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Lyttelton, George <Lord>

London, 1774

Letters to Sir Thomas Lyttelton.

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TO MR. GROVER

82

Accept this friendly praise; and let me prove
My heart not wholly void of public love;
Though not like thee I strike the sounding string
To notes which spurs might have design'd to ring
But this morning in the letter stands

L E T T E R S

To WILLIAM PITT, Esq; on his being the Commission
in the

SIR THOMAS LYTTLTON,

From the Year 1728, to the Year 1747.

4 P 2

L E T.

LETTERS

L E T T E R S

L E T T E R S

SIR THOMAS LYTTLETON

CONSIDER

W H I T E H O L L

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORDS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, Feb. 4. 1778.

I AM much oblig'd to you for the trouble you have taken to send me the place as I desire to send me to; I shall be impatient to hear that you have made the choice of it to be made a the better in the mean while you may be sure I shall not neglect it in the least of my time.

I am glad that the D^{ty} approves my votes; for his judgement does great honour to those that please her. The subject is Blackmore's; I would have sent you a copy of them, but have not yet had time to translate them; you shall therefore see them included in my next letter.

The news you tell me of — does not a little please me; whatever does you honour in your opinion is of advantage to me, & it will be the friendship that is between us more agreeable to you, & the satisfaction in his acquaintance has been always check'd by observing you had not that esteem for him as I could wish you might have for all my friends; but I hope he will deliver it better every day, and continue himself in my good opinion by doing yours.

I am

L E T T E R S
T O
SIR THOMAS LYTTELTON.

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L E T T E R I.

To Sir THOMAS LYTTELTON, at Hagley.

DEAR SIR,

London, Feb. 4, 1728.

I AM mighty glad you have made choice of so agreeable a place as Lorrain to send me to; I shall be impatient to hear that you have got a servant for me, that my stay here may be the shorter: in the mean while, you may be sure, I shall not neglect to make the best use of my time.

I am proud that the D—— approves my verses; for her judgement does great honour to those that please her. The subject is Blenheim-castle: I would have sent you a copy of them, but have not yet had time to transcribe them; you shall therefore receive them enclosed in my next letter.

The news you tell me of —— does not a little please me: whatever does him honour in your opinion is of advantage to me, as it will render the friendship that is between us more agreeable to you; for my satisfaction in his acquaintance has been always checked, by observing you had not that esteem for him as I could wish you might have for all my friends: but I hope he will deserve it better every day, and confirm himself in my good opinion by gaining yours.

I am

I am glad that you are pleased with my Persian Letters, and Criticism upon Voltaire; but, with submission to your judgement, I do not see how what I have said of Milton can destroy all poetical licence. That term has indeed been so much abused, and the liberty it allows has been pleaded in defence of such extravagant fictions, that one would almost wish there were no such words. But yet this is no reason why good authors may not raise and animate their works with flights and sallies of imagination, provided they are cautious of restraining them within the bounds of justness and propriety; for nothing can license a poet to offend against Truth and Reason, which are as much the rules of the sublime as less exalted poetry. We meet with a thousand instances of the true nobleness of thought in Milton, where the liberty you contend for is made use of, and yet nature very strictly observed. It would be endless to point out the beauties of this kind in the Paradise Lost, where the boldness of his genius appears without shocking us with the least impropriety: we are surprized, we are warmed, we are transported; but we are not hurried out of our senses, or forc'd to believe impossibilities. The sixth book is, I fear, in many places, an exception to this rule; the *poetica licentia* is stretched too far, and *the just* is sacrificed to *the wonderful*; (you will pardon me, if I talk too much in the language of the schools.) To set this point in a clearer light, let us compare the fiction in *los Lusados* of the giant that appears to the Portugueses, and the battle of the angels in Milton. The storms, the thunders and the lightnings that hang about him, are proper and natural to that mountain he represents; we are pleased with seeing him thus armed, because there is nothing in the description that is not founded upon truth: but how do swords, and coats of mail, and cannons, agree with angels? Such a fiction can never be beautiful, because it wants probability to support it. We can easily imagine the Cape, extending its arms over the sea, and guarding it from invaders; the tempests that mariners always meet

meet

meet with upon that coast, render such a supposition very just: but with what grounds of reason can we suppose, that the angels, to defend the throne of God, threw mountains upon the heads of the rebel army?

“Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis,

“*Numen egit.*”

The liberty in one fable is restrained to nature and good sense; in the other it is wild and unbounded, so as frequently to lose sight of both.—Pardon the freedom I have taken, to contradict your opinion, and defend my own; for I shall be very ready to give it up to you, if after this you continue to think me in the wrong. It is prudent to argue with those who have such regard to our judgement as to correct it.

You ended a letter of good news very ill, in telling me that you had got the head-ach; I can have but very little pleasure in any thing, though it be ever so agreeable, when I know that you are ill. I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son,

G. L.

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• L E T T E R II.

DEAR SIR,

Calais, April 29.

BEHOLD the promised poem!

PARENT of arts, &c. *

I cannot recollect the tenderness you shewed to me at parting, without the warmest sentiments of gratitude and duty to you. In reply to our long discourse, I only beg leave to say, that there is a certain degree of folly excusable in youth, which I have never yet exceeded, and beyond which I desire

* This Poem is omitted here; it being already printed, p. 593.

no pardon. I hope my dear mother has dried her tears: my duty to her. I will write to you both when I come to Lunecville. I am

Your very dutiful and obedient son,

G. L.



L E T T E R III.

DEAR SIR,

Lunecville, May 13.

THE inclosed is in answer to Sir Robert Walpole from Monsieur le Prince de Craon, who has shewn me all the favour and civility that I might expect from so powerful a recommendation. The duke himself was pleased to tell me, that he would endeavour to render my stay here as agreeable to me as possible. You will let Sir Robert Walpole know how much I am obliged to his letter; and do justice to Prince Craon, who has expressed his regard to it in the strongest manner, and by a kindness which I cannot enough acknowledge. I hope every thing goes on to your satisfaction in the affair I left you engaged in. It will be the greatest happiness to me to hear that you are pleased and in good health. I am, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful son,

G. L.

“ To Sir ROBERT WALPOLE.

“ MONSIEUR,

Lunecville, May 13.

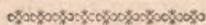
“ J'ay reçu par Monsieur Lyttelton la lettre dont vous m'honorez. Je tâcheray de répondre à ce que vous souhaitez de moi, en lui procurant ici, auprès de son Altesse Royale, les agréments dûs à sa naissance et à votre recommandation; et je m'en report au fidel compte, qu'il vous en rendra. Rien n'est plus flatteur pour moi, Monsieur, que le souvenir de
“ Milord

“ Milord Walpole. Je n’ay perdu aucune occasion de me re-
 “ nouvellér dans ses bonnes graces depuis son retour en Angle-
 “ terre; et j’ay chargé tous mes amis qui y ont passé de me mé-
 “ nager une amitié qui m’est si précieuse. Accordez la vôtre,
 “ Monsieur, au desir que j’ay de la mériter, et à l’attachement
 “ avec le quel j’ai l’honneur d’être,

“ Vôtre très humble et très

“ Obéissant serviteur,

“ Le Prince CRAON.”



L E T T E R I V.

DEAR SIR,

Luneville, June 8, 1728.

I HEARTILY congratulate you upon my sister’s marriage, and wish you may dispose of all your children as much to your satisfaction and their own. Would to God Mr. P— had a fortune equal to his brother’s, that he might make a present of it to my pretty little M—! but unhappily they have neither of them any portion but an uncommon share of merit, which the world will not think them much the richer for. I condole with poor Mrs. — upon the abrupt departure of her intended husband: to be sure, she takes it much to heart; for the loss of an only lover, when a lady is past three and twenty, is as afflicting as the loss of an only child after fifty-five.

You tell me my mother desires a particular journal of my travels, and the remarks I have made upon them, after the manner of the sage Mr. Bromley. Alas! I am utterly unfit for so great a work; my genius is light and superficial, and lets slip a thousand observations which would make a figure in his book. It requires much industry and application, as well as a prodigious memory, to know how many houses there are in Paris; how many vestments in a procession; how many saints in the

Romish Calendar, and how many miracles to each faint: and yet to such a pitch of exactness the curious travellers must arrive, who would imitate Mr. Bromley. Not to mention the pains he must be at in examining all the tombs in a great church, and faithfully transcribing the inscriptions, though they had no better author than the sexton or curate of the parish. For my part, I was so shamefully negligent as not to set down how many crosses are in the road from Calais to Luneville; nay I did not so much as take an inventory of the relics in the churches, I went to see. You may judge by this what a poor account I shall give you of my travels, and how ill the money is bestowed that you spend upon them. But, however, if my dear mother insists upon it, I shall have so much complaisance for the curiosity natural to her sex, as to write her a short particular of what rarities I have seen; but of all ordinary spectacles, such as miracles, rarée-shows, and the like, I beg her permission to be silent. I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T T E R V.

DEAR SIR,

Luneville, July 21.

I Thank you for so kindly forgiving the piece of negligence I acquainted you of in my last. Young fellows are often guilty of voluntary forgetfulness in those affairs: but, I assure you, mine was quite accidental. Mr. D— tells you true, that I am weary of losing money at cards; but it is no less certain, that without them I shall soon be weary of Lorraine. The spirit of quadrille has possessed the land from morning to midnight; there is nothing else in every house in town.

This Court is fond of strangers, but with a proviso that strangers love quadrille. Would you win the hearts of the maids
of

of honour, you must lose your money at quadrille; would you be thought a well-bred man, you must play genteelly at quadrille; would you get a reputation of good sense, shew judgement at quadrille: however, in summer, one may contrive to pass a day without quadrille; because there are agreeable promenades, and little parties out of doors; but in the winter you are reduced to play at it, or sleep like a fly till the return of spring. Indeed in the morning the duke hunts; but my malicious stars have so contrived it, that I am no more a sportsman than a gamester. There are no men of learning in the whole country; on the contrary, it is a character they despise. A man of quality caught me the other day reading a Latin author; and asked me, with an air of contempt, whether I was designed for the church. All this would be tolerable, if I was not doomed to converse with a set of English who are still more ignorant than the French; and from whom, with my utmost endeavours, I cannot be absent six hours in the day. Lord — is the only one among them who has common sense; and he is so scandalously debauched in his principles, as well as practice, that his conversation is equally shocking to my morals and my reason.

My only improvement here is in the company of the duke and prince Craon, and in the exercise of the academy: I have been absent from the last near three weeks, by reason of a sprain I got in the sinews of my leg, which is not yet quite recovered. My duty to my dear mother; I hope you and she continue well. I am, Sir,

Your dutiful son,

G. L.

4 Q 2

L E T-

lasting love and duty of the most obliged of children! We are all bound to you, Sir, and will, I trust, repay it in love and honor of you.

L E T T E R VI.

DEAR SIR, Luneville, August 18.

I Wrote to you last post, and have since received yours of the 20th: your complaints pierce my heart. Alas, Sir, what pain must it give me to think that my improvement puts you to any degree of inconvenience; and perhaps, after all, I may return and not answer your expectations. This thought gives me so much uneasiness, that I am ready to wish you would recall me, and save the charge of travelling: but, no; the world would judge perversely, and blame you for it: I must go on, and you must support me like your son.

I have observed with extreme affliction how much your temper is altered of late, and your chearfulness of mind impaired. My heart has ached within me, when I have seen you giving yourself up to a melancholy diffidence, which makes you fear the worst in every thing, and seldom indulge those pleasing hopes which support and nourish us. O, my dear Sir, how happy shall I be, if I am able to restore you to your former gaiety! People that knew you some years ago say, that you was the most chearful man alive. How much beyond the possession of any mistress will be the pleasure I shall experience, if, by marrying well, I can make you such once more. This is my wish, my ambition, the prayer I make to heaven as often as I think on my future life. But, alas! I hope for it in vain if you suffer your cares and inquietudes to destroy your health: what will avail my good intentions, if they are frustrated by your death? You will leave this world without ever knowing whether the promises of your son were the language of a grateful heart, or the lying protestations of a hypocrite: God in heaven forbid it should be so! may he preserve your health and prolong your days, to receive a thousand proofs of the

lasting love and duty of the most obliged of children! We are all bound to you, Sir, and will, I trust, repay it in love and honour of you. Let this support and comfort you, that you are the father of ten children, among whom there seems to be but one soul of love and obedience to you. This is a solid, real good, which you will feel and enjoy when other pleasures have lost their taste: your heart will be warmed by it in old age, and you will find yourself richer in these treasures than in the possession of all you have spent upon us. I talk, Sir, from the fullness of my heart, and it is not the style of a dissembler. Do not, my dear Sir, suffer melancholy to gain too far upon you: think less of those circumstances which disquiet you, and rejoice in the many others which ought to gladden you: consider the reputation you have acquired, the glorious reputation of integrity, so uncommon in this age! imagine that your posterity will look upon it as the noblest fortune you can leave them, and that your children's children will be incited to virtue by your example. I don't know, Sir, whether you feel this; I am sure I do, and glory in it. Are you not happy in my dear mother? was ever wife so virtuous, so dutiful, so fond? There is no satisfaction beyond this, and I know you have a perfect sense of it. All these advantages, well weigh'd, will make your misfortunes light; and, I hope, the pleasure arising from them will dispel that cloud which hangs upon you and sinks your spirits. I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T T E R VII.

