

## L'Estrange Papers,

FROM THE HUNSTANTON MUNIMENT ROOM.

COMMUNICATED BY

HENRY L'ESTRANGE STYLEMAN, ESQ.

Worthy gentlm and o<sup>r</sup> very loveing  
and beloved Tenants.

We suppose there is none among you but takes notice of the ruines fallen upon y<sup>e</sup> spire of o<sup>r</sup> Cathdrall Church by time & tempestuous weather, And wee assure o<sup>r</sup>selves that you and all y<sup>e</sup> Country do concur in yo<sup>r</sup> judgments that very fitt it is it should be repaired according to its form<sup>l</sup> magnificence and state, as being a great beauty to God's house, a noble monument of rev<sup>d</sup> antiquitie, & none of y<sup>e</sup> meanest ornam<sup>ts</sup> of this Kingdome; for o<sup>r</sup> owne ptes wee whose p<sup>t</sup>icular relation to this Church doth most neerely oblidge us, confesse that wee ought to be & p<sup>f</sup>esse that wee are more sensible & tender thereof then all other men, & doe resolve therein forthw<sup>th</sup> to doe o<sup>r</sup> best: But, considering that y<sup>e</sup> rents reserved amount to soe small a sume, that y<sup>e</sup> poore stipends & other annuall & ordinary payments being thence deducted, the remaynder is utterly insufficient for soe expensive a worke, Wee are necessitated to pray in yo<sup>r</sup> sev<sup>l</sup> aydes, hoping to find ev<sup>y</sup> of you cheerefully liberall (according to yo<sup>r</sup> sev<sup>l</sup> proportions) for the helping forward of this pious work; for w<sup>ch</sup> wee shalbe ready to expresse o<sup>r</sup> selves really gratefull to & mindfull of ev<sup>y</sup> of you, both in loveingly

requiteing you when you shall have occasion to make use of us in o<sup>r</sup> places, and in doeing evy of you the greatest honor wee can by leaveing a memoriall to posterity of each man's bounty registered under his name in a fayre lidger booke w<sup>ch</sup> for that purpose shalbe forthw<sup>th</sup> p<sup>ro</sup>vided. God direct & blesse you and us.

Yo<sup>r</sup> very loveing friends,

Chr. Church in Norw<sup>ch</sup>,  
March 10<sup>th</sup>,  
1633.

JO. HASSALL.  
FOULKE ROBARTES.  
JO. SPENDLOVE.  
NICHO. HOWLETT.  
EDM. PORTER.  
EDW. YOUNGE.

Addressed:

To o<sup>r</sup> very loveing freinds & worthy  
Tenants, these.

The Dean and Chapter of Norwich were then (and are now) Lords (inter aliâ) of the Manor of Sedgeford next Heacham, in the County of Norfolk, which estate was then held under a customary renewable lease by Sir Hamon L'Es-  
trange, of Hunstanton.

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Charles R

Trustie and welbeloved we grete you well. Whereas, we have formerly directed o<sup>r</sup> Commissions w<sup>th</sup> Instrucçions and lres to yow for compounding w<sup>th</sup> such o<sup>r</sup> subjects as are to make fine unto us for not appearing at o<sup>r</sup> Coronaçon for

receveing the order of knighthood, wherein we like well yo<sup>r</sup> care and diligence and will reteyne it in o<sup>r</sup> princely memory as occasion may be p<sup>r</sup>esented; forasmuch as we find nevertheles that some of o<sup>r</sup> subjects are hitherto backward in making their composi<sup>ç</sup>on, and yet in o<sup>r</sup> gracious Inclina<sup>ç</sup>on to them we are desirous to reduce them rather by sweete and gentle meanes then by rigor and constraint. We have therefore bene pleased once more for their ease and benefitt to renew o<sup>r</sup> said Com<sup>is</sup>sions and Instruc<sup>ç</sup>ons, and to direct theis o<sup>r</sup> Lres to yow, requiring yow to lett them know that this shalbe the last Com<sup>is</sup>sion w<sup>ch</sup> we intend to direct unto yow upon the form<sup>r</sup> writt of Sum<sup>o</sup>ns, and that those who shall now refuse to make their Composi<sup>ç</sup>ons shall hereafter have noe other recourse for it but to the Lords of o<sup>r</sup> Privy Councell. And for the better dispatch of this o<sup>r</sup> service, we doe heerby n<sup>o</sup>iate and appoint yow *S<sup>r</sup> Hamond Le Strange*, Kn<sup>t</sup>, o<sup>r</sup> collecto<sup>r</sup> of the monies to be levied in that Countie, and to paie the same over according to o<sup>r</sup> Instruc<sup>ç</sup>ons. We doubt not of the continuance of yo<sup>r</sup> care in the conclusion of this service, w<sup>ch</sup> wilbe very acceptable to us. Given under o<sup>r</sup> Signett, at Bagshott, the five and Twentieth day of July, in the seventh yeare of o<sup>r</sup> Reigne.

Addressed:

25<sup>o</sup> Julij ad 7 Carolij.

To o<sup>r</sup> trusty and welbeloved S<sup>r</sup> Edward Bacon, Kn<sup>t</sup> and Baronett, S<sup>r</sup> Richard Berney, Baronett, and the rest of o<sup>r</sup> Com<sup>er</sup>s appointed for o<sup>r</sup> County of Norffolk.

