

II.—SOME CLAVERING CORRESPONDENCE.

By EDWARD HUGHES.

By a strange chance, the accident of a marriage, the papers of one branch of a famous Durham family, the Claverings of Chopwell, have lain for two centuries and more at Panshanger in Hertfordshire. They were recently deposited by Lady Salmond in the County Record Office at Hertford and are now available to students. The marriage in question was no ordinary one: on September 13th, 1706, Mary Clavering married, as his second wife, William Cowper, the Lord Keeper: two months later he was raised to the peerage as Baron Cowper of Wingham in Kent and in May of the following year he became Lord Chancellor of Great Britain. This sudden elevation in fortune immediately occasioned an important correspondence with Lady Cowper's kinsmen in the North, for her husband was a leading Whig statesman having the disposal of much patronage, both spiritual and temporal preferments, and above all he was vitally interested in parliamentary elections. It was as if the sharp edge of this pure Whig crystal refracted the light and produced all the hues of the spectral band—from the bright orange of James Clavering's political sympathies to the purple of his cousin William (of Berrington's) pathetic and unavailing attempt to save his brother Edward (of Callalee) from a traitor's death at York in 1716. For the Clavering family was a house divided. Margaret Reaves, a domestic in Lady Cowper's service, was unkind enough at the time to remind her mistress of her "rebel kindred". On the Hanoverian succession in 1714 Earl Cowper resumed office and was high in favour with George I, while Lady Cowper

became one of the Ladies in Waiting to the Princess of Wales and for a time enjoyed great influence at Court. This explains why her young brother, "Jacky", who had just left Eton, accompanied the Earl of Stanhope to Hanover in 1715, where he spent the next two years. In time he was destined to become a Lord of the Bedchamber to George II and to forget the pit whence he was dug. On his death in 1759 his estates and coal mines in County Durham passed to the second Earl Cowper. Much else of moment to the North was to result from the Clavering-Cowper connexion: a generation later, Spencer Cowper, the second son of the marriage, became Dean of Durham. So it came about that for more than half a century there was a continuous traffic of correspondence between Durham and Colegreen and Panshanger. The present selection is only a first instalment.

[James Clavering to the Right Honorable Lady Cowper
att her house in Lincoln Inn feilds London.]

Lamesley, May y^e 20th 1707.

MADAM,

I have had y^e honour of y^{rs} of y^e 2nd instant w^{ch} should not have lyen thus long by me unanswer'd had I been att home & so consequently have procured y^e enclosed bill for £45 w^{ch} was due to y^r Ladyship on Mayday for y^e gentlemens concern'd wth me agrees wth me in opinion y^t master Clavering cannot do less yⁿ present y^o wth y^e plate of w^{ch} y^r acceptance is desired. I can now give y^o a very good account of his welfare & y^t he is in a hopefull way of recovery fr y^e measles; y^e D^r does assure me all danger is past, as soon as he is capable of removing, designs to send for him home. I deliver'd him y^r Ladyship's most obliging letter w^{ch} transported him much & has promised to answer it & acknowledge y^e favour as soon as can conveniently write. Y^r particular care of Cos. R. Clavering is very kind & shall be by me ever faithfully acknowledged: his character & learning I am well assured will give no body reason to be ashamed y^t recommends him. I communicated to him y^r Ladyship's great kindness & zeal for his service w^{ch} he will be sure to acknowledge & give y^o an account of w^t y^o further mention; if it could be conveniently done & has your Ladyship's approbation, he w^{ld} esteem it a particular favour & honour to be made one of my L^{ds} Chaplains & I am apt to think y^t such a distinguishing mark

to one of his principles, w^{ld} be of singular service in these parts where Tory Roryism reigns triumphant & none but men of y^t kidney preferred & in favour wth our worthy good Bishop. Now haveing recommend'd my friend, pray give me leave to speak for my self, tho' am y^e worstd in y^e world to say anything on my own behalf. My lord has a great many temporal preform^{ts} as well as spiritual in his gift, besides his great interest at court where places are dayly dropping; if y^r Ladyship w^{ld} be pleased to have me in y^r thoughts & think convenient to recommend me I shall ever esteem it a most particular obligation & own myself as I am

Madam, y^r most oblig'd humble servant.

