



## Swallowfield and its Owners.

*By Lady Russell.*

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*(Continued from page 163.)*

1689. February 12th. On this day Lord Clarendon went to Swallowfield, arriving about 5 in the evening having baited at Egham. He went there to avoid meeting his neice, the Princess of Orange, who was to arrive at Whitehall that afternoon. Lady Clarendon remained in London and Lord Clarendon left a letter with her for the Princess.

February 13th. Lord Clarendon writes: "It was so very wet that I could not go to church, being Ash Wednesday. In the evening I had a letter from my wife, telling me that the Princess of Orange arrived yesterday, that she had waited upon her and was civilly received by her, but it was in the crowd so she had no particular discourse."

February 14th. This morning, before I was up, I had a letter from my wife, sent by an express who came all night, and another from my brother, to tell me that the new King and Queen were proclaimed yesterday morning; and they desired me to hasten to town.

February 15th. In the afternoon I had another letter from my wife, telling me that the new King had appointed his Privy Council: I did a little wonder to see my Lord Nottingham among them.

February 16th. To gratify my friends I left Swallowfield in the morning and came to town about 6 in the evening, having rested my horses a little at Egham. My wife told me she had some discourse with the Princess of Orange, that she was much dissatisfied with me and asked what I had to do with the succession? \* My wife told her what I had done was for her and her sister's

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\* Alluding to the proposal of settling the Crown on the Prince of Orange for his life before it descended to the Princess Anne.

service ; and she desired her Majesty to appoint me a time when I might wait on her : to which the new Queen answered that she would not appoint me any time nor speak in private with me."

Lord Clarendon having refused to take the new oaths, was advised to go abroad, but he did not do so and merely retired to Swallowfield where he arrived on March 4th. The same day Cornet Richards came from his quarters at Farnham, to stay with him and told him that a messenger had been sent to Bagshot to apprehend Mr. Graham who was not at home. Lord Clarendon writes next day : "I went to Risley Mill\* and among the other tenants to see what reparations were wanting, and I ordered them to be made, and timber to be cut for those uses."

Lord Clarendon seems to have been most hospitable and frequently entertained his friends and neighbours. During March and April of this year we find by his Diary that the following persons dined with him at Swallowfield :—Mr. Tutt,<sup>1</sup> Mr. Harrison, of Beechill,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Pocock from Reading,<sup>3</sup> Dr. Hungerford,<sup>4</sup> Mr. Bromstead and his wife, Mr. Richards, of Reading, Mr. James, Mr. Grahame and his wife from Bagshott, Dr. Offley,<sup>5</sup> Mr. Hamley,<sup>6</sup> and Mr. Lake.<sup>7</sup>

On April 11th Lord Clarendon writes : "this being the Coronation Day, the bells rung all day long ; and in the evening there were bonfires in the parish. Mr. Talman came to me from London." Mr. Talman was an eminent architect of the day and was Comptroller of the Works to King William. He was now employed by Lord Clarendon to re-build the greater part of Swallowfield House.

On June 6th Lord Clarendon writes : "In the morning some tradesmen of Reading were with me, with whom I agreed about

\* Risley Mill still exists about 2 miles from Swallowfield.

1. Mr. Tutt, probably a descendant of Alexander Tutt, of Ilmiston, co. Wilts, who married Anne, daughter of Richard Swayne, of Blandford, a relation of the Hydes. Several members of this family were living in Berks and Margery Tutt married Thos. Garrard, of Shinfield. (*See Visit Wilts*, 1623.)

2. Mr. Harrison, of Beechill, was grandson of Sir Richard Harrison, of Eastcourt. He married first Dorothy, daughter of Sir Edward Clarke, of Ardington, and widow of Thomas Danvers, and secondly daughter of George Carleton, of Huntercombe.

3. Giles Pocock, Mayor of Reading in 1673, and again in 1686.

4. Dr. Francis Hungerford practised as a physician in Reading, and is buried at St. Lawrence's. He was descended from Lord Hungerford and was a relation of Lord Clarendon's. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Will Keat.