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After o<sup>r</sup> very heartie Comendations. Thes Boarde haveing taken into consideration how chargeable and troublesome it may be to divers gentlemen in that Countie of Norff., who

have formerly beene reserved to make their Composicons for Knighthood heare, and not w<sup>th</sup> yow hes Ma<sup>ties</sup> Com<sup>rs</sup> in the Countrie, and that they are nowe desirows of the same grace offred there, to y<sup>e</sup> rest whoe have Compounded allready w<sup>th</sup> yow, His Ma<sup>tie</sup> hath beene moved therein, and hath beene graciously pleased to give yow power in that Behalfe by his Comission w<sup>ch</sup> wee send you here w<sup>th</sup>all; soe as, notwithstanding any former restraunte, yee maie nowe alsoe Compoude w<sup>th</sup> those Gentlemen, as likewise w<sup>th</sup> any others that shall repaire unto yow for the same, the nobility only excepted, according to y<sup>e</sup> last Instrucones given yow on that Behalfe, w<sup>ch</sup> was not to take less then after the rate of thrice and an halfe as much as the partie Compounding shalbe in the Subsedy; but therein yow are to governe y<sup>r</sup>selves according to y<sup>e</sup> knowledge yow shall have of each manes Estate, for the benefitt of his Ma<sup>tie</sup>: takeing more if yow see cawse; But not lesse of any. And because his Ma<sup>tie</sup> & this Boarde have found soe good effects by yo<sup>r</sup> former paines and careful aides in this service, It hath now pleased him further to intrust yow w<sup>th</sup> the examinacoon of such pleas as divers p<sup>ersones</sup> have putt into the Excheq<sup>r</sup> for their severall discharge, as not being lyable to such Fines or Composicons. The names of such p<sup>ersones</sup>, together with their different cases pleaded, are here inclosed and sent unto yow; wherein, by his Ma<sup>ties</sup> speciall directions, yow are to use all good and lawfull meanes, as well by the assistance of the high Constables in every division as by yo<sup>r</sup> owne perticular knowledg, to enforce yo<sup>r</sup>selves of the true state and livelyhood of each p<sup>erson</sup> soe pleading. And soe many of them as yow shall finde to bee of estate answerable to y<sup>e</sup> vallewes for w<sup>ch</sup> others have compounded, That yow take them likewise into Composicon (if they soe desire) according to y<sup>e</sup> said Instrucons. But in case they shall refuse or neglect soe to doe, yow maie let them knowe that upon yo<sup>r</sup> Certificate they must expect to undergo a legall Tryall in the Court of Excheq<sup>r</sup> upon

their said Pleas. And whereas wee also are enformed that there are some who have likewise pleaded to their issues and returned in charge in the Excheq<sup>r</sup>, That their Ancesto<sup>rs</sup> either dyed since his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Coronaçon or themselves have since purchased their estates, yo<sup>r</sup> extraordinary care wilbe expected to make an exact returne to this Board of the true state of their cases pticularly; To the end that w<sup>th</sup> such of them as relye on those Pleas shall neglect to make their composiçons w<sup>th</sup> yow, such Course maie bee taken as by his Ma<sup>ties</sup> learned Councell shalbe thought fitting. Yo<sup>r</sup> industrious and diligent proceedings herein wilbe right acceptable to his Ma<sup>tie</sup> and much importing his service.

And therefore he will expect from yow a speedy & exact Accounte of yo<sup>r</sup> endea<sup>vs</sup>. And soe wee bid yow very heartily farewell.

From Whitehall, the last  
of Februarye, 1631.

Yo<sup>r</sup> very loveing freinds,  
MANCHESTER.

THO. COVENTRY.	R. WESTON.
DORSET.	KELLYE.
J. BRIDGWATERS.	GUIL. LONDON.
WIMBLEDON.	FALKLAND.
WENTWORTHE.	J. COKE.

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Norff.

The names of all such persons in the said County as have put in their Pleas for the discharge of the duty of Knight-hood at the Coronaçon, wherein it is to bee noted that all those w<sup>ch</sup> are not quoted what pleas they have put in are such as have pleaded not seised of xl<sup>li</sup> per ann<sup>o</sup> at his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Coronaçon and three yeares before, and such as have pleaded any other pleas that are overruled by the Barons of the Excheq<sup>r</sup> to bee insufficient and dylatory are m<sup>k</sup>ed w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Letter o.

Nichas. Bradford de Civit. Norw<sup>ch</sup>  
 Baskerville Bacon de Hockham, Ar.  
 Thomas Baxter de Dursham, Sen.  
 Ar.

Ricus. Burton de Wymondham, gen.  
 Robtus. Beales de Cley, gent.  
 Marmaduke Browne de South Wot-  
 ton, gen.

Tho. Benwell de Bircham, yeoman  
 Tho. Bodham de Swaffham, gent.  
 Ricus. Buttivant de Blowefelde  
 Tho. Blowfeild de Sustead  
 Richs. Bond de Bintre  
 Willus. Bucy de Civ. Norwc. Alderman

Johes. Boray de eadm. gent.  
 Edward Barkham de East Walton,  
 gent.

Thomas Blossse de Civit. Norw. Ar.  
 Jacobus Calthorpe de Cockthorpe  
 Edr'us. Cale de Edingthorpe  
 Robtus. Craske de Civit. Norwic  
 Tho. Carver de eadm.