[PS] My spouse is y^r humble serv^t.

[The same.]

Newton, 4th May 1708.

MADAM,

I can omitt no longer paying my duty & acknowlegmt^s to y^r Ladyship for those innumerable favours conferred on me wⁿ in London; & to acquaint y^o wth y^e news of y^e country, as I am informed since Saturday night y^t I came wth S^r Hen: Liddell to this place.

The noble Peer att his first arrivall att Lumley Castle was their mett by y^e Recorder & severall Alderman & others fr New-castle w^{ch} gave birth to a world of Reports: they were entertain'd wth y^e greatest civility imaginable & had ten thousand encomiums of y^r wise & prudent conduct of y^e affairs of y^t Corporation, but I suppose meets wth small encouragem^t fr any except y^e magistrates w^{ch} as yet hath prevented his Lordship's appearing their, nor do I beleive will give any disturbance for severall y^t before were newter have now openly declared for S^r H. Some other gentlemen y^t have been to pay their devoirs have mett wth a quite different treatm^t; much y^e same y^t some did y^t dined wth his Lordship att London. His behaviour is y^e common discourse in all conversations, one gentlemen had y^e courage to tell him [he] might spare y^e pains of so much noise for he was sure his Lordship had no interest in y^e North: this is thought to be a great truth & now less yⁿ ever.

Att Durham y^e new Pretenders interest seems fair, & both y^e old members courting him seems to prognosticate good success. Last night y^e Bpp arrived safe att y^t place, a month sooner yⁿ ever was known their, to espouse his favourite & y^e Church's pillars cause. This day y^t gentleman is to go round y^e towne in procession, attended by y^e clergy & high church gentry, y^t we are waiting impatiently for a true acc^t of this grand appearance, y^e very noise y^t y^e comission for charitable uses will be renew'd & many new comissioners putt

in, gives a turn already & promises fr y^e old ones are not current coyn as formerly. S^r H. Bellasyse golden stream they say flows abundantly. Now [I] have done wth y^e publick & for private can only add y^t y^e widdow Lady Clavering, by her great pains, study & industry has att last finish'd her worke & yesterday afternoon by her death gave an oportunity to S^r Jⁿ to joynture his lady. wth out y^e assistance or concurrence of his brother in £200 ^p anⁿ. My duty & service attends on my lord & am . . .

[The same.]

Durham, 11th May 1708

MADAM,

Y^r well wishes for our country emboldens me to acquaint y^o wth every transaction. Last Sunday by y^e order of y^e Bpp. & Chapter, as supposed, y^e Schoole master of this place preach'd before y^m att y^e Cathedral in y^e morning & y^e same sermon in y^e afternoon to y^e Mayor & Aldermen att y^e markett place Church. Y^e text was y^e verse of y^e 12th chap. of y^e 1st of Sam. & y^e words they say by hard straining, he perverted into y^e managem^t of elections on w^{ch} his whole discourse run, lashing all those who oppos'd M^r Coniers, concluding y^t damnation w^d be their future Lott, if they did not repent of such an heinous sin, as y^e very attempting to reject so true & trusty a member of y^e Church. Whether this glorious doctrine, or y^t our major general desponded in his interest I am not to judge, but y^t night late he decamp'd & has not since been heard of. So y^e feild of battle yesterday was clear for M^r Coniers & M^r James Nicholson who were declared duely elected. Now, Madam, must intreat y^r favour wⁿ y^e Commission of peace for this county is renew'd, will be pleased to put new citizen in for I hope, nay I think may say positively will make a very good man. L^d Scarborough's first appearance att New-castle was last Saturday in y^e evening for his Ldship staid till Sunday night: a grand Cabinett Counsell was held in M^r Carr's lodgings, most of y^e Aldermen & their grandees were present: y^e resolutions their taken are still secretts, only y^t M^r Carr is to insist of y^e priority to be first return'd. Sir H. friends are so confident of y^e strenth of his interest y^t they resolve not to yeild & if y^e other magistrates persist, a 3rd person will be sett up who perhaps will make y^e Alderman's heart ach before y^e pole be ended. Major generall Mayne has desisted att Morpeth to L^d Osselton's friend.

