifax.

you ;' and spoke plainly about a great place, which I dread to think of, and said, ' It was necessary for his service, and he must charge it upon my conscience.' Just as he had said this, he was called to supper, and I had only time to say, that when his majesty was at leisure I did believe I could satisfy him that it would be most for his service that I should continue in the station in which he had now placed me. This hath brought me into a real difficulty. For on the one hand it is hard to decline his majesty's commands, and much harder yet to stand out against so much goodness as his majesty is pleased to use towards me. On the other, I can neither bring my inclination nor my judgment to it. This I owe to the bishop of Salisbury, one of the worst and best friends I know : best, for his singular good opinion of me ; and the worst, for directing the king to this method, which I know he did ; as if his lordship and I had concerted the matter how to finish this foolish piece of dissimulation, in running away from a bishopric\* to catch an arch-

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\* Tillotson wrote before to a nobleman (supposed the earl of Portland) begging he might be excused from accepting a bishopric. Birch remarks, instances of this kind of self-denial will perhaps be thought rare in any age ; but there was a remarkable one under Henry the Eighth, of another dean of Canterbury, well known by his embassies and public negotiations, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, great uncle of sir Henry Wotton. This great politician, as well as divine, being informed of an intention to advance him to the mitre, wrote to Dr. Bellasis from Dusseldorp, Nov. 11, 1539, requesting him, for the passion of God, to convey that bishopric from him.—So I might (adds he) avoid it without displeasure, I would surely never meddle with it ; there be enough that be meet for it, and will not refuse it, I cannot marvel enough, *cur obtrudatur non cu-*

bishopric. This fine device hath thrown me so far into the briers, that without his majesty's great goodness, I shall never get off without a scratched face. And now I will tell your ladyship the bottom of my heart. I have of a long time, I thank God for it, devoted myself to the public service without any regard for myself, and to that end have done the best I could in the best manner I was able. Of late God hath been pleased by very severe ways\*, but in great goodness to me, to wean me perfectly from the love of this world: so that worldly greatness is now not only undesirable, but distasteful to me. And I do verily believe, that I shall be able to do as much or more good in my present station, than in a higher, and shall not have one jot less interest or influence upon any others to any good purpose; for the people naturally love a man that will take great pains and little preferment. But on the other hand, if I could force my inclination to take this great place, I foresee that I should sink under it, and grow melancholy and good for nothing, and after a little while die as a fool dies.

But this, madam, is a great deal too much, upon one of the worst and nicest subjects in the world, a man's self.

As I was finishing this long letter, which if your goodness will forgive, I hope never to have occasion to try it so far again, I received your letter, and shall say no more of Dr. More, of whose preaching I always knew your ladyship's opinion. The person I mentioned was Mr. Kidder, on whom the king has bestowed the deanry of Peterborough, and

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*pianti immo ne idoneo quidem.* My mind is as troubled as my writing is.—Yours to his little power, Nicholas Wotton. Add whatsoever you will more to it, if you add not bishop.

\* The loss of his children, and having been seized with an apoplectic disorder.



therefore cannot have it. I am fully of your ladyship's opinion, that what my lord Bedford does in this matter must not appear to be done by him, for fear of bringing other importunities upon the king. If my lord thinks well of Dr. Horneck, Dr. More would then certainly have St. Andrew's.

I thank God for the health your family enjoys, as for that of my own; and equally pray for the continuance of it, and all other blessings. I would fain find room to tender my humble service to my lord Bedford, my lord Russell, and two of the best young ladies I know. I am, &c.

J. T.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE DEAN OF ST.  
PAUL'S.

WHENEVER, Mr. Dean, you are disposed, and at leisure to give it me, I can be well content, I assure you, to read the longest letter you can write. But I had not so soon told a truth you cannot choose but know, if this paper was not to be hastened to you with a little errand that I am well enough pleased to be employed in; because the effect will be good, though the cause does not please me; being you said Mr. Kidder\* can't have Covent-Garden, because he is dean of Peterborough (though I don't conceive why, unless it is because he is great, and others are not). But lord Bedford leans strongly to offer him to the king; 'tis from what you said to

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\* Rd. Kidder, afterwards bishop of Bath and Wells, (in Kenn's stead, 1691) was killed with his lady at Wells, by the fall of a stack of chimneys during the high wind, 27th of Nov. 1703.

me has made him do so. Yet if you judge he should not now be the man, I am enjoyed to obtain from you some character of one Mr. Freeman \*, and Mr. Williams † the last I have heard you speak well of, but I did not heed his just character. What you think fit to say to me shall not be imparted but in general terms, if you like that best; though lord Bedford is as close as can be desired, and as well inclined as possible, to do the best; and will have me say something of these men before he fixes, which my lord Shrewsbury advises him to quickly.

More ‡ he is averse to; Horneck § the parish is also, as he is well informed, to a high degree. So Kidder, Williams, and Freeman are before him. I desire two or three lines upon this subject, by the first post if you please.

Though my paper is full enough, especially to a man that has no more spare time than you have, yet I must just touch upon some other parts of your letter, being they touch me most sensibly. I bless God that inclines the heart of our king to do well; it looks as if God meant a full mercy to these long threatened kingdoms. I thank Mr. Dean very heartily for those thoughts that influence and heighten his charity to Mr. J——n. I will not say what I do more, but you must needs know. Mr. Dean, now a few words to your own concern, that bears so heavy upon your mind, and I have done. I know not if I should use the phrase, 'integrity is my idol;' but I am sure I admire and love it hugely wherever I meet it. I would never have a sincere person crossed. I do pity you, Mr. Dean, and I

\* Dr. Freeman died dean of Peterborough, 1707.

† William, afterwards bishop of Chichester, died 1709.

‡ More died bishop of Ely, 1714.

§ Horneck died prebendary of Westminster,

1707.

think you have a hard game upon your hands, which if it should happen you can't play off your own way, you can do better than a man less mortified to the world could; being if you serve the interest of religion and the king's, you are doing what you have dedicated yourself to, and therefore can be more regardless of the ignorant or wicked censorer; for, upon my word, I believe you will incur no other; your character is above it, if what you fear should come upon you. But as I conceive there are six months yet to deliberate upon this matter, you know the old saying, many things fall out between the cup and the lip; and pray do not fill your head with the fears of a trouble, though never so great, that is at a distance, and may never be; for if you think too much on a matter you dread, it will certainly disturb your quiet, and that will infallibly your health; and you cannot but see, sir, that would be of a bad consequence. The king is willing to hear you. You know your own heart to do good, and you have lived some time, and have had experience. You say well that such an one is the best and worst friend.—I think I should have had more tenderness to the will or temper of my friend; and for his justification, one may say, he prefers good to many, before gratifying one single person, and a public good ought to carry a man a great way. But I see your judgment (if your inclination does not bias too far) is heartily against him in this matter, that you think you can't do so much good then as now. We must see if you can convince him thereof; and when he is master of that notion, then let him labour to make your way out of those briers he has done his part to bring you into; though something else would have done it without him, I believe, if I am not mistaken in this, no more than I am that this letter is much too long from, &c.

September, 1689.

## DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, Sept. 24, 1689.

JUST now I received your ladyship's letter. Since my last, and not before, I understand the great averseness of the parish from Dr. Horneck ; so that if my lord of Bedford had liked him, I could not have thought it fit, knowing how necessary it is to the good effect of a man's ministry, that he do not lie under any great prejudice with the people. The two whom the bishop of Chichester hath named, are, I think, of the worthiest of the city ministers, since Mr. Kidder declines it, for the reason given by the bishop, and, if he did not, could not have it ; not because of any inconsistency in the preferments, but because the king, having so many obligations yet to answer, cannot, at the same time, give two such preferments to one man. For the two persons mentioned, if comparison must be made between two very good men, I will tell your ladyship my free thoughts of them.

Mr. Williams is really one of the best men I know, and most unwearied in doing good, and his preaching very weighty and judicious. The other is a truly pious man, and of a winning conversation. He preaches well, and hath much the more plausible delivery, and, I think, a stronger voice. Both of them (which I had almost forgot) have been steady in all changes of times. This is the plain truth ; and yet I must not conceal one particular and present advantage on Dr. Freeman's side. On Sunday night last the king asked me concerning a city minister, whose name he had forgot ; but said, he had a very kind remembrance of him, having had much conversation with him, when his majesty was very young, in Holland, and wondered he had never seen him since he came into England.

I could not imagine who he should be, till his

majesty told me he was the English ambassador's chaplain above twenty years ago, meaning sir William Temple's. Upon that I knew it was Dr. Freeman. The king said that was his name, and desired me to find him out, and tell him that he had not forgot him, but remembered with pleasure the acquaintance he had with him many years ago; and had charged me, when there was an opportunity, to put him in mind of him. This I thought both great goodness in the king, and modesty in Dr. Freeman\*, never to show himself to the king all this while. By this your ladyship will judge who is like to be most acceptable to the king, whose satisfaction, as well as service, I am obliged to regard, especially in the disposal of his own preferments, though Mr. Williams be much more my friend.

I mentioned Mr. Johnson again, but his majesty put on other discourse; and my lord privy seal told me yesterday morning, that the king thought it a little hard to give pensions out of his purse, instead of church preferments; and tells me Mr. Johnson is very sharp upon me. His lordship called it railing, but it shall not move me in the least. His lordship asked me, whether it would not be well to move the king to give him a good bishopric in Ireland, there being several void. I thought it very well if it would be acceptable. His lordship said, that was all one; the offer would stop many mouths as well as his: which, I think, was well considered.

I will say no more of myself, but only thank your ladyship for your good advice, which I have always a great disposition to follow, and a great deal of reason, being assured it is sincere as well as wise. The king hath set upon me again, with greater earnestness of persuasion than is fit for one that may command. I begged as earnestly to be consi-

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\* Dr. Freeman was instituted to the rectory of Covent-Garden, Dec. 28, 1689.



dered in this thing, and so we parted upon good terms. I hope something will happen to hinder it. I put it out of my mind as much as I can, and leave it to the good providence of God for the thing to find its own issue. To that I commend you and yours; and am, madam, yours, &c.

J. T.

If Mr. Johnson refuse this offer, and it should be my hard fortune not to be able to get out of this difficulty, which I will, if it be possible to do it without provocation, I know one that will do more for Mr. Johnson than was desired of the king, but still as from the king, for any thing that he shall know. But, I hope, some much better way will be found; and that there will be neither occasion nor opportunity for this\*.

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#### LADY MONTAGUE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I AM very sorry, my dear sister, to find by yours, which I received by the last post, that your thoughts have been so much disturbed with what I thought ought to have some contrary effect †. 'Tis very true what is once taken from us, in that nature, can never be returned; all that remains of comfort

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\* The king granted Johnson 300*l.* a-year for his own and his son's life, with 1000*l.* in money, and a place of a 100*l.* a-year for his son.

† This probably alludes to the committee of the house of commons to examine who were the advisers and promoters of the murder of lord Russell, &c.

(according to my temper) is a bringing to punishment those who were so wickedly and unjustly the cause of it.

I confess it was a great satisfaction to me to hear that was the public care; it being so much to the honour, as well as what in justice was due to your dead lord, that I do not doubt, when your sad thoughts will give you leave to recollect, you will find comfort.

I heartily pray God you may, and that you may never have the addition of any other loss, which is and ever shall be the prayers of, yours, &c.

Boughton, 23 Dec. 1689.

E. M.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO LADY SUNDERLAND.

I THINK I understand almost less than any body, yet I knew better things than to be weary of receiving what is so good as my lady Sunderland's letters; or not to have a due regard of what is so valuable as her esteem and kindness, with her promises to enjoy it my whole life. Truly, madam, I can find no fault but one, and that is constantly in all the favours you direct to me, an unfortunate useless creature in the world, yet your ladyship owns me as one had been of some service to you. Alas! I know I was not, but my intention was pure; I pitied your sorrow; I was hearty in wishing you ease, and if I had an occasion for it I could be diligent, but no further ability; and you are very good to receive it kindly. But, so unhappy a solicitor as I was once for my poor self and family, my heart misgives me when I aim at any thing of that kind any more. Yet I hope I have at last learned to make the will of God, when declared, the rule of my content, and to thank him for all

the hard things I suffer as the best assurances of a large share in that other blessed state ; and if what is dear to us is got thither before us, the sense what they enjoy, and we in a little while shall with them, ought to support us and our friends.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I ASSURE you, good doctor, I was very well pleased this evening to receive another letter from you ; and much more than ordinary, because your last had some gentle hints in it, as if you thought I had taken some offence, though you kindly again said, you could not or would not imagine it, not being conscious of omission or commission, and indeed you have good reason for saying so ; I will at any time justify you in it, and do more, commend your belief, that I either had not your letters, or was not well, than I could your mistrust of me for what will never happen. But an old dated paper has convinced you, and a newer had, if I had known where to have found you ; for in yours of the 5th of August you intimate that you meant (if it did not too much offend the eyes of a friend of mine that were weak) to make a stay at Windsor of ten days longer, and made no mention then whither you went. Now truly I had that letter, when I was obliged to write much to such as would congratulate my being well again, some in kindness, and some in ceremony. But so it was, that when I went to write, I found I should not know where to send it ; so I deferred it till I had learnt that. I sent to Mrs. Smith ; she could not tell ; I bid John send to Richard at Stratton to know if you were at Chilton, for I know lady Gainsborough was not there then, but now you have informed me yourself.

By report I fear poor lady Gainsborough is in new trouble: for though she has all the help of religion to support her, yet that does not shut us out from all sorrow; it does not direct us to insensibility if we could command it, but to a quiet submission to the will of God, making his ours as much as we can. Indeed, doctor, you are extremely in the right to think that my life has been so embittered, 'tis now a very poor thing to me; yet I find myself careful enough of it. I think I am useful to my children, and would endure hard things to do for them till they can do for themselves; but, alas! I am apt to conclude if I had not that, yet I should still find out some reason to be content to live, though I am weary of every thing, and of the folly, the vanity, the madness of man most of all.

There is a shrinking from the separation of the soul from the body, that is implanted in our natures, which enforces us to conserve life: and 'tis a wise providence; for who would else endure much evil, that is not taught the great advantages of patient sufferings? I am heartily sorry, good doctor, that you are not exempt, which I am sure you are not, when you cannot exercise your care as formerly among your flock at Cotenham\*. But I will not enlarge on this matter, nor any other at this time. That I might be certain not to omit this respect to you, I have begun with it, and have many behind, to which I must hasten, but first desire you will present my most humble service to my lady; I had done myself the honour to write to her, just as I believe she was writing to me, but I will thank her yet for that favour. Either trouble or the pleasure of her son's settlement engrosses her, I apprehend, at this time, and business I know is an attendant of the last. I am, &c.

Woborne Abby, 28 August, 1690.

R. R.

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\* Ejected as a nonjuror.

## DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, Oct. 9, 1690.

SINCE I had the honour of your letter, I was tempted to have troubled you with one of mine upon the sad occasion of your late great loss of two so near relations, and so near together\*. But I considered, why should I pretend to be able either to instruct or comfort my lady Russell, who hath borne things much more grievous with so exemplary a meekness and submission to the will of God, and knows, as well as I can tell her, that there is no remedy in these cases but patience, nor any comfort but in the hopes of the happy meeting of our deceased friends in a better life, in which sorrow and tears shall have no more place to all eternity!

And now I crave leave to impart something of my own trouble to your ladyship. On Sunday last the king commanded me to wait upon him the next morning at Kensington. I did so, and met with what I feared. His majesty renewed his former gracious offer, in so pressing a manner, and with so much kindness, that I hardly knew how to resist it. I made the best acknowledgments I could of his undeserved grace and favour to me, and begged of him to consider all the consequences of this matter, being well assured that all the storm, which was raised in convocation the last year by those who will be the church of England, was upon my account, and that the bishop of L—— was at the bottom of it, out of a jealousy that I might be a hindrance to him inattaining what he desires, and what I call God to witness, I would not have. And I told his majesty,

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\* The death of her sister, the countess of Montague, and of her nephew, Wriothesley Baptist, earl of Gainsborough.



that I was still afraid, that his kindness to me would be greatly to his prejudice, especially if he carried it so far as he was then pleased to speak ; for I plainly saw they could not bear it ; and that the effects of envy and ill-will towards me would terminate upon him. To which he replied, that if the thing were once done, and they saw no remedy, they would give over, and think of making the best of it ; and therefore he must desire me to think seriously of it ; with other expressions not fit for me to repeat. To all which I answered, that in obedience to his majesty's commands, I would consider of it again, though I was afraid I had already thought more of it than had done me good, and must break through one of the greatest resolutions of my life, and sacrifice at once all the ease and contentment of it ; which yet I would force myself to do, were I really convinced, that I was in any measure capable of doing his majesty and the public that service which he was pleased to think I was. He smiled, and said, You talk of trouble ; I believe you will have much more ease in it than in the condition in which you now are. Thinking not fit to say more, I humbly took leave.

And now, madam, what shall I do ? My thoughts were never at such a plunge. I know not how to bring my mind to it ; and on the other hand, though the comparison is very unequal, when I remember how I saw the king affected in the case of my lord of Shrewsbury \*, I find myself in great strait, and would not for all the world give him the like trouble. I pray God to direct me to that which he sees and knows to be best, for I know not what to do. I hope I shall have your prayers, and would

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\* When that earl resigned the post of secretary of state about 1690, to divert him from which, dean Tillotson had been sent to his lordship by the king.—Burnet, vol. ii. p. 45.

be glad of your advice, if the king would spare me so long. I pray God to preserve you and yours. I am, &c.

J. T.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE DEAN OF  
ST. PAUL'S.

Your letters will never trouble me, Mr. Dean; on the contrary, they are comfortable refreshments to my, for the most part, overburthened mind, which both by nature and by accident is made so weak, that I can't bear, with that constancy I should, the losses I have lately felt; I can say, friends and acquaintances thou hast hid out of my sight, but I hope it shall not disturb my peace. These were young, and as they had began their race of life after me, so I desired they might have ended it also. But happy are those whom God retires in his grace—I trust these were so; and then no age can be amiss: to the young 'tis not too early, nor to the aged too late. Submission and prayer is all we know that we can do towards our own relief in our distresses, or to disarm God's anger, either in our public or private concerns. The scene will soon alter to that peaceful and eternal home in prospect. But in this time of our pilgrimage, vicissitudes of all sorts are every one's lot. And this leads me to your case, sir.

The time seems to be come that you must put anew in practice that submission\* you have so powerfully both tried yourself, and instructed others

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\* Submission alludes to Tillotson's letter to lord Russell against resistance. A shrewd hint of the dean's endeavours to persuade lord Russell to submit to the doctrine of passive obedience.

to ; I see no place to escape at ; you must take up the cross, and bear it ; I faithfully believe it has the figure of a very heavy one to you, though not from the cares of it ; since, if the king guesses right, you toil more now ; but this work is of your own choosing, and the dignity of the other is what you have bent your mind against, and the strong resolve of your life has been to avoid it. Had this even proceeded to a vow, 'tis, I think, like the virgins of old, to be dissolved by the father of your country. Again, though contemplation, and a few friends well chosen, would be your grateful choice, yet if charity, obedience, and necessity, call you into the great world, and where enemies encompass round about, must not you accept it ? And each of these, in my mean apprehension, determines you to do it. In short, 'twill be a noble sacrifice you will make, and I am confident you will find as a reward kind and tender supports, if you do take the burthen upon you ; there is, as it were, a commanding Providence in the manner of it. Perhaps I do as sincerely wish your thoughts at ease as any friend you have, but I think you may purchase that too dear ; and if you should come to think so too, they would then be as restless as before.

Sir, I believe you would be as much a common good as you can ; consider how few of ability and integrity this age produces. Pray do not turn this matter too much in your head ; when one has once turned it every way, you know that more does but perplex, and one never sees the clearer for it. Be not stiff if it be still urged to you. Conform to the Divine Will, which has set it so strongly into the other's mind, and be content to endure ; 'tis God calls you to it. I believe 'twas wisely said, that when there is no remedy they will give it over, and make the best of it, and so I hope no ill will terminate on the king ; and they will lay up their arrows, when they perceive they are shot in vain at him or you, upon whom no reflection that I can

think of can be made that is ingenious ; and what is pure malice you are above being affected with.

I wish, for many reasons, my prayers were more worthy, but such as they are, I offer them with a sincere zeal to the throne of grace for you in this strait, that you may be led out of it, as shall best serve the great ends and designs of God's glory.

[About the middle of October, 1690.]

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#### DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

October 25, 1690\*.

I AM obliged to your ladyship beyond all expression, for taking my case so seriously into your consideration, and giving me your mature thoughts upon it. Nothing ever came more seasonably to me than your letter, which I received on Wednesday se'nnight, the very night before I was to have given my final answer to the king the next morning. I thank you for it. It helped very much to settle and determine my wavering mind. I weighed all you wrote, both your advice and your arguments, having not only an assurance of your true friendship and good will for me, but a very great regard and deference for your judgment and opinion. I cannot but own the weight of that consideration which you are pleased to urge me withal ; I mean the visible marks of a more than ordinary providence of God in this thing ; that the king, who likes not either to importune or to be denied, should after so obstinate a declining of the thing on my part still persist to

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\* From a copy in short-hand, in his commonplace book.

press it upon me with so much kindness, and with that earnestness of persuasion which it does not become me to mention. I wish I could think the king had a superior direction in this, as I verily believe he hath in some other things of much greater importance.

The next morning I went to Kensington full of fear, but yet determined what was fit for me to do. I met the king coming out of his closet, and asking if his coach was ready. He took me aside, and I told him, that in obedience to his majesty's command, I had considered of the thing as well as I could, and came to give him my answer. I perceived his majesty was going out, and therefore desired him to appoint me another time, which he did on the Saturday morning after.

Then I came again, and he took me into his closet, where I told him, that I could not but have a deep sense of his majesty's great grace and favour to me, not only to offer me the best thing he had to give, but to press it so earnestly upon me. I said, I would not presume to argue the matter any farther, but I hoped he would give me leave to be still his humble and earnest petitioner to spare me in that thing. He answered, he would do so if he could, but he knew not what to do if I refused it. Upon that I told him, that I tendered my life to him, and did humbly devote it to be disposed of as he thought fit. He was graciously pleased to say, it was the best news had come to him this great while. I did not kneel down to kiss his hand, for without that I doubt I am too sure of it; but requested of him that he would defer the declaration of it, and let it be a secret for some time. He said he thought it might not be amiss to defer it till the parliament was up. I begged farther of him, that he would not make me a wedge to drive out the present archbishop: that some time before I was nominated his majesty would be pleased to declare in council, that since his lenity had not had any better effect, he would wait 110



more, but would dispose of their places. This I told him I humbly desired, that I might not be thought to do any thing harsh, or which might reflect upon me; for now that his majesty had thought fit to advance me to this station, my reputation was become his interest. He said he was sensible of it, and thought it reasonable to do as I desired. I craved leave of him to mention one thing more, which in justice to my family, especially to my wife, I ought to do, that I should be more than undone by the great and necessary charge of coming into this place, and must therefore be an humble petitioner to his majesty, that if it should please God to take me out of the world, that I must unavoidably leave my wife a beggar, he would not suffer her to be so; and that he would graciously be pleased to consider, that the widow of an archbishop of Canterbury (which would now be an odd figure in England\*) could not decently be supported by so little as would have contented her very well, if I had died a dean. To this he gave a very gracious answer—I promise you to take care of her †.

Just as I had finished the last sentence, another very kind letter from your ladyship was brought to me, wherein I find your tender concern for me, which I can never sufficiently acknowledge. But you say, the dye is now cast, and I must now make the best I can of what I lately thought was the worst that could have happened to me. I thank God I am more cheerful than I expected, and comfort myself as I can with this hope, that the provi-

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\* Only two who had filled the see of Canterbury had been married, Cranmer and Parker.

† King William granted Tillotson's widow an annuity of 600*l.* and forgave the first fruits; for the archbishop left nothing to his family but the copy of his posthumous sermons, which was afterwards sold for 2500 guineas. She died 20 Jan. 1701-2.

dence of God, to which I have submitted my own will in this matter, will graciously assist me to discharge, in some measure, the duty he hath called me to.

I did not acquaint my good friend, who wrote to you, with all that had passed, because it was intended to be a secret, which I am sure is safe in your hands. I only told him, that his majesty did not intend, as yet, to dispose of this place; but when he did it, I was afraid it would be hard for me to escape.

The king, I believe, has only acquainted the queen with it, as she came out of the closet on Sunday last; commanded me to wait upon her after dinner, which I did; and after she had discoursed about other business (which was to desire my opinion of a treatise sent her in manuscript out of Holland, tending to the reconciliation of our differences in England), she told me, that the king had with great joy acquainted her with a secret concerning me, whereof she was no less glad; using many gracious expressions, and confirming his majesty's promises concerning my wife.

But I am sensible this is an intolerable letter, especially concerning one's self.

I had almost forgot to mention Mr. Vaughan's \* business. As soon as he brought your ladyship's letter hither to me, I wrote immediately to Whitehall, and got the business stopped.

The bishop of St. David's † had written up for some minister of a great town, but a small living in

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\* Probably a relation to lady Russell, whose first husband was lord Vaughan, eldest son to the earl of Carbery.

† Watson, bishop of St. David's, was deprived for simony, 1699, by archbishop Tennison. He took the oaths to king William, yet continued attached to king James.

that diocese, that it might be bestowed on him for his pains in that great town. The pretence is fair, but if the minister is no better a man than the bishop, I am sure he is not worthy of it. I have been twice to wait on my lord Nottingham about it, but missed of him. When I have inquired farther into it, if the thing be fit to be done, I will do my best for Mr. Vaughan. And I beg of your ladyship to make no difficulty of commanding my poor service upon any occasion, for I am always truly glad of the opportunity.

I cannot forbear to repeat my humble thanks for your great concernment for me in this affair\*.

That God would multiply his best blessings upon your ladyship and your children, and make them great blessings and comforts to you, is the daily prayer of yours, &c.

J. T.

#### LADY RUSSELL TO LADY RANELAGH †.

I HAVE now before me yours of the 12th, and can read it with the same eagerness as when it came

\* Archbishop Sancroft was deprived Feb. 1st, 1690-1, Tillotson nominated in council to the archbishopric, 1691, and consecrated 31st May. He died Nov. 23, 1694.—King William declared that he was the best man whom he ever knew, and the best friend whom he ever had. The queen for many days spoke of him in the tenderest manner, and not without tears.—Burnet.

† Wife of Robert Jones, earl of Ranelagh, a man of great parts, and as great vices. He had the art of pleasing masters of very different tempers and

first to me, and so must any body that you show so much favour to, as to entertain them in the like manner. Every one is an instruction for a whole life, and a nourishment for many days; and indeed I had yet, I think, fed on it longer, without exciting you to new trouble, the rather because my servant sent me word you had been more than ordinary indisposed, but blessed be God, he says, you are not so now. And therefore I submit, in order to the design I have to serve a very good lady all I can, to trouble your ladyship, and to consult you, if you please, in the matter. And I think you are never displeas'd on such occasions, more especially if you can have opportunity to be instrumental in effecting what does good to any. Now to my business :

We are told that Mr. Middleton is in a dying condition; his place in the Prize-office is worth about 400*l.* a year; 'tis though, as I apprehend, so only during a war, and so the less valuable; however, lady Ann Wingate would be contented if it could be obtained for sir Francis. I believe lady Anglesea is the tenderer in the point, by reason Mrs. Middleton is so intimate a friend. And truly though I am not so, I would not do so unworthy a thing as to solicit to her prejudice. But how 'tis so, if one desires to see a reversion be not granted to some other than our friend, I do not understand; yet would certainly cease if I did. Your ladyship will better know that than I do. But if it does her no wrong, I dare say you would most willingly gratify your friend lady Anglesea and her daughter, in doing what can be for them; and as such I address myself to your ladyship, from whom I can ask no more than when you see lord Devonshire to

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interests, so much that he continued above thirty years in great posts, and was looked upon as one of the ablest men Ireland had bred.—Tindal.

mention the thing to him, and your wishes in it; and if you think fit, as a thing you know I offered to him, from my lord Bedford, and my own account; though I know there will not want that to enforce, when he knows your will in it, I know so well his respect to your ladyship. However, lord Bedford and myself would show our readiness to serve my lady Anne and sir Francis, and the more friends join will not recommend it less to my lord Devonshire, if he can do any thing in it.

I have writ to him lord Bedford's thoughts of Sir Francis, which are, that he is an understanding honest gentleman; and has almost exceeded any in this country in his zeal and activeness towards the present government.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO LORD DEVONSHIRE.

BECAUSE I think all apologies are troublesome, I will not make any for sending you this paper, which comes to your lordship with a joint request from my lord Bedford and myself, if you can befriend us in it. I know your lordship needs not be pressed; your own nature moves you to oblige petitioners, as many as you can. The business is this: we hear that Mr. Middleton is very near dying; he has a place in the Prize-office; 'tis worth about 400*l.* a year. Sir Francis Wingate, a gentleman in this country, that married a daughter of lady Anglesea, would fain succeed him: my lord Bedford would most willingly gratify him if he could. The character he gives him is, that he is an honest understanding gentleman, and has showed all the zeal and good affection to the present government that is possible for any man to do, with an activeness irrefragable.



My lady Ranelagh will, I guess, let you see she is engaged in this matter, which I will say no more in ; but if it is in your lordship's way to do him the courtesy, I shall be glad. If it is not, I shall be sorry for this trouble I have been engaged to give your lordship, whose humble servant I am, for my whole life.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO MADAM ROUVIGNY.