Martin Calthorpe de Hucklinge, g.  
 Johes. Cooper de Reynston, gent.  
 Francis. Carey de Bramerton

Johes. Cocke de Holmeston  
 Henric. Crofts de Alesham

Ricus. Cupar de Norwic  
 Hugo Dixon de Pensthorpe  
 Thomas Drury de Downham

Johes. Dobbes de Blakenye  
 Thomas Dixon de Norw<sup>ch</sup>

Erasmus Earle de Saule, ar.  
 Robertus Farthinge de Walpole

Ricus. Freeston de Mendham  
 Gregorius Gurnell de Lyn Regs.  
 Galfdus Garrett de Scottowe  
 Carolus Garnishe de Thorpe  
 Leon'dus. Holmes de Yarmouthe  
 Tho. Hayward de Hockholde  
 Anthus. Johnson de Norwic  
 Johes. Johnson de Bircham Tofts  
 Edr'us. Mayes de Norwic  
 Aslake Lanye de Pulham  
 Edrdus. Nobles de Hilverston  
 Josephus Norgate de Norwic  
 Tho. Palgrave de Thuxton  
 Matheus Peckover de Norwic  
 Johes. Pell de Darsingham  
 Edrdus. Reeve de Norwic  
 Daniel Rushmer de eadm.

o Jacobus Scambler de Hickling

Robtus Stileman de Fieldalling  
 Adam Scambler de Heveningham

Johes. Steevenson de Yarmouthe  
 Robtus. Segon de Brancaster

Tho. Salter de Tottington  
 Dennscany Southwell de Norwic

o Tho. Thursbye de Ashwicking  
 Tho. Talbott de Wymondham

Willus. Wayte de Lyn Regs.  
 Robtus. Wardell de Terrinton

Tho. Wright de Kirveston  
 Henry Warde de Horsteade

Tho. Athowe de Bichamwell  
 W<sup>s</sup> Brooke de C<sup>te</sup> Norwic

W<sup>s</sup> Denny de C<sup>te</sup> Norwic, Miles  
 Henric. Gaye de Wymondham

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The writer of the following letter, Sir Hamon L'Estrange, was a zealous royalist, but his bodily infirmities obliged him to seclude himself at Hunstanton. He died in 1654, aged 71 years.

Sir,

I understand that my neighbour, Toby Pedder of Hunstanton (whome I made not chefe Constable to repay mee w<sup>th</sup> malice and ingratitude for the many favours w<sup>ch</sup> hee and his predecessours have received from mee and mine) hath offred some late informacon to you concerning some secret and clandestine favours from mee to some souldiers of the K<sup>s</sup> party, who not long since landed at Hecham, and although I am confident of acquittall in the cando<sup>r</sup> of yo<sup>r</sup> opinion & judgm<sup>t</sup>, yet I crave yo<sup>r</sup> patience to read my purgacon att large as followeth:

About 2 moneths since, there came unto my house one morning a yong man (who as he sayd was a keele man of Lynne) & desired to speake w<sup>th</sup> mee: I sent a *servant* (Mr. Fisher) to demand the buysines: hee answered that there were 2 gent in the outward court, who desired speech w<sup>th</sup> mee. I sent *my servant* (Mr. Fisher) to them, who related that they were many souldiers of the Kings party taken presoners & sent to Lynne, from Lynn to Boston, from whence they were agayne conveyed to Lynne, and overmastering ther convoy, & moving the keelman to carry them to Scarborough, he told them hee was not able, but would land them att Hecham & goe w<sup>th</sup> them to S<sup>r</sup> Hamon L'Es-trange, a Kn<sup>t</sup> living there nigh, who had appeared for the Kinge & would doubtlesse shew them all favour, & now they desired to speake w<sup>th</sup> mee for myne advise; I refused to speake w<sup>th</sup> them, & so w<sup>th</sup>out sight of them or of any one word spoken to them they departed; immediately after I sent to Pedder, who came unto mee accompanied w<sup>th</sup> the keeleman, who confessed before Pedder that he was enforced to use my name as aforesayd to drawe them to Hecham haven; Pedder demanded myne advice, which I gave him, to advertise you speedily, & told him that I thought hee would think fitt himself to hinder their escape by land, & by sea they could not easily get away; & that I was not

concerned to counsell him, but wished him to hasten to bee directed by you; So Pedder deputed, seemingly fully & fairely satisfyed of mee & from mee.

Afterward the keeleman came agayne to mee for the protection of myne house for feare of the prisoners, who were all, to the number of about as he said 50, marching towards Hunstanton from Hecham. In their passage, one or two of the prisoners & about 6 or 7 of their convoy came into myne outward court, & the weather being very hot, they desired to drinke, w<sup>ch</sup> my butler gave them (w<sup>th</sup>out my dereccon, though I may safely Iustifye that charity to a Turke) & this is the sum of all that buysines & their entertainment from mee and myne.

I crave pardon for this tedious epistle, & that yow would afford mee a knowledge of the particuler charge & informacōn, & shall ever offer my selfe ready to abyde yo<sup>r</sup> scrutiny and Iudgment. So resteth,

S<sup>r</sup>,

9 Oct.

Yo<sup>r</sup> ever desposeable servant,

1648.

HAMON L'ESTRANGE.

[No address.]

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Sir Roger L'Estrange, the writer of the following letters, was the youngest son of Sir Hamon L'Estrange and was born at Hunstanton in 1616. From the Memoir of him in the *Biographia Britannica* we gather that he was, like his father, a zealous Royalist, and was condemned to death for attempting to surprise Lynn in 1644. He laid four years in Newgate under an order of reprieve,\* when he found means

\* Sir Roger is stated in Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* to have composed during his confinement in Newgate, that fine poem commencing:

"Beat on, proud billows; Boreas blow;

"Swell, curled waves, high as Jove's roof;

"Your incivility doth show

"That innocence is tempest proof.

