



## Swallowfield and its Owners.

*By Lady Russell.*

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*(Continued from page 133.)*

1687. In January, 1687, Lord Clarendon, having been Lord Deputy of Ireland for a year, received his recall in the most abrupt manner, and left in February. Lord Tyrconnel succeeded him, James II. being determined to favour the Roman Catholics in every way. The following is Lord Clarendon's letter to the Lord Treasurer on the subject :—

“Dublin Castle, Jan. 8th, 1686-7.

“To-morrow I shall have been here a year ; and therefore I shall begin a new number to my letters.

“Though I have not much to say at this time by reason of the season, when all people are at play, yet I must write to you as often as I can, and for want of other matter let me brag how perfect a drudge I have been all this year. There is no office I have not rummaged into, and, I think, can give a good account of. I am sure the revenue never was in so good order, the effect whereof would have appeared by the end of this month. This has been laborious enough ; but I thought I could never lay out myself too much to serve the King, and to shew him more than ever he knew yet ; and if I were to continue, I might now have had some pleasure ; but that I have been never used to, and know not why I should think of it at this time of the day. Indeed I think it is time to leave off the thoughts of having to do with the world. I thank God, without practising the greatest villany, I cannot be charged with any fault in my administration here ; which, though it will not preserve me, is a great comfort. I do no more expect to keep the privy seal than I do to have a recompense, whereby to repair my fortune, but shall apply myself to the payment of my debts, which by the blessing of God shall be done, whatever I part with. Since the writing of this

I have received the signification of the King's pleasure from my Lord President ; a copy of whose letter and my answer you have here enclosed. I am of opinion his lordship, if he had so thought fit, might have given me longer warning ; but it may be it is decreed I am to be worse used than ever any man was before me ; but upon my word, this I write or say only to yourself I will take your advice in everything, but as for writing to the Queen I cannot do it yet ; that is, upon so short warning. . . . I would be very glad of your advice as to my journey, whether I should go publickly, and receive the compliments which will be made me upon the road. . . . I know what my own inclinations are : I purpose to land at Chester, and then to go out of the road to some friend's house ; so to shake off some of my loose train, and after a day or two rest to come up quietly to some lodging, which I will appoint to be taken for me for a week. . . . If my Lord Tyrconnel arrives here this month I doubt not but I shall embark the first week of the next."

Lord Tyrconnel's arrival spread dismay throughout the whole English population, and Macaulay says : " Clarendon was accompanied, or speedily followed, across St. George's Channel by a large proportion of the most respectable inhabitants of Dublin, gentlemen, tradesmen, and artificers, and it was said that 1,500 families emigrated in a few days." On Lord Clarendon's return the Privy Seal was taken from him and given to Lord Arundell of Wardour. The previous year his brother, Lord Rochester, had been deprived of his office of Lord Treasurer, and this fall of the two Hydes, brothers-in-law of the King, was one of the turning points in public affairs.

1688. In January, 1688, the Queen Dowager, who had just announced her intention of returning to Portugal, commenced a suit against Lord Clarendon for certain monies which she considered him indebted to her. Sir W. Williams, the Solicitor General, appeared for Lord Clarendon ; all the rest of the King's Counsel were retained by the Queen Dowager, excepting Holt, who refused the Queen's fee, and promised to advise Lord Clarendon privately. Lord Clarendon solicited the interference of his Royal brother-in-law, and gives the following account of his conversation with the King :—" I told his Majesty of my law affairs with the Queen Dowager, and that his Solicitor General was my Counsel, and had even taken several fees of me, but that he was now forbid to appear for me. The King declared ' It was indeed considered wholly contrary to etiquette that any Counsel of his should plead against the

Queen Dowager, and that it was impossible for him to seem to disoblige her, but,' continued King James, 'I wonder extremely that Queen Catharine should sue you for such a kind of debt, which will not be to her honour when opened in a public court. I have told Lord Feversham (Catherine's Chamberlain) my mind on it, and I will, if it comes in my way, speak to the Queen Dowager myself.' On February 8th Lord Clarendon had another with the King on the same subject, when his Majesty said 'it was a matter of law which he understood not, that he could not meddle, and that the Queen Dowager was a hard woman to have to do with.' On February 14th Lord Clarendon writes: "God knows I am only defending myself all this time, that I may not be forced to refund those just fees and allowances which my predecessors always enjoyed. A good recompense for above three-and-twenty years' faithful service; performed at great expenses, and, without vanity be it spoken, with some considerable hazards. But God's will be done."

