

GARRICK AND HENDON¹

MR. C. DINGLEY to MR. GARRICK

26th May, 1767.

DEAR SIR,

You have had my confession that I was eager to purchase of you *Hendon Manor*, on a presumption that, being accustomed to divest yourself of pomp and grandeur, and you having made the overture by mentioning you would sell it, it could not displease for both to be gainers, you by sale, myself by purchase, as most certainly my situation, living on the manor, industry, &c. are circumstances for my having it. But the sum you have mentioned has quite dismayed me from all thoughts or expectations: and if I mistake not, we agreed to be cautious that Mr. Wylde should not know our inclination. If S. and you are really in earnest to sell at a price that you would buy were you C.D., the best means to bring this business to a speedy and candid conclusion is to inform me of facts: what has the Manor produced you since your purchase? what expectation or plan have you to make it more beneficial by enfranchising? And though Lord Pomfret, or those under him, may have deceived you, I have faith you would not do so to me: and if we cannot hit it off as to sale and purchase, I may be of service, and you may rely I will be a trusty vassal to you and do all the suit and good I can, by a frank, advice, speech, &c., and if you command me to attend the Lordship any hour I shall obey, or if you will call at my cot it may save trouble to us both. My Essex and Wiltshire estates may be called 200 *l.* and 400 *l.* per annum, and I should sell for 16,000 *l.* and I was in hopes to have received some rhino to reimburse me what I am laying out for a manor house; and purchased the tythes for less than sold at public sale, and by trouble and management I hope to make them more valuable than they have been, and will sell you them at a price worth your buying, to be connected with the Manor. I had heard you have given too much for the Manor, and that you had as much if not more reason to repent your purchase as those who bought the

1. See X. I. (1948), 55.

tythes ; and if so, I had reason to suppose you might be willing to sell at or near the price you purchased, and if I paid 1,000 *l.* as a vain man to be the Lord of Hendon Manor, 14,000 *l.* in exchange would be about the mark ; but, as I am quite in the dark, it is from ignorance if I offend in my conjectures of the value, and be assured I am, truly and sincerely, dear Sir,

Yours very trusty friend and humble servant,

C. DINGLEY.

P.S.—My daughter expects performance of having the honour of seeing Mr. Garrick on Golder's Hill. We enjoyed the pleasure of seeing you on Saturday ; and the party of three thank you.