"Though surly Nereus frown, my thoughts are calm:

"Then strike, Affliction, for thy wounds are balm."



to escape to the continent, where he remained until the dissolution of the Long Parliament in 1653. He then returned to England, where he lived undisturbed till the restoration. In 1660, being like so many others disappointed in receiving no notice, he published his *Apology*; this was followed by other pamphlets. In 1663 he was appointed Licenser, which he retained to the Revolution. In the same year he commenced a newspaper, called *The Public Intelligencer & the News*, and continued it twice a week till January 1665, when it gave way to the *London Gazette*.

From the period of the loss of his office he appears to have been principally engaged in translations for the booksellers. He translated *Josephus*, *Cicero's Offices*, *Seneca's Morals*, *Erasmus' Colloquies*, *Æsop's Fables*, *Quevedo's Vision*, and *Five Love Letters from a Nun to a Cavalier*. Besides these works he was the author of an immense number of political pamphlets.

He married Ann, the daughter of Sir Thomas Dolman, by whom he appears to have had two children, Roger and Margery, of all of whom some information will be found in the following letters. He died the 11th December, 1704, nearly 88 years of age.

The letters are addressed to Sir Nicholas L'Estrange, Bart., his great-nephew. His father had died in 1654; Sir Nicholas, who succeeded him, in 1656; Sir Nicholas, the father of Sir Roger's correspondent, in 1669.

The first letter relates to his daughter Margery, who had been taken by Sir Nicholas L'Estrange to be brought up at Hunstanton. It also alludes mysteriously to a subject which the succeeding most remarkable letter clears up.

Deare Sir,

This Letter I hope will find y<sup>r</sup> self, y<sup>r</sup> Höble Lady, and Family, in good Health; I wish it may w<sup>th</sup> all the affections of a most gratefull, a sensible, and an Honest man.

If I should say lesse I should wrong my Conscience, and be wanting to what I ow to y<sup>r</sup> Goodnesse; I must not Labour this subject too much for feare of overdoing in appearance that which I can never sufficiently expresse in Respect.

My heart aches for feare of that Addle-headed stubborn Girl of mine that has y<sup>e</sup> Honour to be under the Protection and Charity at present of your Rooffe, she has brains enough to understand both her father's circumstances and her own, and so much of her duty as to keep her within y<sup>e</sup> Compass of Sobriety and good manners, and not to cast herself away Irrecoverably by an ungratious neglect and contempt of y<sup>e</sup> only means of preserving herself. If her Behaviour toward your Generous Self and Lady be what I tremble to think of, and feare it may be, God forbid, S<sup>r</sup>, that I should suffer her to be any longer an Encumbrance to the best friende I have in y<sup>e</sup> world: but, whatever becomes of my Unfortunate Self, I will take her away and so dispose of her as barely to provide for y<sup>e</sup> Keeping of Life and Soul together, without ever considering her afterward as my Child; I need not tell you what the Condition of my fortune has reduced me to; but I shall, however, struggle with all difficulties rather than render myself a Burden where I ow so much service. There is one (*illegible*) more in the fatality of my Condition which shall be a secret to you to the last houre of my Life and will give you to understand more of y<sup>e</sup> Tendernesse I had for y<sup>r</sup> case then you imagined. I should not have been so full and playn but upon the occasion of a particular hand, And by this opportunity I p<sup>r</sup>sume to enclose a letter for my Girle. I beg your pardon for y<sup>e</sup> presumption and your favour in y<sup>e</sup> conveyeing it to her hand, and for God's sake oblige me in a line with y<sup>e</sup> playn truth of the Case how it stands with her.

I have had for these 5 or 6 months such a complication of Gouty peynes in my head, neck, and stomach, w<sup>th</sup> a Restlesse violent cough, that I was brought to a sceleton, and every

body gave me over for a lost man 'till w<sup>th</sup>in these 3 weeks last past, and now I prayse God I am much more at ease; the Remedy I have found ye greatest Benefit by was *Conserve of Hipps*. If I durst be so impudent I would beg a Pott of them out of the Country, for y<sup>e</sup> Apothecary's Conserves are not so effectually wrought. I can tell you no newes now but of y<sup>e</sup> Ravages of y<sup>e</sup> French in Flanders, ye Rhyn, Catalonia, and all ye open Countreyes wherever they come. The spoyling of our trade by their Privatiers, y<sup>e</sup> wavering of some of y<sup>e</sup> Allyes. The French Letters write upon presumption that they have done execution upon Cadix (?) and y<sup>e</sup> 'Change now is in no small App<sup>h</sup>ension for y<sup>e</sup> Smyrna fleet, though they say at White Hall that S<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Rook and his Charge are all Safe, and one of the Dutch Prints speak<sup>s</sup> of an Exp<sup>re</sup>esse from y<sup>e</sup> King to ye States to y<sup>e</sup> same purpose. But y<sup>e</sup> most surprizing Rumour of all is the last Report of 2 dayes standing of a Peace in Agitation betwixt France and y<sup>e</sup> H. of Austria, and that y<sup>e</sup> Spanish Iunto hath declared upon y<sup>e</sup> poynt of y<sup>e</sup> Succession, in case of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>sant King's dyeing without an Heyre. There is a busy Party here that takes great peynes to possesse people with false opinions of things, but Time will bring Truth to Light.