DIEU nous a frappée, ma chere madame, d'un coup qui nous paroît fort rude ; mais Dieu ne pense pas comme l'homme pense, et il faut croire qu'il ne prend pas plaisir à tourmenter ses pauvres creatures. Mais que songions-nous, que Dieu salût se détourner de son chemin en ses providences pour notre contentement. Non, assurément, il faut nous supporter le mieux que nous puissions sur toutes sortes d'évènements, et vivre en espérance qu'un jour nous verrons plus clairement la raison de tous ses noirs dispensations qui nous attaquent, qui nous touchent si vivement.

Madame, je ne combats pas vôtre vide douleur, vous le devoyez, à un fils, et à un homme si brave et si aimé ôté du monde\*.

Il a aussi toutes sortes de consolations qu'on peut possible atteindre, en la maniere de sa mort : en toutes ses dernieres actions, mon ame me fait fort espérer qu'il fut accepté, et que son ame se repose

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\* Mons. Rouvigny, (eldest brother of the late earl of Galway), a gallant officer, slain fighting under king William at the battle of the Boyne, July 1st, 1690.

en le bras de cet Sauveur en qui il se reposoit avec tant de foi. Dieu veut, madame, que vous et moi faisons nos devoirs en telle sorte que les accidents qui nous peuvent arriver ne nous detournent pas des sentiers de Dieu ; mais au contraire nous ayant à passer doucement les peu de jours qui nous restent devant que nous entrons dans ces delices eternelles qu'il nous prepare. Jusqu'à ce heureux moment, Je suis, &c.

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE is so much in those little sheets you sent me to thank you for, that finding myself very ill fitted to do it, I was tempted to let it quite alone, till I made shift to consider, that for the most part our temptations incline us to the worst things, and to the most forbidden tempers. This makes me rise from that listlessness I continually drop into, till I have at least told you how sensible I am of your kindness on all occasions ; and I am sensible too how strong and pious all your offers of comfort to a disquieted mind are, and I hope that by often perusing them they will so affect me, that the effect shall correspond to your Christian wishes and prayers for me, and I shall obtain a better freedom of mind than I am mistress of at present, since you conjecture very truly, every new stroke to a weary, battered carcass makes me struggle the harder ; and though I lost with my best friend all the delights of living, yet I find I did not a quick sense of new grief, for want of due considering that whatever below God is the object of our love, will at some time or other be the matter of our sorrow. These two, my sister \*

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\* Elizabeth countess of Montague.

and a dear sister's son\*, began their course after me, but have ended it sooner. I would have had it otherwise, but I was vain and foolish in it: God knows where 'tis best to place his creatures. Your prayers are indeed of more use than your fears, for my health is good, but I love greatly the prayers of my friends, that I may be resigned in the case of my children, for this trial has so experienced to me my sad weakness, that I doubt myself, and humbly beg in mercy but not in judgment that I may be spared that trial †.

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LADY RUSSELL TO (SUPPOSED) THE  
BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

I HAVE, my lord, so upright an heart to my friends, that though your great weight of business had forced you to a silence of this kind, yet I should have had no doubt but that one I so distinguished in that little number God has yet left me does join with me to lament my late losses. The one was a just, sincere man, and the only son of a sister and a friend I loved with too much passion; the other my last sister, and I ever loved her tenderly.

It pleases me to think that she deserves to be remembered by all those that knew her. But after above forty years acquaintance with so amiable a creature, one must needs, in reflecting, bring to remembrance so many engaging endearments as are yet at present embittering and painful; and indeed we may be sure, that when any thing below God is

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\* Wriothesley Baptist, earl of Gainsborough, died September, 1690.

† Conclusion wanting.

the object of our love, at one time or another it will be a matter of our sorrow. But a little time will put me again into my settled state of mourning; for a mourner I must be all my days upon earth, and there is no need I should be other. My glass runs low; the world does not want me, nor I want that; my business is at home, and within a narrow compass. I must not deny, as there was something so glorious in the object of my biggest sorrow, I believe that in some measure kept me from being then overwhelmed. So now it affords me, together with the remembrance how many easy years we lived together, thoughts that are joy enough for one, who looks no higher than a quiet submission to her lot, and such pleasures in educating the young folks as surmounts the cares that it will afford. If I shall be spared the trial, where I have most thought of being prepared to bear the pain, I hope I shall be thankful, and I think I ask it faithfully, that it may be in mercy, not in judgment. Let me rather be tortured here, than they or I be rejected in that other blessed peaceful home to all ages, to which my soul aspires. There is something in the younger going before me, that I have observed all my life to give a sense I can't describe; it is harder to be borne than a bigger loss, where there has been spun out a longer thread of life. Yet I see no cause for it, for every day we see the young fall with the old; but methinks 'tis a violence upon nature.

A troubled mind has a multitude of these thoughts. Yet I hope I master all murmurings; if I have had any I am sorry, and will have no more, assisted by God's grace; and rest satisfied, that whatever I think, I shall one day be entirely satisfied what God has done and shall do, will be best, and justify both his justice and mercy. I meant this as a very short epistle; but you have been some years acquainted with my infirmity, and have endured it, though you never had waste time, I believe, in your life; and better times do not, I hope, make your patience

less. However it will become me to put an end to this, which I will do, signing myself cordially, your, &c.

16 Oct. 1690.

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### LADY RUSSELL TO LORD CAVENDISH.

THOUGH I know my letters do lord Cavendish no service, yet as a respect I love to pay to him, and to thank him also for his last from Limbeck, I had not been so long silent, if the death of two persons, both very near and dear to me, had not made me so uncomfortable to myself, that I knew I was utterly unfit to converse where I would never be ill company. The separation of friends is grievous. My sister Montague was one I loved tenderly; my lord Gainsborough was the only son of a sister I loved with too much passion. They both deserved to be remembered kindly by all that knew them. They both began their race long after me, and I hope should have ended it so too: but the great and wise Disposer of all things, and who knows where 'tis best to place his creatures, either in this, or in the other world, has ordered it otherwise. The best improvement we can make in these cases, and you, my dear lord, rather than I, whose glass runs low, whilst you are young, and I hope have many happy years to come, is, I say, that we should all reflect there is no passing through this to a better world without some crosses; and the scene sometimes shifts so fast, our course of life may be ended before we think we have gone half way; and that an happy eternity depends on our spending well or ill that time allotted us here for probation.

Live virtuously, my lord, and you can't die too



soon, nor live too long. I hope the last shall be your lot, with many blessings attending it. Your, &c.

29 October, 1690.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH your letter to me, which I now answer, was writ from Windsor, 25 January, yet was not read by me till very lately; for it happening to come in a time I was under some more than ordinary discomposure of mind, it was not given into my hand, at least I knew it not, but laid it (or as I believe my servants laid it for me) in a place I used to put things out of my pocket into, and happened not to regard it in several days, or I would have said something upon it a little sooner, being through God's goodness in a great measure relieved from my fear for my poor boy, who on Tuesday was se'n-night had so violent a cough, that in a day after, it gave suspicions of some other ill attending it: measles I thought most likely; and spots did appear on Thursday, and so high, with such an aspect, that the doctor thought it the small-pox. On Friday he was so sick and so ill, I sent for more doctors, and three of them feared it the small-pox, and if so, of the worst that could be, but they said till Sunday they could not be positive. It pleased God they saw enough on Saturday night to ease my heart so much as to assure me it was the measles. He has gone on very well since, and is now past the measles themselves, and I hope will in a little time be so of the ill consequences which often follow that disease; his cough is still remaining, and will now, I believe, till he purges or bleeds. I trust that as I have had grace to ask it, so his life is granted me in mercy and not in judgment.

As to your affairs, they stand as they did for many reasons; I went, that very Tuesday my child fell ill, to have seen the queen, in order a day or two after to have seen the princess; but it so fell out, I saw neither, and must not for a while; neither have I seen the dean \* since you went the last time; he had a severe cold upon him, and said he'd go into the country for air. Your information concerning the dean, I believe in part to be true, but not in the whole; as thus: I believe the dean thinks 'tis fit Mr. Hartlib should be considered; but never pitched on this, or that, only that he should have something, but did not recommend him to this; and I conclude so far from this reason, that when doctor Sharp spoke to the lord Nottingham, to desire so much as to know whether he had spoke to the king in such an one's behalf or not, that he might recommend such an one (Jekyl by name), or whether he would think fit to do it at all: his answer was, it was out of his hand; it lay between the king and the dean, for Hartlib had been recommended, and the dean of St. Paul's had put in a caveat.

Now if the dean had recommended the man, he might then at the same time have obtained the condition, and not put in a caveat. So I do not go upon what the dean says, but what I gather elsewhere; though I faithfully believe any thing he says to be true. As to Mr. Jekyl, he speaks as well of him as you can do yourself; but whether he will labour to put by Mr. Hartlib, that he may be recommended, I can't tell; when I see him I will do all I can to serve you, if it goes his way. I dare be confident he will take a due care you shall not be put upon any thing that will be a contradiction to your circumstances.

As to the prebendary, I know not what to say to

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\* Of St. Paul's, Dr. Tillotson.

it. If you are not obliged to swear, why should you not modestly represent the matter where it will be understood? though I would advise you to be cautious, and make sure of something first, if that can be.

I am sorry you jar so with a prelate, that I am sure was tender towards you, in the beginning of this government, and you believed it, and there was good reason to do so; but it seems he did something afterwards contrary to the first beginnings, which I am also sorry for, and wish you would soften (for your own sake) as much as you can. You must needs think, doctor, that the provocation the bishop of Ely has given does you no service, every one knowing your intimacy there; yet as there is no reason you should, so I assure myself you will not suffer from it. But, on the other hand, you should be a little more wary: one should be wise, though harmless as doves. You may remember lord Carmarthen said you was too late; which looks as if he knew the business: and yet the dean and he are not great, that is, I mean the dean is not his creature, though he may, and has, I believe, a respect for him; but his affairs lie in another way than to call him to be often where he is. If you saw how many walks I fetch to my boy in a day, you would think I have done a great work to scribble all this, from yours, &c.

5 February, 1690-1.

R. R.

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ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

June 23, 1691\*.

I RECEIVED your ladyship's letter, together with

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\* From his draught in short-hand.

that to Mr. Fox, which I shall return to him on Wednesday morning, when I have desired Mr. Kemp to send him to me.

I entreat you to give my very humble service to my lord of Bedford, and to let his lordship know how far I have been concerned in this affair. I had notice first from Mr. Attorney-General and Mr. Solicitor, and then from my lord \* \* \* \*, that several persons, upon the account of publishing and dispersing several libels against me, were secured in order to prosecution. Upon which I went to wait upon them severally, and earnestly desired of them that nobody might be punished upon my account. That this was not the first time I had experience of this kind of malice, which, how unpleasant soever to me, I thought it the wisest way to neglect, and the best to forgive it\*. None of them said any thing to me of my lord Russell, nor did it ever come into my thought to hinder any prosecution upon his account, whose reputation, I can truly say, is much dearer to me than mine own; and I was much more troubled at the barbarous usage done to his memory, and especially since they have aggravated it by dispersing more copies: and, as I find by the letter to Mr. Fox, are supported in their insolence by a strong combination, I cannot but think it very fit for my lord Bedford to bring them to condign punishment.

Twice last week I had my pen in my hand to have provoked you to a letter; and that I might once in my life have been before-hand with you in this way of kindness. I was both times hindered by the breaking in of company upon me. The errand of it would have been to have told you that,

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\* Upon a bundle of libels found among his papers after his death, he put no other inscription than this: "These are libels: I pray God forgive the authors; I do."—Sherlock.

whether it be from stupidity, or from a present astonishment at the danger of my condition, or from some other cause, I find that I bear the burden I dreaded so much, a good deal better than I could have hoped. David's acknowledgment to God runs in my mind, ' Who am I, O Lord God! and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto; and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God \*?' I hope that the same providence of God, which hath once overruled me in this thing, will some way or other turn it to good.

The queen's extraordinary favour to me, to a degree much beyond my expectation, is no small support to me; and I flatter myself with hopes, that my friends will continue their kindness to me; especially that the best friend I ever had will not be the less so to me now that I need friends most.

I pray to God continually to preserve you and yours, and particularly at this time, to give my lady Cavendish a happy meeting with her lord, and to grant them both a long and happy life together. I am, &c.

J. CANT.

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LADY RUSSELL TO (SUPPOSED) ARCH-  
BISHOP TILLOTSON.

IN wants and distresses of all kinds one naturally flies to a sure friend, if one is blessed with any such. This is the reason of the present address to you, which is burthened with this request, if you think it fit, to give the inclosed to the queen. My letter is a peti-

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\* 1 Chron. xvii. 16, 17.



tion to her majesty, to bestow upon a gentleman a place that is now fallen by the death of Mr. Herbert; 'tis auditor of Wales, value about 400*l.* a-year. He is, if I don't extremely mistake, fit for it, and worthy of it; he is knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire: it would please me on several accounts, if I obtain it. Now every thing is so soon chopt upon and gone, that a slow way would defeat me, if nothing else does; and that I fear from lord Devonshire if he was in town; besides, I should not so distinctly know the queen's answer, and my success, as I shall I know do by your means, if you have no scruple to deliver my letter; if you have, pray use me as I do you, and in the integrity of your heart tell me so. I could send it to lady Darby; 'tis only the certainty of some answer makes me pitch as I do. Nay, perhaps it were more proper to send it to the queen's secretary; but I am not versed in the court ways, 'tis so lately since I have loved them. Therefore be free, and do as you think most fit.

I intend not to detain you long; but the many public and signal mercies we have of late received are so reviving, notwithstanding the black and dismal scenes which are constantly before me, and particularly on these sad months, I must feel the compassions of a wise and good God, to these late sinking nations, and to the protestant interest all the world over, and all good people also. I raise my spirit all I can, and labour to rejoice in the prospect of more happy days, for the time to come, than some ages have been blessed with. The goodness of those instruments God has called forth to work this great work by, swells one's hopes.

24 July, 1691.

## LADY RUSSELL TO QUEEN MARY.

I HUMBLY beg leave to address myself to your majesty, and to say this truth, that it is a very sensible trouble to me, when I do importune your majesty; yet I do sometimes submit, because I would not be quite useless to such as hope for some benefit by my means, and I desire to do what good I can.

I know your majesty feels that life is a labour to the highest; but, madam, you are blessed with a portion of goodness big enough to be content with it, in order to serve those ends of Providence which are certainly wise and good, though dark to the inhabitants of the earth.

I do in all humility ask pardon for my request on the behalf of Mr. Richard Vaughan\*, that he may succeed colonel Herbert (lately killed in Ireland) as auditor of Wales. He is a lawyer, a Welchman, and so well esteemed of in his country, that he serves as knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire. I believe him every way fit for the office, or I should not do so much for him, since I think it a great matter to disquiet your majesty in this kind, and could with more joy pay a considerable duty to your majesty, than receive a profit for myself or friend; but my meanness and my misfortunes are a bar to all such hopes.

I pray God still to direct and prosper your majesty, preserve the person of the king, and bless with success all his designs, and so complete his blessing and compassions to all good people all the world over. The late public mercies fills with hopes your majesty's most humble, most dutiful, and most faithful subject,

24 July, 1691.

R. R.

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\* Related to lady Russell's first husband.