Have had a letter from Master Clavering. I am glad he is reconciled to Eaton & keeps his health. I hope he will be very observant & obedient to y^r Ladyship's commands.

B

Enclosed have sent a bill for £50 w^{ch} I hope will be punctually pd: w^{ld} have had it for a larger sune but bills are yet so scarce could not procure it. A little time it's hoped may remedy y^t as trade now seems to have a promising aspect if our New-castle magistrates do not interfere & will take effectuall measures to suppress publick ryotts in y^e bud for y^e future. Have had a notable one lately among y^e keelmen, an acc^t of w^{ch} perhaps y^r Ladyship may have heard. I am . . .

[PS] My humble service attends on my Lord.

[The same.]

Lamesley, 11th June 1708.

MADAM,

I want words to apologise for not feriding a second bill sooner as I believe my last promised. Now, enclosed y^r Ladyship will receive a bill for £50 & wⁿ y^e wants more on master's acc,^t I hope will give me notice. His behaviour I shall be glad to hear wⁿ att London is approv'd by y^r Ladyship & y^t he returned to Eaton chearfully & willingly & y^t he is perfectly reconciled to his pretty neice. I am afraid he has forgot his promise to me to write y^e first Saturday in y^e month, for I had no letter last post. I doubt not but has heard wth w^t unaccountable heat y^e election att New-Castle was managed & how exactly M^r Carr has learn'd y^e great art of his master H—ley, tho' perhappes another great man was aiding & assisting & not only their but elsewhere in fomenting quarrels in these parts. Y^e magistrates did behave themselves, one & all, after their usual arbitrary way w^{ch} gave a Lord, not a Peer, occasion to say he thought himself in another kingdom on y^e other side of y^e sea & not in a nation govern'd by good laws or where liberty and property ruled. Sir H. had not one vote fr any of these wise & well affected magistrates & y^e Clergy y^t voted herd'd wth them, in w^{ch} number was y^e vicar fr whom every body expected more moderation & prudence & not to have appear'd bare faced on so slender occasion, as this sham pretenders was sett up on purpose to give disturbance

I shall not detain y^r Ladyship longer on this subject further yⁿ intreat y^e favour to be inform'd, if it might not be feasible to add some gentlemen in y^e Commission of peace for that corporation whose affection & zeal for y^e present government is void of suspicion & wⁿ y^r ladyship commands shall return a list; this will be an effectual way to curb y^e insolence of those whose late practices & behaviour to y^e officers & soldiers who came to preserve us fr another pretender, as was some time ago y^e subject of all conversations, & indeed I can never expect better fr any y^t w^{ld} not qualifie

themselves nor take y^e oaths in y^e late reign, as some of these learn'd mushroom gentlemen did, y^t fined y^e Roman Catholicks half crowns a man & afterwards return'd them. Y^e elections in North Brittain, if my information be true, y^e majority will be on y^e side y^t has y^r ladyship's wishes y^t I hope this parliament will not be inferior in goodness to y^e last.

Y^e misses both att Green-Croft & New-Castle are very well & are often talking of y^r ladyship especially y^e former. My brother Liddell & sister are expected this day in our neighbourhood to settle. My spouse salutes y^r ladyship & begs pardon has not yet acknowledged her thankfulness for y^r noble present w^{ch} she delays to give an account of y^e rec't of it for M^{rs} Ann left it wth her own goods att her lodgings committed to M^r Richardson's care after they was pack'd up to send & as yet has no tydings of them. My humble service attends on my lord & am . . .

[The same.]

Green-Croft, 9th July 1708.

