

ART. II.—*The Letters of Catharine, Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire, relating to Levens Estates. Part I.* By Mrs. O. R. BAGOT.

CATHARINE, Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire, inherited the Levens Estates from her father, Colonel James Grahme in 1730. Her brother, Henry, had died before his father although he had lived to be Member of Parliament for the county and a man of considerable attainment. Lady Suffolk had a younger sister who was, one gathers from earlier correspondence, not a favourite of her father's.

Lady Suffolk married young, and her husband was her first cousin. One gathers, from the letters that he was somewhat of a rake, after the fashion of the day, used her monies, got out of paying her annuities, told her nothing of her affairs, and in general behaved in the accepted manner of one who has married an heiress. However, Catharine was a woman of grit and considerable personality. She realised that the agent which her husband had appointed—one Mr. Craven—at Levens was somewhat of a rogue, and installed Mr. Martyr, greatly in her confidence, who was to look into the agent's affairs, find out all that had gone amiss, and take over the estate. All this was known to my Lord, but what he did not know was the fact that his loving wife had arranged that Mr. Martyr should not only find out Mr. Craven's misdeeds (the defaulting one was rather appropriately named) but also was to carry on a correspondence with Lady Suffolk without his knowledge. Catharine was not going to wait a couple of hundred years to get her married women's Rights.

How Mr. Martyr coped with this very difficult situation



CATHARINE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK AND BERKSHIRE.  
Attributed to Ramsay or Hudson *circa* 1745.

can be seen from Catharine's letters. He must have been a man of quite unusual ability and business sense. All her Ladyship's letters (in a beautiful and legible hand) all the copies of his replies, and all the letters from my Lord, and his extravagant sons (in illegible, and indeed, illiterate, hands) he endorsed and carefully preserved. Mr. Martyr died in 1759, in the same year as her Ladyship, having done his duty until the last.

Charleton Oct the first 1754.

Mr. Martyr

I am very impatient to be inform'd how you find affairs at Levens. I desire you will give me a particular account of every Thing Directed to my Self. I knowing the Character of the Kendal Post Master perfectly, believe most certainly all our Letters to you and those you write us will be open'd, but I know of no other Way of conveying Letters to you. Let me know how Craven behaves, what condition you find the House, Gardens, Park etc. are in. I desire you will make an Invintery of what Plate, Linen and Furniture in Levens House what Beding etc. in the Rooms over the Stables, and at Beaumont Hall, what Craven says for himself, what arrears the Tenants are in. I hope Money will be got to pay the Annuities, and Intrest now becoming due. I desire My Hundred pounds may be return as soone as you can after Mics. I doubt you are not so well taken care of as I wou'd have you. for I take it for grant'd Mr. Craven will not take any of you, but I desire you will of your Self: for without Craven has destroy'd all the good Provisions that us'd to be, in great plenty, you can find no want of food I am sure. My Lords Health rather mends, but he is not well at all. I have got Some Gout in my write hand which makes writing troublesome. Let me constantly know how you go on who am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

I desire you will satisfie my Friend Grace Chambers with Moss

Charleton Octr the 12th 1754

Sr.

Some of Mr. Morgans Letters my Lord has shewn me. Wherein I read much civility, and many Professions of all the Service he

can do my Lord, but his real opinion of Cravens management don't find in those I have read; Suppose 'tis too early Days yet to make a just one. My Lord gave me the Letter he receiv'd from you last Post to read, by which I find the Courts must be kept soone. He has at present the Gout in one hand and very much out of order, but tells me he will write to you to Day; who He will appoint to keep them does not tell me. I desire you will not employ a Mr Holme an Attorney at Kendal (who I think has the Post office in that Town) as vile a Being as lives I know him to be, and will never let him be employ'd in any of our affairs there, if I can help it. whoever you have to deal with you'l find abundance of sharp cunning to ward against. 'tis wove up in their nature believe Me. So pray be on your Guard. but whether you hear or not from my Lord don't omit having the Courts kept. that must be done at the usual time. You mention a Mr. Smith Steward to Mr Wilson I do not remember He had any of that Name when I was at Levens last; 'tis not the Parson of our Parish he has made so? if 'tis him, a more Impertinent Creature don't know. Mr. Simpson Attorney at Penrith the Man in that Business in those parts, I have the best opinion of and if not chang'd, always bore the character of an honest Man. I think he wou'd be a proper Man for you to talk with. I now come to the Letter I receiv'd from you last Post which you may be sure I keep to my Self. Your Querys I approve of mightily. and desire they may be wrote to my Lord, for to have them put in practice wou'd as you justly observe, make us always Sure how our Affairs go on in the North. and all honest Stewards will approve of such method. As to Craven tho' you make little and modest mention of his doings I know him to be a very great Fool and heartily Wish he may not be prov'd a knave. till he is will not call him one upon my word. I take it for granted you'l find out abundance from the common People, oblig'd, or Disoblig'd that you may make a proper use of. My Lords Resolutions of discharging him or not intirely in his own Breast, for not the least hint have I yet heard of either. I am quite convinc'd my Self no Man can Serve two Masters. but if I was you wou'd give hopes to the people of Cravens going or Staying as you found it wou'd give you Information that might give light into whats doing. A good deal I imagine may be gathr'd this way. I am not my own Mistress therefore, Submit to the higher powers I hope you receiv'd a Letter from Me a few posts ago. I cannot but believe all our Letters to you will be open'd at Kendal. but as harkeners

never hear good of themselves. they'l read none in mine to them. Indeed Mr Martyr my opinion of you is, that you are very capable of doing us great Service where you are, and that you will set every Thing in the justest Light for our Advantage possible. I desire you will continue writing Me a constant Account how you go on Directed to my Self and mention whether our Letters are open'd or not. I hope you take care of your Self, but I doubt you must fare ill as you are among Strangers and Craven will not feed you to be sure.

I hope my Lord will get well Soone. Mr. Hall expected but not yet return'd I enjoy much better Health then usual. Thank you for your good Wishes and am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton Novr the 9th 1754

Mr Martyr

I have Receiv'd both your Letters. That relating to the affairs of the Estate gave Mr Hall to answer, as my Understanding So little us'd to Business shou'd make blundering work in attempting it. Your Letter last Post about the Morroco makes me Melancholly. I am sorry there has been both knavery and carelessness to deprive me of it. Must be content. But desire you will order a good quantity to be Brew'd. and take care the Malt be right Good they Brew it with and the Hogshead be perfectly sweet and clean that's to hold it. I leave it to you to buy the Malt of who you please, only take care it is the best. I suppose no Bottles left for our Use. Distruction in our Property seems to have been the whole practice of our Agent there. However, I will have Moroco so constantly Brew'd and in such proper Quantities as never to want any for me or my Friends of a right Age to Drink. 'Tis Liquor that never is the worse for keeping. So we cannot loose any Thing that way. Indeed I am sorry upon your Account the Sellars so badly furnish'd but That not my fault no more then Twenty other Things. Mr Hall I believe writes to you on the Articles of real Business; one about the Slate Quarris which I desire you'l make sly enquires into. Some there is in Stavely Manor, another in Longsledale Manor. Quarris of great value. and I have much reason to believe we are much abus'd in our property in them. You will I make no doubt by your Sagacity, find out how matters go there, for as I have been kept in the Dark can only inform you

such were my Fathers. Pray give me a particular account of every Thing as you go on and find them. If my Lord consents, I approve of having you bring the Tenants to the Two pay days you mention. You must Direct your next to Mrs Hettlins at Bath. My Lord intends going there next Monday Sevensnight. His Health better then it has been, but far from being so well as usual. Indeed I believe you will act with Prudence and great justice for our Advantage, and shall extremely rejoyce when our affairs are fix'd upon a sure and safe foundation. To know what we may call our own, and what returns of Money we may with reason expect from the Levens Estate. I must add one Thing more. I wou'd have you write me word what condition the woods at Barrowfield are in. When I last came from Levens left the finest young flourishing Oaks there my Eyes ever beheld. I will never have any Thing like Timber cut but what is Dead or Decaying. pray be very circumspect in this particular as to other Affairs Mr Hall will write upon. I wish you good Success, and that you may be able to read my bad writing

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Pray convey the enclos'd to my Friend Grace Chambers. I hope you have or will, exchange her Moss as she desire Remember me to Tom Tyson. I believe him an honest Man. I know he a quick understanding and usefull sense.

Bath Decr. the 15th 1754

I came but here last Thursday. having been laid up with Gout and a violent Fever, and but just able to hold a pen or you shou'd have heard from me sooner. I find my Lord but in a bad way of Health tho' rather better than he has been, but the Gout in his right hand disables him yet from writing to you. I read with Astonishment the number of Slates provided for Lord Andovers use: I knew it must be a great ly, and so it proves upon Enquirey, for Lord Andover writes me word he never order'd a Slate to be dug for him, or ever thought of ordering any. Most corrupt and vile Doings to be sure has been made of our property in the North. Pray what is Craven Doing he does not bring in his Accounts? I had a very impertinent Letter from Him to ask why my Lord and I do so and so in relation to Him which I shall never answer. Pray let me hear from you soone, and give me an account of all particulars, and now I am fix'd here, shall be able I hope to be more punctual in my answers to your Letters then

I have been. 'Tis something hard my Lord shou'd order my money to be pay'd the last; it grows near Lady Day and really to waite so long for Payment after 'tis due puts me to great Inconvenience. Therefore beg you will send it as soone as you can. I do not blame you that I have it not. and hope against my next half year is due you'l contrive I shall not waite for it so long. I hate to run in debt, but cannot avoid it now for I have no money at all.

Company flocks in so fast I can't add more but I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Bath Decr the 24th 1754

Mr Martyr

I have now receiv'd two Letter [*sic*] from you. oblig'd for your concerne for my Illness which has been very Severe. I am now got pretty Well only my Limbs continue So weak they are not of much use to you yet. and the Weather so Severe do not expect to gather Strength till 'tis warmer. I believe I never wrote you any Answer about the linen, but by all means wou'd have it wash'd and got into as good order as it can be. I do not wonder some shou'd be spoil'd it has lain so many years without looking into. As to what Annuities are to be pay'd from the Levens Estate cannot inform you. I am always kept in the Dark. I ask'd my Lord for Infermation but, he tells me he does not know. He has sent to Hall to acquaint you with this particular. My Lord has now order'd Mr Murray to pay my money due so long. I Thank you for the exact account you sent me which I am mighty Glad of. Amazing Cravens Behaviour. I believe he never will bring in his Accompts till forced. Pray continue to write to me. My Lord tho' better not able to write yet. My Head nor Hand can't do more at present then to wish you a Merry Xmass

Your oblig'd Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Bath Janry the 14th 1755

Mr Martyr

I Receiv'd your Letter of the 6th instant am oblig'd to you for the care you will take not to let me waite for my next Half years Money as I did for the last. My Lord tells me he order'd Mr Hall to send you the List of the Annuities they (*sic*) Levens

Estate is to Pay. wonder he has not done it. I dare not offer to alter the Payment of the Annuities tho' Think what you propose quite right, but that Affair my Lord and Mr Hall must Settle. By what you write in Relation to C—— management it appears to me of a Black Die, and his defering making up his Accompts bad indeed. Shou'd he go to Ireland as you Seem to believe you have reason to Think he will, how can we help ourselves? I fear he will be the occasion of much vexation and Trouble to us. Wish it possible to prevent his taking that journey. by his way of going on I Think it shews plainly he is determin'd to Act like a knave. I desire you will be carefull not one stick of wood is cut but what is absolutely necessary. He is vile to the last degree to spoil the Beauty of the Park by cutting down Timber he had no authority for. I know my Lord dis (*sic*) order some to be cut, but none that was an ornament and in view. Cravens ordering that large Quantity of Slate in Lord Andovers name a proof and a very strong one in my opinion of his employing our Property for his own use. His whole Behaviour most shocking bad. I wish we was clear of him. Tho' I like to know how Things go. I must not of my self Direct any Thing as you know. My Lords hand but just able to hold a Pen. he has been extreem Ill. but now getting better. I have not had a Frank from him of long while, have been oblig'd to beg about for my own Letters so cannot send you any as yet. But if you Direct the Letters design'd for me to the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and those for his Lords-Shipe by only the Title of Suffolk, they will come Free to me. Lady Andover Directs hers all so to me. So when Suffolk and Berkshire both on a Letter of yours shall take it to my self. I am in good Health and

Your oblig'd Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Jan'y 14th 1755

pray has there not been a Fine pay'd for old Mr Wilsons Death? I have been told the Customery Estates he helds under us he settl'd in his Life-time on his Wife. but then as I understand she cannot hold them without being admitted Tenant at our Court for the manor in which those Lands ly and certainly she ought to pay a Fine for being admitted. Pray explain this matter to me in your next.