## QUEEN MARY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I AM SORRY my lady Russell knows me so little, or judges so wrong of the kindness I have for her, to think she needs make an excuse for writing to me. I shall never think it a trouble to hear from you, and should be very glad to do what you desire; but as I was wholly unacquainted with the place, and believe there is no great haste in the filling it, so I left all who spoke to me at liberty to write for themselves; so that 'tis likely the king may have disposed of it before I could let him know your desire. If it comes time enough, I am persuaded he will be as willing to please you in it as I am myself.

You are very much in the right to believe I have cause enough to think this life not so fine a thing as it may be others do; that I lead at present (besides the pain I am almost continually in for the king), it is so contrary to my own inclination, that it can be neither easy nor pleasant; but I see one is not ever to live for one's self. I have had many years of ease and content, and was not so sensible of my own happiness as I ought, till I lost it; but I must be content with what it pleases God; and this year have reason to praise him hitherto for the successes in Ireland, the news of which came so quick upon one another, that made me fear we had some ill to expect from other places; but I trust in God that will not be, though it looks as if we must hope for little good either from Flanders or sea. The king continues, God be praised, very well; and though I tremble at the thoughts of it, yet I can't but wish a battle well over; and for that at sea, I wish it as heartily as Mr. Russell himself.

I have heard nothing all this while of your petition, which I am sorry for, wishing for any occasion to show how really I am, and always shall be, yours, &c.

Whitehall, July 30, 1691.

MARY R.

LADY RUSSELL TO LADY (SUPPOSED)  
ALINGTON.

I MIGHT have told you before you left us, my dear sister, that I took the opportunity I had of being alone with your father at the lodge on Thursday, when you went to the leads, to speak to him in that concern you committed to me; but being my success is not exactly suitable to your desires, I would not venture to abate of your good humour amongst so many of your friends that take so great a pleasure in it. And to tell you true, I had rather write than speak, when what I have to say is not grateful, neither to me who am to speak, nor to them I am to speak it to. But thus it is: when I had spoke, my lord immediately replied, ' Daughter, this is not new to me; I have been spoken to in it, and I can give no other answer than I have done already, which is, that I have lately disbursed great sums, and my estate stands charged with a considerable debt, which must be raised when I die; but this I have done, and she knows it, but you may tell it her again, that I have left both her daughters very considerable legacies, though I do not care to name what.'

This is what his lordship said to me, as punctually as I can set it down. He did not tell me who had moved him in it. How you will like my report I know not, but I hope you think of me as I know myself to be; if it happen otherwise, 'tis but a little more weight to that heavy burden I have felt the weight of now full eight years, and as I have been wonderfully supported, so I have an humble confidence I shall be, the few remaining days I have left to live. Blessed be the mercies of God, who gives us joy, hope, and comfort in believing; and whatever the methods of Providence are, or may be, the final issue will be delight for

evermore. Were that blessed state only a rest from the labour and toils of life, how welcome must it be? but as the Psalmist says, "At thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore;" and in order to attain to this blessedness, which our Saviour, with the price of his blood, purchased for us, we should stand in awe, and often remember that place of Scripture, where God says of himself, I am with you while you are with me. Let us strive faithfully to walk in his ways, and then our pensive and most solemn thoughts will be our best, and soon calm all tumultuous ones, that the troubles and crosses of this world naturally lead us to. I heartily pray both you and I may experience the sweetness of such meditation; then we shall wait with a becoming patience the great day of consolation.

16 August, 1691.

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LADY RUSSELL TO LADY (SUPPOSED)  
ALINGTON\*.

My dear sister, I have not yet had resolution to speak to you this way, nor know I now what to say. Your misfortune is too big to hope that any thing I offer can allay the present rage of your sorrow. I pray for you, and I pity you, which is all I can do; and that I do most feelingly, not knowing how soon your case may be mine; and I want from you what I would most willingly furnish you with—some consolation and truce from your extreme lamentation.

I hope that by this time your reason begins to get a power over your wasted spirits, and that you

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\* On the death of one of her daughters.



will let nature relieve herself. She will do it, if you do not obstruct her. There is a time and a period for all things here. Nature will first prevail, but as soon as we can, we must think what is our duty, and pursue it as well as we are able. I beseech God to teach you to submit to this unlooked for, and in appearance sadly severe providence, and endue you with a quiet spirit, to wait for the day of consolation, when joy will be our portion to all eternity: in that day we shall meet again all our pious friends, all that have died in their innocence, and with them live a life of innocence and purity, and gladness for ever. Fit your thoughts with these undoubted truths, my dear sister, as much and as often as is possible, I know no other cure for such diseases; nor shall we miss one, if we endeavour, with God's grace assisting, which he certainly gives to such as ask. God give you refreshments. I am, &c.

10 October, 1691,

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LADY RUSSELL TO ———.

THE misfortunes of such as one extremely esteems grow our own, so that if my constant sad heart were not so soon touched as it is with deplorable accidents, I should yet feel a great deal of your just mourning; if sharing a calamity could ease you, that burden would be little; for as depraved an age as we live in, there is such a force in virtue and goodness that all the world laments with you; and yet, sure, madam, when we part from what we love most that's excellent, 'tis our best support that Nature, who will be heard first, does suffer reason to take place.

What can relieve so much as that our friend died

after a well spent life? Some losses are so surprising, and so great, one must not break in too soon, and therefore my sense of your calamity confined me to only a solicitous inquiry; and I doubt it is still a mistaken respect to dwell long upon such a subject. I will do no more than sign this truth, that I am, &c.

18 October, 1691.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO MR. OWEN.

How welcome the question I have to ask you will be, I know not, but I am much mistaken if the answer be not to my satisfaction.

I have had advice, and that but very lately, that my lord Cavendish's friends intend to set him up for Westminster. He is come over, and now with me. I know you were invited by your friends to stand, and therefore suppose you have had an intent to do so. How far you are engaged I know not, nor how strong you find your interest. I do very well remember you asked me to speak to my lord Bedford for his; I did it, and his answer was, he wished you a parliament-man with all his heart, because he thought you would vote well for your country; but having appeared for Phil. Howard, he did not care to be forward in opposing him if he stood. Now I have heard nothing of your concerns since this, and my lord Bedford was so favourable in the matter, that he meant to move no way in it, till now he understands that lord Cavendish looks after it. You may believe he cordially assists him: lord Clare does so too, who else assisted Mr. Bridgman, but he now wants none, having submitted to a signification given him not to pretend to stand if lord Cavendish did, it being of great concernment

that he should not be baffled. Sir Stephen Fox thinks no more of it neither, for as soon as lord Cavendish was named, he gave it up \*. Now, Mr. Owen, if you can think fit to give an example, and declare you wish lord Cavendish well in this thing, and as much as you can, give your interest to him, I find it is believed all others who have pretensions will do so too, except Bonithon, who I hear intends to stand it out to the last, upon a pure Tory interest; therefore I would fain have it come to a fair trial of skill between the two parties, which it can't so well do if lord Cavendish be not singly at the head of one of them, and that I reckon he will be if you desist. And indeed it would be too great a gratification to the Tories to recover at Westminster what they have so lately lost in the city—I mean their credit in elections.

Now, Mr. Owen, I should be glad of your opinion honestly in this matter; you must think that I am greatly concerned in it, and perhaps depended on in relation to you, who are more my acquaintance than you are to any of lord Devonshire's family. I would by no means in the world have my lord Cavendish contest in this matter and lose it, now at his first entrance into the world; but the good will of so many persons of quality, and so approved of by his majesty, is not to be neglected neither; and I believe the good his father did in the house of commons, when he was lord Cavendish, will be of advantage to this. And it will not hurt his interest that he is married to my lord Russell's daughter.

All these things you can weigh much juster than I can lay them before you; and you know your

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\* In the parliament, 1689-90, sir Stephen Fox was member for Westminster, and in 1695; in the latter, lord Cavendish was member for Derby, which makes this letter somewhat mysterious.

strength, and what may weaken it, if you please to consider it; and when you have done so, if you resolve to oppose us, tell me ingenuously as much, and if you please, your reasons against my lord's standing, and for your own, it will oblige yours, &c.

23 Oct. 1691.

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### LADY RUSSELL TO QUEEN MARY.

THE king's safe return into England is so great a subject for rejoicing, with all the other mercies of this year, as it gives me courage to take upon me to congratulate to your majesty so blessed and so desired a providence, most especially to yourself, and then to all your people, that the intolerable temper of envy and faction does not influence: blessed be God that their fault becomes their punishment!

My mind being as it ought to be, as full of the present public joy as I am capable of, I am unwilling to put any thing in this paper that is of little moment, or looks like a particular interest. But, because I am very tender of multiplying these kind of troubles to your majesty, and am also encouraged from your being pleased to take notice I had not presented my petition that I had humbly asked leave to do, I have at last put it into my lady Darby's hands to present to your majesty, if you give leave. I could not before now get it done fit (as I thought) to show to your majesty; and now I have, considering the king's coming was so near you would not order any despatch to a business like this, I have addressed my petition to his majesty; and if I may obtain so much grace as your majesty to recommend it to the king, I can't doubt my success, though my request was much bigger than it is.

But if this is too much to ask, I humbly hope my fault may not be too great for your majesty's forgiveness to your majesty's most dutiful and most obedient subject,

Woborne Abby, 23 Oct. 1691.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO LADY DARBY.

As my lady Darby is never wanting, so I hope she is never weary of doing good and charitable offices. This that I am now asking from her is of the last degree to me, it being, that my poor child may have the honour and advantage of your protection, and kind prudent advice, now at her first entrance into the world. She has (I think) wit enough to take well either caution or reproof from your ladyship, and she is unexperienced enough to want it, and never been till now from too fond a mother, I doubt. My lord Devonshire has called her out of my sight a little sooner than I thought we should have parted, my lady Devonshire not being in town; but my lord gives me so good a reason for it (as the queen's being best pleased it should be so), that if I had authority to do it, I would not keep her, since I would have all that's mine to pay, as I will ever do, a free obedience to all her majesty's orders. I believe she will quite lose her credit for a dancer, for I find she can't walk one dance out, 'tis so long since she learnt, and she will have so little time to practise; but I encourage her to be content to do ill, rather than do nothing when the queen bids her do something. She will still grow better, I hope, every way a great while. I beg a thousand pardons of my lady Darby for so long a trouble now, and so lasting a one as I have taken the liberty to ask of her; but a mother's con-



cern will, I trust, excuse all the importunities of one that is, with true and great respect, yours, &c.  
October 28, 1691.

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## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WAS extremely well pleased, good doctor, to see a letter from you; not that I ever was so injurious to you, as to believe I had less of your respect when I had none of your letters; and I expect the same justice on your part towards me, and I believe I have it; however, 'tis well to express it sometimes. The last I writ to you lies now in my dressing-room, over the chimney, with one inclosed in it for lady Gainsborough, and one other to lady Julian, for I did not know how to direct to you, you being gone from Windsor. I heard last night from my lady Gainsborough, and was glad she could tell me her daughter Napier was better since her being quick. I pray God give her mother her life with comfort. I hear she has a lusty grand-child by her son. I would fain scribble longer to you, but 'tis a visiting day, and my boy is so earnest at my elbow that I would be going, I can't deny him, but will myself, in hastily signing, your faithful friend, &c.

December 29, 1691.

R. R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM so fully persuaded that Dr. Fitzwilliam knows my thoughts towards him, that I have never doubted he could misinterpret my receiving so well as I did, his kind inquiry after us, that morning I left Stratton; but when I read your note, verily meaning to write a few lines to thank you, I gave no answer for the man, and so I guess he went without any; for I was by one business or another so hurried the rest of the time I stayed, that I never remembered what was incumbent on me, and not being put in mind, left it undone, to my vexation when I did remember it.

The solemnity of the time, when I was come here, made me delay till the next week writing to you, and then not taking the first post of that next, my thoughts grew too intent upon the sea affairs, to write letters: But God's holy name be ever praised for the happy close of that great business, which is marvellous in our eyes. May our praises and thanksgivings in some measure correspond to the good we have received, and that our biggest acknowledgments may not be expressed in ringing of bells and making of bonfires; but in recounting his many, and wonderful, and glorious mercies, and in carefully walking more obediently to his laws, which is all we can return to our benefactor.

Notwithstanding our differences in some things, I am sure Dr. Fitzwilliam joins his thanksgivings with me in this victory over that proud persecutor of the protestant religion. The express this morning tells us, that the twelve ships admiral Russell had pursued to the French shore were all burned; the six biggest on Monday night, and the six less on Tuesday morning, with all their guns and ammunition; six were three deck ships, and the other six, the least was of sixty guns. The fleet is now divided

into three parts: the admiral with one to Brest, to try if he can do any thing there; one of the less is to go to eastward, to look after six French ships said to be gone that way; and the other to cross between England and Dunkirk. I believe your newspapers at Chiltern tell you all, but being there is nothing newer, I would do it too; and as one can say nothing but what would be dull, after what I have said, I will conclude this from yours, &c.

May 26, 1692.

R. R.

If Mrs. Napier is brought to bed, I would be glad to know it. And, good doctor, present my service to lady Worsley and sir Robert.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WILL say but little for myself, why you were so long without hearing from me, yet I could say much to my justification, but am more willing to come to the more touching and serious part of your last letter; not but I should be very sorry, indeed, if I suspected you had a thought I were unworthy towards you; I dare say you raise none upon appearances, and other reason you shall never have. In short, my daughter Cavendish being ill, carried me twice a day to Arlington house, where I stayed till twelve and one o'clock at night, and much business, being near leaving London, and my eyes serving me no longer by candle-light, which perhaps was the biggest let of all, and hindered my doing what I desired and ought to do.

But to come to the purpose of yours, which I received the 13th of this lamentable month, the very day of that hard sentence pronounced against my

dear friend and husband ; it was the fast day, and so I had the opportunity of retiring without any taking notice of it, which pleases me best. What shall I say, doctor? That I do live by your rules? No, I should lie. I bless God it has long been my purpose, with some endeavour, through mercy, to do it. I hope I may conclude, I grieve without sinning; yet I can't attain to that love of God, and submission to all his providences, that I can rejoice in; however, I bless him for his infinite mercy, in a support that is not wrought from the world (though my heart is too much bound up in the blessings I have yet left), and I hope chiefly he has enabled me to rejoice in him as my everlasting portion, and in the assured hope of good things in the other world.

Good doctor, we are travelling the same way, and hope, through mercy, to meet at the same happy end of all our labours here, in an eternal rest; and 'tis of great advantage to that attainment, communicating pious thoughts to each other; nothing on this side heaven goes so near to it; and being where God is, 'tis heaven. If he be in our hearts there will be peace and satisfaction, when one recollects the happiness of such a state (which, if my heart deceives me not, I hope is mine); and I will try to experience more and more that blessed promise, 'Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you ease.' This day and this subject inclines me to be very long, and might to another be too tedious; but I know it is not so to Dr. Fitzwilliam, who uses to feast in the house of mourning. However, my time to open my chamber door is near; and I take some care not to affect in these retirements. In all circumstances, I remain yours, &c.

