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TUSMORE PAPERS

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TUSMORE PAPERS

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INTRODUCTION

It would be idle to pretend that this collection of papers has any unity beyond their source. Though they extend over some five centuries, the chronological gaps are great, for most of the papers belong to the eighteenth century, in the latter half of which the Fermors of Tusmore attained their zenith. Connected as they were by marriage with very many of the old Roman Catholic families of England, they were in touch with the movement for Catholic relief at the end of the century, and William Fermor, who built the present house, was a prominent member of that Catholic committee which secured the passing of the relief act of 1791. The papers that deal with this episode in history are those that most nearly attain to consecutiveness and historical importance; the others are more of personal interest or illustrate the manners and customs of the times. There is hardly any that does not have some small historical significance. The letters of Mrs. Fitzherbert exhibit the kindly and humorous side of her character; the letters from Horace Walpole, Lord and Lady Temple, and the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, illustrate the friendliness of great families towards Romanist neighbours; the letters concerning the origin of the South Oxford hunt, which have already been printed by Blomfield, are a good example of a vehement countryside quarrel over a matter of sport. Even life in the colonies in the early nineteenth century is represented in the St. George's Day festivity in Demerara with its lamentable sequel. But in many ways the most attractive and interesting letters are those of Archbishop Oliver Plunket, whose title to canonization is considerably stronger than that of most of his
sixteenth century confères, and it is pleasant to find that the unpublished letters here printed do nothing but enhance his claim to be enrolled among the saints.

Besides the MS. documents, there are one or two printed papers. One is a broadsheet of Titus Oates after the Revolution asking for reparation (p. 21); another is an abstract of a speech of Fox on the injustice of the penal laws, especially in regard to the landed property of the Derwentwater family; while a ticket issued by Lord Bute to Lady Browne allowing her entry into the "New Park" shows that under George III, members of prominent Roman Catholic families were not denied privileges granted to Protestant families of standing. The ticket itself is of rather beautiful design, having on the one side an engraving of the arms of Lord Bute within the Garter and surmounted by an earl's coronet, with the words "Lady Brown" and signed "Bute." On the other side is a tablet bearing the "No. 1041" festooned and decorated with bay-leaves, the whole surmounted by a royal crown.

The family of Fermor (pronounced Farmer) in Oxfordshire could trace itself back to the latter half of the fifteenth century, when the foundation of its prosperity was laid in the marriage of Thomas Richards alias Fermour with Emmotte, widow of Henry Wenman, a principal cloth manufacturer at Witney. His son William (d. 1552) held public office under Henry VIII and having obtained one moiety of the manor of Somerton, obtained the other in 1512; dying without issue in 1552, though four times married. He was succeeded by his nephew Thomas (d. 1580), second surviving son of his elder brother Sir Richard Fermour (d. 1552) of Easton Neston, who had kept up the merchant connexion by marrying the daughter of a Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Browne.* The family

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* This lady seems to have been married at least three times, first to Sir Richard Fermor, by whom she had nine children, secondly to John Tyrell of Heron, and thirdly to the first Lord Petre of Writtle, by whom she had issue. (Cath. Rec. Soc. Vol. XIII., Misc. viii. p. 96.)
now split into two branches, for Sir Richard's son, Sir John (d. 1571) marrying a daughter of Lord Vaux of Harrowden became the ancestor of the Earls of Pomfret, a title which became extinct in 1867, and whose line is now represented by the family of Fermor-Hesketh, while the other branch remained at Somerton until 1642, when on the death in that year of his father, Sir Richard, Henry Fermor (d. 1667) came to live at Tusmore. It may be owing to this seasonable transference of domicile that the family never once appears in the *Calendar of the Compounding Committee*, and that its members were never, as it seems, exposed to the form of extortion known as sequestration which was practised after 1643. Yet they were not an obscure family. Henry Fermor's father had been knighted in 1603, and they had by the middle of the seventeenth century made marriage connexions with many of the leading Romanist families. In 1693 their merits in religion had been so far eminent that they were given a letter of confraternity in the Society of Jesus. Whatever may be the explanation of their apparent immunity during the Great Rebellion, they continued to lead a quiet life during the latter half of the seventeenth century, but became really well known in the eighteenth, for at its beginning Arabella Fermor won an immortal place in English literature by suffering the loss of a lock of hair, while at the end, William Fermor fully recovered the position in the county which his family had forfeited under the régime of the penal laws. He pulled down the old manor house, replacing it with the present splendid mansion, and, as these papers show, played a full part in the life of the county and even enters into higher politics. But the effort seems to have been too great for the family resources. His son William was unable to live at Tusmore, and a series of leases in the first half of the nineteenth century proclaimed the owners' difficulties, while their failure to marry and produce male heirs heralded the disappearance of their name from Oxfordshire.
INTRODUCTION

William Fermor was not only a prominent figure in county society, but he was also a member of that famous Catholic Committee, which, in spite of the ill-advised jealousy of the Romanist clergy, secured the great relief act on behalf of their co-religionists in 1791. He adhered to all their resolutions, including the famous Manifesto and Appeal which earned the honour of being stigmatised by Bishop John Milner as a "stunning complication of prophaneness, calumny, schism and blasphemy," and he was intermediary between the Committee and Pitt in the negotiations for Catholic Relief. It is possible that later he had qualms about the violence of the Committee's utterances, for he was not a member of the Cisalpine Club. On the other hand, before judging his motives, it should be borne in mind that Mrs. Fermor had died in 1787, and that he may have felt that after playing his part in securing the act of 1791, there was no special call on him to come to London and take a prominent share in the disputes that continued to rend the Roman Catholic "body" in England.

The papers are now the property of Major W. A. Ramsay, whose father, the late Reverend N. R. Ramsay, some time Vicar of Radcliffe near Buckingham, generously allowed them to be printed for the Society. On the sale of Tusmore in 1857, the papers were taken from the muniment room at Tusmore by Mr. Ramsay's father, William Fermor Ramsay (1831–91) who inherited Tusmore from his mother, the daughter of the last William Fermor, who died at Hethe in 1828. The papers were subsequently divided, one portion passing to a collateral, and these were recently given back to Mr. N. R. Ramsay by his cousin, the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. I should like to express my sense of gratitude to Mr. Ramsay's unfailing kindness and patience in answering my not infrequent questions about his ancestors at Tusmore.

In editing these papers, the sign † has been used to denote that the orthography is that of the original document.
I wish to offer my thanks to many friends who have borne with my importunate questions. I owe much to the late Mr. F. Madan of the Bodleian; Professor H. E. Butler of London University helped me with the quotations from the poets in Archbishop Plunket’s letters; Professor George Trevelyan elucidated for me the meaning of some of the obscurer passages in the political verse of the time of Queen Anne and in many minor matters I was greatly helped by the late Mr. Crompton of the Public Record Office, the Dowager Countess of Jersey and her sister the Hon. Agnes Leigh. A search for some papers that might be at Wardour Castle, even though vain, lays me none the less under an obligation to Lord Arundell of Wardour.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

I.

Grant of a messuage with a cottage and six acres of land by Roger de Bolhenurste, chaplain of Tusmore, to William Cras, his wife and heirs, 5 Oct., 1309.

This is the earliest document in the collection. It used to be held to prove the existence of the rectory of Tusmore as early as the fourteenth century. Such an honour cannot now be held for it, as the rectory appears in the Rotuli Ricardi Gravesend (Canterbury and York Society, ed. F. N. Davis, C. W. Foster and A. Hamilton Thompson, 1925), p. 213, where presentation is made by Simon de Patteshull of Thomas de Craewe to the rectory, on the death of Richard de Stowe, who was presented by Hugh de Pateshill in 1236-7 (Rotuli Roberti Grosseteste, Canterbury and York Society, ed. F. N. Davis, 1913, p. 450). The church itself has completely disappeared, owing, as is alleged, to deliberate neglect on the part of the Fermor family.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Rogerus de bolhenurste capellanus parochialis de Torwsmere dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confermaui Willemo Cras de Torwsmere et sibilie vxori sue in libero maritagio et heredibus eorum in legitimo matrimonio procreatis. Vnum messuagium cum vno cotagio et cum sex acris terre cum pertinenciis in villa et in campo de torwsmore videlicet illud messuagium et cotagium cum tota terra et tenementis quod habui de dono concessione et confirmacione predicti Willemi le Cras vbique in villa et in campis de torwsmer' cum pertinenciis sine aliquo retenemento. Habendum et tenendum totum dictum messuagium cum cotagio prenominato et cum tota terra et tenemento supradicto. predicto Willemo Sibilie vxori sue et heredibus eorum in legitimo matrimonio procreatis. libere. quiete bene. et in pace. quibuscunque. et quandocunque dictum tenementum dare vendere vel assignare voluerint. Ita quod nec ego nec haeredes nec aliquis alius nomine meo vnquam jus nec clameum in predicto tenemento exigere nec vendicare poterimus. Reddendo tamen et faciendo capitalibus dominis feodi omnia

[seal missing]
[Endorsed in later hand] 3: Ed: 2: Rogr: de Bolenhurst [ ]
Willm Le Cras et Sibilie vxori

II.

Copy of a letter of institution from William Gray, Bishop of Lincoln, for Nicholas Ridell to the rectory of Tusmore, 24 August, 1434.

This letter, which is on paper, but written in a contemporary hand, would appear to be a copy from the fact that no trace whatever of a seal remains. Gray was Bishop of Lincoln from 1431 to 1436.

Willielmus permissione diuina Lincoln' Episcopus dilecto filio Nicholas Ridell presbytero salutem graciam et benedictionem
ad ecclesiam de Tusmore nostre diocesis per resignacionem domini Joannis Estby vltimum† rectorem† eiusdem in manibus nostris factam et per nos admissam vacantem ad quam per dilectum filium Joannem Langstone nobis presentatum existere te admissimus et Rectorem in persona Roberti Davers literati procuratoris tui sufficierent et legitime in hac parte constituti instituimus canonice in eadem Juribus nostris episcopalibus ac ecclesie nostre Lincoln Agnitis in omnibus semper saluis. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum ad causas presentibus est appensum Dat in Palacio nostro Lincoln. xxiiiij° die Augusti Anno Domini Mccccxxiiiij° et nostre translacionis Anno quarto.

III.

Notes on the Gifford family in Oxfordshire and the manor of Somerton.

The Gifford family held Somerton from the fourteenth century, John Gifford, of Crayford, having inherited it from the Gardiners, the

1 The present parish in which Tusmore is situated.
preceding family. As this document shows, the manor of Somerton was alienated to William Gray, bishop of Ely from 1454 to 1479 and the Aston family, who sold the estate about 1507 to William Fermor (d. 1552).

A Remembrance when and in what yeres any off the Gyffordes Died w’in the Countie of Oxon in whos enheritaunce the manor of Somerton long tyme continewed.

n In primis there whas a[n] Originall Wrytte de Diem suum clausit extremum awardyd owt of off the Chauncery an° viij° R Henr v° to inquer of the landes of Thomas Gyfford Knuythe

Item there whas another Such a wryte A wardyd owt of the Chauncery an° vij° R Henr vj° after the dethe of Sibille which was the wyffe of Thomas Gyfford de Twyford knyth

Item there whas a nother soche a wrytt a wardyd ao ix° henr v° after the Dethe of Alys [name interlined and illegible] which was the wyffe of Willm Gyfford.

All which offices maye be Dayle Serchyd for and fownden within the kynges Chauncery wherby the trew disce[n]t of the saide manor of Somerton may be playnly seen.

M also that Thomas Gyfford of Twyford in the Countie of Bukesquier purchasyd a lisaunce in the kynges Chauncery beryng Dat the xxviij° Day of Novembere an° Rengni R Henr vj° xvj° as in the Chauncery more playnly hytt doth aper of Record and be the forse of the same enfeffyd Willm Grey Bishope of yely and John Aston and other names within the same lisaunce in the manor of Somerton wth the awouson of the Church &c the v° Day of December then next followyng whiche was to the only vse of the same John Aston and his hereys for yevers.

Whiche said will Grey Bischope a fore saide and others wthwyn named beyng seased of the said manor to the surviver after the Dethe of the same John Aston parchesyd a lisaunce in the kynges chauncery the xxvij° Daye of August an° reg Edwadi iiiij° v° as in the Chauncery hytt doth a per of Record and thereby infeffyd Willm Aston and Issabell hys wyffe the sfridaye next after the

2 See D.N.B.
ffest of Saynt Luke the Evangelist the next ffolowyng which where thereof seasid till they covenanted w' Willm Fermor.  

/Item the saide John Aston Died the mondaie next after the [verso ffest of mareawdelyn an° xxxvj° Regis Henr Sexti] ² as hytt a pereth be the office ffounde apon hys dethe wherby will Aston was ffounde the nexte heyr and off full age wherapon proces was awarded owt of the Chekker for hys Releff &c. wherapon the same William Aston purchesyd him a Generall pardon owt of the Chauncery whiche was pledid in the Chekker and there inrollyd Ex parte Remembratoris domini Regis E iiii° An° Rengni sui xiii° Termino Sancti Hillarij inter Recorda As there playnly hitt doth a pere wherby he was dischargyd &c. ³

Item the same daye that Will Aston and Issabell hys wyffe were in feffyd of the manor aforsaid the same Daye theye were infeffyd the principall mese Callyd Somerton w' thapportenances &c.

[Endorsed :—] A Remembraunce of varyous thinges nessessarye and behoffefull to be remembryd for my lande in Somerton Donstew and other places.

[and, in later hand] Rembrance of the death of the Gyffardes lordes of the mannor of Somerton.

IV.

A receipt dated 1573-4.

This document, which must be a copy seeing that it is all in one hand and that a sherifi would presumably have had it written for him by a clerk, records the transfer of Tusmore from the family of Williamson, who had held it for four generations, to that of Sir John Spencer of Yarnton. In the middle of the seventeenth century the Fermors of Somerton became possessed of the manor, and it became their principal residence.

Fines ⁴ de Banco anno xvi° Regine Elizabeth etc. Termino hillarii.  [Scillicet Thoma Wylliamson generoso pro li[centia]

¹ Cf. Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1461-1467, p. 467 (Westminster, 28 Aug., 1465). It may be presumed that the Isabel Clederowe, daughter of Elias Clederowe, esquire, mentioned in the roll is the same as Isabel the wife of William Aston here mentioned.

² The 37th year of Henry VI's reign was 31 Aug., 1459—30 Aug., 1460; the Monday after the feast of St. Mary Magdalen would in that year be 28 July.

³ The full statement may be seen on membrane iiii of the Brevia baronibus Hilary term 13 Edw. IV in Exchequer King's Remembrancer Memoranda Roll, E.150/250 in P.R.O. The date is 12 December.

⁴ Oxon in w. Williamson is the name of the family in possession of Tusmore before it was bought by Sir Richard Fermor (J. C. Blomfield, Deanery of Bicester, Part III, p. 63, for the genealogy of the Williamsons).
concordandi cum Johanne Spencer milite\(^1\) et aliis de placito convencionis de\(^2\) maneriis de Turusmore alias Turusmore cum pertinentiis ac de ij mess [uagiis] vno tofto vno gardino mille acris terre centum acris prati et al[ias] cum pertinemciis in Tusmore feuco\(^3\) et Stoke alias Stokelin\(^4\). \(\text{xxxl xx}.

R. per me Will\(^5\). babington\(^6\) militem vicecomitem comitatus oxon predicti in anno regni domine nostre Elizabeth nunc Regine xvi\(^{\text{mo}}\).

V.

Final concord between Margery Babington and Philip Babington on the one part, and Thomas Throckmorton on the other (1584).

It may be assumed that the Margery Babington here mentioned is the widow of Sir William, the sheriff of Oxfordshire mentioned in the previous document. If so, she was returned in 1588 as a recusant, but Philip Babington is not included in the list of that year (Catholic Record Society, Vol. XXII., Miscellanea, vol. xii., p. 120).

Thomas Throckmorton was the eldest son of Sir Robert Throckmorton of Coughton, near Alcester, in Warwickshire. He married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of William Whorwood, sometime Attorney-General, and, as a recusant, endured a good deal of persecution. He was succeeded in 1614 by his grandson Robert, who was created a baronet on 1 September, 1642, whence was descended the fourth baronet (see below, p. 0). It may be noted that in 1564, a Thomas Throckmorton, Justice of the Peace for Warwickshire, appears as “indifferent in religion or of no religion” in the Letters from the Bishops to the Privy Council of that year (Camden Misc., Vol. IX., 1895, p. 8), and that no Thomas Throckmorton appears among the influential persons likely to be useful to the Queen of Scots in 1574 (Cath. Rec. Soc., Vol. XIII., Miscellanea, vol. viii., p. 90). The son of Sir Robert should not be confused with the Thomas Throckmorton, son of Sir John Throckmorton (for whom see Dict. Nat. Biog., s.v. Francis Throckmorton). This man, who was the brother of the conspirator, Francis Throckmorton, went to Paris in 1582 and apparently remained there till his death in 1595, being one of the leaders in the opposition to Father Parsons (Cath. Rec. Soc., Vol. I., Miscellanea, vol. i., p. 110).

\(^1\) There was a family of Spencers at Yarnton. It does not seem likely that this is the lord mayor of London (d. 1610) for whom see D.N.B.

\(^2\) ij messuagii vno tofto vno struk through at this point.

\(^3\) Fewcott, in the parish of Ardley, on the road from Middleton Stoney to Tusmore.

\(^4\) Stokes Lane, a mile south of Hardwick.

\(^5\) 1573-4. Sir William Babington of Kiddington was knighted by Queen Elizabeth that year. His family had resided at Kiddington since the time of Henry VI, migrating thither from Chilwell in Nottinghamshire. He died, apparently of gaol fever, at the “Black Assize” at Oxford in 1576 (J. M. Davenport, Oxfordshire Lords Lieutenant, High Sheriffs and Members of Parliament, etc., Clarendon Press, 1888, p. 54 and n.).
Hec est finalis concordia facta in curia Domine Regine apud Westm in Octabis sancti hillarij anno regnorum Elizabethi dei gratia Anglie Francie et hibernie Regine fidei defensoris, etc a conquestu vicesimo sexto coram Edmundo Anderson Thoma Meade Francisco Wyndam et Willelmo Peryam Justiciis et alis domine Regine fidelibus tunc ibi presentibus inter Margeriam Babington viduam et Philippum Babington armigerum querentes et Thomam Throckmorton generosum Deforciantem de duobus messuagis decem cotagijs decem toftis duobus gardenis ducentis acris terre ducentis acris prati et trecentis acris pasture cum pertinenciis in Grove alias Grove Ayshe¹ nether Worton alias nether Orton² et Sandeford³ vnde placitum convencionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem curia scilicet quod predictus Thomas recognoscit predicta tenementa cum pertinenciis esse ius ipsius Philippi et illi remisit et quietum clamuit de se et heredibus suis predictis margerie et Philippo et heredibus ipsius Philippi Imperpetuum et preterea idem Thomas concessit pro se et heredibus suis quod ipsi Warantizabunt predictis margerie et Philippo et heredibus ipsius Philippi predicta tenementa cum pertinenciis contra predictum Thomam et heredes suos imperpetuum et pro hac recognitione remissione quieta clamatone Warantia fine et concordia ijdem margeria et philippus dederunt predicto thome trescentas et sexaginta libras sterlingorum.

[Endorsed:] Deliberatio per proclamationem secundum formam statuti.

VI.

A Catalogue of documents.

This list of papers, once at Tusmore, is very much torn; it would seem to have been written towards the end of the seventeenth century by an old man, for the handwriting is that of the middle of the century rather than of the end.

Fri[ B]uck
1 Exemption of grant[ ] Coll in Cambridge about
Free warren in Com Buck
2 A Certiff¹ of a muster tempore Henr 8vi
3 in a little black box [ ] M. Edmund
Fermors⁴ Counterparts of deeds of annuities

¹ Dr. Salter tells me this is in the northern part of the parish of Great Tew.
² Nether Worton, W.S.W. of Deddington.
³ Sandford St. Martin.
⁴ I cannot identify Edmund Fermor.
4 Sir Roger and Sir John Fermors¹ Willes with Inventorys and acquittances for legacies in a box with this figure
5 Decree in Chancery [ ] Fermor against Sir Henry Compton² and others.
6 A great black box of Deeds made by M. Henry Fermor⁸ to preserve sequestracons.
7 A pardon graunted to the Lady Cornelia⁴ and lettres pattentes to Mr Petre and his lady⁵ for custody of her
8 A pardon of Alienacion vpon graunt of the Rectory of Childeswickam
9 A licence of Alienacion of the parsonage of childeswickam
10 A little box of writings containing harper Sr Tho. Shirley⁶ and others
11 The lady Fermors⁷ Jointure dated 4° maij jœo Car iᵐᵗ [1625]
12 A paper writing made Sr Bazill Brooke⁸ to impower Sr R: Fermor to sell Bampston
13 brief hoare and Woelmer and copy of the bill

¹ Sir John Fermor of Easton Weston in Northamptonshire died there in 1571. He was the ancestor of the Earls of Pomfret. Sir Roger may be a mistake for Sir Richard, the father of Sir John (d. 1552).
² Sir Henry Compton, K.B., D.L. for Sussex was certified a recusant in 1628 [Hist. MSS. Comm. 13th report, Portland Papers, Vol I, 1]. His daughter Cecily married Sir John Fermor, and after his death the third Lord Arundell of Wardour.
³ The founder of the Tusmore branch of the Fermors. He died in 1671. Presumably the deeds were to provide titles to property sequestrated by the Parliament under the ordinances of 1643, but it is worth noting that Tusmore and the Fermors of that place do not appear in the Calendar of the Compounding Committee.
⁵ The Hon. William Petre (d. 1677) and his wife, Lucy, d. of Sir Richard Fermor and Cornelia.
⁷ i.e., Cornelia Lady Fermor.
⁸ Sir Basil Brooke, of Madeley in Shropshire (see Dict. Nat. Biog.), was the father of Frances, wife of Richard Fermor, the son of Henry who founded the Tusmore branch. This Richard Fermor died in London of an apoplexy, 5 January, 1683/4.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

14 Mrs Morgan's acknowledgment of all monnies due from Mr Fermor and also Sir Richard Fermors quietus est when he was sheriff.

15 A copy of a severe Act intended against Recusantes

16 Deedes concerning sale of Bashall and other deedes relating herevnto

17 writings concerning sale of landes in Bashall and Chippingdale

18 Inquisicio post mortem Antonij Morgan in 9° Jacobi and copy of Indentur made by Thos. Morgan 22 Jac to lead vse of a Recovery

19 A deed dat 9° Jacobi re [ ]s to Mr Morgan's wardship.

20 A custody with other writings of Sir R. Fermor granted to Sr Hen. Shirley &c

21 A letter case with papers concer[ning] the trust of Mr Appletree

22 A lease from Lady Nevill to raise 1500l for Fr her daughter and 1000l for Margaret her grandch[i]ld for 20 years from Febr. 1688

1 Mrs. Morgan is presumably Jane, daughter of Sir Richard Fermor by his first wife, Jane, daughter of Rowland Laco of Willey, Shropshire. She married Col. Thomas Morgan who was killed at the first battle of Newbury, being the son of Anthony Morgan of Weston-under-Wetherley in Warwickshire, by his wife Bridget, daughter of Anthony Morgan of Heyford (between Daventry and Northampton). All these estates were given to Mr. Pym's son (see Calendar for Committee for Compounding, pt. iii. pp. 1898-1909). Col. Morgan had a daughter (also Jane) who became heiress de jure to Heyford, Weston and to Kilfiggan in Monmouthshire. She married Sir John Preston of Furness, created a baronet in 1644 and killed in action. She died on 15 June, perhaps in 1649 (Cath. Rec. Soc. Vol. I. Miscellanea, Vol. i. p. 127).


3 Sir Henry Shirley (1583-1633), brother of Sir Thomas, married Lady Dorothy Devereux, d. of the second and famous Earl of Essex.

4 A Thomas Appletree of Deddington married Richard Fermor and Frances Brooke (see next note) on 18 August 1656. He was county commissioner for Oxfordshire which makes it unlikely that this is the Appletree here mentioned.

5 Presumably this is Frances, widow of Sir Thomas Nevill, K.B., who subsequently married Sir Basil Brooke of Madeley; her daughter, Frances was the wife of Richard Fermor (d. 1684). There is no Margaret Fermor in Blomfield among her daughters but a daughter, Mary, is mentioned who in 1696 married Thomas Maire of Durham and of Lartington in Yorkshire (Hist. MSS. Comm. 3rd report, p. 255, col. 2). A Margaret Fermor is mentioned as the daughter of Peter and Mary Fermor in the letters of admission of the Fermors to the spiritual privileges of the Society of Jesus, dated 7 Dec. 1693, but this cannot be the person indicated, as she was not descended from Lady Nevill.
23 a bundle of papers relat[ing] to Grove Ash rent and accounts and paynts to Mr. Appletrees Exec[utors]
24 Sir Tho. Prestons bill of cha[rg]es in the suite with the Lady Morgan
[Endorsed:—] Tusmore Parsonage.

VII.

Note of the value of the tenth due from the rectory of Tusmore.

The "decima" here mentioned is not, of course, tithe, but the tenth which is paid by the incumbent annually on the yearly value of the living as assessed in the valor ecclesiasticus of 1535, and it now forms part of the revenues of Queen Anne's Bounty.

Oxon Tusmore Rectoria per annum clare valet—lxv*. Decimam inde vjs vjd
This is in the first fruietes office.¹

VIII.

Copies of correspondence between Oliver Plunket, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, and Dom J. Corker, O.S.B., after the former's condemnation to death.

The letters here printed are of interest, not only for their truly evangelical spirit, but also for their touches of humour which is not unworthy of Sir Thomas More. The copy was clearly made for circulation among the Roman Catholics of the time and bears some sign of haste, for the text is not free from corruption. I have collated it with a copy of the letters in the hand of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley which was presumably given by him to Antony Wood. It is now in the Bodleian (MS. Wood E.4, ff. 145 et seqq.), and the symbol W. denotes this manuscript. The text of the Wood MS., though not free from errors, is clearly better than that of these copies, and the order of the


TUSMORE.

Willelmus Warde rector et rectoria sua ibidem valet per annum ultra reprises communibus annis ex recognicione sua super sacramentum suum —£. lxv. —d.
Summa —£. lxv. —d.
ALLOCATIO null.
Et remanentia clare patet.
Decima pars —£. vjs. —d ob.
(from which it would seem that our document overestimated the amount due). In the subsidy of 1523, the rectory was valued at £3 6s. 7d. (the rector being the same William Warde). See A Subsidy collected in the diocese of Lincoln in 1526, ed. H. E. Salter, Oxford Historical Society, 1909, p. 266.
letters is different, for the letter from Corker to Plunket which in the Tusmore copy closes the correspondence comes immediately after the first letter of the archbishop; also the letters beginning "I do most earnestly recommend" and "My man James" are in reverse order. There is a pencil note in the Wood MS. to the effect that the correspondence was copied for "Lord Arundell of Wardour," but although Lord Arundell of Wardour kindly made search for me at Wardour Castle, nothing can be found either of the copy or of the circumstances under which it was made. Another variation between the two manuscripts is that Wood's copy has the following letter from Corker to a lady who, if not Lady Stafford, seems to have been in close connexion with her:—

/Madam I cannot as yet so much as pretend to give (as you [fo. 145 desire) a full description of the vertues of the glorious ArchBp. and Martyr Dr. Oliuer Plunket, I am promised the particulars of his life and actions both at Rome where hee studied and taught almost twenty yeares, and also in Ireland where hee exercised his Episcopall or rather Apostolicall Function till hee became in England a champion of Faith. But these particulars are not yet arriv'd at my hands. After his transportation hither hee was (as you know) close confined and secluded from all human conversation, saine that of his keepers, vntill his [arraignment so that here also I am much in the darke and [fo. 145v. can only informe you of what I learn't as it were by chance from the mouth of the said keepers (viz) that hee spent his time in almost continuall prayer, that hee fasted usuall three or foure dayes in a weeke with nothing but bread: That hee appeared to them alwaies modestly cheerefull without any anguish or concerne at his daunger or strict confinement. That by his sweete and pious demeanour hee attracted an esteeme and reverenc from those few that were neere him. When hee was arraign'd it is true I could write to him and hee to mee but our letters were opened and examind by the officers before they were deliver'd to either of vs, for which cause wee had little [fo. 146 other communication then what was necessary in order to his Tryall. But the Tryall being ended and hee condemnd, his man had leaue to waite on him alone in his chamber, by whose means wee had free intercourse by letters to each other. And now it was I cleerely percieved the Spirit of God in him, and those lovely fruities of the Holy Ghost (Charity, Joy, Patience, Peace, etc.) transparent in his soule: And not only I but many other Catholicks who came to receive his Benediction and were Ewe-witnesses (a fauour denied to Vs) can testify. There appeared in his words, in his actions, in his very countenance, /something so diuinely eleuated, such a composed mixture of [fo. 146v. chearfullnesse, Constancy, Courage, Loue, sweetnesse and Candour as manifestly denoted the divine goodnesse had made him fitt for a Victim and destined him for Heauen. None saw him or came neere him but receaued new comfort, new feruour, new desires to please, serue and suffer for Christ Jesus by his very presence. You know what ouvertures I made to get to him, you know partly also how I succeeded in it. All I neede or ought to tell you is, that I found in him whatsoever I could expect or almost desire of Good, in a Christian, in a Byshop in a Martyr. After hee had discharged his duty and I mine, I tooke the opportunity (during the short time allowed mee) to recommend [fo. 147
myselfe to his holy prayers, and though now hee hath changed the good
opinion hee had of mee, yet I am confident hee still retaines a com-
passionate Charity, which will render him my perpetuall intercessour
and Patron.