Bath Febry the 24th 1755

I did receive your Letter Directed under Cover to my Lord. but a bad Cold took hold of me and quite disabl'd me from writing or Doing any Thing. I have also receiv'd a Letter from you this morning Dated the 16th Instant. and the weather so very Severe I am hardly able to hold my Pen my fingers so numb. I never remember the like all the days of my Life. As to the Mines, my Lord and Davis has come into Agreement about searching to find some. As to other Affairs I have not power to Direct. But desire as to Timber not a stick to be cut but, what necessary for Repairs. I do not imagine Craven has any Intention of giving in his Accompts. Sure he must be the greatest of Fools to Think we shall give up his Bond till he has settl'd every Thing with my Lord. He told me he had receiv'd your Letter with the Copy of Cravens you mention in that of yours to Day, but I did not read them. Mr. Hall now at Charleton. what my Lord and He will determine on to brings matters to a Conclusion can't say.

However as to the trying for Mines think 'tis much the wisest and surest way not to work ourselves, neither to employ miners that work in the Neighbourhood. which I imagine Davis will not do, but keep these particulars to your Self.

My Lord going to have the Gout, he's much out of order to Day, and I am so cold cannot write more but I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I hope you keep good Fires, I don't Think the Weather can be colder in the North then here.

Bath March the 3d 1755

I happen'd to forget in my last to Acquaint you that you must take Care whenever Sr John Dolben sends to Levens for a Buck or Doe Vension in the Season that he has as Good as the Park affords. My Lord has given him leave to send for it. But I cannot imagine how he will contrive to get it to Durham for there he lives, which is a great many Miles from Levens. However as He has ask'd for it He is very Wellcome to it. He is our very old Acquaintance and a most worthy good man. My Lord now much Recover'd and I at present enjoy pretty tolerable Health. We have not seen Mr. Hall since his return out of Staffordshire He was to have been here yesterday, but sent over to acquaint my Lord he had got a Fall and hurt his right Arme or wrist so

that he cou'd neither Ride; nor write. but hop'd he Shou'd be able to come in a Day or two.

I shou'd be glad Craven had deliverd in his Accompts. and our affairs put on a Sure footing without more plague or Trouble. but he's so prevers (*sic*) a Fool I can hardly imagine he'l be prevail'd on to do right; pray let me know how you go on. A good account woud be very acceptable to

Your Oblig'd Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I do believe Craven in bad Circumstances.

Charleton April the 12th 1755

I Think it a great while Since I had a Letter from you. Tho' Mr. Hall tells me you have return'd my Hunderd (*sic*) pounds already which I Thank you for. We came from Bath last Week. My Lord but in a poor way of Health tho' now better than he has been. He tells me Craven has given in his Accompts. by which a Handsome Sum due from him to my Lord. A plain case he employ'd our money in Traffick for to enrich himself. I rejoyce this matter over without Law. Your understanding and diligence has done more in these few months then cou'd be expected and much more money return'd in the half year you have been at Levens then Craven has in more then a Twelve Months. For my own Satisfaction I desire you will send me the sum total of all you have pay'd since you enter'd upon the management of the Westmoreland Estate. It has been a most tedious Winter. No apperance yet here of Springe or warme Weather. you ought not to expect either in the North a long while; if you do will most certainly be Disappoint'd I hope you keep your Self warme with good firès and Food, and Sharp Air does not disagree with your Health. Mine Thank God of the best sort at present. I suppose Mr Davis will be going your way soone. I Think Mr Hall shou'd make you Acquainted with the contents of the Lease made between Us and Him that he may not exceed the Liberty we have given him in any particular. In cuting Wood especially. Poor Lord Andover has had a most severe fit of Gout. but thank God Recovering of it. I desire a Letter soone from you to know how matters go on, and pray tell me after all the insolent Behaviour of Craven, and his constant bragging (*sic*) of his honesty, and great Improvements he had made in the Levens Estate by his wise care and skill) what he has to Say for Himself now he's prov'd a Rogue?

I imagine you must have made some Acquaintance with Mr Strickland of Sizergh. His Father and we had continual disput's about our property as his Estate joines upon ours. and I verily believe Craven made Mountains of Mole-hills between us—not but the Father Mr Strickland was a most Litigious Being and wou'd have gone to Law with any Body for the worth of a penny. When his Son came into possession Craven wrote us word that he told him he was much concern'd his Father had behaved in so wrong a mañer to us, but desir'd his Compliments and we might assure ourselves he wou'd never be guilty of giving us trouble. The last Dispute we had with his Father was upon his diging Stone as his own upon Sizergh Fell. Tho' we had many other, therefore hope all that so agre'd on we shall have no more of any kind, for I hate wrangling and Law. Let me know what sort of Dispositions this young Gentleman has. I wish you well and am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Charleton April the 24<sup>t</sup> 1755

Mr Martyr

I Think you have been a great while Silent to me. I write now about your Riding the Bounderis of the manor of Milthrop. I know I shou'd spell it otherways. I suppose Craven has neglected doing that among the rest of his Wickedness's, which may prove of great Disadvantage to us, and occasion many Disputes between us and Mr. Wilscn. My Father never fail'd riding himself with his Steward when in the Country on the first of May. The fix'd Day for that purpose, and ought to be done every Year. You must ride in the River as high as our property goes, I hope you will not be Drown'd. We have had Disputes with Mr. Wilson about the Water in that Manor, which I imagine may have arose from omiting the Custom of Riding the Bounderis which by no means must be done. My Lord gets better every Day and my own Health not now to be complain'd of. Our Weather Delightfull Warme and pleasant, and the Springe very forward. Neither of these Blessings have reach'd the North yet I am sure. Lord Andover has had a fit of Gout, but now finely Recover'd it, and all his Family Well. I hope you enjoy good Health.

and am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Remember me to Tom Tyson and my Dear Orange Trees. I hope you'll take particular Care Good Morocco is never wanted for the future and the very best Corks and cleanest Bottles when wanted for it. Those Craven sent here the very dirtiest, with the worst Corks I ever saw.

[Endorsed on p. 3 in pencil in another (? late 19th cent.) hand: "result part of Manor of Mickethorpe was lost after lawsuit with Wilson about 1870."].

Charleton May the 17th 1755.

Mr Martyr

I receiv'd your Letter of the 22d of last month according to the date, which was very satisfactory but defer'd answering it as my Lord and Mr. Hall said they wou'd write and give you full Instructions. My Lord as well as my self approves of your paying the Annuitys in the mañer you propose, undoubtedly the best way as you have the Advantage of Cravens Ballance to begin upon. I have now before me your Letter dated the 2d of this month. Am glad to read theres hardly a possibility of future Disputes with the Wilson Family and the House of Levens.

As to Riding the Bounderys I insist upon it's being done. So you must chuse the proper persons for that purpose. And there is an other particular Custom belonging to our property in our Town of Kerkland I desire you'll take care and observe, the Maior etc. of Kenda do not take to themselves, that is, that when they go to Church in their Formalities, and Maces before them, they drop their Maces before they go over the little Bridge that parts Kendal from Kerkland for before they step on that Bridge their Authority ends, and ours begins and the Maior of Kendal not any Thing to do in our Manor. I desire you will make particular observation of this, for if they have engross'd this privilege to themselves it ought not to be allow'd them. I am very glad you have made the Discovery about the Beasts. I doubt it's too plain Docker has been an Accomplish with Craven in his Roguery. I dare swear by your Watchfullness you'll find out more bad Tricks. If it be true Docker gone off for so large a sum he can never I shou'd Think, be able to shew his Head again.

I am glad, and Thank you for the Care you taken I shall have good Morroco, but if you do not order them to brew more Hogs-heads then you mention in your last, there will not be sufficient for me to supply my Friends and my Self. I have not above one Dozen left and Lord Andover has been wanting some of it a long

time, and shall have the first ready, for it must be some Age before it can be Bottl'd' therefore have a good stock Brew'd. I am sorry my Friend Grace has been so Ill, give my kind Love to her when she falls in your way. She is a very sensible charitable good Woman, and the Neighbourhood will have a great Loss in her when she Dyes. She has ever been a sincere Friend to me and my Family. As to weather you cannot have worse, or more cold then it has been here since we came from Bath. We have not had more then four Dry days. Hail Snow and Rain almost constantly. Seldom have we had a glimpse of the Sun to Day looks promising for better. So pray don't believe only bad weather in the North My Lord keeps pretty well. I am better then usual. Thank you for all your good Wishes, I wish you may be able to understand my meaning. My Senses grown old and Dull and horribly I write but am

your oblig'd Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I am glad my Dear Orange Trees in Health much I Love them.

Charleton Augst the 4th 1755

We return'd hither last Tuesday, left Lord Andover but in a poor way of Health. but Hope to here he gets better soone. I receiv'd your Letter dated the 11th of last Month, and my Lord gave me the Twenty Gns you left at Elford for me, but whilest there had no time for writing or you shou'd have heard from me. Wish it had suited your Convenience to have stay'd till we had come, but know the nature of the Business you came upon cou'd not admit of Delay. I shou'd have been glad to have had Discourse with you. Your Management of Craven much to be lik'd and commended. and the securing the Ballance due to my Lord from him, exactly well time'd. I am of your opinion as to his Circumstances. I hope you have return'd the money mentioned to my son Charles and his wife, for they cannot well waite for it. I known old Candlemas Day the only time for taking up money in the North. Mr Froggat gave us a very particular and satisfactory account of his Journey, nay more, he said he had been at Charleton and Elford, and if he was master of all those places he wou'd perfer living at Levens to either of them. Pray don't imagine your Weather worse in the North then with us, for not one Day without Rain the whole time we were at Elford, since we came Home we have had but two Fair days, great plenty of Grass every where, and the finest Crops of

Corn, Pease, and Beans ever known, but without it please God to send better Weather a good quantity of all must be spoil'd. Mr Howard from Eton now here, but the Week after this he goes on to Eford, and Mr Hall with him. I am glad Friend Grace Recover'd which besure tell her with my Love, and that Lady Andover and I Talk'd most kindly of her when together and Lady Andover said she really Loves her abundantly. Mr Howard asks after her with kind remembrance and keeps the friendly new shilling she gave him with great Care. He sends his service to you. He grows Tall and has a Genteel good Person. My Lord I Think now as well as he has been for these last two or three years. I hope you keep old Levens neat and clean, and when the morroco fit for carriage you'l let Lord Andover know, for he shall have the first fit to Drink. I wish it was in my power to take a walk in the Garden, and visit my Orange Trees, but I shall never do that. Let me know what number of Deer are in the Park. And desire at the proper Season for planting, you will make Tyson plant Oakes, and usefull Wood every where, and continue so Doing every Season in places proper, for the Good of those that are to come after me. I trust you go on and prosper. my own Health of the best sort at present—

your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Charleton Augst the 30th 1755.