July 21, 1692.

R. R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO LADY — RUSSELL.

**IF** ever I could retaliate with my sister Russell, it would be now, on the subject of death, when I have all this my saddest month been reflecting on what I saw and felt; and yet what can I say more, than to acquiesce with you, that 'tis a solemn thing to think of the consequences of death to believers and unbelievers! That 'tis a contemplation ought to be of force to make us diligent for the approaching change, I must own; yet I doubt it does so but on a few. That you are one of those happy ones, I conclude, if I knew no more reason for it than the bare conclusion of yours, that the bare meditation is sufficient to provoke to care; for when a heart is so well touched, it will act; and who has, perhaps, by an absolute surrender of herself, so knit her soul to God, as will make her dear in his sight. We lie under innumerable obligations to be his entirely; and nothing should be so attracting to us, as his miraculous love in sending his Son; but my still smart sorrow for earthly losses makes me know I loved inordinately; and my profit in the school of adversity has been small, or I should have long since turned my mourning into rejoicing thankfulness, that I had such a friend to lose; that I saw him I loved as my own soul take such a prospect of death, as made him, when brought to it, walk through the dark and shaded valley (notwithstanding the natural aversion of separation) without fearing evil: for if we in our limited degrees of goodness will not forsake those that depend on us, much less can God cast us from him, when we seek to him in our calamity. And though he denied my earnest and repeated prayers, yet he has not denied me the support of his holy spirit, in this my long day of calamity, but enabled me in some measure to rejoice in him as my portion for ever;



who has provided a remedy for all our griefs, by his sure promises of another life, where there is no death, nor any pain or trouble, but a fulness of joy in the presence of God, who made us, and loves us for ever.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO LADY SUNDERLAND.

Your kind letter, madam, asks me to do much better for myself and mine, than to scribble so insignificantly as I do in a piece of paper; but for twenty several reasons yours must have the advantage you offer me with obliging earnestness a thousand times greater than I deserve, or there can be cause for, but that you have taken a resolution to be all goodness and favour to me. And indeed what greater mark can you almost give than remembering me so often, and letting me receive the exceeding advantage of your doing so, by reading your letters, which are also edifying? When I know you are continually engaged in so great and necessary employments as you are, and have but too imperfect health, which to any other in the world but lady Sunderland would unfit for at least so great despatches as you are charged with. These are most visible tokens of providence, that every one that aims to do their duty shall be enabled to do it.

I hope your natural strength is so great, that it will in some time, if you do your part, master what has been accidentally in the disorder of it. Health, if one strictly considers, is the first of earthly blessings; for even the conversation of friends, which, as to spiritual profits, as you excellently observe, is the nearest approach we can make to heaven while we live in these tabernacles of clay; so 'tis, in a temporal

sense also, the most pleasant and the most profitable improvement we can make of the time we are to spend on earth. But, as I was saying, if our bodies are out of tune, how ill do we enjoy what in itself is so precious? and how often must we choose, if we can attain it, a short slumber, that may take off our sense of pain, than to accept what we know in worth excels almost to infiniteness? No soul can speak more feelingly than my poor self on this subject; who can truly say, my friendships have made all the joys and troubles of my life; and yet who would live and not love? Those who have tried the insipidness of it would, I believe, never choose it. Mr. Waller says—' 'Tis (with singing) all we know they do above.' And 'tis enough; for if there is so charming a delight in the love, and suitableness in humours, to creatures! what must it be to our clarified spirits to love in the presence of God! Can there be a greater contemplation to provoke to diligence for our preparation to that great change, where we shall be perfected, and so continue for ever! I see I have scribbled a great deal of paper; I dare not read it, lest I should be sorry lady Sunderland should; and yet can now send her nothing if not this, for my eyes grow ill so fast, I resolve to do nothing of this sort by candlelight.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE not used to be so long without holding a correspondence with my good friend Dr. Fitzwilliam; but I can do no more as I have done, therefore do works of necessity in the first place; and when I think I have not done too much, I proceed to those of pleasure. If I had found leisure to be

so employed, you had been told sooner that I have received yours of the 23d August. I thank you, sir, for all in it; and would gladly say something to every thing in particular, but I must restrain my desires, being resolved to be strict in observing the directions I am under for my bad eyes, which I am not sensible I hurt by what I can do, which is writing; as for reading I am past that contentment, especially print; your hand is plain, and so well known to me, I can yet make shift to see it; and while I can, desire to do so, if you please.

I have had a strong inclination to have discoursed a business of weight with you, no less than the marriage of my daughter; if lady Gainsborough thought of it, you had a hint of it earlier than almost any body from me. I do own, when it was first proposed, I was as it were surprised; but when I came seriously to consider, and discourse with her friends, and also with such others as I could then get to talk with, and found reason to conclude that a reverse of Parliament was all the scruple I need to have, I was content to hear more of it, and not refuse the best match in England for an imaginary religious scruple. For, as on the one hand, I am joyful to see my daughters bestowed to the best fortunes in England, so, on the other, if he had a kingdom with his, I would not agree to put her knowingly in circumstances that I should doubt God's blessing would not go with. But if a divorce is just, as agreeing with the word of God, I take a marriage after it certainly to be so\*. And for the estate, we enjoy

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\* In 1670, John lord Roos, or Ross, (afterwards earl and duke of Rutland) who had married lady Anne Pierpoint, daughter to Henry marquis of Dorchester, by whom he had two sons, having brought proofs of adultery against her, and obtained a sentence of divorce in the spiritual court, as it amounted only to a separation from bed and

them by man's law, and that man can alter, and so may alter again; which is a risk I am willing to run, if there should be enough left.

The young people have just seen one another. He is a pretty youth, and, as I am told, virtuously bred, and is free from all ill; his tutor was with him; he is a non-swearer, a divine, a man of parts, they say, and a good liver. You see, though I may not think the better of him, I do not think the worse. This is the business sticks closest to my thoughts, and so I am apt to enlarge to such friends as you. For the chat of the town, as the successor to my poor sister\*, &c. I will not venture to hurt my eyes for it; so will close this from your faithful friend and servant.

19 September, 1692.

R. R.

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board, he moved for a bill to dissolve the bond; and an act of parliament was passed disabling her issue to inherit any of his lands or honours, and enabling him to marry again.—He then married Diana, daughter of the earl of Aylesbury, by whom he had no issue.—His third wife was Catharine, daughter to Baptist Noel, viscount Campden, by whom he had two sons and two daughters: the eldest son, John lord Roos, married Catharine, daughter of lord William and lady Rachel Russell, who had four sons and four daughters.

\* Lord Montague's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Cavendish, duke of Newcastle, widow of Christopher Monk, duke of Albemarle.

## QUEEN MARY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I CONFESS myself lazy enough in writing, yet that has not hindered my answering lady Russell's letter, but staying for Mr. Russell's own answer, to which you referred me.

I have seen him this day, and find he is resolved to be Mr. Russell still; I could not press him farther in a thing he seemed so little to care for, so there is an end of that matter. Whether the king will think I have done it enough or no I can't tell, but 'tis not in my nature to compliment, which makes me always take people at their words. I was glad to hear lord Bedford is so well, and that your eyes are no worse.

You are so taken up, I hear, with your daughter's marriage, that I will not make my letter any longer; besides 'tis easier to say many things than to write them, and at present I have not much time: I hope soon to have more by the king's coming, who I expect in a few days, if it please God to give good weather for his journey.

I shall say no more now, but assure you nobody can more sincerely wish you all imaginable satisfaction in what you are about, and all things else, than I do, who am really, and will show myself on all occasions, yours, &c.

Whitehall, 18 Oct. 1692.

MARIE R.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHILE I can see at all, I must do a little more than I can when God sees it best that outward



darkness shall fall upon me, which will deprive me of all society at a distance, which I esteem exceeding profitable and pleasant; but still I have full hope I shall rejoice in that He will not deny me his great grace to strengthen me with might, by his Spirit in the inner man. Then I shall walk in the right way, till I reach the joys of eternal endurance.

I must ever thank my friends for their good thoughts of me; if I know my own heart, you are just to me in those that concern that affair; my poor child must have a part, if it take effect. My daily prayers are to be directed by his holy Spirit, and that it may proceed or fall as he in mercy sees it best. I cannot write long enough together, to say much to the argument you do gently hint your mind concerning it. He has been here a week, and there appears no disposition in him that is blamable, though his age is not enough to compose him skilful in disguise, and so with art to conceal his inclinations; neither are his tender years proof against impressions, and imbibing bad as well as good. The gentleman you mentioned was with him, and, I believe, has done well his duty. His want of complaisance gives me no prejudice, or so little, that if he were my son, I would put him into his hands from me, for some time to the university, where I think our nobility should pass some of their time; it has been for many years neglected; I must use that term, because I think it a proper one.

We are, God prospering our intentions, as near our remove to London, as the middle of this month is to us, where I should hope to meet lady Gainsborough, but that your last hints nothing of it. Pray, present my most humble service unto her, and continue just to me, in believing me to be yours, &c.

5 November, 1692.

R. R.

## LADY RUTLAND \* TO LADY RUSSELL.

THE world may blame me for receiving the honour of a word from dear lady Russell, without returning my acknowledgments for it immediately; but I am too well acquainted with your ladyship's goodness to believe you will impute any little delay of my thanks to any disrespect, knowing I only spare you the trouble of reading too often dull empty letters; and that I have those obligations to your ladyship, that 'tis impossible while I have any sense, either to spare my pains or self, when it could be to pay you any real service.

I hope your ladyship will do me the justice to believe, that the account your last gave of Mr. Euers being now on the despatching part, and the hopes you give me to wait upon you some time in June at Woborne, gave me great satisfaction; and that you will add to that the esteem which is due to yourself, and dear Mrs. Russell, from me; and then you cannot but be assured that nothing can give me more content, than seeing your daughter mine also; for both before and after that desired happiness, there can be no command you can lay upon me, which will not be obeyed with pleasure, and taken as the greatest favour can be bestowed upon yours,

19 April, 1693.

K. RUTLAND.

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\* Lord Campden's daughter.

## LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE kindest marks you can give me, good doctor, of your having me in your thoughts, I received as you designed I should, before, and yet very near the day that I must ever give a solemn regard to; but, alas! my bad eyes serve me now so little that I could not read your papers, and tell you that I had done so in one day. 'Tis mortifying, yet I hope I do not repine, but, on the contrary, rejoice in the goodness of my God to me, that when I feared the utter loss of sight, has let me thus long see the light, and by it given me time to prepare for that day of bodily darkness which perhaps must soon overtake me. And what a grace is it that I should first settle my two daughters, as I expect to do? though as near as we take this in hand to be, it may never take effect, nay, shall not (if God is pleased to grant my request), unless it be a thing pleasing in his sight, and which his blessing shall go along with.

I am apt to say unless they shall be happy in it, but I find a distinction to be made between being pleasing in God's sight, and their being happy, as we term it, that is, being full of worldly enjoyments, and taking excessive delight in their enjoyments. This God may withhold in mercy to their future good. So that I consider, if the act is acceptable to him, all shall work to their good (if they love and serve him), but whether by a prosperous, pleasant gale, or struggling with stormy weather, that I matter not so much, their eternal interest being my care. And this I beg your joining with me in hearty prayer for. I thank you, sir, for the meditation so choicely provided for me, who must remember my feeble sight, since it remembers me, who will be yours, &c.

Woborne Abby, 25 July, 1693.

R. R.

## SIR JAMES FORBES \* TO LADY RUSSELL.

I COULD not miss this opportunity of giving your ladyship some account of lord Ross and lady Ross's journey †, and their reception at Belvoir, which looked more like the progress of a king and queen through their country, than that of a bride and bridegroom's going home to their father's house. At their first entry into Leicestershire, they were received by the high sheriff at the head of all the gentlemen of the country, who all paid their respects, and complimented the lady bride at Harborough. She was attended next day to this place by the same gentlemen, and by thousands of other people, who came from all places of the country to see her, and to wish them both joy, even with huzzas and acclamations.

As they drew near to Belvoir, our train increased, with some coaches, and with fresh troops of aldermen, and corporations, besides a great many clergymen, who presented the bride and bridegroom (for so they are still called) with verses upon their happy marriage.

I cannot better represent their first arrival at Belvoir, than by the Woborne song that lord Bedford liked so well; for at the gate were four-and-twenty fiddlers all in a row; four-and-twenty trumpeters, with their tan tara ra ra's; four-and-twenty ladies, and as many parsons; and in great order

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\* The gentleman by whom lord Cavendish sent his offers of assistance to lord Russell, after his condemnation.

† Lady Russell's second daughter, Catharine, was married to John, lord Ross, (afterwards duke of Rutland) on 17 August, 1693.

they went in procession to the great apartment, where the usual ceremony of saluting and wishing of joy past, but still not without something represented in the song, as very much tittle-tattle, and fiddle-fiddle. After this the time passed away till supper in visiting all the apartments of the house, and in seeing the preparations for the sack-posset, which was the most extraordinary thing I did ever see, and much greater than it was represented to be. After supper, which was exceeding magnificent, the whole company went in procession to the great hall; the bride and bridegroom first, and all the rest in order two and two; there it was the scene opened, and the great cistern appeared, and the healths began; first in spoons, some time after in silver cups; and though the healths were many, and great variety of names given to them, it was observed, after one hour's hot service, the posset did not sink above one inch, which made my lady Rutland call in all the family, and then upon their knees the bride and bridegroom's health, with prosperity and happiness, was drunk in tankards brim full of sack-posset. This lasted till past twelve o'clock, &c. Madam, your most humble servant,

1693.

J. FORBES.

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ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY  
RUSSELL.

Lambeth House, Aug. 26, 1693.

THOUGH nobody rejoices more than myself in the happiness of your ladyship and your children, yet in the hurry in which you must needs have been, I could not think it fit for to give you the disturbance



so much as of a letter, which otherwise had, both in friendship and good manners, been due upon this great occasion. But now that busy time is, in a good measure, over, I cannot forbear, after so many as I am sure have been before me, to congratulate with your ladyship this happy match of your daughter; for so I heartily pray it may prove, and have great reason to believe it will, because I cannot but look upon it as part of the comfort and reward of your patience and submission to the will of God, under that sorest and most heavy affliction that could have befallen you; and when God sends and intends a blessing, it shall have no sorrow or evil with it.

entreat my lord Ross and his lady to accept of my humble service, and my hearty wishes of great and lasting happiness.

My poor wife is at present very ill, which goes very near me; and having said this, I know we shall have your prayers. I entreat you to give my humble service to my lord of Bedford, and my lord Cavendish and his lady. I could, upon several accounts, be melancholy, but I will not upon so joyful an occasion. I pray God to preserve and bless your ladyship, and all the good family at Woborne, and to make us all concerned to prepare ourselves with the greatest care for a better life. I am, with all true respect and esteem, madam, yours, &c.

