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Spelling, Punctuation and Material Culture in the Later Paston Letters

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the Degree of Ph.D.

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Abstract

This thesis examines the spelling practices and letter-writing conventions to be found in the letters and papers of the Paston family and their circle during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Hitherto, most scholarly attention has been on the fifteenth-century material found in Paston archives, with comparatively little research undertaken on the extensive later materials. This thesis is intended as a partial attempt to address this lacuna, drawing on new approaches to the study of early modern English letters. It draws upon a new comprehensive diplomatic transcription of the materials, consisting of approximately 500 documents containing 200,000 words.

Building on an earlier pilot study (Weir 2009), the thesis falls into three main chapters, each addressing the collection from a distinct perspective, framed by a contextualising introduction (chapter 1) and a conclusion summarising the findings of the thesis and offering suggestions for future work (chapter 5). Chapter 2 begins with a key question: (1) How did letter-writing conventions of address and subscription alter and develop - if at all - through the Early Modern period, and are these changes reflected in the Paston family correspondence? The thesis demonstrates how the letters preserved in London, British Library, Additional MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 displayed adherence to formulaic usages, even though, across the 150 years of their construction, there is a notable shift towards shorter constructions. Further research questions linked to these issues involved in address and subscription engage with the material culture of the correspondence: (2) What materials are used for the letters in question? (3) How do writers relate text to space? (4) How were the letters delivered to their recipients, and how and for what reasons were they preserved? Across the collection of letters, there was a clear development in the material culture of letter-writing, most notably through the development of the postal networks in the period, even though letter-writing tools remained relatively unchanged for centuries.

Chapter 3 examines spelling practices in the letters. It addresses the following research questions: (1) How standardised were the Paston letters? (2) To what extent do spelling practices differ between male and female letter-writers? (3)

Where such practices vary within an individual's lifetime is it possible to identify the social factors which contributed to that change? (4) To what extent - and if so why -- do these habits vary between generations of the same family? In order to answer these questions, the spelling habits of Robert Paston and his family were examined, along with a number of letters by identifiable female letter-writers. The thesis demonstrates that the letters in the collection displayed a move towards more standardised spellings, but that the use of personal spelling systems and non-standard variants was still very much in evidence.

Chapter 4 focuses on further pragmatic features characteristic of Early Modern English correspondence, with a special focus on the function of punctuation. Research questions addressed include: (1) If punctuation is used at all, in what context is it deployed? (2) How - if at all -- does the use of punctuation vary between male and female correspondents? In addition, this chapter will look at communicative acts within the letters including politeness, terms of address, and the use of formulaic constructions, leading to a further question: (3) To what extent do more general pragmatic features vary across the generations and genders of letter-writers? The thesis finds that punctuation practices of female writers vary considerably, even within the output of single individuals, but also that such variation and unconventional usage was not restricted to them. However, during the period covered by the archive there is a clear progression from the use of virgules and limited punctuation through to the deployment of punctuation broadly recognisable to present-day readers.

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Chapter 1

1. Introduction

The present study is an examination of the spelling practices and letter-writing conventions of the correspondents represented in the letters and papers of the Paston family and their friends, family and acquaintances during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, based on a new comprehensive diplomatic edition of the materials. While the letters contained in the volumes in the British Library are described as the *Correspondence and Papers of the Paston Family*, these letters represent a large number of individuals related to, and associated with the Paston family, as well as several members and different generations of the Paston family itself, and thus allows us to examine the complete network of usages that existed within their social circle. Following on from my M.Phil. research (Weir 2009) into the correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston (1603-1627), my thesis will correlate the spelling and punctuation practices and the adoption of standardised forms with biographical information, providing an historical context for the letters in the collection in relation to developments in letter-writing conventions in Early Modern England.

1.1 Research Questions

The four principal chapters of this thesis will attempt to address a number of specific issues and research questions.

Chapter Two will examine the material culture of the letters contained in this collection and will address the following research questions:

- (1) How did letter-writing conventions alter and develop - if at all - through the Early Modern period, and are these changes reflected in the Paston family correspondence?

This chapter will also look at the physical object of the letter to discuss the materials used to create the letter and the use of space within each letter.

(2) Is the page covered in a dense body text or is there empty space on the page? How does its appearance correlate with the socio-cultural function of these letters?

Chapter Two will also examine evidence from the letters themselves to discuss how the letters were delivered to the intended recipient, again looking at developments across the decades of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The chapter will conclude with a brief discussion of the afterlives of the letters that make up the correspondence of the Paston family and their circle of family and friends and how these letters came to be preserved by subsequent generations of the Paston family.

Chapter Three will examine the spelling and punctuation practices employed within the letters preserved in BL Add MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 and, where possible, attempt to explain the choices made by the writers as well as documenting changes in spelling habits in the correspondence of an individual and across the collection as a whole. The chapter will also look at various authors and their correspondence to answer the following research questions:

- (1) To what extent do spelling and punctuation practices differ between male and female letter-writers?
- (2) Where spelling and punctuation habits do vary within the lifetime of an identifiable individual is it possible to identify the social factors which contributed to that change?
- (3) To what extent do these spelling habits vary across generations of the same family and what are the possible reasons behind these changes (for instance the influence of tutors and correspondents or perhaps even the influence of standardisation in printed texts)?

The final chapter focuses on the pragmatic features characteristic of Early Modern correspondence. The chapter will examine the letters in the collection to answer questions regarding the use of punctuation in sixteenth and seventeenth century correspondence including:

- (1) If punctuation is used at all, in what context is it deployed?

(2) How (if at all) does the use of punctuation vary between male and female correspondents?

In addition to discussing the use of punctuation in this collection of correspondence, this chapter will also look at the communicative acts within the letters including politeness, terms of address and the use of formulaic constructions in Early Modern correspondence, with a view to answering the following questions:

(3) To what extent do such pragmatic features vary across the generations and genders of letter-writers?

A short concluding chapter will outline the findings of the thesis and make suggestions for future work.

1.2 Who were the Pastons?

The Pastons were a prominent and ambitious family among the landed gentry in late Medieval and Early Modern Norfolk. Having benefited from the social upheaval in the aftermath of the Black Death, Clement Paston, a peasant farmer, worked hard to send his only son William to grammar school, and subsequently to study the law. So began the family's upward movement through Norfolk society, until in 1671, William Paston, who became second Earl of Yarmouth, married Charlotte Howard (nee FitzRoy), the illegitimate daughter of King Charles II (Agnew, 2012: 11).

The Paston letters and papers of the fifteenth century, the texts studied most thoroughly by the late Norman Davis, including an edition completed by Richard Beadle with Colin Richmond (see Davis et al 2004-5), offer a fascinating insight into the family's experiences in the Wars of the Roses as well as the family's personal and business affairs. The family remained prosperous throughout the sixteenth century, but the family's royalist allegiances in the Civil War caused difficulties for the family eventually resulting in the loss of Caister Castle to pay the family's debts.

It was on the death of William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth that the family's remarkable rise from peasant farmers to landed gentry and peers with links to royalty finally came to an end. However, as one chapter in the story of the Pastons ended, the contents of the family's seat at Oxnead Hall opened another chapter that would make the Paston name famous to generations of historians, as the Paston family letters were discovered.

1.3 The Paston Letters

'...innumerable letters of good consequence in history' Francis Blomefield
(Castor, 2007:3)

The correspondence and papers of the Paston family of Norfolk have survived in significant numbers not only from the fifteenth century but also through subsequent generations of the family. The survival of the letters is both remarkable and fortunate, as even upon their discovery in the 1730s, they were close to being burned and many had already been damaged by the elements (Castor, 2007:3). The first readers of the Paston letters, following their initial publication by John Fenn in the 1780s, were captivated by the medieval family lives contained so vividly within their pages and numerous writers have chosen to explore the world and words of the Pastons.

The letters offer a glimpse into a family in late medieval and early modern England and the relationships and events that shaped their lives. Unlike the majority of written documents that have survived, the letters of the Pastons and other medieval families offer voices and opinions of individual people centuries after they were written.

While the letters were preserved by the family until the close of the seventeenth century, it is the letters of the fifteenth century that have received the most attention from historians and linguists to date. The writings of the later Pastons have received considerably less attention, and that is the reason for the study undertaken in this thesis.

What work that has been done on these later Paston letters has focused on the usage of Lady Katherine Paston, and it was this collection of correspondence which

formed the basis of my M.Phil. thesis (Weir, 2009). In 1941, Ruth Hughey produced an edition of Lady Katherine's correspondence for the Norfolk Record Society which preserved the original spellings, though with occasional errors in the transcription and the addition of modern punctuation practices not necessarily suited to the conventions and structures of early modern written discourse. In 2012, moreover, Norfolk Record Society released an edition of the letters of Sir Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth, edited by Jean Agnew. The edition contains the Earl's letters from volumes in the British Library and those in the possession of Norfolk Record Office. The edition provides valuable historical and biographical information on the events described in the letters as well as identifying the individuals writing to the Earl, whose spellings will be discussed in the course of my research.

However, as my own research focuses on spelling and punctuation practices as part of a study of the 'pragmatics of the page', the value of such editions is restricted, and it has been necessary for me to produce my own diplomatic edition from the images provided by the British Library. However, this earlier work does provide an excellent basis for the history of the family and its correspondents.

1.4 The Collections of Correspondence

The archive of the Paston family letters, built up over almost three hundred years and representing generations of letter-writers, was nearly lost after the death of the second Earl of Yarmouth in the 1730s (the near destruction and miraculous survival of the archive is described in greater detail in chapter 2 below). Following Sir William's death, the Oxnead estate was liquidised to honour the family's debts, and it was at this time that a local rector, Francis Blomefield, discovered the Paston family archive (Stoker, 1993: 112). The letters passed through the hands of various collectors in the decades that followed, and the Sir John Fenn's edition of the Paston letters was published in 1787. The British Library acquired the majority of the letters in 1865, including those that would become Addit MSS 27447 and 27448, and the collection that would form Addit MS 36988 was acquired by the British Library forty years later (Davis, 2004: xxviii).

The material which forms the basis of this thesis is held in three collections of correspondence within the British Library: Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988. The

three manuscript collections contain in excess of 540 letters and documents; although not all will be referred to in the following discussions of spelling, pragmatic features and the material culture of correspondence, nevertheless the complete edition represents the first comprehensive collection of the relevant materials. The 538 documents that have been transcribed and presented in diplomatic format for this study have a combined word count of approximately 195,000 words. The dated letters and documents within these three volumes cover over 160 years of the personal and business correspondence of the Paston family from the earliest document dating to 1533, to the latest letters dating to the final year of the seventeenth century. None of the documents or letters have a clear date that would place them firmly in the eighteenth century.

The earliest dated document within BL Addit MS 27447 is the 'Remembraunce of the Cristenyng of the Lady Elisabeth' detailing the 1533 christening of the future Elizabeth I. The earliest piece of correspondence is from Anthony Wingfield to William Paston in 1544, while the latest dated letters within the collection date to 1680. 227 of the letters and documents contained within Addit MS 27447 represent ninety-three identifiable individuals. There are also a further eight documents containing the signatures of multiple individuals, and further documents with no signature or clues to the author in the endorsement or the notes and comments written directly onto some letters by Norfolk historian Francis Blomefield in the first half of the eighteenth century. Of the ninety-two identifiable individuals represented in this volume of correspondence, only ten are women. The letters of female correspondents will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter 3.

BL Addit MS 27448 is the volume which contains the latest collection of correspondence, spanning eighty years from 1620 to 1699. 180 of the documents within this volume have been transcribed for the edition below, totalling 61,000 words and representing the letters of sixty-one identifiable male authors and only three female writers, including Rebecca Paston, Viscountess Yarmouth. As with the other volumes, Addit MS 27448 contains nine documents signed in the hand of more than one individual, while less than thirty are unsigned and are not attributed to any one person.

The smallest number of transcribed letters and documents come from BL Addit MS 36988, with only 129 documents and 54,000 words. The earliest letter within this volume is dated to 1551/2, but the dating is not in the hand of the scribe and the date given is likely a later addition. The earliest letter dated in the writer's hand is a letter from Robbe Steele to William Paston Esq from September 1564, while the latest letters in the volume are once again dated to 1698/1699. Of the 129 documents from this volume that have been transcribed for this study, only thirty-three of these letters are known to be from female authors, who make up only ten of the fifty-five individual authors represented in this volume.

Within these volumes, the appearance of the letters themselves vary from large folios to smaller sheets of paper, and from neat, carefully constructed pieces of formal correspondence through to untidy, informal letters between family members and close acquaintances. Some letters also show significant wear and tear, with some significant tears and damage, while others display signs of water damage. The collection of letters discussed in this study also display developments in the material culture of letterwriting in the early modern period. While I have not been able to replicate the physical features of the material letter in my transcriptions, I have employed diplomatic transcription to present an accurate representation of the spellings and punctuation employed by the individual letter-writers, and my editorial policy and treatment of the texts will be discussed in greater detail below.

1.5 Research Context

The earlier Paston letters have been the subject of much interest since their discovery and publication by John Fenn in the late eighteenth century; however, it has been the content of the letters and their historical and social context which has attracted the most attention from historians. While this thesis will focus primarily on spelling practices and pragmatic features such as punctuation and the formulaic expressions of early modern English letter-writing conventions, I will also - with a view to contextualising and making the usage adopted more comprehensible - include biographical details on the family members and their correspondents as well as providing some background information on the events

described in the letters where it is possible to establish such information. The later Pastons and their letters have not been the subject of a great deal of historical or biographical research to date, and it is therefore necessary to provide such information in order to attempt to explain some of the factors which may have influenced their orthographical choices.

1.5.1 History and family biography

The nature of the correspondence which survives from the fifteenth century has inspired many writers to use the letters to explore the private lives of a family in late medieval England in addition to some attempting to recreate something of the world in which they lived for academics, historians, and a wider non-academic audience. In her 2004 work *Blood and Roses*, for instance, Helen Castor gives a lively and vivid portrayal of the Paston family and the events and issues that dominated their lives, in particular, the family's experiences in the Wars of the Roses. Castor does not use the letters directly in her work, but instead provides a historically detailed narrative of the family. Other writers, such as Diane Watt in *The Paston Women* (2004) and Richard Barber in *The Pastons* (1993), have chosen to present a selection of the letters in modern spelling and punctuation and with explanatory notes, in order to make the letters themselves more accessible to a modern readership. *A Medieval Family: The Pastons of Fifteenth-Century England* by Frances and Joseph Gies (1999) is a biography of the Paston family, while H.S. Bennett's *The Pastons and their England* (1990) gives a detailed account of the world of the fifteenth-century Pastons, from the family and their society to the religion, education and material culture of that period. Certain aspects of the lives of the Paston have also been examined in greater detail in essays and books, such their religious beliefs and experiences in *Margaret Paston's Piety* (Rosenthal, 2010).

As with the earlier Paston letters, it is the written record of the close relationship between a mother and her son which has attracted historians to examine the correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston. The letters reporting news from home and offering words of wisdom to her eldest son at Cambridge have been discussed by Raymond Anselment, who compares Lady Katherine's letters of maternal advice

to those by another seventeenth-century female letter-writer, Brilliana Harley, while the 'child-directed language' of Katherine Paston's letters to her son is also discussed by Terttu Nevalainen in *The Language of Daily Life in England 1400-1800* (Nurmi, Nevala, Palander-Collin eds., 2009).

While the later generations of the Paston family have not received the same level of linguistic and historical attention as their fifteenth-century forbears, that is not to say that they have not been the subject of some historical research. The letters of Sir Robert Paston have been compiled in an edition for Norfolk Record Society, *'The Whirlpool of Misadventures'. Letters of Robert Paston, 1st Earl of Yarmouth, 1663-1679* (Agnew, 2012). This edition contains transcriptions of many of the Earl's letters which are contained in London, BL Addit MS 27447 (as well as many contained in Norfolk Record Office and elsewhere); the spellings employed by the Earl and his family in these letters will be examined and discussed as part of this thesis.

Insights into the private life of the family and the household of the first Earl of Yarmouth can be found in volumes such as the Paston day book, containing medical and household recipes, which has recently been auctioned at Bonhams Auction House. The volume was compiled by Rebecca Clayton, Viscountess Yarmouth, the wife of Sir Robert Paston, and in addition to the medical and household recipes there is evidence of the Earl's 'alchemical-cum-antiquarian interests' (see Jean Agnew's notes on the lot for Bonhams Auction House, URL: bonhams.com/auctions/20751/lot/71/. Last visited 14 March 2013); however, this volume is now part of a private collection and no edition of this volume currently exists.