DEAR SIR,

Luneville, Sept. 18.

I thank you for giving me leave to go to Soissons; it is true, I have great mind to the journey; and as to my health, I have always found, that whatever pleases me does me good.

You.

You will laugh at the regimen, but I appeal to Miss P— whether the fight of Stowe gardens had not a better effect upon her than all the drugs in Burges's shop. My spirits were very low when I writ you my last letter, and I had not judgement enough then to consider that the way to relieve your melancholy was to appear chearful myself; however, I beg you to believe that what I said was the language of my heart, though it needed not have been said with so much warmth. I most sincerely love you, and cannot help being deeply affected at your least complaint. But don't let this deprive me of your confidence, for I have no greater pleasure in life than seeing myself honoured with it.

I am frighted at the sickness in Worcestershire; pray God preserve you and your whole family! Such is the prayer of,

Dear Sir,

Your dutiful and obedient son,

G. L.

LETTER VIII.

Soissons, Oct. 28.

I Thank you, my dear Sir, for complying so much with my inclinations, as to let me stay some time at Soissons; but, as you have not fixed how long, I wait for further orders. One of my chief reasons for disliking Luneville, was the multitude of English there, who most of them were such worthless fellows, that they were a dishonour to the name and nation. With these I was obliged to dine and sup, and pass a great part of my time.

You may be sure I avoided it as much as possible; but, *malgré moi*, I suffered a great deal. To prevent any comfort from other people, they had made a law among themselves not to admit any foreigner into their company; so that there

was nothing but English talked from June to January. On the contrary, my countrymen at Soissons are men of virtue and good sense; they mix perpetually with the French, and converse for the most part in that language. I will trouble you no more upon this subject; but give me leave to say, that, however capricious I may have been in other things, my sentiments in this particular are the surest proofs I ever gave you of my strong and hereditary aversion to vice and folly. Mr. Stanhope is always at Fontainebleau. I went with Mr. Poyntz to Paris for four days, when the colonel was there to meet him: he received me with great civility and kindness. We have done expecting Mr. Walpole, who is obliged to keep strict guard over the cardinal, for fear the German ministers should take him from us: they pull and haul the poor old gentleman so many ways, that he does not know where to turn, or into whose arms to throw himself.

Ripperda's escape to England will very much embroil affairs, which did not seem to want another obstacle to hinder them from coming to an accommodation. If the devil is not very much wanting to his own interests in this business, 'tis impossible that the good work of peace should go on much longer. After all, most young fellows are of his party, and wish he may bring matters to a war; for they make but ill ministers at a congress, but would make good soldiers in a campaign.

No news from — and her beloved husband: their unreasonable fondness for each other can never last; they will soon grow as cold to one another as the town to the Beggar's Opera. Pray Heaven I may prove a false prophet! but married love, and English musick, are too domestick to continue long in favour.

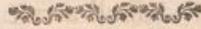
My duty to my dear mother; I am glad she has no complaint. You say nothing relating to your own health, which makes me hope you are well. I as fondly love my brothers and sisters as if I was their parent.

There

There is no need of my concluding with a handsome period ; you are above forced efforts of the head. I shall therefore end this letter with a plain truth of the heart, that I am,

Your most affectionate, and dutiful son,

G. L.



LETTER IX.

DEAR SIR,

Soissons, Nov. 20.

THIS is one of the agreeablest towns in France. The people are infinitely obliging to strangers. We are of all their parties, and perpetually share with them in their pleasures. I have learnt more French since I came here, than I should have pick'd up in a twelvemonth at Lorraine. The desire of a further progress and improvement in that tongue, has led me into some thoughts relating to the continuation of my travels, which I beg leave to lay before you.

If you send me to Italy next spring, as you once designed to do, one great inconvenience will arise, viz. that before I am perfect in speaking French, I must apply myself to Italian, from which it may probably come to pass that I shall not know much of either. I should, therefore, think it more for my advantage to make the tour of France, before I set out for Italy, than after I come back.

There is another reason, which at least will weigh with my dear mother; that is, that after the month of May, when the violent heats begin, Rome (where it will be necessary to settle first, upon account of the purity of the language which is spoke corruptly in other places) is so unwholesome as to endanger the life of any foreigner unaccustomed to that air; and therefore most travellers go thither about September, and leave it towards April. I fancy these two objections to the foregoing scheme will incline you rather to give into mine, which is as follows:

follows:

follows: suppose I stay here till after February, I may in March, April, May, and June, see Orleans, Lions, and Bourdeaux, and pass July, August, and September, in the southern provinces. The air of those countries is so pure, that the greatest heats do nobody any harm. From Provence to Genoa is the shortest road I can take for Italy, and so through Tuscany to Rome, where I shall arrive about December, having seen what is curious in my way.

I may pass two months at Rome, and go from thence to Naples, the most delightful part of Italy, and the finest air; allowing me three months in that country, I may take a little voyage to Messina, and from thence to Malta, which lays just by. From Naples I may travel along the coasts of the Adriatick sea, by Ancona and Loretto, to Venice, where, if I stay but to the end of July, I shall have August, September, and October, to see Padua, Verona, Milan, and the other parts of Italy that lie N. W. of the Venetian gulph. In the winter I may settle at Sienna, where there is a good academy, and where they are not troubled with any English. From thence I may go to Turin, if you please, and stay there till April. After which, to avoid returning through Provence a second time, I may go by Lauzanne and Berne to Franche Compté, and so by Dijon to Paris. When I am there, it will be wholly in your breast how long you would have me stay abroad, and whether I should come home the shortest way, or have the pleasure of seeing Holland. This, Sir, is the plan that I offer to you, which I hope you will approve of in the main, and agree to for me. I do not pretend to have laid it so exact as never to depart from it; but am persuaded that, generally speaking, I shall find it agreeable and commodious. I have not brought Lorraine into it, because it lies quite out of the way, and because (to say the truth) I am unwilling to go thither. I know, my dear Sir, I should acquaint you with my reasons for the dislike I have expressed against that place. This

is not so easy an *eclaircissement* as you may think it. Our notions of places and of persons depend upon a combination of circumstances, many of which are in themselves minute, but have weight from their assemblage with the rest. Our minds are like our bodies; they owe their pain or pleasure to the good or ill assortment of a thousand causes, each of which is a trifle by it's self. How small and imperceptible are the qualities in the air, or soil, or climate, where we live; and yet how sensible are the impressions they make upon us, and the delights or uneasiness they create! So it is with our minds, from the little accidents that concur to sooth or to disorder them. But in both, the impressions are more strong as the frames which they act upon are more delicate and refined. I must therefore impute many of my complaints to the natural delicacy of my temper, and I flatter myself you will not think that reason the worst I could have given you. But there are others more gross and evident, which I have already in part informed you of, and which I shall here set forth more at large.

It is natural for us to hate the school in which we take the first lessons of any art. The reason is, that the awkwardness we have shewn in such beginnings, lessens us in the eyes of people there, and the disadvantageous prejudice it has given of us is never quite to be got over.

Luneville was my school of breeding, and I was there more unavoidably subject to *quelques bevue d'ecolier*, as the *politesse* practised in that place is fuller of ceremony than elsewhere, and has a good deal peculiar to itself.

The memory of these mistakes, though lost perhaps in others, hangs upon my mind when I am there, and depresses my spirits to such a degree, that I am not like myself. One is never agreeable in company, where one fears too much to be disapproved; and the very notion of being ill received, has as bad an effect upon our gaiety as the thing itself. This is the
first

first and strongest reason, why I despair of being happy in Lorrain. I have already complained of the foppish ignorance and contempt for all I have been taught to value, that is so fashionable there. You have heard me describe the greater part of the English I knew there, in colours that ought to make you fear the infection of such company for your son.

But supposing no danger in this brutal unimproving society, it is no little grievance; for to what barbarous insults does it expose our morals and understanding? A fool, with a majority on his side, is the greatest tyrant in the world. Don't imagine, dear Sir, that I am setting up for a reformer of mankind, because I express some impatience at the folly and immorality of my acquaintance. I am far from expecting they should all be wits, much less philosophers. My own weaknesses are too well known to me, not to prejudice me in favour of other people's, when they go but to a certain point. There are extravagances that have always an excuse, sometimes a grace, attending them. Youth is agreeable in its follies, and would lose its beauty if it looked too grave; but a reasonable head, and an honest heart, are never to be dispensed with. Not that I am so severe upon Luneville, and my English friends, as to pretend there are not men of merit and good sense among them. There are some undoubtedly; but all I know are uneasy at finding themselves in such ill company. I shall trouble you no farther upon this head; if you enter into my way of thinking, what I have said will be enough: if you don't, all I can say will have no effect. I should not have engaged in this long detail, but that I love to open my heart to you, and make you the confident of all my thoughts. Till I have the honour and happiness of conversing with you in a nearer manner, indulge me, dear Sir, in this distant way of conveying my notions to you; and let me talk to you as I would to my dearest friend, without awe, correctness, or reserve. Though I have taken up so much of your time before, I cannot help giving myself

myself the pleasure of acquainting you of the extraordinary civilities I receive from Mr. Poyntz. He has in a manner taken me into his family. I have the honour of his conversation at all hours, and he delights to turn it to my improvement. He was so good as to desire me to ask your leave to pass the winter with him, and, to encourage me to do it, promised me that I should not be without my share of public business. The first packet that comes from Fontainebleau I expect to be employed, which is no small pleasure to me, and will, I hope, be of service.

Don't you think, Sir, it would be proper for you to write to Mr. Poyntz, to thank him for the honours he has done me, and desire him to excuse it, if his civilities make me troublesome to him longer than you designed? You know so well how to do those things, that I am persuaded it would have a good effect.

The only news I have to tell you, is a secret intelligence from Vienna, that count Zinzendorff is going out of favour; this is of consequence to the negociations, but you must not mention it: while I am not trusted with affairs, you shall know all I hear, but afterwards *nil patri quidem*. I was saying to Mr. Poyntz, that Ripperda was undoubtedly very happy to come out of prison into the land of liberty; he replied, that whatever the duke might think, he was in danger of going to prison again.

This was said some time ago, and things may have altered since. I remain, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T-

L E T T E R X.

D E A R S I R,

Soissons, Dec. 20.

A Sudden order to Mr. Poyntz has broke all my meafures. He goes to-morrow to Paris, to stay there in the room of Messrs. Stanhope and Walpole, who are on their return for England. His Excellency is so kind and good as to desire me to accompany him to Paris, and live there *en famille*, at least till I hear from you. As the expence will not be great, having the convenience of his table; and as a winter journey to Lorraine is impracticable; I have ventured to take this step without your orders. It is with me as it is with ambassadors, who, though never so desirous of keeping close to the letter of their instructions, are sometimes obliged to act without them, and follow their own judgement without consulting their superiors. The proposal of being let into business, and the advantage of Mr. Poyntz's conversation, makes me very unwilling to quit him now, when I begin to know him more intimately, and to gain his confidence. I have already copied some papers for him, and don't doubt but he will continue to employ me.

I have troubled you so often with Ripperda, that I am almost ashamed to mention him again; but the conclusive answer of Mr. Stanhope to the duke of Ormond, and the other Spanish ministers, was, that when Spain would give up the English rebels, England would send back Ripperda.

Prince Frederick's journey was very secret; Mr. Poyntz did not hear of it till Friday last; at least he had no public notice of it. There will be fine struggling for places. I hope my brother will come in for one. Adieu, Sir. Believe me always

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T-

L E T T E R XI.

D E A R S I R,

Paris, Jan. 22, 1729.

I HAVE so much to thank you for, that I have not words to do it; so kind a compliance with all my wishes surpasses my acknowledgement. Your two letters to Mr. Poyntz had their effect, and were answered with a profusion of civilities, and marks of friendship and esteem; but the inclosed will instruct you better in the obligations I have to you and him. How happy I am in your permission to quit Lorrain, you may judge by my letter on that head. I think you have mistaken my sense in some arguments made use of there, but it is needless to set you right. Your kindness and indulgence to my desires, is an argument more persuasive than all the rest, and in which only I confide.

I have lately, Sir, spent more than I could wish, and the necessity of doing it gives me no small uneasiness; but it is an undoubted fact, that without shew abroad there is no improvement. You yourself confess it, when you say, the French are only fond of strangers who have money to pay them for their compliments. You express a great uneasiness for fear I should grow fond of games of chance. I have sometimes risked a little at them, but without any passion or delight. Gaming is too unreasonable and dishonest for a gentleman, who has either sense or honour, to addict himself to it; but, to set you quite easy in that point, I give you my word and honour, and desire no pardon if I recede from it, that I never will addict myself to this destructive passion, which is such a whirlpool, that it absorbs all others. It is true I have been a sufferer at quadrille, and must even suffer on, for *point de société sans cela; c'est un article preliminaire à tout commerce*
avec

SIR THOMAS LYTTTELTON.