5. Dr. Francis Offley, F.A.S., son of Thomas Offley, of Lumberhurst, Kent.

6. Probably of the same family as Charles Hamley, whose wife, Martha, was buried at St. Lawrence's, Reading, in 1636.

7. Dr. Lake was tutor to Queen Mary, Lord Clarendon's niece.

pulling down the old glass and old wainscot. My Lady Dorchester<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Grahme came to dinner from Chertsey and went away again in the afternoon. She told me some letters of King James's had been intercepted, among which was one to her. In the middle of June the Clarendons went to drink the waters at Tunbridge and stayed there till the end of July, and Lord Clarendon tells us that his health was much mended and the difficulty of breathing, which sent him to the waters, was quite removed.

On August 5th they went back to Swallowfield, and Lord Clarendon writes in his Journal for that day: "We found the house almost pulled down, and the foundation of the building toward the garden laid and brought three foot above ground." The next day, he says, "Mr. Talman came to look upon the building, and on August 7th he writes, "Mr. Talman returned to London. I sent Tom Apprice with him in order (*sic*) to his journey to the Isle of Wight."

Swallowfield being now in the hands of the builder, Lord and Lady Clarendon divided their time between London and Cornbury, and we find them entertaining at the latter place Mr. Oakes, the Rector of Shinfield, and his wife. But Lord Clarendon continually journeyed to Swallowfield to see how the work was progressing. On October 29th he was at Reading and "lay at Mr. Pocock's," and whilst there he had visits from Mr. Blagrove<sup>2</sup> and Mr. Aldworth.<sup>3</sup> The next day he inspected the building, dined with Mr. Oakes, and returned in the afternoon to Mr. Pocock's, at Reading, where Dr. Hungerford came to supper.

1690. Early in February Lord Clarendon writes that he left Bagshot for Swallowfield, accompanied by Lord Worcester, Lord Aylesbury and Mr. Keightley, "to see how the work went on."

On February 24th he went to Reading "to be at the election of Knights for the county"; the candidates were Lord Norreys, Sir Humphrey Forster,<sup>4</sup> Sir Henry Winchcombe,<sup>5</sup> Sir Robert Pye<sup>6</sup> and Mr. Richard Neville.<sup>7</sup>

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1. Catherine Sedley, daughter of Sir Charles Sedley, created Countess of Dorchester, by James II.

2. Ancestor of the present Mr. Blagrove, of Calcot Park.

3. Richard Aldworth, of Stanlake, M.P. for Reading in 1673.

4. Sir Humphrey Forster, Bart., of Aldermaston, he died in 1711, when the Baronetcy became extinct.

5. Sir Henry Winchcombe, Bart., of Bucklebury, descended from "Jack of Newbury," the wealthy clothier.\* He died without male issue in 1703, when the Baronetcy became extinct.

\* His grandfather, Henry Winchcombe, who died 1642—Elizabeth, daughter of George Miller, of Swallowfield.

6. Sir Robert Pye, of Faringdon, he married Anne, daughter of the celebrated John Hampden, and died in 1701. Henry James Pye, the Poet Laureate, was descended from him.