1.5.2 Textual networks

Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen has also studied Katherine Paston as a letter-writer, producing a detailed study of the intertextual networks within her correspondence. Tanskanen's article *Intertextual networks in the correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston* (2004) describes the relationship of the letters within the collection of her correspondence, such as the mention of previous or forthcoming letters, third-party letters and references to the current letter (especially when making reference to the appearance of the letter).

The study of textual networks in such a collection of correspondence makes it possible to examine the patterns of spelling and punctuation within a close circle of correspondents; it also highlights any differences in such practices and letter-writing conventions when writing to individuals of a higher or lower social rank. In other words, does socio-cultural function constrain the formal features of letters?

1.5.3 The Language of the Paston Letters

Probably the most widely-known and comprehensive edition of the correspondence of the Pastons is the two volumes of the *Paston Letters and Papers of the Fifteenth Century* edited by Norman Davis (1971 and 1976), and the subsequent third volume edited by Richard Beadle (now collected in Davis *et al.* 2004-5); Davis himself undertook numerous studies of the language of these letters, beginning with his seminal British Academy lecture, 'The language of the Pastons' (Davis, 1955). More recent studies of the earlier Paston letters, such as Alexander Bergs's *Social Networks and Historical Sociolinguistics: Studies in Morphosyntactic Variation in the Paston Letters (1421-1503)*, have argued that the scope of the research presented by Davis and Beadle is somewhat limited, as they were not able to utilise computer technology or modern sociolinguistic theory in their analysis of the letters (Bergs, 2005:1). Bergs conducts a thorough analysis of the Paston letters from the social networks of the family with regard to their use of personal pronouns and verb constructions. The language of the Paston letters is also examined in some detail in the collection of papers in *The Language of Daily Life in England 1400-1800* (Nurmi, Nevala, Palander-Collin eds. 2009). This last volume is particularly useful for its discussions including language change in the lifetime of individuals, network analysis and terms of address as well as Teo Juvonen's examination of the letters of John Paston II (2009: 254-277).

1.5.4 Spelling

While most of the work published on the Paston letters has focussed firmly on the family stories and their historical value, a comparatively small number of works have discussed the language of the Paston letters, and even fewer have considered the spelling practices of the correspondents represented in the collection.

As flagged, the key work here is by Norman Davis. His essays such as 'The Language of Two Brothers in the Fifteenth Century' (1983: 23-28) describes the spelling practices of two Paston brothers, both named John, and the repertoire of spellings employed by the brothers throughout their correspondence. While this essay covers barely six pages, it is perhaps the best example of the kind of the orthographic analysis I aim to produce for the later Paston letters. It provides an excellent model for my own research in terms of comparing the spelling habits of contemporary correspondents, and also provides an interesting point of comparison for levels of spelling variation between the earlier and later generations of Paston correspondents.

This thesis follows on from my M.Phil. research into the spelling practices of Lady Katherine Paston (b.1578 d.1629) which analysed the spellings utilised by Lady Paston in her surviving correspondence and compared them with the male correspondents represented in the collection before reconstructing her spelling system. The works of early modern spelling reformers, such as Richard Mulcaster's *Elementarie* (1582), are a further invaluable source of information on spelling practices and the attitudes towards the adoption of 'correct' or standardised forms disseminated through widespread printing in the sixteenth century. However, the model for the reconstruction of Lady Paston's spelling system was Richard L. Venezky's *Structure of English Orthography* (1970), which is a comprehensive survey of Present-Day English spelling conventions. In addition to modern spelling, early modern English spelling practices were taken into consideration (such as those of Salmon, 1999; Scragg, 1974, and Dobson, 1955); however, these works tended to discuss more general spelling patterns in printed texts of the period as opposed to the wide range of variant spellings and phonological spellings that could be employed by individual writers, especially among those with a relatively basic education.

The findings of my M.Phil. research showed that spelling habits in the first half of the seventeenth century were becoming more – though not completely – standardised, especially among the educated male correspondents writing to Lady Katherine. However, Lady Katherine's own spelling system, and the one letter from her younger sister, Muriel Bell, show that while spelling practices for female writers were less standardised than those of the male writers, they were

nevertheless structured and consistent. The two surviving letters from Lady Katherine's teenage son William, who was an undergraduate at Cambridge in the 1620s, and the differences in spellings utilised by Lady Katherine and her sister, raised interesting questions about education and the influences on the spelling habits of individual writers. Before spelling was fully standardised what influenced writers to adopt particular forms over more common or more standardised spellings, and to what extent did their choices of spellings alter over time?

The following approaches have all fed into the arguments of this thesis. In her essay 'Perceived and real differences between men's and women's spellings of the early to mid-seventeenth century' (2000), Margaret Sönmez has used a more quantitative approach than many historians of the language when discussing the differences in male and female spelling habits. Sönmez compares the spellings used by Lady Brilliana Harley and William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle, and her work is useful for the discussion of certain features of their preferred spellings, even though it could offer further explanation as to the differences in their spellings beyond the figures and statistics.

Works on present-day English spelling have also proved useful in discussing the cognitive processes involved in learning to spell and the way in which individuals make decisions about the spellings they use. Uta Frith's comprehensive 1979 work *Cognitive Processes in Spelling* covers a range of issues within modern orthography, including the mental processes involved in learning 'correct' spellings and recognising spelling patterns through visual and phonological factors. Similarly, *Psychology, Spelling & Education*, edited by Chris Sterling and Cliff Robson (1992), examines spelling processes in modern English spelling, such as the various strategies employed in the teaching of spelling and some of the reasons that may contribute to an individual being unable to spell as well as others.

Simon Horobin's *Does Spelling Matter?* (2013) aims to examine the history of the English spelling system as well as discussing the state of English spelling habits in the present-day and the extent to which 'correct' spelling remains an important issue and offers some interesting insights into the discussion of spelling practices over the centuries.

1.5.5 Pragmatic Features

An important aspect of this thesis is its engagement with the burgeoning research field known as historical pragmatics. Pragmatics is often defined as the study of the use and meaning of utterances (spoken and written) in context, as described (e.g.) in Leech's classic account, *Principles of Pragmatics* (1983). Pragmatics in 'modern' research is well-established; the study of historical pragmatics is still a relatively new discipline and, as Taavitsainen and Jucker describe, 'historical pragmatics focuses on the meaning-making processes in past contexts' (*Speech Acts in the History of English*, 2008:3), such as those found in private letters. The personal correspondence of individuals is often described as the most 'speech-like' of all written genres (see Culpeper and Kyto, *Early Modern English Dialogues*, 2010), and it is for that reason that personal correspondence is of increasing interest to linguists. The attempt to reflect speech in letters can often be seen in the use of punctuation and formulaic constructions such as terms of address, and such letter-writing conventions were promoted through the popular letter-writing manuals of the Early Modern period.

Graham Williams' *Women's Epistolary Utterances: A study of the letters of Joan and Maria Thynne, 1575-1611* (2013) is a comprehensive examination into the pragmatic features of the surviving letters of the Thynne sisters. He provides a detailed analysis of the sisters' punctuation and the epistolary acts recorded within their letters to consider the communicative function of the letters and the pragmatic skills employed by Joan and Maria to communicate the intended meanings of their letters. He also considers the wider context in which the letters were written to understand the motivations and functions of their written communication.

1.5.6 Punctuation

As with the limited range of research which has been conducted into early modern English spelling practices, the punctuation habits of individual writers in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century have received somewhat limited attention. By far the most widely-known work on the history of punctuation is

Malcolm Parkes's *Pause and Effect* (1992). While Parkes provides a thorough survey of punctuation throughout written history, my M.Phil. research highlighted the way in which punctuation can vary among individuals of a similar level of education and literacy. The punctuation practices of the Early Modern period are also discussed in several works by Vivian Salmon, including 'English Punctuation Theory' (1988, in *Anglia* 106: 285-314) and 'Early Seventeenth-Century Punctuation as a Guide to Sentence Structure' (1962, in *Review of English Studies* 13: 347-360). Building on such insights, my research into the correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston highlighted the range of personal punctuation habits employed by letter-writers of the period while noting a movement towards a more recognisably modern system of punctuation, especially among educated male writers. Later developments in the use of punctuation, such as the use of rhetorical punctuation promoted through Elocutionism and the so-called 'reading revolution' is also reflected in some of the later letters within the later Paston letters and papers. Elspeth Jajdelska's *Silent Reading and the Birth of the Narrator* (2007), for instance, presents important developments in early modern punctuation in relation to reading habits which has helped to highlight the effect of punctuation usage on the recipients of letters.

1.5.7 Formulae and letter-writing conventions

The letters of the Paston family span three hundred years of epistolary history and therefore offer an excellent opportunity to compare changing letter-writing conventions and the material nature of the letters themselves. Some work has already been conducted into terms of address in Early Modern correspondence. One such work, *Address in Early English Correspondence* by Minna Nevala (2004), is a detailed survey of letter-writing conventions of the period including politeness, social relationships and variation in terms of address as well as examining the society, material culture and letter-writing manuals that influenced these conventions. Based upon the materials contained within the extensive *Corpus of Early English Correspondence*, Nevala's work provides an excellent model for handling and presenting a large volume of complex linguistic data while still relating back to the material nature and social context of the texts being analysed. Also important is Poster and Mitchell's *Letter-Writing Manuals and Instruction from*

Antiquity to the Present (2007). This comprehensive examination of letter-writing manuals provides a vital insight into the printed materials in circulation in the period, which may have directly influenced some of the writers represented in the later Paston letters as well as being influential in wider society.

1.5.8 Material Culture

The material nature of the letters and letter-writing conventions of the Early Modern period has also been the subject of a great deal of research, from the handwriting and the physical letter to the culture of letter-writing. The letters of the fifteenth-century Paston women are discussed by Roger Dalrymple in *Early Modern Women's Letter Writing, 1450-1700*, edited by James Daybell (2001). Daybell's *Women Letter-Writers in Tudor England* (2006) provides a more general discussion about female literacy, letter-writing, social conventions and the function of written correspondence in the Early Modern period. Works such as Schneider's *the Culture of Epistolarity* (2005), Whyman's *The Pen and the People* (2009) and *Eighteenth-Century Letters and British Culture* by Brant (2006) provide thorough discussions about the function of letters and the material culture of letters in the Early Modern period. The popular letter-writing manuals of the period such as the *English Secretorie* by Angel Day, published in 1586, as well as eighteenth-century works such as *The Compleat Letter Writer* (though this is later than many of the letters) provide an invaluable insight into the attitudes and concerns among letter writers of the period who were keen to adhere to the accepted social conventions of the day, and also raise interesting questions about the extent to which the advice in these manuals was adopted by male and female correspondents alike, either directly, or through other correspondents.

The materiality of early modern epistolary culture has been the focus of significant works within recent years, notably James Daybell's *the Material Letter in Early Modern England* (2012), which examines every aspect of material culture in minute detail, offering specific examples from primary sources and drawing on a wealth of earlier research to produce an entire volume dedicated to the subject, and such a work has proved invaluable to my present research.

In addition to the work of Daybell, 2017 also saw the publication of Alison Wiggins' comprehensive investigation into the correspondence of Bess of Hardwick has provided an excellent model for such a study, and the material that survives from Bess's lifetime has enabled Wiggins to consider exact details of her life and letter-writing practices: from the materials on her desk to what her accounts reveal about the cost of her letter-writing. The findings of the Bess of Hardwick project are not only presented in the publication by Alison Wiggins, but also form the basis of a valuable and detailed online resource (www.bessofhardwick.org) which presents the findings of the project alongside images of the original letters and a range of essays and discussions from contributors including Graham Williams.

The Bess of Hardwick project is not the only recent investigation of epistolary culture to embrace technology and the benefits of presenting their findings as an accessible online resource. The ongoing Letterlocking project (<http://letterlocking.org>) investigates the methods involved in folding, sealing and securing letters in the early modern period and presents their research in a practical and accessible way through the use of video clips, and a dictionary of terminology is in development. The Bess of Hardwick and Letterlocking projects not only foreground research into the letter as a material object, but also demonstrates the changing ways in which researchers can present their findings to a wider audience.

1.6 Methodology

I must read and write much, for I would not willingly publish them either in a slovenly state or a careless manner. John Fenn (Castor, 2007:4)

The words written by John Fenn, the first editor of the Paston letters in the 1780s, still ring true for those of embarking on editing a large collection of letters, especially for those of us producing diplomatic transcriptions preserving the original spellings and punctuation.

The later papers and letters of the Paston family are preserved in BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988. Dating from the 1520s until the early eighteenth century, the later letters and papers encompass a wide range of handwriting styles from

sixteenth-century secretary hand through to the cursive or italicised hands of the eighteenth century, though these are less daunting than the fifteenth-century hands which Fenn encountered and described as 'crincum crancum hands' (Castor, 2007:6).

After completing the process of transcribing the collection of correspondence, it was necessary to gather the data from the individual letters in order to allow a detailed comparison of spelling practices between individuals, across generations and to capture variation within the writings of one letter-writer. When gathering data as part of my M.Phil. research, I had created a questionnaire of frequently used words that were subject to variation in early modern writing, and I decided to employ the questionnaire again when capturing the range of spelling variation within the later Paston letters. An example of this questionnaire is included below.

Fig. 1.

Word	Spellings/abbreviations used
should	
would	
could	
thee/thou	
you/r	
been	
were	
they	
their	
there	
do +	
go +	
here	
hear	

which	
with	
though	
shall +	
write +	
always/also	
receive	
per-/par-	
-ire	
business	
friend	
be/cause	
c/ sc/ s	
c/ck/k	
-tion	
ea	
ou/ow	
-ure	
certain	
cousin	
i/e/y	
occasion	
gh	
+ letters	
- letters	
gu-	

word divisions	
+ final -e	
- final -e	
believe	
u/v	
give	
'other' features	
abbreviations	

The format of the questionnaire allowed the recording of variant forms, spellings which would be considered 'standardised' and the frequency with which writers employed the same or variant forms within a single piece of correspondence. As the questionnaire was applied across the collection of letters, it was apparent that the variation in the spellings of some words became less frequent across the decades. The format of the questionnaire also provided space for the recording of unusual forms, or spellings that required further investigation or explanation. The information gathered as part of the data capture process was then collated to allow a more comprehensive analysis of the spellings of an individual, such as Sir Robert Paston, and the highlighting of trends and preferences within personal spelling practices. The basic questionnaire was a simple and effective tool in the data gathering process, however, upon reflection, its format could have been adapted to better suit the spelling patterns that were encountered in the later years of the Paston family correspondence to allow a greater degree of interrogation, and to more accurately reflect the information gathered from these letters.

Completion of these analyses allowed me to build up a detailed picture of the range of potential variant spellings, and the frequency with which certain variants were used both by individuals and also across the collection of correspondence as a whole. The results of this analysis highlighted the range of variants employed at a particular time and by particular individuals (where possible), and the rate at

which standardised forms were adopted by both male and female letter-writers. Once the information was collected, the results was analysed to allow comparisons between the spelling practices and pragmatic features in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century letters. The letters of Sir Robert Paston and his immediate family, and the letters of female correspondents, were examined in detail, within the contexts of gender, education and age.

Where possible, biographical information was provided on the letter-writers in order to give information on the writer's birthplace, education, training etc. and any ways in which these factors may have influenced spelling and other linguistic choices. The spelling and punctuation practices of the female letter-writers represented in this collection were taken into consideration in order to compare the education, spelling and letter-writing conventions of male and female correspondents across the generations.

The vast majority of the letters have been transcribed (some accounts, or lengthy documents that have no communicative function were not included in the transcriptions), totalling over five hundred and eighty documents. The transcription of these letters and papers has generated a vast amount of data, but for the purposes of this current discussion, and following on from my previous research into the letters of Lady Katherine Paston, chapters three and four of this thesis will focus on spelling and punctuation practices within the letters of Sir Robert Paston and his immediate family and will consider the letters of the female correspondents represented within the collection. Chapter four, however, draws on the wider collection of letters to gain an understanding of material culture, postal conditions and preservation of early modern correspondence, using examples from the letters of a range of letter-writers to illustrate trends and conventions throughout the seventeenth century and considering the extent to which the letter-writing process and production of the material letter could be considered standardised.

1.7 Transcription Practice

My analysis and discussion of the spelling, punctuation and material culture of the later Paston family and their circle is based upon the collection of correspondence

preserved in London, BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988. The transcriptions are diplomatic, adhering as far as possible to the spellings and punctuation of the original letters.