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avec le beau monde. I may venture to assure you, that all thoughts of peace are not laid aside, as you apprehend.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T T E R XII.

“SIR,

Paris, Jan. 22, 1729.

I HAVE received your two kind letters, in which you are pleased very much to over-value the small civilities it has lain in my power to shew Mr. Lyttelton. I have more reason to thank you, Sir, for giving me so convincing a mark of your regard, as to interrupt the course of his travels on my account, which will lay me under a double obligation to do all I can towards making his stay agreeable and useful to him; though I shall still remain the greater gainer by the pleasure of his company, which no services of mine can sufficiently requite. He is now in the same house with me, and by that means more constantly under my eye than even at Soissons; but I should be very unjust to him, if I left you under the imagination, that his inclinations stand in the least need of any such ungenerous restraint. Depend upon it, Sir, from the observation of one who would abhor to deceive a father in so tender a point, that he retains the same virtuous and studious dispositions, which nature and your care planted in him, only strengthened and improved by age and experience; so that, I dare promise you, the bad examples of Paris, or any other place, will never have any other effect upon him, but to confirm him in the right choice he has made. Under these happy circumstances he can have little occasion for any other advice, but that of sustaining the character he has so early got, and of supporting the hopes he has raised. I wish it were in my

power

power to do him any part of the service you suppose me capable of. I shall not be wanting, to employ him, as occasion offers, and to assist him with my advice where it may be necessary, though your cares (which he ever mentions with the greatest gratitude) have made this task very easy. He cannot fail of making you and himself happy, and of being a great ornament to our country, if, with that refined taste and delicacy of genius, he can but recall his mind, at a proper age, from the pleasures of learning, and gay scenes of imagination, to the dull road and fatigue of business. This I have sometimes taken the liberty to hint to him, though his own good judgement made it very unnecessary.

Though I have only the happiness of knowing you, Sir, by your reputation, and by this common object of our friendship and affections, your son; I beg you would be persuaded that I am, with the most particular respect, Sir,

Your most humble, and obedient servant,

S. POYNTZ."

L E T T E R XIII.

D E A R S I R,

Paris, Feb. 1735.

I MADE your compliments to Mr. Poyntz as handsomely as I could, and read him that part of your letter, where you leave it to his determination, how long I shall stay with him, provided it be no ways inconvenient. He assured me, with the same obliging air of sincerity and goodness as you are charmed with in his letter, that it was not in the least so; and that my company again at Soissons would be the greatest relief and pleasure to him; with many other kind expressions, which you would be glad to hear, but which I can't repeat. I have a thousand thanks to pay you, Sir, for so kindly preventing my desires, and continuing me in the possession of a happiness which I was afraid

was

was almost at an end. The time I spend with Mr. Poyntz is certainly the most agreeable, as well as the most improving, part of my life. He is a second father to me, and it is in his society that I am least sensible of the want of yours.

I find you are uneasy at the situation the king's speech has left us in; but depend upon it, notwithstanding the little triumph that the enemies of the government may shew upon the present seeming uncertainty of affairs, they will be concluded to their confusion, and to the honour of the councils they oppose. The greatest mischief that has been done us, and which perhaps you are not sensible of, was by the number of disaffected papers, full of false and malicious insinuations, which, being translated and shewn to foreign ministers, unacquainted with the lenity of our constitution, and the liberty of scandal it allows, made them think that the nation would disavow the measures taken by the court, and were the principal cause of the delays and difficulties that retard the public peace. The vigorous resolutions of both houses, to support his majesty in his councils, will, no doubt, undeceive them, and contribute very much to bring affairs to that decision we desire. Adieu, my dear Sir; and believe me to be

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T T E R XIV.

DEAR SIR,

Paris, March 11.

THE affair of the Gosport man of war has raised a most extravagant spirit of resentment in the French. They talk of nothing less than hanging their own officer, and seem to expect that ours should come off as ill. I have talked to his excellency about it: he says, he has had no account of it from England; but desires me to tell you, that he is in hopes the

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French

French officer has made a false report; and that, if nothing very extraordinary has been done, as the case must have happened frequently, he should think it very proper that as many precedents as can be found should be collected and sent him over. He apprehends as much as you a popular declamation from the Craftsman on this unlucky subject. The embarkation you speak of is uncertain (as far as I can know from him), and intended only to reinforce our garrisons; perhaps there may be more in it, which he does not think fit to trust me with, though I hardly imagine so; because I have such marks of his confidence, as convince me he does not doubt of my discretion.

Love to my brother —; I dare say he will be a gainer in the end by this warm action, though it happened to be ill-timed. I am glad the young fellow has so much of the martial spirit in him. What you tell me of — amazes me. I shall obey your advice, in being cautious how I think any man my friend too soon; since he, whose affection I was so sure of, has so injuriously convinced me of my mistake. I confess I thought malice or ill-nature as great strangers to him as to poor —: but what are the judgements of young men? Indeed, my dear Sir, we are very silly fellows.

I can't help transcribing a few lines of my sister's letter, of the 10th, to shew you, that your goodness to your children meets at least with a grateful return:

“ We should pass our time but ill, if the good-humour of my
 “ mother did not make us all chearful, and make amends for
 “ the loss of those diversions which London would afford us.
 “ The oftener I converse with her, the more I love her; and
 “ every one of her actions shews me a virtue I wish to imitate.
 “ This you must be sensible of, as well as I; but there is such a
 “ pleasure in praising those we love, that I must dwell a little
 “ upon the subject, which, I dare say, will be as grateful to you
 “ as it is to me. How happy are we with such parents! When
 “ I see my father almost spent with the cares of his family; my
 “ dear

“ dear mother confined here for the good of her children ; I’m
 “ overpowered with gratitude and love ! May you and they
 “ continue well ! and I want nothing else to compleat my hap-
 “ piness.” This, Sir, is a faithful extract, and speaks the lan-
 guage of all our hearts. Adieu, dear Sir.

I remain, &c.

G. L.

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L E T T E R XV.

DEAR SIR,

Haute Fontaine, near Soissons, May 27.

I HAVE letters from my lord — and his governor, in
 which they both express the highest sense of the friendship
 you have shewn them, and acknowledge the advantages they
 owe to it ; my lord, particularly, is charmed with the good-
 natured service you did his relation, and speaks of it as the
 greatest obligation. My friend Ayscough too boasts of your
 protection, and professes that veneration for your character, that
 it makes me proud of being your son. It is now my duty to
 return you thanks for all these favours, bestowed on others, and
 meant to me ; and I do it with all the pleasure of a grateful
 mind, which finds itself honoured in the obligation. I believe
 there is no young man alive, who has more happiness to boast
 of than myself ; being blest with a sound constitution, affectionate
 friends, and an easy fortune : but of all my advantages, there is
 none of which I have so deep a sense, as the trust and amiable
 harmony between the best of fathers and myself.

This is so much the dearer to me, as indeed it is the source of
 all the rest, and as it is not to be lost by misfortune, but depend-
 ant upon my own behaviour, and annexed to virtue, honour,
 and reputation. I am persuaded that no weakneses or failings,
 which do not injure them, will occasion the withdrawing of it
 from me ; and therefore I consider it as secure, because I have

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used

used my mind to look upon dishonesty and shame as strangers it can never be acquainted with: such an opinion is not vanity, but it is setting those two things at a necessary distance from us; for it is certain, that the allowing a possibility of our acting wickedly or meanly, is really making the first step towards it. I have received many civilities from Mr. Stanhope, who is here with Mr. Poyntz. Mr. Walpole has invited me to Compiègne, where I am going for two or three days. Affairs are now almost at a crisis, and there is great reason to expect they will take a happy turn. Mr. W—— has a surprising influence over the c——, so that, whether peace or war ensue, we may depend upon our ally. In truth, it is the interest of the French court to be faithful to their engagements, though it may not entirely be the nation's. Emulation of trade might incline the people to wish the bond that ties them to us were broke; but the mercantile interest has at no time been much considered by this court. If you reflect upon the apprehensions of the government from the side of Spain, and their very reasonable jealousy of the emperor, you will not wonder at their managing the friendship, and adhering to the alliance, of Great Britain. The supposition, that present advantage is the basis and end of state engagements, and that they are only to be measured by that rule, is the foundation of all our suspicions against the firmness of our French ally. But the maxim is not just. Much is given to future hopes, much obtained by future fears; and security is, upon many occasions, sought preferably to gain. I remain, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T

L E T T E R XVI.

D E A R S I R,

Haute Fontaine, near Soissons, July 6.

THE kind answer you made to my last was as great an addition to my happiness as any I could possibly receive. You seem very uneasy as to public affairs: and indeed, considering the many inward and domestic calamities we are afflicted with, I cannot say but you have reason. I hope, however, to be able very shortly to send you some news, that will raise your spirits; for every thing is brought to a crisis; and, without some unforeseen accident, we may expect a happy conclusion. And now, Sir, as far as I dare, I will tell you the reasons for the confidence which I have express'd. Out of two and twenty millions of pistres, that the galleons brought home, the king of Spain's share is but six, allowing him all pretensions to *dîmes*, *droits d'entrée*, &c. and a moderate *indulto*. By the treaty of the Prado, and other conventions, the indult is fixed to five *per cent.* in time of war, as well as peace; but, as he has been at extraordinary charges in bringing of them home this year, the negociants are willing to allow him thirteen or fourteen *per cent.* in consideration of it. If he arbitrarily resolves to take more, besides ruining his trade, which entirely stands upon the faith of those conventions, he so far exasperates France, that he may depend upon their entering vigorously into a war against him; and even with that, he will not have half enough to make good his engagements to the emperor; no, not even to pay his arrears.

It is, then, probable, that he will either break those engagements, and sign a peace with us, or seize upon the whole freight of the galleons; in which case France would find itself so concerned as to be compelled to right itself by arms, as principal in the quarrel, not as ally.

But as such a violence, so contrary to treaties and to the interests of Spain, would render the queen odious to the nation,

even though the war should be carried on with success, there is great reason to think she will not venture it, considering the king's passion for abdication, and the uncertainty her authority is in. I have still a farther reason to hope we shall have peace, but it is not proper to mention it. I shall only say, that, as the queen's ambition for the establishment of her family was the foundation of the Vienna treaty, a just sense of the difficulty, perhaps impossibility, of obtaining it upon that plan, and a more easy and reasonable one offered to her, may reconcile her to the provisional treaty. After all, my dear Sir, I make no doubt but, let things come out ever so well, people will not want objections and complaints. Perfection is so impossible to be attained, and we are so apt to expect it, that it is in vain to hope any measures can be taken, that will meet with a general approbation. The badness of the weather, scarcity of corn, and even the fickleness of the times, are laid to the ministry's charge; and so they would, if, instead of making alliance with France, we were now quarrelling with it to gratify the emperor. But you, I am sure, will be satisfied, if by the negotiations here our trade and honour is secured; and so they will be, or we shall adjourn to Flanders. His excellency desires his humble service to you. I hope my beloved mother is well. Pray my humble duty to her. And I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

The courier from Madrid is expected in
five or six days.

L E T-

L E T T E R XVII.

D E A R S I R,

Paris, August 13.

AS the courier brings you this, and there is no danger of its being opened, I make no scruple to acquaint you with all I know of the negociations; but only must beg you to take no notice of it to any body.

The queen of Spain has, as well from her own experience as the skilful representation from Mr. Keene, been made so sensible of the insincerity of the emperor in the promises he has made her, and the little she could rely upon them, that she is willing to throw herself, and all her interests, into the hands of England, provided that we, together with France and Holland, would engage to secure the succession of Tuscany and Parma to don Carlos, by Spanish garrisons to be placed in them, or at least Swiss troops in the Spanish pay. This last condition is contrary to the quadruple alliance, which provides for the succession of don Carlos to those dutchies; but stipulates that they shall be held by neutral garrisons. However, the allies of Hanover have thought fit to grant it upon better terms, and to guarantee the disposition they have made against any power who shall oppose or trouble it. It is the interest of all Europe, that the succession of those countries should be secured to Spain. The emperor is too powerful already, and may become master of the liberties of Italy, if he has not a neighbour in those states who will be strong enough to check him. The face of affairs in Europe is much changed since the quadruple alliance, which was formed to prevent the mischiefs which might have ensued from the difference of the imperial court with that of Spain; whereas the treaty of Soissons has no other end than to prevent the much greater ones that would arise from their too close union. I shall not enquire whether, in the former treaty, we did not compliment the
emperor

emperor too far, nor take notice how ill we have been requited; but I am sure we shall gain more by obliging Spain, and make the balance more even. The only difficulty to be considered is, whether this ought to have been done without the emperor's participation, or whether we can make good such a disposition without endangering the peace. In regard to the first, it is certain, the imperial court has no reason to expect any confidence from the allies of Hanover, after the many instances of insincerity and *mauvaise foi* they have given us during the whole course of the negociations.