I also obtained from him a faithfull promise to pray for our most
pious Mistresse as a thing we\th both Charity and Duty obliged mee to.
This promise I writ and hee with all tender acknowledgments of
Gratitude signed.

Concerning the manner and state of his prayer hee seemed most
devoted to pathetick sentences taken out of holy Scripture, the Divine
Office and Missall, which hee made mee procure him three months before
hee died, vpon these sentences hee let his soule dilate itselfe in Loue
following here in the sweete impulse and dictate of the/holy [fo. 147v.
Ghost, and reading his prayer writ rather in heart then in his booke
according to that of ye Apostle (Rom. 8. 26) Spiritus adiuvat infirmitatem
nostram Nam quid Oremus scito potest, nescimus, sed ipse Spiritus postulat
pro nobis gemitus inequivabilibus. Qui antem scrutatur Corda, scit quid
desiderat Spiritus, quia secundum Deum postulat pro Sanctis. And (i. Joan.
2. 27) Vinctio eius docet vos de omnibus. For this reason I suppose it
was, that when with great humility hee sent mee his last speech to
correct, hee also writyt mee word, hee would not at the place of Execution
make use of any other set forme or method of prayer then the Pater
Noster, Ave Maria, Credo, Miserere, In manus tuas Domine, etc. And
for the rest hee would breath forth his soule in such prayers and eiacula-
tions as God/Almighty should inspire him withall. [fo. 148]

Hee continually endeavoured to improve and advance himselfe in the
purity of divine Loue and by consequence also in contrition for his
sinnen past, of his deficiency in both which this humble soule complained
to mee as the only thing that troubled him. Indeed the more wee loue,
the more wee desire it, and the more wee desire it the more wee loue,
so that Desire increaseth our Loue, and Loue our Desire. And if wee may
measure this happy Martyrs loue by the rule of our Sainiour (lo. 14. 13)
maiorum hac dilectionem nemo habet quam ut animam suam ponat quis
pro amicis suis, wee shall find him perfect in loue. For in him was
fulfilled that of the Canticles (8. 6) Fortis est ut Mors Dilectio.

This Loue it was extinguished in him all feare of Death, [fo. 148v.
Timor says the Apostle (1 Ep: Jo. 4. 18) non est in charitate, sed
perfecta Charitas foras miltit timorem, quoniam timor pænent habet.
A Louer feareth not but reioyceth at the approch of his beloued ; hence
the ioy of our holy Martyr seemed still to encrease togetheer with his
danger and was fully accomplished by an assurance of death. The very
night before hee died being now as it were at hearts-ease hee went to
bed at eleuen of the clock and slept quietly and soundly till foure in the
morning, at which time his Man who lay in the room with him awaked
him ; so little concerne had he vpon his spirits, or rather so much had
the Louelynesse of the End beautified the horror of the passage to it.
Non sunt condignae Passiones/huius temporis (Rom. 8. 18) [fo. 149
ad futuram gloriam quae revelabitur in nobis. nam expectatio creature
Revelationem filiorum Dei expectat. Hee further likewise receiued
an exceeding comfort (as well hee might) in that divine Pledge of present
loue and future glory, viz the most holy Sacrament and Sacrifice of
ye* Altar. The happinesse of which by God's blessing and the priuat assistance of his man hee enjoyed daily, for a whole weeke together, and even that very morning whereon hee dyed.

After hee certainly knew that God Almighty had chosen him for the Crowne and Dignity of Martyrdom, hee continually studied how to deuest himselfe of himselfe, and become more and more an entire, pleasing and perfect Holocaust, to which end as hee gaue his [fo. 149v. Soule with all its faculties to the conduct of God: so for God's sake hee resigned the care and disposall of his Body to (vnworthy) Mee, and this in such an absolute manner that hee looked vpon himselfe to have no further power or autory over it. For an instance of this, the day before hee suffer'd when I sent a barber to trimme him, the man asked him if hee should leave anything on his vpper lippe; he answered hee knew not how I would haue it, and hee would do nothing without my order; so that they were forc't to send to Mee before the Barber could finish his work. Another remarkable instance of this strange humility and resignation herein was, that about an houre or less before hee was carried to Execution, being desired to drinke a little glasse of [fo. 150 Sack to strengthen his Spirits, hee answered hee was not at his owne disposall but mine, and that hee must haue leaue from mee before hee could either take or refuse it: whereupon (though I was lock't vp, yet for his satisfaction his man and ye Keeper's wife came to my chamber, and then returning back, told him I enioyned it, vpon which hee readily submitted.

But I neither dare nor can undertake to describe vnto you the signal virtues of this blessed Martyr, there appeared in him somthing beyond expression, something more than human, the most sausage and hard-hearted people were mollified and attender'd at his sight; many Protestants in my hearing wished their soules in the same state with his. All beleuened him innocent, and hee made Catholicks/euen [fo. 150v. the most timerous) in loue with death. When hee was carried out of the Presse-yard to Execution, hee turned him about towards our chamber windowes and with a pleasant aspect and elevated hand gaue vs his Benediction.

How he comported himselfe after hee was taken from hence, with all the circumstances of his happy passage, You Yourselfe can giue a more exact account then I, or indeed any other; seeing your piety rendred you so eminently assistant at his death and buriall. I shall therefore conclude this letter with blessing and praising Almighty God, who in his faithfull servant hat confounded the wicked, comforted the good, illustrated his Church, glorified his owne name and encrees the number of Martyrs in heaven.

/Sweete Jesus graunt vs grace to follow his example to the [fo. 151 end wee may deserue his present patronage and future company in eternall glory, which is the daily prayer of Madam

Your deouted seruant in our Lord,

J.C.

Postscript.

By good fortune I reserued some of the holy Byshop's letters writ to Mee during the short time of our correspondance. The Coppies of which letters (together with one of mine) I send you here, according to your commaund fairly transcrib'd.
Some portions of these letters have already been printed, but they have not, so far as I am aware, ever been printed in full. The first letter can be found in the late Cardinal P. F. Moran’s Memoirs of the Most Reverend Oliver Plunket, Dublin, 1861, p. 346. The long letter has been printed, but only in part, and that none too accurately, in Blessed Oliver Plunket, Sands & Co., London, n.d., while a few extracts are to be seen in J. Corker, A Remonstrance of Piety and Innocence; containing the last devotions and protestations of several Roman-Catholicks, condemned and executed on Account of the plot, London, 1683, pp. 101-2.

Bishop Plunket to Mr. Corker

Deare Sr

I am obliged to you for the fauour and Charity of y* 20£, and for all your former beneuolence: And whereas [I cannot] in this Country remunerate you, with God’s grace I hope to be grateful in that kingdom which is properly our Country. And truly God gave me (tho’ vnworthy of it) that grace to haue fortem animum mortis terrore carentem. I haue many sins to answer for before the Supreame Judge of the High bench, where no false witnesses can haue audience. But as for y* Bench yesterday I am not guilty [of any] crime there objected to me. 4 I wold I cold be so cleare at the Bench of the Alpowerful. Vt vt sit, there is one comfort that he cannot be deceived, because he is omniscient and knowes al secrets euen of hearts, and cannot deceiue because he is all goodnesse, so that I may be sure of a faire Tryal, And will get time sufficient to call witnesses; nay the Judge will bring them in a moment, if there will be need of any. Your and your Camerades prayers will be powerful Advocates at that Bench, he[re none] are admitted for

Your affectionate friend,
Oliver Plunket.

Deare Sr

I have receiued your spiritual and smart lines, which stir vp my dul heart and weak will to the contemplation of Eternal [joys].

1 Moran reads “20th.” W. omits the word, substituting “. . . .”
2 Juvenal, Sat. x. 357. I owe this reference to the kindness of Mr. E. C. Yorke.
3 Added from W.
4 The King’s Bench, presided over by Chief Justice Pemberton, condemned him on what is admitted to be grossly inadequate evidence.
5 Both W. and the Tusmore MS. read thus, but it must surely stand for Sit ut sit.
6 W. dates this letter June 19th, 1681, and thereon immediately follows the letter from Corker.
O if I cold but feel one Act of true and lively contrition I wold be well satisfyd: I often endeavour but stil I find some earthly thot to obscure and hinder my good inspiration. Infelix homo, &c., &c., corpus quod corrumpitur aggrauat animam, et terrena habitatio deprimit sensum cælestia cogitantem. Pallium Episcopale rubiginem et maculas contraxit, ideo purgandum. Caput infulum labefecit et ideo pungendum. 

I had need to say dele iniquitatem meam, and that I deserued, vt testes iniqui contra me insurgerent. Your prayers I desire and all your brethrens. The Passage is but short, yet tis daungerous, tis from time to Eternity, it can neuer be recal'd, or reiterated: your prayers I say I beg and your brethrens for me.

Sr

I do most earnestly recommend my selfe to your prayers and to the most holy Sacrifices of all y° noble Confessors who are in this Prison, and to such Priests as you are acquainted with: And I hope soon to be able to requite all your and their kindnesse. Above all I doe recommend my selfe to the prayers of the holy Families of Mr. Sheldon and the Lady Stafford and in general to all the good Catholicks in this City whose faith and charity are great. I doe recommend to you and to them my most faithful servaunt James Mockenra who serued me these ri yeares. Some of the good Catholicks told me that after my death they wold be charitable to him. I desire yt you be pleased to tell all my Benefactors yt for all Eternity I will be mindful of them, and that I will pray for them, vntil they come where I hope to come soon: and then also I will thank them in conspectu Supremi Domini. They

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1 Presumably Rom. vii. 24. Infelix ego homo, quis me liberabit de corpore mortis huius?
2 Cogitanti: W. (incorrectly). The quotation is an adaptation of Wisdom x. 15.
3-3 Om. W.
4 Ps. li. 1.
5 A reminiscence of Ps. xxvi. 12.
6 brethren, W. 7 repassed, W. 8, 8 June 23rd, 1681, W.
9 the night before his execution which was performed July the 1st, 1681, add. W.
10 Newgate.
11 kindnesse: W. 12 om. W.
13 Staffords, W. Lady Stafford of course is the widow of Lord Stafford, a victim of the Popish Plot.
14 vnto, W.
15 who came to see mee, add. W.
deserve all prayse in this, and by God’s grace a Crown of Glory in the next. I doubt not but their faith, Charity and good works will be efficacious with our Saviour, and that there wil soon be an End of this Persecution, and that Iniquitas multorum mox reuela-bitur. Fiat voluntas Dei, fiat, fiat. And I beseech my Saviour
to give all good Catholicks perseverance in their faith and good
works, and graunt me the grace to be tomorrow where I may pray for them, non in Enigmate but facie ad faciem, &c. And be sure I am and will be

Your obliged friend,
Ol. Plunket.

Deare Sir

The Captain sent to me Mr. Cooper to tel me that tomorrow seuennight the Execution will be: whereas ’tis not vpon St. John’s day, I am glad ’tis to be vpon his Octaue and vpon a Fryday. I am also told I shall be allowed a priest: I desire it shold be you. If it wil be a person vnknown to me, I intend to discourse but little with him. [June 23, 1681, O.S.]

My man James tells me you are not well, which wold be an addition to my afflictions, if I may call them afflictions, they being realy comforts and object of Joy, your infirmity being a motiue of grief and trouble to my mind, who am obliged to wish you perfect health and al prosperity; And whereas I cannot by any other external or outward wayes shew my gratitude, I wrote to Rome of your charity and also the names of my Benefactors, that they may be read before my great maisters I mean to al known to me by your list sent to me; I wrote also the names of al my benefactors to Ireland, vt non solum fides, sed et charitas vestra annuncietur in uniuerso mundo, &c. I long for my mans going to you to know of your condition. A mild purge wold not be vnprofitable to you. I expect to heare from you and to see your own character which may assure me of your welfare, and also to knowe some

1 life, add. W. 2 hope, and, add. W.
3 the, add. W. 4 to, add. W.
5 1 Cor. xiii. 12. 6 that, add. W.
7 still, add. W. 8-8 om. W.
9-9 Also he tells me: W. 10 om. W.
11-11 which is: W. 11 all: add. W.
12 of: W. 14 Cf. Rom. i. 8.
13 Quod Roma diuulgatur vbique praedicatur: W. 16 om. W.
thing of the warrant for the Execution: for, beleevue me, cupio dissolui, &c., and that incolatus meus prolongabitur, is not coueted by me, knowing what a troublesom world I leaue, and what a quiet and happy state, by my Saviour's grace, I hope to enjoy; And being the first of my Countrymen in this age who suffered here. I desire to lead the way to others, et quod alios in Hibernia hortatus sum verbo, æquum est vt eosdem firmem examplō.

To exhort others to dye stoutly is easy and not difficult, but to instruct them by example and by practise is more efficacious. There are two bishops in Dublin in prison /Marcus Forstal of p. 4 Kildare, a great diuine and an exemplar prelate and doctor Pierce Beagh, a lerned, pious and sweet bishop: he is of Corke. If they be brought hither I beleevue they wil haue the same successe I had. There is also a Clergyman of considerable parts out vpon baile, who I heare is to be brought hither, his name is Eduard Dromgal a doctor of diuinitty, an excellent preacher both in the English and Irish languages, wel versed in the Canons and profoundly seen and learned in cases of Conscience, and which is more of an Angelical life. If they wil be brought hither (I hope they wil not) I do recommend them to your prudent conduct and Charity. There is an other worthy prelate searched for, viz., Patrick Tirrel bishop of Cloger: he was Secretary General to the order of S Fr[ancis] for 12 yeaeres and Diff[initor]: Gen[eral] a person of great credit; He is also a Lector Jub[latus] of his Order, and not vnknown to your mistris. They might haue saued their liues by going overseas; but the Irish prelates are resolued rather to dye then to forsake their flocks. Forstal had departed but that I hindred him: for, if the Captaines wil fly, tis in vaine to exhort the single soldiers to stand in battall. Jesus facer et docere. The verb facere was long

1 Cf. Phil. i. 23.
2 Cf. Ps. cix. 5 (vulgate numberings).
3-4 who in this age: W.
4 A reminiscence of the quotation from St. Augustine below.
5 Mark Forstal was appointed Bishop of Kildare by Propaganda, 8 Oct., 1676, and died in prison at Dublin in 1683 (W. M. Brady, Episcopal Succession, Rome, 1876-7, Vol. I, p. 354 and II, p. 371.)
6 Creagh: W. Peter Creagh, nominated Bishop of Cork by Propaganda, 4 May, 1676, was translated to Dublin, 9 March, 1693, and died at Strassburg in 1705 or 1707 (Brady, ut. sup. Vol 1, pp. 338-340, and II. 91-92.)
7 om. W.
8 om. W.
9 Patrick Tyrrell, appointed Bishop of Clogher by Propaganda on 4 May, 1676, received also Kilmore on 1 February, 1678, from the same body. On 24 January, 1689, he was translated to Meath, and was put to death in 1692.
10 Masters: W.
11 Kildarensis: add. W.
in Christ's grammar and the verb docere was short. St Augustine sayth of X, parum erat hortari Martyres verbo, nisi firmaret exemplo. True it is y X saith, Cum persecuti vos fuerint in vna ciuitate fugite in aliam; but he doth not say, Cum persecuti vos fuerint in vno Regno, fugite in aliat longe remotum. And hath left vs these words in his Ghospel, Bonus pastor animam suam dat pro ouibus suis, mercenarius autem &c.

Tis objected: Why do we not obey the kings Edicts. Tis an axiom in the Civill Law: Mandante Consule, silet decretum Proconsulis: Christ is the Consul The king is y Proconsul. The Consul saith, Spiritus Sanctus posuit vos regere Ecclesiam dei, and pasce oues meas; The Proconsul saith, leaque your flocks, goe far from them, and nolite regere or pascere oues vestras; for, he who is far from the flocks cannot feed them. Are we to obey men rather then God? Shal we despise the consul and heare the Procon-[p. 5 sul's contrary commandds? Shal we hear the Lord lieutenants proclamations not agreeing with the Kings? Abis, but they wil kil vs. quid inde? By our death, the number of Catholicks will not be diminished, but rather augmented, when they see we willingly dye and contemn life, which is the only Idol of our Adversaries. The Catholicks will be induced to contemn Lands riches, honours, and al other things far lesse esteemed then life. We lost by this tempest two or three noble men here; In Ireland one yong slip, the Earl of Clanricards son, and a gentleman called Coll. Fitzpatrick, ever yet a worldling; But I dare say, and I know we have gained more, They are not of ours; if they had bin, they had not left vs; But I do say, and I know it we gained many more, and we have gained a great and weighty matter, viz: the Constancy of those who non curuauerunt genua ante Baal. The[y] are as aurum igne probatum: They are armour of proof, which a musket bullet cannot penetrate; nay, they yeild not to a

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1 Aug. Tract. super Psalmos, in Ps. lxiii, ad vers. 2. The passage is appointed for the fourth lesson of the matins of Good Friday (Tenebrae).
2 Sure : W.
3 Matt. x. 23.
4 These words left vs in the Gospel: W.
5 Joan. x. 12.
6 There is: W.
7 I am informed by Professor de Zulueta that words to this effect can be found in several places in the civil law proper.
8 Joan xxi. 17.
9 Flock: W.
10 Om. W.
11 Command: W.
12 Proclamation: W.
13-13 King's Absit? : W.
14 Deaths: W.
15 and: W.
16 Later eighth Earl of Clanricarde.
17 Even: W.
18 Haue I add. W.
19 Cf. 3 Reg. xix. 19.
20 Cf. Wisd. iii. 6.
Canon-bal, habent probam, and they are therefore of great value, and highly to be esteemed; And one of these is worth a thousand breastplates, which yeild to every pocket pistol bullet. They make a number in the Fort, but in battailes serue only for a shew at a muster; so that we lost but little or nothing and we gained very much coram deo et hominibus. The Jesuits got more credit, more esteem honour and glory in all the Christian world by ye death of their brethren here, then they gained by all other actions these many years past; And the same will happen to our Irish Prelates if they will suffer constantly and stoutly. England from St Alban’s day to these times was glorious for Martyrs. Ireland had scarce any. It was most of all renowned for Confessours. We had none like St Alban and his comarades: or St Thom: Cant. &c.: we had St Patrick, St Malachias, S Gelaciens &c. great Confessours. Now it is time for vs to imitate the glorious corage of the English nation, famous for Confessours and more famous for Martyrs.—In king Henry the 2d time learned Cambrensis went to Ireland. He was John y Earle of Morton afterward King John’s Secretary, and he discoursed with the Archbishop of Cassel, and told him read al the histories of Ireland and found many holy men, but no Martyrs. The Archbishop, Donatus aculeato dicto, answered yt the Irish were more rude, but (p. 6) pious, barbarous but not bloody. But quoth he (alluding then to ye Martyrdom of St Thomas Cant:) there is a Nation now come to conquer vs who will teach vs to make martyrs and suffer Martyrdom too. This happened after the 12 Century as farre as I remember. 1172, about ye beginning of ye English conquest in Ireland. So

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1 om. W. 2 up : add. W. 3 arsenall : W. 4 or : W. 5 hath been : W. 6-6 om. W. 7-7 Secretary to John Earle of Moriton (afterwards) K. of England : W. 8 had : add. W. 9 om. W. 10 the midst of : W. 11 anno, add. W. 12 The archbishop was Maurice (Muichertach, according to Gams, Series episcoporum, which may be the Irish for Maurice). He was appointed Archbishop of Cashel in 1182 and died 1192.

The story is told in Giraldus Cambrensis, Opera (Rolls Series, Vol. v. p. 178, in the Topographia Hibernica). Cum igitur haec et hujusmodi Mauricio Cassiliensi archiepiscopo, viro literato et discreto, coram Gerardo ecclesie Romanae clerico, tunc ad partes illas legationis, cujusdam vice transmissa, aliquando objecissem, et de tantis terrae illius enormitibus in praetatis practique culpam refunderem; validissimum inde argumentum sumens, quod nullus unquam in regno illo pro ecclesia Dei martyrii coronam adeptus fuisset; oblique satis et ad hominem solvens non ad orationem respondit: “Verum est” inquit, “quia licet gens nostra barbara nimirum et inculta et crudelis esse videatur, viris tamen ecclesiasticis honorem magnum et reverentiam semper exhibere solabant, et in sancto Dei nulla occasione manum extendere. Sed nunc in regnum gens advenit, qua martyres et facere novit et consuevit. Amodo Hibernia, sicut et aliae regiones martyres habebit.”
y't now by the feruour and constancy of ye English Clergy and layty, we are incoragod to be stout soules, mortis terrore carentes, and to wash away all our past actual sins by ye baptisme of blood, as we haue our Original by that of water; and the word Water ought not to have any more vertue then blood. Water tangit et cor abluit. Blood being euen spilt vpon the ground and extra corpus agit in distans, wipes away and clenseth the soule from all dirt and filthinesse. Water cannot clean vs vnslesse it be sprinkled and cast vpon vs. Blood cast out of vs and seperated from vs, sweeps away all euen all encancered and hardned dreggs of noxious humours. Happy then are we who haue a second Baptisme, nay a third. Water we receiued. The Sacrament of Pennance we got, and now we haue tertiam post naufragium tabulam, viz : the Baptisme of Blood. If then we haue so many means and wayes to saue our-selues in the raging billowes of our dangerous nauigation per Scillas Charibdes; and more than any other Profession or pretended Religion hath (nay it hath none) if we wil be drowned, if we wil perish, tis our own fault, and it may be said to vs, Perditio tua ex te Israel. —You see how farr and whither the pen sensim sine sensu hath transported me. It began with bemoaning your corporal infirmity, and now it ends with the meditation of sure Antidotes of a certain purgatiue and corroboratiue for the acquireing of everlasting health and felicity. Your sicknesse tho' troublesom and to me also Domin6 hominem loquor, hath brought to me ye opportunity of proficuous that's and meditations wel becoming St John Baptist's day, who washed himself in water and spilt his blood, tho' nec vitam leui maculuit crimine linguae. The original dirt he contracted, altho' he was free from al dust of euen venial sins. What then shal we do who haue Cartloads of actual mire and filthinesse. He had not euen venials, and suffered prison and death, we haue dunghils of mortals, and what ought we to suffer? But why shold I speake of St John, whereas his maister who was free from Original al venial and actual sins, suffered cold [p. 7 frost hunger, prison, strip[es] thorns and the most painful death of the Crosse for other's sins, which d[eath] of the Crosse compared to that of Tyburn, as I heare the descriptioun is but a fleabiteing.

I ought therefore cheerfully to desire it, heartily covet and joyfully embrace it, it being a sure way, a smooth path by which I may in a very short time pass from sorrow to joy, from Joy to rest and from a momentary time or duration to everlast Eternity and now say with Boetius

Da fontem lustrare boni, dace luce perenni
In te conspicuos animi defigere visus,
Dejice terrenae nebulas et pondere molis
Atque tuo splendore mica, tu nanique serenus
Tu requies tranquilla piis, te cernere finis
Principium, dux certus, semita terminus idem.

I pray excuse errors or lapsus velociter scribentis; defuit enim tempus rude reuidendi scriptum, quascumque aspicies lacryma:

Your obliged friend

Ol: Pl. 10

/Mr Corker to B: Pl [fo. 8]

Sir

I cannot admit of the acknowledgments your goodness was yesterday pleased to make of my poor service, which I look upon as an honor to myselfe, and begg God's pardon and yours for my unworthy manageing of it. And though I have been frustrated of al my earnest endeavours in your behalf, yet I dare not say or thinke my undertakings wanted a happy sucesse, seeing it is not properly happynesse to detein a martyr from his sacrifice and a saint from heauen. God who lent you to

1 pondera: W.  
2 dare: W.
3 See Boethius, De consolatione philosophiae, Lib. III., metr. ix. The archbishop does not quote quite correctly. The text should run:—

Da fontem lustrare boni, dace luce reperta
In te conspicuos animi defigere visus.
Disiice terrenae nebulas et pondera molis,
Atque tuo splendore mica: tu nanque serenus,
Tu requies tranquilla piis, te cernere, finis;
Principium, duct, semita, terminus idem.

4-6 errores ac: W.  
7 that, add. W.  
8 finis: W.  
9 and intercede: W.  
10 June ye 24th, 1681: add. W.
11 acknowledgment: W.  
12-13 om. W.  
13 management: W.
14 om. W.
vs, wil now in a triumphant manner take back his own. And you are vpon ye point of enjoying the plenitude of blisse in its Original fountain. Pallium archiepiscopale mutandum est in stolam iucunditatis, et Infula in Coronam gloriae. You may justly sing with ye Royal Prophet Insurrexerunt in me testes iniqui et mentita est iniquitas sibi. Credo videre bona Domini in terra viuentium. Again: Funes ceciderunt mihi in praecaris etenim hereditas mea preclara est mihi. But I am not so arrogantly foolish as to pr.rr rr. I can instil into you better thoughts then those you have; I am bold to present you in ye name of Jesus Christ with an Epistle dictated by himselfe to his followers in your condition.

Qui credit in me etiamsi mortuus fuerit viuet, et omnis qui viuit et credit in me non morietur in aeternum.

Noli timere quia redemi te et vocavi te nomine tuo, meus es tu. Mundus gaudebit, vos vero contristabimini, sed tristitia vestra vertetur in gaudium, et gaudium vestrum nemo tollet a vobis.

B: 1' 18

I wish with al my heart I might be your Companion, of which happynesse, to my grief, I am vnworthy. My only request is, memento mei cum veneris in regnum tuum.

Vª Sr ye® truly devoted seru: in our Lord

J Corker.

[Endorsed in William Fermor's hand:—] Doctor Oliver Plunket was executed friday the 1st of July, 1681, Char 2d for high treason.

IX.

A broadsheet of Titus Oates.

The date of this broadsheet is presumably 1689. It is rather torn, but it appears to be scarce, as neither the British Museum nor the Bodleian seems to have a copy.

1 immutandum: W. 2 Ps. xv. 6. 3 Joan, xi., 25, 26. 4 om. W. 5 And in Isa., 43, 1, add. W. 6 Ps. xxvi. 12, 13. 7-7 Jo. 16: W. 8 Is. xxiii. 1. 9 vertetur: W.

It will be remembered that Oates had been sentenced to a fine of 1000 marks, to be stripped of his canonical habits, to stand in the pillory of Westminster and the Royal Exchange, to be whipped from Aldgate to Newgate and two days later from Newgate to Tyburn, and that every year for the rest of his life, on the 24 April, 9 and 10 August, 2 and 11 September, he should stand in the pillory for an hour at certain places.

This sentence was declared by the House of Commons to be cruel and illegal. Eventually the House of Lords, not entirely to their credit, addressed the King to grant Oates a pardon.