In keeping with the diplomatic transcriptions, no abbreviations and contracted spellings have been silently expanded, with italics used to highlight such expansions. Where the writer's preferred spelling is not evident, contracted forms have been expanded based on other, similar forms within the letter where possible; where this has not been possible, the abbreviated forms have been expanded to the present-day spelling.

Many of the abbreviated forms employed in Early Modern correspondence contain superscript letters, for example in forms such as *S^r*, *Sir*. Letters which have been written as superscript forms in the original letters have been underlined in the transcriptions, for example, *which* has been transcribed as *which* to indicate the inclusion of the missing letters and the superscript <ch>. While it would have been possible to use superscript forms in the transcriptions, the decision was made that underlining superscript forms was both easier to transcribe and to read, especially as most of the underlined forms are employed alongside expanded abbreviations in italics.

The majority of the letters in Additional MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 date from the seventeenth century, by which time the thorn symbol used to represent <th> had fallen out of use; however, within this collection of correspondence there are many examples of the use of initial <y> in place of <th>. In the transcriptions, the initial <y> in words such as *the* and *that* has been transcribed as *th-* in italics, resulting in the forms *the* and *that*. The distribution of initial <y> and present-day <th> spellings in this collection of correspondence will be discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this thesis.

Another frequently used feature in Early Modern spelling is the use of macrons to indicate the omission of a letter, usually a missing <m>, <n>, <i>, etc. In words such as *commission* the macron was usually employed above the first <m> to indicate the omission of the second <m>. As with the expansion of other abbreviated forms, the omitted letter has been represented in italics. In doing so, the assumption has been made that the author was aware that the macron

indicated a missing letter and it may be worth considering that some writers may have used macrons habitually even if they did not intend to indicate a missing letter.

Similarly, another frequently used feature in Early Modern spelling is the use of symbols or modified letterforms to indicate abbreviated or contracted forms, such as the use of symbols to indicate *per-*, *pre-* or *pro-*, and in these instances the abbreviated initial cluster is transcribed as underlined italics, for example, *perswaded*.

Throughout the collection of correspondence there are many words where certain letter forms are unclear due to the author's handwriting, ink bleeding through the paper or damaged paper in which case a guess has been made which would fit with either the author's known forms, or the present-day spelling of the word. While it may be possible that some of these words do indeed have unconventional spellings, the unclear letterforms have been transcribed according to the most probable spelling of the word.

Where a word is completely illegible, it will be marked thus: <illegible>. Where a word has been deleted so that it is illegible it will be marked as <deleted>, but where a word has been crossed out but is still legible, the word has been transcribed and struck through, for example, ~~error~~.

The punctuation of the letters has also been transcribed as faithfully as possible, though in many cases the punctuation is not clear with a few, faint commas; in many other cases it is not clear if the full stops are intentional or little more than where the author had rested the pen during a brief pause in writing.

Chapter 2

2.1 Material Culture of Early Modern Correspondence

The collection of letters relating to the later generations of the Paston family contains examples of many different forms of written correspondence with a range of communicative functions. The Paston family correspondence from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries preserved within the British Library collections includes e.g. an invitation to the wedding of servants, letters between a married couple marking their wedding anniversary and Valentine's Day, and gossip about numerous friends and neighbours, as well as the sorrow of bereavement. Examples of everyday, personal letters are preserved alongside official, formal petitions to the King, business transactions and matters of local and national politics, and through the family's links to government and royalty we find references to famous names of the seventeenth century, including the royal mistresses, Nell Gwynn and Barbara Villiers. The letters of the Paston family and events discussed within them are not just restricted to life in Norfolk and London, but contain letters from Northern England, Edinburgh and the continent; reference to commodities such as tobacco connect the letters to the New World in the Americas and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, all letters and documents were written for reading, regardless of their nature, purpose or ultimate destination and this chapter will examine the material culture of the physical letter and the importance of the delivery process in enabling the intended communicative act to take place.

No official, national postal service existed in England until the middle decades of the seventeenth century, and so early modern letter-writers relied on paid carriers, messengers, servants or friends and family to carry letters to the intended destination (Brayshay, 2016: 48). Even after the establishment of the postal service, individuals still relied on other means of delivery depending on the circumstances, timing and destination of the correspondence. Having carefully composed and created their letter, writers sent their letter on a far-from-certain journey. The uncertainty of the delivery process, at a time when individuals relied on their written correspondence to conduct business transactions and to communicate with acquaintances and relations across the country, means that it is unsurprising that so many early modern letter-writers committed their concerns

and frustrations to paper. Early modern letter-writers, such as the Pastons, described their difficulties in finding reliable carriers, annoyance at the delays in receiving letters, and the disappointments of miscarried or lost correspondence, even when their letters also express joy and affection at news from loved ones or the reassurance of good health.

In this study, the material culture of early modern correspondence will also be discussed, examining references to letter-writing within the correspondence of the later generations of the Paston family including the methods of sending and delivering letters in Early Modern England. A number of the letters contained within this collection make reference to the sharing and resending of letters and enclosed documents, and there were, as we will see, several measures taken by letter-writers to protect the contents of their letters from interception or prying eyes. Moreover, the study of the Paston letters is only possible as a result of the original letters having been preserved by generations of the family before the rediscovery of the letters in the eighteenth century, and so the preservation and afterlives of written communication will also be considered. There has been an increase in the interest in the material culture of early modern correspondence in recent years, with notable contributions from James Daybell (2012) and fascinating new projects such as the Letterlocking project (letterlocking.org) which has examined the methods used to fold and seal the physical letter. The Letterlocking project and the Bess of Hardwick project led by Alison Wiggins have both embraced technology to present their findings online, allowing researchers to view videos of the letterlocking process and to present new ways of thinking about the letter as a physical object.

Chapters three and four will consider the extent to which the written language of private correspondence could be described as standardised and how levels of standardisation varied between individual writers. This chapter will argue that the letter-writing materials, standardisation of practice and the social conventions of letter-writing resulted in the physical form of the letter being the most standardised part of the letter-writing process, and the descriptions and discussions of the characteristics of the physical letter in early modern England will be illustrated with examples from the later Paston letters.

2.2 Creating a Letter

Any self-respecting letter-writer with social aspirations would not simply pick up a pen and piece of paper and begin to write their epistle. Early modern letter-writing involved the careful selection of appropriate letter-writing materials and a knowledge of appropriate social and letter-writing conventions, such as the correct use of appropriate address terms and the ability to express an appropriate level of respect and deference. Letter-writing manuals offered prescriptive advice on the correct layout and structure of letters, as well as providing models of suitable letters that writers could copy and adapt to suit their own needs.

After the prospective letter-writer had studied their chosen their letter-writing manual and were proficient in the composition of correspondence based on the rules and conventions of the period, the act writing of letters required particular tools and materials including a pen, ink and the appropriate paper. James Daybell describes the various stages involved in writing a letter and preparing the material object for delivery to its final destination: 'the epistolary process was also comprised of a series of distinct stages - writing the main body of the letter, signing, adding postscripts, encrypting, folding, sealing and fastening, addressing and endorsing - each of which could fall in a number of different orders' (2016: 59). While it is important to understand the language and formulaic letter-writing conventions of the early modern period, some consideration must also be given to the letter as a physical artefact and the features of the material object, such as handwriting and use of space on the page.

2.2.1 Tools for writing

For a letter-writer in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, putting pen to paper to write an epistle would have been a more technical and laborious task than we would imagine today, and the writer would have required a specific set of skills as well as a range of materials that often required careful preparation in order to create their letter (Stewart & Wolfe, 2005: 13). The letter-writing tools employed by early modern writers had remained unchanged for centuries and no great developments would occur until as late as the nineteenth century. In his examination of the representation of letters and letter-writing in the works of

Shakespeare, Alan Stewart states that writers would have required 'multiple and specific' tools in order to write a letter (2008: 40) and explains that early modern users would have had a closer connection to the letter-writing materials they used as a result of preparing many of them themselves (2008: 41).

The writing and preparation of correspondence could take place in private studies within larger households, but also publicly in more communal spaces within the household depending on the nature of the correspondence being written (Daybell, 2012: 45). In the early modern period letter-writing materials were often stored in writing boxes which often had an angled surface to allow writers to write in a more comfortable position and protect the posture from too much stooping (Stewart & Wolfe, 2005: 18); on other occasions, letter-writers may have written on a flat table or have sat with a writing board on their knee (Whyman, 2009: 19). The writing surface was undoubtedly important, but the three most important tools for any writer were paper, ink and a pen.

2.2.2 Pens

Within the correspondence of the Paston family there are relatively few examples of letter-writers making mention of the tools and materials used to write the letter, but perhaps the best example can be found in a letter from Lady Katherine Paston when she bemoans the poor state of the well-used pen that she has been forced to use in order to write to her son: 'I wright this as much in hast as may be: wt a pen of my Cosine Cooks wch I think haue writen many an indenture, it {^is} but a bad on and my hast makes it not better' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 252r). Lady Katherine's comment could be viewed as little more than another formulaic apology for the poor standard of her writing, but her comment also provides a rare insight into the production of the Paston family letters. The remark about the pen belonging to her cousin also suggests that Lady Katherine did not travel with her own letter-writing materials, instead borrowing a pen at the Norwich home of the Cokes, who were related to the Pastons through the marriage of Bridget Paston to Edward Coke (Hughey, 1941: 18). The use of a poor pen also raises questions about her hosts not having had a better pen for their guest to use. This may have been the result of their pen having been worn down through excessive use, or alternatively that they were not extensive writers and did not replace an item that

they did not use or could not afford to replace. It is also possible that Lady Katherine's hosts did not wish to share their best pens that they had carefully looked after and maintained. In order to understand why writers like Lady Katherine felt the need to complain about their writing materials, it is important to understand the materials that were available to writers and how these implements were used and adapted to make good or bad pens.

The quill pen was the writing implement used by all writers, from professional scribes to ordinary people with the necessary literacy skills and remained in continuous use from the early medieval period until the nineteenth century (Whalley, 1975: 16), and it is the quill pen that would have been used by the Pastons and their acquaintances to write their letters. Quills were made from feathers which were prepared and adapted for use as a pen. In order to make a good quality pen, the quill had to be carefully chosen and writing manuals of the period were full of advice for writers on the optimal feathers to create a pen; the third or fourth feathers of a goose's wing were considered the best choice (Stewart, 2008:45). Goose feathers may have been preferred, but the feathers of other birds, including ravens, crows, ducks and swans were also used for writing, and the variety of feather provided different qualities for the pen; for example, pens made of swan feather were perceived as more durable than those from other birds (Daybell, 2012: 42). While the feathers of different birds presented different qualities, the choice of feather to make a quill was often influenced by little more than availability and proximity. However, it was possible for some writers and professional scribes to purchase their preferred variety of quill feathers, and Daybell explains that stationers' shops often displayed their selection of feathers by hanging bundles of quills or the wings of birds in their shops (2012: 42).

The selection of the quill was only the start in preparing a writing implement. Using a suitably sharp pen knife (writing manuals were also full of advice for the most appropriate penknife), the writer would shape the end of the quill into a nib for writing by cutting the end of the quill at an angle with an additional slit to allow ink to flow onto the paper, and different cuts, angles and thickness of the pen would result in varying effects on the paper and could be adapted for different scripts (Whyman, 2009: 20). Many books by writing masters, such as the sixteenth-century Italian writer Palatino, included detailed illustrations with instructions on

the correct shaping and cutting of the pen nibs to achieve ease of writing and a nib suitable for particular scripts (Whalley, 1975: 24). The initial preparation of the quill was only the first part of an ongoing process of cutting and reshaping the tip of the pen, and Stewart describes writing as a 'two-handed operation' with the writer holding the pen in their right hand and the pen knife in their left hand ready to repeatedly trim and shape the tip of the pen as it grew blunt against the paper (Stewart, 2008: 45). The skill in shaping the nib of the pen was also a way for writers to bring some degree of control and individuality to what was a fairly standardised writing implement, with skilled writers and professional scribes producing carefully shaped nibs that would allow them to write in a neat, flowing hand, and the thickness of the nib could be modified to suit the writer's particular purpose and preferred script. Manuals were full of advice on the correct preparation of the pen, but Goldberg has remarked on the ambiguity of the advice to make a pen that was fit for the hand: were the guides referring to the human hand that would guide the pen across the page, or the resulting handwriting on the page (1990: 82). The writing manuals of the early modern period did not only advise the letter-writers on how to prepare their pens, but also provided instructions on the correct way to hold the pen in the hand, and advice included 'Cause your schollar to holde his penne right, as neere unto the nebbe as hee can, his thumbe and two fore-finger, almost closed together, round about the neb, like unto a cats foote, as some of the Scriveners doe tearme it' (Brinsley, 1612: 30 cited in Goldberg, 1990: 92).

Lady Katherine's comment about the poor state of her borrowed pen suggests that the pen had not been trimmed and maintained or had perhaps been trimmed as much as it could be before the quill was rendered useless. Within some early modern letters it is possible to see instances of badly-shaped nibs or nibs that had perhaps split creating double lines in the letterforms. For those writers who were perhaps less skilled in the use of the pen, Daybell explains that the penknife had the additional function of allowing writers to make amendments by carefully scraping the ink from the page, thus deleting errors and allowing the writer to make the necessary corrections (2012: 43). This practice would certainly have been the case for early scribes writing on vellum and where the ink was not fully absorbed into the writing surface (Whalley, 1975: 34), but with a thinner ink on a

fine, absorbent paper, it would have been a challenge to remove the error without damaging the paper, and what is clear from the letters preserved in this collection is that writers did not see the necessity in such drastic corrections in their private letters, with most errors being crossed out or scrubbed over to make the word illegible.

2.2.3 *Ink*

It was possible for writers to purchase ink ready for use or in the form of ink powder, but in many cases, the writers would have prepared their own ink, and many household books and miscellanies from the early modern period contain recipes for making ink at home which was stored in bottles and decanted into inkwells as required (Stewart, 2008: 46). Ink was made from galls from oak leaves, iron salt and gum Arabic (Whyman, 2009: 20) and Whyman notes that in extreme circumstances, writers could burn and beat wool into an ink powder (2009: 20). Individual recipes could be adapted to include different ingredients to produce ink of varying colours and consistencies, and the quality of the final product was very much dependent on the quality of the ingredients and the reliability of the recipe being used as well as the individual skills and experience of the maker (Daybell, 2012: 39). The surviving letters in the later Paston archive do display a range of ink types and qualities, from black to reddish-brown and from thick ink to inks of a thinner and more watery consistency. As with the continued maintenance of the pen, Whyman explains that the writer would have to dip the pen in ink and clean the old ink from the nib after each stroke, and the writer would have to ensure that the ink remained in a suitable state for writing, thinning the ink with vinegar or wine if it became too thick (2009: 20). Writers also had to ensure that their pen was not allowed to dry out, and the Italian writing master Palatino advised writers to keep the quill in just enough water to cover the nib, as it would be more difficult to write with a dried-out pen (Whalley, 1975: 25).

Once again, there are no obvious references to the use of ink within this collection of correspondence, although a letter by Sir Robert Paston held in the collection of Norfolk Record Office makes reference to the blotted appearance of his letter (NRO: BL/Y/1/133, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 209). The blotted appearance of letters could be the result of the quality of the pen and ink and the absorbency of

the paper; letter-writers used various methods to dry the ink before folding and sending their letters including the use of sand or brown paper for blotting wet ink (Stewart & Wolfe, 2005: 14). In some examples within the collection of Paston papers and letters, it is also possible to see letters in which the ink has bled through the paper, rendering the text on the reverse leaf virtually illegible, and such examples highlight the necessity of good ink and good paper.

2.2.4 Paper

In his examination of female epistolarity, James Daybell notes that it was not uncommon for women to use their letters to make requests for paper (2012: 62), and this is also true within the seventeenth-century Paston letters, when Lady Katherine Paston adds a postscript to her son, William, that she 'shold be glad of a quire of gillt paper. I will be in your dept for it.' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.254), while in an earlier letter to her son she thanks him for his bountiful gift of paper: 'thow hast so bowntifully furnished me wth guillt paper as I shall not wante to wright to the many a day :/' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 43r).