We have very sure grounds to think, they have made the same proposals to the queen of Spain, for other purposes, without communicating it to us; but is it likely she would accept it from their hands, rather than from ours, whose sincerity she has experienced, and who have power and means to make good our engagements? Had we acquainted the emperor with our project, and sued him to come in to it, it would have been making him master of the negociations, and thereby hazarded their being prolonged to what length he pleased, which, considering the just impatience of the English nation, would have been worse than concluding them by a war with Spain. One with the emperor is little to be feared, considering the formidable strength of the alliance, and the difficulties that prince lies under from the unsettled state of the succession. It is more probable he will come into peaceful measures, as more conformable to his situation and the humour of his ministers, who are all of them averse to war. But it is undoubted, that our refusing the queen of Spain her demands for don Carlos, would have forced her desperately to close with the emperor's proposal, and enter into any engagements for the interests of her son, to which (as she told Mr. Keene) she had still more left to sacrifice. If we had provoked her to a war, we must have spent millions to obtain by force what this treaty gives us upon a condition, which it is our interest to grant. We expect a courier in a day or two
from

from Mr. Keene, who will inform us more certainly than Banniers has, what to expect both from Spain and the emperor. Mr. Poyntz says, the effects of the galleons will not be delivered quites so soon as you expect, but that he hopes it will not be long first. It is very probable the article I have mentioned, as the fundamental one, in the treaty of Soissons, will be a secret one, and signed separately by the English, Spanish, French, and Dutch. The infinite variety of interests which have assembled so many powers will, I hope, be speedily adjusted; though you will own it is a work of time, and not so suddenly to be brought about, as some politicians in England seem to think. The affair of Mecklenburgh is the most troublesome, and one of the most important. H. B. M. is strenuous in opposing the Aulick council; and it is happy for the states of the empire, that they have so powerful a protector of their rights and liberties. As soon as our dispatches arrive from Spain, you shall hear the result of all I have acquainted you with in this.

I am very proud of the honour you did me, in approving of the reasoning in my last; it was founded upon Mr. Poyntz's discourse, and the papers he had the goodness to let me see, which I made the best use of I could. I am obliged to Mr. Pope for enquiring after me, and beg you would return my compliments.

Nobody can have a higher opinion of his poetry than I have; but I am sorry he wrote the Dunciad.

I most heartily rejoice that you enjoy your health, and pray God to continue it. His excellency is well, and desires his compliments.

I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

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L E T

L E T T E R XVIII.

D E A R S I R,

Paris, August 25th.

I am glad you find the news I sent you so generally confirmed, but must beg pardon for an incorrect expression that escaped me in my last; having said that A^s. of H. guaranteed the succession to D. C. which I believe, is only true of England, France, and Holland.

Pour ce que regarde M. Keene, je puis seulement vous dire qu'il me semble que nos ministres ont toujours fait beaucoup de cas de son habilité, et qu'ils ont beaucoup deféré a ses conseils en tout ce que regarde la cour d'Espagne. Je sçais aussi que son sentiment a toujours été d'employer jamais les menaces en traitant avec cette cour; parceque, connoissant la fierté Espagnole, il croyoit qu'on ne pourroit rien gagner d'eux par ces moyens: c'est pourquoi il étoit d'avis, ou de venir à une guerre ouverte, sans nous arrêter a faire des menaces, ou de proceder par des voyes de douceur comme nous avons fait jusqu'ici. Voila son système; et on s'est bien trouvé de l'avoir suivi. Il me paroît d'autant plus raisonnable que je ne croy pas qu'on auroit jamais pû intimider la reine d'Espagne, qui, de l'humeur dont elle est, ne se feroit pas mise en peine de voir le royaume de son mari plongé dans tous les maux de la guerre, pourvu que cela n'eut pas empeché ses desseins en faveur de son fils. Elle se regarde comme une étrangère, et ne s'attend pas à rester deux jours en Espagne, si le roi venoit a mourir ou à abdiquer la couronne. Mais enfin je ne pretens pas justifier tous les pas de M. Keene, dont quelquesuns peuvent avoir été trop peu respectueux aux ordres qu'il à reçus. Vous dites que l'article de la garantie pourroit bien être contesté en d'autres endroits que à Vienne. Je le crois; car il y a un certain parti chez nous, qui est fort dans les intérêts de l'empereur, et qui fera
sans

fans doute fort fâché de voir le peu de soins que nous en prenons. Mais laissons murmurer ces messieurs-là ; et faisons toujours une bonne paix, fans nous soucier de leur mécontentement. Je ne puis pas vous répondre decisivement sur le dédommagement des portes de nos marchands : c'est une chose à souhaiter, mais je doute de son execution. Ce qu'il y a d'assuré c'est qu'on reparera les torts de notre commerce, et qu'on le mettra en seureté pour l'avenir.

Dieu sçait si ce que je vous escrit est bon. François, car je n'ay pas assez de tems pour l'étudier, ni pour en corriger le moindre mot.

G. L.

L E T T E R X I X .

MONSIEUR,

Paris, August 30.

NOUS avons reçu des nouvelles fort extraordinaires d'Hannovre ; sçavoir, que le roi se voit sur le point d'être attaqué dans ses états par son voisin le roi de Prusse. Ce prince a une si forte inclination pour le grands hommes, qu'il les prend par tout où il les trouve ; et il vient nouvellement de faire enlever par ses officiers plusieurs sujets d'Hannovre, qui avoient le malheur d'être destinées par leur taille à entrer dans ses troupes, sans demander leur consentement, ou celui du roi leur maître. S. M. se croyant obligé à faire des reprisailles, arreta tous les Prussiens qui se trouvoient alors dans ses états ; mais il promit, en même tems, au roi de Prusse, de les mettre tous en liberté, aussitot que lui de son côté auroit congédie les Hannoveriens. Le procedé étoit fort equitable ; mais Frederic declara, que si le roi ne lui envoyoit pas une autre réponse plus satisfaisante avant un jour qu'il lui marqua, il viendra s'en faire raison a la tete du quatre vingt mille hommes.

Comme le roi ne se mit pas en peine de ses menaces, et laissa passer le tems prescrit, S. M. P. donna ordres à cinquante mille

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hommes

hommes de ses troupes, de marcher en diligence aux frontieres ; et pour faire voir qu'il estoit bien serieux, il deboursa une grosse somme, pour les entretenir. De façon que nous sommes a la veille d'une guerre au milieu de nos negociations pour la paix, et pour une sujet qui n'a aucun raport aux difference que nous travaillons à terminer, nous ne doutons pas que l'empereur ne fomente sous main la querelle, et qu'il ne tache d'allumer un feu de cette etincelle qui embraseroit toute l'Allemagne. On travaille pourtant à l'etouffer avant qu'il eclate ; mais on a tout à craindre de la folie du roi de Prusse, et des artifices de la cour imperiale. Comme ce roi a une armée sur pied beaucoup plus forte que celle de S. M. B. et que le pays d'Hannovre est tout ouverte ; il est a craindre que l'ennemi n'y fasse de grands progrès avant que le roi pourra se mettre en etat de l'empêcher.

Les suites d'une pareille entreprise seroient affurement funestes à l'agresseur ; mais les commencements pourront bien etre facheux pour sa majesté. Ce n'est pas la premiere extravagance de cette nature que le roi de Prusse a faite ; il a autrefois elevé un marchand Suedois, qui voyagoit dans le voisinage de ses etats, et plusieurs Saxons, pour les forcer de servir dans ses troupes ; et on a eu beaucoup de peine à lui persuader de les rendre aux instances et aux menaces des puissances interessees. Je croy que de toutes les tetes couronnées de l'univers c'est la plus insensée. Il se peut bien que vous avez deja entendu cette nouvelle ; mais comme je la tiens de son excellence, j'ay cru qu'il ne seroit pas mal à propos de vous la mander. Il me flatte que si la guerre se faisoit tout de bon, vous m'envoyerez à Hannovre, pour ne pas manquer à une si belle occasion de me signaler au service et à la vice du Roi. C'est une grace que j'attends de votre bonté, et du regard que vous m'avez toujours temoigné pour mon honneur et une reputation. Mais en trois semaines d'icy nous en parlerons plus certainement ; et alors je prendrai le parti que vous jugerez le plus convenable. Son
excellence

excellence à été fort indisposé, mais il commence à se retablir. J'espere que vous vous portez bien, et que Madame est arrivée sans accident à Hagley.

Your most dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T T E R XX.

DEAR SIR,

Paris, Sept. 8.

SUNDAY by four o'clock we had the good news of a dauphin, and since that time I have thought myself in Bedlam. The natural gaiety of the nation is so improved on this occasion, that they are all stark mad with joy, and do nothing but dance and sing about the streets by hundreds, and by thousands. The expressions of their joy are admirable: one fellow gives notice to the public, that he designs to draw teeth for a week together upon the Pont Neuf *gratis*. The king is as proud of what he has done, as if he had gained a kingdom; and tells every body that he sees, *qu'il sçaura bien faire des fils tant qu'il voudra*. We are to have a fine fire-work to-morrow, his majesty being to sup in town.

The duke of Orleans was sincerely, and without any affectation, transported at the birth of the dauphin.

The succession was a burthen too heavy for his indolence to support, and he piously sings halleluja for his happy delivery from it. The good old cardinal cried for joy. It is very late, and I have not slept this three nights for the squibs and crackers, and other noises that the people make in the streets; so must beg leave to conclude, with assuring that I am, dear Sir,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T-

LETTER XXI.

DEAR SIR,

Paris, Sept. 16.

THE difference with Prussia is nearly compos'd; that king being intimidated with the firmness he found in his majesty's allies to stand by him in case of a rupture, which he flattered himself they would not have done, especially the French. On the other side, Sickendorf the imperial minister, (who had intimated, in private discourse with the Danish secretary, that if the king of G. B. called in any of his allies to his assistance against Prussia, his master would think him obliged to assist that kingdom with his forces) being asked in council, "whether the king of Prussia might depend upon succours from his imperial majesty;" replied, "that he had no orders to provide any." I suppose, you have a more ample account of this affair from Mr. West, so shall say no more of it. Mr. Poyntz has been very ill; but, I thank God, is on the mending hand.

We are now in the middle of September; and though the thoughts of leaving so kind a friend are very displeasing to me, yet as I am now at the latest term I ever propos'd, and as a further delay would make my journey to Italy impracticable, I am obliged to mention it to you, and to desire immediate leave to set out that way.

His excellency himself advises me not to defer it any longer, the winter being the proper season for seeing Rome; and this we are now in, for passing the Alps.

It is probable he will not be long in France; and therefore it is not worth my while, for a month or two longer, to lose the opportunity of my travelling as I always design'd.

I hope I have given you no reasons to alter your first intentions of sending me to Italy, a country I long to see, and where I may expect to improve myself considerably.

You

You will undoubtedly thank Mr. Poyntz, upon my taking leave of him, for the many, and indeed infinite, obligations I have to him, which do me so much honour, and of which I have so deep a sense. I protest to you, my dear Sir, that as you are the only person in the world to whom I am more indebted than to him, so, after you, there is nobody whom I more love and honour, and to serve whom I would sacrifice life and fortune so willingly as Mr. Poyntz. Were he a private man, and divested of that lustre which great abilities and employments give him, his virtues only would gain him the veneration and love of all the world. My nearness to him has given me opportunity to study his character, and I have found it more beautiful and perfect the closer I looked into and examined it. I propose to myself a great deal of pleasure in telling you some particulars of his conduct, which his modesty concealed from eyes that were less intent upon him than mine.

You need not give yourself the trouble of looking out for recommendations for me to any of the Italian courts, I being acquainted with their ministers here, and not doubting but I shall have as many as I want.

The tumult of the people for the dauphin is a little over, and the nation are returning to their senses. I remain,

Dear Sir, your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

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L E T T E R XXII.

DEAR SIR,

Paris, Sept. 27.

MR. Stanhope is on his way to Spain. The caprice and stubbornness of the king of Spain (which is not always to be governed even by his wife) made it necessary to send a minister to that court, of too much weight and authority to be trifled with. It is a melancholy reflexion, that the wisest

councils and best measures for the public good are sometimes to be frustrated by the folly and incapacity of *one* man!

How low is the servitude of human kind, when they are reduced to respect the extravagance, and court the pride, of a senseless creature, who has no other character of royalty, than power to do mischief!

However, I hope, all will turn out well, and that his Catholic majesty will behave himself a little like a king, since the queen will have him be one in spite of his teeth. About three months ago, she caught him going down stairs at midnight, to abdicate, in his night-gown. He was so incensed at the surprize and disappointment, that he beat her cruelly, and would have strangled her if she had not called for help.

This attempt of his alarmed her terribly, and put her upon carrying him about Spain, to amuse him with seeing fights, in order to keep St. Ildefonso out of his head. The journey has cost immense sums, so that the indult and treasure they expect from Lima is already mortgaged, and the king more in debt than ever.

I have a word or two to add to my French letter, upon the succession of don Carlos. There is a secret article in the quadruple alliance, not much attended to, which says, that in case the Dutch should be unwilling to pay their share of the neutral garrisons, the king of Spain should, if he pleased, take upon himself to furnish their quota for them (that is, two thousand men).

ARTICLE S E P A R É.