THE CASE OF TITUS OATES, D.D., Humbly offered to the tender Consideration of the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in PARLIAMENT Assembled.

The said Titus Oates, in the Year 1678 discovered a horrid Popish Conspiracy, for the Destruction of the late King Charles II, his Present Majesty (then Prince of Orange), and the Protestant Religion within these Kingdoms, and proved it so fully, that several Parliaments and Courts of Justice, before whom he gave his Testimony, declared their belief of it, by publick Votes, and the condemnation of several of the Conspirators accused, not only by him, but by several other Witnesses who had also a knowledge of the said Conspiracy.

The House of Lords being sensible of the great Service of Oates, gave him their Thanks in a most publick manner, and addressed to K. Charles the Second to grant his Royal Protection to the said Oates, and to give him a Subsistence till the Parliament considered of a Reward suitable to his great and Publick Service to the King and Kingdom: And three solemn Days of Fasting were proclaimed, at the Request of three Successive Parliaments, to implore God's Assistance in the full and farther discovery of the villainous Machinations of the Popish Party.

The said Oates discovered the traiterous Correspondency that Coleman held with Le-Chaise (Confessor of the French King) which gave both Houses of Parliament full satisfaction of the Popish Plot. And other Letters were produced by a Person of Quality, by which the Government was satisfied of the under-hand dealing of a great Minister of State at that Time, in order to procure a great Sum of Mony to put off the Parliament: All of which did still justify the said Oates, and verify the Truth of his Discovery.

He appeared a Witness [at] the Old-Baily, against Whitebread, Fenwick, Ireland, Pickering and Grove, \(^1\) 17 Dec., 1678. Whitebread and Fenwick were not then tried, but Pickering, Grove and Ireland were tried; against whom the Evidence was so full and plain, that they were all three convicted upon the Testimony of the said Oates and Mr. Bedloe\(^2\), and were executed for High Treason.

At the Trial, two things were objected against Oates’s Testimony. First, that he swore he was present at the Consul held at London, April 24. 78. when the Jesuits alleged he was not there, but at St. Omers: But nothing being offered in Proof thereof, this Objection was look’d upon as vain and frivolous.

The second Objection was, That Oates swore Ireland was in Town between the 8th and 12th of August; and they alluded he was out of Town all August. To this Mr. Ireland produced Ellenor and Ann Ireland,\(^3\) who testified he set out for Staffordshire the 3rd of August, 78. One Harrison\(^4\) testified he met Mr. Ireland on the 5th of August at St. Albans, and was in his Company till the 16th, in Staffordshire: and Mr. Gifford\(^5\) swore he saw Mr. Ireland\(^6\) two days after St. Bartholomew’s\(^6\) day, and the 9th of September, in Staffordshire.

In Answer to which, Oates proved Ireland’s being in Town great part of August, by the Testimony of Mr. Bedloe and one Sarah Paine,\(^7\) late Servant of the aforesaid Grove, who testified, she saw Mr. Ireland about the 12th of August at his own Door in Russel-street: Whereupon the Jury found Ireland Guilty; and the Lord Chief Justice Scroggs told them, they had done like honest gentlemen and Good Protestants.

\(^{1}\) Thomas Whitbread, alias Harcourt, a Jesuit, who was found guilty of conspiracy on Oates’ evidence in 1678 and was executed in the next year.

\(^{2}\) Fenwick’s real name was John Caldwell. (See D.N.B. s.v. Fenwick, John).

\(^{3}\) William Ireland, alias Ironmonger, was also a Jesuit, and executed with Pickering and Grove.

\(^{4}\) Pickering, a Benedictine lay-brother, but described by Oates as a Jesuit, accused of trying to kill the King, and executed in 1679.

\(^{5}\) Grove, W., a Jesuit lay-brother, whose name is generally coupled with Pickering’s, and who was executed with Pickering and Ireland.


\(^{7}\) For the evidence of Anne Ireland see State Trials, \(\text{ut. sup.}\), p. 711. Eleanor Ireland’s evidence is on p. 712.

\(^{4}\) Harrison, a coachman (as alleged). His evidence, pp. 712-3.

\(^{5}\) Charles Gifford. See State Trials, \(\text{ut. sup.}\), p. 713.

\(^{6}\) 24 August.

\(^{7}\) Sarah Paine’s evidence is p. 711 \(\text{ut sup.}\). She also appeared in the trial of Whitbread and others, \(\text{ibid.}\), p. 864.
Oates appeared at the Old-Baily, 13 June, 1679. when Whitebread,1 Fenwick,2 Harcourt,3 Gavwen4 and Turner5 (all Jesuits and Priests) were tried for the same Conspiracy: And the same Objections were made to Oates's Evidence then, as at the former Trial, viz. That Oates was not in Town at the Consult 24 April, 78. nor Ireland in Town between the said 8th and 12th of August, nor the 2d of September following.

For making good the first Objection, they produced a great number of Boys from St. Omers, as Martin Hilsly,6 Parry7 Doddington,8 Clifford9 Palmer,10 Cox11 Billing,12 Townley Fall, John Hall the Colledg Butler,13 Cooke14 a Taylor of the Colledg, and a Lay-Brother of the Jesuits, these all testified that Oates was at St. Omers all April and May: But the Evidence was so ridiculous, and the Witnesses appearing to be managed and suborned, the Court and Jury set no value upon their Testimony. But that the falsehood of their Testimony might appear to prove that Oates was in Town, the Counsel for the King produced Mr. Walker15, an aged Minister of the Church of England, Sarah Ives,16 Mrs.

1 Thomas Whitbread, alias White, alias Harcourt, provincial of the Jesuits in England. The trial of him and his companions may be found in State Trials, ut sup., pp. 825-74. For his life see D.N.B. s.v. Harcourt, Thomas.
2 John Caldwell, alias Fenwick, procurator in London for the College of St. Omer.
3 William Waring, alias Barrow, alias Harcourt, Rector of the College of St. Ignatius of London. (See D.N.B. s.v. Waring, William.)
4 John Gavan, alias Gavwen, apparently not in D.N.B.
5 Anthony Turner, also not in D.N.B.
6 His evidence is in State Trials, ut sup., p. 848. It, and that of the witnesses who follow, is to the effect that Oates was at St. Omer’s in April, May and June, 1678. If this could be established it would prove Oates a perjurer.
7 William Parry from Flintshire, ibid., p. 848-9.
8 Doddington with an alias of Hollis, see his evidence, ibid., pp. 849-50.
9 This must be Gifford who gave evidence after Doddington, ibid., p. 850.
10 Palmer’s evidence followed Gifford’s, ibid., pp. 850-1.
11 Cox’s evidence, ibid., pp. 851-2. His evidence excited some laughter in the Court.
12 Thomas Belling’s evidence, ibid., pp. 852-3.
13 The evidence of Townley, Fall and John Hall is ibid., pp. 853-4.
14 Cooke’s evidence (ibid., p. 854) shows he was a tailor in the College: but it does not expressly state he was a lay brother. Other witnesses followed with evidence that Oates had lied in his evidence. They tried to prove that Oates had left St. Omer’s on 23 June.
15 William Walker’s evidence ibid., pp. 864-5, is to the effect that he thought he saw Oates in April in London, and spoke to someone else about it.
16 Sarah Ives, ibid., p. 865, corroborates William Walker’s evidence.
Mayo, Mr. Page, Sir Richard Baker, John Butler, William Smith, and one Mr. Clay a Romish Priest, who were all positive as to Oates's being in Town, except Sir Richard Barker, and he testified what his Servants, Page and Butler had told him: which gave great Satisfaction to the Court and Jury, and so Oates was set right as to that Point. But as for the second Objection, which was, That Ireland was out of Town all August, and therefore that Oates was false in that particular, they produced several Witnesses out of Staffordshire to prove Ireland there. The Lady Southcot testified, that she saw him from the 5th of August to the 16th, and Sir John from Aug. 5. till Aug. 9. and Mr. Edward Southcot from Aug. 3. till Aug. 16. and Mrs. Harwell and her Daughter, who say, they saw him on Aug. 17. but this came not within the Compass of the Time assigned by Oates: Against these Mr. Bedloe's Testimony and Sarah Paine. And sometime after this Trial, in came Mr. Jennison, who testifies that he saw Mr. Ireland in August at London; all which overthrows the Testimony of Mrs. Elinor Ireland, and Mrs. Ann Ireland, and the three Southcots, all Papists and Relations of Mr. Ireland: The Testimony of Sarah Paine was so Innocent, and without any manner of Cunning, that the Court and Jury set a great value upon her Evidence. Thus was that Objection answered.

1 Mrs. Mayo averred she had seen Oates in London in May, a little before Whitsuntide (ibid., p. 865).
2 Philip Page asserted he had seen Oates at Sir Richard Barker's at Islington at the beginning of May (ibid., p. 865-6).
3 Sir Richard Barker, "a doctor of physic," was knighted at Whitehall in 1671. His evidence amounts to no more than is stated in the text.
4 John Butler was Barker's coachman, and he averred Oates had come to Barker's house at Islington early in May, 1678 (ibid., p. 886).
5 William Smith, the schoolmaster at Islington, gave evidence to the same effect (ibid. p. 867) and that Oates had dined with him on the first Monday in May.
6 Clay swore he had made Oates' acquaintance at Mr. Charles Howard's in April (ibid., p. 887).
7 Lady Southcote, the sister of the third Lord Aston of Forfar (see below, p. 27) was the wife of Sir John, who had been knighted in 1646, and must therefore have been an old man in 1679. (Knights of England, Vol. II., p. 220.) His son in the trial of Oates on 9 May, 1685, is styled Sir Edward Southcote, but the Complete Baronetage contains no record of a creation of a baronetcy in this family.
8 Sir John Southcote, Lady Southcote and Edward Southcote's evidence is ibid., p. 861. The evidence of these witnesses and of the Harewells was consistent to the effect that in August they had been in Ireland's company out of London. Other evidence was given to the effect that Ireland had been at Boscobel in September.
9 Anne and Eleanor Ireland had been witnesses in the trial of Ireland and his companions (see above, p. 23.) For Robert Jenison, see D.N.B.
Upon the 14th of June, 1679, at the Trial of Mr. Langhorne, Oates appeared at the Old Baily, where the St. Omers Witnesses appeared again upon that point of Time and Place; and the Court observed that they were mended in Testimony, and had improved themselves; but the Witnesses produced against these Boys, were so plain in their Testimony, and the St. Omers Boys were not believed in this Point at all.

The Duke of York having a great Influence upon King Charles II, as also several others of the Popish Party, did prevail upon him to suffer the said Oates to be indicted for Perjury, in two several Indictments, six or seven Years after he had given his Testimony concerning the Popish Plot, and brought the same to Trial on the 8th and 9th of May, 1685, in the Reign of King James II, and produced the same Witnesses, with the addition of some others, but all Papists, and bred up at St. Omers, excepting one who had his Education at St. Omers, he was turned Protestant, as he pretended, and was made a Minister of the Church of England by the Bishop of St. Asaph. To these Witnesses Oates produced two, Mrs. Itayo and John Butler, who were positive as to his being in Town in the beginning of May, and one Page, and Mr. Walker the Minister, the latter being very Aged (above 80 Years old) through the long distance of Time, could not be so positive as to the Year; and Page could not be positive, both being in fear, by reason the Ld Ch. Just. Jefferies brow-beating Oates's Witnesses, as several Honourable Peers of this House can testify, the Counsel perverting the Testimony, and the Lord Jefferies appearing so much Oates's his Enemy, and no Counsel daring to appear for Oates, he was found Guilty of Perjury upon the first Indictment, which did relate to his being in Town on April and May, 1678.

Upon the 9th of May, 1685, Oates was tried upon a second Indictment of Perjury, wherein it was alleged, that Ireland was not in Town between the 8th and 12th of August, as Oates had sworn it six or seven years before; for which were produced Mrs. Ann Ireland and her Mother Mrs. Eloner Ireland, who were very positive to Mr. Ireland's going out of Town, Aug. 13, 78. But a third Witness being called, did plainly contradict their Evidence, and her Name was Duddle, which was observed by the Court; then one

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1 Richard Langhorne, a barrister, one of Oates' victims, executed 1679 (D.N.B.)
2 State Trials, ut. sup., pp. 388-95.
5 Mrs. Duddle's evidence is to be found ibid., p. 74, as also Mrs. Quino's.
Mrs. Quino was called, another Papist, and the Lord Aston, \(^1\) but he could not be positive, but only as to the two days he first saw Mr. Ireland; but Sir Edward Southcot was positive from the 3\(^{d}\) to the 16\(^{th}\) of August; and several other Witnesses were produced; but they coming not within the compass of Time alleged by Oates, they are here omitted.

The distance of Time being such, that many of Oates his Witnesses were dead, as Sir Richard Barker, and his Brother Mr. Barker, Dr. Tongue, Mr. Bedloe, Sarah Paine, Sarah Ives, William Smith, and Mr. Walter\(^2\) the Minister are dead; Mr. Jennison was forced to fly into Holland for fear of being prosecuted: So that Oates, by reason of the Death of Sarah Paine and Mr. Bedloe, and the going of Mr. Jennison into Holland, had not the benefit of their Testimony, and was convicted of the second Indictment for Perjury.

The aforesaid Indictments he hath removed into the Lords House by Writ of Error; and if it be the pleasure of this Honourable House to examine into the Merits of the Cause, he can produce three Witnesses yet alive, that will justify his being in Town at the Time the St. Omers Witnesses swore him to be out of Town; and he can produce Mr. Jennison, that can prove that Ireland was in Town in August, 1678; which contradicts all the Staffordshire Witnesses. And the said Oates humbly conceives, that the Testimony of Sarah Paine and Mr. Bedloe may be used on his behalf, tho they are dead; and also the Testimony of those who are dead, that have proved him, the said Oates, to be in Town, against the impudent Perjuries of the St. Omers Witnesses, who swore him out of Town April and May, 1678.

The Papists themselves having justified Oates his Testimony, by their open and avowed violation of our Laws, Liberties, and Religion; and executing those Things in the Reign of the late King, which he did discover them to have been contriving in the Reign of King Charles II, which was the Sum and Substance of his Testimony. He hopes the Reputation of St. Omers Witnesses, who were bribed with Places and Offices in the Army, and had Sums of Mony given to them, shall not prevail with this House from setting aside the Judgments brought before your Lordships.

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\(^1\) Walter, Lord Aston of Forfar in the peerage of Scotland, one of those accused by Oates, but he escaped with imprisonment in the Tower on misprision of treason until 1685, in the June of which year he was released. He died 1714, aged 81. His evidence is in State Trials, ut. sup., page 75.

\(^2\) i.e., Walker (see above, p. 24).
All of which is humbly offered to the Consideration of your good Lordships, and your Honours of the House of Commons, whether he ought to have undergone such a Villanous Judgment, or been found Guilty of the aforesaid two Indictments?

[Endorsed:—] Titus Oat's Evidence.

X.

Expenses on a visit to Holywell in North Wales, about 1680.

These accounts have been printed by Blomfield (Deanery of Bicester, part iii, p. 70) without annotation, but he seems to have thought that they are evidence of a visit paid by two children of Mr. Richard Fermor of Tusmore to their uncle, Mr. Peter Fermor, who had married the daughter and heiress of Sir Anthony Morgan of Heyford and Weston, and of Kilfiggen. It is clear, however, that the journey was a pilgrimage to the well of St. Winifred at Holywell in Flintshire, and not into South Wales at all, and the mention of "Mrs. Ursula" suggests, but does not prove, that the family here concerned is that of Richard Fermor, who died in 1678, being the son of Henry (d. 1667) and grandson of Sir Richard (d. 1642). Richard Fermor had a daughter, Ursula (named clearly after her grandmother Ursula Middleton), and Thomas may have been the Thomas Fermor, born in 1649, who became a Jesuit and died in London on 26 May 1710.

Disbursd in my M's her Journey into Wales.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>s</th>
<th>d</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impr. giuen to the officers att M's Morgans</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuen to a woman who shewed the Minster att Lichfeild</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giuen to a poor man there</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. for dyett and Horsmeate att Lichfeild</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuen there to the Chamberlin and Oastler</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. att stone for dyett and Horsmeate</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. att Nantwich for dyett and Horsmeat</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuen there to the Prysoners and to the poore by M's per appointm.</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To a Guide for going from Chester to Flynt Castle</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dd. to my M's to giue the poore att Holywell</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. there for dyett</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>p. there for Horsmeate</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giuen the Oastlere</td>
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¹ Presumably Weston under Wetherley, n.e. of Warwick.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

p. att Rickesome¹ coming from Holywell to Shrewsbury
p. for dyet and Horsmeate att Shrewsbury
Giuen there to the Chamberlin and Oastler
for pair of Ghoues for Mr. Thomas and Mrs.
Ursula²
D. to my Mrs. att Belzardine³ wth shee gaue to
my Mr. his godson
Giuen at Bellinghyne to the Officers &c.
p. at Redditch for dyet and Horsmeate and giuen
there
p. for mending of saddles and for shoeing
p. at Edgehill for dyet and Horsmeate
Giuen there

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>O 7 2</td>
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<td>O 14 10</td>
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<td>O I 0</td>
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<td>O 3 6</td>
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[Endorsed:—] An Account of the Journey to Holy-well (54).

XI.

Letter of Confraternity in the Society of Jesus granted to Henry Fermor and his family in 1693.

This diploma is written on vellum, and is bordered with an open square of conventional pattern with the monogram of the Society (but without the Nails) in the centre of the border at the top. It is written in italic and roman characters (the words and letters written in gold being here represented by italics). To it is attached, by a double

¹ Wrexham.
² Henry Fermor who died in 1702 had a daughter, Ursula. She married in 1685 C. Towneley of Townley. The handwriting of the MS. fits in very well with such a period.
³ “Belzardine” is a puzzle. The place with the greatest literal similarity in name would be Bedwardine St. John’s, the suburb across the Severn from Worcester; but if this is what is meant, the route taken was very devious, and it is not easy to account for the family staying in a suburb when elsewhere they stayed in the town itself. I have sometimes wondered whether the word represents Beoley, near Redditch, being a corruption of Beoley in Arden, though not far away, and it looks as though Redditch was visited after Belzardine, which suggests that Belzardine must be north of Redditch, which Beoley is not. But it may well be that if Belzardine is Beoley, the expedition to Redditch was not a stage on the journey at all, but just an expedition to the nearest town, and the item for shoeing and saddles suggests repairs made there during a fairly long stay with friends.
red string of silk, a red seal in a metal case with the Society’s monogram in the centre, surrounded by lettering: + P[RÆPOS]ITI GÉNÉRÀL-
[SOCIÉTAS] IESV.

It will be observed that the family name is mis-spelt in the diploma. The “Ursula” mentioned here is presumably the “Mrs. Ursula” whose name appears in the preceding document, while “Jacobus” would be the “Mr. Fermor” mentioned in the document immediately following this.

THYRSUS GONZALEZ.

PRAEPOSITUS GENERALIS SOCIETatis IESV


FACIT DD: V.V. Virtus, ac Pietas, et in Societatem nostram bene-

Thyrsus Gonzales.

Aegidius Estrin Secretar.

[Endorsed:—] Angl. cum Sigillo pendente.

XII.

A letter on county business.

The Mr. Fermor mentioned in this otherwise inconspicuous letter is probably the boy who was educated at the Jesuit college at La
Flèche with Sir Henry Bedingfeld of Oxburgh, the second baronet. Sir Henry is supposed to have returned from La Flèche in this year 1705, though he succeeded to the baronetcy in the previous year. (See Catholic Record Society, Vol. VII., Miscellanea vi. (Bedingfeld papers) pp. 142-157.) If this supposition is correct, the Mr. Fermor here mentioned would be James Fermor who is mentioned in the previous document and, succeeding to Tusmore in 1702, married Mary, second daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, the third baronet, who, like her husband, died in 1722. He had a brother Henry who died in 1763, and a famous sister, Arabella, the "Belinda" of the Rape of the Lock. Mr. Leigh is probably Mr. Theophilus Leigh of Adlestrop, b. circ. 1646, d. 1724/5; a noted arbiter elegantiarum of the time.

[Sam: Cox to Mr. Leigh.]

Sr. Fritwell, 7 January, 1705.

Yours of y° 1st currant came to me in due time, but I defer answering the same in hopes of seeing Mr. Sheldon in this Country to whom I must communicate yo° lett° before I can send up Comm°° names for the Dedimus: if Mr. Sheldon does not come into these parts sooner, I design attending him next Thursday and you may depend upon hearing from me by the Sundays post following.

Mr. Fermor is now on his Journey for England and expected in London ab° six weeks hence, So that my Lord Warrington could not in my opinion be much (if anything) delayd by deferring his suit till Mr. Fermors Arrival: however if my Lords and yo° Sentiments continue for a present Answer from Mr. Sheldon and myself, I doubt not of Mr. Sheldon’s complyance therewith. I can say no more, until I have discoursd Mr. Sheldon when you may rely on a lett° in due time from

Sir
Yo° most humble serv°

SAM: COX.

XIII.

Political Verse of the time of Queen Anne.

The following four pieces of verse were all obviously written during Queen Anne’s reign. The first, which purports to be a prophecy, is so curiously accurate until the end of the first decade of the eighteenth century that it may be permitted to wonder whether Mr. William

1 Ralph Sheldon (d. 20 Dec., 1720) succeeded his cousin, Ralph, to Beoley in 1684. (T. Nash, Collections for the History of Worcestershire, 1781, pedigree to face Vol. I., p. 64.)

2 A power to someone who is not a judge to perform some act in place of a judge.

3 George (1675-1758), second and last Earl of the creation of 1690.
Haydock may not have been committing perjury in attesting its authenticity on oath, and to feel reasonably certain that its date is somewhere about 1709. The second, from the political allusions in it, may be assigned to the same period. It is clearly subsequent to the union with Scotland in 1707, and the allusion to Marlborough’s rejection of the Barrier treaty brings the earliest possible date for the verses down to the end of 1709. Of the two other sets of verses, the first is apparently a high-church appeal to the Queen to save the Church by warning her of the parallel between Laud and Sacheverell, an idea fantastic enough to explain its proposition in verse. It was printed at the time, and a copy is in *A Collection of Poems for and against Sacheverell*, London, 1710 (B.M. 1346, g. 2(6)), a reference for which I am indebted to Mr. F. F. Madan, I.C.S. The other is just a skit on the parties and divisions in the Church of England.

A.

This within written Prophesie was found in Mr. Becketts Room when dead in Lancaster Castle, towards the latter end of Oates Plott, 26 or 27 years ago; He lay two years or more a Prisoner, altho: condemned for being a Priest, and was esteemed a holy Man: It was found and given by George Foxcroft then Goaler, to Mr. Haydock of Cottam, in whose hands it has continued till this time and whose Son avers this upon Oath.

Too late I came into this Roome to have the gift of Martyrdom but in Short time I shall end my Race My King will follow in Short Space and pious James succeed his Place. Then Shall unspotted truth outshine and honour be paid our Ladies Shrine, To him a Prince shall then be born, who after his time shall live in scorn; while a Usurper gains the throne but long he holds it not his own, Another in his place succeeds And in the World much Mischeif breeds, in those cross days, whilst truth’s opprest the Eagle stains his Princely Nest

1 The Haydocks of Cottam were an ancient family who had held the place since the middle ages. The owner in 1680 would have been William Haydocke, commonly known as the hunting squire; the son therefore would be the man who died shortly after the rising of 1715, in which, according to tradition, he took part. (J. Gillow, *The Haydock Papers*, Burns and Oates, 1888, p. 44.)

2 Charles II.

3 The Old Chevalier.

4 William III.

5 Queen Anne.

6 Austria.
and with the Storck\(^1\) doth make a truce, to prey upon the Flower de Luce;\(^2\) When Virgin generosity Shall with no base attempt comply, and when it drooping most appears it soon the loftiest colour bares\(^3\); Then shall the Eagle and the Stork repent them of their former work, and with submissive knee shall bend unto the Flower de Luce, and it attend, And when Penticost shall be the next day to St Barnabe,\(^4\) then ’ere a Spring or two be o’re expect its Prince to his native Shore.

B.

The Thanksgiving.

In sounds of Joy your tuneful voices raise, And teach the People, whom to thank and praise; Thank prudent Anna’s providential Reign, For Peace and Plenty both of Coin and Grain: Thank y’e Scotch Peers for your firm unbought Union,\(^5\) Thank Bishops for Occasional Communion;\(^6\) Thank the Stock-jobbers for your thriving Trade, Thank just Godolphin\(^7\) y’ all debts are paid;

---

\(^1\) Holland.  
\(^2\) France.  
\(^3\) This very obscure sentence seems to allude to the straits to which France was reduced in 1708-9 and the recovery displayed in the campaign of 1709. "Generosity" is a term that could certainly be applied to the treatment of the exiled Royal House by Louis XIV., but why "virgin" it is difficult to see.  
\(^4\) i.e., June 11. In the old style calendar, Whitsunday fell upon June 12 in 1709; in the new style calendar it fell likewise that day in 1707. In neither style did it fall on June 10 in any suitable year. Possibly the former date is that referred to, the new style not having yet been adopted in England; though just as possibly it refers to the appearance of the Old Chevalier in the Forth in 1708.  
\(^5\) This of course, like the preceding line, is ironical, it being a charge against many members of the Scots Estates that they had been bribed by the English parliament giving the Scots an "equivalent" for their debt which was used in relieving sufferers under the Darien Scheme. (See A. V. Dicey and R. S. Rait, Thoughts on the Union between England and Scotland, London, 1920, p. 317.)  
\(^6\) The Occasional Conformity bill, which was aimed at Whig dissenters and promoted by Tories in the supposed interests of the Church, had hitherto been defeated, largely by the aid of Whig bishops.  
\(^7\) Godolphin was Lord High Treasurer till 1710. One effect of the war of the Spanish Succession, the continuance of which he was supposed to favour, was the increase in the national debt.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

Thank Marlborow's Zeal ye scorn'd the proffered Treaty
But thank Eugene ye French men did not beat ye;
Thank your own selves if you are Tax'd and Sham'd,
But thank the Almighty if you are not damn'd.

C.

Found on the Queen's Toyloyt.

O Anna see the prelude is begun,
Again they play the game of forty one
And he's the Traytor ye defends thy Throne:
Thus Laud, and thus thy Royal Grand-Sire dy'd,
Impeach'd by Clamour and by Faction try'd;
Hoadely is cry'd up, ye does thy Right oppose,
Because he crowns ye Mobb, and arms thy Foes
Stop ye Protentous Omen e're too late,
And view thy own in poor Sacheverells Fate.
Fatal experience bids thee now be wise,
Let one blest Martyr of thy Race suffice,
At him they Stricke, but want ye Sacrifice.

D.

Amongst ye high Churchmen I find there are several
do Sware to ye merits of Harry Sacheverell;
Amongst ye low Church too I see ye Oddly
Some pin all their faith upon one Ben: Hoadly:
But we moderate men who our Judgment suspend,
For God only knows how these matter[s] will end:

¹ Marlborough refused to sign the Barrier Treaty of 1709 as he considered it contrary to British interests.
³ i.e., 1641.
⁴ Benjamin Hoadly, (1676-1761) always taken as a typical Whig ecclesiastic, being a pluralist, a latitudinarian and a bon vivant. In 1709 he held two livings, St. Peter's, Broad Street, and Streatham, and was writing several pamphlets against the high church party. Nominated Bishop of Bangor in 1718, he preached a sermon in 1717 which led to the famous "Bangorian controversy ."
⁵ Henry Sacheverell (d. 1724), the factious Tory preacher whose impeachment led to the fall of the Whigs.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

For Salisbury Burnet,¹ and White Kennet² shew,
That Doctrine may change as preferments do goe:
And twenty years hence for ought you and I know,
It may be Hoadly ye high, and Sacheverell ye Low.

XIV.

Some notes on Jacobite failures.