J. CANT.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You will be so just to me, good doctor, as never to mistrust my silence; if I did not believe so, I

should be in some pain now, having two letters from you by me, that if I am not very unworthy will make me take a pleasure to say something in return of so much good will; and 'tis then an ill mark not to have writ in so long a time, being I know none but what are self-lovers enough to do what pleases them. Yet so has been my case, I would have been glad to have conversed with you, good doctor, but could not, as my present circumstances are. Heretofore, whatever engagements I had a days, the nights were free to me; but my ill eyes can now not serve me at all, when once a candle is lighted; so that since lord Rutland came hither, I have been mistress of no time; if I had, I should not have lived in a continual noise and hurry as I have done. I did excuse my going to Belvoir with all the company, but followed them before I had acquitted myself of all my formal congratulations; for if I do more than a very little at a time, I find my eyes ache, and that I am sure is naught, and a little sight is too precious a good to be neglected.

I thank you, sir, for all your thoughts on the subject which filled mine this last year, but I can't attempt to say any thing in return; it would be too long a discourse for me this way. I hope I have done my duty well to my daughters, and that they shall enjoy a lasting happiness; but above all, my prayer is, that the end of their faith may be the salvation of their souls; that they may be endued with such graces here, as may fit them for the glories of the state hereafter.

If your retirement pleases you, indeed, and that you do not deceive yourself, I have nothing to say against it, if your health does not abate, which certainly will, if your mind does not agree perfectly with what your will has chosen: let that be a timely monitor to you. Man is a sociable creature, and you by disposition are made for it, and by the accidents of your life ever used to it, so that it is very

new to you to be very solitary long together; and while you have a competency, doctor, deny not yourself the innocent, nay the profitable comforts of life. I apprehend but one inconveniency, if you do a little less sequester yourself, and that I hope you are of a more temperate spirit than to draw on yourself; but you are best judge. I exceed my bounds exceedingly, for I take little paper to-night, no more than one side, not to turn over, for if I do, this is the issue. Farewell, good doctor, for this time. I am, &c.

September 18, 1693.

R. R.

#### ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Lambeth House, Oct. 13, 1693.

I HAVE forborne, madam, hitherto, even to acknowledge the receipt of your ladyship's letter, and your kind concernment for mine and my wife's health, because I saw how unmerciful you were to your eyes in your last letter to me; so that I should certainly have repented the provocation I gave you to it by mine, had not so great and good an occasion made it necessary.

I had intended this morning to have sent Mr. Vernon to Woborne, to have inquired of your ladyship's health, having but newly heard, that since your return from Belvoir, a dangerous fever had seized upon you. But yesterday morning, at council, I happily met with Mr. Russell, who, to my great joy, told me, that he hoped that danger was over; for which I thank God with all my heart, because I did not know how fatal the event might be, after the care and hurry you have been in so sickly a season.

The king's return is now only hindered by contrary winds. I pray God to send him safe to us, and to direct him what to do when he is come. I was never so much at my wit's end concerning the public. God only can bring us out of the labyrinth we are in, and I trust he will.

My wife gives her most humble service and thanks to you for your concernment for her, and does rejoice equally with me for the good news of your recovery.

Never since I knew the world, had I so much reason to value my friends. In the condition I now am, I can have no new ones; or, if I could, I can have no assurance that they are so. I could not at a distance believe, that the upper end of the world was so hollow as I find it. I except a very few, of whom I can believe no ill till I plainly see it.

I have ever earnestly coveted your letters; but now I do as earnestly beg of you to spare them for my sake, as well as your own. With my very humble service to my good lord of Bedford, and to all yours, and my hearty prayers to God for you all, I remain, madam, your ladyship's most obliged, &c.

J. CANT.\*

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LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THOUGH I will not say I am to blame in not writing, yet I pronounce myself so, by not taking

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\* The archbishop's correspondence with lady Russell had been interrupted on her part for many months, by the disorder in her eyes increasing to such a degree, that she was obliged on the 27th of June, 1694, to submit to the operation of couching.

care you might know I had your letter, and the book, which was writ with so much care, that I found no pain at all in reading it. I can't say the like to the doubtfulness of thoughts I perceive you, sir, engaged in. I am not furnished with abilities (my brains and eyes would both fail me in the task), if I should attempt to effect what I wish. So I leave you to yourself, being satisfied you are not so grievously wanting to yourself, as not to have sought all arguments to convince your judgment, that you might honestly submit to the present government, which by the wonderful providence of God is established in these nations, for maintaining the protestant religion in its purity, both at home and abroad, and which without such a miraculous revolution was not, in human reason, to be expected in all this part of the world. Sure this has been the work of his own hand; and although he may have used instruments to bring this about, may not you judge it a blessing to them to be so made use of? And as all the methods of the Almighty are good, and what we have lately felt does not seem in displeasure, why you may not rejoice, and enjoy the blessed fruits of it, is a circumstance I am sorry for; and so I have done. Only I will add thus much

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Upon this occasion his grace drew up a prayer two days after, in which he touched upon the death of her husband, 'whom the holy and righteous Providence (says he) permitted [under a colour of law and justice] to be [unjustly] cut off from the land of the living.' But over the words between the brackets, after the first writing, he drew a line, as intending to erase them, probably from a reflection that they might be too strong, or less suitable to a prayer. June 28, he wrote to the bishop of Salisbury, 'I cannot forbear to tell you, that my lady Russell's eye was couched yesterday morning with very good success; God be praised for it.'—Birch.



more, that I am far from being convinced, let your own scruples be what they can be, that this is a case to engage your contending in, as a mark of the true and heroic spirit of Christianity, attaining towards perfection, as the ministers of the gospel should, especially, embrace. Stay, and endure for the example, comfort, and support of others. Remember, good doctor, 'tis the calling in popery must be the issue, which God, in his watchful providence, has, in appearance, put away from us. And I hope all who have accepted of the way, you do not judge hardly of. I know you do not; and therefore, though you can't satisfy your mind, discourage not others. I am sure the bishop of Bath and Wells excited others to comply, when he could not bring himself to do so, but rejoiced that others could. I will break off abruptly, because else I see I can't. You cannot misconstrue any thing I have said; I know you cannot think my meaning bad towards you.

If you resolve upon retiring to some neutral town, in what I can be of help to you, you may, sir, count upon it. I shall expect to hear when, and in what. A pass, I suppose, is no difficult thing to obtain. I have scribbled so much, I must not engage in telling stories of my son. In short, if they do not deceive me whom I trust, all goes very well. I intend ever to remain, as I am at present, yours, &c.

Oxford, 17 May, 1696.

R. R.

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#### LADY RUSSELL TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

MANY obstacles have been in my way to prevent my taking notice that I have received lately two letters from you, good doctor; observe, I say, giving you notice that I had them; for as to the

answering them, I am not so conceited of myself to go about it. I will only say, that I am glad nothing of such a nature can be put upon me, as should try my strength both of judgment and fortitude, which I mistrust would both prove very weak; whilst in the mean time I see men whose sincerity and ability I have equal value for, point blank contrary one to the other; yet both will be, I doubt not, accepted at the great day of trial; and therefore I will take leave, sir, to wish you converted.

Because I know I can't manage the argument, I will give it over, lest I hurt the cause I would give credit to. If I had a better talent, I would not give you over as I must do; nor, however, ('tis possible) if I had the sight I had once; but, as it is, I must be content, and am thankfully so.

My daughter's condition will now very soon call me back to Southampton-house. I purpose it before the middle of July. I thank God we are very healthful in this town. I am, sincerely, yours, &c.

Oxford, 15 June, 1696.

R. R.

N. B. Soon after this doctor Fitzwilliam died, having appointed all the letters which lady Russell writ to him, to be returned to her ladyship, that they might be printed; many of which do not appear.

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#### BISHOP OF SALISBURY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I do heartily congratulate with your ladyship for this new blessing. God has now heard your prayers, with relation to two of your children, which is a good earnest that he will hear them in due time with relation to the third. You begin to see your children's children; God grant you may likewise see

peace upon Israel. And now that God has so built up your house, I hope you will set yourself to build a house of prayer for the honour of his name.

You have passed through very different scenes of life. God has reserved the best to the last. I do make it a standing part of my poor prayers twice a day, that as now your family is the greatest in its three branches that has been in England in our age, so that it may in every one of these answer those blessings by an exemplary holiness, and that both you and they may be public blessings to the age and nation.

I do not think of coming up yet this fortnight, if I am not called for\*. I humbly thank your ladyship for giving me this early notice of so great a blessing to you. I hope it shall soon be completed by my lady Ross's full recovery. Mrs. Burnet is very sensible of the honour your ladyship

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\* The marquis of Halifax said of bishop Burnet, 'He makes many enemies, by setting an ill-natured example of living, which they are not inclined to follow. His indifference for preferment, his contempt not only of splendour, but of all unnecessary plenty, his degrading himself into the lowest and most painful duties of his calling, are such unpretentious qualities, that, let him be never so orthodox in other things, in these he must be a dissenter. Virtues of such a stamp are so many heresies in the opinion of those divines who have softened the primitive injunctions, so as to make them suit better with the present frailty of mankind. No wonder then if they are angry, since it is in their own defence; or that from a principle of self-preservation they should endeavour to suppress a man whose parts are shame, and whose life is a scandal to them.'—Both he and Tillotson, as well as many other christian bishops, were averse to pluralities and non-residence.

does her in thinking of her, and does particularly rejoice in God's goodness to you. I am, with the highest sense of gratitude and respect possible, madam, yours, &c.

Salisbury, 31 Oct. 1696.

GI. SARUM.

LADY RUSSELL TO SIR ROBERT  
WORSLEY.

IF my letters were of service to you, I should not reserve them, only for such times as I serve ends of my own by it, as I now design to do, being the errand of this paper is to obtain your opinion, if you please to give it, upon a few questions I will put to you. By the death of Mr. Morin, sir, you know there wants a presentation of Kingsworthy, and a vicar at Micheldevever. I find both places well disposed to receive Mr. Swayne. I hope he is worthy of the gift, and believe you think him so. If you should know any thing why he is not, though as a friend you might wish he were the incumbent, yet I am persuaded that in a just regard to the weight of the matter, and to me who ask it from you, if you know any visible reason that he is not a proper person for such a preferment, that you will caution me in it; for I profess to you, sir, I think the care of so many souls is a weighty charge; and I have been willing to take time to consider whose hands I put these into. I can, with all my scruples, make no exception to Mr. Swayne, if his vapours are not too prevalent to permit his being free and active in such a charge. But I hope 'tis not so; and if you concur with me, I will bestow them upon him; for I do not see how I can part them. And now, sir, I come with my second question to you, when I have told you the provision

I would make for curates. I have met with a paper signed by Mr. Morin to my father, in which he engages to allow the curate at Kingsworthy fifty pounds a year; and that at Straton, who served Popham also, thirty pounds a year; Northington is not mentioned in it. Now, sir, I would, in short, have the same stipends, as this paper signifies were formerly agreed on, to be honestly made good by the next incumbent, and during my pleasure. There will be ten pounds a year more coming in to him than has been formerly, and as much to the curate who serves Straton; for a few years ago my dear lord added twenty pounds a year, during his will to do so, to be so divided; and without a very justifiable reason I shall not withhold it; and forty shillings a year more to the vicar, upon an agreement for some orchards taken into the park.

From this long digression I return to my question, which arises from this purpose of mine that I must offer to you. I know 'tis a thing required by many, to take a bond for resigning at the patron's pleasure. I have no disposition at all to do so; but to this I have, that I would have a bond to perform these conditions to the curates, unless I dispense with him; and also, that in case of non-residence, he shall resign to me\*. For the case often happens, they get another living, and the situation it may be more pleasant, then put in a curate for a small stipend, and I have no remedy. That this is practicable I believe, though I am ignorant enough, and am not in a place where I can be well informed. But I refer myself, sir Robert,

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\* Residence would, at the council of Trent, have been declared to be *jure divino*, which the pope himself could not dispense with, but that it was overruled by the intrigues of his creatures; so that, however insisted on by some bishops, they prevented its being so decreed.



to you, and in what you see cause to oppose me, pray do it; you will oblige me by it; and, I think, I shall submit to reason. But if what I ask is (as I conceive it is) practicable, I should take it as a favour if you would discourse Mr. Swayne upon it, and then instruct Mr. Mewes to draw up an instrument to the purposes I have signified. When I hear from you I will be ready to——

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LADY RUSSELL TO KING WILLIAM.

I RATHER choose to trouble your majesty with a letter, than be wanting in my duty, in the most submissive manner imaginable, to acknowledge the honour and favour I am told your majesty designs for lord Rutland and his family, in which I am so much interested.

'Tis an act of great goodness, sir, in you; and the generous manner you have been pleased to promise it in, makes the honour, if possible, greater. As you will lay an eternal obligation on that family, be pleased to allow me to answer for all those I am related to; they will look on themselves equally honoured with lord Rutland, by your favour to his family, and I am sure will express their acknowledgments to your majesty in the most dutiful manner, to the best of their services; in which I earnestly desire my son Bedford may exceed, as he has been first, and early honoured with the marks of your favour. And I hope I may live to see your majesty has bestowed one more upon him, who appears to me to have no other ambition, except what he prefers above all others, making himself acceptable to your majesty, and living in your good opinion.

I presume to say, I believe there is no fault in

his intentions of duty towards your majesty, nor, I trust, ever will be, and that, as his years increase, his performances will better declare the faithfulness of his mind, which will hugely enlarge the comforts of your majesty's, &c.

R. R.

N. B. Lady Russell's endorsement on the foregoing letter is in these words :

To the King, 1701-2, about first of March, and found in his pocket when dead.

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LADY RUSSELL TO (ROUVIGNY) EARL OF GALWAY\*.

ALAS! my dear lord Galway, my thoughts are yet all disorder, confusion, and amazement; and I think I am very uncapable of saying or doing what I should.

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\* Lady Russell's only son, Wriothsley, duke of Bedford, died of the small-pox, in May, 1711, in the 31st year of his age; upon which occasion this letter was written.—To this affliction succeeded, in Nov. 1711, the loss of her daughter, the duchess of Rutland, who died in childbed. Lady Russell, after seeing her in the coffin, went to her other daughter, married to the duke of Devonshire, from whom it was necessary to conceal her grief, she being at that time in childbed likewise; therefore she assumed a cheerful air, and with astonishing resolution agreeable to truth answered her anxious daughter's inquiries with these words, 'I have seen your sister out of bed to-day.'