The OED defines gilt-paper as writing paper with gilt edges¹, though their first example of its usage is dated to 1660, some thirty-five years after Lady Katherine's letter. Frustratingly, neither letter is dated, but in her 1941 edition of Lady Katherine's letters, Ruth Hughey has suggested a date of February 1627 for the paper request, while a note in Francis Blomefield's hand offers a date of April 1625 for the letter expressing Lady Katherine's thanks. The mention of the gilt paper in two separate letters written as much as two years apart suggests that she may have been in the habit of using this type of paper. The mentions of gilt paper in Lady Katherine's letter gives some idea of the variety of papers available at this time and the ways in which some paper could be decorated or embellished to make it a more desirable and luxurious commodity, and thus a representation of the writer's status through conspicuous consumption. Requests and thanks for good

¹ the term gilt paper can also be used to refer to Dutch gilt paper which was produced in Germany and was used in bookbinding from the start of the eighteenth century, therefore this would be too late for Lady Katherine's reference, and the fact that she tells her son that she will be able to write to him with this paper makes it highly unlikely that she is referring to brightly coloured and heavily patterned paper. A description and images of Dutch gilt paper and other decorative papers can be found at <http://www.metmuseum.org/blogs/in-circulation/2014/decorated-paper>

quality paper are not surprising considering that arguably the most important of all the letter-writing materials was the paper on which the letter was to be written. The size and quality of the chosen paper could be an outward marker of status and prestige and the way in which it was used by the writer could also convey respect for the recipient.

In the early modern period, paper was used for daily correspondence, while more traditional writing materials such as parchment and vellum still remained in use for official documents (Daybell, 2016: 62). Unlike the other tools required for letter-writing, paper could not be made at home, so had to be purchased, and, depending on its quality, paper could be expensive. The quality of the paper was an important factor for letter-writers, and the highest quality paper was imported to England from the continent (Stewart, 2008: 43), but by 1700, England had around a hundred paper mills of its own (Whyman, 2009: 21), which is indicative of the rise in literacy and letter-writing culture in this period. Although Whyman's examination of English letter-writing practices deals primarily with eighteenth-century correspondence, the details of the price of paper is still a useful indication of paper as an expensive commodity, though the growth in English paper mills would have made paper more affordable than the highest quality continental imports in the decades before. Whyman describes the process of a young man writing a letter in the early eighteenth century and explains that 'a quire of paper costs about 8d. and from 1-8d. postage will be due, depending on the distance. This is costly, for six to ten shillings is a day's wage for a craftsman or a week's wage for a labourer' (2009: 21).

In addition to Lady Katherine's thanks for the gift of a specific type of paper, the collection does contain other occasional references to paper, such as John Fishers' postscript that he would write to Lady Paston (Charlotte Paston, wife of William Paston and daughter-in-law of Sir Robert and Rebecca) if he had enough paper, but this could, of course, be just another polite excuse for not writing the letter. Other references to paper refer to the contents of the letter and not the physical writing surface, as can be seen in a letter from Susan Cooper, housekeeper at Oxnead, to Sir Robert Paston when she wrote 'I beg y^r hon^{rs} pardon for the faults in this paper' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.348), but the only visual faults on the page are some neatly deleted words and some smudged ink, so it is likely that she was

using this reference to apologise for her writing generally as a sign of modesty when writing to her employer. It was not only female writers who played down the quality of their writing and the paper on which it was written for the effect of modesty and deference, as can be seen in the following example from Thomas Holland to Lady Katherine Paston (BL Addit MS 27447, f.149), thanking her for her previous letter and remarking that his letter is of inferior quality and quantity of paper, before somewhat poetically referring to the letter as the 'ruines of this poore paper wall':

'My worthy good Sister I cannot neither in like quantitie nor qualitie of paper giue answere to your kind letter by reason I made an end of either yesterday but in true recipocall affection within the ruines of this poore paper wall I doe assure you of a neuer fayling frend [...]

It is worth noting that one of the many money-making schemes pursued by the later generations of the Paston family was to invest in papermaking through their connections with the maker of fine, white paper, Eustace Burneby. Agnew notes that it was possible that the family had been in the process of applying for a patent for their own paper making company, however, this particular pursuit does not appear to have come to fruition (Agnew, 2012: 378).

Another piece of equipment which would have been familiar to the early modern letter-writer is the 'writing table' or 'table book' which Daybell describes as 'erasable writing surfaces that could be written on with a stylus and re-used' and it is likely that they were used as a means of drafting letters before writing the final draft (Daybell, 2012: 47). While the later Paston letters contain little written evidence of much of the letter-writing process, there is evidence that Lady Katherine Paston at least was in possession of a writing table, and in a letter to her son, she thanks him for sending her a 'fine payer of wrightinge tables' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 45v).

2.3 Use of Space

The importance of the paper utilised in early modern letter-writing went far beyond the quality of the writer's choice of paper. The way in which the writer utilised the space on the page was also significant as a means of indicating the

writer's relationship with respect and deference to the recipient through the careful positioning of elements such as the subscription, signature and date. Similar importance was placed on the areas of the page that were left blank and free of writing, and the use of space on the page was linked to both epistolary structure and social structure. Arguably the most notable examination of the use of space in early modern letter-writing is Jonathan Gibson's 1997 article 'Significant Space in Manuscript Letters'. In his article, Gibson compares the advice given to readers of contemporary English letter-writing manuals (often based on or heavily influenced by French manuals) to convey meaning and respect through the appropriate use of space, specifically by leaving as much blank space as possible when writing to those of higher social standing, and notes that the advice given by the various authors in their respective manuals is surprisingly uniform (1997: 2).

Manuals such as William Fulwood's *The Enimie of Idlenesse*, published in 1568, recommended that when writing to social superiors, writers should position the text to the right of the page (Gibson, 1997: 1), but as Gibson explains, other writers were less concerned by the left-right positioning of the text, and placed greater emphasis on vertical space, that is, the blank space at the top and bottom of the page and the spacing between specific elements (1997: 2). Particular attention was given to the correct positioning of the subscription and the signature. Angel Day's 1586 *English Secretorie* recommended that writers should convey respect when writing to a social superior by placing the subscription and signature low on the page:

writing to anie person of account, by howe much more excellent hee is in calling from him in whose behalfe the Letter is framed, by so much the lower, shall the subscription thereunto belonging, in any wise be placed.

And if the state of honour of him to whome the Letter shall be directed doe require so much, the verie lowest margent of paper shall do no more but beare it, so be it the space bee seemelie for the name, and the roome faire enough to comprehend it... (Day, 1599: 15)

A letter from John Fisher to Rebecca Paston (BL Addit MS 27448, f.112r) written in 1682, almost a century after the publication of Day's *English Secretorie* in 1586,

displays his respect for Rebecca by placing his signature at the very foot of the page, and he has devoted half of his final page to his subscription and signature, these ten words being given as much space as the sixteen lines of text above. A similar use of space can also be seen in a 1682 letter from Leoline Jenkins to Sir Robert Paston (BL Addit MS 27448, f.135v) in which over half a folio of blank space is devoted to the superscription and signature which is placed in the bottom right-hand corner of the paper.

Some letter-writing manuals even offered recommendations on the correct spacing of the address lines in the superscription, with Massinger proposing that writers leave as much space as possible between the first and second lines of the superscription, as a greater space would signify greater respect for the addressee (Gibson, 1997: 2). The 1682 letter from John Fisher to Rebecca Paston displays similar spacing with a significant space and a sweeping, diagonal penstroke between the address and the destination of the letter, Windsor. As an expensive commodity, the use of blank space was a sign of both respect for the addressee and through conspicuous consumption marked the writer's own status and wealth.

While most of the authors of the letter-writing manuals were more concerned with vertical space, it appears that the writers of many of the letters within this collection wrote to the right of the page leaving a significant amount of blank space in the left-hand margin, perhaps influenced by the recommendations of writers such as Angel Day, or as a result of the influence of the practices of other correspondents. Where the letter-writer has left a larger left-hand margin, the margin normally remains blank, though in some cases, the margin has been used for additional text either as a continuation of the main body of the text, or in order to squeeze a postscript and the subscription onto the one side of paper. Within this collection, most of the letters in which the writer has utilised the left-hand margin are letters of a single sheet of paper which has been folded for sealing and posting without an additional wrapper sheet. An example of this can be found in a scribal letter, bearing the tremulous signature 'Townshend' (BL Addit 27447, f.398), and the secretary has continued the text into the margin and onto the facing half-folio, thus allowing sufficient space for the subscription and the shaky signature. There is a significant amount of blank space below the signature, equivalent to approximately fifteen lines of text in the secretary's hand and it is

interesting to note that this space has been used by someone testing the range of thicknesses and angles of their pen nibs. James Daybell describes the use of margins as a practice belonging to informal, familiar correspondence, and he argues that the use of margins was comparatively uncommon (2012: 100), yet the use of margins can be found throughout the Paston family correspondence in the letters of a number of individuals, including Lady Katherine Paston and Sir Robert Paston. Sir Robert's use of margins in two letters in BL Addit MS 27447, folios 338r-339v and 336r-337v, are worthy of comment as the text is written close to the left-hand edge of the paper of folios 338v and 336v, allowing Sir Robert to utilise the right-hand margin for additional text, although this continues across all of the facing folio, 339r, written at right angles to the main text, and including a subscription and lengthy postscript and leaving little blank space on the page. This particular use of space on the second and third pages of letters can be found in further examples of Sir Robert's correspondence.

In addition to the writers who made use of the additional space provided by the margins, a number of letters within the collection provide evidence of writers ignoring the spatial conventions of the period by utilising the entire page, writing from edge to edge and leaving no white space as a mark of respect for the addressee. An example of such a letter can be found in BL Addit MS 27448, folios 237r-238v, sent by L. Milbourne and addressed to the Dowager Countess of Yarmouth, the author has filled two pages writing from edge to edge, only leaving blank space around the subscription and signature. The observance of such conventions was perhaps of less importance in letters between married couples, and in letters such as BL Addit MS 27447, folios 435r-436v, we find Sir Robert Paston writing to his wife and leaving no margins and the only blank space is found on the fourth folio following a lengthy postscript.

There are some letters within the later Paston letters which display an unconventional use of space within their letters. In a letter from to Rebecca Paston in 1682/3, Francis Gardiner apologises to Rebecca for his 'great oversight in writing on two sheets of paper not taken notice of till too late to amend' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.183r).

2.4 Handwriting

As we have seen in the sections describing the materials of letter-writing, writers had limited options available to them, and they were often further constrained by what they were able to afford, so an individual's handwriting might be one way of making a letter more individual and recognisable as being the work of a particular writer, but even the circumstances in which particular scripts were used was dictated by conventions of usage.

After a letter-writer had perfected the art of shaping their pens and had mastered a grip of the pen that would allow their hand to glide and shape letterforms on the paper, the writer would need to decide which script to use, and the choice of hand was influenced by the writer's gender, skill and function of the letter as well as the popular, fashionable hands of the time (Whyman, 2009: 21).

The earliest letters within BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 date to the mid-sixteenth century, and are written in secretary hand, which was normally used by educated male writers to produce business letters, and it was therefore not usual for women to learn this particular script. The characteristic angular, gothic letterforms of the secretary hand (Wolfe, 2009: 21) gives the sixteenth-century letters a distinctive appearance and therefore mark these documents as belonging to a specific period. For the most part, women were not taught to use the secretary script (there were exceptions to this and many educated women were able to read secretary hand) but were instead taught to write in a simpler hand that combined features of the Roman and Italic hands. The Roman script had simple, clean letterforms while the italic script was a 'cursive hand based on the shape of an ellipsis or oval, with joined letters that sloped to the right, and many letter forms that could be formed with minimal pen lifts' (Woolf, 2009: 22). The simpler letterforms allowed writers to write with speed and minimal pen lifts which made it an appealing hand which would eventually replace secretary hand so that the use of secretary hand would be considered archaic by the mid-seventeenth century (Daniel Starza Smith, *Handwriting* (2013), <https://www.bessofhardwick.org/background>. Date accessed: 19 June 2017). The italic hand continued to be used throughout the seventeenth century, but by the

eighteenth century, the rounded hand known as 'copperplate' had become fashionable.

While much emphasis was placed on the correct use of scripts and the careful practice of penmanship and shaping letters, in reality, not everyone had the skills, time, or inclination to perfect a neat or even legible hand, and as Stewart and Wolfe note, bad handwriting became associated with the writings of the upper classes (2005: 36). The use of bad handwriting by educated young men came to be embarrassing and stigmatised, and so they were encouraged to take the time to practice neat and clear writing (Stewart and Wolfe, 2005: 36). Due to the number of letter-writers represented within the later Paston family letters and papers, there is a dramatic range in the quality, clarity and consistency of handwriting, from neat, legible scribal hands to untidy hands with poorly formed letterforms, and in at least one case, signs of an individual with a tremulous hand. In the present-day, we are able to pick up a pen (or turn on a computer) and write whenever we need to, but Whyman (2009: 21) makes an important observation that early modern writers would have required adequate light, space and ample time to write their letters, so it is perhaps unsurprising that writers without sufficient light or time may have produced sub-standard handwriting.

Even within a relatively consistent hand, such as that of Sir Robert Paston, his letterforms are not always clearly defined, and this can prove challenging when attempting to produce an accurate transcription of his spellings, in particular, a failure to close the top of a medial <a> can suggest an unusual spelling, and this is problematic when dealing with other individuals for whom we have only a limited selection of evidence for their preferred forms. Individual writers' realisations of <u> and <v> can be remarkably similar, so even if the writer was intending to use a <v> in a particular spelling, this may not have been how it was recorded on the page. Despite these uncertainties when producing transcriptions, what these irregularities and idiosyncrasies do provide is a sense of the individual writer. This gives the letter a sense of being personal when so much of the letter-writing process was shaped and prescribed by social conventions, and while writers could aim for the characteristics of certain scripts, the realisation of these scripts varied greatly depending on the individual's writing skills and the circumstances in which they were writing.

2.5 Dates

Nevala writes that the positioning of the date within the letter could also be used as a marker of respect and deference (2004: 39), with dates placed near the top of the page indicating that the writer was addressing a social superior, while a date on the left of the page would be most suitable for business correspondence. Not all of the letters in the Paston family correspondence were dated at the time of writing, and in some instances, dates have been added on the address leaf or in the endorsements, or by other hands including Francis Blomefield in the 18th century.

The letters from male letter-writers in the second half of the seventeenth century are either entirely undated, or are dated with the date and year, but some of the earlier letters in the collection are dated using saints days and festivals that would have been significant dates in the calendar in the strongly Christian society of medieval and early modern England; it is worth noting that these dates were still significant fixtures in the calendar that continued to be used well into the seventeenth century. Edward Clere's letter (BL Addit MS 27447) is not dated with the year of writing but is dated the 'instant euen of St Mathew' (the feast day of St Matthew being 21st September), while a letter by Lady Katherine Paston (BL Addit MS 36988, f.53) is dated 'this friday befor Hollwmas 1626 (Hallowmas is another name for All Saints' Day celebrated on 1st November).

The dating of letters was just as important in the seventeenth century as it is today, allowing individuals to archive and refer to earlier letters. One letter held in Norfolk Record Office indicates that Thomas Henshaw was unhappy with Viscount Yarmouth's failure to date his letters correctly and so he chastised Sir Robert for not dating his letters like a 'man of busines'; 'You need not doubt that I keep all your letters by me, but if like a man of busines you would date your letters on the top of the page they would bee the more readie to turne to' (NRO: BL/Y/1/29, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 89).

2.6 Letterlocking

After letter-writers were satisfied with the contents of their letters and were ready to send them to their intended recipients, they would need to prepare the address leaf of the letter to ensure that the carrier delivered to the correct destination. Letters were prepared for sending by carefully folding the paper to form its own envelope, occasionally using an additional cover sheet as a wrapper, and the outer edges and outer faces of the packet are often discoloured through handling and exposure to the elements over the centuries. The exact manner in which the letter was folded could vary depending on the sender's personal preference and level of security required for a particular method of delivery. Most of the personal letters within the Paston family correspondence were folded in to small packets, often with two vertical folds and two or three horizontal folds. Some of the letters have been placed within a covering wrapper sheet which would bear the superscription and directions for delivery, but in many other cases, the letter itself has been folded to form its own envelope for posting. Some of the letters have been folded to include a narrow flap of paper that can be used to secure the seal, while other letters - such as BL Addit MS 27447, f.239v - have been folded to create a triangular flap of paper which is reminiscent of a modern-day envelope with the seal embossed across the tip of the triangle. Many of the letters display signs of folding and refolding, perhaps to make the letter neater before sending, or perhaps as a result of the recipient folding the letter for storage. Sir Robert Paston folded his letters into the conventional small rectangular shape, but the letters and documents he had labelled as copy letters were often folded into four horizontal panels, described as a roll fold in the *Dictionary of Letterlocking* (Dambrogio, Starza Smith, et al. 2016 *Dictionary of Letterlocking* (DoLL). Date accessed: 20 June 2017).