It is my fortune, in Co<sup>m</sup>on w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> rest of my friends, to live among Ill Neighbours, and to be put in all Cases to y<sup>e</sup> Extreme Rigoure of Impositions. I keep myself within ye Compasse of a very slender Acquaintance and Conversation, saving only in Coffee houses where y<sup>e</sup> whole world is y<sup>e</sup> Iudg of my behaviour. And y<sup>e</sup> Truth of y<sup>e</sup> matter is playnly This: There are so many Pragmaticale Pretenders to false Politicks that have y<sup>e</sup> face to value themselves upon y<sup>e</sup> Character of men of Co<sup>m</sup>ission and Businesse, and are neither men of Brayns or Principle at y<sup>e</sup> bottome, that there's no security so much as to be seen in their Company; But it is a Good Conscience that must beare every man out at last. The Late King's Declaration that made such a noyse all over y<sup>e</sup> King-

dome provs but a nine dayes wonder, for y<sup>e</sup> very memory of it is ouer as well as y<sup>e</sup> noyse of it.

A very worthy Honest Gentleman of ye Neighbourhood of Sir Christ<sup>r</sup> was so kind as to put this opportunity into my hand of writing more at Large, not that I meddle in any dangerous matters, but there are Private Concerns that require Secresy as well as Publique, and so I p<sup>e</sup>sumed to give you y<sup>e</sup> Importunity of more words then Ordinary. And I must yet beg, before I bid you adieu, that you will mediate for mee to y<sup>r</sup> Excell<sup>t</sup> Lady in excuse of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>e</sup>sumptions I have been guilty of toward her self. I am both by the measures of Age and Infirmity upon the brink of Another World, and therefore I may with y<sup>e</sup> Credit of a dying as well as of an Honest man assure you that I am as Passionately affected to the service of you Both as an Infinite Zeale and Tendernesse can make any man.

July 2, 1693.

(To Sir Nich<sup>s</sup> L'Estrange, Hunstanton.)

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Deare Deare Sir,

I begin this Letter in a most anxious and miserable contemplation of what I am to expect before I come to y<sup>e</sup> end of it, for my deare Wife is at this Instant (betwixt 11 and 12 at noon) in her deathe Agonyes. This is a Calamity of all that ever yet befell mee Incomparably y<sup>e</sup> most inconsolable, and that in severall respects over and above what it is possible for you to imagine, and perhaps in some cases peculiar to my self; you may remember I gave you the trouble of a mysterious account of some singular fatalities that I very much dreaded, w<sup>th</sup>out naming them, and they are now fallen upon

mee. I blesse God for it, that my poor wife hath reconciled herself to God so far as a Charitable construction of all y<sup>e</sup> signs and assurances of a Hearty Repentance may warrantably judg upon so naturall an Evidence, she hath likewise wounded my very soule with the tenderesses of her Love and Kindnesse now in her Last extremity. I cannot tell you, S<sup>r</sup>, how much it has wrought upon mee, But in one Word, Play and Gaming Company have been the Ruine of her wretched self, her husband, and her family, and she dies with a broken heart upon the confusion of her own miscariages. The History would be long and Incredible, but after all I have sayd never any creature lost a dearer wife; she made mention often of yours and y<sup>r</sup> Ladyes Generous and Charitable Friendships to us both, in your Goodnesse towards the poor Girle, and charged me w<sup>th</sup> services and blessings in abundance, so long as she had her tongue and Reason at Co<sup>m</sup>mand. And I beseech you S<sup>r</sup> be pleased to accept of y<sup>e</sup> Heart for y<sup>e</sup> deed. I have no dark ends in what I write, and nothing by y<sup>e</sup> Grace of God shall be wanting on my part to y<sup>e</sup> Honour of my Family, or to y<sup>e</sup> best offices of a careful and a Tender father, a most affectionate Husband, or of a Loyal and a Gratefull person to my Country and to my Friend.

The Clock just at this Instant strikes 12 at noon, and at y<sup>e</sup> same Instant my deare wife breathes her Last.

I beseech God fit us all for our End and blesse y<sup>r</sup> most obliging Self and Lady, together with y<sup>r</sup> Family, with all the love and joy of both worlds.

April 7,  
1694—12 at noon.

Endorsed by Sir Nicholas L'Estrange: "Sir Roger on his Lady's death."

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In spite of the caution Sir Roger states in his first Letter he had adopted in political matters, he became a mark for the abominable plotters of those days. So, at the age of eighty, this poor old gentleman finds himself in Newgate.

To Sir Nicholas & his Lady a thousand Comforts and Blessings; to his Family the like; and I beseeche God blesse my Poor Deare Child, and yourself and Lady over again, for your Christian Charityes and Bountyes.

My Commitment to Newgate can be no newes to you; my Crime is suspicion; I was never examined; and in the dread of a future Iudgment, I declare my self as clear of contriving, Fomenting, or of being Privy to any one Poynt of the Plot, now in Agitation, as I was born.

I have done all I could toward the Settling of my miserable Accounts, and presum'd to make use of your name, with my Brother Dolman's, and the name of Richard Sare, a very Honest Citizen, for my Executors; the latter of the three being willing to take the troublesome Part of the Execution upon Himself; wherein I have proceeded with all Strictness of Precaution.

I have given him a List of Those Debts of Honour and Conscience, which are to be first discharg'd, so far as the Proportion will go.

My Head is disorder'd.

I have taken the Best Care I could for some sort of Provision towards the education of my Son Roger, not daring to leave myself and my child altogether at the mercy of my wive's Relations.

I am sorry Cope's Deed is not taken up; but I have now been allmost Three weeks a Prisoner. Again and again I give you my Unfeigned Thanks for all your Favours, and I shall carry a most affectionate sense of your Goodness into the other world. Give my Dutyes, I beseech you, with all Possible Tenderness to Bassham.

A most Tender Farewell to my dear S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas and his Lady, and so God's will be done.

R. L. S.

Newg., March 19,  
1695-6.

Addressed: For S<sup>r</sup> Nicholas L'Estrange,  
at Hunstanton in Norfolk.