“ Que si les Seigneurs Etats Generaux des Provinces Unies
 “ des Pais Bas trouvoient qu’il leur fut trop a chargé de fournir
 “ leur quote part des subsides qui seront payez aux Cantons
 “ Suisses, pour les garrisons de Livourne, Porto Feraio, de
 “ Parme, et de Plaisance, selon la teneur du traité d’alliance
 “ conclue ce jourd’huy; il a été déclaré expressement par cet
 “ article séparé, et convenu entre les quatre parties contractantes,
 “ que

“ que dans ce cas le roi Catholique pourra se charger de la portion qu'auroient à payer les Seigneurs Etats Generaux.”

By which it is plain, that the fifth article was not designed to be strictly understood; but that, notwithstanding the prohibition there expressed, a proportion of troops, in Spanish pay, might be admitted into Italy. But, what is of much greater importance, there is a private article in the Vienna treaty, by which the emperor is allowed expressly to send a body of 8,000 imperialists into Tuscany and Parma, upon the death of the present possessors. This is so certain, that upon the illness of the grand duke, which was apprehended to be mortal, the imperial minister actually wrote to hasten the march of the troops that way. This point the emperor obtained without our knowledge or consent, in contradiction to the terms of a treaty which we made in favour of his interests, and in prejudice to our own. And yet he and his friends complain of us, for securing ourselves against his breach of treaty, by giving up an article we are no ways concerned in, and which he had made so light of himself.

One would be astonished how Spain could be prevailed upon to yield him such a point; but the whole Vienna treaty is perfect infatuation on that side, where every real advantage is given up to the chimerical marriage with the arch-dutchess.

Mr. Poyntz is better; but the deep concern he takes in every incident that affects the negociation, much retards his recovery. Never did man love his country better, or was more active in its service. I have been much out of order, with a distemper that has been universal at Paris, and is probably owing to the Seine water; but I am very well again.

I am troubled and uneasy at my expences here, though you are so good and generous not to mention them in any of your letters. I am guilty of no extravagance; but do not know how to save, as some people do. This is the time of my life in which money will be ill saved, and your goodness is lavish

of it to me I think without offending your prudence. My dear Sir, I know no happiness but in your kindness; and if ever I lose that, I am the worst of wretches. I remain, Sir,
Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

LETTER XXIII.

DEAR SIR,

Paris, Oct. 6.

I HAVE the greatest thanks to return you for the many proofs of confidence and affection you gave me in your last, and shall labour to deserve that goodness which is so kind and complaisant to my desires. I shall, in obedience to your orders, set out for Italy to-morrow, where I hope to make such improvements as will answer the expence of the journey. But whatever advantage or pleasure I may propose, I cannot, without a sensible affliction, take leave of my dear friend Mr. Poyntz, of whose favours to me I have so deep a sense, that I cannot too often express my acknowledgements. The time I have enjoyed his company has been spent so happily, and so much to my honour and advantage, that I do not know how to reconcile my thoughts to a period of it. It is not so much the liveness of his wit, and uncommon strength of his judgement, that charm me in his conversation, as those great and noble sentiments, which would have been admired by ancient Rome, and have done honour to the most virtuous ages.

He is going to his country-seat, where I hope the air, and a little repose from the fatigue of business, will entirely restore his health. I shall observe your cautions against grapes, new wine, and pretty women, though they are all very tempting, but dangerous things.

I have time for no more now, but to assure you of my duty and affection. I have wrote to my lord Cobham upon my
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SIR THOMAS LYTTTELTON.

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going to Italy. His excellency thanks you for your letter, and will write to you as soon as he gets to Haute Fontaine. I have the pleasure of being able to assure you, that the final project of a treaty sent to Spain, is entirely satisfactory and honourable, and that it contains a full redress and reparation for all abuses, grievances, and wrongs.

I am, dear Sir, with due respect,

Your most dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T T E R XXIV.

S I R,

Haute Fontaine, Oct. 18.

MR. Lyttelton will have acquainted you with my removing to this place, the day before he left Paris, for the benefit of the air, and exercise of the country, which has almost restored me to health. The first use I made of it, Sir, is to return you my sincere thanks, for making me so long happy in his good company, which, I may with great truth say, has contributed more than any thing else, to make the tediousness of this splendid banishment supportable to me, and to soften the impressions which the many perverse turns of the negotiations must have made upon my mind. I wish it had been in my power to make equal returns: his good-nature disposes him to over-value them, such as they were; but I can only hope, that our future acquaintance may afford me opportunity of discharging some part of the debt.

His behaviour has continued uniformly the same as I described it last winter, and I am morally sure will never alter, in any country, or any part of life, for the worse. His health is liable to frequent interruptions, though not dangerous ones, nor of any long continuance. They seem to proceed chiefly from an ill digestion, which, I believe, may sometimes be oc-

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caused by the vivacity of his imagination's pursuing some agreeable thought too intensely, and diverting the spirits from their proper function, even at meals; for we have often been obliged at that time to recall him from *reveries* that made him almost absent to his company, though without the least tincture of melancholy.

I mention this last circumstance as a peculiar felicity of his temper; melancholy and spleen being the rock on which minds of so delicate a texture as his are most in danger of splitting. I have seen two or three instances of it myself in young gentlemen of the greatest hopes; and the epistles wrote by Languett, to Sir Philip Sydney, upon an acquaintance contracted like ours abroad, bring his particular case to my mind.

No young gentleman ever promised more; but returning to England, conscious of his own worth, and full of more refined notions of honour, virtue, and friendship, than were to be met with in courts and parliaments, and in that mixed herd of men with whom business must be transacted, he conceived a total disgust for the world; and, retiring into the country, sat down with patience to consume the vigour of his imagination and youth in writing a trifling romance. I can with pleasure assure you, that I see no symptom of this kind in Mr. Lyttelton; his mind is ever chearful and active and full of such a benevolence towards his friends and relations in England, as well as such zeal for the honour and interests of his country, as, I verily believe, will never let him sink down into indolence and inaction. However, this sickness of the mind, and an ill state of bodily health, which naturally influence and promote one the other, are the two points most necessary to guard against, in a nature the most exempt from faults I ever met with.

I ought to ask pardon, for indulging this liberty, if I were not writing to the best of fathers; though this very circumstance makes all my care superfluous; but the friendship your
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son has expressed for me ever since his being here, and more particularly in my late illness, and at parting, is too strong upon my mind, to suffer me to suppress any hint that may be of the most distant use to him, or may convince you of the sincerity of that respect, with which I am, Sir,

Your most humble, and obedient servant,

S. POYNTZ."

L E T T E R XXV.

DEAR SIR,

Lions, Oct. 16.

I CAME well to Lions last Friday, after a very pleasant journey, if the roads had been a little better. I am mightily pleased with this fine city, and could be willing to stay longer in it; but it begins to rain, and I must make haste to pass the Alps.

I cannot take leave of France, without sending you a few observations upon the present state of it; but I do it upon condition, that you shall shew them to nobody, though they should have the good fortune to please you.

The present king is so little known, either to his subjects or foreigners, that the first have not much to say in his praise, and the latter are at full liberty to suppose what they please to his disadvantage. For this reason, and perhaps from a little pleasure we take in mortifying the French, we have generally a worse notion of him than he really deserves. We represent him as ill-natured, brutal, and incapable of business; but this character does not justly belong to him in any one particular.

I have enquired into the truth of the stories we are told of his barbarity, and find them entirely false. He has shewn great marks of good-nature, particularly to the queen, in being the only man in France that did not hate her for not bringing
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him a son. His behaviour to those about him is perfectly affable and easy; I think more so than is consistent with majesty.

There is no one act of violence or injustice that can be laid to his charge; nothing vicious or irregular in his conduct. As to his incapacity for business, they are much mistaken who suppose that he does nothing but hunt and sleep. I know for certain, that there is no affair of moment, either foreign or domestick, that the cardinal does not communicate to him. I believe, indeed, he always acquiesces in his minister's opinion; but he is constantly consulted and let in to all the secret of affairs before any body else is trusted with it, even the *garde des sceaux* himself. Nor is this confidence ever prejudicial; for he is master of an impenetrable secrecy, which is a good deal owing to the natural phlegm and reservedness of his temper. It is hard to say whether he has courage or not; but the cardinal thinks he has, and dreads to engage him in a war for fear he should grow too fond of it. He is cold, unactive, and insensible to all kind of pleasures; his very hunting does not delight him; and this is what the French are angry at: they love that their monarch should be gallant, magnificent, and ambitious, and do not care what price they pay for it, provided there be great news from Flanders, and fine entertainments at Versailles.

Lewis the Fourteenth understood their genius, and humoured it, in his wars and in his amours; but the frugality of the present court, and the dullness of a continued peace, are things they cannot relish.

In truth, his majesty's worst fault is a kind of bashful timidity, which makes him shun all occasions for shewing himself, and has very much the air of heaviness. He is devout, which may degenerate into bigotry, as it did in his grandfather. It is to be feared, from the eagerness he expresses of winning money at play, that he may grow avaricious; but that is not always a certain sign: his virtues and vices will probably remain

main as much concealed as they are now, during the life of the cardinal; but at his death, flattery and love may give him a new turn; or his disposition, being no longer under any check, may exert itself more conspicuously. Upon the whole, there appears nothing shining, nothing elevated or commanding in his character, but such a mediocrity as may make his people easy, and very capable of governing a kingdom, where there are no factions to contend with, and no disaffection to overcome. His first minister is the most absolute that ever exercised that authority in France, not excepting even Richelieu.

There is not one man in the whole nation dares speak of any business to the king besides himself, and those immediately under his direction. The parliament is hardly the shadow of what it was. The princes of the blood, and the nobility, are all pensioners and dependants of the court, from the dukes and marshals of France to the lowest officer in the service; their interest, once so formidable to the power of the ministry, is reduced to such a degree of weakness, that not one of them, if he had courage to rebel, is able to raise fifty soldiers against the king. And, what is of no less moment, the women are quite out of play, and are obliged to content themselves with love-intrigues, instead of cabals against the ministry, to which they have a more violent inclination. So that the authority of the cardinal is without bounds; the disposal of all dignities and employments is solely in his hands; and all business both at home and abroad is managed by his ministry and orders. The use he has made of this authority has been so just and beneficial to the state, that, except the Jansenists, whom he treats with too much rigour, the nation is generally satisfied with his administration. He found the people almost ruined by the fatal *systeme* of the Mississippi; the king's finances ill directed, and his treasures wasted in needless pensions and profuse expences. The principle of his conduct therefore was, to ease the people, to restore their decaying trade, to save the king all the money
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he was able, and to retrench all superfluous goings-out. But, in order to do this, he was convinced of the necessity of maintaining peace by all the means that were consistent with the safety and honour of the state. This has always been his intention in all treaties and alliances with foreign powers, particularly Great Britain, with whom he has cultivated the strictest friendship, because he is sensible that we have the same views as he has for the preservation of the public tranquillity. On the contrary, Spain and the emperor, by a turbulent and ambitious conduct, have alarmed and put him upon his guard, and he has given his allies the strongest proofs of being determined to bring them to reason. At home he has constantly pursued his plan of saving the public money; and it is thought, if he lives five years longer, and the peace continues, the king's revenues will be upon a better footing, and his treasury fuller, than they have been under any minister this fifty years. He is himself a great despiser of wealth, and consequently uncorrupt, living modestly, and without any affectation of pomp or grandeur.

The greatest complaint against him is the persecution of the Jansenists, to whom he is a bitter enemy; not, however, out of love to the Jesuits, but because it is a maxim of his policy, not to suffer any difference of opinions, but to oblige every body to hold one faith, that he may the easier keep them under one master. As for the Jesuits, they gain no advantage by the severities against their antagonists, except the pleasure of revenge, for their ambition is very much restrained; and, though one of them be confessor to the king, the cardinal has denied him the privilege of nominating to benefices, which used to attend that place, and contributed more than any thing to raise the power and credit of the order.

Neither does he suffer them to meddle at all in politicks; it being another of his maxims, not to permit the members of any sect or order whatever to have any thing to do with state affairs, because it is to be feared that such persons, having a separate in-
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terest from the state, will prefer the advantage of their particular body to the general, upon all occasions where they interfere. And of the truth of this there are many instances. He is the very reverse of Mazarin, both in his temper and administration; naturally honest and sincere, he hates all artifice in business, and is therefore very much disgusted with the imperial ministers, who affect finess and tricking in their negotiations more than any other court. Nobody has more sweetness and humanity in his disposition.

His conversation is free and agreeable, without descending from his dignity; his behaviour very moral and religious, though in his younger days he was suspected of a little gallantry. There is something very insinuating in his wit, and very proper for a courtier; but no extraordinary talents. Had he come a little earlier to the ministry, he would have been more knowing, and have made a greater figure. He has a paternal affection for the king's person, and an ardent zeal for his service; and it is believed, that were his majesty to die, the old gentleman would retire wholly from business, and take care of nothing but his salvation. You see by the account I have given you, that he is not the crooked politician we take him for in England, nor yet so weak as some here are apt to think him; but a man of plain sense, that lays down a reasonable scheme, and pursues it constantly and fairly.