Security of correspondence was a major concern for early modern letter-writers, and while most of the letters within this collection display the relatively low security of folds and seals, other early modern letters display evidence of letters being sewn closed, or wrapped with ribbon, though Alan Stewart notes that this kind of letter sealing, along with the scenting and perfuming of letters, is most commonly associated with letters associated with love and romance, (2008: 55), and it is worth noting that one of the most famous letters associated with the earlier generations of the Paston family, the valentine from Margery Brews to John

Paston III sent in 1477, appears to have been sewn closed before sending (<http://www.janadambrogio.com/timeline>. Date accessed: 20 June 2017). Another method of sealing and securing letters involved the sender making a cut in the letter to allow a folded section of the letter or another piece of paper to be slotted through the slit to hold the packet closed, and the sender could add sealing wax for additional security.

While the text of the letters within the later Paston letters may not contain much in the way of evidence relating to seals or the act of sealing letters, the physical letters are marked with surviving seals in red and black wax and the ghostly marks of lost seals, holes in the paper and torn edges where seals once existed. Once the writer had folded his or her letter into a small rectangle, the writer would melt sealing wax (therefore the candlestick was another vital tool for the early modern letter-writer) over the folded lip of the paper. The malleable melted wax could then be embossed with the sender's personal seal, often in the form of a seal ring, and once the wax had set, the letter had to be broken open with a degree of force, often breaking the hard seal or tearing the paper in order to view the contents of the letter (Stewart, 2008: 55). On some of the letters within the collection it is possible to see some additional drops of wax around the outside edges of the page or wrapper or on the inside fold of the address leaf, and while some of these may have been accidental drops or transfer from the main seal, others have been deliberately added as additional adherent to ensure that the letter was neatly and tightly sealed and secure, ready for the journey to its intended recipient. Most of the methods of letterlocking preserved in BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 would be classified as either 'fold + adhere', that is a letter folded into the desired small rectangle and sealed with wax, or 'fold, tuck + adhere' in which the letter is folded (video demonstrations of the different methods of letterlocking can be found at <http://letterlocking.org/categories>). In some cases, the soft, melted wax has been covered with a small square of paper before being impressed with the seal giving the appearance of embossed paper rather than wax, as can be seen in a number of the surviving seals in the later Paston letters. A good, clear example of an embossed seal can be found in Addit MS 27448, folio 242 verso.

The symbolism and meaning associated with sealing letters went beyond the emblems and arms contained within a seal, and the very colour of the sealing wax could be used to convey additional meaning. The use of a black wax in place of the usual red wax could indicate that the contents of a letter were concerned with death or mourning (Stewart, 2008: 55). Examples of black wax usage can be seen in BL Addit MS 27448, f.73 and f.284, though it is worth noting that neither letter contains any mention of a recent death, but it is possible that the writers may have been in a period of mourning for a recent bereavement.

Within the letters in this collection there are only a small number of references to letter seals. Sir Robert Paston, writing to Rebecca Paston in September 1682, adds a short postscript to his letter to inform his wife 'I had nott my owne seale/' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.116r). A letter from a 'Phi Gryme' to the second Earl of Yarmouth in April 1695 informed his Lordship that a friend had in his possession 'a Seal in steel, Done by the best hand, of your Lordships Coate of armes, quartered wth Such families, as your predecessors Maryed into' which cost many guineas to produce, but Mr Gryme was willing to sell it for a mere three guineas (BL Addit MS 27448, f.375r). BL Addit MS 36988 f.128 contains a brief annotation in the hand of the eighteenth-century historian, Francis Blomefield, commenting on the seal on the reverse of the folio: 'the seal is curious / the man fighting?'

In addition to the few references to the physical object of the seal and the act of sealing letters, there is an interesting reference in BL Addit MS 27448, f.20r to an enclosed letter having a 'flying seal' where the sender has left the letter unsealed to allow the first recipient to view the contents before forwarding to the intended recipient. Sir Robert Paston appears to have sent unsealed letters and documents to his wife for review or to keep her informed of his affairs, and this process can be tracked through his postscript giving instructions for her to 'seale vp Secretary Jenkinns letter & send itt' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.138). The act of sealing letters, especially formal letters of petition, would have confirmed the validity and authenticity of the letter, as suggested by the postscript to a 1687 scribal letter of petition to King James II from Rebecca Paston (by this time the Dowager Countess of Yarmouth) and her son William (second Earl of Yarmouth), which states that the petition was 'Sealed and deliuered in the presence of marcus Hoogan [and] Tho Bulwer' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.322).

The act of sealing a letter carried a greater significance than just closing up a folded letter to protect the contents from prying eyes. As with so many aspects of early modern letter-writing, the act of sealing a letter was imbued with symbolism and meaning. As Alison Wiggins explains, the use of the individual seal not only identified the sender but could also 'authenticate and authorise' the letter (2017: 99). As an important marker of visual identity and power, some individuals, such as Bess of Hardwick, intentionally altered and adapted their personal emblems and seals over the course of their lives to reflect marriages or a change in rank and status (Wiggins, 2017: 100), and this not only re-established their status and identity, but also added a greater currency and authenticity to documents bearing their seal. Stewart and Wolfe also note that, in some instances, the seal may not be that of the sender of the letter, but instead indicated that the owner of the seal had read and approved the contents of the letter and offered their literal seal of approval (2005: 36), and such cases indicate that private letters may not have been as private and secure as the writer would have liked.

In the case of the later Pastons, the surviving seals attached to the letters of Robert Paston, Viscount Yarmouth, depict his coat of arms, a shield bearing six *fleur de lis* with a coronet above the shield and what appears to be a bear and a crane or ostrich as supporters on either side of the shield. A similar set of arms with an oval shield containing a different design can be seen on the late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century engraving of Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth which is currently held in the National Portrait Gallery (<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw114351/Robert-Paston-1st-Earl-of-Yarmouth>. Date last accessed, 8 May 2018). The act of sealing and thus authenticating the letter with a mark of an individual's visual identity was a means of adding a personal and individual mark to what had become a conventionalised process of sealing and sending the letter.

2.7 Writing Letters

Only a few letters within this collection make mention of the writer writing or sending the letter on behalf of another. Sir John Heveningham writing to Lady Katherine Paston in July 1622 opens his letter by explaining that he is conveying a message on behalf of his wife; 'my wife desireth me to be her secretary, she

being very busy' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.193r). Even when writers were not writing directly on behalf of another, the letters also show the overlapping networks of correspondence, with different writers writing to group of correspondents to discuss the same matters. Sir Robert Paston's son and heir, William, followed his father into a career in politics, and served as Member of Parliament for Norwich from 1678 until 1683; Sir Robert's letter to Edward L'Estrange, dated January 1680/1 in a later hand, makes reference to his son writing to most of their 'considerable friends to make their interest strong' in a bid to prevent Sir John Hobart becoming MP for Norwich.

It was customary in the early modern period for writers to apologise for the standard and quality of their writing, and this is evident in the letters within this collection. As James Daybell explains in his authoritative study of the materiality of women's letters in the early modern period, male and female letter-writers took the opportunity to apologise for the standard of their writing, and while some writers may have been genuinely self-conscious about their writing, Daybell argues that in the letters of many other writers their 'self-deprecatory remarks belong to a troped language of deference' (2016: 61). Susan Cooper was the housekeeper of Oxnead Hall, the family seat of the Pastons, and in a letter to her mistress, Rebecca Paston, she apologises for the 'faults' in her letter 'I beg yr honrs pardon for all the faults on this paper' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.348v). It was not only the modesty of the female letter-writers that saw them beg to be excused for their epistolary 'faults', Richard Croshawe writing to the second Earl of Yarmouth asks him to 'pardon the defects of this letter because it was writ in hast' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.309r) and another example of this can be found in a letter to Rebecca Paston: 'y^r Ladyship may see by my writing that I am a litle in haste I would send this letter to day by the coach and I am afraid I shall not haue done soon enough therefore I hope y^r Ladyship will excuse ~~that~~ My bad writing and neuer doubt but that I am with a deep respect and euer will be y^r Ladyship's Most humble, obedient and Dutyfull Seruant' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.252v). In a letter to his wife held in Norfolk Record Office, Sir Robert Paston made reference to his last letter, which he described as 'blotted and hasty' (NRO: BL/Y/1/133, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 209).

By far the most frequently occurring method for letter-writers to apologise for the appearance or content of their letters was to describe them as being written 'in haste', or for the writer to apologise for their 'scribbled lines' (Daybell, 2001: 61), and there are numerous examples of such protestations within the Paston collection. Among the earliest letters there are almost formulaic references to letters written 'in haste' such as in Thomas Baly's letter to Sir William Paston which was 'Skribled in hast at halleswith this Sundaye the xxvi of marche. 1553' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.93r), and Thomas Jermy's letter, also to William Paston Esq., which he subscribes as 'scrybled in hast this tewsdaye the xiiiith of may 1566' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 116r). Remarks relating to the speed of writing are also found in the seventeenth-century letters, with examples including Sir John Heveningham's 'wth all speed in wrightinge: for the time pasethe fast away' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 162r); an unnamed letter-writer asks his reader to 'pardon the rudenesse of this note I haue but time enough' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.356r). Lady Katherine Paston simply notes that her letter was 'in hast written:' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.231r). While they may not claim to have been written in haste, other letters do make reference to the writers having little or no time, and it is perhaps easy to forget the time and effort that was required to compose and send a letter in the early modern period. Lady Katherine Paston commented that 'I wold haue written to him to put him in minde of sum thinges but I haue now no time :/' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.232r), while John Fisher wrote to Rebecca Paston 'If I had time or paper, I should have wrot the like to my Lady Paston' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.427r). In a discussion of the various sections and formulaic conventions comprising medieval and early modern letters, Minna Nevala lists 'apology for finishing the letter at that point' and 'sometimes the apologetic "in haste" as recognisable formulae within an early modern letter (2004: 38). The examples from the later Paston letters in the collections of the British Library and Norfolk Record Office clearly represent formulaic constructions in the composition of letters.

Writers not only apologised for the standard of their writing, or their inability to write, but also for the sentiments they had chosen to communicate and how these sentiments might be received by the addressee. Following the death of Sir Robert Paston, William Craigmyll took the opportunity to offer his 'free service' to Sir Robert's widow, Rebecca (BL Addit MS 27448, f.245r). William opened his letter by

presenting his humble service and begging pardon of the Countess if she did not approve of what he had 'advicedly written, and approv'd of by ingenious Gentlemen of great Ranke and quality' before explaining that 'I tooke my pen imediately and writ with a zealous affection what is here inclosed'. After subscribing his letter as her humble and obedient servant, William then offered Rebecca the opportunity to return his letter if she did not welcome the sentiments he had expressed: 'pray Madam if you doe not like what I have writt, be pleas'd to send it back by the bearer'.

While some writers apologised for the standard or speed of their writing, either as a result of their own self-consciousness or to follow the conventions of modesty already identified, others were forced to use the opening lines of their letters to apologise for not writing sooner, in some instances this was as a result of ill health. Some writers relied on the assistance of a scribe or secretary to pick up the pen on their behalf during bouts of illness or infirmity (Daybell, 2016: 59). In a letter dated January 1679, for instance, Sir Robert Paston himself wrote to Edward L'Estrange to explain that he had been unable to write to his friends as a result of gout: 'I thanke you for seuerall letters I beene lately very much indisposed by ye gout, w^{ch} has hindres mee writing to my friends butt I haue the same hart and respects to them all' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.444r). Sir Robert made a further reference to his affliction with gout impacting on his ability to keep up with correspondence when, in January 1682, he wrote to advise Edward L'Estrange that 'I am ill of y^e gout a long time, and therefore you must nott expect a long letter from mee' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.179r), but, keen to stay informed during his infirmity, added a postscript to his letter asking Mr L'Estrange to send him news from the Sessions. One writer, writing to Rebecca Paston, Dowager Countess of Yarmouth in 1683, opened the letter by apologising for not being able to act upon her previous letter as the result of 'A fall, w^{ch} I had soon after I receiv'd yr former Letter, Lam'd me, & disabled me from stirring any whether; till the King was ready to remove to Windsor;' (BL Addit MS 27448, f. 235), while John Keating apologised to Rebecca for the delay in sending his response when he wrote that 'I had ere now answered your *Ladishipp*s, which brought *the* volantary depositions giuen before *Captain* Caulfeild, and his *Letter* but that I haue been severely Afflicted with an old Lameness which hath kept me much in bed (BL Addit MS 27448, f.144r).

Although not apologising about the lateness of his response, one writer closed his letter '(though in his bed) full of ye Gout remaine Y^r assured ffriend to Serue you' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 398r), and the signature 'Townshend', in a different hand to the body of the letter, is shaky, suggesting old age or infirmity. Even when the letter-writer themselves was not indisposed by ill health, the health of a family member also impacted on an individual's ability to respond to their correspondence in an efficient manner, as can be seen in Robert Howard's letter to Sir Robert Paston in June 1680: 'Y^r letter found me in such a confused condition by y^e dangerous sickness of my wife, that I am not able to write more...Pardon y^e confusion I am in that I can write no longer [...]' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.460r).

On some occasions, the writer chose to explain the difficulties they had with writing, not as a result of any physical impediment or lack of suitable writing materials, but because they were struggling to keep up with correspondence. In some instances, the writer simply had nothing to say to the recipient on that particular occasion. Such explanations are perhaps most noticeable in the letters of Sir Robert Paston. In a 1680 letter, Sir Robert asked his unnamed correspondent to 'pray excuse me to our ffriends that I doe not write to each, they being soe Numerous and the tyme too short' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.9r). Similarly, his letter to Sir Nicholas L'Estrange, dated April 1681, expresses a sense of weariness at the prospect of having to write: 'I thanke you for all your letters and punctuall accompts from time to time, you must excuse mee if I doe nott make my returns soe punctuallie, for somtimes thinges are soe yt I am loth to write' (BL Addit MS 27448, 13r). Most of Sir Robert Paston's letters to his wife are full of his joy at having received her letters and expressions of his longing to see her; however, there were occasions when he had less to say to his wife. In June 1666, Sir Robert apologised for the comparative brevity of his letter to her, writing 'My Deare I onelie sett pen to paper to keep my word everie post and for hast beg yr excuse till ye next post' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.307r). His letter, however, is not entirely without content or signs of his love for his wife, and he takes the opportunity to inform Rebecca that he will kiss her hands when he returns to her and that 'Yesterday I solemnelie Kelp my Wedding day with Sr John Holland and diuerse of my friends I had 15 pies in a dish'. In another letter to Rebecca, Sir Robert explained to her that she 'must now expect a verie Short Epistle This day' but

continues to write a full letter before admitting 'My Deare when I gett pen in hand I knowe nott where to end [...] (BL Addit MS 27447, ff. 336r-336v). In another letter to his wife held in the collection of Norfolk Record Office, Sir Robert apologising to her for missing her letter: 'My deare hart, I must take the opportunitie of ill paper to tell you yesterday was the first time I ever missed intelligence from you since I left you, which I impute to the neglect of the post or som other accident' (NRO: BL/Y/1/20 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 74). Sir Robert Paston was by no means the only individual to make reference to failing to keep up with his correspondence, and a letter from William Cecil to Rebecca conveys the apologies from Mr Major who had 'been defective in his letters', but promised to 'make good when hee hath an opportunity of serving your family' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.185v), while Matthew Peckover asked Rebecca Paston to 'excuse me to his Lordshipp if I haue not time to write to him'(BL Addit MS 27448, f.291).

2.8 Sending and Delivering Letters

Many of the seventeenth-century letters within the later Paston family archive bear witness to a period of significant developments in the sending and receiving of letters in England as the period saw the emergence of a national postal network with regular delivery routes and standard prices (Daybell, 2012: 109), but, as we will see from the letters themselves, the new network was not without its flaws. Before the emergence of the postal network, letter-writers put their trust in bearers and carriers, reliance on particular bearers and frustration caused by unreliable ones are evident in the surviving letters, with some bearers named by the writers. Unlike the addresses on the envelopes of present-day letters with exact house numbers and post codes, the addresses used in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries seem vague by comparison. Such delivery instructions (as discussed below) offer an insight into the lifestyles and living arrangements of the addressee, and addresses in towns and cities such as London provide information on the expanding city and also details of lost streets and inns as well as addresses that are still recognisable today.