These notes fall into three parts: an account, the source of which I
cannot at present trace, of the failure of King James II to recover his
throne from 1689 to 1692; an abstract of the speech of Sir Dudley
Ryder the Attorney General and of the evidence of John Murray of
Broughton at the impeachment of Simon Fraser Lord Lovat in 1747,
with page references to the official account of the trial in The Whole
Proceedings in the House of Peers upon the Impeachment . . . against
Simon Lord Lovat, published by order of the House of Peers, London,
1747; and thirdly, a list of the clans in the Highlands with an estimate
of the side they were likely to take and the numbers of men they would
bring into the field, of which the source is unknown to me.

The first document is a very summary account of the events follow-
ning the Revolution at sea and in Ireland. It would seem to have been
drawn from some source highly sympathetic to the French, who mini-
mise the number of ships under Tourville’s command at Beachy Head,
just as the English always minimise the losses of the Allies.

The second is of no particular interest, and is therefore not printed.
The third document should be compared with the list published by
Miss Henrietta Tayler and her late brother in The House of Forbes,
Aberdeen, Third Spalding Club, 1937, pp. 255-8. If, as Miss Tayler
believes, the list she has printed from the Stuart papers at Windsor is
really that sent over to France in 1741, the list here given may be a
woeful instance of the proneness of exiles to optimism, for whereas the
Windsor list promises not more than 17,000 men for the Stuart cause,
when Fleury was apparently insisting on 20,000, this list gives numbers
more than double that figure (35,100 as against 17,000). But the fact
that the document does not recognise the Jacobite titles suggests that
it was used for Hanoverian purposes. Attention should also be paid to
the asterisks marked against certain names and numbers. They repres-
ent crosses in the original and denote doubt as to accuracy.

It is not very clear why, beyond the Roman Catholic sympathy of
the Fermors with the Stuart cause, these documents were copied out

¹ Gilbert Burnet (1643-1715), a Scottish Episcopalian, later Bishop of Salis-
bury, a strong Whig and supporter of comprehension with Protestant non-
conformists. He was chaplain to King William III when he came to England
in 1688, and is best remembered nowadays by his famous History of his own
time.

² White Kennet (1660-1728), at first a strong Tory and High Churchman,
later a Whig, and champion of Hoadly, and bishop of Peterborough in 1718,
known among the Tories as “Judas” and so represented in a picture of the
Last Supper in an altar piece at St. Mary’s, Whitechapel.
and preserved. They are written on loose sheets of paper, folded over once, but they are not always written in the same direction, i.e., some are written parallel to the fold, others at right angles to it, while that folio numbered "seconde" is written upside down from "premier." "3me" is written across the back of "premier" and "second," "4me" and "5me" occupy two sides of another sheet. Using the bottom of "3me" as the top of a sheet, there is written in the same hand, as follows:

"ff

My very best hand

Hon. Sir

In ye utmost hurry by Mr. Taylor I gave you an account of ye reason of my stay, wh was that Mrs. Sheldond's precarious condition she is in, makes Dr. Heberdine's presence necessary every night for ye selfsame reason, it is no manner of way fitting to Leave her destitute of another Dr.'

Whether this be a copying exercise or not (and the handwriting being that of a contemporary of Samuel Johnson's make this unlikely) the name of Heberden, who was at the height of his fame in the third quarter of the century suggests that these notes were made soon after the publication of the proceedings at Lovat's trial.

A. Notes on the follies of King James II and the causes of his defeat in 1690-2.

The Cardinals say'd of K. James he ought to be excom'ed as a man who was going to destroy that Little of Relig' w' th remained in England.

Peters¹ of a forward and impetuous disposition, aimed at a Card: Caps.†

A fleet of 14 or 15th men, sufficient to [have] Contained em equip' by ye P. of Orange—his own Paternal income scarce exceeded 500,000 £. 25th Lb.

James Conduct precipitate, ye secret of ye P. of Orange invasion! was kept by 200 persons.

Lewis offer'd Succour . . . refused . . . afterw'as accepted when too Late fleet sail'd . . . this allow'd to Pass-by Yarmouth. James army of 20th ought to have gone directly before time to recollect emselves. false freind's Churchill . . . ye most infamous a L. gnl. attacked and persecuted! abandon'd . . . by his freinds P. of Denmark and Daughter Ann now becomd his Enemies, Hated by his subjects fell into despair—nay so much as not strike one stroke ye Q. on her toilet found a purse w' 10th Louis d'or.²

¹ i.e., Father Petre, the notorious Jesuit confessor of King James II.
² on landing in France, as a gift from Louis XIV.
James sayd he was a Jesuit himselfe... tho' extraordinary yet a fact—when D. of York initiated into this Order by 4 Jesuits—such meanness of soul in a P*:* and ye Manner he Lost his Crown made him appear in so contemptible a Light than† the Bp.* of Rheims B* to Louvois 1—sayd there is a simpleton who for a Mass has Lost 2 3 Kingdom's. The Spanish Min* ordred Mass to be performed for ye success of ye P. of Oranges Voyage then at ye Hage... James went for Ireland. 13 capital ships of ye first rate fitted at Brest Conducted him. plenty of Arm's Ammunition, Ordinary and Rich furniture of all Sorts. As soon as Landed another fleet of 23 men of War w* a Considerable number of transports, commanded by Chateau Renaud—who meeting an English fleet forced them to sheer of and Landed in Safety. Soon after another Imbarkation at Brest, Toulon, Rochefort—Tourville w* 72 ships—fell in with a Dutch and English fleet of 60 Sail and 3 a desperate fight ensued, w* Lasted 10 hours. Tourville, 4 Chateau Renaud, 5, D'Etrée* Nemond 7 greatly distinguished 'em selves on this Occasion... ye English entirely defeated (at Brantam beech) 17 ships burnt stranded by 'em selves. either in ye Thames or Coast of Holland—not Cost ye French one ship.

James had 6000 french and 15000 Irish... at ye Boyne. here the french fought and ye Irish fled—James neither headed one nor ye Other. was amongst ye first who fled. 8 on some Certain occasion's a certain Tremor seizes ye Spirits—James returned—ye fleet brings back ye French who had fought to no purpose and many Irish familys.

1 The Archbishop of Rheims in 1689 was Charles Maurice Le Tellier (1671-1710) a noted Gallican.
2 thrown away written above.
3 Blake written over this word. Blake however was long since dead, and the English admiral was Arthur Herbert, who in 1689 had fought an indecisive action with the French in Bantry Bay and was for that created Earl of Torrington. "Brantam Beech" which follows may possibly be a confusion in some French source of Bantry Bay with Beachy Head. For an account of the battle of Beachy Head see W. Laird Clowes, The Royal Navy, a History, London, Vol. II, 1898 pp. 339-45, and Sir J. K. Laughton in D.N.B. s.v. Herbert, Arthur.
4 Tourville, Anne-Hilarion de Costentin, comte de (1642-1701), one of the greatest of French admirals.
5 Chateaurenault, François Louis Rousselet, comte et maréchal de, d. 1716 he commanded the van in the Dauphin Royal.
6 D'Estrées, Victor-Marie, maréchal duc (1660-1737) he commanded the rear in the Grand.
7 Nesmond; he was third in command of the French centre and flew his flag in the Souverain.
8 quitted ye field: written above. Cf. Burnet's description of his arrival in Dublin "under a very indecent consternation."
in Limerick above 12,000 soldiery Left. Lewis resolved to support em. 3000 french were embarkd—besides he sent all manner of supplies for inhabitants and soldiery. 40 transport ships w\^ men arms &c. requisites Engeneers, gunners, bombardeers, 200 masons, sadles bridles, housings for 20,000 horse, Canons w\^ Carriages, fusees, pistols, swords for 26\(^{th}\) provisions cloaths & 26,000 pair of shoes.

Limeric taken, expected to see Iam: Head 'em, but No. so Surrendered. 20,000 Irish Came over, soldiers or Refugees.

After this Lewis resolvd to make a descend on England w\^ 20,000. 300 Transports at Cherbourg and La Hogue. Tourville waited w\^ 40 men of war for D'Etree who was in his way from Toulon w\^ other 30 sail, not bad Conduct but ill fortune. 7\(^{th}\) Wind chopd & English w\^ 100 sail attackd turville, fought 10 hours. French sheerd of and sett fire to 14 great Ships. 2 of w\^ were of 102 guns.\(^1\)

B. Notes on the 'Fortyfive (an abstract from the official account of the Trial of Simon, Lord Lovat), pp. 21-82.

C. List and numbers of clans available on either side in the Rising.\(^2\)

Hamilton D. 1000 Gov.
Beucleug D. 1000 Gov.
Gordon D. Marq Huntley 3000 Sc\(^2\)
Argile D. 4000 Govn\(^1\)
Douglas D. 500 Gov\(^1\)
Athole D. & Tullibardine 6000 Sc\(^4\)
*Montrose D. 2000 Sc
Annandale Marq. 500 Gov.
*Errol Earl 500 Sc
E. Marishal 500 Sc
E. Sutherland 1000 Gov\(^1\)
E. Marr 1000 Sc\(^5\)
E. Rothes 500 Gov.
E. Mortoun 300 Gov.
E. Glencarn 300* Gov.

\(^1\) For an account of the battle of La Hogue see Mahan, ud sup.
\(^2\) In the following notes W. denotes the figures given in the Windsor papers mentioned above, p. 35. These mention the following chiefs not contained in this list: Sir James Campbell of Auchenbreck; Robertson of Struan; MacDougall of Lorne; Glengyle; amounting in all to 1,450. There are gross inaccuracies also: e.g., Lord Home was on the Government side.
\(^3\) 1200 : W.
\(^4\) 1500 : W.
\(^5\) 700 : W.
TUSMORE PAPERS. 30

E. Eglintoun 300* Gov.
E. Cassils 500 Gov.
E. Cathness 300 Sc
E. Murray 500* Sc
E. Nithsdale 300 Sc
E. Wintoun 300 Sc
E. Linlithgow 300 Sc
E. Hume 500 Sc
E. Perth 1500 Sc
E. Wigtoun 300 Sc
E. Strathmore 300 Sc
E. Lauderdale 300 Gov
E. Seaforth 3000 Sc
C. of Dumfries 400 Gov
E. Southesk 300 Sc
E. Weems 300 Gov
E. Airly 500 & Ogilvie Sc
E. Carnwath 300 Sc
E. Panmure 500 Sc
E. Kilmarnock 300 Gov. Sc
E. Dundonald 300 Gov
E. Broad Albine 2000 Sc
V. Stormount 300 Sc.
V. Kenmure 300 Sc
L. Forbes 500 Gov
L. Lovat 500 Sc
L. Ross 500 Gov
L. Noirm 1000 Sc

CLANS

Sr Donald Mac Donald 1000 Sc
Laird of Glengarry 500 Sc
Capn Clanranald 500 Sc
Laird of Keppoch 300 Sc
La. MacIntosh 1000 S
La. MacGregor 500 S
L. MacPherson 500 Sc
Sr Evan Cameron 1000 Sc
Sr Jn MacLean 1000 Sc

1 1200 : W.  2 2000 : W.  3 1000 : W.  4 600 : W. on Stuart side.
5 800 : W.
6 Presumably Sir Alexander of Sleat.
7 700 : W.  8 700 : W.  9 400 : W.
10 500 : W.  11 400 : W.  12 700 : W.  13 600 : W.
La.* Grant 1000 Sc
La. Appin 300 Sc¹
La. MacLeod 500 *G.*S.²
La. Mac.Kenning 200 Sc³
L. Glenco 100 Sc⁴
La. Glenmoriston 100 Sc
MacNeil of Barra 120⁵*
Chrisolme of Straglass 100 Sc⁶
N. & W. Islands. —— ⁷

XV.
Letter on a life of Cardinal Pole.

Thomas Phillips’ History of the Life of Reginald Pole, which was published in 1764 at Oxford, giving, as it did, a more favourable view of the Cardinal and the Roman Catholic claims on England than was usually prevalent here in the eighteenth century, was naturally hailed with delight by the Roman Catholics, who considered their position to have been triumphantly vindicated, and it is doubtless for this reason that a copy was sent to Lord and Lady Temple at Stowe. The mention in the last line of double taxation refers to the double burden placed by Sir Robert Walpole on land held by Roman Catholics after Atterbury’s plot in 1722, an injustice which was not removed until 1791, when with the passing of the Roman Catholic Relief Act of that year the imposition of the double tax was omitted from the annual grants of land tax (see below, pp. 71–7.) This letter and those succeeding dated prior to 1778 show that even among Whig families there were some pleasing exceptions to the general behaviour of the English towards their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects as described by Charles Butler in his Historical Memoirs of the English, Irish, and Scottish Catholics.

[Earland Countess Temple to Lady Browne and Messieurs Fermor.]

Lord and Lady Temple present their best compliments to Lady Brown⁸ and Messieurs Fermor⁹ with many thanks for the perusal of a Book¹⁰, which shews the motives of many persons concerned

¹ 400 : W. ² 700 : W. ³ 200 : W. ⁴ 150 : W. ⁵ 200 : W.
⁶ 200 : W. ⁷ 2000 : W.
⁸ For Lady Browne, see below, p. 50.
⁹ The Messrs. Fermor would be William and Henry, sons of Lady Browne, the former having inherited Tusmore on the death of his father in 1746, and neither he nor his brother was as yet married.
in the reformation and cannot gloss over, so as to conceal, the principles of others, who stood much in need of reformation. This very book has unfortunately confirm’d us all here in opinions it means to combat. You see Parts and Learning cannot open the Eyes of Hereticks, tho their Hearts are full of affectionate regard for the double taxed Professors of the old religion at Tusmore. Thursday morn.


XVI.

A saddlery account (1767-8).

This saddlery account is printed, partly because of the light it throws on prices in the early years of George III.’s reign, but also because it illustrates to a generation to which such a department is become almost completely unfamiliar, the amount of work provided by a stable of considerable extent.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>To a new strap to a Cruper</td>
<td></td>
<td>To a new Buckle piece for the Harness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To mending three Dutch Collars, two Girths</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and two new Buckles</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>To Drawing the stuffing of two saddles and stuffing with flocks</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To Lenthening a Trace with new Leather</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To three straps and three Buckles to the Chaise Cushen</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To mending the Chaise Apern &amp; a new Ring</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To mending the Chaise Boot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>To mending the Crown of a saddle &amp; mending the pannel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To new Bottoming two Girths</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>To mending a Portmanteau &amp; two new straps</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<td>To a new Thong and a Loop to a whip</td>
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£1 0
£9 3
£3 0
£8 0
£1 0
£2 6
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<td>To mending two saddles &amp; two new straps</td>
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<td>To a new strap to a Cruper</td>
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<td>To a new Buckle to a Bridle</td>
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<td>To two new seven Bard Curry Combs</td>
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<td>To a new Loop to a saddle &amp; a new Cruper</td>
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<td>To a new Pilleon Cruper</td>
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<td>To a new Welted saddle with Girths &amp; Stirrops</td>
<td>£ 1 1 6</td>
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p. 3, 1767  Brought over  £ 4 2 8

Apr. 15  To a new swan skin Saddle Cloth  £ 0 3 9
       | To a new sursingle                                                        | £ 0 1 6 |
|       | To a pair of new Stirrop Leathers                                         | £ 0 2 0 |
| 27    | To a new Portmateaut strap                                                | £ 0 1 3 |
| May 5 | To stuffing and mending two saddles                                       | £ 0 1 0 10|
|       | To mending two Bridles a Girth a new Ring & Buckle                        | £ 0 1 0 |
| 9     | To mending a Saddle & a new Iron Point                                    | £ 0 1 6 |
| 11    | To Eight pair of new Dogg Cuples                                         | £ 0 9 4 |
| 15    | To stuffing and mending a Saddle                                          | £ 0 1 0 |
| 18    | To four new Leather Curbs                                                 | £ 0 2 0 |
|       | To stuffing and mending two saddles                                       | £ 0 1 6 |

1 and a new Buckle struck through.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

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<td>To mending five Coach Bridles &amp; a new Billet strap</td>
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<td>To mending Dutch Collars six Bridles &amp; a new strap to a saddle</td>
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<td>To mending a foot Board and a new Buckle</td>
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<td>To a new strong Duble Girth</td>
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<td>To mending a Pilleon seate</td>
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<td>To mending a Saddle &amp; new Pannel &amp; a new strap</td>
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<td>square &amp; Buckle</td>
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<td>To mending two Girths &amp; two new Buckles</td>
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<td>To mending a Muzzel a Martingal two Girths &amp; two new buckles</td>
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<td>To new Bottoming a Girth &amp; a new strap to a Sursingle</td>
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<td>To four new Horse sheets</td>
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<td>To a new Horse Brush</td>
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<td>To a new Curry Comb and Brush</td>
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<td>p. 4, 1767</td>
<td>Bro't over</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>To a new mean Comb &amp; spunge</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>To mending five Dutch Collars a new Cheek &amp; a ring</td>
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<tr>
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<td>To mending five Coach Bridles seven Bilets &amp; four Buckles</td>
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<td>To mending two Bridles a Rowler &amp; a Girth</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>To stuffing &amp; Chambering and mending two saddles</td>
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</table>
To mending a Coach Bridle a Girth four new Buckles & a strap £ 0 8
To two new Leather shanks to a Dutch Collar 0 3 0
To stuffing and Chambering a saddle & two new straps 0 1 0
To mending three false Collars 0 1 2
To lengthening a Trace with new Leather 0 3 4
To a new Bellyband strap for the Harness 0 0 6
To mending two Dutch Collars a Buckle to a Girth & strap 0 0 10
To stuffing and Chambering a saddle 0 1 0
To two new Leather shanks to a Dutch Collar 0 1 6
To a new Headstall and Reain to a pair of Bits & front Lapt 0 2 3
To mending a Girth 0 0 2
To mending five Coach Traces with new Leather 0 7 6
To mending three Dutch collars with new Leather & a Buckle 0 1 4
To mending three Coach Bridles & two straps to a muzzel 0 1 7
To mending a Girth & two new Buckles 0 0 4
To ten pair of new Dogg Cuples 0 1 8
To four pair of Dogg cuple straps 0 3 4
To a new Buckle to the Coach Harness 0 0 2
To three new Dogg Cuple Straps 0 1 3
To a new Saddle Cloth 0 3 6
To a new Saddle Cloth with Stirrops & Girths 1 8 6
To a new Bottom to a Muzzel 0 1 0

£12 6 0

Augt 25, 1768. Recd the full contents of this Bill by me. Nath* Mallard.
Childswickham in Gloucestershire, near Broadway, was a manor belonging to Mr. Fermor where apparently like his ancestors (see above, p. 7) he held the advowson of the church (see also below, p. 93).

[Wm Perrin of Childswickham to Mr Fermor.]

Sir

I have sent you these to Bills one of £100 ye other £18-5s-0. I Cant send you the Ballance not yeat Ryland has paid But 10 pounds in part of his Rent But has promised to make up half Year in about 10 Days his behind after his Bills & Land Tax his paid about 270 pounds he has a good Crop of Corn this yeare so I hope if we take Care there Will be nothing Lost I think when you Right to me it will be proper to give him Warning to Leve at next Mich°° he Cant hurt ye Land now if he Dos not pay according to promise I will Show him your Letter & give him Notice to Leve we be forward in building a Bay to his house & I think we shall have Tennants Reddy for ye Estate I have Wrote to Mr Porter¹ for ye Rails as was to Come Down to mound² the Rudgway and send him ye prises of Coals.

From your Hum°° Serv°°

WM. PERRIN.

Childswickham,
7th June, 1769.

[Addressed:—] To Wm Fermor, Esq.,
South Street near Audley Chapel,
London.

[Re-addressed:—] Tusmore,
By ye Bicester Bag,
Oxon.

[Red seal]

[Postmarks:—] P 9 and 10

[Endorsed:—] 7 June, 1769, Perrin.

XVIII.

Length of life in the Isle of Thanet, 1760-69.

This curious schedule of the longevity of persons in the Isle of Thanet, supplied by the vicar of St. Peter's Broadstairs of that date, was, as I conjecture, supplied to one of the Fermors as a result of enquiry as to the healthiness of that bracing district. As might be expected,

¹ See below, p. 48.
² To enclose or bound with a fence (Obs. or dial.). See Oxford English Dictionary.
infantile mortality is high, but especially so in 1769. Barbara Fermor, one of William Fermor's daughters, who died aged 17 in 1787, was clearly delicate (see Mrs. Fitzherbert's letters below, p. 55) and it may be that the enquiry into the salubrity of Broadstairs was made at the time of her birth. It is impossible to say whether the figures are given in chronological order, nor is any indication given of the months in which the deaths occurred, though the probability is that the sequence is chronological.

A Schedule of the ages of persons buried in the Parish of St. Peter in Thanet for Ten years—in their successive order.

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TUSMORE PAPERS.

[Endorsed:—] Extract from the Parish Register of St Peter's in Thanet, Kent.

XIX.

Correspondence concerning the Leicestershire by-election of January, 1775.

The circumstances which led to this disputed election are set forth in the Memoirs of the late contested election for the County of Leicester, by a freeholder of Leicestershire, Leicester, 1775. On the dissolution of Parliament in the autumn of 1774, there were returned unopposed on 20 October, the Hon. Thomas Noel and Sir John Palmer (the latter being re-elected). But at the nomination, Mr. William Pochin of Barkby announced that he was not going on this occasion to oppose the election, but that he reserved the right to stand on any subsequent occasion. What this meant appeared when Lord Wentworth, to whom Mr. Noel was heir, died on the 31st of the same month, before ever Mr. Noel could take his seat. A new election to the one vacant seat was therefore announced by the High Sheriff, and there were nominated Mr. J. P. Hungerford of Dingley Hall, and Mr. Pochin, the latter under the influence, as was freely alleged, of Belvoir Castle. Mr. Hungerford stood for the "true, old, independent interest;" Mr. Pochin announced that he stood for the "true interest (whether old or new)," but the issue really was whether Belvoir Castle was to be censured or not for nominating a candidate. As for Lord North, America and any other national political questions, they never seem to be mentioned in the literature of the election. After a poll in January, 1775, Mr. Hungerford was elected by a majority of 120 where 5,314 votes were cast. At the next general election Mr. Hungerford was re-elected and Mr. Pochin took the place of Sir John Palmer who retired, from which it may be inferred that the Duke of Rutland had come to an agreement about the representation of the county. This, and the fact that there seems to have been no poll in Leicestershire until 1830, lend support to the opinion of Professor Laprade that before 1832 the counties were almost as unrepresentative (in the modern sense) as the boroughs. (W. T. Laprade, Parliamentary Papers of John Robinson, Royal Historical Society, 1922.)

The Edward Gore who writes from Kiddington is clearly the Colonel Gore who married, as second husband, Barbara, Lady Mostyn, daughter of Sir George Browne of Kiddington, by his first wife, Lady Barbara Lee, daughter of the first Earl of Lichfield. On 10 February, 1777, Colonel Gore "was admitted by the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas into one third of the Office of Custos Brevium, in Right of his Lady, the granddaughter and one of the coheirs of Charlotte, first Countess of Lichfield." (Oxford Journal, No. 1242, 15 February, 1777. p. 3, col. 2.) According to Charles Butler he wasted the Kiddington estate very much but not so much as to give Lady Mostyn any legal remedy (Charles Butler's Letter Books, Vol. I, B.M. Add. MS. 25127, fo. 50; to Mr. Rock, 16 March, 1809).
A. Edward Gore to Mr Porter.  

Sir

There is likely to be a very smart contested Election for the County of Leicester. The Candidates are Mr Hungerford & Mr Pochin. I am particularly requested by a Friend (who is a Catholic) to use my Interest with Mr Fermor that he will beg Mr Green of Normanton to vote for Mr Hungerford who is supported by the Gentlemen in the true Interest of their Country, and who is himself Independent in Fortune and Principles. As I do not know where to address Mr Fermor, shall be much obliged to you if you will communicate my request to him with best Compliments, and hope he will be so obliging to direct his Tenant to vote for Mr Hungerford. Mr Green I believe waits only for Mr Fermor's directions.

You will excuse the trouble I give you, and believe me to be

Yours Faithful Hble Servt,

ED. GORE.

Kiddington, Decem' the 16th 1774.

Whenever you write or see the Family please to present Lady Mostyn's and my Compliments.

Addressed:—] Mr Porter

Tusmore.

Red Seal with coat of arms.


B. The Honble Robert Shirley² to Mr Fermor.

Sir

I am so unfortunate as not to have the Honor of being known to you; whom I understand is so kind as to espouse my worthy friend Mr Hungerford with your Interest; in whose favour I was desir'd to apply to you in person; but was so unhappy as to find you was gone out of town. I therefore take the Liberty of troubling you with this and to acquaint you that I am next heir and next Bro to

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¹ From the mention of Mr. Porter in the letter about Childswickham above, it may be surmised that Mr. Porter is either an estate agent or a bailiff of the Fermors.

² Robert Shirley, b. 18 July, 1723, succeeded his brother in 1778 as sixth Earl Ferrers, and died 17 Apr., 1787. He is stated in the Complete Peerage (s.v. Ferrers) to have been a Whig, though ultimately a supporter of Pitt; but his lukewarmness had evidently already become perceptible, as he is here supporting the Tory candidate, if indeed it be legitimate to describe Mr. Hungerford by such a designation.
the present Earl Ferrers; and the occasion of my troubling you with this is to desire you’ll be so good as to write to your Tennant Mr Green of Normanton to give his Vote and Interest to Mr Hungerford; which will be esteem’d as a favour conferr’d on Sir

Your most obed. humb serv’t

ROB. SHIRLEY.

High Street Marybone
23 Decr 1774.
[Addressed:—] Wm Fermor Esq
at Tusmore,
Brackley Bag
Northamptonshire.

[Red seal]

C. Mr Fermor’s Reply.

Decem. 27, 1774.
Sr

I haue received the honor of your Letter of the 23d inst am very Sorry it is not in my Power to comply with y e contents by giving my interest in the Present contest for y e county of Leicester to Mr Hungerford. I have made a resolution not to interfere in any shape in the affair as I by no means wish to give offence to either Party, and make no doubt but a man of Mr Green’s character will give his vote for y e Person he thinks most worthy of it. On any other occasion I shall be happy to Prove to you how much I am Sir

Your very ob Hum. Serv’t

Wm FERMOR.

[Endorsed by William Fermor on p. 4:—] 23d Decem., 1774.
Honble Mr Shirley on Leicestershire election—my answer.

XX.

A letter of Horace Walpole.

This letter, with its reference to Lady Blandford, is clearly to be dated before Sept. 1779, the month of Lady Blandford’s death. It is difficult, however, to get further information which would lead to a more precise date. Miss Stapelton seems to have lived with or near Lady Blandford for some time, and though “Lady Williams’s son” seems a promising clue, I confess that I am at present defeated. Nor do Horace Walpole’s letters throw any light on the portraits, which at first sight seemed to give an opening for enquiry.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

There are several references to Walpole's friendship for Lady Browne in his letters: see especially vols. ix., pp. 53, 56, and xi., p. 220, and vol. xii., p. 356, where he calls her "his nominal wife." She was the widow of Sir George Browne of Kiddington and step-mother to Lady Mostyn, second wife of Colonel Gore (above). Her husband is often considered to be the "Sir Plume" "with earnest eyes and round unthinking face" who makes a foolish speech in the *Rape of the Lock*. The theory has the support of G.E.C. in the *Complete Baronetage*, Vol. III., p. 22, nb., but as he was only about sixteen at the time of the rape of the lock, and did not succeed to the title till 1751, this is to confuse him with Sir George Browne, of Caversham, a cousin of Arabella, who succeeded to his title in or about 1692 and died in 1730. (G.E.C., *Complete Baronetage*, Vo. IV., p. 14.)

[The Honble Horace Walpole to Lady Browne.] [holog.]

Mr. Walpole is again and always excessively obliged to Lady Browne; gives her a thousand thanks for the partridges, and for the sight of the pictures, which are fine; but which he thinks verily were brought to him last winter, and called the K. and Q. of Bohemia, which he doubted; but did not buy, because his cabinets will hold no more. He is much obliged to Mrs Stapleton, 1 and begs Lady Browne will make his compliments to her and Lady Blandford on Lady Williams's Son.

Mr W. has been very much cast back this week: yesterday he thought himself extremely mended, but is less well today, and in short mends as slowly, or rather as little as possible. If there should be any considerable amendment by Lady Browne's return next week, he will intreat the honour and pleasure of seeing Her.