7. Richard Neville, of Billingbere; he represented Berkshire till 1710.

On April 1st Lord Clarendon went to Swallowfield on horseback from Cornbury and "found the building in good forwardness." About this time he seems to have been seriously indisposed, but a course of "Venice Treacle" set him right. On May 30th Lord Clarendon writes in his diary, "My brother told me he had waited on the King, who told him I had been very busy in caballing against him, that he had been moved to accept me out of the act of grace, but that he would not do it for the Queen's sake; that I would do well to be careful, for it would be no jesting matter. I desired my brother if he saw the King again to let him know that he was very confident I desired nothing but to be quiet, and would live as obediently to the Government as any man could do." Notwithstanding this, in June, when King William was away on his Irish campaign, and the reigns of government were in Queen Mary's hands, a warrant was issued against Lord Clarendon and many others of the discontented nobility. He was arrested on a charge of high treason, "for imagining the death and deposition of the King and Queen, framing and contriving heads for a declaration to be made by the late King James to be sent into the realm of England to seduce their majesties' subjects from their allegiance, and to allure them to adhere to the late King and endeavour his restitution to the Kingdom." In a letter which Queen Mary wrote to King William from Whitehall on June 24th she thus alludes to the arrest of her uncle: "When they (the Privy Council) had resolved to seize on suspected persons, in naming them, Sir H. Capel would have said something for Lord Clarendon (whose first wife you know was Sir H. C's sister). Everybody stared at him, but nobody preparing to answer I ventured to speak, and told Sir H. Capel that I believed everyone knew as I did, that there was too much against him (Lord Clarendon) to leave him out of the list that was making. I can't tell whether I ought to have said this; but when I knew your mind upon it, and had seen his (Lord Clarendon's) letter, I believed it as necessary that he should be clapt up as any, and therefore thought myself obliged to say so, though at the same time I must own I am sorrier than it may be well believed for him, finding the Dutch proverb\* true, which you know, but I should spoil in writing.

The following is Lord Clarendon's account of the proceeding:—  
 "About 10 at night (my brother being with me) Tom Apprice

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\* Miss Strickland says "it is to be regretted that Queen Mary did not quote her Dutch proverb, since anything in illustration of her feeling towards her mother's family would be an historical curiosity."

brought me word that Sergt. Topham was without to speak with me. He told me likewise that he was just now told at Whitehall that several warrants were out for taking up me and several others. However, after my brother and I had a little considered together, I thought it best not to abscond, and so I bid the serjeant be brought in, who, after making me a compliment that he was sorry to come upon such an occasion, shewed me a warrant from the Privy Council to take me into custody, and to carry me to the Tower for high treason. I asked the serjeant if I might not stay in my own house that night, my brother engaging that I would not go away. The man was very civil, but said he durst not let me stay. So, after I had acquainted my wife, I went with him to his house in Berkeley Garden, in Holborne, where I lay, it being too late to go to the Tower.

June 25th. In the morning my brother and my son came to me to the serjeant's. I gave them a copy of the warrant of my commitment, that they might advise with council if it were proper for me to do anything this term. About eleven of the clock I came to the Tower. Neither Lord Lucas nor his deputy were at home, but came within an hour ; all which time I was in a chamber in the Governor's house. After my lord had passed some compliments upon me, he asked me if there were any house I had a mind to be at ? I answered that I had no acquaintance in the Tower, but had once been at the chaplain's ; and I should take it for a favour if I might be there ; but he said the dean was not in town, and so he carried me to Mr. Saps (a warder), where I was to take up my quarters. Mr. Francis Morley came to see me and dined with me. I had a joint of mutton from the sutler's. In the afternoon my wife, Lady Thanett, Lady Orrery, my brother and my son came to see me, but the gentleman porter (Hawley) was by all the time, which I thought a little strange, there being no mention in my warrant that I was to be a close prisoner. My brother told me he had spoken with my council and that they were to meet again this evening to take their full resolution what to do concerning me. He told me he had been with Lord Nottingham, but found no hopes of my liberty till the French fleet was gone off our coast. About 10 at night, just as I was in bed, Mr. Dod, the gentleman gaoler, set a padlock on my chamber door, so that if I were not well my servant could not get to me. This, I confess, looked a little odd.