The following are extracts from Lord Clarendon's diary of 1688 to 1690, concerning days that he and Lady Clarendon spent at Swallowfield :—

"1688. April 17th. Wednesday. My wife and I went to Swallowfield. Mr. Keightley<sup>1</sup> went with us. We found my brother,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Boyle,<sup>3</sup> and Mr. Gwyn came in just before us.

"April 19th. Thursday. Captain Edward St. Lo<sup>4</sup> dined with us; he came from his quarters at Wokingham. In the afternoon we went to see Mr. Parry,<sup>5</sup> but found him not at home; however, we went in and took a view of his new house.

"April 20th. Friday. In the morning my brother and Mr. Boyle went to London. Mr. Parry dined with me. In the evening I rid out to take the air, and met my son and Mr. Young coming from Sarum.

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1. Thomas Keightley, of Hertingfordbury, Herts, married Frances Hyde, sister of Edward, Lord Clarendon.

2. Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester.

3. Hon. Robert Boyle, son of the Earl of Cork, was the celebrated philosopher.

4. Capt. Edward St. Lo, son of Sir John St. Lo, married Alice, daughter of Laurence Hyde. Lord Clarendon had "christened," *i.e.*, stood godfather to his son, Capt. St. Lo's mother-in-law, the widow Chiffinch and Mr. Chiffinch being his "partners."

5. Mr. Parry, envoy to Portugal, *tempo*. Ch. II., succeeded to Wokefield through his mother, the daughter of Peter Weaver, who had bought it in 1626 from Francis Plowden.

"April 21st. Saturday. I went to see the Bishop of Winchester<sup>6</sup> at Farnham and dined with him. Mr. Keightley, Mr. Parry and Mr. Young went with me.

"April 22nd. Sunday. Dr. Hungerford and Mr. Pocock dined.

"April 23rd. Monday. In the evening the Corporation of Reading sent one of their serjeants to know when they might wait on me. This was the first civility they had shewed me since the new regulation, and I don't much care to have to do with them, all the honest men being turned out, so I sent them word I was going out of the country, and when I returned I would let them know it.

"April 24th. Tuesday. Mr. Bromstead and his wife dined with us."

On July 10th, Lord Clarendon was much distressed at the elopement of his son, Lord Cornbury, with Catharine O'Brian, daughter of Lady Catharine Williamson by her first husband Henry, Lord Ibrackan (son of Lord Thomand). Many of his father's letters are full of projects of marrying him to a suitable wife, and asking assistance of his brothers, Lord Rochester and others in the furtherance of his plans. Money seems to have been wanting on Lord Clarendon's side, but Lady Clarendon, though only the step-mother, offered her "King's shares" for the advancement of these negotiations. The Duchess of Beaufort wished Lord Cornbury to marry Lady Betty Stanhope, daughter of Lord Chesterfield; Lord Clarendon had some negotiations with a "widow Whitmore," and then wished for the daughter of Sir Stephen Fox, but the young man chose for himself. The following is Lord Clarendon's entry in his diary on the subject: "July 10th. When I came home from prayers in the morning my wife told me my son was gone away with Miss O'Brian, my Lady Catharine's daughter, which struck me to the heart. The more I think of it the more it troubles me. I had been in treaty this last year with my Lady Catharine and Sir Joseph Williamson\* for this young lady at my son's desire, for I had no acquaintance with them, but finding she had no portion, without which I can make no settlements, and that her estate does not come to her part till the Duke of Richmond's debts are paid, which are still near £14,000, I broke very fairly off. It is the most inconvenient match that could have been for me; a young woman

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6. Dr. Peter Mews, who had been Vicar of St. Mary's, Reading, in 1664. In 1684, at which time he was Bishop of Winchester, he directed the artillery at Sedgemoor, and afterwards received a medal for his services on that occasion.

oddly bred, no manner of advantage, and an unavoidable charge. Besides, it is a base thing, and unbecoming a man of honour to steal a child from a parent. Thank God, I had no hand in it. O Lord, make me able to bear this irrecoverable blow. Good God ! that my poor family should be brought into utter misery for him, who was the only hopes of raising it. O Lord, my heart is even broke ! My brother whose kindness is never wanting quickly came to me ; but I told him I would not see my son, nor take any notice of the match. He went then to my Lady Catharine who was full of indignation, as I confess she had no reason to be. My wife, who had always been as fond of my son as if he had been her own, helped him all she could in this match, believing it a convenient and advantageous match for him, but finding I was so much troubled at it, she took a lodging for them in Leicester-fields, whither they came in the evening. It seems they were married at Tottenham. Mrs. Garraway and Mr. Keightley had been assisting in the contrivance, and went away with them, thinking, I verily believe, that they had done well in it.