[Addressed:—] To Lady Browne.
[Red seal of a female head]

XXI.

An appeal for help.

The writer of this letter appears to have run away and joined the Navy. He was transferred with a large number of men from the *Resolution* to the *Duke* (as Ab.) on 14 June, 1779, as appears from the muster roll of the *Duke* for May-June of that year (*P.R.O., Adm. 36, No. 8323*).

[John Baptist Lacombe to William Fermor.]

Portsmouth Arbour, February 13, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I hope that my Bold application Will give no offence as I am in

1 Commonly thus called by Horace Walpole, but she died unmarried in 1815. She was the daughter of James Russell Stapleton of Bodrhyddan, Denbighshire.
Duty bound to Crave for Pardon and mostly from you and my M* for my bad behaviour in parting from your service in such a Dishonnest Way, and at the same time begging Leave to make you known The misery of Life were I have been in since a board a man of war were I was first engaged on Board his M. Ship Resolution1 as Lincaster2 of the ship and from their on Board the Duke of Cumberland3 now in Dock to have a Copper bottom I was in two Campaigns already To my great mortification as Their is no opportunity here to serve God for our sort. Now [dear] sir the reason of my application is that my father is Deceased Lately and Left me a Trifle of 40 Pound par annum and besides the money of 18 months wages and 30 pounds sterling which I stand to receive from The ship, should take it as a favour and Pray for ever for the good and benefit of your familie if you would Get my Discharge by the Imperial ambassadeur as I am a subject from the queen of hongary.4 I know very well that it lies in your power I hope you will have Compassion on me althoug I know very well I don't Deserve your attention Nevertheless I am in hopes of your assistance for to save my soul and to Let me Justifie my Debts in London as soon as I am at Liberty and afterwarts to retire to my Native Place/and The rest of my days to spent in a Convent as I [p. 2] have had Novisship Enoug aboard of a man of war for two years. I rather would spend the days of my Life in a Desert upon the roots of the Earth as to be one year in a man of war. Therefore Dear Sir I Beg from you and from my M* for gods sake for your assistance at the ambassadeurs and at the same time Beg Pardon again vpon my knees for former offences which I will repay as soon as I shall be able to Come up to London. I wrote to the Imperial Ambassadeur some time a Go but find unless a Nobleman of rank Can Take

1 3rd rate, 74 guns. Her log is in P.R.O., Adm. 51/778, from which it appears that she was put into commission in 1773 and then in the autumn of 1777 when she made a cruise in the Channel and the Bay for two months.

2 i.e., linguist or interpreter.

3 2nd rate, 90 guns. Her name was Duke, as below. She was a new ship in 1778, and joined Keppel on 9 July and took part in his action off Ushant on 27 July. Her commanding officer, being intoxicated during the action, was court martialed and dismissed his ship. (The Private Papers of John Earl of Sandwich, ed. G. R. Barnes and J. H. Owen (Navy Records Society). Vol. II, 1933, pp. 118n and 161.)

4 The Netherlands being then under Austrian rule, the Imperial Ambassador would be charged with the affairs of the Empress-Queen, Maria Theresa, sovereign of what is now Belgium. The Ambassador was Count Ludwig Belgiojoso.
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my Part I can not obtain it in I Beg to Conclude with all submission and Expectation of your good Pleasure and Charity.

Your most obedient Humble servant,

JOHN BAPTIST LACOMBE.

On board his majestys ship Duke at Spithead now in The Arbour

I hop you will favour your humble servant with a few Linnes.

[Addressed:—] Wm Fermor Esqr.

South Street Grovenor Square, London.

[Re-addressed:—] Tusmore by Brackly, Northamptonshire.

[Postmark:—] 17FE.

[Endorsed:—] John Lacombe.

XXII.

Letters from Mr. and Mrs. Fitzherbert.

Despite Blomfield’s words about these letters, which he did not print, the collection is not without interest. There is but one (B) from Mr. Fitzherbert; the others are all from the lady who is known to history by his name. Henry Thomas Fitzherbert of Swynnerton in Staffordshire married in 1778 as her second husband, Maria, widow of Edward Weld of Lulworth, who died in 1775, the same year as his marriage, and daughter of Walter Smythe of Brambridge, Hampshire, by his wife Mary Errington, whose sister, Frances, married William Fermor. Mrs. Fitzherbert was therefore niece to Mrs. Fermor, and hence the intimacy of the letters.

The letters reveal that the Fermors were in Mrs. Fitzherbert’s secret. (A) contains information about her brother Henry, “of whom nothing is known”; (C) is a letter written after Mr. Fitzherbert’s death at Nice in 1781. The unsigned and undated letter (D), written, as the postmark shows, from Brighton, and posted on 5 August, contains a description how she and her “poor little man,” who can be no other than the Prince of Wales, settled their affairs “in the dark.” What strengthens the opinion that the letter refers to the Prince is its being unsigned; Mrs. Fitzherbert usually subscribed with at least her initials. Her words suggest that she thought she had given the Prince a final rebuff; but the next letter (E), also from Brighton in August two years later, contains a clear allusion to her marriage in the words: “You know my circumstances and how I am tied by the leg.”

[A. Mrs Fitzherbert to Mrs Fermor.]

My Dear Mrs Fermor [1 April, 1780.]

I have been for this some time past in hourly expectation of your
arrival in Town as y' Ser⁴ said she expected you every minuet
you are very cruel to keep us so long in Suspence If you dont come
very very soon I shall quite despair I darsay it is those little Idle
good for nothing Monkis that keep you where you are so long in
short I shall be quite miserable if I don't see you as I have set my
heart upon having many pleasant parties with you—it is much the
pleasantest to be in Town at this time of the year Ranelagh was
open on Monday tell M' F. I have not been and that I wait for him
to Be my Flirt—M'r and M's Brockholes¹ are to be in Town in a
few day's M's Gage² and Bab³ where likewise to have been/here
this week but M's Gage has just miscarried wch prevents her [p. 2]
I cannot say I am very unhappy at this not coming as I should have
been much afraid the Town would hardly have been large enough
to have held them all at the same time My Friend Bazil⁴ is to be
here tomorrow dont you envy my happiness he is rather more If
possible attach'd to me than ever—Poor Lady Brown is so happy
wth M'r Fermor's goodness to her about her House that I realy
think it has quite cur'd her she talks of nothing else and I have
heard of it from ev'ry Creature wth great encomiums of his good-
ness and generosity this displeases me very much for I hate to have
those I love spoke well off.

My B'r Harry⁴ poor fellow set of on Saturday I imagine you have
heard he is gone into the emperors service at present is only Cadet

¹ Joseph Brockholes (d. 1782), of Claughton Hall, near Garstang, and his
wife Constantia, daughter of Basil Fitzherbert. He died without issue, and
bequeathed the land to his brother-in-law, William Fitzherbert (of Swinnerton)
who assumed the name of Fitzherbert-Brockholes, whence is descended the
present owner, Major J. W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes. (Victoria History of
Lancaster, Vol. VII., pp. 327-8.)

² Presumably Charlotte, daughter of Thomas Fitzherbert of Swinnerton,
by Mary Theresa, daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bart. She married
in 1779 Thomas Gage, later sixth baronet, of Hengrave, and died in 1790

³ This can scarcely be Barbara, the daughter of Mr. Fermor; it is possibly
a daughter of the Gages.

⁴ May be Basil Fitzherbert, brother-in-law to Mrs. Fitzherbert. (See
below, p. 80.)

⁵ According to W. H. Wilkins (Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV., Longmans,
1905, Vol. I., p. 8), "nothing is known" of Henry Smythe, who is not men-
tioned in the Brambridge Registers printed by the Catholic Record Society
(Vol. XVIII.). There was another brother, Charles, who entered the Swedish
Service (J. C. Hodgson, History of Northumberland, Vol. IV., p. 194). He may
be the Charles Smythe who, with Deliverance Dacre, appears as an original
executor of the will of the last William Fermor, but by codicil the executorship
was revoked in favour of George Silvertop of Minsteracres and Brook Rich-
mond of Ravensworth Castle. Either Henry or Charles must have been the
father of Henry Smythe, whom Mrs. Fitzherbert introduced into society
towards the end of her life.
but Mr Langley who is Col has promis'd to take great care of him and to do everything in his power to serve him wth is a great Comfort he joins him at Bruxelles and then goes imediately to Vienna. I cannot say but I am glad he is gone as I was fearfull staying long at Home and having/nothing to do might [p. 3] spoil him and make him like an acquaintance of ours.

My G. M. has just been here and desires me to say ev'ery thing that is kind to you all she is going out of Town to dine wth Mrs Coke who at last has taken Lady Blandford's House at Sheen gives 320p a year pretty tolerable price for such a place Was not you vastly shock'd to hear of poor Mrs Starkie's death—I think I shall tier you to death wth reading all my nonsense therefore must Intreat you and my Dr Mr F. to accept of my sincerest regard and attachment wth wch I must beg to remain.

Dr Mrs Fermor
Yrs ever truly and affectionately
M. FITZHERBERT.

Mr Fitzherbert begs
all that is kind
I fancy there must have been some Mistake about the note you sent me as Childs shop [had] refus'd payment wth has distress'd Mr Fitz having paid the note away and it is return'd upon his Hands.

[Addressed:—] Mrs Fermor,
Tusmore near Brackley,
Northamptonshire.

[Post mark:—] 1
[Red seal, all gone]

[B. Mr Fitzherbert to Mrs Fermor.]

Dr Mrs Fermor
I am desir'd by Mr Smythe to write you a few lines, to return

1 This is her Smythe grandmother, for her Errington grandmother would surely not send so formal a message to her own daughter. See the following letter.
2 Cf. the letter from E. Coke below, in which she says, in 1784, that she has not yet taken possession of her villa. This may be the house alluded to here.
3 Maria Catharina, d. of Peter S.C. de Jong, Burgomaster of Utrecht, who married William Godolphin, Marquess of Blandford, in 1729 (he died 1731). She subsequently married Sir William Wyndham, 3rd bart. who died in 1740, and died at Sheen 7 Sept., 1779, aged 96, according to the Gentleman's Magazine; 84, according to Horace Walpole (Letters, ed. Helen Toynbee, Vol. XI., p. 19).
4 There were old recusant families of this name in Lancashire and in Cheshire.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

you many thanks for your kind letter, also for your House. Mr Smythe talks of going to Bath in a few days, all things Consider’d I think he is very well. He was to have gone with Clifford but he sett off this morning by Himself so suppose the wedding will now be soon.

My wife continues thank God as well as can be expected she has fretted herself very much about poor little Bab, and I do assure you it has been a very trying scene for me, such a melancholy time altogether I never beheld, both during her Illness and after for some days when they all met together. Am sorry to hear you have been so ill yourself and little family hope sincerely all are now well and believe me it will give no body more real pleasure to heare it then your ever sincere and well wisher

THO* FITZHERBERT.

My wife Mr and Mrs Smythe and I desire all that is kind to you and Mr Fermor, am affraid we stand no chance of seeing you in town, your stables are warm for your reception. am greatly oblig’d to you for y* use of ‘em.

April 20 [1780?].

Mrs Smythe will write soon but she is so low that she had not spirits to write this post.

[Red seal broken]

[Addressed:—] Mrs Fermor

Tusmore
Near Brackley
Northamptonshire.

[C. Mrs Fitzherbert to Mr and Mrs Fermor.]

Paris June yt 17th 1781.

My Dr Mr and Mrs Fermors most kind letters gave me true pleasure it is impossible for me to express how much I feel myself obliged to you both for your kind Concern for me it gives me some Comfort to find I have a few Friends left for such real friends as you have ever been to me are rare indeed to be found and at this Crisis the few friends I have are the only comfort I have left in life and they are more necessary to me at this moment than I can describe the thoughts of which help me to support the many severe trials wth which I am overpowerd and without whome I should never be able to support myself but sink entirely under the heavy load of affliction that oppress† me, I have been very ill of a fever but it has now left me and I am rather better I own honestly to you If I had been worse I should have been happier as I might then
have had some prospect of putting an End to a Miserable existence but I will not dwell any more upon this Melancholty Subject as I know you will feel my loss as well as myself.

I hope my Dr M's Fermor will excuse my adding more at [p. 2 present as I have just been writing a long letter to my mother and am a good deal fatigued my kindest love to M. F. do let me hear from you often as I shall certainly make some stay here I cannot get the better of myself to return to England.

I am, my dearest M's F.
Yrs faithfully and affectionately
M. FITZHERBERT.

[Addressed:—] M's Fermor,
South Street,
Park Lane,
London.

[Postmarks:—] PAYE PARIS [in red] 14

Angleterre
post paid
Black seal of a coat of arms
[D. M's Fitzherbert to M's Fermor] [holograph]
My Dr M's Fermor [5 August, 1784] 1

Every Post day I have been expecting a line from you, you promis'd to write to me, and I take it exceedingly ill of you forgetting me so soon. What can you be about that you could not find one Quater of an hour to bestow upon me, it is not very flattering I must allow. I cannot help adding you cannot employ an Idle moment in a way that will be more thankfully acknowledg'd, to have the satisfaction of hearing that you and yours are well, will always give me the greatest satisfaction, and if you have not quite

1 Although no date except the day of the month appears on this letter, it is not difficult to fix the year in which it was written. The possible years are 1783, 1784, 1785; 1786 and subsequent years are barred by the marriage of the Prince to Mrs. Fitzherbert on 15 December, 1785. August, 1783, is really out of the question, because Mrs. Fitzherbert was not in England during that month. The question therefore lies between 1783 and 1784. According to one tradition the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert met in the spring of 1783 on the banks of the Thames at Richmond; according to another it was early in 1784 that they met, in Lady Sefton's box at the Opera. What balances almost decisively in favour of this letter having been written in 1784 is not only the " tradition that the Prince followed her to Brighton during his ardent courtship in the summer of 1784 " (Wilkins, ut sup., Vol. I., p. 169), but the fact that in 1783 there was apparently no race meeting at Brighton, and Lewes races that year were at the end of July, whereas in 1784 there was a race meeting on 3 August at " Brighthelmstone. " (Lewes Races were two days later.) See on this Bali'y's Racing Register, London, 1845, Vol I., p. 567. This fits in well with the opening sentence of the second paragraph of the letter.
forgot that there is such a being existing, perhaps I may flatter myself w'n you know how much pleasure it will give me you will not refuse me the pleasure of Hearing from you.

/I have been here three weeks these last four days this place [p. 2 has been crowded being the Races, but chiefly consisted of Men, there are very few people staying here that I am acquainted w'th a great Mixture of Company w'th is always the case in these sort of places. I live very quiet and very reliev'd I am now laying in a stock of Health for the next campagne I get up (wonderfull to tell) at eight oclock every morning and Bath every day in the sea dine at half past four and go to bed regularly at Eleven I am certain this style of life will prolong my life at least ten years.

I am sure you will be glad to hear that my poor little Man and I settled our affairs in the DARK perfectly to my satisfaction dark I took care it should be and I believe he will remember it for some time for in going out of the Room he had like to have put an end of himself by tumbling over one of the Chairs, and altho I was not dis'pos'd to laugh y' verses and nonsense/came immeadiatly [p. 3 to my assistance and I thought I would have expir'd upon the Spot I was not able to Speak for Laughing I think this history will entertain M'nr Fermor I am not quite clear wether she wont be angry at me for behaving so ill—pray give me↑ kind love to her and to all y'r Generous [?] Circle—I often wish to give a peep at you and were I quite at liberty I should certainly do it w'th the greatest pleasure I have wrote so many letters by this post that I can scarce see a stroke I make, excuse this horrid scrall, and pray burn my letter otherwise the History of my little Man and me may perhaps become quite scandalous and those that only know that we have met and that in the Dark I must own appearances would be much against me pray take care of my Reputation and indulge me w'th either lighting y' fire or to Occupy a place where I once found Candide tho' I sh'd wish to be dispatch'd as soon as possible perhaps you would be good natur'd enough to make a pilgramge↑ on purpose to that shrine/I shall feel extremely grateful to you if you do and [p. 4 I hope you will not feel the worse for it. Adieu bon Soir ever y'n most affectionately

Direct for me Brighton Sussex.
[Addressed:——] William Fermor Esq'
Tusmor
Brackley
Northamptonshire.

[Seal, red wax with a flower. Postmark:——]
BRIGHTHELMSTON, 5 AU
[E. Mrs. Fitzherbert to Mr. Fermor: prob. 1786]

Dont Judge of my attachment to you my Dear Mr. Fermor by
my writing that would be doing me the greatest Injustice? Indeed
it would for there are very few people I love more sincerely than I
do you but you know of old what a terrible scribe I am and how
much I detest the very Idea of taking up my Pen indeed I grow
worse and worse every day and really Believe in a short time I shall
not be able to write at all. Since I came down here I have not
wrote above five letters and those to my Mother an ATTENTION
I should never have been forgiven if omitted.

Bell Pigot is still wth me and I am very happy in having her she
and I frequently talk of you and are for ever forming plans to come
and surprise you in your retreat. I shall not say anything [p. 2
of the numberless projects we have form'd But be assur'd If we can
possibly accomplish our wishes we certainly mean to pay you a
visit but you know my Circumstances and how I am tied by the
Leg. I was delighted to hear so good an account of Dr little
Hariotte and James from Charles who has just left them and who
told me he had wrote Fanny a whole Account of them. The
Petres's have been here on a visit to me for a Couple of day's her
Ladyship has just miscarried but is got quite well again. Miss
Petre is looking like a Corpse and I think in a very bad way. I
am going up to Town the day after tomorrow to bid adieu to my
House in Park St w I own I feel sorry to quit. I hope to be able
to get into my new House w I leave this place w will be the end

1 Belle Pigott, according to Wilkins (Mrs. Fitzherbert, Vol. I., p. 229), was
an elderly lady who acted as "lady-in-waiting" at the house in Pall Mall
in the years 1788 and 1789. She was probably a member of the family of
Pigotts from near Isleworth, of whom Nathaniel Pigott, the astronomer,
was one. (See Dict. Nat. Bio.)

2 These would be the second son and third daughter of William Fermor.
p. 206); Henrietta was professed a canoness of the Holy Sepulchre at Liège
3 Frances, fourth daughter of William Fermor.
4 i.e., Lord and Lady Petre.
5 Anne Catherine Petre, of whose looks there are unflattering remarks in the
Ferningham Letters (ed. Egerton Castle, Bentley, 1896, Vol. I., pp. 25 and 49)
died, according to that authority (p. 111) in 1798, after becoming engaged
"to a M. Onslow of Hunts," but she apparently never married.
6 After her marriage to the Prince of Wales, Mrs. Fitzherbert moved to
Pall Mall, in order to be near Carlton House.
of next month H Errington and my Lady come to me next [p. 3] week. I wish you wd put yourself into yr Buggy and come and give them the Meeting I will not make you any pretty Speaches about it but only say such an event wd give me the utmost satisfaction and pleasure I assure you I am very sincere and you ought to know me and my sentiments for you well enough not to doubt a moment of the truth. Pray say a thousand kind things to Dear Fanny and all yr D's little ones and Believe me my Ds Mr. Fermor Yr very affectionate and much obliged M FITZ

Bell is standing by me and desires her kind Love to you.

[F. Mrs. Fitzherbert to Mr. Fermor: June 25 or 26, 1787].

I do indeed my dear Mr. Fermor most sincerely partake of your sufferings wd I know at this moment must be most acute Believe me no one can feel more for another than I do for you for the loss we have all sustain'd. If the first of all characters and the best and most religious of all human beings can secure happiness in another world there is no one has so just a Claim to it as our much lov'd Friend, so far ought and must be a great Comfort to you But I know from fatal experience that Grief such as yours must have time to conquer it, I call'd yesterday merely to offer my services if I could be of any use either to you or yr dear Children and be assur'd My Ds Mr. Fermor if at any time I can ever in any shape whatever be of the smallest use either to you or yours you will ever find me most ready to comply with your most distant wishes.

I do not ask to see you for fear it might distress you but [p. 2] if you wish it pray send me word and I[f] you do not don't think I shall take it ill for be assur'd I shall not. All I have to implore of you is to be persuaded that no one person living can be more interested in every thing that regards you than I am or more sincerely and truly attach'd to you this I hope you do not doubt you wd do me a

1 Henry Errington married, on 4 August, 1769, married Lady Delves Broughton, who is the "my lady" mentioned with him. (Cath. Rec. Soc., Vol. XIX. Misc., xi, p. 374a.) He proved Mr. Fitzherbert's will (Wilkins, Mrs. Fitzherbert, Vol. I., p. 21) and was present at the marriage of his widow with the Prince of Wales (ibid., p. 97). She apparently retained the title; see the letter of the Bishop of Gloucester to Mr. Fermor, below, p. 93.

2 The earliest reference to this word in the Oxford Dictionary is 1773.

3 Mrs. Fermor died at Brompton on 24 June, 1787 (Gentleman's Magazine, 1787, Vol. I., p. 550). As Mrs. Fitzherbert called "yesterday to offer her services" it may be presumed that at least one day has elapsed between Mr. Fermor's death and the writing of the letter.
great Injustice if you did being upon all occasions most faithfully and affectionately

            Ever yours

            [Addressed:—] William Fermor, Esq.
            [clearly sent by hand: Black seal with monogram MF].

XXIII.

*Holograph Note from Lord Shelburne, First Lord of the Treasury, to Mr. Fermor.*

I am unable to make any guess as to the circumstances that provoked this letter.

Lord Shelburne presents his Compliments to Mr. Fermor, and sends him the enclosed Answer just received from Sir Geo: Yonge to his Recommendation:—wishes it could have been attended with better Success.

Shelburne House,
Friday, 14 March, [1783]
[Endorsed:—] Earl of Shelburne to Mr. Fermor on Sir George Young's answer.
[by hand]

XXIV.

*A belated "Collins."*

I am not sure of the sex of the writer of this letter. Its general style and chaff suggest that it is a lady. If that is the case, as I rather incline to think, it is tempting to identify her with Mrs. Elizabeth Coke, who is mentioned by Horace Walpole (Letters, Vol. X., p. 431) and is described by Mrs. Fitzherbert (above, p. 54) as the occupant of Lady Blandford's House.

E. Coke to Mrs. Fermor.

Hanover Square
August ye 7th 1784.

My dear Madam

I was much flattered by your very kind and friendly Letter that I received yesterday; but at the same time quite ashamed to receive it when I reflected that I had not wrote to you to thank you and my good Friend Mr. Fermor for all the kind attention I received from you both, when I had the Honor of being at Tusmore: tho:

1 Secretary at War (see D.N.B.).
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my Pen had not acknowledged my Sentiments upon the occasion yet permit me to assure you that I am not the less sensible of all your Civilities and was truly sorry to leave you: I can with Truth say that I never passed any time more pleasantly. I rejoice that you got over the fatigue of the Races\(^1\) so well. You don't tell me whether the New Coat and the Foxes Buttons were admired, but that I suppose you thought unnecessary as it was impossible they could fail of being so. did my Friend the Steward\(^2\) acquit Himself to the Satisfaction of all the Belles that he took out to Dance [p. 2 Minuets: I have had the pleasure of seeing Mrs Molyneux\(^3\) several times. I dined with her last Monday and was with her again upon Thursday she sets out next Monday for Mr Harry Erringtons\(^4\) this I do not like as I shall lose her for ten days or a Fortnight. She is in good Health and Spirits I told her the Message you sent by me about her making you a visit. I am to meet her on Sunday at Dinner at Mr Taylors where we are asked to meet to partake of a Haunch of Venison. I think I have been very generous in delivering your message as I do not like to be instrumental to her leaving my Neighbourhood. I have not yet taken Possession of my Villa. shall send some of my Servants next week to get things in Order for my reception. pray tell Mr Fermor I hope he will not forget that he has promised me a visit. he shall be sure of a well Aired Bed and a most hearty welcome: and doubly glad shall I be to see Him. if he brings you with him: I hope/Miss Fermors [p. 3 and the young Gentlemen are well and that Miss Bab. has had no return of her Fever. how does my Friend Miss Harriott and her Menagerie go on: and has any Young Chickens peeped their Bills out of the Eggs at Supper; but those are things I suppose she does not think much about. as Mr Sheldon is uppermost in her thoughts. in that Secret she knows I am: it is now high time to tell you the reason I did not write to you immediately upon my arrival in Town.

\(^1\) Oxford races, which took place on 26 and 27 July on Portmeadow. (Oxford Journal, 31 July, 1784, No. 1631, p. 3, col. 2). Mr. Fermor was one of the Stewards, and his horse, Arthur (by Herod, dam by Chrysolite, five years old), was second in the race for the Gold Cup. "The Company was both brilliant and numerous; the Balls, Musick Room, and Publick Breakfasts exceedingly well attended; and though the Weather proved rather unfavourable, an universal Harmony appeared in every Countenance."

\(^2\) Mr. Fermor.

\(^3\) Mrs. Molyneux was the daughter of James Levery, and married (1) Joseph Griffin, (2) John Errington, (3) Hon. Thomas Molyneux. She was by her second marriage the mother of Mrs. William Fermor and of Mrs. Smythe, and so grandmother of Mrs. Fitzherbert. She was also the mother of the first Earl of Sefton.

\(^4\) Henry Errington (see p. 59).
which was, fearing that you would feel fatigued after the Races and I
was not willing upon that Account to give you the trouble of writing
to me which I knew your politeness would make you do: and I
knew I could have the Satisfaction of hearing how you all did from
my Friend Mrs Molyneux. I shall take the Liberty of enclosing this
in a Frank directed to Mr Fermor, not having one directed for you.
I begged it of Mrs Stanton who you know Corresponds with Him.
but this I will tell you for your Comfort, that he is not her only
Flirt: pray with my kind Compliments to Miss Fermor tell her [p. 4
I am obliged to her for sending my Letter and that I will repay her
the Postage for it the first time I have the pleasure of seeing Her.
I had a tolerable Journey to Town. slept at Stony Stratford the
first night. and think that way to Town pleasant then the Aylesbury
Road. after I got to S. Stratford found the Roads better then I
could have expected after so much Rain as had fell; my kind
Regards attend Yourself, Mr Fermor and Family: the Pastry Cook
at Richmond impatiently longs to see my Dear little Rover. I
beg my compliments to Mr and Mrs Harry Fermor [1 Miss Willes
Mr Allen [2 and Mr Alt. [3 I am sure by this time you must wish to
be released from my Nonsense and which you shall be after begging
leave to Subscribe myself My Dear Madam.
Yours very obliged
and affectionate Friend
and obed Servant
E. COKE.
Mrs Stanton hopes you have received a Letter from her lately.

XXV.
The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough to Mr. and Mrs. Fermor.

The interest of this letter lies not in the persons, but in the conditions
of travel which it reveals. Tusmore cannot be much more than fifteen
miles from Blenheim, yet the distance is said to be too great for a visit
in the winter. A generation accustomed to motors, tarred macadam
roads, and an effective police force can have little idea of the difficulties

1 Mr. Henry Fermor was the younger brother of William; he married
Frances, eldest d. of John Willes of Astrop, Northants, son of Sir John Willes
(1685-1761), chief justice of the court of common pleas (see Dict. Nat. Biog.).
Miss Willes, whose name follows, is presumably Mrs. Henry Fermor’s sister.
2 There was a William Allen who was gamekeeper at Tusmore (Oxford
Journal, No. 1703, 17 Dec., 1785, p. 1, col. 2), but this can scarcely be the
person. Fusey is too far off, or one might think it to be some relation of Miss
Allen of Pusey.
3 ‘Mr. Alt.’ may be a contraction. In any case, I am unable even to hazard
a guess who is indicated.
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of movement in the days before Telford and Macadam, and of the dangers from highwaymen and footpads after nightfall. We are reminded of the calculations in Miss Austen's novels that it would be possible to go out to dine as "it was moonlight."

The Duke and Duchess of Marlborough\(^1\) present their Comps to Mr. and Mrs. Fermor, and are very sorry they have been hitherto prevented waiting upon them. The lateness of the Season, and the distance between Tusmore and Blenheim, obliges them to put off doing themselves the pleasure of waiting upon Mr. and Mrs. Fermor till next summer, which they shall then hope to do during the long days. They hope to hear now that the family at Tusmore are all well.