Mr. Martyr

I have not time this Post to say one word to your Letter I receiv'd the last but, that I like to contents of it, having just now receiv'd a Letter from my son Mr Howard of Ashtead to ask for a Buck out of Levens Park for a Mr Starkie who lives at Preston, I think one of the Members for that Town, however I know he belongs to the Law, and has every year a Buck from us. I have sent him word by applying to you he shou'd have on this, and so on—therefore take care he have a good one. As the Season for Venison draws near an end, did not care to defer writing about it till next post, My Lord has been extreme Ill much better now. poor Lord Andover continues in a poor way of Health. has Thoughts of coming to Bath. I will write again soone

Your Friend Ca: Suffolk

Charleton Septr the 6th 1755

I cou'd not make any particular answer to your Letter of the 21st of Augst when I wrote last, but tell you now, I am very glad

you have return'd Money to Mr. Murray to make the payments nam'd in that Letter. I suppose He has acquainted my Lord with the receipt of it, but such things I never hear of from that Quarter. I am sorry it so happened you cou'd not stay at Elford till we came. Talking over Affairs to be sure much more satisfactory then writing. Tho' I shou'd be quite glad to have made a visit to Levens I darest not attempt the journey from Elford; the Roads and Weather then so bad, and runing the hazard of making my own Health worse by Accidents that might have happened in so long a journey with my Dreadfull apprehensions in a Coach, wou'd not have answer'd any purpose in my opinion. I Hope you are sure of the Payment of Cravens Ballance. I am glad you Think the morroco will prove good, you do right in acquainting Lord Andover when it will be fit for his Drinking. I am very Melancholy about him, for he is in an extream bad way of Health. He is by all means advis'd to the Bath but advice he ever avers'd to take. his Appetite quite gone his Spirits Sunk lower then you can Think, and He's as lean and pale as possible. I have no notion he can get over Winter in this condition without, he will do to mend himself, and he gives us small hopes of his doing that, but this keep to your self. I am glad my Friend Grace Chambers got into Health again, whenever you see her give her my kind Love and assure her I never forget her with my good Wishes. My Lord mentions he has a Letter from you that gives him Satisfaction but the contents of it kept privat from me. Pray has Davis begun Diging yet, in any of our manors? I now come to your Letter of the 24th of Augst and Think you have drawn up every particular in a very clear and proper light both for our Credit and Advantage; to be sure the Trust we have Repos'd in People has been greatly abus'd to our discredit. I have a notion and my Ld says he remembers something of it, That in old Cravens time by his proposal there was a bargin made with Tyson that my Lord giving him an addition to his Wages, he was to keep the Gardens in good order as we left them, and we were to be at no other Expence with them. I verily believe this to be the truth but, how you will get of the knowledge of it cannot imagine. I have commuicated (*sic*) the contents of what relates to the Gardens and Park in your last Letter to my Lord, and he likes and approves your Scheme of retrenching the unnecessary Expence of both, as you will read in the enclos'd paper he has sent you. But I must give you a Caution to act with Sly Art with Tyson upon account He is

undoubtedly very Rich, and has got all his money at Levens. He is also growing old, and possibly as Gardeners not plentiful in that part of the World, he may Think to Distress us by leaving us, but tho' I wou'd have him continue our Servant upon Reasonable Terms, by no means will allow him to go on in his present ways. So leave it with you to put both Garden and Park on the proper footing you mention, which I desire may be done, no manner of occasion for Mellons etc. in the Garden, nor a larger stock of Deer in the Park then you have set down. I wou'd have both kept in proper Order and as no Family lives there, nor I shall see Levens more, Think it wou'd be a needless Expence to Turff the Walks in the Garden, or plant Trees there, but Forest Trees in the Park or grounds that may be usefull to Posterity wou'd have planted every year some. I am amaz'd how Tyson cou'd plant such scrub ones as you tell me? I never remember the Garden without an nursery of Forrest Trees to plant out upon occasion, never heard of any being Bought before all the years I have known Levens. I believe so far Tyson is right that he was forbid to sell, but never allow'd to make presents round the Country at our Expence. I am really vex'd he has planted such good for nothing Trees, quite Angrey he shou'd be so base to do it. The plattoons are certainly planted too near. Let those come after me make alterations, I'll make none by way of Ornament, but desire you will Act by the Scheme you have sent me and get the Park clear'd by degrees of Deer and Rubish. Take my Word for it Levens shall never be sold whilest I Live and I hope not when Dead, especially to the name of Lowther. I never heard the least design of that sort till I read it in your Letter. So pray contradict that Report. Tho' we have not Money to Buy Estates, Thank God we have no necessity to sell any. My Lord has been Desperate Ill with the Gout in his Stomach, now got pretty Well. I wish I cou'd write the same Truth of Lord Andover. I am Surpriz'd to find you have got Hay in so well and early. Abundance yet out here, and many other places. Such Weather never known in England as this Summer. We have had hardly two Hours Fair at a time for months. The Weather and times agree. I wish you Health and am your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

L Andover calls here in his way to Bath have just heard.

[6 Sept 1755: The Enclosure. (Pp. 1 and 2 in Lord Suffolk's hand; p. 3 in Lady Suffolk's hand).

Page 1

I think Martyrs Letter to you is very Respectfull, & very rational. Tyson has made the Garden a very profitable farm to him self & family viz 3 daughters. I believe you need not fear, so rapacious a Temper will readily part with what brings any profit to himself & family. Tysons sending a Horse loaded with Garden Stuff to Melling to keep Cravens House is without my knowlege or approbation at a Time when he was neglecting his Duty at Levens not to be suffer'd.

Page 2

I approve of the regulation of the number of laborers in the Garden as specified in Martyrs Letter as well as in the planting & management of the Garden.

Tyson not to make any presents to any person what so ever at his own will & pleasure No Mellons or Cucumbers to be raised The number of Deer to be reduced, & the plantations in the Spring to be well fenced

Suffolk

Page 3

I wou'd have Venison in the Season given to a few of those that have been always Steady Friends to the House of Levens, but that may be done out of the Number of Deer you propose keeping and when you have made the Agreement proper for our advantage with Tyson what he does with the Fruits, or Things after am easy about, to besure the Quantity of Winter Fruite that us'd to be in the Garden, must Rott if something is not done with it, and sold will not have it. Let me know what in earnest you shall save in the Garden and Park by your right Scheme, for I will insist upon that sum for my self].

Charleton Octr the 7th 1755

I have receiv'd both your Letters, and your Discription of Tyson riding to Market very good an Comical in the Hudibrass stile. In that dated the 23d of last month you make it quite plain Craven has done us all the damage possible he cou'd in his management of our Estate by negligence and ignorance to say no more—In what you write in relation to Wilsons Tenament in the Park of the great Indulgence Craven gave him, vexes me much, for I always gave him a strict Charge I wou'd never allow any Body to go through the Park but, with asking leave; therefore

desire you will put a stop to the making a high Road through it, for that shall not be done: What you purpose in relation to Wilsons Farm I Think quite right, as also to the letting of large Farms for a proper Term of years when you are sure of an Industrious (*sic*) Honest Substantial Man that will take them. Craven in every Thing has been an Abominable Manager for us. I never read the like as in your last Letter. The Schemes you lay down for the letting our Farms, and putting all our Tenants on a right Footing I quite approve of, and in my Opinion when done will be both for the Advantage of Landlord and Tenant. So pray go on and prosper—When the Courts are kept let me know what new Tenants are admitted. And pray tell me your Opinion whether we may expect a Lead Mine will be found in Stavely Manor? I Think Davis has done right in letting the Miner have a share. I am glad you have been so civilly treated by Mr Armitage. Grace Chambers Letter full of John Martyrs praises. I believe she's in Love with yu. She writes never such a Steward at Levens. Lord Andover Recovers greatly by the Bath waters. Miss Howards with me. I have wrote Grace a long account of their Beauty and Perfections. Miss Fanny the same only more and more Agreeable and Entertaining. She says give my Love for Mr Martyr he us'd to give me paper and red Ink. She has an Astonishing Genius. Miss Howard certainly Beautifull. My Lord now pretty well. I enjoy more Health then ever I expected. Letting Farms and making Improve<sup>t</sup> know nothing of, but mightily do [*sic* (?) for "know"] Craven had no reason to build a new Peat-house, or do any one Thing I read in your Letters but to throw a way Money. So depend on your honesty and judgement in correcting is errors and putting all our Affairs on a proper footing. Our Weather continual Wet. Most Dismal! it can not be worse in the North—I expect my Hunderd soone. You have sent a large sum to Mr Murray but I know nothing of that but from you. Think you acted quite right not to sign Cravens Accompts too hastily, and also in feeding Mrs. Morgan with Venison. I hope you feed your Self with some. I desire you not to be so very exact in selling it, but give some to those you Think deserving of it, a power I give you. I grow very bad at writing My eyes old, and my senses near wore out; fear you will hardly make sense of what I have wrote. I expect you write often as I Love to know how matters go on, and am

your sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Hall now here.

Bath Novr the 8th 1755

Our removing here in a violent Hurry on my Lords account who has been most extream Ill, and continues in a very Bad declining State of Health has made it impossible for me to make any Answers to the Letters I have receiv'd from you lately, neither can I Think of Business till my Lord is in a more Hope-full way. The Waters seem to agree with his Stomach, and I hope in God they will do him Good. Lord Andover is very well and Looks so. Lady Andover and Miss Howards have all got Bad colds. Our Weather terrible bad and Stormy. Abundance of Snow fallen last night. I only write these few lines that you may know where we are. I have not time for more then to assure you I am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

We are in a small House to ourselves in the great Square.