Leave this with M<sup>r</sup> Brownrigs, a Sadler  
in Lynne, to be sent as Above.

The whole of the preceding letter is in the hand-writing of Richard Sare, who appears from subsequent letters to have been a bookseller at Gray's Inn Gate, Holborn. Sir Roger adds his initials.

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Sir Roger was out of custody again in June, 1696, as the following passage in a business letter of Richard Sare to Sir Nicholas, shows:

"I must not omit to acquaint you that S<sup>r</sup> Roger is much better than I expected to have seene him after so long and sickley a confinement. Sir Thomas\* & his son have agreed to allow M<sup>r</sup> Roger £30 per ann., by quarterly payments, for his schooling education. And they have been pleased to make use of me for the care of discharging the allowance, & have sent me part of the allowance already. M<sup>r</sup> Dolman hath likewise further declared, in the Hearing of Sir Roger & myself, that in case he outlive his father that he will take the child as his own & provide for him as such."

Dated, "June y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>, 1696."

\* Sir Thomas Dolman, whose daughter Sir Roger had married.

His daughter Margery, who had been living with Sir Nicholas, again turns out unruly. Complaint had been made of her conduct in May, and she then, according to a letter of Sir Roger's, faithfully promised amendment; but on the 19th June there is a letter from him—"My Girl's misbehaviour goes to y<sup>e</sup> Heart of me"—and a long correspondence ensues as to what is best to be done with her; and it is at last decided to place her with a cousin of Sir Roger's late wife, a Mrs. Dolman.

Sir Nicholas L'Estrange writes to Sir Roger, July 3rd, 1699, with reference to her—

"And now being upon this subject, I shall use the same freedom as I think my duty in y<sup>e</sup> true service of my friends & relations. I recd her at first w<sup>th</sup> that intention, & my wife I am sensible out of a reall sense of Love to her & respect to y<sup>r</sup>self has done the utmost w<sup>th</sup> care & good instruction of answering both y<sup>rs</sup> & her designes. She is now grown very tall & in all pticulars beyond the name & notion of a girl or pupill, so that she could effectually change into that of a companion. Neither of us think it can be either creditable or safe to continue in this family. Excuse the freedom I take upon the motive of your necessity, for I was loth to say thus much till all other means of reasons & argueing were tryed, & we have seene both did & will prove ineffectual; I am unwilling to enlarge upon this head, but thus much I think myself obliged to say, that shee will consort with none but Serv<sup>ts</sup>, and those too of the meaner sort, & in so great a family as o<sup>r</sup> County business obliges us to keep, I can't express, nor you scarce conceive, the inconveniences that now arise from such an acquaintance. Shee is not to be kept to rules now, & after a long time & such continued care over her, we should be extremely loth to see her ruind."

In October Sir Roger writes—



Deare Sr,

Upon Thursday morning last my Girle gave mee the Honour of y<sup>rs</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>th</sup> Instant, w<sup>th</sup> an obliging respect from y<sup>r</sup> worthy Lady, and this is to p<sup>r</sup>sent my humble duty and services to you both; w<sup>th</sup> many thanks for y<sup>r</sup> excessive bountyes, both to myself and to y<sup>e</sup> distresses of a troublesome and a motherlesse child. She is much taller and plumper then I expected to have found her, which gave me no small affliction to consider how she was improv'd in her state of body and at the same time so ungratious in her manners. But I have not as yet put her to the Shrift any further then in Gen<sup>l</sup> termes, and she promises fayre; and by God's assistance she shall never fayle of the best offices from mee, of a lawfull & a tender father, w<sup>th</sup>in the compasse of Human Possibility, and further I dare not undertake.

Since it is God's Will that this must be the case, I reckon it a blessing yet that Margery is falln into so good hands, for I do firmly assure myself that there shall be nothing wanting on my Cousin's part of care, kindnesse, & good discretion toward the making of her easy & happy.

I am at this instant gasping, myself and my houskeeper falln desperately ill of a sodium. No newes as yet from my bro. T. D.

Sr, I am y<sup>r</sup> most faithfull obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>,

Octb. 28,  
1699.

R. L. S.

In his next letter we find him, at the age of eighty-five, still hard at work in translations.

The Story of Josephus is old, and it is now going to the Presse upon Subscription. This occasion leades me naturally to what followes. People have been mightyly concerned a long time, considering my visible circumstances, to know how I live; some out of Good will, others out of an Impertinent curiosity to be Prying into other peoples matters. But in

fine some will have it that I have an Estate of my own, others that I am maintayned by my Relations, w<sup>ch</sup> is very Injurious to mee. Both wayes by suggesting my condition to be easier than it is. I speak this w<sup>th</sup> a due reverence of Acknowledgment to y<sup>r</sup>self for y<sup>e</sup> many charitable offices I have received from y<sup>r</sup> hand, but as to any Settlem<sup>ts</sup> or Annuities, beyond a bare security for £700, I know nothing of them; I have indeed received very considerable Presents from diverse Persons, not so much as known to mee by their names, as a Reward for my good will to the Publique. But after all this my Pen has been my chiefe support, and this brings me to the Present case.

I was to have 300 Pounds for the translation of Josephus, I have receivd 200 of it already and the 3<sup>d</sup> is yet due.

Over and above these Articles, I am to have 50 Books, 25 of the ordinary Paper and the other 25 of y<sup>e</sup> Royall: the Booke in Quires. The subscriptions are ten shillings in hand for y<sup>e</sup> Common Paper, and 15 shillings more upon delivery; and 20 shillings in hand for y<sup>e</sup> Royall Paper, and 25 shillings more upon delivery.