Blenheim, Oct'y 21st 1784.

XXVI.

Papers relating to Roman Catholic relief, 1785-1791.

Although an immense amount of correspondence must have passed through Mr. Fermor's hands as a member of the Catholic Committee, what is here printed is all that survived at Tusmore in 1887.

Following upon the slight relief given to Romanists by the Act of 1778, the Lord George Gordon riots threw London into confusion in 1780. Although a "Catholic Committee" had been formed about the time of the passing of the act, it would appear that it had been allowed to lapse, and that nothing was done to advance the cause of Catholic relief by organised action until 1782, when it could venture to meet under less fear of the Protestant Association than before. In that year therefore some thirty Roman Catholic landowners met in Gray's Inn on 3 June and after thanking the late committee elected a new one of five (Lord Stourton, Lord Petre, Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Throckmorton and Mr. Hornyold) which was to be afforded later by five others, two from the North, one from each of the other three districts. For the Midland district Mr. Fermor was elected, and at a general meeting of the Catholics held on 1 May, 1783, at the seemingly inappropriate trysting place of the Freemasons' Arms in Great Queen Street, he was declared representative and entered on his duties on the committee. From the very first, the Vicars Apostolic, as though moved by petty jealousy and to illustrate the truth of the dictum *Episcopi in Anglia semper pauid*, frowned upon the Committee as trenching upon their domain, and alleged fears that such activity would bring about a repetition of the Gordon riots and the withdrawal of such relief as had been given by the act of 1778. This rift led to one of those storms of internal dissension that have been a sinister feature of the Roman Catholic body since the days of Queen Elizabeth. By its opponents, and especially by John

\(^1\) George, fourth Duke (1738/9-1817) and Lady Caroline, daughter of the 4th Duke of Bedford (1742/3-1811).
Milner, the antiquary, whose behaviour passed all bounds of truth and decency and was very scandalous in a bishop, the Committee was exposed to every accusation from unwisdom to heterodoxy, nor can it be said that its conduct was free from errors. They should never have attempted to replace the oath contained in the act of 1778 by a new draft, which was bound to be unacceptable to many. For deliverance from this the Roman Catholics are indebted to the Bishop of St. David's (Horsley) who spoke against it in the Lords, saying that there were things in the oath he could not swear to himself. They should never have inserted in the Oath and in their Protestation, which was designed to show how politically harmless the Romanists were, a repudiation of Papal Infallibility—an unduly controversial subject—and they showed a singular lack of humour in proposing that Roman Catholics who took the oath of allegiance should be legally denominated "Protesting Catholic Dissenters"—the closest approximation to designating Roman Catholics as Protestants that I know. But in spite of opposition they went on, and their efforts were rewarded in the Catholic Relief Act of 1791, while their persistence and management afford one more illustration of the truth that the laymen know the temper of their countrymen far better than the clergy, and, a fortiori, than the Roman Curia. (See the Minute Book of the Catholic Committee, B. M. Add. MS. 7961; Charles Butler, Historical Memoirs of the English Catholics, Vol. II. pp. 102-42 and Vol. IV. p. 407; Bernard Ward, The Dawn of Catholic Revival in England (1781-1803), Vol. I., capp. v.-viii.; and H. H. Jebb, A great bishop of a hundred years ago, London, 1909, pp. 91-5.)

A. Printed extract from the Morning Herald giving a summary of Mr. Fox's speech commenting on that of Mr Dundas relative to the Scotch forfeited estates and alluding to the hard case of the Earl of Newburgh, with a summary of Mr. Pitt's reply, Monday, 2 August, 1784. Printed twice on one sheet, pp. 1 and 3. On p. 4 address to:—William Fermor Esq Tummore, by Brackley bag, Northamptonshire, and endorsed by him: "On the Derwentwater family by Ch: Fox in 1784."

This paper was presumably circularised to the Catholic committee, and even more widely. According to G.E.C. Complete Peerage, London, 1916, Vol. IV., p. 226, n.c., the long pending claim to the estates was settled in 1788 by Act of Parliament which vested the property in Greenwich Hospital and granted an annuity of £2,500 to Lord Newburgh who, but for the attainer, would have been sixth Earl of Derwentwater, and the heirs male. Why Greenwich Hospital was endowed is explained in Mr. Fox's speech.

Morning Herald [in MS.]

In consequence of Mr. Dundas's Speech relative to the Scotch forfeited estates, Monday, Aug. 2, 1784.
Mr. Fox said the proposition had his most hearty approbation; the execution of some, and the confiscation of estates of others, had sufficiently atoned for their crimes; and their descendants had been sufficiently punished by forty years deprivation of their fortunes for the faults of their ancestors. The principle of restoration was just, generous, politic and humane, and he did not see that any one could form any objection to it. He approved so much of the principle, that he thought the proposition ought not to stop where it is; if the principle was good, it ought to be carried as far as it would go, and therefore it ought to extend to all forfeitures of estates in England, as well as in the Highlands of Scotland for the same rebellion—Gentlemen would feel that he alluded principally to the case of a noble Lord, to whom he had the honour of being related, he meant the Earl of Newburgh, the present representative of the Derwentwater family (his Lordship and Mr. Fox are related by being descended, the former from a daughter, the latter from a son of King Charles II). He did not wish to speak of crimes long since committed, and long since atoned for; nor did he mean to justify rebellion, but this much he would say, that there were circumstances in the case of the Derwentwater family which palliated, excused, nay did everything but justify the treason committed by it (the Earl of Derwentwater, and his brother Charles Radcliffe, father to Lord Newburgh, who were both beheaded for siding with the deposed Family, were nephews to King James II. by his niece the Lady Mary Tudor, daughter to King Charles II.). He was aware that with respect to the Derwentwater estate, there were difficulties, which did not exist in the cases then before the House, as the former was appropriated for the supporting Greenwich Hospital, but he submitted to the consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether some means might not be devised to extend the munificence of Parliament to Lord Newburgh, to which he had as good a claim, as those who were now about to enjoy it; the principle was equally applicable to all; and though he was convinced no partiality existed in the minds of those who patronised the present measure, still it would be more compleat and free from cavil if the English estates were restored as well as the Scots. He did not expect that anything would be done in this session for Lord Newburgh; but he hoped the Right Honourable Gentleman would turn the case of that noble Lord in his mind, so as to be able to propose something on that head next year.

Mr. Pitt. after having supported the principle of the proposition, said he would not, however, be understood to support every
application to the liberality of Parliament, on the same grounds that should be recommended by humanity: the case of the Noble Lord alluded to was certainly hard: but as the Right Honourable Gentleman had admitted, there was a great difficulty in his case, which might justify departure from the principle on which the present motion was founded: if, however, some equivalent could be devised instead of the estate which is gone out of the Crown, perhaps the nature of the case would warrant Parliament in entertaining and considering an application of that nature.

B. The Derwentwater family [in Mr. Fermor's hand].

Particulars relating to the Radcliffe family from the year 1699.

Edward Earl of Derwentwater in 1699 married Lady Mary Tudor, Daughter of King Charles 2 by Mary Davis, and had by this marriage James Earl of Derwentwater Francis Radcliffe and Charles who by that settlement had an annuity of 200 per annum. James Earl of Derwentwater was attainted and executed in the year 1716, his brother Charles at the age of 19 was attainted at the same time but not taken nor executed till 1746. James Left one son named John who died abroad under age, unmarried, and one daughter married to Lord Petre who had £20000 to her fortune. Had the abovementioned John Lived to the age of 21 he would have had the estate which was forfeited during the Life of his Father in fee simple. But upon his decease it devolved to his Uncle Charles Radcliffe, who suffered in 1745. Charles Radcliffe married the Countess of Newburgh in her own right, by whom he had James Earl of Newburgh and James and three daughters. In the year 1712 in consequence of a marriage between James Earl of Derwentwater and Anna Maria Webb Daughter of Sir John Webb [p. 2 Bart] The whole or the Greater Part of the Estates in Northumberland, Cumberland and the County Palatine of Durham subject to a jointure of one thousand P. ann. to the said Anna Maria Webb, was settled upon the first second third and all and every other the

1 2nd Earl (1655-1705).
2 born 1673, d. 1736. The marriage took place in 1687.
3 3rd earl, b. 1689, executed 1716.
4 styled fifth earl (1693-1746).
5-6 This is interlined above: "was born after the settlement recited in an act Past 1732 Relative to the Radcliffe estate."
6 According to G.E.C. he died at his grandfather's house in Great Marlborough Street, 31 Dec., 1731, and was buried at Louvain (Complete Peerage, s.t. Derwentwater).
7 the eighth Lord (1713-42).
8 daughter of the 2nd earl; she died 1755.
9 James Bartholomew, 3rd earl (1725-1786).
son and sons of ye said Earl of Derwentwater by ye above marriage in tail male successively Remainder to Trustees to raise 20000£ for ye Portion and Portions of ye Daughter and the Daughters in consequence of ye above marriage, and failure of issue male between 'em: Then to ye use of ye said Earl of Derwentwater and heirs male of his body, remainder to Francis Radcliffe to his second B't and to his first and other sons successively remainder to Charles Radcliffe his youngest B't and his first and other sons in tail male successively, remainder to the said James Earl of Derwentwater his heirs and assigns for ever. Edward Earl of Derwentwater granted in 1699 upon his marriage with Lady Mary Tudor granted Charles Radcliffe his youngest/son an annuity of 200£ p. ann. [p. 3 payable half yearly. James Earl of Newburgh was born abroad in the year 1725 ten years after his Father's attainder and it appears Probable he wou'd haue been equally entitled to ye family estates forfeited by his Father's attainder in 1715 after his decease as his cozen John Radcliffe was son to James Earl of Derwentwater who upon his Father's execution was allowed to take Possession and enjoy it. But in the year 1730 5 years after the birth of ye said Earl of Newburgh an act of Parliament passed to secure the rights of inheritance to such of his Majesty's subjects as were or sh'd be born abroad, whose Fathers were or shou'd be natural born subjects of ye Crown of England. But that nothing in this act sh'd extend or be construed to extend to make any Children born or to be born out of the Ligance of the Crown of England, whose Fathers at the time of ye Birth of such Children were or shou'd be attainted of High Treason, by Judgment Outlawry or otherwise or whose Fathers at the time of ye birth of such Children were or shou'd be LIABLE to ye Penalties of High Treason or felony in case of their returning into ye Kingdom, or /who were or shou'd be in ye [p. 4 actual service of any foreign Prince or state then in enmity with the Crown of England. But in this act were excepted all Children of such as were attainted of High Treason &c., who had come into the English dominions, and continued to reside therein for the space of 2 years at any time between ye 16th of November, 1708 (the year Queen Anne's act Past for naturalising of foreign Protestants To which this present act alludes) and the 25th day of March, 1731, and during such residence had professed the Protestant religion or come into the English dominions and died during that Period being Protestants, or had been and continued in the actual possession or receipt of ye rents and Profits of any Lands in

1 It should be 1731 (4 Geo. II., c. 21).
y* King's dominions during y* space of one year between y* aboue mentioned Periods or had Bonâ fide sold conveyed or settled any Land. All such children were deemed natural born subjects of y* Crown of Great Britain.

From the above Particulars it appears that James Earl of Newburgh sd haue been equally intitled to the possession of his Father Charles Radcliff upon his decease tho' attainted, as John Radcliffe son of James/Earl of Derwentwater was to his Father's [p. 5 Property after his attainder, more Particularly as an attainder cannot affect the interest of y* unborn, had it not been for y* act Past in 1730, which had a retrospective effect and became to all intents and purposes an ex Post facto Law; it appears Likewise Probable that John Radcliffe had he Lived to the age of 21 wou'd haue settled his estate upon his cousin James Earl of Newburgh not having it in his Power to grant the Possession of it to his Uncle Charles on acc⁴ of his attainder in Preference to his sister married to L⁴ Petre, and it seems equally so that had James Earl of Newburgh providentially¹ been Brought to England during the time of his minority and Lived for y* space of 2 years therein, he wou'd haue been intitled to all y* Personal estate and savings to the age of 18, being till that Age deemed a Protestant in the eye of y* Law.

C. Lord Stourton to Mr. Fermor.

Dr S⁵.

I should have answerd the favour of your's sooner, if I had not wished to have known when we might be able to have our meeting. I called upon Butler² who informed me he had wrote to Throck-morton,³ S⁴ Carnaby⁴ is now in Town tho' fear a thaw will carry him to Grantham, I spoke to S⁵ Henry Englefield⁴, who went last sunday to L⁴ Cadogan's⁶ in Suffolk he said he should be back before the meeting of Parliament. I imagine we can not have a meeting fixed before the Middle or End of next week; I think we should contrive it to have as many present as possible; the Great doubt

¹ accidentally struck through after this word.
² Charles Butler (1750-1832), solicitor, who acted as legal adviser and secretary to the Catholic Committee, and was in many ways the inspirer and champion of its acts. He was made a K.C. in 1791.
³ John Courtenay Throckmorton (1753-1819), later 5th varonet.
⁴ Sir Carnaby Haggerston, Bart. (1756-1831), brother-in-law to Mrs. Fitzherbert.
⁵ Sir Henry Englefield (1752-1822), 7th and last varonet, F.R.S., F. and later P.S.A., of Wootton Bassett, Wilts.
⁶ The third Lord Cadogan (1728-1807). His seat was at Santon Downham in Suffolk.
at present seems to me to be whether it is prudent to apply for [p. 2] a partial relaxation, or wait for a favourable opportunity of applying for a more enlarged benefit, at any rate I think it may be prudent to apply to Mr Pitt for his Ideas of the Matter in a Confidential way. I fear he is much allarmed by Ld George Gordons threats tho’ otherwise noways inimical to us or our cause. Sr Carnaby and you are certainly proper people to sound him, I am afraid our friends in Ireland have lost themselves much. Lady Stourton desires her comp” to you and Mrs Fermor to whom I beg the same and remain Dr S’t

Yrs most sincerely

Mansfield St: Jan’ry 11th 1785.

[Addressed:—] Willm Fermor Esqr.

Tusmore near Brackley,

Northamptonshire.

[Red seal with S. Postmark 12 IA.]

D. Mr. W. W. Grenville to Mr. Fermor.

Whitehall, Dec. 18. 1787.

My Dear Sir

I should not have delayed so long the answering your letter if it had not been, that I waited for an opportunity of conversing with Mr Pitt upon the subject of it. I understand from him that as it was not thought that the question could be sufficiently examined before Christmas, previous to w’ period it was necessary the Land tax bill should pass a clause has been inserted in it by which a power is reserved to alter any part by any Act of this Session. He has desired me to add that he wishes in the course of this recess to give that consideration to the subject/which he thinks [p. 2] necessary previous to the ultimate decision upon it—and that if you should be in town before the meeting of Parliament which is adjourned to the 31st of Jan’7 he will be happy to have the honour of seeing you, if not he will take an opportunity of troubling Mr Butler. You are perfectly acquainted with my sentiments on the subject, I have only therefore to add that any apology from you

1 This refers to the agitation that had been carried on in Ireland during 1784 for Parliamentary reform, in which Roman Catholics were reputed to have taken a large part. (See Lecky, History of England, 3rd ed., Vol. VI., cap. xxiv.)

2 Lady Stourton was Mary, 2nd surviving daughter and co-heiress of Marmaduke, 5th and last baron Langdale of Holme, by Constantia, daughter of Sir John Smythe, 3rd baronet. She married the 17th Lord Stourton on 12 July, 1775.

3 Charles Butler (ut sup., p. 68.)
was wholly unnecessary as I am always happy in any opportunity of obeying your commands.

Believe me, Dear Sir
With the most sincere regard and esteem
Your most faithful and obed* Humble servant
W: W: GRENVILLE.

E. The Right Hon. William Pitt to Mr. Fermor [holog.].

This and the two following documents have been printed by Blomfield, who does not seem to have realised that they were of some importance in the history of Catholic Emancipation. They show that the Catholic Committee began their approaches to Pitt through the land tax grievance, and that from this starting point, the negotiation widened out to the greater question of relief from disabilities. They also show that the memorial which was approved by the general meeting of the Roman Catholics on 19 Feb. 1788, and is printed in Butler's Historical Memoirs, was suggested by Pitt in his conversation with Mr. Fermor on 2 February, a conversation which is not alluded to in Bernard Ward's Eve of the Catholic Revival, and is not mentioned in the minute book of the Committee. The second conversation is mentioned in the minute book, but only a fragment of what passed on that occasion is there recorded, viz., the last paragraph (p. 000).

Mr* Pitt presents his Compliments to Mr* Fermor, and will be glad of the Pleasure of seeing Him if convenient at Eleven to-morrow. Mr* Pitt would also be obliged to Him if He can have the Goodness to bring with Him such Accounts as show the estimated Amount at present received from the Double Land Tax.

Downing Street
Friday, Feb 1st, 1788.
[Addressed:—] Wm Fermor, Esq.
South Street.

W. Pitt.
[Red seal of his arms]
[Endorsed:—] Right Hon. Wm Pitt 1 Febr. 1788 wishes to see y* acc* of y* double Land-tax.

F. Abstracts of conversations between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fermor on the subject of Roman Catholic disabilities.

1Particulars of what past between the Right Honble Wm Pitt, and Wm Fermor Esq on the 2d of February 1788.
2 In the same hand as the following. There are two copies of this docu-
Mr Fermor in Consequence of a Request from Mr Pitt, to bring to him the estimated Amount of the Double Land-Tax, "thanked him in the Name of the English Catholics for his very kind attention to their Affairs, by permitting a Clause to be inserted in the Land-Tax Bill, by which any Alteration might be made in that Bill during the Course of this Session. Mr Fermor Apologized for the Smallness of the Sum returned, which amounted to no more than £22 8s. 6d. by stating to him the probable Cause of the Roman Catholics having been remiss in making a more general one, from their almost unanimous idea, that tho' the Double Land-Tax is a great Stigma to their Corps and the only Annual Fine levied upon them, that it did not constitute by any means, the principal part of their grievances: being Aliens in their own Country, [p. 2 deprived of every Natural and Civil Right, and the Most Opulent amongst them debared of the Privileges common to a Freeholder of 40s. a Year: prevented from Serving their Country either in the Army, Navy, or in the profession of the Law. That they were exposed in their persons to be Summoned at any time before the Justices of the Peace and in Consequence of a Refusal to take Oaths, it were previously known they wou'd not take, were liable to be sent to a public Goal, as were likewise their Clergy, who were exposed to still more Severe Punishments. That we had taken an Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty, and had Solemnly renounced every Foreign Temporal Jurisdiction in this Country. That as We Must come before Parliament in a very Ostensible light by the Introduction of an other Land-Tax Bill during the course of the present Session; we proposed to State the Double Land-Tax, as part of our grievances in the other Bill which wou'd relate to General ones.

/To this he replied, You have then Shifted Your ground, [p. 3 and wish to have the Double-Land-Tax Adverted in Your Bill. I replied that Such was our wish. That we had been induced to take this Step in Consequence of the General State of Toleration throughout Europe, particularly in France, for the French Protestants, that I must beg leave particularly to advert to the King of France's

1 Under the act of 1778.
2 Edict of Toleration put before the Parlement at the famous séance royale of 19 Nov., 1787 and registered at Paris in Jan., 1788. It was the subject of a good deal of opposition of a factious kind in the Parlements, especially in the provinces, and passed by a large majority. The origins of the opposition were political rather than religious (see next page).
Speech to his Parliament, wherein he tells them "That tho' it were necessary at a former time to Repeal the Edict of Nantz, that the present enlightened state of Europe demanded a Contrary Conduct."  

I then mentioned to him the opinion of Judge Blackstone upon the Penal Laws against Catholics, who says "but if a time Shou'd ever Arrive, and perhaps it is not very distant, when some particular events shall have taken Place, not only in England, but in every Kingdom of Europe which relate to the Pretender, and the Papal Jurisdiction (which events have actually taken Place), it wou'd not then be amiss to Review and Soften these rigourous Edicts."  

To this/he replied, that since the Publication of [p. 4 Blackstone's Commentaries Some of the Severest Laws, had been repealed.

He asked me then what were the particular grievances we at present wished to be reliev'd from. I replied that we hoped to be able to serve in the Army, and Navy, and to have the Bar opened to us. That we flattered ourselves the Sacramental Test might be set aside upon those occasions; that I apprehended, with great Deference to his opinion, the great objection to its removal, principally related to admission into Corporations, and to the department of Executive Justice in this Country, two situations the Catholics were not ambitious to be placed in. That the above Test was by no means interwoven with the Constitution, or Coeval with the Reformation, but devised about a Century ago by Lord Shaftesbury, with a view principally to exclude the Duke of York.  

That without Making any harsh reflections on the Dissenters, I must beg leave to say, that their Petition to Parliament last Session was very/Illiberal, they having therein stated, that it was [p. 5

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1 I have not been able to trace these actual words, though the King said something approximating to this sense on 19 Nov., 1787; but almost at the time Mr. Fermor quoted them, Louis XVI was using very different language to the *Parlement* in bringing pressure upon them to agree to register the edict. For on 28 January he said that the Edict of Nantes gave the Protestants "une existence religieuse," whereas this edict did no such thing as it did not even mention them and gave them no public worship, but only civil life.

2 *Commentaries*, Bk. IV., cap. iv., §3 [2]. "But if a time should ever arrive, and perhaps it is not very far distant, when all fears of a pretender shall have vanished, and the power and influence of the pope shall become feeble, ridiculous and despicable, not only in England but in every kingdom of Europe; it probably would not then be amiss to review and soften these rigorous edicts." It will be observed that not unnaturally Mr. Fermor thought fit to "review and soften" the original text of Blackstone.

3 Scarcely accurate, for the Test Act, (1673) did not exclude the Duke from the Succession, as it did not impose the test on the office of King. There is confusion here with the subsequent Exclusion Bills,
Solely levelled against the Roman Catholics.\(^1\) He replied "that he himself was of opinion, that it was aimed at them. I then adverted to King William's remarks upon that Test, when he wished to bring about a Repeal of it. With regard to the Protestant Dissenters, "that it was absurd in its principle, not being thought Necessary for a Member of Parliament to take who possessed a Legislative authority, tho' deemed so for much inferior Situations, viz., for such as Serve, in the Army, Navy, &c." I then remarked to him, that tho' it might have been originally levelled at the Roman Catholics; Roman Catholics Since that time had changed their Political Principal, having taken during this King's Reign, an Oath they had refused to take ever Since the Reign of James the 1st,\(^2\) by which, I must beg leave to say, we had placed ourselves in a situation worthy to merit a Restitution of our Natural and Civil Rights, that we venerated the Constitution, as by Law/ [p. 6 established and were firmly attached to his Majesty's Person, and government. That there were three Modes in this Country, I apprehended, of stating our grievances to the Public; the one by an address to the King, the other by a Petition to Parliament, the third by a Motion to be Made in the House. To this he replied "that these were the three Modes, by which redress might be obtained. I then said that we were ready to embrace either of these modes, he wou'd be pleased to adopt; that we wou'd take no Steps in the Business, that did not meet with his Concurrence,

\(^1\) See *Annual Register*, 1787, pp. 114-20, for a debate in the Commons on the matter of Protestant Dissenters.

\(^2\) By 3 Jac. I., cap. 4 an oath had been imposed, failure to take which involved guilt of recusancy. By it (1) a declaration was made of faith and true allegiance and repudiation of the right of the Pope to depose the King or authorise the invasion of this country or to stir up rebellion; (2) a promise to delate any conspiracies against the King; (3) repudiation was made as "impius and heretical" of the doctrine that princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope may be murdered; (4) the Pope was declared to have no authority to absolve the swearer of this oath which he took in the plain sense of the words and without equivocation. The stumbling block was (1) which the Romanists in the seventeenth century found even heretical—certainly Bellarmine was of that opinion, and that portion of the oath was condemned by Paul V. But the doctrine condemned in the oath was repudiated by Roman Catholics in the eighteenth century, as the sentence in the text above declares, and in this they were fortified by the opinions expressed when they consulted the foreign universities in 1788. (See G. W. Prothero, *Select Statutes and Constitutional Documents*, Oxford, 1913, p. 259, and *Statutes at Large*. See also Charles Butler, *Historical Memoirs of the English Catholics*, London, 1819, Vol. I., pp. 281-317). It will be observed that some of the doctors of the Sorbonne scrupled at the epithet "heretical" being applied to the doctrine of the lawfulness of murder, but that in the eighteenth century no doubt was raised by the use of the term "unchristian."
and that We had not mentioned our Plan of relief to any description of Men in this Country, as we must look up to him as our Protector and Friend. He professed in very polite language his general ideas of Toleration, and expressed a wish that we wou'd state to him our aggrieved Situation in a Memorial, and from what part of our Penal Laws we particularly wished to be relieved./I [p. 7 assured him we wou'd certainly comply with his kind request in a very short time. I then added, that we flattered ourselves, that if he did not prove in these our Concerns our decided friend, at least he wou'd be so good as not to appear against us in a Hostile Manner. He said 'Untill he had taken time to consider the Magnitude of the Subject, and was become master of the Points we wished to be relieved in, he cou'd not give a positive answer to this question, but that he would give the whole of our grievances a proper and attentive Consideration. I then took leave of him, by saying, that I hoped the Archbishop of Canterbury, wou'd not prove himself more Intolerant than the Archbishop of Toulouse, ¹ to whom I apprehended the French Protestants, were in great measure indebted for their present Toleration; which probably might have been more extended, had not some animosities prevailed at this juncture between the King of France, and his Parliaments, which apparently had given rise to a demurr upon this Edict, having been tacked/by the King to the very unpopular Terri- [p. 8 torial one. ² That the former wou'd probably have passed unaltered, might be concluded from a deputation sent by the Parliam ent to the King during the Course of last Spring, at the request of Monsieur de St: Vincent, who made an ever memorable Speech before that Parliament in favor of Toleration. ³ To this he replied, that he believed the case to be as I had represented it.

[Endorsed:——] Conversation between y* Right Honble Wm Pitt and Wm Fermor Esq' Febru. 2 1788 on the Catholic affairs, and y* double Land-Tax.

¹ Loménie de Brienne, at that time Controller-General of the Finances of France, under whom the edict of toleration had been issued.
² The territorial edict imposed a tax on land irrespective of class and had led to the exile of the Parlements owing to their opposition to any attack on privileges; but it was not this that had caused the trouble in getting the Toleration Edict registered, so much as the exile of Orleans and the imprison ment of Fréneau and Sabatier, after the séance royale of 19 Nov., 1787, which exasperated the Parlement, and gave them the opportunity to chicane over the edict.
³ Robert de St. Vincent, one of the leaders of the Parlement opposition to the Court.
TUSMORE PAPERS.

Particulars of the Conversation which passed between the Right Honble Wm Pitt and Wm Fermor Esq on Monday Febry 25th 1788.