Bath. Novr the 24th 1755

My Lords State of Health continues very Indifferent if any alteration 'tis rather for the better at this present writing. These Waters have work'd a Wonder on Lord Andover and restor'd him by his own confession which he is very unwilling to allow, into better Health then he has enjoy'd for these last Seven years. He with his Family got safe to Elford this Day Sevensnight. They wou'd have stay'd longer but the Small-pox breaking out just by their Lodgings it was not safe they shou'd. I receiv'd your Letter of the 17th Yesterday which I answer the sooner because you desire an account of my Lord. He has not the least appetite for any sort of Food. worn to a Skelyton and sunk lower then you can imagine. He sleeps tollerable well on nights his support. He takes no Medicine but the Waters, and they do not disagree with him. His Doctors (for he has two) Think and say nothing but the Waters can help him. I hope they will; to be sure Lord Andover had the Advantage of Youth which my Lord wants—however just now my Lord rather better and if no Recovery may continue in this way a good while. I am glad you have let the Three Farms so well, and that my Cousin Sr Harry Mainwarings lik'd my old Habitation; am much oblig'd to him for his Compliments—I want my other Fifty pounds, pray consider I live at great Expence here. The Fifty I have Receiv'd pay'd all way. you know I hate Debt. I hope to have better accounts to write

of my poor Lord's Health; you may depend upon hearing how he does. I have been out of the House above twice since we have been here above Three weeks. I wish you well and am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Decr the 7th 1755

I Receiv'd your Letter of the 17th of last Month, am very glad you have let the Farms you mention in it so well. My Lord Thank God this last week is greatly Recover'd, inded so much we at present, have no reason to doubt but he will be restor'd to comfortable Health a gain. My son Tom's Daughter now in the Small-pox in a naturall way, and in a fair way of Doing well. She's full, but has not a bad sort by the accounts I receive—Lord Andover continues in Health and all his Family. And now I must take notice that you return my poor little Allowance worse then any Steward ever did. Pray when do you intend making a return of the Fifty pounds due to me last Mics. I am always to receive my Money then an at Lady day. let Rents be pay'd at what time they will but I find I am always to come at the fagg end of every Thing—I give you timely notice that if my Lord Recovers I shall certainly go to London in Springe, and if you do not return my next Half year in April (tho' I say and Think you do extreem well by my Lord) I shall certainly believe you do very Ill by Me—Pray in your next let me know how you have manag'd with Tyson. I have not had time to write about Business but Desir'd Mr Hall to write to you in answer to the paper you sent my Lord of his Demands who has never been able to read, write, or Think of affairs of that Sort. We have very sharp Frost and cold Weather, imagine the North produces the same. Dreadfull Melancholy accounts of the Earthquake at Lisbon; did Craven Trade there? Our nation in general must be great Sufferers. I can hold this wretched pen no longer then to add I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Decr the 11th 1755.

The Day after I wrote to you receiv'd yours with an account the remainder of my Money was upon the Road to me which I am glad of. As to my Lord I cannot give you any hope of his Recovery tho' sometimes he does get a little better. Miss Diana Howard just now Recovering the Small-pox in a Natural way.

I had no Thoughts of writing to you so soone again only, my

Lord recev'd the enclos'd last Post and not able to answer it. I wonder we have not been acquainted with the Affair in it, from you. However, shall give no ear to it or return any Answer till you state all the Particulars to us, and inform us of the Advantages or Disadvantages of the Scheme to ourselves. I imagine as they have not consulted you about it, 'tis not any good one to us. Pray write soone. I have not time for more then to assure you I am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Decr the 16th 1755

I Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Davis Yesterday the occasion of my writing to you to Day. He seems quite sure of a good Lead Mine in the Manor of Stavely; he has sent me a sample of it and it looks of the very best sort. He desires you may have our Orders to furnish him with Rough Timber now they are going to sink Shafts. I really cannot remember in our Agreement with him if we are to do that. If we have ty'd ourselves up to do so it must be done, if not shall not grant his Request. Therefore desire you will find out the Truth and act accordingly, and if you find we are oblig'd by our Lease, to find him with Rough Timber. pray take care there is noe abuse made of it, and of that kind that will be fit for no other use. He writes me word the Gathorn Mine is out of our Manor, and very good Oare. I Thought all Gathorn had been our Manor?—I also find there has been great neglect in keeping the True Bounderi's of our Manors. A bad affair to all Landlords, and in future Ages be the occasion of Lawsuits—but as long as I live will not have any Thing to do with Law. Davis speaks much in your Praise for your Civility to his Minor. I desire Mr Martyr you will write me a particular Account of all these affairs and your Opinion how Things will turn out—and of every Thing relating to Levens. My Lord gets better every Day, and I verily believe will get into his usual Health oone. 'Tis so long since I have been in the North, or in Stavely Manor I have forgot there was a River there. what the Name of it? Davis writs the Mine in that River. Sure it must be a most Expensive work to get at it—What become of Craven? how does his works go on, let me know every Thing. I Think 'Tis needless as you are in the North where Cheerfullness lives, to wish you a Merry Xmas., however do a great many—and am

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Give my kind wishes to my Friend Grace Chambers.

Bath Decr the 23d 1755

I have receiv'd the Letter Directed to my Lord which inform'd me you had return'd Fifty pounds for my use to Mr Murray, as also a Letter from you last Post Dated the 15th of this month. I have wrote you several lately which, I hope you'd get safe. Now have to Acquaint you Mr Murray has never given me yet the least notice he has Receiv'd the Fifty pounds for me which Behaviour I don't understand, but he has wrote my Lord a Letter to Acquaint him that you have return'd so much money naming the Sums, for his Lordships use. Now Mr Martyr I always have understood The Money return'd to pay Annuitys, Mr Murray had Directions to pay a Way as soone as receiv'd to the Persons nam'd, and not the least occasion to give my Lord Notice of for his Lordshipe has not any Thing of money to command from Levens till all Payments of Annuitys &c are punctually pay'd. What remains after, he has power over for his Use but not one Shilling till that be done. Therefore why Mr Murray does not Obeys the Orders sent him cannot Think. I wou'd not swear but my Lord may Draw what money he has now in his hands (Design'd for other uses) to make Ducks and Drakes with Murrays, taking no notice to me he had receiv'd Fifty pounds for my use to besure, has placed the whole he has receiv'd to my Lords Account who most certainly has nothing to do with it, and I must have none. I desire you will write to Mr Murray to set him right in all this which is very wrong at present—I must observe I do not Think it in my Lords power to turn the Money to different uses that is return'd to pay the Annuitys because we both sign'd an Order to Craven, Mr Cranmer, and since, I Think, to Murray, with a List of all the Annuitys that was to be pay'd, and as the money was return'd to pay a way without writing to my Lord. which was to save us Trouble, and that My Lord shou'd not have a power to draw for any Money from Levens till all this was done. Murray certainly makes blunders, or when you return Money to him you do not assign it to such or such uses. So he places all to my Lords Account who actually has nothing to do with it. I have not a shilling but what I Borrow. I wonder you don't hear from Hall who has had Orders to consult with you about Tysons Demands. If he does not or will not pray do you Settle Things with him according as you judge to be best—My Lord gets better, but cannot employ his Thoughts on Business. As to the old Thorns I am a great Lover of them. Think them always an Ornament to all Parks, therefore pray do not cut down many

of them. Any that will encrease a Beautiful view may be taken away. The encrease of Pasture there don't care about. The removing the Trees out the Aire may do well. You cannot have had worse Weather in the North then we have here. I hope you have receiv'd my Letters relating to the Lead Mine, and a hundred Things more. be sure answer me all particulars

I am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Decr the 28th 1755

My Lord has receiv'd your Letter relating to the turn-pike which he seems to approve as you have stated it. Whether he will write you an answer to it as he has given it me to read, don't know. However desire you will settle this affair on our side as you Think most to our Advantage but, positively not in any light to our Disadvantage, for my Lord cannot nor I will not, take the Trouble of writing Letters to the Commissioners about it, therefore, you must do the best for us. There is one Paragraph in your Letter to my Lord that surprizes me—that one circumstance of good to us from the intended Turnpike wou'd be, Levens Park wou'd not be so much us'd—by which I suppose you believe it a common Road for every Body to go through at pleasure—which is a great mistake I will assure you, for, in my Fathers time no Body ever allow'd to ride through it but by leave, and these orders I charg'd shou'd always be strictly obey'd since his Death. for to make a high Road through it shall never be as long as I live nor never was—always the Gates kept Lock'd. So if such orders have been neglected I insist upon your receiving this Letter you put them in full force and take particular care they are punctually obey'd. I positively will not have the Park made Common. I am so vex'd to find it is makes me write so soone to vent my wrath.

Pray remember for the future when you write to me and Direct such Letters to my Lord, write Suffolk and Berkshire. when they are for my Lord only Earl of Suffolk, and then I can always be sure which are to my self; if you don't make this Difference and be exact in it I shall open those I shou'd not and that is what I wou'd not upon any account do. Mr Murray has not yet taken notice to me you have return'd Fifty pounds for my use, he is a strange Dull puzzling man. My Lord continues mending. I expect a particular account of all Things under your Inspection.

Hope you have a Merry Xmas. Chearfullness lives in the North, hardly any where else.

I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Elford Janry the 30th 1756

Your Letter I receive'd Yesterday did not find me at Bath for, as soone as I heard Mr Howard had the small-pox flew hither. 'Tis an unspeakable Blessing to our Family God has spar'd his Life. he had a favourable sort, and not a pin the worse. Poor Miss Howard has just now got safe through a bad kind, quite out of Danger Thank God, and Miss Fanny now, in a favourable sort and in a fine way of been well through it soone. She is the most patient good Child in Illness I ever saw; they all took it in a Natural way. I never was for inoculation. Lady Andover at Fiskerwick keeps well yet—pray God she may escape it. If she does not sicken this moon shall believe her safe this bout, and get to Charleton as soone as I can where, my Lord is now by himself. Mr Hall here, who as I cannot consult with my Lord at so great a Distance, have order to write an answer to the Letter I receiv'd from you yesterday relating to Mr. Murrays conduct, and how you are to manage with Mr Craven. for I dare not Direct in affairs of such consequence. My understanding not sufficient for it. I have heard my Lord talk he had a Bond of Craven but, who had it in keeping, or what is become of it know not. I shou'd Think it much the best way to get him to pay the Ballance on the Terms you mention, give him a Release, and have done with him.—The moroco not arriv'd yet. I wish it may come whilst I am here that, I may Tast if it answers the Commendations you give it. That I may order some for my own Drinking to Charleton—I have been very Ill almost, ever since I came here with a cold I got in the journey—a worse for Waters, Weather and Roads, no Body ever had. God send me a better back. Lord Andover sends service to you

I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

Charleton March the 6th 1756

I have receiv'd your Letter Directed to Elford dated the 15th of last month, and very glad you have so wisely and Luckily

concluded our Doings with Craven. Mr Murray ought to give you a particular account of what Annuitys he pays, and by the Order both my Lord and I sign'd to him, my Lord gave up his own power of drawing upon him for any money return'd from Levens till those Annuitys first pay'd. I Thought this affair so firmly fix'd Mr Murray cou'd not possibly make a blunder. 'Tis intirely out of my power to mend matters. and my Lords weak Health and Indolence so long indulg'd, makes him not care for the Trouble of it. and Mr Hall so seldom here as he has so much Business and many Pleasures to attend to else where) for besure all relating to us very much neglected, and very bad for us. I wonder he does not write to you. When I was at Elford order'd him so to do upon various Subjects as I want'd time then—particularly about Cravens Bond and Release—If he gave my Lord a Bond I never had it in keeping; imagine it lost, however hope you will give him a Satisfactory Release, that we may have totally done with him—no Filing a Bill in Chancery I beg. I wou'd almost, as soone beg my Bread as go there a gain. You suppose Mr Hall gone with Mr Howard to Eton. I left him at Elford, and where he may be now don't so much as guess—old Scratch I suppose, can tell you. By all means oblige Craven to make Affidavit that he has neither Books, Writings, no papers of any kind of ours in his hands. and when that done, let him go and hang himself—We expect Lorde and Lady Andover to morrow but, not Miss Howards yet as, 'tis too early for Lady Andover to see Kittys face for her, but in about a Fortnight more they will come. My Lord keeps very tolerable well. Our Weather now Fair and pleasant, but we have had exceeding bad for a long time, with the most violent Winds ever heard I defie you to have had worse in the North—God keep us from Earthquaks. I never heard of so many in all places as is now, all the days of my Life. a most melancholy Prospects of all bad Things at present:— I have but one Thing more to add which is to desire at a proper Season and time will not fail finding out the Boundreys of our Several Manors for the Good of those who come after Me. I am quite satisfied with your Doings and