MADAM,

I had y^e honour of y^{rs} of y^e 15th of June wth my Lord's receipt inclosed to whom I am a very humble servant. I should much sooner have acknowledged this favour. but was desirous to have all y^e information as to w^t y^o hinted relating to New-Castle affairs to be able to give y^o a light, altho' but glimmering, therein. Y^e Charter is lodg'd in y^e Court of Chancery & was granted to New-Castle y^e 13th of Feb. 16 Char 2^d, recites all y^e grants to the Corporation & it will thereby appear w^t power y^e crown has to appoint justices of peace there, besides y^e Mayor, Recorder & Aldermen who are standing justices by charter. This I learn fr a short abstract have seen thereof by w^{ch} I hope if nothing more appears in y^e originall it is in y^e C power to appoint other justices besides. However to be further assured in this point have requested a friend in London to peruse y^t part relating to justices & if fr y^t hand my opinion is confirmed, shall hope by y^r Ladyship's assistance to have some friends added to y^e Commission of peace for y^t Corporation. I blush for all this trouble but as y^r ladyship knows my zeal, will excuse it; & I am sure unless some method be found to curb y^e insolence of these present magistrates who are as arbitrary wthin their dominions as y^e K of Fr[ance] is, y^t towne will entirely be lost. Y^e account y^r ladyship gives me of master's behaviour is very melancholy. I writt to him upon it & have had his answer confessing his crime & full of promises & assurances for a better deportment for y^e time to come. I must intreat will not allow him too much

liberty for y^e time to come for if he conquer y^r ladyship, I dare say will stand in awe of no person wtsoever. This barren place will afford me no news to entertain y^o wthall. The Lady Clavering & my sister Liddell still keep up: a son is wish'd & expected much & will be no small disappointment if otherwise, especially to y^e former. All this family joyn in devoted humble service to y^r ladyship concludes me.

[The same.]

New-Castle, 11th Oct: 1714.

MADAM,

I cannot longer forbear congratulating your ladyship on his Majesty King George's happy accession to y^e throne & safe arrival in Great Brittain to y^e unspeakable joy of all his Protestant subjects & honest men. This sudden providential change in y^e face of publick affairs from a black, dark & gloomy prospect to so bright a sunshine, prognosticates much good to me! Now we shall retrieve our lost reputation, honour & credit abroad & our trade, commerce & flourishing state at home.

Next must congratulate y^o on my Lords repossessing his former honourable post. I heartily wish he may enjoy a perfect tranquillity of health to go thorow wth unanimity all y^e fatigues of y^t high station; & as it's now in y^r ladyship's power to help & assist y^r poor friends & relations, I doubt not of y^r kind remembrance. The increase of my family will in some measure, I hope, intitle me to y^r thoughts & favour, for my spouse yesterday 7 night father'd another son upon me & both she & y^e child, I thank god, in an hopefull way.

I doubt not but y^e great demonstrations of joy expressed in this place both on proclaiming his Majesty & wⁿ y^e news came of his safe arrival must have reach'd y^r ladyship! yet wⁿ y^o consider M^r Ridley is mayor who inherits all y^e vertues & loyalty of his father, will not be surprised at y^e profound silence on so joyfull an occasion. My Governour, M^r Liddell, happened to be in toun y^e latter day & finding y^e common people were not to be acquainted y^t they were blessed wth y^e presence of a Protestant King in Brittain sent for tar barrells & two hogsheads of ale, wⁿ y^e latter came all y^e company attended him to y^e door, where we drunk King George's health, upon w^{ch} y^e mayor's brother who happened to be in another room in y^e same house, open'd y^e window & shouted a rump, a rump, & afterwards went downe into y^e street among y^e mob & yⁿ cryed a Blackett, a Wrightson, no rump, no rump & endeavour'd to put out y^e bonefire & threw up y^e fire sticks ag^t y^e windows w^{ch} were