I come now to say something of the people; but their character is so well known in England, that it would be very impertinent to talk about it. I shall only observe, that if the king had died before the birth of a dauphin, the same reason which renders them submissive to the present government, would have made them all rebels to the duke of Orleans; I mean the principle of divine, unalterable, hereditary right. The clergy, who enjoy a third of the lands in France, and who in all nations are preachers of the *jus divinum* because they pretend to it themselves, would no doubt have been very zealous for the king of Spain;

Spain; but at present they are very good subjects, only a little refractory against the constitution *Unigenitus*. The duke of Berwick, who is at the head of the army, is strongly for the English alliance; and so is marshal Villars.

It remains to give some account of the trading part, which, to the great misfortune of this nation, is the least considerable of the three. When cardinal Richelieu came first to the ministry, the naval power of France was in so low and despicable condition, that a nation, formidable by land to all its neighbours, was liable to be insulted at sea by every little corsair and privateer. In the space of a few years, that great man so improved their shipping, that they began to be able to make head against the strongest maritime powers. Afterwards his disciple, M. Colbert, upon the plan his master had traced him out, carried their commerce to such a point, that it alarmed the jealousy of the English and Dutch as much as their acquisitions on the continent. They gained great establishments in America; they set up various manufactures; they got all the treasures of the flota and galleons into their hands; they became the chief traders in the Levant. I need not tell you how much the indolence of Charles the Second, and the weakness of his brother, contributed to this increase of the French trade: even our own partial histories confess it. But the wars that succeeded the Revolution, the neglect of the following ministers, the *systeme**, and other ruinous enterprizes, have since reduced them very much; and, though they are at present protected by good fleets, and much encouraged by the court, they are still very full of complaints: they are terribly exasperated against the court of Spain, for their frequent infractions of treaties of commerce, in detaining the effects of the galleons, and demanding extravagant indults of the proprietors; besides many particular grievances and wrongs, of which it is not proper to enter into a detail. The English assiento contract, and the favourable pri-

* Mississippi.

privileges granted to them by the succeeding conventions, are great mortifications to the merchants here; not only as they were in possession of that trade themselves during all the war, but as they are in great need of it, to furnish themselves with piastres to carry on their commerce to the Levant. They pretend we are guilty of many abuses in the exercise of our privileges, and that we find means to elude the restraints they have left us under. They are also exceedingly alarmed at our new linen manufacture in Ireland; which, they imagine, will be greatly detrimental to the trade of Bretagne and Normandy; no doubt, with very good reason. There are several late advantages we have gained over them in the Levant, in Barbary, and the West Indies, at which they are very uneasy, but it is likely to be to little purpose. The government is made guarantee by several treaties, particularly that of Hanover, to all the branches and privileges of our trade, as we now enjoy them; and therefore they can neither complain of us, nor look for any satisfaction while those treaties subsist, which are in no danger of being broke. After all, their country is so situated for commerce, so fruitful in productions which others want, and the people are so industrious, that one would imagine, with proper encouragement, they could not fail of gaining the superiority over all their neighbours. But, notwithstanding all these natural advantages, the abject slavery they are in, the number of hands that are employed in the military service, the swarms of idle ecclesiastics, and, above all, the chimerical distinction between a gentleman and a merchant, will always keep their traffic low; and the country will continue in the poverty I see it now, which is more miserable than I could ever have imagined.

I shall conclude my remarks by observing, that the roguery and rapine of the intendants of towns and balliages, and the partial execution of their power of levying taxes, is a greater cause of the ruin of the provinces than the severity of the government.

It is indeed the curse of arbitrary states, that the inferior officers are worse tyrants than those they serve, and revenge their own slavery upon the wretches who are still lower than themselves, by a more grievous insolence and extortion. This, and the corruption of their courts of justice, where favour and solicitation have more weight than right or equity, are the constitutional maladies of the nation, and grown so habitual to it that they are hardly to be removed. Thank God, we know neither in England; but are blest in an impartial administration of the wisest laws, and secured from concussions and other violences, by the noble privilege we enjoy of being taxed by none but our representatives.

I am more strongly attached to my own country by what I see of the miseries abroad, and find the spirit of Whiggism grows upon me under the influence of arbitrary power: it will still increase when I come into Italy, where the oppression is more sensible in its effects, and where the finest country in the world is quite depopulated by it.

I set out to-morrow for Geneva, in company with Sir William Wyndham's son, and shall go from thence to Turin. I have sufficiently tired you with so long a letter, so shall end with assuring you of the respect and affection with which

I am, dear Sir, your dutiful son,

G. L.

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LETTER XXVI.

MON CHER PERE,

Geneve, Oct. 26.

Il y a trois jours que je suis a Geneve; et je vous assure que j'en suis tout à fait charmé. Le lac, les montagnes, et les promenades, qui sont autour de cette belle ville, présentent la vue la plus riante et la plus agreable qu'on puisse voir; et la société en dedans est aussi polie et aussi sçavante que dans aucun endroit

endroit de l'Europe. Il me paroît qu'on auroit beaucoup de peine à trouver ailleurs une si jolie retrait pour l'exercice et pour l'étude. En venant de Lions icy, je m'e suis un peu détourné de ma route, pour voir le grand couvent des Chartreux, qui est situé dans un desert affreux, parmi des rochers et des precipices presque inaccessibles, où de tout côté on voit tomber des torrents du plus haut sommet des montagnes, pour former une petite riviere, qui remplit la profondeur du vallon, et coule avec beaucoup de rapidité entre des bois et des forets sauvages dont tout le pais est couvert. Jamais situation n'a été plus conforme au genie des Chartreux que celle cy que choisit leur fondateur pour y bâtir leur couvent, ni plus propre à leur faire oublier le monde par l'éloignement de toute société humaine, et de toute ce qui peut reveiller leur desirs. La maison est bâtie simplement, et ne consiste que dans un long arrangement de cloîtres et de cellules séparées les unes des autres, avec une eglise, et une salle à manger. Vous sçavez qu'ils ne parlent que les dimanches et les jours de fête, et qu'ils mangent maigre toute l'année. Une solitude et une discipline si rigoureuse les rend sans doute très miserables; ils vivent pourtant longtems, et jouissent d'une tranquillité apparente. Leur tempérance conserve leur fanté; et ils s'amuse dans leur cellules à des occupations mechaniques et laborieuses, qui servent à vaincre l'ennui de leur prison. Il y en a cependant quelques uns, qui, n'étant pas propres au travail, languissent dans une oisiveté penible, et se tuent à force de rever.

Il nous ont reçu M. Wyndham et moi avec beaucoup de politesse; et nous ont fait les honneurs de leur maison, en nous donnant un bon souper en maigre, et des lits assez commodes dans leur cellules. Leur Ordre est riche, quoiqu'il ne paroît pas dans leur maniere de vivre; le couvent, où j'ay été, possède tous les bois et toutes les montagnes qui l'entourent par l'espace de trois ou quatre lieux. Je souhaitois que le récit que je viens de faire pourroit vous donner quelque idée du plaisir

plaisir que j'ay epruvé en voyant une solitude plus sauvage et plus rude qu'aucune de celles qu'on nous dépeint dans les romances, et où Don Quixote n'auroit pas manqué de trouver des géans et des enchanteurs. La hauteur prodigieuse des rochers, le bruit des eaux qui en tombent, l'ombre des bois dont ils sont ornés, et la riviere qui en arrose les pieds, forment une scene si nouvelle et si étonnante, que le plus habile pinceau ne viendra jamais à bout d'en peindre la bizarrerie et la beauté.

Je partirai en deux jours pour Turin, où je ferai une séjour de deux ou trois semaines. Je m'attends à trouver beaucoup d'incommodité en passant les Alpes, parceque les nieges commencent déjà à tomber. J'espere de recevoir bientôt de vos nouvelles, et de pouvoir me rejouir de la certitude qu'elles me donneront de votre santé, et de celle de ma chere mere et de mes freres et sœurs. Adieu.

G. L.

L E T T E R XXVII.

MON CHER PERE,

Turin, Nov. 16.

IL y a dix ou douze jours que je suis icy, où j'ay trouvé une reception fort honnête, dont je suis redevable aux recommandations de monsieur le marquis de Santacru, ambassadeur d'Espagne au congrés, qui a demeuré long tems à cette cour, et y est fort considéré. Si la paix se fait, il ira en Angleterre, où je vous prie, Monsieur, de vouloir bien le remercier pour moi des civilités qu'il m'a fait. J'ay eu un assez rude passage sur le Mont Cenis; la neige tombant avec beaucoup de violence; et le vent de bize, qui nous donna dans le visage, nous causant un froid epouvantable. Danzel en a eu le plus grand mal; car une grosse fièvre l'a pris, et il reste toujours fort malade. Nous montâmes sur des mulets; mais, pour descendre, il nous fallut des chaises à porteurs, à cause des precipices que
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la neige rendoit plus glissantes, et qui véritablement faisoient peur. Les brouillards étoient si épais, qu'ils nous empêchoient de voir les autres Alpes qui nous environnoient, et qui sont beaucoup plus hautes que le Mont Cenis, quoique celui cy a trois lieues de hauteur. Ce qui nous faisoit le plus de plaisir étoit un torrent, qui peut s'appeller une rivière, qui tomboit de la cime de la montagne, et formoit des magnifiques cascades entre les rochers qui s'opposent à sa chute. La plaine de Piedmont est belle, et fort bien cultivée; ce qui nous a charmé d'autant plus que nous sortimes du pays le plus déformé, et le plus désert du monde. Je ne vous ferai pas la description de Turin; c'est une ville assez connue. Le Roi nous a reçu fort gracieusement Monsieur Wyndham et moy. Il est toujours à sa maison de Campagne, dont nous sommes très fâchés, parceque nous souhaiterions de luy faire notre cour.

He has his eyes very intent upon what we are doing on the side of Tuscany, and would be glad to give us some disturbance. The Milanese is the object of his ambition; and as a peace would be an obstacle to any new acquisitions, he is very much out of humour with the thoughts of it. They would not let him send a minister to the congress, because they knew the part he would have acted there would not be very favourable to the repose of Europe. He is a great general, and has a fine army, and never lost by a war.

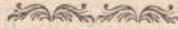
Je conte de rester icy sept ou huit jours encore; ensuite j'iray à Genes et de la à Milan. J'ay par tout des bonnes recommandations, qui sont des choses fort nécessaires pour les voyageurs. Je suis dans la dernière impatience de recevoir de vos nouvelles, et d'apprendre que ma chère mere se porte bien, et que ma sœur est heureusement accouchée. Monsieur Wyndham voyage toujours avec moi, ce qui me fait beaucoup de plaisir, comme ce jeune seigneur a infiniment d'esprit, et du sçavoir vivre, et qu'il est bien reçu de tout la monde. Vous aurez

aurez de mes nouvelles aussitot que j'arriverai a Milan, si je ne vous écris pas de Genes.

We have one great enemy in the army, the marshal d'Uxelles; but that is of no consequence to our affairs. I long to hear of Mr. Stanhope's success at the court of Spain. I remain, dear Sir,

Your dutiful, &c.

G. L.



L E T T E R XXVIII.

D E A R S I R,

Genoa, Nov. 30.

I HAVE been at Genoa four days, and shall set out to-morrow for Milan. I am extremely pleased with the magnificence and beauty of this town, which is one of the finest in Italy. Nothing can be more noble than its situation, which rises in an amphitheatre from the sea, and has a spacious port before it, that is defended with a tolerable fortification, and is generally well filled with merchants ships.

Its palaces are fit to lodge kings; but I shall reserve the description of them to entertain you with at Hagley fire-side. The form of its government is so well known, and so nearly resembles that of Venice, that I need say nothing to you about it. The low state of its commerce, and the weakness of its once-powerful fleet, which is now reduced to five gallies, have been observed by every traveller these thirty years. But what the republic suffers most in, is the decline of genius and spirit in their governors. The great families of Doria, Spinola, and Grimaldi, which are famous over all Europe for having produced so many illustrious generals, cannot now boast of one soldier in all their branches; the modern nobility are all sunk in ease and sloth, without courage or ability to act either for their own honour or their country's. So that the state must necessarily languish, and would probably fall into the hands of some powerful neighbour,
if

if the jealousy of other princes did not hinder it, which is at present its best security. They are in great apprehensions of the king of Sardinia, who is continually undertaking something to their prejudice, and demanding concessions from them, which they ought not to grant, but are not able to refuse. The greater part of the nobility are slaves to the interests of the emperor, from the estates they possess in the Milanese, and kingdom of Naples, which render them obnoxious to that prince's power, and destroy the liberty of the state. He often extorts sums of money from them, greater or less, as he finds occasion, besides taxing them higher than his other subjects in those countries. The present doge is a Grimaldi, but his dignity is almost expired. I must just take notice of some little arts that they practise here in their elections and resolutions of state, to let you see that the method of voting by ballot may be abused as well as any other. The box is divided into two partitions, one white, the other red; to each member of the council they give a ball, which thrown into the white consents, into the red denies: after all have put in, they count the balls on either side, and so decide the question by the majority. But it often happens, that some person has address enough to convey in two balls instead of one; so that, when they come to reckon, they find a vote too much, which renders the election void, and obliges them to begin again, or put off the affair till another day, as is generally the case. This gains time to the losing party for new *brigues*, and frequently changes the event. There are more tricks that they play of the same nature, as stopping up the hole by paper thrust about half way in; but the first is most successful. I remain, dear Sir,

Your affectionate and dutiful son,

G. L.

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L E T T E R S T O
L E T T E R XXIX.