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I hope the Morroco Good. if the French don't come shall have some for my own Drinking soone if Good—

Charleton March the 28th 1756

I receiv'd your Letter of the 20th instant Yesterday. Thank you for the Care you have taken in returning my Hundred pound so early. My Lord will not appoint me a shilling out the sum pay'd into Mr Hoar. So shou'd rather chuse my Hundred pounds pay'd into Mr Murrays hands, as I can draw then according as I want to pay my own Bills. and if I am to receive it from Mr Greenhow I must Lodge it some where in Town, for there my larges (*sic*) call for my little money. So if this Letter comes time enough desire you will order it to be pay'd to Mr Murray. if not will take care to get sombody to receive it of Mr Greenhow. I desire you will look a mong the Writings for Lord Andovers Marriage Settlements, and the Settlement of the Westmoreland Estate upon Lord Andovers Marriage. Mr Hall assures me possitively they are both at Levens. or any Settlement of the Westmoreland Estate you can find. and send up to Duke Street. We find great confusion in our Writings. they are strangely thrown about. and many of consequence not to be found, but so it is and I cannot help it. Shou'd the Family suffer by such Doing hereafter which most likely they must and will. Hall tells me who is now here, that he wrote to you last Year to pay an Additional Fifty pounds a year as a Gift of my Lords to his son Charles. I fear there is some mistake for Charles writes me word in a Letter dated last Febry the 21st that it was near a Year since he had receiv'd this Additional Fifty pounds. His very streight Income poor Creature, requires speedy Payment and if it is not pay'd I desire you will return it for him to Mr Murray for he is in Distress. My Lord does allow it him upon my word. I desire also you will write me word what sum the Annuity raises to you pay Mr Thomas Howard yearly, for I can't believe 'tis so much as Mr Hall says. I take his charge upon the Estate to be between Three and Four Thousand pounds. Hall will have it Five. I know by my Fathers Will he is to be pay'd Four per sent Interest till the Principal pay'd him. I beg Mr Martyr you will satisfie me of all these particulars very soone and Direct your Letter to me my self. Sure 'tis very bad Weather for mining. for Snow will encrease Water. I wish to hear of success in that article. We have had a great Fall here but, all melted and gone now; worse Weather, colder, or of more variable kinds I think impossible you can have had in the North, then has come to our share at Charleton. My Lord pretty well. Lord and Lady Andover perfectly so. and their Family Miss Howards we hope to

have with us this week if, they can Travel safe for Waters. My Health better then usual at this time of year. I Thank you for the Diligent care you take of all Affairs under your Charge and shall always be

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

For God sake return the Fifty pounds to my son Charles if Due. I was oblig'd to Borrow 25lb: to send him he is at present so Distress'd; no talking to my Lord upon any sort of Business. and really my Pocket kept empty for my money all goes to help my Children and Grandchildren. I cannot get one shilling from my Lord for any of them. The Small: pox has cost Lord Andover at least Four hunderd pounds all things consider'd and I ask my Lord to make them a present but of Fifty and he will not do it

Charleton April the 17th 1756

Mr Martyr

I Receiv'd your Letter dated the 8th last Thursday. Mr Hall was oblig'd to go into Staffordshire last Sunday but expected back to night or to morrow. I have read your Letter to him, will seal it and give it Him as you desire. 'Tis Strange and Unaccountable my Lord not fix'd to any one Goldsmith for the Receiving the money return'd out of the North. Sure Mr Hall will give you positive Directions how you are to act for the future. I don't at all wonder at your cautiousness. you are certainly right in acting with the care you do. I Thank you much however for returning my Hundred pounds to Mr Murray. I desire you to pay the Fifty pounds for Mr Charles Howard into his Hands as soone as possible. Mr Hall assur'd me you had full Directions from him at the time my Lord gave him that Addition yearly of Fifty pounds to pay it for his use, with the Annuity you constantly pay him, therefore wonder you shou'd be ignorant when you return'd the last Fifty pounds the Additional Gift of my Lord, but I really rather believe Mr Hall never acquainted you of this particular. Pleasure will drive Business out of ones Head. It was by his desire I wrote to you for those Deeds of Settlements. I Hope he will make it plain he had my Lords order for so Doing. That, none of my Business. I commend you for the care you take in this and every Thing indeed quite to my Satisfaction and I Thank you. I wish every Body wou'd act with the same exactness as you do. I know little of Affairs here but Hope we

gain Ground in paying Bills, and I enquire no farther. Pray what becomes of my Friend Grace Chambers? When you see her tell her the Earl, Countess, Lord and Lady Andover and their Family here remember her with kindness, and send service to her. Pray Martyr do you ever hear talk of a Mr Graham a Clergyman that lives in the Boarders that had once Ashtead Living? 'Tis much talk'd of in the South, Lady Widdrington will make him her Heir, tho' I am so at Law to all her Land. I wish you cou'd slyly find out what is said a bout it in your part of the World, and acquaint me with what you hear—a Mr Nicholson is Lady Widdringtons Steward who lives I believe between Carlisle and Penrith but am not sure. He's a sly chap and a great Friend to Mr. Graham—The Lords send service to you. I am

Your sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

I have wrote in a violent Hurry.

Charleton May the 5th 1756

I really write now by way of comfort to your Mind, as I hear by the by, my Lord Angrey with you, mightily without reason in my Opinion. He does not shew me your Letters. and I give you my word I do not shew him those you write to me, tho' I find he makes it a reason for some of his Anger that you give me longer and more particular accounts of your Doings, then to him. This part I ought to write for my own Vindecation. The Letter you enclos'd in mine to Hall, he has never mention'd the contents of to me. And 'tis Truth I have never given the least hint I knew any Thing of them. I am quite Sensible you have return'd more Money from that Estate then has been for many Years. and why Mr Hallorder'd so large a Sum as you return'd Mr Craven pay'd to Mr. Hoar cannot imagine: I have often ask'd how that was dispos'd of, but I am not deserving of a satisfactory answer. I hardly believe my Lord knows his money is pay'd into Mr. Hoar, dare swear he does not if you have not inform'd him. We had not Thirty pounds owing in Bills in Town when you return'd that money I am quite sure of nor when in Decr: last you return'd more then Three Hundred pounds to Mr Murray, and neither Annuities, nor those Small Bills pay'd out of all this money a Surprizing Amusement to me—but so it is, and I can get no reasonable answer why it is so. I cannot lay any blame to you, nor do not but my Lord never enquires into any of his affairs,

neither does he I verily believe, know how all this money has been dispos'd of when, or where, neither dare I touch on so tender a sore. If I desire a Trademans Bill of Ten pounds to be pay'd my anser is, I have not a Gn: in the House. and how to remedy this great Evil desire you'd Think—'tis out of my power. But so far am quite sure if I was mistress of an Estate I wou'd cut my Coat according to my Cloath and order every Shilling in payment my Self, and see every Bill with my own Eyes. I am satisfyde of your Fidelity and Care, with great Punctuality and really write this for your Satisfaction, and that you may be sure I do not nor never will betray any trust you repose in me. All the Family in Health and I am

Your Faithfull Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Our Weather cold as Xmas

Charleton June the 12th 1756

I have let your Letter ly unanswer'd till now, as there was nothing material in it that requir'd a speedy one; am very glad my Letter gave comfort to your Mind as I design'd it shou'd. My Business now is about the Plate Taxes supposing the little we have at Levens must be pay'd for, therefore desire you will manage that matter as you Think proper, and to see it justly weig'd if it we are to pay, and let me know how many Ounces it rises to. I know nothing of the Act pass'd for the purpose having never read it, and very possibly shou'd not understand it if I did read it. I am glad to know the Mine may answer our Expectation. I have not heard from Davis a great while. Doe you remember what I wrote in a former Letter sometime since, in relation to Mr Graham who lives at Netherby near Carlisle who I hear has a Son). desiring you to find out what you cou'd in relation to the Discourse in those parts whether 'tis not Thought he will have the Cumberland Estate now Lady Widdringtons which is the talk of People in these. Mrs. Nicholson her Steward in the North most likely you not acquainted with, a great Friend of Mr Graham and an Artful Man. Lord Andover return'd from Bath mighty Well. He Hopes you will take care to about what he wrote to you lately about. My Lord pretty well and the rest of our Family quite so, but our Weather the very worst ever seen in the Month of June. So cold we set by great Fires as at Xmas. it suits the time which are bad indeed. I wish at a proper time you cou'd procure a Good large piece of Hung Beef of the very

best sort and send to Duke Street House, and order Nan to forward it hither, but do not send any till 'tis the right season of the year to get the best. We hear Sr James lives a way, and that his maner of Life not likely to let him see old Age, or keep together the great Fortune he's now in possession of. His Mother very Ill at Bath. I have no more to Trouble you with at Present, Hope to receive good news from you

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton June the 16th 1756

Mr Martyr

'Tho' I have wrote to you so very lately am oblig'd to write a gain by this Post, my old Age not consider'd nor my Senses spared, and really & tis my opinion People much younger do not make a helpfull use of theirs at least not to help my declining ones. 'Tis now Agree'd when you have way'd our Plate at Levens, you must not pay for it there but, send the account of the Ounces, and Mr Hall has told my Lord it will be the best to pay for the whole in London, Supposing that There Here and at Levens altogether it will rise to Four Thousand Ounces; if it shou'd not amount to that then, it must be pay'd for at the Different places where it is. This is my Directions to you which, I Think I might have been saved the Trouble of writing. Lord Andover quite in Health at present, and my Lord really as well as can be expected and the rest of our Family mighty well. I hear of a frightfull Distemper in London of sore Throats that turn to a mortification in very few hours of which, abundance of Children and young People, for it chiefly seises Youth. God keep us from a plague add'd to all of our other Calamities. England in a miserable Situation, in the Prints last Post, mention made that the French had a Design on the Isle of Man. So you may have the Chance of learning French before I shall. I hope you Health keeps Good, our Weather does bad which is very unpleasant for the Month of June

I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton June the 30th 1756

I have receiv'd your Letter dated the 20th. Think you go on extremem well and wish I was inform'd as justly how the money you

return is Dispos'd of, but, that I shall never know, for what Bills the Eight Hunderd pounds you pay'd into Mr Hoars hands a secret to me. Neither is there Money at any time to pay a Bill of my Lords tho' under Twenty pounds, but a plain case his Lordship will never be worth a Groat; to be sure we were Born under a Threepenny Planet. I Hope my Lord will keep his word; the way for it is, that you never Acquaint him of any money return'd to Murray till after the Annuities are all pay'd, and to inforce it to Mr Murray that he never does till you give him your Directions and for what Sum. If this method will not prevent a wrong application of the money you return for the Annuities I can think of no other that will; indeed I am weary of Thinking so long to no purpose. I make no doubt of your making a wise and useful Acquaintance with Mr Nicholson, but I Think that shou'd seem quite by chance, for being introduced to him may make him suspect what I wou'd not have him. Stavely most undoubtedly our intire whole Manor I have ever heard my Father say so, and no Court ever kept there but, by my Father's Steward. I wish the Miners good success. you will certainly find the above Truth. Now Mr Martyr, I desire you will take the Beuro that stands of wallnut-tree, with a Glass in the uper part that I left in that Room call'd my Dressing-room where, I suppose it stands now I Hope whole and good, and pack it up carefully that no harme happen to it by Carriage, and Direct it to Miss Frances Howard at Elford to be left at Lichfield, and do you write a Letter to her to give her notice when it will be there that she may have it sent for. Craven had the Key of it, and of him you must demand it. I left in the uper part some Books, Pieces of China, and other Things in the Draws which pray examine and take out all you can find, and pack them up in a Box and Direct 'em for me at Duke Street. If the Key not to be got make Story open the Locks, and get new Keys fited to the uper part and Draws before, you send it Miss Fanny and pay the Carriage to Lichfield. I find by your Letter to Lord Andover Story grown very poor. I know he must be very old as well as his Wife therefore, desire you will help them to live and give the poor old couple a Gn: He was always a very honest Workman to my Father, and I will not let them want Bread as long as I live. Set it down to my Lord in your Accomps as an Order from me. Send the Beuro as soone as you can. I have told Fanny of it and her Heart in Joy. Lord Landy Andover and Miss Howards all in Health, and design to set out for Elford next Monday. Mr Hall

E

goes with them. I suppose you know he has taken a House not far from Fisherwick since that Estate soild (*sic*) where he intends to live and his Father to be with him. The Small-pox brought into our Village by our Gardners Son who, is prenticed at Bath, and came to see his Father. I doubt it will go through the Town. We have had a week of Summer Weather, but the most violent Storm we had two Nights ago of Thunder and Lightning has taken it a way a gain. I hope the Weather mends in the North, 'tis a sickely time in most Places but Hope you keep well. Not any Thing but, bad news do I hear, and mournfull the present Situation of England. My Lords Health has kept tolerable, when he wants Company expect to hear more Complaints.