Mr Fermor in consequence of a Resolution entered into at a General Meeting of the English Catholics on the 19th instant, presented a Memorial to Mr Pitt, containing an Account of their Grievances and Disabilities. Mr Pitt, after reading the Memorial, asked Mr Fermor, whether they were all contained therein? Mr Fermor replied that the Principal heads were, but not the whole specifically. He then said to Mr Fermor, that he did not apprehend, an immediate answer was required from him to that Memorial. Mr Fermor replied, by No means. That the English Catholics wished him to give it the perusal he himself might think necessary and such a one as the magnitude of the subject might require. Mr Pitt then asked, what mode we intended to pursue, in order to procure a removal of our Disabilities, &c., which were/ contained in that Memorial. Mr Fermor replied that there were three Constitutional Modes of proceeding, as he was informed. The one, by an Address to the King, the other by a Petition to Parliament, the third by a Motion to be Made in the House. He replied, these were the Modes. Mr Fermor then said, that the English Catholics had left the choice of these Modes to himself, and that they were ready to adopt either of them he wou’d think fit to recommend. He replied, that he cou’d not at that specific Moment decide upon the Mode we had better adopt in preference, as he Must previously Consult his Majesty’s Ministers on the subject. He said to Mr Fermor at the same time, he hoped he was thoroughly convinced of his Tolerating Principles. Mr Fermor replied, that he cou’d have no doubt of them, in consequence of what had passed between them in the conversation, he had had the Honor of holding with him some time ago. Mr Fermor then presented to him a Paper containing the Number of Dissidents lately liberated in France, / in consequence of the late Tolerating Edict, which by [p. 3 Monsieur de Calonne’s Account (having been numbered during his Administration) amounted to twelve Hundred Thousand; who were Restored to their Natural and Civil Rights, and were now enabled to serve in the Army, and Navy, and to plead at the Bar, and were only restrained, from sitting in a Judicial Capacity. He then asked if I knew the number of Catholics, there were in England. I told him that I did not. But that some Counties contained Many more than others; for example, Lancashire, which was full of Catholic Manufacturers. I then stated to him, the Geographical progress of Toleration, from the Frozen Ocean,
through all the Russia's, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, (some of them Protestant States) Germany,\(^1\) where it had made a most rapid progress, and France. That it was now passing the Pyrenees, and was going to disperse that gloom, which had long overspread the Kingdom of Spain; which was now going, I understood to grant/\([p.4]\) the same Toleration to the Protestants there, which the French had done.\(^2\) That in its progress, it had traversed the Great Atlantic, and by an Unaccountable fatality, or from some hidden cause, had not visited this Island. He replied, that this Country by some late regulations in favor of Catholics, had likewise assumed a Tolerating Spirit. I agreed with him, that it had in some measure, for which the English Catholics were truly grateful. That nothing was now wanting to compleat the Glory of his Administration, but to procure a Civil establishment in this Country to the Dissidents from its Mode of Worship. That the Dissenters were so convinced that the present period, was a favorable one to this purpose, that I was informed they did not mean to present a Petition to Parliament this Session, on their own affairs, in order to throw no obstacle in the way of ours. He replied that the circumstance I had just mentioned, had not before come to his knowledge. I then remarked, that the modern Dissenters were very different in their \([p. 5]\) Principles from those in Oliver Cromwell's time. He replied that he believed they were, and that it was at all times unjust to punish a Whole Body for the Sins of a few.

He then asked me, what degree of Toleration, Denmark and Sweden, had granted the Catholics? I replied, that I was ignorant of the Particulars, but that I had reason to think that the Catholics in those Countries were allowed the full exercise of their Religion.

I then begged leave to State to him a Resolution, which had passed at our General meeting on Tuesday last, by Which the Catholic Peers were appointed in Conjunction with myself to have the Honor of waiting upon him at any time he wou'd be pleased to appoint in order, to present our Memorial to him, that this was thought a proper respect due from our Body to himself. He replied, that he thought himself much honored by such/a Resolution, \([p. 6]\) but that he cou'd not think of giving our Catholic Peers that unnecessary trouble, as it had been already communicated to him thro' the Medium of a private Negotiation. I then asked him,

\(^1\) This alludes to reforms in a tolerant sense effected by Catharine II., Frederick the Great, Struensee, Gustavus III and Joseph II.

\(^2\) An exaggeration, but much in the way of ecclesiastical reform had been effected by Florida Blanca.
if he wou'd give me leave to report this his answer to our General Adjourned Meeting. He replied, that I had his full Liberty so to do. I then begged to know, at what period of time, he thought he wou'd have it in his Power to give the English Catholics an Answer to this Memorial. He said, it was impossible he cou'd give an answer to that question; but that as Soon as any Resolutions had been taken on the Subject, he wou'd take care to acquaint me with Such Particulars.

[Endorsed:—] Conversation between the Right Honble Wm Pitt and Wm Fermor Esq on Monday 25th of Febru. 1788.

XXVII.

Lord Sydney to Henry Errington.

The subject of this letter was John Errington, the elder brother of Henry. He was exceedingly eccentric, but made himself beloved by his quixotic generosity, especially in the matter of a bridge at Hexham, which he built at his own expense and promised to maintain for ten years, whereupon it was swept away by a flood. In the eighties he fell under the delusion that he had been created Duke of Hexham, and it was no doubt this belief that led to the fracas with the Dukes of Buccleuch and Montagu. His letter to the Queen apparently claimed the Dukedom, and was doubtless the forerunner of the commission of lunacy that was appointed against him. According to J. C. Hodgson, History of Northumberland, 1897, Vol. IV., p. 187, he had been a witness to the marriage of Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales, but the usual opinion is that it was his brother, Henry, who signed the document, from which the names of the two witnesses were subsequently cut out by Mrs. Fitzherbert (see Wilkins, Mrs. Fitzherbert, Vol. I., p. 99). John was the last male representative of the ancient family of Errington, and he died in 1827, aged 89.

Albemarle Street.

May 11, 1787.

Dear Sir,

Mr Fermor last night at the French Ambassador's informed me, that Mr Errington your Brother had resumed his Correspondence with The Queen. I gave him very fully and seriously my opinion upon the only Step, that is to be taken. It must be taken sooner or later, and probably very soon. No doubt can remain of the propriety of it after his assumption of a Title, and this last business, which/Mr Fermor mentioned, makes it absolutely [p. 2 necessary. If anything like the Violence, which he was some years ago disposed to use to the Dukes of Buccleugh and Montagu and Mr Bowlby was to be offered where his present resentment seems to be directed, the most serious consequences might follow from it. For God's sake let his Family prevent the possibility of such an
Event: As he has as yet committed no breach of the Law his relations are the only persons, who can secure him. It is with the greatest concern, that I write to you upon so unpleasant a subject being with the truest esteem

Dear Sir

Your most obedient

Humble servant

SYDNEY.¹


XXVIII.

A Family letter.

T. Throckmorton² to Lady Browne.

My Dear Madam [3 Dec. 1788]

I fear your Ladyship has accused me of ingratitude in not having acknowledg'd before this the receipt of your kind Letter; when you hear the reason you will I am certain admit the excuse, and pity Lady T.³ who has been confined to her Bed ever since Friday seven-night, for many days has not been out of it even to have it made has it in both Feet and both Knees and I never saw her so ill with it in my Life. She has just dropt asleep and I am writing by her Bedside—Sir Robt+ is wonderfully well—Lady T. did not think you would have left Tusmore so soon and her being a little

¹ Home Secretary (Thomas Townshend, first Viscount, b. 1733, d. 1800, for whom see Dict. Nat. Biog.).
² T. Throckmorton is difficult to identify in George Lipscomb, History . . . of Buckinghamshire, 1847, Vol. IV., pp. 399-402, where the pedigree of the Throckmortons is given. Lady Throckmorton however kindly informs me that there is little doubt but that it is Theresa, daughter of George Throckmorton. She was born 28 Sept., 1759, and married Thomas Metcalfe of Bath on 28 August, 1789.
³ i.e., Lady Throckmorton; Lucy, 3rd wife of Sir Robert, and daughter of James Heywood of Maristore, co. Devon. She was married at St. George's, Hanover Square, on 21 January, 1764, and died on 19 November, 1795.
⁴ Sir Robert Throckmorton, 4th baronet, b. 21 August, 1702, d. 8 Dec., 1791. His father succeeded to Buckland, near Faringdon in Berkshire, in 1690, and he built the present house in 1737 (Victoria History of Berkshire, Vol. IV., p. 453), making other improvements sung by Pye in his Faringdon Hill, ¹⁄₂ (2nd ed. Oxford, 1778, Bk. II., p. 26.)

See Buckland here her lovely scenes display,
Which rude e'er while in rich disorder lay,
Till Taste and Genius with corrective hand,
Spread culture's nicest vesture o'er the land,
Ranged every object in its fairest light,
And called each latent beauty to the light;
Cloathed the declining slope with pendant wood,
And o'er the sedge-grown meadow poured the flood,
While manly Execution's active arm

Wakes to existence each ideal charm.
threaten'd with the Gout I believe prevented her putting the intended Scheme in execution. I have had the pleasure of hearing of you from Mrs Chester who I hope will visit us soon—my Mother call'd at Tusmore as you have heard I suppose in her way back; stay'd but four nights here is now at Bath which place I am told is thin and likely to continue so my Brothers and Mr Frog were to be at Buckenham at this time but I have not heard whether they are set out; Mrs T. quite well and in Spirits I find her low Spirited fit did not last so long as People imagin'd She is to be pity'd as that is I fear a part of her Constitution—I trust your information about Mr Dormer's illness was not true as I find Lady Shrewsbury had heard nothing of it and he is perfectly well now poor Mr G. T. lasts a long time I think his release is much to be wish'd. Mrs Tuite has indeed behaved herself in a strange way I hope her Husband has more sense than to take her again. Our last Farringdon Ball was but an indifferent one. Mrs Stead our Wadley Neighbour is a very pleasant little Woman he is a very shy reserved Man The Lady at Farringdon House by name Mrs Hallett is rather dull but well meaning. Mr C. Pye has taken a very good House at Bath for seven years.

1 Dr. John Chester buried at Bristol 24 Mar., 1802 (Misc., III., p. 322).
2 Lady Throckmorton informs me that this is a traditional nickname in the Throckmorton family.
3 Mrs. T. is probably Anna Maria, widow of George Throckmorton, the second son of Sir Robert, daughter of William Paston of Hatton, co. Gloucester. She died 20 Oct., 1791.
5 Presumably the Hon. George Talbot, who died at Buxton in his 26th year on 7 February, 1789 (Gentleman's Magazine, 1789, Vol. LIX., p. 184).
6 For this name, see the account of the duel below (p. 94). It appears frequently in the Lincoln's Inn Registers of the later part of the eighteenth century (Cath. Rec., Soc. Vol. XIX., Misc. xi.), and on 18 Sept., 1770, there is the marriage of William Tuite and Henrietta Wollascot. A Robert Tuite was christened there 23 March, 1746, and a Thomas Tuite on 26 July, 1764.
7 Wadley House, near Faringdon, was renovated by Charles Pye:

"Lo, WADLEY rears her renovated head,  
As art and active labor, join'd, improve  
Each fair extended lawn and rising grove,  
New scenes unfolding still on every side  
Declare the affluence industry supplied."

(Faringdon Hill, ut sup. p. 27.)

but owing to pecuniary difficulties, he had to leave.
8 This is probably the wife of William Hallett the purchaser of Faringdon House, after Henry Pye the poet laureate of 1790, had been compelled to sell his ancestral home. William Hallett was in possession of Faringdon by 1788 (Oxford Journal, 1 November, 1788, p. 4, col. 1).
9 See n 7.
This is written worse than my usual Scrawl. I fear you will be hardly able to decipher it but my Pen is bad and my light but indifferent and I do not care to move for fear of waking Lady T: So that foolish Woman (for so I must call her) M' Thos. Canning\(^1\) has prevail’d upon her Husband to quit his Business and settle at Bath where they are now looking out for a House. He means to lend his Name to M’ Conyers\(^2\) which I think will neither be of use to him or M’ C:

Lady T. would unite with me in everything to your Ladyship was She awake I am Sure. I believe some Game was sent to you by the Cirencester Coach a little while ago I hope it arrived safe.

I remain

My D’ Madam
Yr. much obliged and affec. Friend,

T. THROCKMORTON.

Buckland.
Monday eve.
[Addressed: —] Lady Browne
Hinde Street
Manchester Square
London.

XXIX.
A business letter.
Charles Butler to William Fermor [holograph].

Sir

Mr Ф Fitzherbert of Swinnerton\(^3\) is greatly distressed at present for want of two of his Family Deeds;—the Settlements executed

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\(^1\) A Thomas Canning appears as sponsor in the Bristol Registers (Cath. Rec. Soc., Vol. III., Misc. iii., p. 272) in 1800. For the name see below, No. XXXII., where Catharine Berkeley marries Mr. Robert Canning, the ancestor of the present owner of Hartpury near Gloucester, an old Roman Catholic family.


\(^3\) The successor to Mrs. Fitzherbert’s husband was his brother, Basil Fitzherbert, who died in 1797, and was then succeeded by his son, Thomas (d. 1857) His father was Thomas Fitzherbert who died in 1778, having married first Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Anthony Meabor of Pontop, co. Durham, having no issue by her, and secondly, in 1743, Mary Theresa, daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton, bart., by whom he had five sons and seven daughters.
by his Father on his Marriage with Miss Meaborn, and his marriage with Miss Throckmorton. Search has been made everywhere for them, with Success. It is possible that they came into the hands of the late M't Fitzherbert, and that thro' him, they came into Your Niece, the present, M't Fitzherberts Possession. But this is mere conjecture. However,—the family will esteem it a particular favor if you will take the trouble to write to her to know, whether they are in her Custody, and if they are, to request she will send them to me. They cannot be of the least use to her.

I am also requested to mention to you, that, before long M't Fitzherbert will be applied to by them, to execute an Instrument, discharging a small part of the Swinnerton Estate from her Jointure; that part of it being sold under an Act of Parliament. As the Money arising from the Sale of this part of the Estate is applicable to the discharge of Incumbrances preceding her Jointure, the transaction is beneficial to her. But we wish to know whether she would wish the Opinion of any Council to be taken, on the Safety of her executing this Deed.—M't John Throckmorton and myself are the trustees for carrying this Act into Execution, and neither of us, I am sure, would have any concern in any transaction that would in any wise prejudice her.

With the greatest respect, Sir,
I am,

Your most obedient humble serv't

CHARLES BUTLER.

Lincolns Inn
27th July 1790

[Addressed:—] W'm Fermor Esq'r
Tusmore near
Brackley.

XXX.
A hunting dispute.

These letters have been sometimes referred to as concerning the origins of the Bicester hunt, but it is clear that this is a misconception, for the correspondence concerns Lord Abingdon's hounds, which are the origin of the South Oxfordshire. The Bicester had a different source (see *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, Vol. II., pp. 351 *et seqg*.). The letters have been printed by Blomfield, but with the dates 1772 and 1773. This is excusable in view of the similarity of 7 to 9

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1 This is presumably John Courtenay, who succeeded his father as 5th baronet in 1791, and died in 1819.
in William Fermor's hand, but that the dates should be 1792 and 1793 is clear from the fact that Lord Abingdon was still hunting his hounds in the '80's, and that there is no trace of hunting in the Bicester country until 1778 when John Warde established kennels at Weston-on-the-Green, removing thence to Bicester. Other factors point the same way, e.g., Lord Abingdon's age, the fortnight's frost in 1792, etc.

A. Lord Thanet¹ to Mr. Fermor.
Hothfield,
near Ashford
Kent. June 30th

Sir
When I had the Pleasure of seeing you at Gibson's Farm, when we talked about Fox Hunting, you was so good as to say that you would grant me your Protection in case Ld Abingdon² gave up his Hounds. I therefore take the Liberty of giving you this Trouble, as I find he is going to dispose of his Hounds, to beg you will be so good as to allow me to hunt your Country. I will do the best in my power to show you diversion, and I shall hope for the pleasure of meeting you often in the field.

I have the Honor to be Sir
Your very obedient
Humble ser¹ THANET.

B. William Fermor to the Earl of Jersey.³

My Lord
I have received yᵉ favor of your Lordship's letter of the 27th ins¹ and have communicated the contents to my Bʳ, who seems very sorry to find that your Lordship has so far misunderstood him in regard to hunting foxes in our country; what has passed between your Lˢhip and him at different interviews you have had, and the offers he made you at different times to take to our hunt, were all, I perceive, in consequence of a meeting we had, MessʳTroptman, Cartwright,⁵ my Bʳ and self, at Mr Fiennes Trotman's about yᵉ

¹ The ninth earl, who succeeded in 1786 and died 1825. He was "much addicted to agricultural pursuits" and was convicted of riot and attempting a rescue in 1799. Whether the verdict was just is a matter of doubt.
² Willoughby, 4th Earl (1740-99). For an account of this radical nobleman, who was also sentenced to imprisonment for libelling an attorney, see D.N.B., s.v. Bertie, Willoughby.
³ George Bussy, fourth Earl of Jersey (1735-1805).
⁴ Henry Fermor.
⁵ Mr. Cartwright of Aynho will be William Ralph, b. 30 Mar., 1771.
latter end of last year. The Particulars of which I must beg leave
to trouble you with.

It was at that time strongly reported in our neighbourhood that
L∧ Abingdon had thoughts of leaving y∧ country. Tho’ we had
never been informed of it from his L∧ship, it appeared highly prob-
able that it might be y∧ case, as Captain Bertie’s¹ bad state of health,
disabled him from attending/to y∧ diversion. We had in [p. 2
consequence an eye to some one who lived in y∧ neighbourhood,
had a Pack of hounds of his own, fit for y∧ purpose, and an inclina-
tion to follow y∧ sport. We addressed ourselves to Mr Trotman,
whose hounds we knew capable in every respect of the task, and
whose inclination we found coincide with our offer. Our reasons
for applying particularly to a gentleman of the neighbourhood, who
had hounds of his own, must no doubt be very obvious to your
L∧ship, as a sportsman.

Hounds coming from any distance and that have a large and
extensive tract of country to Hunt have generally their time fixt for
hunting each division: a regulation no doubt very necessary, as by
that means lovers of the sport who lie wide, may have timely
notice, and that each Part of their sporting country may, be regu-
larly hunted. Y∧ Lordship must be very sensible, that bad hunting
weather, often hard frosts, and many other unforeseen and un-
toward accidents so far intervene, as to render their coming at any
fjxt time, fruitless: an instance of which/we have had for [p. 3
many years past in our neighbourhood, and Particularly last year,
when I staid on Purpose some weeks longer to have a days sport
after Xtmass; but never cou’d, as L∧ Abingdon’s time for coming,
was not to be till after that Period; when your L∧ship well knows

¹ Presumably Captain Peregrine Bertie, whose exploits in the field and in
the alehouse are recorded in The Wiccamical Chaplet, ed. G. Huddesford,
1804, p. 144.

When tidings to Lord Ab-ngd-n
Were wrote, with pen and ink
That Peregrine at Yattendon
Was overcome with drink,

His Lordship strumm’d his fiddle-string,
And he sung with merry glee
Huzza ! of Fiddlers I’m the King,
The King of Fuddlers he !

And eke God save our noble King,
And the noble house of B-rt-e
And we’ll drink, hunt, fiddle, dance and sing,
And a fig for Bonaparte.
a severe frost rendered it impossible to go into y° field. It likewise frequently happened, that hounds came for a few days only, more at it appeared for y° sake of keeping Possession of the country, than for shewing y° neighbourhood any diversion. These and other reasons induced us at ye meeting, by no means to encourage any foreign Pack, but to support one that was kept at home. We at y° same time agreed, that in case any gentleman in y° neighbourhood was willing to keep such a pack of his own, we wou’d do everything in our power to support him, and Mr Trotman upon these terms, said he was very willing to give up all Pretensions to the hunt. Happy shoud we have been had y° Lordship notified to us your resolution of so doing; which we had reason to expect at that time, wou’d have happened, as it was reported, such [p. 4 was your intention; and my B° from the different conversations he has had with y° Lordship on the subject, corroborated that report. Y° Lordship may judge of our surprise when we read your intention of introducing a foreign Pack into y° country; a circumstance we had Particularly agreed to guard against. I must now beg leave to add, that shou’d your L°ship change your mind, and be willing to undertake y° Hunt yourself, I can venture to say, the gentlemen in our neighbourhood will readily concur in stopping earths for you, at least I can safely say you may always freely command those of my Lord

Y° etc.,

WM FERMOR.

July 4th 1792 [date 1793 or 1792].

a copy

C. Wm. Fermor to Lord Thanet [copy].

My L°

I am but just favoured with y° L°ships letter, having been lately from home: the day I had the honor of meeting you at Gibson’s farm, I well remember asking y° Lordship whether you was willing to take to the Hunt (as it was reported L° Abingdon was going to give it up) but don’t recollect your giving me any answer in the affirmative.

Since that time Mr Trotman at y° request of some gentlemen in

1 It is clear from the Gentleman’s Magazine Vol. LXII (p. 98) that there was frosty weather from 3 to 15 January, especially from 8 to 15, 1792.

2 Fiennes Trotman the younger, who succeeded to the estates of Bucknall and Siston Court on the death of his uncle, the elder Fiennes Trotman, who had been sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1769. Cf. J. M. Davenport, Oxfordshire Lords Lieutenant, High Sheriffs and Members of Parliament, Oxford, 1888, p. 85, n. 2.
our neighbourhood, has undertaken to Hunt ye country: upon whose acc\textsuperscript{t} we have likewise been obliged to refuse L\textsuperscript{d} Jersey's bringing ye Duke of Grafton's\textsuperscript{t} hounds. As matters now stand, I am sorry it is not in my Power to make a different arrangement.

I have ye honor to be
Yr L\textsuperscript{e}ships ob. Hum. serv\textsuperscript{t}
WM FERMOR.

July 9 1792.

D. William Fermor to Mr. Trotman [draft].

Dr S\textsuperscript{r}

I trouble you with this to acquaint you that I called yesterday on L\textsuperscript{d} Jersey to settle ye differences now subsisting relative to the Hunt in our country. His L\textsuperscript{e}ship seemed very willing to re-establish Peace and good neighbourhood by accepting the Proposals you had commissioned me to make him; but seems to think that ye running a fox when you occasionally find one will often be a means of giving rise to future disputes as it may be a Pretext, for ye huntsman to go often into ye covers to try for a hare, and thus to find a fox and run him. I told my L\textsuperscript{d} that I cou'd answer for it you never meant to try a cover upon that score. to which his L\textsuperscript{e}ship replied that he doubted not of your complying with ye Promise, but that he was afraid ye huntsman was not to be depended upon. To this I replied that/in case you found such to be his dis- [p. 2] position that it w\textsuperscript{d} be a measure you w\textsuperscript{d} by no means approve of as being contrary to ye agreement with his L\textsuperscript{e}ship and that you w\textsuperscript{d} take every step Proper to be taken upon ye occasion to make ye servant obey strictly ye orders you had given him. I told his L\textsuperscript{e}ship at ye same time that running a fox when you occasionally found one was a Privileidge you claimed by Prescription for many years, and that you w\textsuperscript{d} not willing[ly] I believe give it up, especialy as you seemed to think as some other of ye friends did when we talked ye matter over at Bucknel last, it w\textsuperscript{d} be so far from causing disputes that it w\textsuperscript{d} be a means of preventing 'em. There ye matter rests at Present. any answer you will favor me with I will commu-nicate to his L\textsuperscript{e}ship, and shall be happy to serve you and to Put an end to ye Present disputes on ye subject. Spilmores, my L\textsuperscript{d} thought, ought to be given up, which I accordingly acquiesced in doing as you gave me ye consent to do.

Jan. 16 1793.

\textsuperscript{1} Augustus Henry, third Duke (1735-1811), the statesman of George III's reign, of whom Lord Jersey was a political follower.
Dear Sir

In consequence of your brother Richard’s mentioning to me, that you intended disposing of your hounds, and as I mean to procure a pack of the use of the Royal Bucks, I shall be very happy to purchase your’s, if the price is not too great. I understood your Brother, you did not expect more than from ten guineas to fifteen pounds. The former would be much more agreeable to the subscribers. I must beg the favor of an answer, as soon as convenient, and if you could spare, your huntsman to bring them down, and give us their Names, I would take care and defray his expenses ’till his return to Tusmore,—Your brother Richard is very well.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your very obed’t Hble serv’t

JOHN EDWARDS FREMANTLE.

[Addressed:—] William Fermor, Junr Esq’

Tusmore,

near Brackley,

Northamptonshire.

[Red seal with shield. Postmark:—WEYMOUTH, March 17, 1795.]

The conversion of Mr. Henry Best, some time Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, to Roman Catholicism.

The story of Henry Best is told in outline in Bloxam’s Register of Magdalen College, Vol. VII., pp. 97-106, where may be seen a characteristic letter to Best from President Routh regretting “that you have left the communion of our Holy Mother, the Church, in whose bosom I myself hope to live and die, believing her to be a true and sound member of the Catholic Church, notwithstanding the unjust censures of the Bishop of Rome,” and signing himself “your afflicted servant.” This was in reply to Best’s letter informing Routh of the step he had taken. The paper gives the general story of the arguments brought to bear upon Best, on which it may perhaps not be unjust to remark that since those days, the Anglo-Roman controversialists have had, on both sides, to sharpen their weapons.

The writer of this letter was the Abbé Beaumont, an émigré, formerly Rector of the University of Caen, and a Canon of Rouen Cathedral Church.

1 Blomfield reads “for,” but the MS. is clear.
Copy of a letter translated from the French relating the Circumstances of the Conversion of Mr. —— to the Catholic Faith.

I became acquainted with Mr. —— immediately after his Arrival at Lincoln in the Year 1792. Since the period of his Conversion he has acknowledged to Me, that he always had felt some uneasiness on the Subject of Religion. In 1794¹ he preached a Sermon at Oxford which he published, and of which he Sent me a Copy, requesting Me at the same time to favor him with My opinion of the Performance. I read his Discourse, and returned him for Answer that I cou’d Not with propriety State my Sentiments on the Subject, but that however I cou’d not refrain from observing that he had treated the Catholic/Church and [p. 2 especially that portion of it which the Revolution of France had involved in distress, with a less degree of consideration and respect, than its Merits appeared to deserve. At our interview which next followed this event, he expressed his regret at What had fallen from his pen, and apologised for the Manner in which he had treated the Subject. Since that period, we had frequent conferences together in private, and I always had occasion to discover in him Much uprightness, and candor of Mind, Mingled however with Strong prejudices, and blended With An extent of knowledge, Which under proper regulations Wou’d be found to lead to consequences of a Nature the Most desirable and happy. On the event of his Mother’s death which happened at Exeter² in the Year [p. 3 1797 circumstances³ at Length required his removal from Oxford, and in the following month he fixed his residence in the City of Lincoln. Shortly after his Arrival there, he one day observed to Me, that as Soon as he had Settled his domestic concerns, and regulated his Library, he Shou’d turn his thoughts Seriously to the Consideration of the Superior claim of the Church of Rome, or of that of England, to the title of that Church, which was established by Christ. I answered him, that his remarks wou’d soon lead him to become a Papist himself; to Which he replied, that I considered the question in a prejudiced point of view.