2.8.1 Addressing Letters

As James Daybell describes, 'the intricacies of postal arrangements make it impossible to speak in general terms of single postal transactions, in the sense of a sole bearer conveying a letter to its ultimate destination. Individual letters often passed through multiple hands as they moved through different stages journeying from sender to recipient' (2012: 111). Many letters within this collection would have made multiple journeys and passed through many hands before reaching the final destination; therefore, one might expect to find clear directions for delivery, but this is not always evident in the contents of the letter or the instructions on the surviving address leaves. One letter contained in BL Addit MS 27448, describes the various stages of the delivery of Abraham Swift's current letter and the response he is expecting William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth, to send to Edinburgh:

if U can geet A bill heare to pay Receue it on London to Receue it I shall with your Lords ships order if you please to direct your Lordsshipe {^Leeter} to me to m^r Jams Clarke Ingraver to the mint in Edenbrough in Scotland I shall Receued it by that time this Leeter coms to London and from London to your Lordship and from your Lordship to London and from London to Scotland I hope to be in Edenbrough Expecting your Lordeship Leetter I cannot heare ffrom my sear vents at home nor cannot ell how to wright to them to send me A Leetter to Edenbrough pray my Lord send to m^r Brand to be shure what Leetters or boxes or bags of ors coms to his hands (f.360).

To guide the bearer in the correct direction and to ensure accurate and safe delivery, addresses were often written with the town of delivery and the name of the closest large town, as can be seen in the addresses of Sir Robert Paston's letters to his frequent correspondent, Edward L'Estrange, when he addressed letters to him 'at Horstead neare Norwich'. As was common for many of the individuals in Sir Robert's family and circle of correspondents, Edward L'Estrange did not remain at a fixed address, moving between residences as work or domestic affairs dictated, and further letters from Sir Robert Paston were addressed to Mr L'Estrange at Gressenhall and Stanninghall. Most of the letters from Sir Robert Paston to Edward L'Estrange that are preserved within the British Library's collection of Paston family correspondence are addressed to Mr L'Estrange at 'Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich', suggesting that Mr L'Estrange was either

lodging with Mr Briggs or was passing mail on to Mr L'Estrange. The transient life of the upper classes in early modern England, moving between family homes, rented accommodation and the homes of friends and family can also be seen in letters sent to Rebecca Paston at various addresses across the affluent, newly developed streets surrounding Westminster and St James's in London. Of the 103 letters addressed to Rebecca Paston within BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988, only eleven are addressed to her at her marital home of Oxnead Hall in Norfolk, two letters addressed to her at Causton near Norwich and one letter is addressed to Rebecca at Windsor. The remaining addressed letters are addressed to Rebecca's various London homes, with twelve letters addressed to her in Pall Mall, eleven addressed to her at the Golden Ball in Suffolk Street (with one further letter addressed to Suffolk Street), four letters bear the address of St James's or St James's Square in London and one letter, dated to 1689, is addressed to the Dowager Countess in Downing Street. Frustratingly, there are no house numbers or further details to help identify the exact location of Rebecca's residences in these well-known London streets, that is with the exception of Downing Street, where it is known that the Countess of Yarmouth lived from 1688–1689 at Number 10 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/history/10-downing-street>).

The mobility of the gentry and nobility in early modern England can also be seen in examples of letter-writers informing the recipient that they would soon be making a journey, such as when Sir Robert Paston wrote that he would arrive in London shortly after the delivery of his letter: 'Yesterday in *the* afternoone, my Son Paston & I parted att 3 of *the* clock hee went to *Norwich* with *Mr* Frayser in my coach to giue *the* *Bishopp* a farewell and his other friends of *which* hee has many & will bee in towne on wedensday soone after this letter [...]' (BL Addit MS 27448, ff.137-138). If the sender of a letter knew that they would soon be moving to another residence or perhaps leaving to attend to business in London, they often asked the recipient to send their reply to a specific address or with specific instructions for the carrier. Sir Robert Paston asked his wife to 'direct ye letter to ye howse of commons' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.324r), while J. Taylor asked Sir Robert to 'Direct y^r letter for mee at M^r Singleton's house in the Bridge Street in Chester & it come safe to my hands' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 457r). Another example of this can be seen in J. Taylor's letter to the Countess of Yarmouth in August 1682: 'I intreat y^r Hon^r to

direct y^r Letters for mee to bee left at M^r Cudworths howse at the Signe of the mann in the East gate Street in Chester and they will come safe to the hands of Madam y^r Hon^rs most humble & faithful servant J Taylor' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.199r). A letter written by a Mr Chudleigh informed the recipient that 'You may direct your letters to me att Whitehall & putt it under a cover directed to Edward Carne Esq att y^e Earl of Middleton's Office in Whitehall London' and a clue as to why his letters may have been directed to another recipient can be seen in his note that the letter was sent 'from on board y^e Henrietta Yacht in y^e River of y^e Meuse the 26. March 5 Aprill 1685' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.241r). The address leaf for BL Addit MS 27448, folio 299 stands out for being written in French despite being addressed to Rotterdam in the Netherlands; no doubt the author, Thomas Paston, took the decision to assist the carriers on the continent to reach the intended destination:

A Monsieur
Monsieur Reeves:
Marchant Angloise
a Sa maison sur Ma la
Rivage des heren a
Rotterdam

In addition to providing sufficient address details that would allow the carrier or bearer to deliver to the correct destination, the letter-writer could encounter an additional problem when addressing a letter if they did not know where the carrier would find the recipient. This can be seen when Sir Robert Paston wrote to Edward L'Estrange that he was 'faine to write by Norwch nott knowing where y^r post lyes' (BL Addit MS 27448, 5r). As can be seen by a large number of the letters within this collection, letters were frequently addressed to be left at the home where they were lodging or the home of a friend where their letters could be safely delivered. Even when the recipient could provide an address for their letters to be delivered, there was no guarantee that the homeowner was happy to receive letters on behalf of another, and Robert Paston wrote to his father, Sir Robert, to ask him to send his letters to an alternative address: 'My Lord my Marchand att Paris (for what reason I know nott) is not very willing to receiue my letters therefore if your

Lord^p please for to direct my Letters onely for me att Madame Maries in Angiers and Pay the postage att London, to Paris they will come very safe to me' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.493r).

2.8.2 Carriers and the emergence of the Post Office

After the letter was written, sealed and addressed, letter-writers would entrust their missives to bearers or messengers who would carry the letter to the intended destination; there are many references to the post and to the delivery of letters within the correspondence of the Paston family. Early modern postal arrangements were complex and, as James Daybell describes, the postal networks of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were intertwined and interlocked and as a result of the idiosyncrasies of the postal network, including 'delays, losses and correspondence that crossed over in untimely fashion', epistolarity should not be thought of in terms of a simple transaction between a sender and recipient (2012: 111). There was no recognisable national postal network until Henry VIII's attempt in 1516 to create a postal system of specific established routes with horses and postboys staged at regular intervals of 10-15 miles along the route (Milne, 2010: 29). Royal messengers would travel the necessary route themselves, using the staging posts to change between fresh horses, and this method ensured that vital royal correspondence remained within their possession. The role of the royal messengers went beyond the mere delivery of official state papers; the messengers had the authority to take suspects into custody and receive payments on behalf of the crown and their official status was reflected in the livery worn by the messengers (Brayshay, 2016: 54). An alternative method of delivery on these established routes was that messengers and post boys could complete parts of the route, passing the papers to other messengers at various staging posts until the papers could be delivered to their final destination. The use of the state post was however initially restricted to the carrying of official correspondence and papers, and it was not until Charles I's proclamation in 1635 that its use was extended to the delivery of public correspondence (Brayshay, 2016: 48).

Before the royal proclamation made the royal post available to the wider public, correspondents had relied on servants, family members, friends, chance travellers, carriers, merchants and official and unofficial letter carriers to carry their epistles

to the addressee (Schneider, 2005: 50) and even with the emergence of the royal postal network, letter-writers employed different methods of delivering their correspondence depending on the 'timing, circumstance and urgency' of the communication (Daybell, 2012: 109). Even well into the seventeenth century, the network covered by the established postal system was still far from comprehensive, with only a limited number of routes that were often not always permanent, and the post did not deviate from the set routes to deliver directly between towns. Letters therefore often had to travel via London before being taken to the intended destination (Milne, 2010: 29).

Following the Civil War, the Post Office was established by Cromwell's parliament in 1657, and subsequently re-established by another Act of Parliament following the restoration of Charles II in 1660. The 1660 Act placed the Post Office under Crown control (Nevala, 2004: 48), and, by the following year, the Post Office had introduced the first date stamp following accusations of delays in the processing of the mail (Nevala, 2004: 49). Many of the letters in the Paston family correspondence bear a date stamp on the address leaf of the letter and this took the form of a round stamp with the first two letters of the month in the top hemisphere and the day in numbers in the bottom hemisphere. Some letters also bear a hand stamp (known as a Bishop's Mark) of two uppercase letters representing a town, though these are not always clear enough to decipher. The emergence of a national postal network not only revolutionised the sending and receiving of correspondence, but, as Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti describes, the faster and more reliable postal network helped to connect people with one another, but also helped to connect people with places such as London (2014: 25). In 1680 a Penny Post was established in London, dividing the city into several postal districts with its own sorting offices where mail would be received and held before being delivered to the addressee's home or business. The Penny Post existed as a private company for only two short years before passing into the control of the Crown in 1682, but Schneider notes the significance of the short-lived Penny Post in London for reconfiguring and simplifying the exchange of correspondence and news within the capital (2005: 51).

The developments in the emergence of an official, national postal network can be seen in small but significant details within letters contained in this collection of

the Paston family correspondence, often flagged in the directions for delivery. John Keatinge's 1682 letter to Lady Jane Ormsby, for instance, states that the letter was 'to be left at the Postoffice at Roscomon' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.103), while a letter addressed to William, second Earl of Yarmouth in 1690 bears the instruction on the address leaf to 'Leaue this to be sent as aboue at the post office in London' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.366v). There is also evidence of letters being delivered to Post Houses in error and not directly to the hand of the intended recipient: 'Wee send y^r Lordships last letter by w^{ch} wee perceiue y^t o^r Letter send to y^e R^t Hon^{ble} S^r Leo: Jenkins did not come to his hand [...] because y^t letter with y^r Lordships was deliuer'd in att y^e post house' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.24r).

Of all of the letters that make reference to sending or receiving letters through the post, most of the references are to the timing of the post, either as a result of the writer struggling to complete their letter in time for that day's post collection, or to apologise that they had missed the post for a particular day. Remarks written by some of the letter-writers suggest that they were not always able to write at leisure and had to be aware of the time constraints imposed by the postal carriers, especially if relying on carriers or bearers making a particular journey. It is also worth noting that apologising for finishing a letter or writing in haste were common letter-writing conventions of the period and may be little more than formulaic attempts at polite convention. Lady Katherine Paston wrote to her son that she 'had thought to haue written to m^r Roberts this time. but this sudene Jorney of this mesinger affordethe me not so much time I pray the remember me very kindly to him and exquse me for this time I will not fayle hime the next oportunyty.' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 65r), while Sir Robert Paston writes to Rebecca that he can write no more as '[...] The Post calls me in hast abruptly' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 335r). Sir Robert's correspondence within Norfolk Record Office also contains further examples of writers, including Sir Robert himself, being forced to cease writing in order to meet the post. In March 1676, Sir Robert wrote to his wife in London in 'I have now noe more to say resolving to bee in the coach by seven in the morning & the post is now going of soe that I must seale my letter with the services of all with mee.' (NRO: BL/Y/1/120). Some of the letters within the collection make reference to the post waiting on the writer to finish writing. Closing his letter to Sir Robert Paston, Robert Kemp wrote 'My humble service to

your lady, your son and daughter, the post onely tarryes till I subscribe my selfe, my lord [...] (NRO: BL/Y/1/71, transcribed in Agnew, 2014: 145), while John Doughty also took the opportunity to apologise for the brevity of his letter, writing to Rebecca Paston that 'the post stayes on purpose for these letters, soe that I am forced to bee short in this relation more then otherwise' (NRO: BL/Y/2/80 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 345). While some writers may have genuinely been forced to bring their letters to a close in order to meet the post, many of the references to the post leaving appear to conform to the early modern convention of writers apologising for finishing their letter or circumstances forcing them to have written with urgency and haste (Nevala, 2004: 38); the timing of the post or bearers leaving for a journey appear to have provided writers with the perfect excuse for ending their missives.

The time of the post also featured in remarks relating to the time of day that letters were sent or received. In the present day, we are used to letters being delivered in the morning, but in the seventeenth-century letters we can see that letters were sent and received much later in the day. In December 1672, Sir Robert Paston wrote to his wife 'I haue this night sent you by y^e post if he will carrie itt a point of my Aunt Berties choise' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.100r), while in May 1669, Thomas Henshaw wrote to Sir Robert that he had received his letter late at night and so would not be able to write a lengthy reply, even though the completed letter was over 1400 words in length: 'It being now neer eleuen at night when my boy came home wth y^e letter, and I being to goe early tomorrow to London where I shall haue no conuenience to write I feare I shall not haue to much time to conuerse wth y^u as I desires' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.93r). Similarly, John Fisher informed Sir Robert that he had 'come late in from beyond Brainford this evening, so that I have only time before the post goes to present mine and my wife's humblest service to you and my lady [...]') (NRO: BL/Y/1/37, transcribed in Agnew, 2012:107).

Just as letter-writers mentioned the time at which their letters were written or sent, so too did they use the lack of time to apologise for missing news or having only the time to write a short missive. One letter from Sir Robert to Rebecca informs the latter of the death of the Bishop of Norwich, and apologises for not having heard of it before he had sent his last letter to her: 'On Friday ye Bishop of

Norw^{ch} died I am sorrie I heard nott of itt time enough to write by that post.' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.370r). In another letter, dated August 1682, Sir Robert wrote to Rebecca that he 'had nott time the last post to answer the particulars of your letter, butt you must needs think they pleased me very well' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.114). When he was not apologising for missing the post or having nothing of significance to write, Sir Robert also made promises to Rebecca to send more substantial letters by the available post, telling her that he will say 'noe more till fridays post & then I shall write att length' and he concludes his letter by writing that he was 'faire to steale this moment to tell you *your* sons Duty & all *the* companys service and *that* I am Eternally Yours' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.116).

Some of the later letters in the collection contain evidence of postage fees having been paid before sending, and examples of this can be seen on address leaves including the note 'post pd' on the address leaf of BL Addit MS 27448, f.350v, and some of these notes also provide details of the cost of the postage, such as the note 'payd 4^d' on the address leaf of BL Addit MS 27447, f. 255v. As with so many of the letters in the collection of correspondence, it appears that the writers often only make mention of the letter-writing and delivery process when expressing their unhappiness or vexation, and Sir Robert Paston makes reference to receiving a letter from his cousin which cost him two shillings: 'Yesterday I had a post which cost mee two shillings a letter from my cousin Wolstan Paston' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.119-20). As a Member of Parliament, Sir Robert Paston was entitled to post letters (but not packets) without charge by 'franking', a privilege that had been granted to MPs in the middle decades of the seventeenth century (<https://historyofparliamentblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/26/franking/> Date accessed: 20 June 2017), and many of the letters in Sir Robert's hand bear the word 'Frank' (or 'franck') and his name, or sometimes simply 'Yarmouth' beside or below the address lines of the superscription.

A frequently used method of transporting personal correspondence and parcels across the country was the use of common or private carriers, or of messengers who would use a network of established routes delivering and collecting correspondence. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when the royal post was not available to most of the letter-writing public, the use of carriers proved to be a convenient and affordable option (Daybell, 2012: 128). The carrier services,

however, were not without their limitations including the speed of delivery and the inconsistency of the routes covered, and many letter-writers in the early modern period make reference to the unreliability of their chosen carrier and bemoan the loss of letters that did not reach their final destination through loss or misdirection. Such was the importance of finding reliable carriers that by the middle of the seventeenth century, publications such as *The Carriers Cosmographie* were providing details of London carriers and their delivery routes across the country. And even before these lists were published, letter-writers had a knowledge of carrier services as well as an understanding of the 'spatial geography' of London (Daybell, 2012: 132). Carriers often operated on a local, ad hoc basis; some carrier firms worked on a more regional basis to connect local routes with the larger, arterial delivery routes that operated across the country (Daybell, 2012: 129).