I am always

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton July the 7th 1756

I have receiv'd both your Letters. the first informs me I am richer in Plate at Levens then I really Thought we were, That last Post you have remov'd Mrs Person out of the House into the Garden the most proper Place for her to Dwell in. I wonder'd for what reason Craven took her into the House for she was always the most nasty unfit Creature to live among Christians I ever knew, and am very Glad you have releas'd your Self and my House from so Dirty a Being. I hope you have got a proper Servant that will keep the House clean, and take the Care ought to be of the Beding and Linen, for tho' no fine Furniture in it, The Beding all Good, a great deal of new and good Linen I left in it, which I trust you will have a watchfull Eye over 'tis neither Embezzel'd nor abused.

There us'd to be plenty of Morrels grow in the Court at Levens and about in the Park and Feilds, and before Mr Loftus's Brother was placed in Norfolk at Castle Rising he us'd to Dry them for me and send to Duke Street for our Eating. To besure Mr Tyson knows Morrels, therefore wish you wou'd when the Time of Year is for Mushrooms, you wou'd bid him hunt them out, and they must be hung on a small packthread not to touch one another, and hung up, not against a wall nor to touch any Thing, and to be let Dry by degrees. when perfectly so they are fit for use. I hope you receiv'd my Letter with Directions to send the Beaurto to Miss Fanny, &c. Lord Lady Andover and Miss Howards set out for Elford last Monday all well. Mr Hall with them. I am

sorry for our Tenant Wilson, as you made no mention of him in your Letter receiv'd last Monday hope he lives. You are much forwarder in your Hay then we are here. We have but just begun cuting ours. My Lord pretty well in Health at present. I have writ in a vast hurry to satisfye you my Mind not the least uncomfortable about the loss of Dirt and nastiness out of my House, but, very glad, and your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton Augst the 14th 1756

My Lord obliges me to answer your Letter to him last Post that, am much more unfit for any thing then you can imagine. The mañer in which my Dear Son lost his Life makes his Death so very severe an affliction to me I never can get the better of it. I ever said that Chaise wou'd be fatal to him one time or other in his lame Condition. but cou'd never be believ'd a hard Fate. I did receive your account of the Plate at Levens, and the Number of Ounces taken here of what my Lord has which was both, sent up to Mr Murray with an Order, that if he found that at London with this and the Levens Plate made up Four Thousand Ounces to enter it all at London, and pay the Tax there, and if it did not amount to that quantity to let me know, but he has never Thought fit to write me a line to inform us what he has done, and to this Hour we are ignorant what number of Ounces at Londone, my Lord has about Three Weeks ago Mr Murray did write me word he wou'd take care and see the plate weig'd at London in time. Since that he has been totally silent, this all the answer as to this particular my Lord can give. So you must act as you Think right and best. I trouble myself about nothing in this Life. My Heart Broke, my Life a Burthen, and it has pleased God to send the Days I have no comfort in, God forgive me and take out of my Distracting affliction

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

My Lord better then ever I Thought to see him.

Charleton Augst the 21st 1756:

Mr Martyr

Last Post Mr Murray enform'd me and not till then, He had weigh'd our Plate at London which with that here, and at Levens does not Amount to Four Thousand Ounces, and he has Enter'd

the whole at London, and Pay'd the Duty; all this wou'd have inform'd you of sooner if it had been in my power. My Lord pretty Well. I Thank you for the Inventory of the Linen. I believe Mr Witham was more then hardly dealt with. I always wish justice but, fear poor Mrs Elizabeth Anne will not get it by the Law of Man. My Lord has a great deal of Hay out here yet. Most wet the Weather, and every Thing of the Dismall sort. I dare believe as long as we live we shall at Charleton. Lady Andover and her Family now at Dreadfull Elford. She writes she's more contented there, then she can be any where else. As to Hall I know not where he is, as to Mines or any Thing Trouble not my Head a bout them. I am satisfied you'l do what's proper and most for our advantage under your Direction. Am Glad you have got the knowledge you writ in a former Letter in relation to our Manor of Stavely that by your account must make Things sure and safe for us there. I Thank you for the comfort and peace of mind you wish me. I must bear affliction as long as God pleases—

Your Sincere Friend  
Ca: Suffolk

Hall I hear to Day designs returning hither soone.

Charleton Septr the 22d 1756:

I Thank you for your Letter the 4th of this month with the exact account of Mr Murrays Doings. I am glad you write so hopefull a Prospect of Copper, but you don't seem to have Faith as to the lead mine, tho I hope that may answer our Expectation if not, I assure you it will not Trouble my mind. I have been told by People who have understanding in mines that 'tis the common agreement for Lords that let them to have a seventh share pay'd them clear of all Expences, if so we shall have a very small advantage out of ours as my Lord has Lett his, tho' I do not Recollect what our share is to be but Think, I can be possitive not a seventh. My Lord very much pleas'd with you Letter to Him with the Hopes you give of Copper being found. I kept it secret you had made me acquainted with it as, I Thought it best so to do, and knew nothing of the good news till he inform'd me of it. We have had our share of fine weather here, and a mighty good Harvest and Corn coming to a reasonable Price. it has never been so dear with us as you mention. Mr Hall now return'd hither and intends he says to stay some time. We have had a

Visit from our Grandson now call'd Lord Walden, in his way to Eton. His Behaviour most proper and promising at present, but I have done Depending or Building Faith or Hopes upon the Things of this world. Sufficient to the Day is the Evil thereof. My Lord got into good Health for him. really much better then any Body cou'd have expected. I hope it will continue. I wish all Roads Good but except to Church, have not been in a Coach of many months. Sizergh Lane very Bad ever since I knew it am glad we are not to be at the Expence of making it Good. I desire you will write me all the best news you know.

I am

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton Octr the 8th 1756:

I receiv'd your Letter last Post and Thank you for being so exact in paying my money, for indeed I Think now, very little about my'self. I am glad you yet give me hopes of a Copper mine for lately heard by Lord Walden now at Eton, Davis had told Him they had neither Hope of finding Lead or Copper Ore, worth the Expence of working, and that if they did not very soone light on a better vain of Lead in Stavely, they shou'd intirly cease searching; for going on so was a great Expence and he believ'd they shou'd get nothing to pay it. Our weather become quite Winter, but all one to me Rain or Shine for I have never been out farther then the Church and Garden, since last Febry. Quiet and a good Fire contents me as well as, I can be contented in this World. My Lord keeps better then usual. and I am much

Your oblig'd Friend

Ca: Suffolk

PS: Grain continues Dear every where Murmurings and Risings among the Commonality

Charleton Octr the 18th 1756:

Your Letter to my Lord last Post brings a most ruinous account of the Mischief done about poor Levens by the Storm, however I am glad you yourself escaped hurt from it. I expect to hear of more Damage when you go farther a feild: I am more sorry for the Trees blown down especially the Oakes in the Avenue in the Park, then any other done by the Storm. I Hope they may be turn'd to some profit, as also the Firs in the Court for (?) I have an notion they will saw into boards to make good Flooring they are of the right kind for that purpose, and very large fine Trees.

We had a great Storm here that same night you had it at Levens and, expected our chimneys wou'd have come down, but no Damage done but, a great Elmn blown up by the roots in the wase Ground beyond the kitchen Court and other Trees of no value, here an there. Many People lost their lives crossing the Severn the same night. Much Barley and Pease out in these parts, and our weather quite unsettl'd, the Poor starving Bread and every Thing at so monstereous a price, and such cheating among the millers. Calamitous times indeed. Mr Hall really in a very bad state of Health. the most alter'd man I ever saw. The lowness and dejection of spirits he suffers is very pitiable and truly melancholy. Doctor Wilkins says he'l do well Wish he may. My Lord has been much out of order lately, his strength and spirits much declin'd this year, he designs going to Bath but not fix'd the time. Lord Walden well at Eton. Lady Andover and her Daughters pretty well. I read in the papers Mr Wilson the Kendale Carrier was Robb'd which, I am sorry for. Write word how much you think it will cost to repair all the Damage done by the storm, and when you can get good hung Beef remember to send some to Duke Street. I wish you well and am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Charleton Novr the 6th 1756

I have your Letter of the 15th of last Month. As to mines my mind quite easy, but at present the Death of the Duke of Beaufort a heavy concern to it. I and my Family have lost a most Faithfull Friend in Him, and our Country not so steady a man in it's Interest Left, a melancholy Reflection. My Lord did give me your Letter to read in relation to your Letting the Farmes of Forest Hall and Gathorn. Think you have made a very Good Bargin. I am sorry to read repeated Damage done by the Storm. Marts. the very best time for the Dry'd Beef, I Thank you for remembering it. We go to Bath the latter end of next week. My Lord keeps very tolerable well. I suppose we shall stay there Three months. The Title of Walden only a Baron. Mr. Hall return's from Elford two days ago, Lady Andover and her Daughters in good Health, and Hemightily Recover'd. Lord Walden at Eton. I have much to write and little time for it, and can add no more but