June 26th. Lord Worcester and Sir H. Capell were to see me, as likewise Sir John Brodrick and his son and Mr. Firmin ; the

Lieutenant-Governor (Colonel Farwell) was by all the while. Mr. Fraser came to see me, and having invited Major Hawley to dinner, I sent to the Lieut.-Governor that Mr. Fraser might dine with me, but was refused. In the evening my Lord Lucas came to see me. I told him I was a little surprised to find myself a close prisoner when there was no such thing mentioned in my warrant of commitment; whereupon he showed me an order of council directing that the Lord Lucas do not permit any person to visit any of the prisoners committed for high treason, without leave. He further told me I must have but one servant, and him be a close prisoner with me. In the evening my wife came to me with an order to be a close prisoner. Mr. Dod brought me a note of the fees, which came to £130, the governor £100, gentleman porter £20, gentleman gaoler £10.

June 27th. In the evening Lord Lucas said he had ordered the padlock not to be set upon the doors in respect to my wife. Major Hawley supped with us." Two days after we find that Lady Clarendon "went home being indisposed for want of air, the weather being hot, and the lodgings being very close."

On July 1st, Lord Clarendon writes in his diary: "In the afternoon Mr. Dod told my servants (for a footman came every day with necessaries to me) that the cook and footman must go no more out. They asked him how then I should get meat? He said, I might be supplied from the sutlers. I presently sent the cook and footman home, and charged them to return no more. I sent to my wife, that I might have a joint of cold meat every day sent to me. I thank God 'tis very indifferent to me what I eat."

On July 5th his daughter-in-law came to the window to see him, and on the 7th his wife came to him for another week "to be close prisoner" as before.

On July 13th, Lord Rochester, through the influence of the Queen, was allowed to be alone with Lord Clarendon, who writes in his journal, "A day of jubilee indeed!"

On the 17th, Mr. Evelyn and Mr. Ruslat came to see him at the window and on the 18th the Bishop of St. Asaph and Dr. Lower. The latter was very angry at the order being that his visit was to be in the presence of the Dr. of the Tower.

On July 19th, Mr. Longueville, Lord Clarendon's Counsel, obtained an order to see him in the presence of the warders, and so did Lord Cornbury, but each of them had to pay 40s. Lord Clarendon's servants, Heyton and Apprice, were also with him. On

July 20th an order came to allow the prisoners to have "the liberty of the Tower" with their warders, and accordingly Lord Clarendon walked about the Tower, the first time he had been out for 27 days. At the end of this month Lady Clarendon drew out a petition to the Queen for the liberation of her husband, and presented it herself on August 4th. In consequence of this Lord Clarendon was let out on bail by the Lord Chief Justice. Lord Worcester, Lord Bulkeley, Sir John Parsons and Sir Peter Rich were his bail. The day he left the Tower, he had Lord and Lady Montrath and his son and daughter-in-law to dine with him there and shewed them the Mint. In the evening he went with Lord Lucas, his brother and Lady Clarendon (the latter staid in the coach) to the Lord Chief Justice Holt where he entered into his recognizance to appear in the King's Bench the first day of the next term and in the meantime gave his word of honour not to disturb the government. He did not get home till near 9, but he had visits from two ladies that evening, the Duchess of Monmouth and Mrs. Phelps. The day after his liberation he went to see Lord Ranelagh and Mr. Boyle and the Duchess of Monmouth. The following day he had Major Hawley, the Gentleman-Porter of the Tower, to dine with him and afterwards he went to see "his friends at Somerset House," where he saw Mr. Grahame.

The published portion of Lord Clarendon's Diary finishes here, so that we have to take his movements from other sources. Towards the end of 1692 he was seriously implicated with Turner, Bishop of Ely, Lord Preston and his brother, Mr. James Grahame and William Penn, the celebrated Quaker, in a plot against King William. Lord Preston, accompanied by Cap. Edm: Elliott and Mr. John Ashton (the latter was a gentleman of the household of the exiled Queen Mary Beatrix) started on the last day of the year for France with letters and papers of importance. The letters were all written in parables. Lord Clarendon assumed the character of a match-maker. There were great hopes that the business which he had been negotiating would be brought to bear and that the marriage portion would be well secured," etc.

*(To be continued.)*