By far the most famous carriers of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century were Hobsons of Cambridge who had established their business in the 1560s, providing a regular service to London until 1630 (Brayshay, 2016:53). Thomas Hobson (1545-1631) was able to develop such a successful business as a carrier that he was able to employ special carriers for express delivery and run large wagons of six or seven horses instead of small carts to carry items for delivery, and his business proved profitable enough for Hobson to afford a 'sizable' landholding (Daybell, 2012: 129)

The Hobson carriers are mentioned in a letter from Robert Turner to a Mr Leeds, and it is interesting to note that the date of the letter, August 1566, dates the letter to the first few years of Thomas Hobson's carrier business: 'yow shall receyue by hobson the caryer an 4 oranges and xx lemandes from yr coosyn mr Dormer' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.7). It is also worth noting that the sender of the letter was using Hobson's carrier to deliver fruit in addition to the letter. The Cambridge Carrier was famous enough for historian Francis Blomefield to annotate the letter in the eighteenth century noting that Hobson had died in 1630, some 64 years after the date of the letter (he had lived to the grand age of eighty-seven): 'Hobson the {^famous} Cambridge Carrier died 1630'.

In his examination of the postal and carrier networks in early modern England, Mark Brayshay explains that the sender would take the letter to a public place, such as a local inn on the day that a carrier was expected to pass through, or if the carrier was not expected, the letter would be entrusted to the landlord until it could be passed to the carrier (2016:52). Just as letters were collected by the bearer from a local inn, letters could also be left by the carrier for a postboy to collect before delivering to the addressee (Brayshay, 2016: 52), however, it was still common for private carriers to be instructed to deliver specific items directly to the recipient at a specified address (Daybell, 2012: 129). Even when letters were not intended to be delivered there, the inns and taverns in a city such as London would have been well-known and recognisable landmarks for carriers and bearers. Evidence for the importance of inns in the seventeenth century mail network can be found in numerous examples within the seventeenth-century Paston letters of letters being addressed to inns and taverns near the recipient's home or temporary lodgings, and these details within the addresses add another level of colour and detail to the social context of Stuart London and to other major towns and cities across the country:

'Deliver this letter to y^e Carrier of Norw^{ch} w^{ch} lodgeth eyther at y^e Signe of the Bull or the seruants in Bishops gate street' Ralph Sydley to Sir Thomas Knyvett, July 1608 (BL Addit MS 27447, f.148v)

'To the Right Honourable the Countesse of Yarmouth at her house in the Pall Mall over against the green dragon near St James's in London' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.426r)

'Send your Anser by Goodmound Wee be at the vpper halfe moone. Letter to Sir William Paston Baronet (BL Addit MS 36988, f.77v)

In addition to the letters addressed to various inns across the capital, one letter within the collection is addressed to one of the newly fashionable coffee-houses which had first opened in London in the 1650s and were predominantly frequented by men keen to keep up with the latest news and gossip (Picard, 1997:209). Abraham Swift addresses his 1689 letter, written from 'beswick in Comburland', to William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth, 'to be left at M^r Brands Coffe Houss at

the sine of the Raine Bow in S^t Martins Lane neare Chearing Cross' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.360r).

As James Daybell explains in his seminal work on the material culture of early modern letter-writing, 'the centrality of delivery to letter-writing, and the anxiety it occasioned, means that letters themselves reveal much about the nature of postal conditions' (2012, 110). Writing in the 1620s to her son William while he was a student at Cambridge, some seventy miles from the family home in Norfolk, Lady Katherine Paston is clearly a mother anxious about her son's health and wellbeing while they are apart and it is no surprise that among the prayers and advice, Lady Katherine's letters are full of references to the delivery of her letters and those of her son. A late or miscarried letter would have caused alarm for a worried mother and her concern often led her to name the bearers and messengers used to carry their letters. A frequent theme in Lady Katherine's letters is the struggle to find a reliable bearer to carry her letters with the frequency she desired and it is also worth noting that her letters make reference to the use of a foot post to carry her letters which was a more expensive option than a regular carrier or bearer and so would not have been an option available to all letter-writers (Daybell, 2012: 135):

I hope befor this time thow hast receiued my letter, which I sent by younge Jo: Wyteman of Sporll: I haue Likewis inquired out this honest foot post: whose name is Nipps. he haue promysed to deliuer the this letter. so shallt thow {^haue} two: this weeke from me: but I shall want a mesenger for my next weekes letter wherfor it willbe a fort night befor I wright agayne to the :/ (BL Addit MS 27447, f.240r)

I was out of hope to haue written to {^the} this weeke: but that this honest name one of the farmors of sporll. promised me to se it deliuered wth his owne hande to the. it may be thow mightist inquier out som foor post that coms to linne. by saffham. and so thow sholdest heer weekly from me and I from the I haue not heard from hom sinc I cam from thenc nayther haue I had on of thy letters this fortnig[ht] but on munday I expect Callison wth two of thy letters which shall be most wellcom to me. 13 November 1626 (BL Addit MS 36988, f.57r)

It is also a common feature of Lady Katherine's letters to name the carrier she has employed for a particular journey, or to acknowledge the receipt of letters from a particular carrier. One letter to William (BL Addit MS 36988, f.59r, dated 1626 in a later hand), Lady Katherine wrote 'now I haue receiued a packet wth letters from Cambridge: by the hand of yong m^r Stallon: but I haue no time to answer them now', while in another letter dated only as 'good friday', Lady Katherine tells William 'I will wright these two ore three lines to lett the knowe that I did resceiue thy kinde letter by John borows' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.260r). Lady Katherine was keen to inform other correspondents that their letters had been safely delivered and that their chosen bearer or servant was reliable, reassuring one correspondent: 'Good brother, I haue receyved by your man m^r matchett your kinde letter. together wth your koppis of the Accownts' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.179r). The name of one carrier, 'Johnsons', can be found in a handful of letters between Lady Katherine and her son, suggesting that she was sufficiently satisfied with their service to have engaged them on a number of occasions, although the lack of clear dates on so many of her letters make it difficult to be sure if she used them for a shorter or longer period of time. Lady Katherine wrote to her son William 'I hope before this you haue *receiued* my letter by Johnsons the Cambridge Carrier wth 5. ^{li} 10^s sent to good M^r Rob:' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.31r), and in another letter she acknowledges the receipt of two letters from William: 'I haue received two others {^letters} Last by Johnsons. by whom I did not wright, because the mesenger will be wth you sooner then he:/' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 27r). It was not only Lady Katherine who made reference to Johnsons, William too makes reference to using their service and offers to send oranges to his mother: 'if Ther be no oranges att Norwich if yor La: will sende in your next letter we will sende some By Jonson:' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 34r).

While there are many references to bearers and messengers within the Paston family correspondence, there is one remark which stands out as unusual. Thomas Darlington, writing to Lady Yarmouth in October 1696, addressed the letter 'To whence to whom I dare not tell The Barer knowes both partis well |These I hum^{le} send |dd' The contents of the letter and the unconventional address lines led one reader to annotate the letter to ask 'who is Tho Darlington. a crazy man?' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.280r).

Moving between family residences or across the country on matters of business created an additional problem of being able to locate a reliable method of delivering letters from an unfamiliar location, and again, it is Lady Katherine Paston who writes to her son to explain that she is unsure of how to send her letters to him: 'I can not yett learne by what means to send to Cambridge from this plase we are wthin a mill of Swafam. and if you know any other com thether you may wright:' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.55r). While the frustrations expressed by writers such as Lady Katherine were clearly genuine, a comment in her letter to William in a letter dated 1626 in a later hand, we can see that Lady Katherine also tries to bring humour to the letters she writes to her son:

I haue much longed to heer of my foot post. by whom I did send my letter to the wth a lease of pateridges: his nam was nipps. if he did not giue the child a wronge nam: but I feare he is nipt in the Crowne that he is not yett returned. he haue fayled of his promis to me. for he sayd he wold bringe a letter from the as wedensday the 22 but he is not come this thursday {^30} at noon I was very glad to send to the by this good oppertunty of m^r Rawlins his lacky goinge to Norwich, hopeinge he will deliuer these my letters to the Camberidge Carier' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 59r)

Lady Katherine was not the only writer to express frustration at the unreliability of the post and bearers. Abraham Swift, writing to William, second Earl of Yarmouth, in May 1689, wrote that 'yesterday I wright to your Lordshipe at Lardg from keswick Expecting the post would call but hee did not' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.362r). It was also common for the writer to express hope that their earlier epistles had been delivered safely, especially where they may not have received a reply acknowledging their safe receipt, as can be seen in examples such as Edward L'Estrange writing to Sir Robert Paston: 'I hope mine of the 12th, and 22th Instant; came safe to your Lordships hands' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.197).

In addition to delivering the small, carefully folded packets of letters, the network of carriers 'travelling with their team of carts and packhorses' (Wiggins, 2017:144) could also be paid to deliver parcels or larger goods, and the sending and receiving of larger items feature in the correspondence of the Paston family. As we can see in the examples above, the sending of food items such as fruit was common,

especially for a mother ensuring that her son was eating well, and one letter describes the parcel of food she has sent for him for Lent, including 'Cake and Cheese a few pudinges and links: a turkey pie pasty: a pot of Quinces' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.36r) and in another example his aunt sent a 'boxe of Juse of Lickorous' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.29r). In the postscript to her letter, Lady Katherine explains to William that the food has been sent in a trunk which she asks him to use to send his dirty linen to her, including any ruffs that are too small or dirty. Further letters between Lady Katherine and her son show that she was sending him clothing, including a crimson satin suit (BL Addit MS 36988, f.45v), though she decided against sending him his beaver hat (BL Addit MS 36988 f.47r). In another letter to her son, Lady Katherine thanks him for sending her a 'fine payer of wrightinge tables' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.45r). Writing on behalf of his busy wife, Sir John Heveningham thanked Lady Katherine for sending his wife a new hat, 'but she is now restless not to weare any this summer' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.193r), while a letter to Rebecca Paston in 1685 thanks her for the 'very acceptable' papers and books that she had sent (BL Addit MS 27448, f. 302r).

The delivery of letters was not restricted to paid services such as carriers or the postal network; instead, it was common for individuals to employ the services of the official bearers as well as relying on a network of friends, family and servants to deliver letters and parcels on their behalf. The range of individuals who could carry correspondence is perhaps best described by Alison Wiggins who writes that 'the social or occupational category of 'bearer' or 'messenger' was relative and had the potential to be occupied by a wide range of individuals. Persons from across the social spectrum could temporarily or sporadically enter the role and become involved in the delivery process, as and if the occasion required. The fluidity and flexibility of the category of bearer, bringer or messenger mean it had a wide potential for use and customisation in the early modern culture and anyone could, potentially, step into the role of bearer' (2017: 144).

It is possible to get an idea of the range of individuals of all social standings who acted as bearers and messengers to ensure that correspondence was safely delivered. Utilising the services of a trusted friend or servant had the further benefit of allowing additional verbal communications to be shared with the recipient on behalf of the sender. In her detailed discussion of the letters of Bess

of Hardwick, Alison Wiggins explains that Bess understood the benefits of sending her letters in the hand of a trusted bearer: 'A bearer could bring particular skills and knowledge to the communicative encounter. Especially important to Bess were those who could elucidate the detail of a business transaction, such as would be excessively tedious in a letter, as well as open to ambiguity and interpretation' (2017: 148). It is perhaps for these reasons that we find Rebecca Paston delivering papers to James Fraser in June 1680: 'That day deliuered into the hands of M^r Fraser by the Right Honorable My Lady yermouth five papers concerning a Discovery of the mines in the Dutchy of Lancaster...' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 461r). Letter-writers also took advantage of family members and friends who were travelling in the right direction at the right time and could be trusted to carry or deliver letters on behalf of the writer. Evidence from letters in the collection of Norfolk Record Office suggests that Rebecca was in the habit of passing her letters to her husband for distribution. In a letter from April 1676, Sir Robert informed his wife 'I distributed your letters all but Mr Fisher's who is gon with Sir Charles Harbord for a day or too towards the seaside' (NRO: BL/Y/1/134, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 213). A similar reference can be found in a letter from Sir Robert Paston to Rebecca, dated August 1682, in which he refers to the fact that he had 'nott yett sent *your* letter to my Lady Adams, itt shall goe to day' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.114), and references such as this Addit to the sense of letters passing through multiple hands between leaving the hand of the letter-writer and reaching the hand of the recipient, and it is worth noting that Sir Robert does not intend to deliver this himself, but it has been passed to him with the intention of sending the letter on behalf of his wife. Staff and secretaries would also have been reliable messengers and a letter from Robert Paston explains to Edward Montagu that his secretary will deliver letters on his behalf: 'Yours I received, and ye post before haue sent downe a letter to ye Deputy Leiftenants, for my Secretary to deliuer them att ye Sessions [...]' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 376r).

Given her concerns about the safe delivery of her letters, it is not surprising that Lady Katherine Paston was pleased to use friends and servants to deliver her letters when able to do so, writing to William in April 1625 that 'Tom Hartston is glad to be the mesinger of this my Letter, and I am very glad he is' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 43r) and in BL Addit MS 36988 folio 36r writing that 'many of thy fathers

servants wold gladly haue bine the mesenger at this time to haue seen the'. The bearers of letters were also named by individuals acknowledging the receipt of a particular letter, such as Sir Robert Paston informing Rebecca that he had received Sir John Holland's letter from Mr Fisher: 'Mr Fisher his wife & daughter, came hether on Saterdag night, hee brought mee a most ciuill letter from Sir John Holland' (BL Addit MS 27448, 127).

The naming of bearers identified them to the recipient, but, where the recipient was unfamiliar with the bearer, the letter could also serve as a means of introduction or recommendation (Wiggins, 2017: 149). The identification of the bearer would have been of particular importance when the bearer was required to conduct business on behalf of the sender or had been referred to the recipient to discuss a particular matter (Wiggins, 2017: 149). A letter sent from a committee to Sir Robert Paston, dated January 1683, offering their duty and services, also informed Sir Robert that the letter was delivered by the committee's solicitor, Mr George Stebbing: 'Wee whose Names are herevnto Subscribed being the Major part of *the* Comittee Appointed to consider of matters relateing to our New Charter Presume to Send this Bearer our City Sollicitor Mr George Stebbing to Attend your *Lordship* and the *Lord* Paston and to make Tender of our sincere and hearty Acknowledgments of Duty and Services to your *Lordships*' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.194r). Mr Stebbing also acted as bearer for a letter and enclosure sent from Leoline Jenkins to Sir Robert Paston: The Bearer Mr Stebbing late Sheriffe of Norwich adressed himselfe last week by humble Petition to His Majesty in the words herewith enclosed' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.277r). Letters introducing bearers also described their situations, such as Richard Killigrew's letter to the second Earl of Yarmouth and the Dowager Countess, Rebecca, introducing the bearer, Thomas Cotes, and a matter of rents owed to Mr Cotes by a tenant: 'These to be to acquaint your Honor that the bearer here at Thomes Cotes Esquire is Landlord to Peeter gill who haue Mr pigins bill of 40^l vpon me when at 20^l is payd and the orther 20^l which is due upon the said bill peeter gill haue a signed ouer to his LandLord Mr Cotes for Rent due to him which 20^l I haue promised shall be payd to Mr Cotes or order by your Lordshipe with in six days after sight of your Lordshipe if not it will be much to the pregeduce of Peeter gill' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.259).

While the failure to deliver letters would have caused frustration and disappointment for the sender and the recipient, some letters were too important to risk being lost. John Paston's letter to his father Sir William Paston in May 1662 (BL Addit MS 36988, ff.86r-87v) describes his sorrow and grief at the sudden death of his brother William, telling his father that he 'melted into teares att the lose of my Deare Brother'. In addition to asking for mourning clothes to commemorate his brother, John refers to an enclosed paper bearing the 'clause of his last letter' and explains to his father 'I have the hole letter Sr; but I was unwilling to send itt for feare of a miscarriage', the sudden death of his brother making his last letter too precious to entrust to a carrier. Letters which had not reached their intended destination were presumed to have been miscarried. A Mr 'Finch. C.', in a letter to Sir Robert Paston dated August 1679, explained that he had heard that a Parliament writ had come into the possession of Sir Robert but had not yet been sent on to the Sheriff, and asked that it be sent to the Sheriff 'Else I must be forced to look vpon that Writt as either Lost or miscarryd, and seal and send another forthwith by an Exprese to the Sheriff' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.421r). Similarly, two bailiffs writing to Sir Robert Paston explained that they feared that a letter to Sir Leoline Jenkins 'did not come to his hand', and, after they had attempted to investigate what may have happened to the missing letter, they could find nothing and perceived that it had been 'Interrupted'. The bailiffs conclude their letter with a postscript 'for fear of miscarriage againe wee haue presumed to Inclose Sr Leo: Jenkins his letter to yor Lordship wch wee beg may be deliuer'd' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.24r). Neville Catelyn writing to Robert Paston Esquire, brother of the second Earl of Yarmouth, on 3rd December 1687, apologised for his late reply, blaming the post being taken through Norwich instead of the faster route through Beccles in Suffolk: 'I receiued yours of the 19th of November which coming to mee by the way of Norwich laye longer by the way then it Should haue donn our generall postage beeing by Beckles & that is the reason of so late a return' (BL Addit MS 27448, 325r). Similarly, writing to Sir Robert Paston in 1671, John Hobart confirmed receipt of his letter, but commented that the delivery route could have been more direct: 'I haue receiu'd ye favour of your letter wth ye in-closed Duplicate wch might have been much better dispatched from Norwich to London then to haue taken its way by Ox-nead to yr trouble'(BL Addit MS 27447, f.318r). While some letters never reached their intended

destination or were lost entirely, others were returned to the sender when it had not been possible to deliver to the intended addressee. An example of this can be found in a letter written by Sir Robert Paston when he commented 'I writt to him to fincham as hee directed and my letter was returned to mee sealed' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.458r) and a letter in the collection of Norfolk Record Office also makes reference to another of Sir Robert's letters being returned unopened, 'My deare hart, I was yesterday nott a little disturbed to see my pacquet returned mee, which came with a letter of Captaine Lulman's the postmaster heere inclosed' (NRO: BL/Y/2/30 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 289).