I am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Decr the 27th 1756

Mr Martyr

I have receiv'd your Letter this post dated the 20th with a very Good and Satisfactory account of your Doings; the parts of it I read my Lord not relating to Money, he was much pleas'd with. Your other Letters nam'd in it I have also had, but as I had nothing necessary to write, Thought your time better employ'd then to read Letters of no Business. I beg you will not Let Directions from any Body make you alter your Scheme of paying Annuitys regularly. That must be done first. I give my self no Thought about my money as, I depend on you for it's being return'd when due. But Mr Martyr, the additional Fifty pounds my Lord allow our son Charles Howard is almost a Year behind hand which is a great Inconvenience to him. He writes my Lord word Three quarters of that Sum due to him this Xmas. I wish nay desire you will order Mr. Murray to pay him the whole Fifty pounds. My Lord consents to it, and it is to be pay'd by you yearly, the same as that you pay him by my Fathers Will; pray do not delay ordering Mr. Murray to pay it to him immediatly. I don't imagine you can know my Lord has seen and forgiven him, but 'tis Fact, and he has been with us at Charleton. and my Lord much pleas'd and easy with him, and when we return from Bath but when that will be cannot tell you, he comes again to us. My Lord has been very Ill the most part of the time we have been here, but now got much better and the Waters do him great Good. I am quite well. I am glad to know of so much good planting with such great success, as to Mines I assure you I set not my heart upon them—if they happen shall be Glad, if not will not grieve I promise you. My Days too near an end to trouble my self about the Things of this World. Mr. Hall at Elford and to continue there a good while. Mr. Astbury going to leave my Lord to Farm for Mr. Williamson. very likely I may have writ this in former Letters. Lady Andover Lord Walden and Miss Howards all in Health together there. I wish you a Merry Xmas—in the North there's more of it then any where. Our Weather very Cold and Dark, I have seen no Snow this Year. I have try'd Twenty Pens all Bad; don't Think you will be able to read my Letter so horrible writ

I am

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Janry the 10th 1757:

Since I writ to you have receiv'd a Letter from Mr. Davis, and I Think with a promising account that a Copper Mine will at last be found to answer. He desires me to send Him Protections for his Minors and I have consulted a Judge, and Lawyers how that can be done? and they declare to me my Lord nor no Lord can in reality give Protections to any but their Menial Servants, and all that can be done is, to proclaim the Minors are my Lords Labourers and let who will touch them at their Peril, and if this not Thought this sufficient to secure them Mr. Davis may pay them in in Lord Suffolks Name, but you must take care that is not in earnest sett down to our Account; no other Method can be taken I am assur'd but, what I have now writ. So puff a way. and speak kind words of Encouragement to the Minors. Mr. Davis writes he wants wood for the Works and desires me to write to you to order Some. What you know by agreement he ought to have, do not let him want, but not one stick more I beg. My Lord pretty well considering the Severity of the Weather, colder never felt to be sure I suppose ye are all Frose up in the North, I expect your Opinion of the Mine. am so cold can't write more but I wish you abundance of Happy new Years

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

I have by chance, Din'd with Sr James Lowther he is a poor looking worn out Being.

Bath Janry the 15th 1757

It so happens I must take up my Pen again to you this Post for my Lord desires me to tell you he wou'd have you get two handsome Potts of Charr done by the best hand. I charge you let them be pick'd and not one white one among them, and send them Directed for my Lord to Duke Street. Carriage payd', and give me timely notice when they will be in Town. I hope you will send hung Beef with it. I Receiv'd your Letter the 6th instant. Desire without any farther Trouble you will order Mr. Murray to pay the Additional Fifty pounds with my son Charles's Annuity when he Draws for it; poor man He must be pay'd exactly so little he has to live upon. You have writ most properly to Mr. Murray on this Particular. I hope he will be punctual in doing Accordingly. I have talk'd to my Lord about pulling down the Malt-house and He consents to it. I

imagine my Lord will be ready to execute the Leases you mention in your Letter to me as it will be a Good to our Family, I am sure. I am sure I shall not be against it. I Think it Happy old Mrs Storey Depart'd, you do right to help the poor old man. From what you and Davis write Hope Copper will be found and that you have had a Merry Xmas, and I wish the return of many Happy years. My Lord is but in weak Health, and really the Weather in these parts very trying to those that are so. The Frost gone but, very cold Rain come. I thank you for the Wishes you make for me, and am

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Febry the last 1757

We are here yet tho' my Lord intended being at Charleton a month ago, but has been so Dangerously Ill made it impossible our removing from hence. He is now got much better and I trust, in some little time will be able to bear the Journey. I really have been so so harry'd in Body and Mind cou'd not write sooner to tell you I have receiv'd all your Letters. The Beef and Charr got safe to Duke Street, and I hear much praise from the Lady we made a present to of one of the Potts to, that they are the very best ever Eate. I hope to eate of the other next week which is coming hither, and will give you my Opinion. I have a Letter to Day from Mr. Davis to ask me if the Manor of Longsledal my Father bought of a Lord Bellingham. To be sure my Father bought the Estate in Westmoreland of Mr. Allen Bellingham. but he never was any Lord but, of the Manors in that Estate; and to be sure the Manor of Longsledal intirely our owne as I take it, and so have writ him word. I never heard of any Divided manor we have but That, where the Lowthers have a grant from the Crown. I desire you be particular to inform me right in this matter. I wish to hear Copper found. Never was known so great Scarcity of all sorts of Provisions and so excessive Dear people of Fortune can hardly live, the poor starving every where. Most calamiteous times in every shape and sense. I hope you keep well. I enjoy amazing good Health and am

your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I hear Mr. Graham has been in Town. No Creature knows the Cause of his Journey. he made a very short stay, came on a Sunday and return'd to the Boarders the Wednesday after.

Bath March the 8th 1757

Mr. Martyr

I have receiv'd your Letter of the first of this month. Hope you have one from me to tell you the reason of my long silence. My Lord continues better, but Good Health fear he will not enjoy; however trust he may keep tollerable Well the Summer Months. The Charr in the main Good, but were I to have more shou'd desire those that do them not to be so buntifull of Mace and Nutmeg—they have put too much of that sort of Spice or, they wou'd have been done in the highest Perfection. not one white Charr among them indeed! The Beef very Good and we feed of both most heartily. One of the Pots gave to Mrs. Hudgson, Miss Howard that was. That we keep for our own Eating slice away to our Friends every Day, they send and beg a slice most days and say they never tasted any so Good all the days of their lives, so very little comes to my Share. Now to go back to your Letter 'tis most satisfactory and I Thank you for it, and more particularly for making every Article so plain to my understanding. I give as in justice I ought, due Commendation to your Punctuality and proper Management mightily to my Satisfaction I assure you. I had not the Expectation of my Money being return'd so soone; it will be very wellcome and I Thank you for not letting me waite for it, but more Abundantly for not letting my poor Son Charles waite for his by the return of Money you make, paying Taxes and Repairs so exactly I begin to believe we have some Estate in the North, but for many years before you went there Mr. Hall has frequently told me impossible there cou'd be more then the Name of one. I Think my Lords in Wiltshire pretty near come to That for I know nothing it pays. Pray Mr. Martyr for my Satisfaction, write me word one Year with another what the Westmoreland Estate brings in. I have a Rent Role but, cannot find it readily. I approve of your management in Relation to the Miners—'tis quite sensible and proper—but by no means go beyond a Puff in paying them, our cash must not go that Road only, making believe as Children do. So desire you'l follow your own Judgement which, without a Puff I Think Directs you very right. The Sparr and Oar some of it that belongs to other Peoples Mines, looks sparkling and pretty. I did not know before Lord Darby had any Land joining so near to ours as the Labell on some of the Oar tells me. I hope the long look'd for in our Mines, will come at last, but I really have no Expectation of it.

I have not mention'd the Contents of your Letter to my Lord for he cannot attend to read a Letter, or to have a long one read to Him. He is much Deafener then you remember him, his Sight much weaken'd, and He cannot Comprehend Things but with great difficulty and Trouble, and not clearly then; however you shou'd write to Him little short accounts of the Mines and Things for his Amusement. Mr. Hall has been from Charleton many months. I suppose Things go finely on there. He has been Ill a great while, but been out and Abroad some time. but has never writ one line to my Lord since he went into Staffordshire. I am glad any kind of Food in plenty in the North. all sorts dear and scarce here. My Lord has not fix'd the week of our leaving this City; but I imagine soone we shall go to Charleton. My Lord very weak and no Appetite. I doubt he will find the journey a great fatigue. our Weather Fair and fine. and am

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Bath Sunday 6 a Clock o' Night 20 day 1757

I am sorry the first Letter I write to Mr. Martyr should be Accompany'd with such disagreeable news but our worthy Lord was last Tusday Taken ill with Gout but on wednesday turnd to pargin which has past the Art of the Docter to stop and in a few houres fear his Lord<sup>s</sup> is no more I know you will pittie the Distress of my good Lady and yours: hope God Almighty will soport her with straight to goo through so severe a Trilel as the seppariton of them poor Man he is breathing hard for his Last Excuse my Imperfect Scroll as knowing you must feel part of what I feel and see

Remain in Confution

Your Obligd Humble Sevt

Mary Elliott

Bath March 24 1757

Sir

at present Lady Suffolk is not Capable of writeing her Self so order'd me to Acquaint you of the Death of Lord Suffolk, who has left her Ladyship without any thing to begin the world afresh with So desires you will not pay any more money to any body till her Ladyship can have time to Examine into things: for as she is to begin the world afresh at this time of Life, desires you will get what little money you Can for her tho her lady<sup>s</sup>

knows as you have remitted a good deal lately she cant Expect much; when she is a little settled in thought will write about having plait Lining and some usefull from Levins; her Lady<sup>s</sup> is very weak and looks sadly so God only knows how long or short her time may be after her poor Lord; but let us all unite in prayers for her Life which I think will be a Sattisfaction to all about or belonging to her. Lord Walden is hear and truly Consernd to see his Dear Grandmamma so low

I hope you are well

and am Sir Your

Obligd Humble Ser<sup>v</sup>

Mary Elliott

London April the 7

1757

Sir

Lady Suffolk is just arived in town from Bath, is but very indifferent, and Cant at present not settle her self to writing, but in regard to the Letter you wrote her Lady Concerning who you are to Act for As for her Ladyship Intirely, as her Lady is now fatigued with her Journey: has not time to mention particulars, but I will write again next post to Inform you father what anueties you are to Continue paying; our good Lord was Buried on Satterday last My Lord Left his Lady no one thing in the world, but 200 Guinias for mourning for her self and not to put one Servant in mourning. Will write a longer Letter next post, you had best direct the letters you now write to her Lady<sup>s</sup> under Mr. Howards Name as the Earl of Suffolk in Duke Street Excuse haste and bad pen

I am Yrs

Much Obligd Hum<sup>bl</sup> S<sup>t</sup> M. Elliott

Duke Street April the 9th 1757:

Tho' I am very unable to write to Acquaint you you are now, to act intirely for me. I do take up my pen that you may have the Satisfaction of knowing what you are to do for the Future. My Fathers Estate now intirely in me for my Life, and what you can make of it is wholly mine, paying The Interest of the money charg'd upon it for my two remaining younger sons by my Father, which take you care to be punctuall in as usual. My

poor Lord had taken up Two Thousand pounds more upon Levens that is design'd it which I have made Good since his Death. So towards Mic<sup>s</sup> you will have Four per cent to pay for that Sum, but all other payments you us'd to pay now ceases and all the money but the Interest of the Sums Nam'd to be return'd to Mr. Murray in my name and for my use. My Lord left me two Hundred Gus<sup>s</sup> for Mourning. and to begin the World with. The plate, Linen, and Furniture of Levens House. Lord Walden sole Executor. I have not Strength to praise his Behaviour as it merits. He allows me the use of every Thing in this House and to live in this House as long as I please. but I am determin'd to take a House in Town to my self, and soone you will receive my orders to send the Plate and Linen & from Levens for my use. for I have not one Thing in the world but the Cloathes on my Back, and what I have mention'd to begin the World with, and go the cheapest way to work it must be a year of large expence, but I begin the World without oweing any Body one Shilling. I depend upon your Honesty and Diligence to Supply me with Money. The Hunder'd pounds you return'd of my Annuity I pay'd my Debts with, a Hunder'd of the Two my Lord left me spent, and this my present Situation My Health so bad at present I am hardly able to hold my pen. believe you'd hardly be able to make sense of what I have writ, but have done my best

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I hear Mr. Nicolson turn'd out one of the greatest Rogues ever heard of.