D E A R S I R,

Venice, Dec. 30.

AFTER seeing abundance of things well worthy of observation, and suffering a great many fatigues, I am got through the worst roads in Europe as far as Venice. My pleasure at coming to this town would have been much greater, if I had found any letters here from you and my other friends, as I had reason to expect; but whether it is my banker's negligence, or some disorder in the post, I have not received a line from any body, which makes me very uneasy, and gives me a thousand fears. The public papers bring good news; the peace is signed with Spain, of which I wish you joy, and hope it will soon lead us to a general one. They tell us here, that the emperor is extremely dissatisfied, and determined to oppose our new engagements. I believe they are not thoroughly informed; but if it be true, I am sure he complains without any just cause. If he was sincere in the quadruple alliance, he cannot be averse to the establishment of Don Carlos in Italy: why then should he be so angry at what is done for the better securing that establishment? If he is not sincere, how can we be blamed for taking our precautions against him? But it seems he is jealous of a Spanish power getting foot in Italy. Would not the quadruple alliance have brought in one, after the death of the present duke? and what else does this treaty do, but a little advance the same design? The introducing Spanish garrisons into Tuscany during the great duke's life is thought a hardship; but would it not have been an equal grievance to have imposed neutral ones upon them? Are Swiss troops more immediately under his dependance than Spanish ones will be? or are not all foreign forces equally offensive to a prince in his own dominions? It is indeed a hardship, but a necessary one for the peace of Europe, and

not at all greater than it would have been by the former treaty. I hear Mr. Stanhope is made a peer, and they say that Mr. Walpole will be secretary of state; but nothing is talked of for Mr. Poyntz. I hope his modesty will not be made a reason for leaving his other virtues unrewarded: I am sure he had as great a share in the merit of the present treaty as either of his colleagues. You will pardon me, if I give you no account of my journey from Genoa hither; the number of things that pleased me are too great, and must be reserved for conversation. Venice is the place in the world, that a traveller sees with most surprize. We have a very fine opera; Colzona and Farinelli sing; the last is a prodigy, and even beyond Senesino. I beg my duty to my dear mother; and I remain, dear Sir,

Your ever dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T T E R XXX.

DEAR SIR,

Venice, June 13th, 1730.

LAST post brought me two of yours, dated October 20th, and November the third, which were extremely welcome. I writ to you from Turin and from Genoa, and last post from Venice, to let you know I was got well hither. Mr. W—— came with me all the way, and I assure you is a very good Whig, as well as a very pretty gentleman. How far his father's authority may force him to change his sentiments when he comes to England, I cannot tell; but they are now entirely agreeable to the excellent understanding he is master of. I receive your lesson of œconomy as a great and important truth, which I cannot too often set before me, and which I have too much neglected. I know that extravagance and ill management have

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made

made as many rogues as avarice; and that liberty is inconsistent with the dependance which a broken fortune subjects every man to.

I shall go from hence to Rome in about fifteen days. The caution you give me in relation to the gentlemen of the Pretender's party, whom I may chance to meet with there, is what I constantly observed towards some of the same persuasion whom I knew at Paris.

I hope you will have an easy session of parliament; for surely the peace with Spain is a very popular one, and I am every day more convinced that the emperor's opposition will come to nothing.

The subject of part of this letter will not let me conclude it, without assuring you what a grateful sense I have of your generosity and goodness to me, which are infinitely beyond my deserts, and demand such returns as I can never make, though my life be spent in obeying you, as I fully resolve it shall be. Adieu, my dear Sir; let me know often that you are well, and that you continue to love me. I hope it is needless to say, that I honour, esteem, and love you more than any person or being upon earth, and that I remain

Your ever dutiful son,

G. L.

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L E T T E R XXXI.

DEAR SIR,

Venice, Feb. 11th.

I Have yours of the 24th of December, with the duplicate.

I answered that the post before last, and inclosed a copy of the former one, which I hope you received. I am glad to hear the land tax is diminished; it is no wonder the city is discontented, for, if I do not mistake, it is at present governed by Tory magistrates; and they are not of a humour to be pleased with

with any good success to court measures. You have by this time, no doubt, been publickly acquainted with all the terms of the Spanish treaty, and I am persuaded that you have found them honourable and advantageous. I cannot be of your opinion, that the congress will last much longer, or terminate in a war. The emperor has little to gain in Italy, and much to lose; neither has he other reason of complaint, except that he did not give the law to Europe, as he would have done. I know that he is marching troops (I think they say 40,000 men) into his dominions here; but I shall not believe the rest of Italy in any danger, until I see him send 100,000, which he is not in a condition to do; and even if he did make his utmost efforts, I should doubt of his power to oppose so formidable a confederacy: but it is the opinion of this republick, which is a very good judge of politicks, that all these menaces will end in smoke; and that he is only doing as he has done at almost every treaty that has been signed these thirty years, delaying his acquiescence or accession, in order to be courted a little, and save his honour. I have more particular reasons for thinking so, but they are such as I cannot trust to the common post.

I staid here a fortnight longer than I designed, in hopes of going to Rome with Mr. Walpole; but an unforeseen accident having fixed him here, I shall set out to-morrow quite alone, which will be very melancholy. I beg my dearest father to believe, that no son ever loved a parent with more tenderness, or felt his obligations to him with more gratitude, than his ever obliged and obedient son,

G. L.

P. S. When you see my lord H——, I beg you would make him my compliments upon his negociation, and the reward of it.

L E T.

LETTER XXXII.

DEAR SIR,

Rome, April 12.

IT is impossible to tell you how sincerely I am afflicted at your complaints about your head; I would willingly suffer any share of them, if it was possible to ease you by it. It is so natural to give advice upon these occasions to those for whom we are much concerned, that I cannot help saying you would do mighty well to try a journey to Spa, if it was only for exercise and change of air; I have known great cures performed that way upon people in your case, and it is a remedy you have not yet experienced. I writ to you about ten days ago, to tell you that I was pleased with Rome, and that I had seen Mr. —, who is in good health, though a little upon the decline. I am going to Naples to-morrow, to stay about eight days, and so come back hither, where I propose to settle till the beginning of June; after that time, there is no stirring out of Rome till the end of September, on account of the infectious air in the Campagna; so that, as unwilling as I am to leave a place so agreeable to me, I am obliged to it, for fear of being a prisoner. I propose to pass the great heats at Milan; though I cannot say I have any fixed design, because my stay in any place will depend upon my liking the company, and above all upon the will of my dearest father.

I believe you will have a mind to see me next summer in England, so shall endeavour to get out of Italy by the end of autumn. I have received a most kind letter from Mr. Poyntz, in which he gives me very strong assurances of a general peace, and that I may pursue my travels through Italy without impediment. Speaking of the manner of the treaty of Seville's being received in England, he says, "the satisfaction that it gives will much encrease, when it comes to be known and felt,"

"that,

health makes me so uneasy, that it will not let me take much pleasure in any thing. If you like the inclosed verses, I desire you would give them to Mr. Pope, to whom I have taken the liberty to address them*. They contain a good piece of advice; and I hope it is given in a manner that will make it acceptable. In speaking of Italy, I have confined myself to the decay of learning there, because Mr. Addison has written so very finely upon every other point, in his verses to lord Halifax, that I durst not think of attempting them after him. With great impatience to see you, I am, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son,

G. L.

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L E T T E R XXXIV.

DEAR SIR,

Admiralty, Nov. 18, 1734.

I DEFERRED the pleasure of writing to you so long, that I might be able to give you a more certain account of the peace, which has been so variously reported, that I could form no judgement on the truth; nor am I now at all satisfied with what I hear of it, as I suspect there is something more at bottom; but what is generally said, from the best authority, to be contained in the preliminaries, is as follows:

First, The emperor to have Parma and Placentia, with all the Milanese, except the Novarois, and a small district adjoining to it of little value, which is to be given to the king of Sardinia, *pour tout potage*.

The duke of Lorrain to marry the eldest archdutchess, to be immediately declared king of the Romans, and to have Tuscany at the death of the present duke thereof. His brother to marry the second daughter. Don Carlos to be king of the two Sicilies, with the emperor's consent. Stanislaus to

* These verses are printed above, p. 606.

renounce the crown of Poland; but to be put into the immediate possession of the dutchy of Bar, with the name of king, and to have Lorraine at the death of the duke of Tuscany. France to acknowledge king Augustus, and, after the death of Stanislaus, to reunite Lorraine and the Bar to itself for ever.

You see at the first view of these articles, that France has acted in manifest contradiction to all their pretences and declarations in the beginning of the war. They declared, they entered into it with no other view than to support the claim of Stanislaus to the crown of Poland and their own honour, which was concerned in that election: they also protested, that they would not gain a foot of ground by any success they might meet with in it, but consider only the interest of their allies. Instead of this, they acknowledge king Augustus, make a peace prejudicial to their allies, and receive no other advantage or compensation, but an encrease of territory after the death of Stanislaus.

On the other side, the emperor is established more advantageously in Italy than before. The present dominions of don Carlos are taken from him, his reversion of Tuscany also disposed of in favour of the house of Austria, and the new conquests he has made left much exposed; so that Spain has great cause to be dissatisfied, as it is said they are, even to the refusing being included in the peace. Yet it is believed they must come in at last, not being able to carry on the war without France.

You will ask, therefore, if there are no secret articles, what could induce the French to such a treaty, which disoblige their friends, to gain their enemies, at a time when they were superior in the field, and in a condition to insist on better terms? I can account for it but one way, which is this; that they saw, if they pressed harder on the emperor, he would be driven, though contrary to his inclinations, to marry his daughter to don Carlos, by which alliance all the dominions of the house of Austria would come to be united in his person, and perhaps annexed to the

crown of Spain, which would be the erecting of a new barrier against France, more strong and more able to oppose them than any the house of Lorraine can ever constitute. They therefore chose rather to make their peace, which gives the two archduchesses to those princes, and to themselves no considerable enlargement of their territory and revenue, than to hazard the forming of a power, which would restore that balance again in Europe which they have so long been labouring to break: and when once the archduchesses are married, and there is no danger on that side, they may safely join with don Carlos a second time, to recover his right in Tuscany, and drive the emperor once more out of Italy. This seems to me no improbable conjecture, supposing there are no secret articles, either relating to Flanders, or the commerce of England and Holland: but there is room to suspect some such thing, if not a worse and more dangerous design, since it is certain that, in contempt of our mediation, neither we nor the Dutch were consulted in this treaty; but all the contending powers agreed together (as far as they are agreed) to make up their quarrels without our help, and even without our participation, which gives us a melancholy prospect of their future intentions towards us, if not of some present secret purpose, which perhaps is the spring of their extraordinary proceeding. However, we must satisfy ourselves, and rejoice that a peace is got, whoever made it; for nothing was so dangerous to the ministry, as the continuance of a war, which they could neither have well engaged in, nor kept out of, had it lasted a little longer. I am apt to think Spain will come in before next spring, that is, before they can make a new campaign; and possibly the good offices of France for the restitution of Gibraltar may be made the price of their acceptance. They say the Dutch express the utmost anger at having been treated so contemptuously on this occasion. I do not give you this news as absolutely to be depended upon, but
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as the best I can collect from those on both sides who are supposed to be best informed. The reasonings upon it you may adopt or reject, as you think fit; for I am far from being clear in any part of them. They are probable speculations, and no more.

May you be always as well convinced of my love and duty towards you, as I am of your affection and regard to, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T T E R XXXV.

DEAR SIR,

Stowe, Sept. 11.

WHEN I came to lord B——'s, I found that Pope had excused himself from his visit there, as well as to Hagley; so was obliged to keep the horses to carry me to Stowe. Lord B——'s seat is a vast design; and when it has time to grow and form itself, there will be nothing in England equal to it, in the great French manner of long lines, extensive woods, noble downs, dry soil, and immensity of command. But at present it is only a fine sketch, and most of its beauties are in idea.

I cannot say it made me amends for the loss of Hagley, which indeed I never left with more regret. The desire of being with you would be enough to make me uneasy at parting from you; but my concern and apprehensions for your health add a good deal to that uneasiness. I am, with the truest respect, and much more affection than I know how to express, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful and obedient son,

G. L.

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LETTER XXXVI.

DEAR SIR,

August 11, 1737.