illuminated in y^e room where we were rejoycing; after some little pause y^e other mob recover'd courage, put fresh fuel to y^e fire & turn'd y^e cry into no Tory, no Pretender, no drawbacks & wth difficulty we remain'd at last masters of y^e feild. This short hint is sufficient to shew y^r ladyship w^t must be expected next elections in this place unless y^e present — will exert themselves on y^t occasion & yⁿ I think one good member might easily be brought in, for it's plain one of y^e present is not qualified, unless a place in y^e pipe office be sufficient. I have detained y^r ladyship already so long y^t I am afraid to enter in a detail of my pupil's affairs, yet I know will expect I should say somew^t. Y^e land affairs go well & every thing succeeds to my wishes, save at Potter Newton wth w^{ch} M^{rs} Liddell has been fr time to time acquainted & her answer & orders are impatiently expected. Y^e Colliery matters much y^e same tho' rather better yⁿ worse considering we had but one fitter this year. Y^t trade I must frankly own requires so much of Ox & Chor — art y^t its beyond my skil & comprehension & have found so little honour among those I have dealt wthall y^t I am now entire passive on this head & applys myself solely to y^e land interest & perfecting our accts w^{ch} by allowing them to run four years in arrear, makes y^m very intricate & difficult whereby I doubt both M^r Liddell & myself will be sufferers. Those for 1712 are perfected & w^t M^r Liddell will bring up wth him: those for 1713 very near a conclusion so I hope both y^m & those for y^e present year will be ready by Xmas wⁿ I intend, god willing, to bring y^m up.

My humble duty attends my lord, wishing him & all y^r pretty little flock health & w^t I hope y^r ladyship now perfectly enjoys concludes me.

[PS] My spouse is y^r humble servant. My father & mother reading y^e superscription commands me to open y^e letter again to assure y^r ladyship of their best wishes & service: Sister Ann joyns in y^e same. Sir W. Blackett sets forward this day wth an address fr this loyall Corporation. I had almost forgot to acquaint y^e y^r M^r Gowland of Durham y^e rejoycing night had 526 candles in his windows. He has a son at Grey's Inn who he w^{ld} willingly have under my Lord Chancellor's conduct & w^t I wish my Lord for y^e encouragement of friends in these parts w^{ld} remember him wth some suitable posts. I believe my Lord will have other applications [MS. torn] him on this score.

To the Right Honourable the Lady Cowper
att her house in
Great Russell Street
London.

[Will Clavering to the Hon. Lord Cowper]

Berrington, 15th Oct. 1716.

MY LORD,

I beg pardon for giving your Lordship the trouble of this. But as we have the honour to be related to your Lordship & the favour I am about to beg being for a poor unfortunate Gentleman who lies now under sentence of death in York castle, being concerned in the late Rebellion, & as he is not now in a capacity of acting for himself. He being my brother whose name is Edward Clavering, makes me presume (tho' not having the honour to be acquainted with your Lordship) to beg either a pardon, transportation or a reprieve for him as you think proper. In doing of which you'll lay me under an incumbent obligation & shall ever be gratefully acknowledged by your Lordship's obliged & obed^t humble servant.

WILL CLAVERING.

To the Hon^{ble} Lord Cowper

In London.

[The same]

Berrington, 7th Nov. 1716.

MY LORD,

I was honour'd with the favour of your Lordship's most kind letter tow days befor I received the malincholy account of my poor misfortunate brother. His unhappy fate does not in the least diminish the many great obligations I am & always shall be indebted to your Lordship for that innate tenderness & compassion at all times so conspicuous in your Lordship towards the afflicted; & no one more sensible of it then my self. Permit me then, my Lord, with the utmost sincerity, to return your Lordship my most sincere & humble thanks & do me the justice to believe me to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most afflicted obliged & obed^t humble servant.

[Robert Clavering¹ to Lady Cowper]

July 19th 1708

MADAM,

I would have waited upon your Ladyship if I had not thought this the least troublesom way of returning an answer to your kind message. After having weigh'd the matter myself I freely submit it to your Ladyship's judg^{mt} to determine whether eighty pounds a year in the Hundreds of Essex or any other Countrey (always excepting London a place for w^{ch} I have a par-

¹ Later Professor of Hebrew at Oxford; Dean of Hereford, 1725-29; Bishop of Peterborough, 1729-47. *D.N.B.*

ticular affection) be an equivalent for the loss of a Fellowship not much inferior in value and at one of the most pleasant parts of the Nation? And whether it will be consistent even with the little reputation I have and the Station I have been in to settle my self in such a Benefice? If upon these considerations I can't accept your very kind offer I doubt not but you'll pardon me and hope my refusal won't prove an obstruction of further favours to

Your most obliged & most obedient servant

ROBT. CLAVERING.