On the 6th of Sep’r he invited Me to meet the Clergyman of the Parish, to dinner at his House. This Gentleman quitted Us [p. 4 about 8 Oclock in the evening, and immediately We entered into discussion on the important Subject of the Church. I establish’d it’s unity and proved that No Sect, in any age, Since the days of

¹ According to Bloxam, the date should be November, 1793.
² Lincoln, where he had been born and bred.
³ he resigned his fellowship, propter auctas opes.
Simon the Magician had ever Sprung up, which She had Not immediately rejected from her Communion. He appeared to feel the force of the reasonings Which I employed to convince him, but endeavoured to support himself on the Authority of the Greek Church, to Which it is certain, Notwithstanding it's attachment to Silicism is due some degree of Consideration. The Near approaching hour of eleven put a Period to our Conversation on this Subject. A Few days afterwards, our Conversation again turned on these Topics. But No/thing decisive passed on the occasion.† [p. 5 On the 28th of the Same Month, I was invited to dine With him alone. I shewed him that in every age Which had preceded the Silism of the Greeks, the authority of the Roman Pontiff, and his Divine appointment to govern the Whole Christian flock, had been Acknowledged by that Church herself, and that Such Was her faith, at the Period when Photius endeavoured to deceive the Pope, into An approbation of his Measures. Hence We find, that the Supremacy of the Pope; and the Truth of the Christian Church, are questions Which in the Discussion have generally been connected together. At Eleven We Separated. After this conference, Which was the Second, We had had, he imagined he had only to consult the Theologians, of his Party to overthrow the System which I had/ tried to establish, and one day he addressed [p. 6 Me with an air of Confidence and triumph in these Words; “ The Whole of your long dissertation respecting the Supremacy of the Pope is here answered completely; Take and read Jewel, a Divine of the Protestant Church, and you will find that Gregory disclaims all pretentions to every Species of preeminence or jurisdiction over the Church.” I took Jewel and read him, and then I explained the real State of the Case, and that No deception Might be Suspected in the business I requested him to borrow the Works of St. Gregory from the Library attached to the Cathedral. He accordingly borrowed the Volume in Which allusion in Made to the Subject in question, and found it all a Cheat and imposture. From this instant Suspicion Awoke in his breast, and he acknowledged, he had Never discovered in those pretended Theologians, anything but Trick and deceit, and that Sincerity and candor [p. 7 were qualities to which they appeared to be Strangers. A few days afterwards, We discussed the question of the Holy Eucharist. After going thro’ all the Scriptural proofs, We took a View of Tradition. I challenged him to produce Me a Single Author of Antiquity,

† This word must be meant for Schism; but the writer seems to have thought it an obscure heresy.
Who had denied the real Presence, While, Said I, I Will engage to produce a Cloud of irreproachable Witnesses, Who Without Collusion, and Strangers and Unknown to each other, are found to give the Most Splendid Testimony of this Article of our Holy Religion. It is Now too late to Attempt to overturn this point of Catholic Doctrine. You have in Your Possession the Works of St. Ignatius, St. Justin and St. Chrysostome, compare the Words of the New Scripture in the Edition of Rheims, With the [p. 8 Citations, Which are made by these three Fathers, and tomorrow I Will put into Your hands the Perpetuité de La Foi.¹ If you can Withstand the Strength of this Author's reasoning then I Must conclude. You have No longer any Title to that character of frankness and Candour, Which hitherto I have invariably beheld in every part of your conduct. I Withdrew. He then proceeded to compare the New Testament of Rheims, with the Books of St. Chrysostome, and observed, that No Roman had ever spoken in Terms More decided or clear on the Subject than had the Eloquent Prelate of Constantinople. The day following he read the Perpetuité de La Foi. On the third day afterwards, I Met him in one of his Walks, and in the Middle of the Street, he thus addressed [p. 9 Me in French. "Well, Mr B. You have Now completely trampled Me down to the Ground; No, I replied, Not trampled You down to the Ground, but rather raised You up to the Skies. What conclusive reasoning he added is every Where employed by your Authors. I shall expect you to dinner. Our conversation Now began to Assume a Much More easy and pleasant appearance, and Nothing but points of Discipline engaged our Attention. His Mind was full of Arnold², and hardly cou’d he be induced to speak on any other Subject. I then recommended to him to read every day a Chapter of the New Testament, and one of the Imitation of Christ, Not With a View of becoming More Wise, but with a/ [p. 10 view of becoming More enlightened in the Ways of Salvation. This he punctually observed. We dined frequently together and I never Separated before Ten Oclock. Our Conferences had thus continued in the Most Serious and friendly Manner from the Month of September untill the Month of May of the following Year; during the Whole of Which Period, he Never ceased to reproach his Brethren With their Want of Religion, and With their Want of Attachment to the Essentiall principles of their

¹ La perpétuité de la foi de l'église catholique touchant l'Eucharistie, by Antoine Arnauld, the Jansenist.
² i.e., Arnauld.
Faith, and to the Various constitutions and regulations of their Church. His conduct, in these regards, was observed, and strong suspicions were entertained, with respect to his future designs. He now talked of devoting three years to the exclusive study of these subjects, that he might acquire a complete knowledge of them, and be enabled, at length, to decide, without exposing himself to the imputation of having proceeded in the affair, with imprudence, and rashness. So perfectly, however, was he already convinced, that coming on the eve of birth, to spend the evening with me, we ascended together to the chapel, where prostrate on the ground, he adored his Redeemer, truly present in the Holy sacrament of the altar. He abstained from lent, every day, with the exception of Sundays. On the Friday preceding the week of rogations, I invited him to dinner, and engaged to satisfy him, with respect to the divine inspiration of some of the books of scripture, of which he still entertained some degree of doubt, as well as with respect to the lawfulness of prayer for the dead. I looked into several authors, but when the pages of St. Augustine were opened before him, he burst into a flood of tears, and exclaimed, "Is it possible we should have been so miserably imposed on; yes, I am determined to quit for ever a sect which is supported only on the principles of delusion and imposture; my resolution is decidedly taken, and to conquer every obstacle which presents itself in my way, is the first purpose of my mind." Confession was the great obstacle to which he alluded. During the whole evening, his tears ceased not to flow. I did every thing in my power to inspire him with confidence and comfort. The inspirations of divine grace, the solicitations of human respect; and the natural dread which he felt of opening his heart to a fellow mortal like himself, each at the same time agitated his mind to the utmost degree. On the eve of the rogations, he called upon me, and communicated to me his determination of going to London on the following day. Accordingly he left Lincoln, as he had determined, and on the day of the ascension assisted at mass in the chapel of the sardinian ambassador. He has since assured me that during the whole service, he ceased not to shed tears, and to beg of God his divine grace to enlighten his mind, and to guide him into the paths of salvation. On Friday he waited on Dr. Douglass.

1 17 May, 1798.
2 Gallicism for "was present."
the Bishop of London and informed him of the step which he had determined to take. The Bishop received him with kindness, Conversed With him for some time, represented to him the Difficulties of his New undertaking and requested him to attend him on the following Morning. Mr — was punctual to the agreement. The Bishop introduced him to Mr Hodgson Who received him under his charge, and admitted him into the Bosom of the Catholic Church. By the Post of that day he informed Me of his Proceedings in this Business, and added that he hoped to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and holy Eucharist on Pentecost Day. [p. 14

Endorsed:—] Some Particulars Relative to Mr B. of Magdalen College, Oxford, Which happened in 1792.

XXXII.

A letter on vaccination.

One of William Fermor's interests was propaganda in favour of vaccination, and he corresponded with Edward Jenner. This letter, which was published by Blomfield, is not, as Blomfield states, written by the discoverer of vaccination, but by his nephew, a clergyman. It is difficult to understand how Blomfield came to make the mistake, for not only is the signature perfectly clear and bears no resemblance to "Edward Jenner," but Mr. Fermor endorsed the letter as coming from the "Revd. Mr. Jenner," which should have put Blomfield on his guard. The story of the regiment at Colchester is well known, and is told in John Baron, The Life of Edward Jenner, London, 1827, Vol. I., p. 379.

Mr. William Fermor had become acquainted with Edward Jenner at Cheltenham and, in conjunction with George Jenner, "experiments were conducted with the concurrence and under the inspection of many of the most learned professors of Oxford, and the most distinguished medical men in the neighbourhood. Among these may be particularly mentioned Sir Christopher Pegge, Drs. Wall and Williams, and Mr. Grosvenor. In a short time 326 persons were vaccinated, of all ages from two months to sixty-nine years of age. Of these 173 were subsequently inoculated with smallpox, but never felt its influence." Baron, ut sup., Vol. I., p. 331.)

His experience so convinced Fermor of the value of the new discovery that he wrote two pamphlets, one of which was entitled Reflections on

1 Not, of course, the real bishop of London, but the vicar-apostolic of the London district, James Douglass, bishop of Centuria in partibus; a man of considerable distinction (see D.N.B.).

2 F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine, 1801-1822.

3 Martin Wall, F.R.S., Fellow of New College, professor of clinical medicine, 1785-1824.

4 George Williams, physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Professor of Botany, 1796-1834.

the Cow-pox, illustrated by cases to prove it an absolute security against the Small pox; addressed to the public in a letter to Dr. Jenner (Oxford, 1800). On page 31 there is a list of people who have been inoculated with the cow-pox, and among the people mentioned at Hethe who have since been inoculated with variolous matter by professional men in the neighbourhood are William, Hannah, Jane, Sophia and James Heydon (pp. 34-6). There also appears a Mr. Mellier (possibly a misprint for Hellier) at Tusmore, who had since been inoculated with smallpox (p. 36). Judging from the words of the letter, it would seem that persons who ought to have been vaccinated were inoculated with variolous matter and had developed smallpox.

The Rev. George C. Jenner to William Fermor.

Colchester.

Sir May 6th 1800.

I am extremely sorry to hear the progress you were making with your inoculation has received a check; but as the fact is well as certain’d that the men (Hayden and Hillier) never had the Cow Pox, I think what has happen’d will not ultimately injure the cause. I cross’d their names upon the authority of some of the Hethe people, of whom I made particular enquiry, and was assur’d that they both had the Cow Pox. No person in my opinion should be inoculated with variolous matter unless he can produce the mark left by the Cow Pox, since we find through ignorance or intention many accidents may happen to hurt the Credit of the Cow Pox.

My inoculations at Colchester go on but slowly owing to the Regiment (consisting of 1500 men) having the Itch, and it is highly necessary this troublesome disease should be first cured before I commence my operations.

Wishing you every success in your very laudable undertaking, I remain,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

G. C. JENNER.

[Addressed:—] To W^m Fermor, Esq.,

Tusmore,

Brackley,

Northamptonshire.

[Endorsed:—] 6th May, 1800. Rev^d M^r Jenner is prevented from inoculating 1500 Men at Colchester owing to the Regiment having the Itch. His opinion on the Hethe Patients taking the Small Pox.
XXXIII.
Concerning a possible lapse of the advowson to the vicarage of Childswickham.

It will have been observed (above, p. 45) that the connexion of the Fermors with Childs Wickham in Gloucestershire was of old standing. Richard Beadon, the bishop, was appointed in 1789 and, translated to Bath and Wells in 1802, he died in 1824. According to the information I have obtained from the diocesan registrar at Gloucester, William Henry Barnard was instituted 6 September 1800 "l in presentation of Sir Henry Dashwood, bart., as patron. The whole transaction is rather mysterious, and raises a number of questions. Mr. Fermor being a noted Roman Catholic, the advowson should have lapsed to the University of Oxford; yet if Sir Henry Dashwood was the patron, what ground was there for this letter from the Bishop of Gloucester to Mr. Fermor? If the Bishop's character had been free from all suspicion, it would have been possible to rule out simony, but if this is not to be advanced in explanation, it is very difficult to account for the matter. It must be remembered of course that advowsons are real property and that, in Chambers, Roman Catholic lawyers had for very many years been doing a large and skilful practice in conveyancing, and that they may have discovered some loophole in the law. An instance of an apparently temporary sale may be seen in Cath. Rec. Soc. Misc., Vol. VI. (Bedingfield Papers), p. 15, in regard to the living of Oxburgh. It may also be questioned if a bishop to-day would be unable to say whether a living in his diocese had been vacant for six months or not.

The Bishop of Gloucester to Mr. Fermor.

Stanford Rivers.  
August 13th, 1800.

Sir,  

Your letter, which I had the Honor of receiving by yesterday's Post, brought me the first Intelligence of the Avoidance of the Vicarage of Childswickham. I take it for granted it has not been already vacant six months; and in that case, if Mr. Barnard cannot make it convenient to himself to bring me his Presentation before the Expiration of that Period, I shall very readily indulge him with as much more Time, as the Circumstances of his Situation may require, without taking Advantage of the Lapse.  

I beg the Favor of you to present my best Compliments to Mr. Errington and Lady Broughton,¹ and have the Honor to be, with great Respect,

Sir,  

Your most obedient  
humble servant  
R. GLOUCESTER.

¹ See above, p. 59.
The Bishop of Gloucester's answer to Mr Fermor's Letter on desiring further time against a Lapse for the Vicarage of Childswickham.

XXXIV.


The following paper is printed, not for edification, for it scarcely promotes it, but as an illustration of the manners and customs of the time. The colony at the time when the incident occurred was under an acting-governor, Brigadier-General James Montgomerie, the lieutenant-governor, Anthony Beaujon,¹ having died on 17 October, 1805, and his successor, W. W. Bentinck, not arriving until May, 1806. At the close of the printed document I have printed an extract from a private letter of the new governor which shows how he dealt with the situation.

The news reached this country in July, as appears from the Gentleman's Magazine for July, 1806 (Vol. LXXVII., p. 676), but I have not been able to trace in the press the charges made against Blair, as alleged. The date of the death is there given as 13 May, in error, as it appears.

What member of the Tuite family is here mentioned, I have not discovered.

The late Lieutenant-Colonel F. Macrae,/OF THE DEMARARY MILITIA,/AND/ Arthur Blair, Esq./MAJOR-COMMANDANT OF THE ROYAL VOLUNTEER CAVALRY RAISED BY HIM.

The following authentic documents would not have been published here, had not the conduct of the enemies of Major Blair made such publication necessary, in vindication of his honour and character: not content with having resorted to every means in their power to persecute Major Blair in the West Indies, they, ere his arrival in this country, had inserted in every Paper of the United Kingdoms, a garbled and partial statement of the dispute that took place between the late Lieutenant-colonel F. Macrae and him, which terminated so fatally to Lieutenant-colonel Macrae, evidently with the intent of prejudging the question, and thereby injuring the character of Major Blair. The perusal of the following papers, (the originals of which may be seen by any gentleman at

¹ Anthony Baujon was formerly the Dutch governor, "who had taken over the government in 1795 and had been retained in it after the surrender to the British in that year." (Miss L. M. Penson on the Making of a Crown Colony: British Guiana, in Trans. Royal Hist. Soc., 4th Series, Vol. IX., p. 117). He was restored in 1803.
Osborn’s Hotel, the Adelphi) will completely remove any unfavourable impressions that might have been entertained in respect to Major Blair’s conduct as an officer and a gentleman, and enable them to form a just idea of the motives that actuated his enemies to attempt his ruin.

London, 22d October, 1806.

Copy of a Letter from Wm. ALLANBY, Esq. M.D., one of the Gentlemen, and a son of St. George, appointed a Steward to do the Honours on the Evening of the 23d April last, St. George’s Day, at a Ball and Supper given by them to the Ladies and Gentlemen of Demerary, Essequibo, and Berbice, to Joseph Tuite, Esq.

Dear Tuite,

You have several times expressed to me Mr. Arthur Blair’s wish, that I would give a written statement of what passed at the Union Coffee House on the celebration of our Tutelar Saint’s Day, the 23d of April last, and which unfortunately tended to cause a meeting that has deprived this community of a very respectable member.

I am a Son of St. George, and was one of the gentlemen who had to do the honours of a division of the supper-table on that occasion, and also had the task assigned me, of devising and procuring the transparencies, as well as the appropriate badges we were to wear: as I had them to distribute, I was careful to observe the arrival of individuals as they entered the rooms.

The commencement of the ball was delayed about two hours, waiting for Brigadier-general Montgomerie, Governor ad interim. Lieutenant-colonel Macrae came with him, dressed as a military man, and in liquor; his good manners and good temper, so far as I could perceive, remained, and everything went on in uniform harmony, until the first party had risen from supper, and returned to the ball-room to recommence dancing.

The gentlemen who from attention to, as well as those who through apprehension of incommoding the ladies, had not partaken of refreshments on the table, now seated themselves, and I still remained in the supper-room. Everything was perfect unanimity, when my attention was attracted by Messrs. Macrae and Blair entering the company engaged in altercation. The former was warm, and evidently much inebriated, anxious to quarrel, and using such language as could only be applied by one man of honour
to another with a view of provoking a challenge. The latter was, on the contrary, sober and cool, expostulating, not retorting, and manifestly anxious to avoid either altercation or explanation; seeming conscious that the place was improper for individual disagreements of any kind: it was also evident he made great allowances for Mr. Macrae's inebriety. Knowing it to be my duty, I interfered, and in a friendly manner, pointing to the shamrock, thistle and rose, wreathed round the crown in the transparency, emblematic of union, I requested they would recollect themselves where they were, and on what occasion they had met. I happily succeeded in getting them to take a glass of wine with each other, and not long afterwards went into the ball-room.

I had been but a few minutes there, when I saw and heard those gentlemen also; Mr. Blair still preserving his temper, in a manner that, I am pretty correct in saying, astonished all who knew him, and Mr./Macrae as warm as ever. Brigadier-general Montgomerie [p. 2 now got up, apparently much irritated, and about to interfere. I went up to him, and informed him that I was one of the Sons of St. George, and a steward for the evening; that I was acquainted with both gentlemen, and had great influence with one of them; I begged he would leave it to us, and we would take care no unpleasant consequences would ensue; but this application met with such a reception as induced me to remove to a distant part of the room. In a few seconds I heard the whole company in an uproar; the ladies fled; the gentlemen, at least many of them, were astonished and indignant beyond expression, and were only restored to their good humour by the departure of the Governor, and poor Macrae, whose friends took him away, for I do not believe he had one enemy in the room.

Blair remained till daylight, as did several gentlemen; and we went home fully convinced that the most serious consequences were likely to ensue. We could not see how two gentlemen, each jealous of his military consequence, and equally so of his individual honour, could either drop or compromise so serious a dispute; rendered, by the interference of the Governor, of such notoriety, that every settlement in the Western Hemisphere must ring with it, from Surinam to the very Bay of Honduras and every town of the United Kingdoms from London to Belfast, where Demarary has any commercial intercourse.

However averse I am to have anything to say or do in an affair of this nature, especially at a period when every endeavour should be used to bury it an oblivious silence, I cannot but, at the same
time, deem it the duty of a good and candid member of society to step forward, and by impartial statements rescue from the slanderous aspersions of faction, the conduct of an individual, who, on this melancholy business, acted with correctness, and more forbearance than I remember to have ever seen, from a man not a professed coward.

I am,

Dear Tuite.

Demerary.

August 14th 1806

JOSEPH TUITT, ESQ., DEMERARY.

Copy of a Letter from the late Lieutenant-colonel FARQUHAR MACRAE, to the President and Members of the Committee of the Sons of St. George.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen,

It is with regret I learn that my noisy behaviour at your elegant entertainment, neither corresponded with my real sentiments for one and all of you, with the respect I owed the company, nor, let me add, with my own usual demeanour. Accept, Gentlemen, my best thanks for your indulgent kindness, with which I am, I assure you, deeply impressed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, and Gentlemen,

Your obliged servant,

(Signed) F. MACRAE.

Demerary, 25th April, 1806.

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Answer.

Dear Sir,

25th April, 1806.

I am just favoured with your note, and shall not fail to communicate the contents to the Stewards, on whom I am convinced the small deviation from your usual demeanour, on the 23d, has not made any unfavourable impression, any more than on,

Your obedient servant,

J. JACKSON.

To F. Macrae, Esq. President.
At a full Meeting of the Demerary Volunteer Cavalry, held at the Union Coffee House, Stabrock, and convened specially this 26th April, 1806, it was resolved unanimously.

That an Address be presented to Major Blair, assuring him of the high sense we entertain of his conduct as an officer, whilst we had the honour to be under his command, which was equally meritorious, as entitled to our warmest thanks; and as a further testimony of our regard and friendship, we request his acceptance of a sword, value one hundred guineas; and we hereby appoint Lieutenant Fitzgerald, Cornet King, and Adjutant Cowin, a committee to carry this resolution into immediate effect.

By order of the Corps,

JOSEPH TUIKE,
CAPTAIN.

I do hereby certify, that being called on by Arthur Blair, Esq., Major Commandant Royal Demerary Cavalry, to require of Lieutenant-colonel Macrae an explanation and atonement for the insult offered Major Blair, in a public company, on the night of the 23d instant, he, Lieutenant-colonel Macrae, having stated that Major Blair "was not a gentleman, nor a man of honour, and that he had deceived him." I waited on Lieutenant-colonel Macrae at the store of his brother, on the 24th instant, at the hours of eight, ten, and twelve o'clock, A.M. I was informed that he was in bed, that he intended to go out of town, and would be in Stabrock next day. Captain Johnston, who I met there, enquired if I had any message? that he was the Colonel's friend. I replied, that not having seen the Colonel, I could not enter into any particulars with him. Captain Johnston seeming very desirous to know the nature of my mission, he was soon informed that it was not wholly friendly, on which Captain Johnston answered he was well aware Lieutenant-colonel Macrae had behaved ill to Major Blair, hoping at the same time, that as the Colonel was in liquor when the matter happened, it would be made up; to which I replied, it was Major Blair's wish and mine.

On Saturday, the 26th instant, I called on Colonel Macrae, at his brother's store, by appointment, at ten o'clock, A.M. On explaining to the Colonel the nature of my message, which was this—that Major Blair felt hurt that Colonel Macrae, without any provocation, should have used the expressions with respect to him before mentioned, and that he trusted they would be recanted;
the Colonel's answer was—"that he acknowledged having made use of the expressions," but he would not retract them.—(Mr. Cowan thinks it necessary to observe, that Captain Johnston used every means to prevent a meeting.)

All the endeavours on my part to convince the Colonel that as he acknowledged to have used the expressions imputed to him by the Major, and his having been much intoxicated, that it was not dishonourable to retract them; his answer was, that his determination was fixed, and that if I had any other message, Captain Johnston was his friend. No alternative being left, but a report to Major Blair, which I made, I was directed by him to press again on the Colonel the impropriety of his conduct, and to request he would make an apology. A direct refusal on the part of the Colonel led to an appointment—the result is known. "I must state, that it having been reported, previous to the meeting, that Colonel Macrae, though he knew he was wrong, thought it unlike an officer to apologise, and that he would not fire," that so far from its being the case, he took a most deliberate aim at Major Blair.

W. L. COWAN.
Lieutenant of Cavalry.

Extract from the Demerary Gazette, 3d May, 1806

On Tuesday, the 29th ult. died, Farquhar Macrae, Esq. Captain in the late 11th West India Regiment, and Lieutenant-colonel Commandant of all Colonial Corps; a man highly respected for his private worth, and whose loss must be considered as a public calamity. The cause of this lamentable event is said to have been a wound received in the adjustment of an affair of honour with A. Blair, Esq., Major Commandant of the Royal Demerary Volunteer Cavalry. In consequence of a difference originating with the Lieutenant-Colonel's late appointment, and increased by the subject being improperly permitted to be agitated at the Meeting of the Sons of St. George, on the preceding Wednesday, the parties are stated to have met last Sunday morning, near the plantation La Penitence, and to have exchanged shots, at twelve paces distance, when Lieutenant-colonel Macrae fell at the first fire, having received his opponent's ball a little above the right hip. Every possible assistance was immediately afforded; and to insure the attention and care which his situation demanded, he was taken to the hospitable and friendly mansion of the Honourable A. Meertens. The wound was not at first thought to be dangerous; but the
following morning it assumed an unfavourable aspect, and it was
soon known that he could not survive. In this most trying situa-
tion, his manly conduct evinced, in the strongest light, the high
sense he entertained of that honour, to the vindication of which,
according to the fatal and imperious laws of established custom,
he was then falling a martyr. Although repeatedly and earnestly
pressed to say who had inflicted the wound under which he was
suffering, he firmly resisted, declared that he received it in an
honourable way, and that nothing should induce him to name the
party. He continued to hold the same generous sentiments till
about one o'clock on Tuesday, when, to the extreme sorrow of his
friends, and infinite regret of the whole Colony—

"His noble spirit sought the shades."

The body was conveyed from Rome, by water, to the New Hope
(the estate of the deceased) where it was interred about four o'clock
on Wednesday.

[no colophon]

(Public Record Office, C.O. 111, No. 6.)

W. W. Bentinck, Governor of Demerara to Sir George Shee
Bart.

Private.

Demerary, 6 June, 1806.

. . . A very unpleasant business has taken place here previous to
my arrival. I have unfortunately been obliged to act in it and am afraid
I shall have still more to do with it as President of the Court of Justice.
A Mr. Blair, Comptroller of the Customs here raised a Corps of Militia
Cavalry, and though He considered Himself under the Command of
the Lieut. Col. Commandant of the Militia, he nevertheless led his Corps
into Error and kept them in the Dark with respect to how it was under-
stood both by the late Governor Beaujon and General Montgomerie
during the time he acted as Governor. In consequence of some words
having passed on St. George's Day a meeting took place which ended
unfortunately. Mr. Blair having had a previous Leave of Absence has
absented himself ever since, and applied to me for further Leave of
Absence. As President of the Court I found it rather awkward answer-
ing him, as application had been made and granted by the Vice President
previous to my arrival to enjoin Mr. Blair not to leave the Colony. I
have in Consequence given no answer. Shall Mr. Blair stand his Trial
whither† he is acquitted or not, I foresee the greatest Mischief will
ensue. He is a very troublesome Man and wherever he has been, has
always got into scrapes. In Consequence of this unfortunate dispute
about Command, Mr. Blair's Conduct towards General Montgomerie was
so very indecent that he suspended him in his Command, which oc-
casioned a Meeting of the whole Corps of Cavalry, summoned by their
Lieutenant, where very indecent resolutions were taken. General
Montgomerie shewed them Papers and Letters which had passed between Him, Major Blair, Col. McRae, Gov'r. Beaujon and General Meyers. After having generally expressed their surprise as well as their Concern in not having seen these before, which they said would have prevented the Error they had committed, they had another Meeting and requested General Montgomery to give them a certain Time to answer him. I saw the Officers on the Business and told them what I wished them to do, and what I thought they ought to do. I am sorry to say they would do nothing of what they were advised, and as they gave no satisfaction to General Montgomerie, and he laid the whole case before Me, I thought it my Duty to give the General my support, and have disbanded the Corps with an order for every Individual to enter into the Militia.

XXXV.

Genealogy of a casket.

I am informed by Mrs. Gwynne-Holford of Hartpury that this casket was sold by her mother about sixty years ago to Mr. Alfred de Rothschild. Eventually he bequeathed it to Almina, Countess of Carnarvon; and Messrs. Christie kindly inform me that it was sold by them on her behalf on 20 May, 1925, to Mr. Percy Webster, of 37 Great Portland Street, W.1, but though I have made enquiries, I have not been able to trace it further. The description in the sale catalogue was as follows:—

"184 A CHASSE—4\& in. high, 7\& in. wide—French, early 16th century.

"It is composed of twelve plaques of Limoges enamel, painted with Amorini sporting in landscapes, medallion heads and scroll foliage in colours and grisaille on blue ground, in the style of Couly Noylier, the backgrounds painted with inscriptions; the framework of copper-gilt engraved with arabesque foliage, and supported on four feet chased as carved figures; the handle chased with masks and foliage.

"The chasse is said to have been given by Francis I to Cardinal Wolsey, and by the latter to Henry VIII, who gave it to Anne Boleyn. The Queen presented it to Lady Worcester, and from her daughter it passed into the hands of the Canning Family."

The price realised was four hundred guineas.

Genealogy of a casket given by Francis I of France to Cardinal Wolsey.

This is a Copy of the Original Writing upon Parchment by Mr Thos. Abington Sign'd and Seal'd in 1684 to be kept in the Casket.

and to shew what was in great Esteem about 250 years Ago tho' perchance in these days not much valued I give the Account how the Casket has been disposed of.

It was at first given by the King of France (Francis the 1st) to Cardinal Woolsey when he was in France and the great favourite of Henry the 8th who at his return to England had presented it to
the said King Henry Who gave it to the Queen Anne of Bullen, and she
to the Lady Elizabeth wife of Henry Earl of Worcester and she
to their Daughter the Lady Lucy Somerset wife of John Nevill
Lord Latimer and she
To her eldest daughter and co heir Catharine wife of Henry
Earl of Northumberland and she
To her daughter Lady Eleanor Piercey wife of William Lord
Powis and she
To her daughter Lucy Herbert wife of Mr William Abington
and she
To her daughter Catharine wife of Mr Thomas Osborn and she
To their daughters Lucy and Eleanor who at any time shall have
it restored to them by their affectionate uncle.

THOS ABINGTON.
1684

Thus far Mr Abington
Note the said Lucy and Eleanor dying without issue it remained
with the Abingtons till Thos. Abington the Granson of the above
Thos. Abington who wrote the above account gave it with his
estate at Hindlip to Sr Wm Compton of Hartpury Bar who left it
to his son also Sr Wm Compton who died in 1758 and it came to
Jane Compton the last Sr Williams daughter the sole heiress of that
family who married John Berkeley Esq who died in 1778 and the
said Jane his wife who died in 1781 gave it to her eldest daughter
Catharine Berkeley born the 11th Jan 1776.

XXXVI.
Dimensions of two luggers.

Dimensions of the Wrenn Lugger.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length Extreme aloft</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breadth do</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of the Keel along the Rabbit</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth a Midship from gun-well to Rabit of Keel not including Wash strake</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 here the handwriting changes,
TUSMORE PAPERS.

hightts of stem Keel included  13 3
D° from Tafferel to bottom }  16 3
of the Keel

Length extreme aloft  76 feet
Breadth   D°  22
Length of ye Keel along the }
Rabbit
Depth a midship from gunnel to
Rabbit of Keel not including wash
strake

[Endorsed:—] Dimensions of the Wren and Shaftesbury Luggers.
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