THE pleasure we felt at the birth of the young p—ces has been clouded since, by a message from the k—, expressing the highest resentment against his R. H. for carrying the princess to lie in at St. James's, though it was done at her own earnest desire; and when the danger she was in of wanting all necessary help where she was (there being neither midwife, nurse, nor any thing there) gave the p—ce no time for deliberation. All these reasons and more were modestly urged by his R. H. to justify his conduct, and to appease the anger of the k— in a letter he wrote in answer to the message; but not meeting with the success which he hoped from it, and being still forbid to wait on his m—, he wrote a second, in which, waving all apologies, he asked pardon in the most submissive manner, and expressed the greatest affliction at lying under his m—'s displeasure. To which no answer was given, but "that this letter being the same in substance with the former, the k— would make no other answer to it." Upon this foot it remains; but we have the solid satisfaction of seeing the p—ces and child both in good health, and likely to continue so. I am, with the most grateful affection, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful son,

G. L.

LETTER XXXVII.

DEAR SIR,

August 18.

I WILL make no excuse for not writing to you sooner, but that which I dare say you have made for me in your own thoughts, a very great and continual hurry of business. I am
much

much obliged to you for wishing me at Hagley, and can truly assure you my wishes are there too; but it is quite impossible to think of it this year: however, do not be in pain for fear I should be ill; for, though the town is so sickly, by great temperance and constant riding about, I have made shift to escape this epidemical fever, and am every way better in my health than when you left me. The situation the p— is in does, I dare say, give you great concern, as well as me. No submission on his side has been wanting, to obtain a pardon for the fault laid to his charge, and avoid a rupture of which that could be the cause; but those submissions have not been able to prevent one, and a door is shut to all further applications, by his m— having forbid him to reply. Another subsequent order has occasioned some of his servants laying down their offices; and last Tuesday morning Mr. P—l—m, contrary to the talk of the court, and I believe to the expectation of the p—, resigned the seals, which his R. H. unsolicited by me, and without my expecting it, immediately gave to me.

I need not tell you, that while my being in his service would have brought any difficulty upon his conduct or mine, no considerations should have induced me to accept of this, or any employment in his family; but those doubts no longer subsisting, I could not decline, with any respect to him or credit to myself, the honour of serving him in the way that he desired.

I am, with the greatest respect and affection, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful and obedient son,

G. L.

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LETTER XXXVIII

DEAR SIR,

Cliffden, Oct. 22.

I CAME here yesterday, to thank his R. H. for having augmented my salary £. 240 a year, by putting it upon the same foot with that of Mr. M—y—x, under the k— when he was p—.

Besides the convenience this will be to me at this time especially, I am pleas'd with it as a mark of my royal master's regard to me in the present conjuncture.

I suppose, by this time, you have heard that all the thoughts of a winter's campaign in Old France are quite laid aside; and I congratulate you upon their being so, as we both judg'd alike of those designs.

There is very good news arriv'd from Germany; Prince Charles has entirely cut off all possibility of marshal Mallebois joining, either Broglio or the comte de Saxe; upon which the former is gone back to Prague, where he probably must soon perish, or surrender at discretion. The latter is so disgust'd, that it is said he will lay down his command; and Mallebois is preparing to march back into France, or at least to the French frontier, having declared to the emperor, that he can do him no further service this year in Germany. The elector of Saxony has refus'd to let him have the provisions he had depended upon being supplied with out of his territories, and it is talk'd as if the English army would march to intercept his retreat; but that I very much doubt. Belleisle is absolutely disgrac'd, and the German war appears to be quite given up by the French. I believe you may depend upon these accounts being true, as they come from the best authority; but if all is not true, so much at least is certain, that the court is extremely elate upon it. I wish things look'd as well at home; but

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they bear a very gloomy face; the discontent of mankind in general being higher than ever, and a very troublesome session expected.—I can most truly say, that nobody can feel for you with more affection than, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

P. S. There are letters to-night, confirming what I have told you of the state of the French in Germany, and which further add, that Bencuelan, the Austrian general in Bavaria, has received a strong reinforcement.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

DEAR SIR,

Argyle-street, Feb. 22, 1743.

WE have just saved the sugar colonies from a scheme that would, I believe, have been very hurtful to them; and, instead of it, agreed to-day to the taking the surplus arising from the late duty upon malt spirits, which will give us a fund to borrow the rest of the money we want, at 3 *per cent.* A little time will, I suppose, clear up the mystery of what France designs; as yet it seems very unaccountable, if they have not a greater force in the Mediterranean than the government here has any reason to think that they have. The Breit fleet might have gone thither three weeks ago, without our being able to hinder, or follow them. Why they did not, I have not yet heard any satisfactory cause assigned; perhaps a few days more will enable us to form a true judgement, whether they have acted wisely, or played the fool.

We have sad intelligence; but from such as we have, we learned to-day, that four or five of their men of war are in a part of the Flemish road, which they call the Graveline pits, where it is hoped Sir John Norris may meet with them, and give

give a good account of them. What is become of the rest of their fleet, nobody knows. You will think that very strange, but we are so used to it here, nobody wonders at it; such a state of ignorance being at present the natural state of our government. I remain, dear Sir,

Your dutiful and affectionate son,
G. L.

LETTER XL.

DEAR SIR,

May 5, 1744.

MR. West comes with us to Hagley, and, if you give me leave, I will bring our friend Thomson too. His Seasons will be published in about a week's time, and a most noble work they will be.

I have no public news to tell you, which you have not had in the Gazettes, except what is said in private letters from Germany, of the king of Prussia's having drank himself into direct madness, and being confined on that account; which, if true, may have a great effect upon the fate of Europe at this critical time. Those letters say, that, at a review, he caused two men to be taken out of the line, and shot, without any cause assigned for it, and ordered a third to be murdered in the same manner; but the major of the regiment venturing to intercede for him, his m——y drew his sword, and would have killed the officer too, if he, perceiving his madness, had not taken the liberty to save himself, by disarming the k——, who was immediately shut up, and the q——n, his mother, has taken the regency upon herself till his recovery. I do not give you this news for certain, but it is generally believed in town. Lord Chesterfield says, he is only thought to be *mad* in Germany, because he has *more wit* than other Germans.

The king of Sardinia's retreat from his lines at Villa Franca, and the loss of that town, certainly bear a very ill aspect; but
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it is not considered as any decisive advantage gained by the enemy, because the passes that still remain, are much stronger than those they have forced. We expect, with impatience, to know what will be the effect of the Dutch ambassador to Paris.

I pray God the summer may be happy to us, by being more easy than usual to you. It is the only thing wanting, to make Hagley park a paradise.

Poor Pope is, I am afraid, going to resign all that can die of him to death; his case is a dropsy, and he wants strength of nature to bear the necessary evacuations for the cure of that distemper. I feel his loss very sensibly; for, besides the public marks he has given me of his esteem, he has lately expressed the most tender friendship for me, both to myself and others, which, at such a time, affects one more than any compliment paid while he was in health.

I am, with the truest respect and affection, dear Sir,

Your most dutiful son,

G. L.

L E T T E R XLI.

DEAR SIR,

Jan. 17, 1747.

IT is a most sensible and painful addition to my concern and affliction for my dear wife, to hear of your being so bad with the stone; and, loaded as my heart is with my other grief, I cannot help writing this, to tell you how much I feel for you, and how ardently I pray to God to relieve you.

Last night all my thoughts were employed on you; for, when I went to bed, my poor Lucy was so much better, that we thought her in a fair way of recovery; but my uneasiness for you kept me awake great part of the night, and in the morning I found she had been much worse again, so that our alarm was as great as ever: she has since mended again, and

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is now pretty near as you heard last post; only that such frequent relapses give one more cause to fear that the good symptoms, which sometimes appear, will not be lasting. On the other hand, by her struggling so long, and her pulse recovering itself so well as it does after such violent flurries, and such great sinkings, one would hope that nature is strong in her, and will be able, at last, to conquer her illness.

Sir Edward Hulse seems now inclined to trust to *that*, and to trouble her with no more physic; upon which condition alone she has been persuaded to take any food to-day. Upon the whole, her case is full of uncertainty, and the doctors can pronounce nothing positively about her; but they rather think it will be an affair of time. For my own health, it is yet tolerably good, though my heart has gone through as severe a trial as it can well sustain; more indeed, than I thought it could have borne; and you may depend upon it, dear Sir, that I will make use of all the supports that religion or reason can give me, to save me from sinking under it. I know the part you take in my life and health; and I know it is my duty to try not to add to your other pains, that of my loss, which thought has as great an effect upon me as any thing can; and I believe God Almighty supports me above my own strength, for the sake of my friends who are concerned for me, and in return for the resignation with which I endeavour to submit to his will. If it please him, in his infinite mercy, to restore my dear wife to me, I shall most thankfully acknowledge his goodness; if not, I shall most humbly endure his chastisement, which I have too much deserved.

These are the sentiments with which my mind is replete: but as it is still a most bitter cup, how my body will bear it, if it must not pass from me, it is impossible for me to foretell: but I hope the best. I once more pray God to relieve you from that dreadful distemper with which you are afflicted.

Gilbert

Gilbert W— would be happy in the reputation his book has gained him, if my poor Lucy was not so ill. However, his mind leans always to hope, which is an advantage both to him and me, as it makes him a better comforter. To be sure, we ought not yet to despair; but there is much to fear, and a most melancholy interval to be supported, before any certainty comes— God send it may come well at last! I am, dear Sir,

Your most afflicted, but most affectionate son,

G. L.

L E T T E R XLII.

DEAR SIR,

April 25, 1747.

WHATEVER compliments have been made me about my last speech (which have indeed been more than I ever received upon any other occasion), I can very truly assure you, they did not give me one thousandth part of the pleasure which I feel from the satisfaction that you express on that account. To have you pleased with my conduct, and to contribute in any manner to your happiness, is the supreme joy of my heart, and the best object of my ambition. Your affectionate prayers for me will, I do not doubt, draw down the divine favour upon me, and bring consolation to me in that affliction which still hangs heavy upon me, though I do my utmost to bear up against it. I pray God to enable me to deserve your blessing, and consider both the good and the evil of this world as of no very great moment, except in the use that we make of both.

The last mail from Holland brings an account, that the prince of Orange was on Wednesday last declared in full form stadtholder of the Seven Provinces. Besides the present effects of this great revolution, which I hope will be good and beneficial to us if a right use be made of it, the solid and per-

manent union, that in all probability will be established by it between us and the Dutch, must be a great future advantage. The duke is at the head of a brave army of 110,000 men, within six miles of Antwerp; he cannot stay there two days, for want of forage and other necessaries, without either taking the town, or beating the French.

To do the first, he must begin by doing the last (as I heard general Huske say to-day) and it will be no easy matter; because they are posted upon very strong ground.

Possibly he may contrive by marches and counter-marches to get beyond them; but it appears a difficult work. If a battle is fought where they are now, it will be a bloody one. I wait with anxious impatience for the event.

There has been a smart skirmish between one part of our army, and a detachment of theirs, to our advantage; 1,000 French being killed, with no considerable loss on our side. This will help to put spirit into our troops, who are already in very good heart. We hear that Medley has picked up a whole Spanish regiment going to Genoa (I wish it had been a French one) and 200 French. I forgot to mention that Sas Van Ghent is said to be taken, but Hulst still holds out. These however are petty events, compared to the great one in view. If one could credit a report that is come of Genoa's being taken, that would be something. But the post is going out; so I can add no more, but that I am, most affectionately, dear Sir,

Your dutiful son, &c.

G. L.

L E T T E R XLIII.

DEAR SIR,

London, April 26, 1748.

I Most heartily wish you joy of the happy and amazing event of the preliminaries being signed, at a time when even the most sanguine among us expected nothing but ruin from the continuance

continuance of the war, and almost despaired of a peace; in a month's time or less, not only Mastricht would have been taken, but Holland invaded; and the d— of C—, to oppose that invasion, had scarce a third part of the enemy's force. Orders had also been given to blow up and demolish all the fortifications of Tournay, Ypres, Namur, and Bergenopzoom.

Yet the peace we have obtained is upon the whole a better for England, than that which was offered last year by count Saxe. Neither the distresses of France with regard to her commerce and her finances, though very great, nor any other apparent cause, can sufficiently account for her granting such a peace, and stopping short in the midst of such a career. It must be the work of a faction in her court, which our ministers have had the good sense to avail themselves of; and it has drawn us out of greater distresses and difficulties than can be conceived by those who do not know the interior of our affairs. Had we been in the situation of France, and France in ours, I will venture to say, no English minister would have dared to sign such a peace, not even those ministers who signed the peace of Utrecht. In short, *it is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.* The court of Vienna is angry at present, but she must come to reason soon; and had we staid to make peace till she was pleased, we must have staid till our utter destruction. The king of Sardinia has not yet signed; but his language is much more moderate than hers, and no doubt he will soon come in. His minister here says, had he been at Aix, he would not have hesitated to sign one moment. There can be no doubt of the acquiescence of Spain to what France has stipulated for her, though the Spanish minister has not yet set his hand to it.

Adieu, dear Sir! May the good news revive your spirits, and be a consolation to you for my poor mother's death! Kiss my son for me; give him my blessing; and tell him, I now hope he will inherit Hagley, instead of some French marquis, or
Highland

Highland laird, who I was afraid would have got it if the war had continued. I am, dear Sir, with the utmost affection,
Your most dutiful and obedient son,

G. L.

N. B. Maffricht is given up to France, to be re-delivered to us again.

ACCOUNT