[The same to M^{rs} Ann Clavering at M^r Allison's in
Red Lyon Square.]

Univers[ity] Coll., Jan. 24th 1708/9.

MADAM,

I writ to you on Friday last but by the receipt of yours (for w^{ch} my best thanks are due) I'm inclin'd to believe it is not come to your hands. The content of it was to desire my Lady's interest and yours with my Lord for the living of Reading in Berkshire. I don't in the least question but my Lord will have numberless solicitations about it because it is a good Benefice and situated so conveniently in respect of London and Oxford; and, except London preferment, I don't know any one Living in w^{ch} I desire more to be plac'd. However (as I said in my former) in this I wholly submit to your judgm^{nt} & my Lady's & to his Lordship's pleasure and shal be very grateful whenever it pleases him to think upon me. The birth of a son at Lamesley and Cosen Jack's improvem^t do exceedingly please me. The outcry of the High-flyers here is very great, especially with regard to S^r Simon Harcourt's Election. It is a most sensible wound and extorts greater complaints from them than I have heard this great while w^{ch} indeed surpris^s me very much seeing I have heard the very same persons Rogue and Rascal him whilst he was in play: but some people are never satisfy'd unless you go thorough a whole course with them and every occasion act the Fool and Madman as much as themselves. After so much trouble given you I think this high time as well as my indispensable duty to subscribe myself.

[PS] My best respects wait upon her Ladyship.

[The same to Lady Cowper.]

University College in Oxford, March 14th 1708/9.

MADAM,

I am inform'd that the minister of Reading is still alive but in so bad a state of health that 'tis generally thought he can't con-

tinue long. His Living is in the gift of your worthy L^d: and as it is in your power, so I doubt not but it is likewise your inclination to serve me in this affair, in w^{ch} I am the more earnest, because it lyes at so convenient a distance from Oxford and London and is withal a reputable place and has been hitherto supply'd by men of very good note. I know the Bishop of Salisbury has recommended one M^r Fox but upon the mention of my name he was pleas'd to assure a Friend of mine that if I made Interest for it he would not oppose me. It is in his Diocese, and, I question not but that he would be very well pleas'd to hear of my success. If my L^d doubts of my abilitys for such a Trust my Lord Archbishop of Canterbury will be very ready to satisfye him as I intimated to your good sister when I was last in Town; and if my Lord desires further satisfaction I can have a further recommendation from the good Bishop of Worcester. I should be glad to be inform'd of your Ladyship's Sentiments of this matter in any manner that you think most proper. I shal trouble your Ladyship no longer at present than to tell you that I rely upon your assistance and likewise upon your pardon for the tedious impertinence of . . .

[The same.]

Oxford, March 31st 1709.

MADAM,

I presum'd to write to your Ladyship not many posts ago and should not give you this fresh trouble unless I were apprehensive that my former had miscarry'd. I was inform'd by a Friend of mine that the Bp. of Salisbury told him that St. Mary's in Reading in your L^d's gift was like to be void and that he ask'd him the character of those who made Interest for it amongst whom my Friend nam'd me, upon w^{ch} the Bp was pleas'd to say he would not oppose me altho' he had already recommended one M^r Fox. The Archbishop of Canterbury is ready to give me a character and I doubt not of a hearty recommendation from the good Bp of Worcester if you think there is an occasion for it. I fancy to have as much said on one's behalf as one can [hope] will the more effectually recommend me. But as I intirely depend upon your Friendship, so I submit this wholly to your Ladyship's better judgm^{nt} and remain with the sincerest wishes for your happiness and prosperity.

[The same to Earl Cowper in Lincon's Inn Fields.]

X^t Church, April 25th 1718.