I did not know the greatness of my love to his person, till I could see it no more. When nature, who will be mistress, has in some measure, with time, relieved herself, then, and not till then, I trust the Goodness, which hath no bounds, and whose power is irresistible, will assist me by his grace to rest contented with what his unerring providence has appointed and permitted. And I shall feel ease in this contemplation, that there was nothing uncomfortable in his death, but the losing him. His God was, I verily believe, ever in his thoughts. Towards his last hours he called upon him, and complained he could not pray his prayers. To what I answered, he said, he wished for more time to make up his accounts with God. Then with remembrance to his sisters, and telling me how good and kind his wife had been to him, and that he should have been glad to have expressed himself to her, said something to me and my double kindness to his wife, and so died away. There seemed no reluctance to leave this world, patient and easy the whole time, and I believe knew his danger, but loth to grieve those by him, delayed what he might have said. But why all this? The decree is past. I do not ask your prayers; I know you offer them with sincerity to our Almighty God for your afflicted kinswoman,

June, 1711.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

I HAVE been for some weeks often resolved, and as soon unresolved, if I would or would not engage upon a subject I cannot speak to without some emotion, but I cannot suffer your being a stranger to any

that very near concerns me. Yet before I could dispose myself to do it, concluded the article not a secret to you, such care having by one side been taken, as to let it be a visiting day affair, whether or not the D. of R—— had not fixed a second choice, perhaps as proper to call it the first; for when marriages are so very early, 'tis accepting rather than choosing, on either side. But lord R——, to the end of my good child's life, has so well approved of the choice, in all and every respect, and now that she is no more, has, with very deliberate consideration, as soon as he composed his mind to think, first taken care to inquire, and be truly informed what powers he had to do for his children: and then, by the strictest rules of justice and impartial kindness, settled every younger child's portion, by adding to what they had before. As it is to me the most solid instance of his respect and love he can now give to her memory, and being I believe it done with an honest sincerity, and true value of her and all her virtues, I conceive it would be wrong in me to take offence at some circumstances the censorious part of the town will be sure to do, and refine upon, for the sake of talk. I miss the hearing, by seeing few, and not answering questions\*.

The first notice I had of his intention was by Mr. Charlton, and I really believe that was as soon as he had given himself his own consent. He told me he found him under great unquietness, when he acquainted him with his thoughts, who said, he was under all the anxieties a man could feel how to break it to me, though it was then but a thought of

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\* John lord Roos (or Ross), afterwards duke of Rutland (whose first wife, lady Russell's daughter, died 31st Oct. 1711), on 1st Jan. 1712-13, married Lucinda, sister to Bennet Sherard, earl of Harborough.

his own, yet so much he would not conceal from me. Mr. Charlton undertook to tell me, and I did as soon resolve to let it pass, as easy between him and me, as I could, by bidding Mr. Charlton let him know I would begin to him. I did so, which put us both in some disorder, but I believe he took, as I meant it, kindly.

A decency in time was all I expected. The person is sister to the present lord Sherard; the other sister had been a widow to a lord Erwin, and some years ago married a brother of the duchess of Rutland, a Mr. Noel\*, who has been a companion to his nephew ever since our sorrowful time. Here is a general opinion that the lord St. John † is gone to Paris; some will suppose 'tis to try if the French king will come up to the terms the Dutch will accept.

August 5, 1712.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

THE change of your secretary is much to the advantage of the reader; it would be so to you, I conclude, if I did not choose to be my own; but when I write as I do to you, the amusement is more agreeable to myself, and I assure myself you will make it so to you, if you can find what I mean to

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\* John Noel, brother to the duchess of Rutland, married Elizabeth, eldest sister to Bennet earl of Harborough, and widow of Edward Ingram, viscount Irwin, in Scotland.

† Lord St. John, afterwards viscount Bolingbroke, famous for his share in the peace of Utrecht, &c.



say; for I know I am exceeding apt to miss words I meant to put down. However, unless the business be of importance, I spare my eyes examining. As to the subject of my last, I will let it rest. As to the point of education, I am sorry we are not of one mind; but there is no help where there is no remedy. There is an overruling Providence, and I try to hope her children shall be blessed. 'Twas their good mother's thoughts under her hand, and though it might be thought her children would want her, yet her hope was, her prayers in their behalf had been heard. There is nothing yet appears blamable in them. Their father's indulgence may hurt in their best part, but as to the worldly part, if he is honestly dealt with in the drawing up of writings, he puts it out of his power to prevent any attempt for it. Let that be as it will, these accidents in families have been, and will no doubt be, while the world lasts. And if we are so happy as to secure our next and lasting stake, it matters little how this passes; yet flesh and blood shrinks at pain, and want of ease in body or mind, and 'tis natural to do so. Who can do otherwise, but by an affected force? and in that is no virtue: but I leave this; you want no admonitions, I want the practice, though my years are many.

Now, my lord, I come to my neighbour Withers, as you call him. I know the persons of none of that name; if it be him at Alsford, he has been a commander, and may talk of taking and defending towns more knowingly than bargaining for lands; but I fancy 'tis another rather further from me, and the family more known to me a hundred years ago. As to the warren, I do not value foxes as the gentleman does, but I do the beauty of our warren; and for the value, you found he went but half way; but to cut that short, 'tis intailed, and I must leave it so. The warrener must be bribed, not me.

I am thankful to God I have made an end between Mr. Sp— and myself, &c. Now as I am to answer

for Mr. Sp——, who was an accountant to me, being employed by me so; there is this article between him and me, that if at any time there is a discovery of any money, or debt due to him, I have the title to it, and not he, let it be much or little.

After many offers and endeavours by counsel and without, I came to this agreement.—He was to make a clear and full discovery of all he is worth, lands, leases, moneys, goods, debts, &c. Then I, who was to have the whole in me, allow back to him what I think will be a subsistence to him, his wife and children. And so I have done. Swearing is what I desire to excuse; for 'tis possible he might be tempted to proceed in doing ill, and I not the better; and if he had sworn truth, as others professed they would not believe him, though I am less free in the professing of it, I might have doubted: then why provoke him to sin?

What has been urged to me over and over again, many times, has no force in it, which was, that they would undertake, and are sure he could conceal ten thousand pounds, which I should never discover, either in this nation or India. My answer is, If it cannot ever be found, 'tis to me as if it were not. And if I had any opinion of a conjuror (as we call them), I would not seek it that way. So what I approved best of, I chose.

That if a discovery be made out 'tis to my use. Now the farm he has from his father, which is 55*l.* a year, I could not come at, all counsel agreeing it to be out of the way: nay, I must have had application to chancery to have proceeded: there he could have hung it up. Sir Joseph Jekyl said this, that there it might hang for a dozen of years, nay, to the end of the youngest in the room, and Tom Selwood was one of the seven or eight; there were four counsel. Also, he said, he would not take five thousand pounds of me towards the charge I should be at. But all this avails not at all; nothing but prison, nay, dying on a dunghill has no ill sound.

At last I gave no further trouble (after having endured so much myself), from the opinion of a great lawyer, though not now to be paid as counsel. After two hours' discourse, and laying all before him, he told me it was the most advisable thing to compound the matter; and he esteemed it a very good composition, where they pretended to seven or eight thousand pounds from me, to pay me between two or three. He was so vehement in his opinion of making an end, that as a friend he prayed and exhorted me to set to it next morning; and if it were his case he would not sleep till it was done, if that were possible; for if he should happen to die, I could not imagine how bad my circumstances might be, even to the returning two thousand pounds I had then received, and never be able to disprove his account, so be a debtor eight thousand pounds to his wife and children. This has given me many terrible waking hours from week to week, seeking to please and accommodate to my wishes; but they were not inclined to believe what they did not like; so took no impression, as I would think they did not believe it did in me; but I was no hypocrite; I felt more than I told. My mind is more at rest as to all my worldly concerns. Here I ask of lord Galway\*

Saturday, 16 August, 1712.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

I HAVE before me, my good lord, two of your letters, both partially and tenderly kind, and

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\*Conclusion in another paper not found.

coming from a sincere heart and honest mind (the last a plain word, but, if I mistake not, very significant), are very comfortable to me, who I hope have no proud thoughts of myself, as to any sort. The opinion of an esteemed friend, that one is not very wrong, assists to strengthen a weak and willing mind, to do her duty towards that Almighty Being, who has from infinite bounty and goodness so checkered my days on this earth, as I can thankfully reflect I have felt many, I may say many years of pure, and, I trust, innocent, pleasant content, and happy enjoyments as this world can afford, particularly that biggest blessing of loving and being loved by those I loved and respected: on earth no enjoyment certainly to be put in balance with it. All other are like wine, intoxicates for a time, but the end is bitterness, at least not profitable. Mr. Waller (whose picture you look upon) has, I long remember, these words—

All we know they do above,  
Is, that they sing, and that they love.

The best news I have heard is, you have two good companions with you, which I trust will contribute to divert you this sharp season, when after so sore a fit, as I apprehend you have felt, the air, even of your improving pleasant garden, can't be enjoyed without hazard.

The queen has appointed twelfth-day for a drawing-room, and several tables for play, but there was none till yesterday, and how that passed I know not.

I heard a lady say yesterday that the ambassador had turned away four servants for selling wine by bottles, and that she had tasted his burgundy, which was very good\*.

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\* The conclusion and date lost.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

THERE is no post-day I do not find myself readily disposed to take my pen, and dispose of it as I now do; but there is not one of those days I do not also approve to myself how mean my ability is to entertain, as I desire, such a relation and friend as lord Galway; yet I put my mind at ease soon enough as to that trouble, being so certain and sure as I am how you receive it.

I should do better than I can yet attain to do, if I could with a more composed mind reflect on the good and bad days of a long life, and be thankful for so kind a providence as the freedom I have had from bodily pains, which so many better than I suffer; at this age I have attained there are few more exempt.

Selwood tells me your appearance is very comfortable, and if I get to Hampshire I trust I shall see it so. Sure this season is a trial; for although 'tis a customary thing to complain of seasons, yet in my opinion this is an extraordinary one: I have not wanted to observe (except while I enjoyed lady Betty Norton's \* company, who gave me much of her time) that from the first day of March to this, there hath not been twenty-four hours without much rain, snow, or hail. It keeps lord Devon from Newmarket, which he expects would be of use if he could get thither. He is put into a coach, and is carried on the stones, but can't use his feet to go; 'tis a melancholy sight to see a young man so seized, but his patience keeps an equality with his trials. A just measure of patience in all one

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\* Daughter of lord Gainsborough (by Elizabeth, sister to lady Russell), married to — Norton, esq.



suffers (I conclude yourself proves it very notoriously from a variety of instances), may it ever be a comfort in our best hours! and then how ravishing the great day of the Lord! the day of recompense! for such we are allowed to call it. Madame Gouverne's brother being dead, madame may dispose of his wealth as she thinks good in France, &c.

14 April, 1715.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

\* But the merciful providence of God 'tis our duty to pray for and trust in, then it shall be well in the end, in this world, or a better. I beseech God to give the consolation of his holy spirit to enable you to struggle with bodily pains: your resignation I have no doubt of; yet nature will shrink, when the weight is heavy, and presses hard; which will not be imputed, because 'tis natural.

I also pray to God to fortify your spirit under every trial; till eternity swallows all our troubles, all our sorrows, all our disappointments, and all our pains in this life. The longest, how short to eternity! All these ought to be my own care to improve my weak self, as the fortitude of your mind, experience, and knowledge does to you. And I pray for such a portion of them in mercy to me, as may secure an endless glorifying, to so feeble, so ignorant, so mean a creature as myself, that I can't be too little in my own sight.

If there be a regency, the intended journey to

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\* Beginning lost.

Chatsworth must be laid aside; as I must my pen for want of day.

I am certain of this being a truth, that I am faithfully and affectionately yours,

May 28, 1716.

R. R.

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BISHOP OF LITCHFIELD AND COVENTRY \* TO LADY RUSSELL.

I SHOULD have done myself this honour long since, could I have had the vanity to think I knew any thing which would not come to your ladyship by better hands; but you, madam, have account of the most important matters from persons who cannot be deceived; and, I am sure, you are above the relish of those common things which supply the news and conversation of the town.

I cannot, however, leave this place (which purpose to do on Monday next) without presenting my most humble respects to your ladyship, and my sincere prayers to Almighty God, for health and happiness to yourself and all yours.

I leave a place which is now pretty empty since the royal family went to Hampton-court, where the public manner in which the king lives makes it the rendezvous, not only of the ministers and great men, but of the people of all ranks and conditions. He dines openly and with company every day, and the novelty of the sight draws a mighty concourse. After so long a reserve, we may easily imagine how great a constraint he puts upon himself; but he

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\* John Hough, afterwards called the good bishop of Worcester, greatly promoted the Revolution; died March 8, 1743, aged above 92.

certainly does a right thing, for by this means his face (which speaks nothing but what is great and good) will not only be familiar to his people, but he will enter into a degree of intimacy with the nobility, above what could be arrived at in the cabinet or drawing-room. Would to God it might prove the happy occasion of bringing him and the prince to a better understanding; for upon that depends the establishment of our peace, and we have already felt how much the want of it has shaken us, but there does not seem to be any appearance that way; this still continues to be the dark side of our prospect, and were it not that God has already carried so many threatening clouds over our own heads, one would dread to think how heavy this may fall \*. I am now going to a place where I resolve to make as few of these reflections as possible, for they are attended with anxiety of thought, and raise apprehensions of danger, which by an hundred ways unforeseen by us, Providence may please to disappoint; but I mention them to your ladyship, because I know you to be one of those very few, who can make a right use of them, by using them as occasion of fervent prayer for the public welfare, without suffering them to raise a passion, or disturb your mind.

Give me leave, madam, to wish you all the hap-

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\* Tindal, speaking of the difference between king George I. and the prince, says, it arose from the prince's resenting the duke of Newcastle's standing godfather in his own name to prince George William (who was born 2d of November, 1717, died 6th of February, 1717-18), and not as proxy for the duke of York, bishop of Osnaburg, his uncle; on which the king was displeas'd. But by this letter it appears there was a disagreement before.

piness your own soul can desire, and to profess myself as I do, with great humility and truth, madam, yours, &c.

27 July, 1717. J. LITCHFIELD AND COV.

I beg leave to present my most humble service to good lord Galway. My wife's humble duty attends your ladyship; and we are both full of acknowledgment for the fine piece of venison you were pleased to send us.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

As the fine season continues (for such I esteem a hot one) I slacken in my scribbling; the pure air alone abundantly exceeds my tattle under the roof, though very well meant to you, whether sent in the French or English tongue. But although your lordship spoke as well as you possibly could do of my French, if you did it to encourage my use of it, you will be under a small disappointment, for I intend to keep my credit, and meddle no more, unless unthinking, as I really did then, and occasion no discord between us. Any partiality for that country you have discharged sufficiently long since, and the time is come to do the like to this we at present live in. That there is a more sure abiding one, is the believing Christian's comfort, and to attain that grace our daily endeavour, and those that seek shall find in due time; 'tis a blessing worthy the waiting for, (&c.)

Lady Anne Harvey\* writes to me from Bath,

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\* Daughter of lady Russell's sister Montague.

that there was, 'at one o'clock at night,' an earthquake which lasted a minute, but thankful she is she was asleep; 'twas about ten days past. I am, &c.

19 June.

R. R.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

WHEN I scribble to lord Galway, I consider very little what I put down, as I am secure, by God's grace, never to forfeit your love and esteem; and till I do that, have no fear I shall lose them; in that point my mind is at ease. I exceedingly desire your body were so; but the providences permitted by Almighty God can never be hurtful to his faithful servants, although painful. Alas! what are days, months, or years (to his elected), to a happy eternity! In such a thought your soul and heart may rejoice, I verily believe; and so believe, as to desire I may find grace, as I believe you will do in the great day, when the sentence shall be pronounced.