Duke Street April the 12th 1757

I wrote you a long Letter last post to inform you at far as I can recollect of my self, to inform you of the particulars of my present Dependence and Situation, and my Intention of moving to a House of my own as soone as I can find out a proper one for me. I yesterday receiv'd a Letter from you dated the 3d Instant Think it will be quite necessary for you to come up to have your Accounts past. As for the Future you are to Act only for me. I suppose Mr. Hall must be the Person to Examine your accounts. He is now at Charleton, and I suppose next month may go to Elford. So wou'd have you write immediately to Him to fix the place and time of your meeting for that purpose and then Accordingly as you have finish'd your Business with Him come up to

62 LETTERS OF CATHARINE, COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK,

London to me that we may talk and settle my Affairs for the Future. Money will be very Acceptable to me and all you can return you must to Mr. Murray for my use, as I Directed in my Letter last post. Indeed he has been particularly civil to me. and given me leave to draw upon him for any Sums of money I want and he'll give me Credit. This must be a hard year with me. I must buy all Furniture. Pray send me up all the Plate from Levens as soone as you can, as also all the best of the Table Linen, Pillow cases, Sheets, Servants Sheets, Fine and Coarse Linen for the Stewards Room. I leave it to your Discretion, but send none but whole and Good. You must have some for the use of the House that's proper but all the fine Table Linen and Sheets will have. Plate and Linen cannot afford to buy, and my Lord has left me that at Levens in his Will, for my use. So pray take Care to pack up all safe and Direct for me here. My Grandson gone to Day to be Enter'd at Oxford. I am in a very poor state of Health

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

To  
Mr Martyr

Aprill the 12

Sir

Since Lady Suffolk seald your letter, her Ladyship receiv'd one from you, so order'd me to mention that you must Act Intirely for her Ladyship and as soon as she can get Mr. Thomas to Draw up a proper form or Letter to Impower you to receive and Tranact in every respect for her Lady<sup>s</sup> she will send it to you till then desires you will manage Intirely for her, and her Lady<sup>s</sup> will bare you harmless in a any thing that you shall doe, I am Sir

Yr Humble

Svt M Elliott

May the 6: 1757

Sir:

Lady Suffolk recd your letter this day with an Account of the 4 Boxes coming from Levens: but as her Ladys is Extreme ill and intends setting out to Morrow Morning to try if the Bath waters will be of service So till her Ladys return cant give you an Account [of] what is correct but dares say you have been Exact: pleas to direct for the Honble Thos Howard or Lady Suffolk

Lodgings at Bath when you write next to her Ladys. if the waters dont make an Immediate Alteration for the better, fear we shall Loose the best of Ladys and Mistresses: I am in haste as being busy packing Remain Yr Humble St<sup>t</sup> M Elliott

Mr. White sends Comps as does Nanny

Duke Street June the 28 1757

Sir

Lady Suffolk ariv'd here last Wendesdar Evening after a good Jurney and better then when at Bath, her Ladys has got a small house in Pell Mell; near the park and as its the sittuation her Ladys wished for makes the house seem better then it is; her Ladys Enter(s) on Midsimmer day its ready Furnishd which makes it much more Easey to my Lady: who hopes you safe to Levens: and desires her service to you as to the Plate and Lining shall not open the boxes till we get to our new Habbittaion, Mrs. Whaley & Mr. Thompson desire their best respect

I am Sir Your Much

Obligd Humble St

Mary Elliott

Duke Street July the 2d 1757

Mr. Martyr

I Receiv'd your Letter yesterday dated the 26th of last month. Am very glad you are got safe back to poor Levens, and take no doubt but you will be very Glad I am greatly mend'd by the Exercise of the journey from Bath, and change of air. I Thank you for sending my Beding so soone, Imagine the Blankets too much worn to come with it as you make no mention of any; as to the Buying new Beding in the room of what you send me will consider of it. If you have not already sent a way the Copper Utensils I wou'd not have you send any till farther orders, but the morocco shall be extreem glad of. I have taken a House in Pall Mall ready Furnish'd as, the most convenien(t) to my Pocket at present, and really from the Garret to the Kitchen every Thing necessary in plenty, and Good of the sort, and the person I take the House of by Agreement, is to supply me with whatever else I find wanting when I live in it. I enter upon it on the Fifth of This month. Your poor Lady will be undone. I am to give Two Hunder'd and Fifty pounds a Year clear of all Taxes, ready Furnish'd certain for one Year and giving the Landlady a Quarter's warning am at Liberty then, to leave it or keep it as I

like. I assure you I have no Expectation of receiving money from you a great while. Mr. Hall loves to defer Business, I doubt you will not get him to settle Affairs with you yet of some time. I wou'd and desire, every Thing may be Amicably and justly finish'd between me and my Grandson.

I am concern'd for the Distress's the poor suffer. Heartily wish at my Cost, you cou'd find a way to help them—do for God sake if you can. I would be content to be yet longer without money, upon this Account.

I am very Glad Mr. Mayor and the Corporation of Kendal, pleas'd with the continuance of so small a Charity. Never was the time known when more wanted allover this Kingdom then at present. 'Tis most shocking to see and hear of the Poverty every where, and all Provisions so monstrous dear and bad People of Fortune can scarce live. As Things now are Ruin must be, and that soone. One day the ministry settl'd, the next unsettl'd, the Parliament kept setting till this Grand Affair quite fix'd. Lord Aylesford Dead. What sort of will he has made don't hear. Direct your Letters to Duke Street till I order the Contrary. Indeed Martyr I have no doubt of your Honesty and Diligence. Wish you your Health and am

Your Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk.

I am glad Friend Grace in better Health. She has always my good Wishes.

Duke Street the 16th? 1757

I receiv'd your Letter. Think you judg'd it quite right not to send the Blankets. The rest of the Beding come safe. When you send the morocco, write Mr. Loftus word the Name of the Ship, and the Name of her Capt; and when she sails, Direct your Letter for him at Sams Coffee House near the Custom House. Mr. Hall certainly at Elford unless he is vanish'd since last Post. Next Monday I remove to my House in Pall Mall. As there are two Lady Suffolks you must Direct your Letter to me the Dowager Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire or they may go wrong. I Thank you for your Good Wishes, my Health at present better but very far from Well. I don't imagine I shall want any more necessarys from Levens. I desire all you can do for the Poor may be done. These are times of the greatest necessity I ever knew, every Thing burnt up hereabouts, and in Surry much Hay out, you are much forwarder at Levens with the Hay then here.

It shall not be my fault if Things are not Amicably Agre'd between me and my Grandson. He is well Thank God. I am told Lord Aylesford made a will but, the contents of it a stranger to. Most people Talk as if this present Lord will find large Debts to pay. but I know nothing relating to the Affairs of that Family. to keep out of Debt my Business and Care. The weather here so intensely Hot, and 'tis so dusty. People have much a do to live. The cows fed with so much nastyness for want of Grass no tuching a Drop of Milk 'tis so bad. I am glad theres such a prospect of a plentiful Crop in the North, but believe not the least Glimps of the miserable situation Englad in, being reliev'd or mended. I shall go the Monday after I get to my House to Ashtead for the Benefit of cuntry Air, where your Letters will find me at that time—enclose them to Mr. Howard. I wish you the enjoyment of Health and am your Friend

Ca: Suffolk

When you have Opportunity assure Grace Chambers I never forget Her, and glad she keeps pretty well.

Pall Mall July 23: 1757

Sir

Lady Suffolk orderd me to write a line to Acquaint you she had given Mr. Thomas Howard leave for a friend of his one Mr. Gascoine who lives near Liverpool to have a Buck: the Gentleman will write to you when he would have it kild as he will send for it himself if the Gentleman should Chuse but half a buck at a time provided he Chuses to send for it: so that he may have it as he Pleases: half or whole:

I wish I could say Lady Suffolk was as well as you and I wish her Ladys. but I think we gain little Grownd: her Ladys desires to be remembd to you: on Monday her Ladys goes to Ashstead for some time to try the Air hope it will be of service:

I am Sr Your Humble

Svt to Command

M. Elliott

Mr. Whaley desires his Compliments

Ashtead Augst the 10th 1757

Martyr

I fear you are not well 'tis so very long since I had a Letter from you. Shall be much concern'd if that shou'd be the real reason of your Silence. I want much to be inform'd how you and Mr.

F

Hall agree upon matters, if you get him to do Business? or when you shall finish Affairs with Him? I Think in the last Letter I had from you you mentioned returning money for my Grandsons use. I suppose Mr. Hall Thinks I can live upon Air, or have money from Levens, for He has not return'd my Second Quarter Due the beginning of last month, neither takes any notice to me when He designs it. and, taking a House, Buying a Hunder'd necessarys unavoidable, a Coach, and the Hire of Horses and Coachman by the year, and so long an Illness, Liverys, and many other Things have been a vast Expence to me not of my own Seeking, and I am sure I cannot charge me self justly with laying out a Gn: but what was absolutly necessary. I desire you will be very exact in paying the Interest Money to Mr. Clutterbuck. and let me know if you have found out where my Settlement is plac'd, or in whose hands it is? for that a very material Thing to me. I have been here a Fortnight last Monday, much worse then you saw me at Bath, and am so Recover'd in this Air, and the Exercise of a Coach as you cannot Think. my Appetite Restor'd, I sleep well, gather Strength, and Flesh. I am so alter'd for the better I do not Think you wou'd know your Lady meeting me any where by Chance. Pray let me hear from you soone and give me a particular account of Affairs under your management. what hopes of a Mine? I propose staying here at least, a Fortnight longer, and then shall return to my own small Dwelling in Pall Mall. I pay Two Hundred and Forty pounds a year for it, a great deal of money. and a Hundred to Mr. King a year for my pair of Horses and a Coachman, My Coach is to cost with a pair of Harnness, more then a Hundred and Twenty pounds, so that if Levens don't help me your poor Lady will be sadly off. I hope to hear you are well, for I really am under Concerne you are not so.

Your very Sincere Friend

Ca: Suffolk

Pall Mall Octr the 27th 1757

I have got my morroco safe, and I shou'd Think it extreem Good if it had been less Hop'd. 'Tis too bitter to my Tast, otherwise very clear and well tasted. I hope the bitterness will go off with keeping. I beg Mr. Martyr you will soone send the money, indeed I am now in great need for some, or wou'd waite with patience. I really can do no longer without you supply me soone. I saw Lord Suffolk on Tuesday He came just to see me,

went out of Town again on Wednesday morning. We had no Discourse either of Business, Money matters, or Mr. Hall. Lady Andover and Miss Howards now at Charleton but design being in Town in a little time. I am told great alterations making there, pulling down the walls of the Court to the Park, and in the Park doing Somthing according to the present Tast of laying out Land, I ask not what, for my Eyes will never See that Place again. All our Politicks unsuccessfull. and that England will certainly be a Provence to France believ'd and talk'd of, and that Soone. but what is more Melancholy the Plague broke out at Lisbon, which without the most Watchfull Care, may be soone brought hither. The City so Cross they declare they'l lend no money. a most Shocking Situation old England in at present. I hope you enjoy Good Health. mine keeps very tolerable yet. I Expect the next time you write to hear of some money coming towards me.

Your Friend

Ca: Suffolk