MY LORD,

I can't but acknowledge the great favour of yours, and if

what was said about my Friend satisfy'd your Lordship, I think it ought in justice to satisfy me. You are now released, my Lord, from such solicitations and I hope you won't think amiss of me for adding to the great weight that lay upon you in that high Station. Great numbers of people lament your absence in that Court which you so much adorn'd and I hope your Lordship will not take it amiss if I am one among so many. This I can assure your Lordship that my sorrow is not owing to any private views of my own since I am now as much as ever I was before

Your Lordship's most grateful & most
dutiful humble serv^t.

[Endorsed D^r Clavering, Hebr. Professor Oxon. April 25th 1718
on my resigning.]

[The same to Earl Cowper at George Street in Hanover Square.]

X^t Church, Apr. 17th 1722.

MY LORD,

I cannot always be silent and pass by neglected the great Services you have ever and particularly of late, done for your Countrey for w^{ch}, with many others, I return the utmost thanks. It is perhaps of little moment to inform your Lordship that I have had some share in the slights that have been put upon those of the same sentim^{ts} wth y^r Ldship. When the Deanery of X^t Church was last vacant a Friend of mine was consulted by a Suc—r of y^r Ldships about the disposal of it wth this provisoe that D^r Clavering must not be recommended. It surpriz'd my Frd who expostulated wth the noble Lord my affection to the Govern^{mt} etc. The answer to w^{ch} expostulation was *That no Frd or Dependent of my L^d C—pers was to expect any favour.* The exception to me gave noe trouble at all for several reasons & particularly that it is the last preferm^t I should ever ask for. There is one Bishop in the Church whom I would recommend (if it could be done without presumption) to your Lordship's more immediate acquaintance: a man of great Learning, of a cool and deliberate head, fit for business & of unalterable attachm^t to the Govern^{mt} and the good of his Countrey. I must without partiality own that (in my opinion) noe one is better fitted for a high Station i.e. to be great and beneficial at the same time. And I think nothing could have hindred his being soe, but his being of late mark'd out as one adverse to designs destructive of his Ch—h and C—trety. I beg pardon for this freedom and wth all good wishes to your Ldship & Family I remain under the most grateful sense of favours.

[The same.]

X^t Church, May the 14 1722.

MY GOOD L^d,

Your Ldship's civilitys to me can never be too much priz'd and the favour of your last letter is what I can never forget. I am glad to suffer upon your Ldship's account because I know I suffer at the same time for the good of my Countrey. I have always without the least variation been for the Protestant Succession as now establish'd, and if I am slighted because I have not given in to measures w^{ch} I esteem'd destructive of the publick welfare besides other reasons, this should be a support to me that people exceedingly more useful have met wth the same fate, amongst whom I must reckon your Ldship the Chief. I am against all extremes, and if the Constitution could be preserv'd on the legal bottom on w^{ch} it now stands (and I hope for ever will stand) it would in my judgm^t be the greatest worldly blessing that a true Englishman could desire. Your much obliged Frd hinted at in your letter is to my knowledge in very low repute with people of both sides, and on the contrary your Ldship has the favour of all men who have common sense and common discretion. He has lately meddled in an affair of this University contrary to all the rules of wisdom and prudence, and one can conclude nothing from it but that he is either very weak or most shamefully impos'd upon. The Bp I would recommend to your Ldship's more immediate acquaintance is the Bp of Oxford, a man of great Learning, of sound judgm^t, of singular modesty & whose capacitys even in forming a judgm^t of mankind and of secular business fit him (without regard to his Scholarship) for the best stations in his profession. He knows nothing of what I have said concerning him either in this or my other letter and if he is soe happy to be acquainted with your Ldship I believe it must be by some advances of your Ldship towards him, because of his great modesty. I know his great esteem for you & when you once know him I cannot doubt of yours to him. If a certain great man, who is much oblig'd to your Ldship and who is pleas'd to be very civil to me, would advise with him on several points, he would be much more serviceable and much more adorn his highest station than he does at present. I suppose your Lordship can guess who I mean & therefore without further trouble I only desire you to pardon this freedom.