"July 11th. Reflecting with myself that this young man, who, I doubted, had made himself unhappy, was my son and only child ; that I ought to make the best of a bad market, and not to add misery to misery, I yielded to the persuasions of my wife and my brother, and went to see my son and his wife. I dined with them, and took them home to my house in the evening. I endeavoured to wait upon my Lady Catharine, but she was not or would not be at home.

"July 12th. In the afternoon I was with my Lady Catharine and found Sir Joseph with her. I made my compliments as well as she would give me leave ; but she would not hear me say anything with patience (which I confess I could not blame her for) and so I came away. I desired Sir Joseph to do good offices, and persuade my lady to see her daughter, but he said with a wonderful stiffness that he was the unfittest man in the world to interpose between my lady and her daughter. I said I thought quite the contrary, that he was the fittest and so we parted. They went immediately to Cobham."

The quarrel, however, was soon at an end, for on the 17th July Lord Clarendon writes : "My lady Catharine and Sir J. W. came to town. I went to see them ; they were pretty well pacified. In the evening Sir J. visited my daughter and said her mother would quickly see her. We all went to the Duchess of Richmond's\* to see the fireworks, which were made for the birth of the Prince of

Wales." And again "July 18. Sir J. W. came to my daughter and carried her to her mother ; so God be thankful that breach is made up. He afterwards visited my wife and me ; and in the evening we went to my Lady Catharine." A day or two after we find Lord and Lady Clarendon staying with Sir. J. and Lady Catharine Williamson at Cobham. On July 28, Lord and Lady Clarendon and Lord and Lady Cornbury went to Swallowfield, having dined at Bagshot.

The next day, Sunday, Dr. Hungerford and Mr. Pocock dined with them at Swallowfield but no visitors are mentioned.

August 11th, Lord Clarendon writes : "Got to Swallowfield before noon, and quickly after my Lord Montrath\* and my son came in."

On August 13th, Lord Clarendon went from Swallowfield to Lord Chancellor Jeffery's house at Bulstrode for an arbitration about the New River, "but of the parties only Mr. Dockmanique appeared, so nothing was arranged." Lord Clarendon then left for Swallowfield and the Lord Chancellor took him in his Calash as far as Mr. Hickman's living. Lord Clarendon says of Jeffery : "He talked very freely to me of all his affairs, called the Judges a thousand fools and knaves ; that Chief Justice Wright was a beast ; the King and Queen were to dine with him on Thursday next ; that he had still great hopes the King would be moderate when the Parliament met. . . . When we came to Hickman's I staid about an hour and then left them, having at least 14 miles to go." In September Lord and Lady Clarendon were for some days at Swallowfield, but they spent October in London, and we find at this time Lord Clarendon upbraiding his niece, Princess Annie, for countenancing the false reports respecting the birth of the Prince of Wales† and begging her to consider what miseries these suppositions might entail upon the kingdom, even in case God should bless the King with more sons. On November 5th, the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay and ten days later Lord Clarendon heard that his son, Lord Cornbury, had deserted the King and joined the Prince. The next day Lord Clarendon writes : "I waited on the King at W. Chiffinch's. I said what I was able upon so melancholy a subject. God knows I was in confusion enough. The King was very gracious to me, and said he pitied me with all his heart, and that he would still be kind to my family." In December Lord Clarendon,

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\* Coote Lord Montrath. This title became extinct in 1802.

† James Francis Edward, baptised October 15th.

accompanied by others, went to interview the Prince of Orange, who was staying at Berwick, near Salisbury,† and whilst there Monsieur Bentinck told him it was a most wicked and false insinuation to suggest that the Prince aspired to the Crown, “which,” says Lord Clarendon, “gave me great satisfaction.”

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† A house of Sir George Howe's, but then inhabited by the widow of Lord Clarendon's cousin, E. Hyde, of Hatch.

*(To be continued.)*