I can truly grieve at the uneasiness in our court, which is all I will say, or can indeed for them. I have inquired from Dr. Sloane how the prince is this day. He says, in a way to do well. I trust, in the mercy of our God, all our divisions shall be so with time. As I conclude you do not want my reports, so I enlarge not upon them; but take my

She was married first to Alexander Popham, esq. and afterwards to lieut.-gen. Harvey.



way to lady Essex \*, where all must be hushed. She is a good woman, yet not without a but; and where is her that is not? Let every one look into his own heart. I like to scribble longer, but want of daylight at home, and disappointment abroad, make it convenient to sign, as I most sincerely do, affectionate to your service in every respect,

December 12.

R. R.

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LADY RUSSELL TO THE EARL OF  
GALWAY.

'Tis to divert my own thoughts rather than yours I take a pen, for, as to reports, or rather unpleasing truths, I let them pass. The king and the good princess met as she was going, or coming back from her dying child. Her conduct I hear none condemn; but who is there that never was faulty? or takes not a wrong step? My very long acquaintance, lady Essex, is no longer in this world, but not to be lamented in relation to herself, being certainly sincerely devout, in those points we ought to make our biggest care. She has done, I believe, prudently for her daughter, as circumstances stand. There is nothing delays Miss Hoskins changing her name, but the act of parliament, which now is thought necessary in all cases almost †.

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\* Widow of Arthur earl of Essex: her daughter married the earl of Carlisle.

† The fourth year of George I. an act for settling the estates of the most noble William duke of Devonshire, and William Cavendish, commonly called marquis of Hartington, son and heir apparent of the said duke, on the marriage of the said marquis

Evening is creeping upon me, by a grandchild, who was willing to take her dinner with me, her sister having taken physic, and she not loving a boiled chicken. To-morrow your health will not be omitted, daughter Devon and Mr. Charlton being to dine here; as I hope to do with yourself at Rookley, and also at Old Straton, where you will be kindly welcome, as I am entirely assured I shall be at your Rookley. God, for the good you do to mankind, grant you some easy years, to do good upon earth, before you change for a happy eternity. So does desire and pray, lord Galway's truly affectionate cousin, and faithfully such, to gratify to the utmost of her ability,

February 13.

R. R.

The two last letters appear, by the largeness of the text, to have been written without spectacles, as lady Russell was sometimes accustomed to do in extreme old age.—Lady Russell died Sept. 29, 1723, in her eighty-seventh year.

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#### COURAGE AND MILDNESS EXEMPLIFIED.

The following relation I had from my lady Russell, in Southampton-house (now Bedford-house), where the accident happened. Her ladyship's own words, to the best of my remembrance, were these:

'As I was reading in my closet, the door being bolted, on a sudden the candle and candlestick jumped off the table, a hissing fire ran on the floor,

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of Hartington, with Catharine Hoskins, spinster, only child of John Hoskins, esq. deceased.

and after a short time left some paper in a flame, which with my foot I put into the chimney, to prevent mischief; then sat down in the dark to consider whence this event could come. I knew my door and windows were fast, and there was no way open into the closet but by the chimney; and that something should come down there, and strike my candle off the table in that strange manner, I believed impossible. After I had wearied myself with thinking to no purpose, I rang my bell; the servant in waiting, when I told him what had happened, begged pardon for having by mistake given me a candle, with a gunpowder squib in it, which was intended to make sport among the fellow-servants on a rejoicing day\*.'

Her ladyship bid him not be troubled at the matter, for she had no other concern about it than that of not finding out the cause.

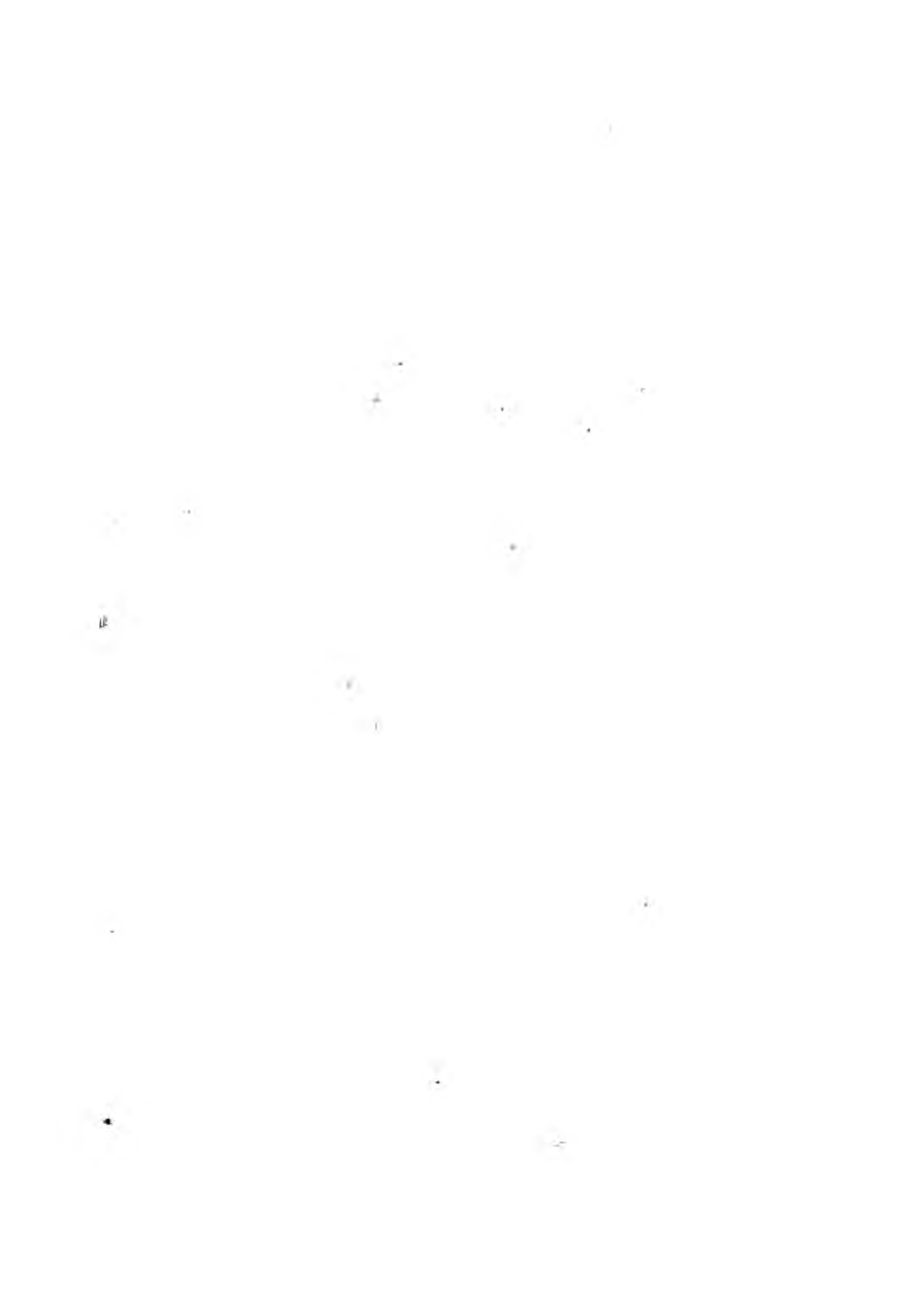
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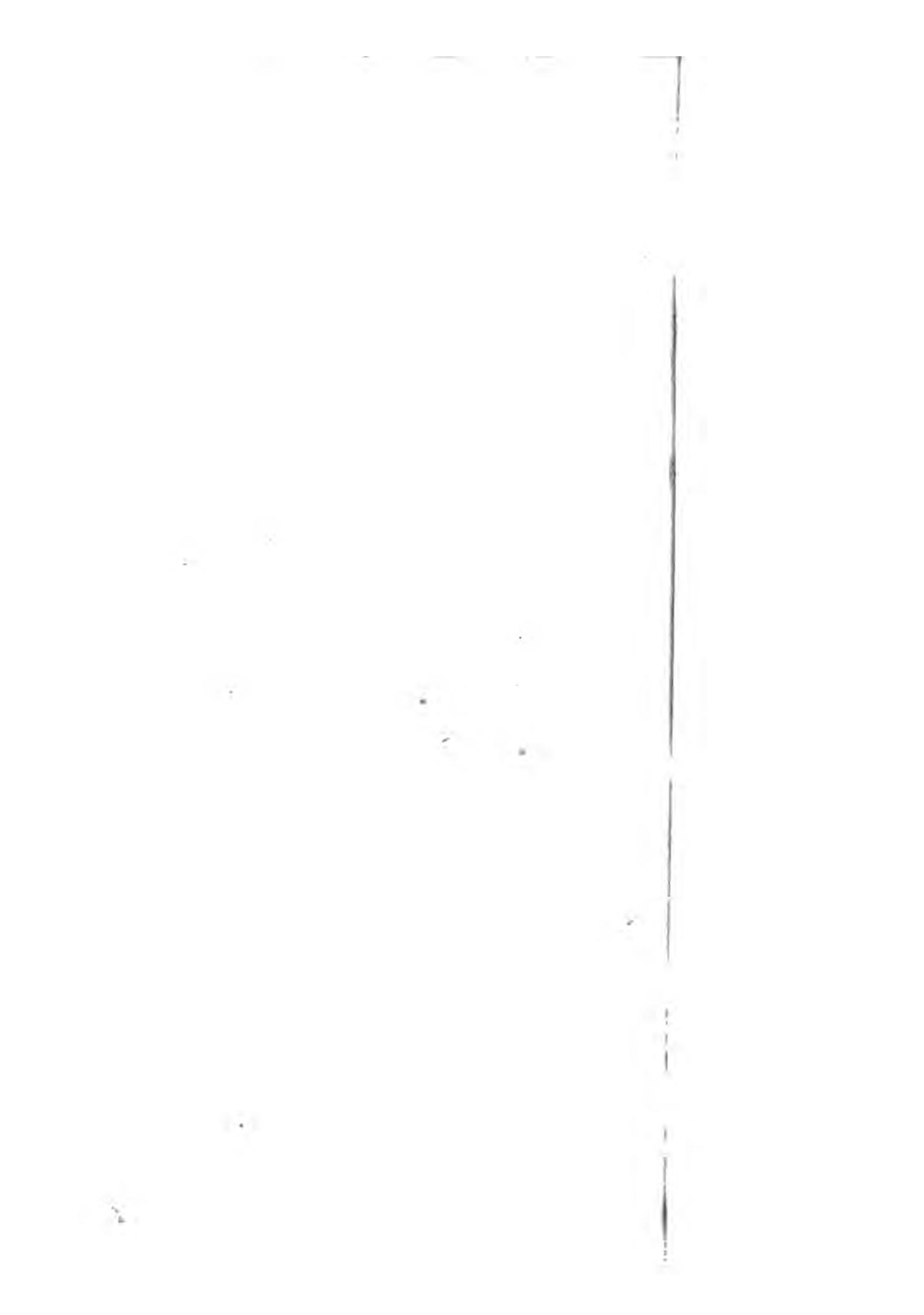
\* In the reign of king William III.

THE END.

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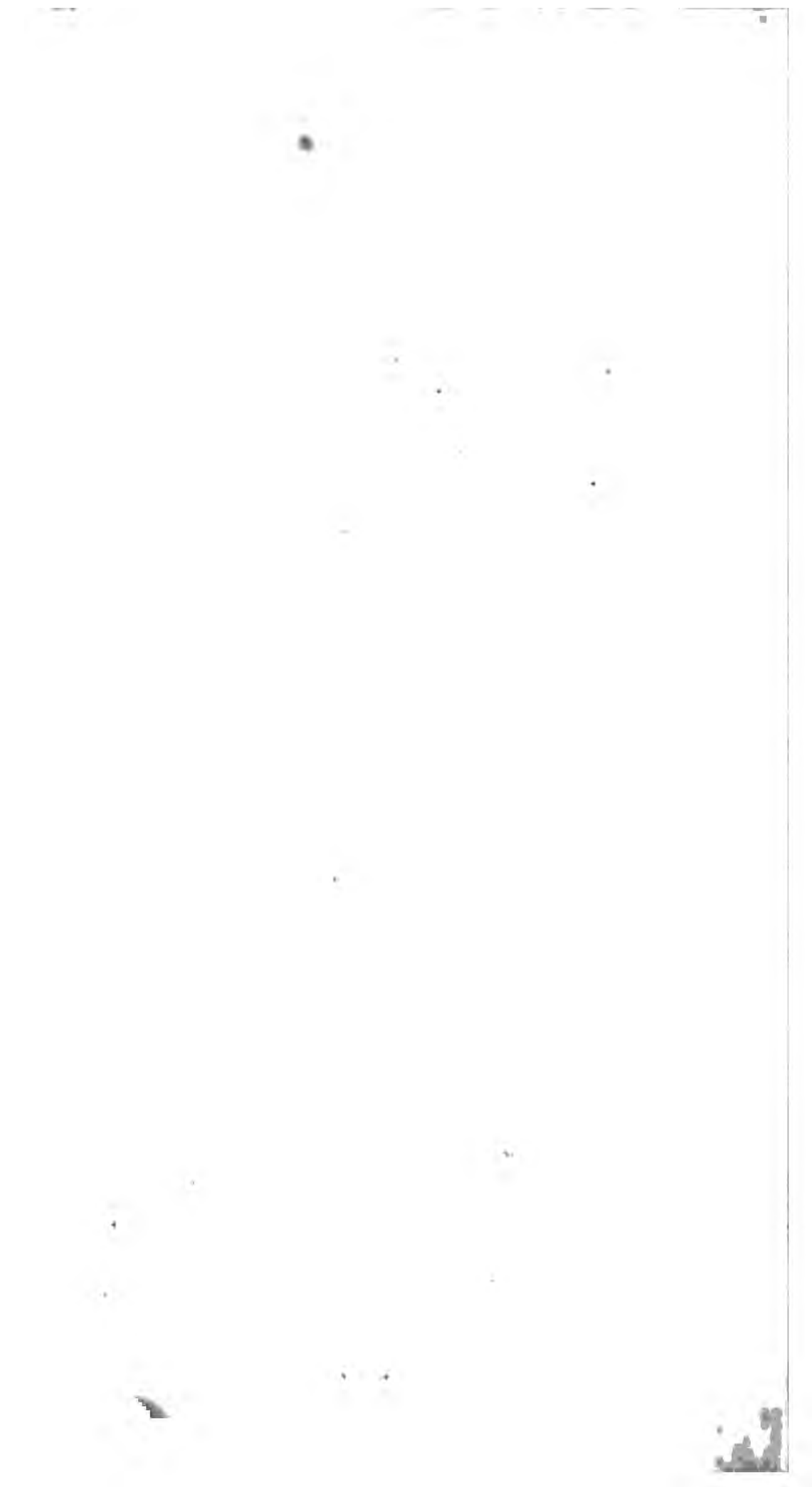
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