Now my Proposall is only this, That so many of my friends as are resolved to have a Book, will rather take them of mee, *which will be so much cleare gayne to mee and not one farthing Losse to y<sup>e</sup> Contributour.*

After the subscribing of these 50 Books I have a further Interest yet in the remaying Books, i. e., a sixt Part of Those that passe upon my Account, and this way as faire and warrantable too as the other, and without any Partiality or exception.

My Neph. J. and myself have consulted the Affaire and understand each other.

Deare S<sup>r</sup>, It is upon a nicety of conscience & Good manners that I presume to give you this trouble, for I am bound both wayes to lay myself open to you in the playn truth of the businesse.

S<sup>r</sup>, with y<sup>r</sup> Pardon for This Tedious scribble, I present my most humble dutyes to y<sup>r</sup>self and Lady.

Oct. 5, 1700.

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In a note to the Memoir in the *Biographia Britannica* is a remarkable declaration by Sir Roger, entitled "Sir Roger's Declaration of his Faith, occasioned by his daughter's changing her religion, after marrying a Papist without his consent," there stated to have been made about the year 1690. The Letters now published show this to be an error, and a copy exists among the L'Estrange Papers, dated February 16th, 1702-3. A letter from Sir Nicholas L'Estrange to Mr. Thomas Dolman, dated February 9th, 1699, has the following passage: "I have begg'd the favor of my uncle John L'Estrange, with whom my cosen Margery now boards, to wayte on you;" and contains an account, "For 2 years' Interest money, due upon my cosen Margery L'Estrange's share, being 375<sup>l</sup>, the half part of 750<sup>l</sup> w<sup>th</sup> her brother Roger." At that time, therefore, she was unmarried, and her brother Roger alive. The copy of the Declaration amongst the L'Estrange Papers, is as follows:—

Sir,

The late departure of my daughter from the Church of England to the Church of Rome, wounds the very Heart of me, for I do solemnly protest in the presence of Almighty God that I knew nothing of it; and for your further satisfaction, I take the freedom to assure you, upon the Faith of a Man of Honour and Conscience, that as I was born and brought up in y<sup>e</sup> Communion of the Church of England so I have been true to it ever since, with a firm resolution, with God's assistance, to continue in y<sup>e</sup> same to my Lives  
End.

Now in Case it should please God in his providence to suffer this Scandal to be Reviv'd upon my Memory when I am Dead and Gone, make use I beseech you, of this paper in my Justification, which I deliver as a Sacred Truth,

So Help me God,

ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

February y<sup>e</sup> 16, 1702-3.

This is also attested by two witnesses.

Sir Roger L'Estrange's Letter to Sir Christopher Calthorpe.

The copy printed in the *Biog. Brit.* has the names of the two witnesses, "John L'Estrange" and "Richard Sare."

It is nowhere stated who she married, but it is to be gathered from the correspondence before us that he was a Mr. William Yates. Neither she nor her brother long survived Sir Roger. Of her brother, the only further information is contained in a letter from Richard Sare to Sir Nicholas, in the March following Sir Roger's death: he says,

"The death of poor M<sup>r</sup> Roger was very surprising. The Capt. gave me good reason to hope he would soon have made himself capable of preferment, and in ord<sup>r</sup> thereto I had gott y<sup>e</sup> Queen's Letter for him. The trouble about S<sup>r</sup> Roger's concernes will now by this Losse be quickly over, and all matters may safely be resigned to his daughter.

"March 10, 1704-5."

Mrs. Yates died in June, 1705, leaving her uncle, Dr. Dolman, and Mr. Bazil Fitzherbert (a gentleman of Gray's Inn and of a Roman Catholic family) her executors. Dr. Dolman, in announcing her death to Sir Nicholas, says, "She has left several very charitable Legacies to persons y<sup>e</sup> are in want; and such as are already pressing for y<sup>m</sup>, I doubt not

but y<sup>t</sup> you will concur towards her good intention towards the speedy payment of them."

From the entire absence of Mr. Yates's name in the correspondence concerning the settlement of her affairs, it is to be presumed he was already dead.

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There is no date to the following beautiful letter, but it is supposed to have been written by Sir Nicholas L'Estrange about 1698, to his son Hamon, then at Oxford.

Dear Ham<sup>d</sup>,

As you have hitherto never wanted my best Instructions as well as Endeavours in y<sup>or</sup> Education suitable to the severall yeares of y<sup>or</sup> Youth, so I would not leave you Destitute of those further Directions requisite during the few remaining yeares of your Minority, of w<sup>ch</sup> I would have you spend another summer and winter at the university. I carryed you to Oxford upon the same wise Reasons as S<sup>r</sup> Christopher Calthorp plac'd me there, where you might have a new acquaintance wholly to choos, & I hope you have contracted it w<sup>th</sup> such sober & discreet young persons, w<sup>th</sup> whom you may spend some houres of buisness w<sup>th</sup> advantage, & your Times of Leisure w<sup>th</sup> Innocence. As my Death will putt you in a little higher station there, it will in many particulars Double the annuall charges; But let me caution you ag<sup>t</sup> unnecessary Expences, w<sup>ch</sup> you may possibly be putt upon; & I hope the many Letters I have already wrote upon this subject, in part, may have made such suitable Impressions as I need not add more on that point. If you will bestow the following summer in takeing a view of y<sup>or</sup> own nation, it may Tend both to y<sup>or</sup> Pleasure & Improvem<sup>t</sup>. The next stage of y<sup>or</sup> Life ought to look toward Matrimony, in order to a settlement in the world, and herein I particularly charge you to be advised by y<sup>or</sup> Mother, who has ever shewd a most

Tender and Passionate Concern for you, and ought to have the Returne of a True and most affectionate Duty on your Part; as well as yo<sup>r</sup> uncle, S<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Wodehous, and S<sup>r</sup> Christopher Calthorp, to whome I have recomēded the care of yo<sup>r</sup> Person & Fortunes. The Circumstances of yo<sup>r</sup> Family will require a moderate Portion wherever you shall fix, in order to Discharge those Provisions w<sup>ch</sup> I have appoynted, & I hope you will be punctuall in makeing good, to yo<sup>r</sup> Brothers and Sisters, to whome I have by my Will bequeathd each their share, w<sup>th</sup> Equall Regard to yo<sup>r</sup> self as Head of the Family, & to them as Members: Hopeing they will make such Improvem<sup>t</sup> of the meanes I have putt into their Hands, as they may not bee afterwards a Burthen to you, or a Disgrace to my memory & Family; & you must Remember that when I am gone, You stand in the Place of a Parent to my Younger Children; and I'me sure ought not in the least to Grudg at the Proportion you are to distribute to them. I shall not Expatiate upon generall Rules for yo<sup>r</sup> Comportment in this world; There are severall pretty short Treatises writt for y<sup>e</sup> Instruction of the young Gentry, which to read may bring you both Delight & Improvem<sup>t</sup>; I shall onely in short Reco<sup>m</sup>end to you a constant & dayly Discharge of yo<sup>r</sup> Duty to God, w<sup>ch</sup> will bring down both Blessings & satisfaction. Be Respectfull to yo<sup>r</sup> Rela<sup>co</sup>ns, Curteous & obligeing to all. Be punctuall to yo<sup>r</sup> word, both in great as well as Trivial Concerns, tho' not over hasty in giveing Promises, it haveing been my observa<sup>co</sup>n, that most Persons who ask a Kindness look no further y<sup>n</sup> their own Convenience & Interest, wherefore you ought at y<sup>e</sup> same time to weigh whether the suddain Grant may not prove disadvantageous, if not greatly prejudiciall, to your self; I give you this Hint as a Caution onely, not a Barr, to your Kindness & Generosity when opportunity serves. You will find in my Evidence-hous a rude Draught of some Passages that have happned in my younger yeares, w<sup>ch</sup> perhaps may

be of some Diversion, as well as use, to peruse. Lay this Paper by, & t'will take but short time to Runn it over once a yeare, & lett it be on y<sup>or</sup> Birth-day; it may occasion a little thought, w<sup>ch</sup> is never amiss to a young man, and every pass<sup>s</sup> yeare will probably administer some Passages worthy y<sup>or</sup> Reflection. God Almighty prosper all y<sup>or</sup> undertakings. And have this Sentence often in y<sup>or</sup> thoughts: *Keep Innocency and Take Heed unto the Thing w<sup>ch</sup> is Right, for that will bring a Man Peace at the Last*, and that I pray to God may be y<sup>or</sup> Lott, both in this World and the World to come; & Remember that you had a Carefull, Tender, and

Affectionate Father,

NI: L'ESTRANGE.

This Hamon L'Estrange was the eldest son and heir apparent of Sir Nicholas L'Estrange, of Hunstanton, Bart., by Anne, only daughter of Sir Thos. Wodehouse, of Kimberley, Kt., and Dame Anne, second daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Armine, of Osgodby, Lincolnshire. He died, however, on his travels abroad, at Basle, on the 13th of August, 1715, unmarried, in the 28th year of his age, after a fatal attack of small-pox. A Monumental Inscription was placed near his remains, which were buried in the French Church at Basle, in the following words:

Prope hic situs jacet.

Hamo L'Estrange, Anglus, filius natu maximus Nicholai L'Estrange de Hunstanton in comitatu Norfolciensis, baronetti. Qui per biennium fere extremas Galliaë & Italiaë oras peregrinatus in patriam tandem reversurus hic in itinere variola correptus post dierum undecem languorē 13<sup>o</sup> mensis Augusti obiit Ann<sup>o</sup> Dni 1715, Ætatis suæ 28<sup>o</sup>. \*

\* Evidence, Hastings Peerage Case, p. 197.

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*Note to the L'Estrange Correspondence.*

Since the preceding pages were printed, we have received, through the kindness of Mr. King, the York Herald, a note of the Will of the person presumed to be Sir Roger L'Estrange's daughter, Mrs. Margery Yate (so the name is written throughout the Will) described as of St. Martin's in the Fields, in the county of Middlesex, *Widow*. It is dated the 4th of May, 1706, and proved the 19th of June in the same year, by her executors and residuary legatees, Dr. Lewis Dolman, her uncle, and Mr. Basil Fitzherbert, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

She desires to be buried in the Church of St. Giles in the Fields, near her late father. (Sir Roger L'Estrange was there buried).

She mentions the following other persons as relatives in her Will.

Brother John Yate and Margaret his wife.

Sir Thomas Dolman and Dame Dorothy his wife.

Elizabeth wife of her uncle Lewis Dolman, and his eldest son Thomas Humphrey, his second son Lewis, and his daughter Dorothy Dolman.

Cousin Philip Weston, Esq.

Cousin Roger, son of John L'Estrange.

Cousin John L'Estrange.

Cousin Marston.

Numerous other parties are named in her Will, but none are referred to as relatives except those above mentioned.

She does not say who her father was, nor does she mention the name of her husband; it is, however, impossible, with the evidence before us, to doubt that she was Margery, daughter of Sir Roger L'Estrange.