2.9 Receiving and Reading Letters

Following the initial salutation, the opening lines of a letter offered an opportunity for the writer to refer to previous letters to confirm that the latter had been received. Writers also made mention of correspondence between themselves and others, as well as conveying dismay that they had not received letters, and such comments also provide further details about the textual networks of correspondence, with numerous letters coming and going on a daily basis from busy households like that of the Earl of Yarmouth. Examples of letter-writers confirming receipt of previous letters can be found throughout the Paston family correspondence, and in a period when formal and informal delivery networks were not wholly reliable, such remarks would have reassured and relieved correspondents. The numerous examples of letter-writers confirming receipt of earlier letter include Thomas Holland opening his letter to Lady Katherine Paston by informing her that 'I receaved y^r letter within 4 dayes after the date of that letter' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.168), while Thomas Bedingfield confirmed receipt of Thomas Knyvett's last letter 'I received yr letter & returne you many thankes for yr lovinge expressions to me and my daughter' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.294r), and the author of a letter to Rebecca Paston acknowledged the safe delivery of her last letter 'I ue the honor of your letter in the Last post (BL Addit MS 36988, f.174r). References to other letters include writers expressing concern or frustration that they had not received the missive they had desired, perhaps because the letter had never been written or as a result of miscarried post, or the mind of an anxious mother might run to concerns about the wellbeing of her son: 'I doe much desire to

heer of thee and thy good tutor, for I haue not receiued any letter scinc mun cam from the;' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.246r).

While the earlier letters within the collection open and close with formulaic constructions offering prayers for the recipient's health, the later letters open with quasi-formulaic constructions acknowledging the safe receipt of previous letters, while the letters are often concluded with constructions requesting replies and providing details for future letters. Sir Robert Paston's affection for his wife is evident through his surviving letters, and in October 1682 he acknowledged receiving her last letter by expressing his desire that it should have been longer: 'I receiued *your* letter of nine sheets and I wish they had beene nineteene, soe well was I pleased with *the* description you made, of *the* ciuility you receiued att court' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.149). Other writers acknowledging another letter were, unsurprisingly, more matter of fact. William Paston was informed that 'I have Recieued your lordships two last letters, and also *the* bill of 30 £' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.381), John Houghton confirmed that 'this day the Mayor Receiued your Lordshippes Letter' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.64) and William Cecil informed Viscount Yarmouth that 'All your letters have thus far come safe Ive one keep close to the posthouse every time' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.159). In matters of business, such as Sir Robert Paston's involvement with local county politics and in his role as Member of Parliament for Norwich, it was important to acknowledge the safe receipt of letters and official documents, especially where the contents may have been of a more confidential nature. Within the Paston family correspondence there are numerous examples of the acknowledgement of earlier letters, often on behalf of a committee, such as Thomas Cories' letter informing William, second Earl of Yarmouth, that 'This daie *Mr* Maior acquainted the Court of Maioralty that he had receiued a Letter from *your* Lordship (BL Addit MS 27448, f. 233). Sir William received a similar acknowledgement from Dr John Collinges: I had the honour yesterday of a letter from *your* Lordshipp intimating the happiness god hath blest His *Majestie*, and this Nation *with* all; Wee had before expresst our ioy for it; and again repeated it, vpon *your* Lordshippes letter' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.349). In some instances, the writer took the opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of another correspondent's epistle, such as Lady Katherine Paston who asked her son to convey thanks to his tutor at Cambridge for taking the time to write to her: 'I pray

remember me to the most worthy good doctor I thanke him for wrightinge to me' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.260r).

In addition to references to previous letters, there are also examples of writers making reference to letters that had yet to be written, either detailing their intentions to write other letters, or asking the recipient of the letter to reply or to send a letter to another correspondent. A rather urgent and forceful request for a response can be seen in a letter to Francis Neave when he is told that 'We expect yr answer without delay after receipt of this letter or otherwise wee shallbe enforced to returne up yr name & neglect to Parlmt w^{ch} may turne to yr trouble.' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.288r). Most of the letter-writers requesting responses to their epistles are much less forceful, with most writers sending simple requests such as 'pray answer this by the next post' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.45), but other writers make more specific requests for the reply, such as John Hargrave's request for advice from Sir Robert Paston: 'Therefore my Lord I humbly craueing a line or two from y^r Hon^r to direct and advise me what is to be done in these matters' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.76). In addition to letters requesting direct responses from the recipient, examples of writers requesting that letters be sent to other correspondents include Sir Robert Paston requesting that Edward L'Estrange to write to a Mr Fincham: 'S^r I forgott to desire that a speedy answer may bee sent by you to Mr Fincham' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.404v) and in a letter to Edward L'Estrange in July 1682, Sir Robert made reference to being requested to write a letter himself, informing L'Estrange that 'the Duke himself has desired mee to write to my Cousin Ayde' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.100r).

Such references to other letters being sent and received capture the overlapping, interwoven nature of the networks of correspondence in the early modern period and provide an insight into the continuous writing, sending, receiving and reading of letters as well as the letters that were never written or never received. In some cases, the letter-writer made reference to multiple letters being sent and received, as can be seen in a letter to Rebecca Paston in which the author, Mr Brunskell makes such a reference: 'I have written several Letters to my L^d at which I perceive his L^dpp is displeas'd [...] I writt a letter in answer to my L^{ds} last letter w^{ch} I suppose my Lord received on Wednesday last' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.482r). Similarly, some letters make reference to the various stages in the communicative

process including previous letters, enclosed documents, the sharing and viewing of letters and expected responses, and an example of this can be seen in a letter by Sir Robert Paston in which he wrote 'the inclosed is a letter from Mr Marriot Mrs Habys sollicitoꝝ to mee, in answer to my cousin Aydes to mee, *whic*h I shewed him [...] lett mee heare from you by *the* next returne' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.104).

2.10 Privacy

It was only in the early modern period that the letter began to be viewed as an 'private' form of communication (Del Lungo Camiciotti, 2014: 21) and just as the early modern period marked a shift in attitudes towards privacy, so too did it mark a change in attitudes towards the preservation of written correspondence; there is a clear relationship and conflict between the two notions. The issues surrounding the preservation of correspondence will be discussed in greater detail below.

Minna Nevala describes the attitudes towards letter-writing in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when letters were not considered wholly private, not only as a result of the often inconsistent and unreliable postal network, but also the fact that letters were often read or circulated within families or within a wider circle of friends and family; as a result of such practices, writers had to be guarded in what they committed to paper, especially where matters of a personal nature were being disclosed (2004: 52). Letters were not always treated as private and personal pieces of writing, and while it was not unusual to share the contents of an epistle as a means of entertainment or as a means of disseminating the latest news (Nevala, 2004: 52), it was also common practice to copy and circulate letters to others within a family or social circle. The correspondence of the later generations of the Paston family include writers informing the recipient that their letter had been shared and read by others within their family or circle.

Many letters within the collection of correspondence make reference to letters being shared for reading or being read aloud, and one letter describes the recipient reading the letter in private before being read to his acquaintances: 'I had present accesse vnto his lordship who pryuatelye red your letter, then calling for m^r hobard and m^r Shepherd he openlye red the same agayne to them [...]' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.223r). In one letter from Sir Robert to Rebecca, he writes that he would have sent an open letter had he known that the recipient would not have

shared the contents of the letter with Rebecca: 'I wonder she shewed you nott my letter, which els I would haue sent open' (BL Addit MS 27448, ff.137-138). In a lovely comment written by Sir Robert to his wife, we see his pride and affection as a grandparent when he asks Rebecca to 'kiss deare little Charles a 100 times for mee' before explaining that he had 'read his letter to severall that were heere' (NRO: BL/Y/2/30, transcribed in Agnew: 2012: 289). Other writers, however, were keen to limit the audience for their letters, William Cecil, in an undated letter which is stained and faded by water damage, asks the addressee, presumably Rebecca Paston, to 'assure mee my letters should not bee shoven to any but the Family' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.204).

Other letters within the collection refer to the author having viewed letters addressed to others, including a letter informing Sir Robert Paston that the letter-writer had 'seen yours of the 6th and 8th instant to Mr Tailor' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.320r), while Thomas Corie informed Sir Robert Paston that his letter was read aloud to the meeting of the assembly: 'My duty Obligeth me to giue y^u am acc^t of y^e receipt of y^e Letter of the 17th Instant, with one enclosed to y^e Maior Justices Sheriffs and Aldermen & Comon-council of y^e City which was opened & Reade in full Asembly this morning' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.82). Other letter-writers, on the other hand, made specific requests that the recipient share their letters with others as a means of sharing and disseminating information, such as Elizabeth Littleton's request to Rebecca Paston to 'pray lett my Lord Priuey Seale See this paper to morrow' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 476r), and Sir Robert Paston asked one recipient 'I beg of you to shew his Majesty & my Lord Hide this Letter, & the enclosed paper' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.120). It was not only letters that were shared and viewed by others, as can be seen by Thomas Bedingfield's comment that the books had been 'perused' by himself and were to be viewed by Thomas Knyvett's son and his counsel: 'I received y^{rs} of the 27th present & accordinge to yor day have pervsed the bookes & returned them by yr sonne that you & yr Counsell may pervse them' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.296r).

Just as the reading of letters was often a far from private experience, so too the letter-writing process could involve collaboration and multiple voices. Letter-writers in the early modern period often relied on the involvement of an amanuensis or family member to assist with the process of composing and writing a

letter, there is also evidence of multiple writers within the same letter. Gabriella Del Lungo Camiciotti described such evidence as emphasising the notion that letter-writing was a 'collaborative, layered process rather than a private two-way exchange' (2014: 21). BL Addit 27448, folio 127, contains a letter from Sir Robert Paston to his wife, Rebecca, but the letter also contains postscripts in the hands of James Fraser and her son, William. The authors of both postscripts send their salutations and respects to Rebecca, and William sends his regards to his wife, Charlotte. Rather than sending their own letters, James and William have evidently been present while Sir Robert was writing the letter to his wife and have been offered the chance to add their own brief notes, in a fashion not dissimilar to a telephone being passed around a room to allow those present to pass on their regards.

2.11 The Paston Cipher

'The letter therefore remained a deeply insecure medium, which had obvious consequence for composition. Letter-writers were careful what they committed to paper, and sought to preserve the integrity of their correspondence through sealing, requests to burn missives and use of secret codes' (Daybell, 2012: 110)

The lack of a secure, reliable postal network as well as early modern attitudes towards the privacy of correspondence meant that letters remained vulnerable to interception in transit or being read by someone who was not the intended recipient. Such concerns would have weighed on the minds of letter-writers and may have had an impact on the composition of the letter, especially for letters containing diplomatic secrets or sensitive personal information, and while some writers may have warned the recipient about the insecurity of the letter, others may have decided against committing their secrets to paper (Nevala, 2004: 52). Other letter-writers, on the other hand, were not deterred from sending their letters and developed ingenious methods to protect the contents of their letters such as the use of secret posts or the use of codes and ciphers (Del Lungo Camiciotti, 2014: 28).

Sir Robert's letters to his wife were not constrained to domestic matters and married life, instead he kept his wife informed of his political affairs and goings-on

within upper class society in London and Norfolk, and he enjoyed informing her of his business, 'I can now tell thee most comfortable newse w^{ch} is that this day my business was reported in Parliament [...]' (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 329r). It is clear from the surviving letters that he valued his wife's opinions and advice, and it is clear also that Rebecca was more ambitious than her husband and she was keen to promote the family to increase their influence and improve their finances.

Contemporary accounts of her personality suggest that Rebecca was capable of making enemies and had a tendency to look down on others (Agnew, 2012: 18).

The letters between the couple contain mention of many individuals who were important politicians and influential figures in the court of Charles II, and with discussions of such important individuals and the advancement of Sir Robert's career, there were obvious concerns over the letters falling into the wrong hands and the trouble that this could cause for the couple and their acquaintances.

Evidence from the letters of Sir Robert Paston shows that he was keen to discuss his affairs with his wife, but that they did not trust the safety of the postal service and when he informed his wife of the return of an acquaintance, he wrote 'I hope I shall thence have a full narrative of such perticulars as you will nott trust the common post with [...]' (NRO: BL/Y/1/148, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 230).

With no other means of communicating over distance, early modern people were forced to write intimate and confidential information that they might otherwise have preferred to share orally (Hunt, 2016: 193), and while paper was the perfect medium for transmitting this information across distance, it was also ideal for destroying after the contents had been read and understood (Hunt, 2016: 192).

Many Early Modern letters contained instructions for destruction after reading, but this practice only ensured that the letters could not be read by others after they had been delivered to and read by the recipient. To allow themselves to communicate confidentially, and at the same time protecting the identity of the men and women discussed in their letters, the Pastons developed their own personal ciphers. Though known as the Paston cipher, James Daybell explains that in the strictest sense, a list of names, symbols and numbers to replace names and selected phrases, such as that employed by Sir Robert Paston, should more accurately be referred to as a code as a cipher replaces individual letters of the alphabet with other letters or symbols (2012: 270 n.28.).

At least five separate ciphers were used by Sir Robert and Rebecca between 1675 and 1682, and Agnew writes that the ciphers were most likely changed at the end of each period of separation (2012:387) through updating the names and the corresponding numbers or symbols; changes to the names on the lists would have reflected the changes in the Paston's circumstances and affairs at that time. Two of their ciphers are preserved in the collection of Paston family correspondence, BL Addit MS 27447 f.303 and f.304, the former a simple numerical cipher and the other containing astrological symbols. At the top of the cipher list is the King, Charles II, who is represented by an inverted triangle in f.304 and a capital L in f.303, followed by a square representing his Queen, Catherine of Braganza, in f.304 and a capital M in f.303. The list contains the names of powerful figures, including the Lord Privy Seal, the Lord Chancellor, and the Bishop of London, as well as famous names from court including Mrs Knight, a singer and reputed mistress of the King. Their cipher list also included symbols for themselves, Sir Robert was 7 and Rebecca was 6, as well as symbols representing their son William and his wife Charlotte (the illegitimate daughter of Charles II), Rebecca's brother John Clayton and members of the Bedingfield family. In addition to this cipher, BL Addit MS 27447, f.303 contains another numerical cipher which again lists the great and the good of the day and include ciphers for the terms *friend*, *enemy* and *trusted*. As Agnew describes, for letters where no cipher keys exist, identification of the individuals being discussed relies heavily on the context of the letters, the frequency with which symbols were used and the date of the letter, and for the later letters which used the cipher, Agnew writes that the lack of biographical information and fleeting comments has made identification of some of the individuals virtually impossible (2012:388). Many of Sir Robert Paston's letters within the British Library collections include the use of the Paston Cipher as can be seen in an example from Addit MS 27448, f.127: 'what you write mee concerning 5 31 to N is strange & of 6: butt I hope you will keep all ciuill euerie where Pray remember_ mee very kindly to 7 32 thinkes itt would doe very well if 7 were N friend butt I know nott what to say you vnderstand best, and now I am fluttering on the paper for I expect your letters by beckles post'.

The use of ciphers was not unique to the Pastons and many other early modern letter-writers employed their own ciphers to communicate with secrecy at a time

when anything that could be misrepresented or perceived as seditious could result in not only the loss of status and the ruin of a family, imprisonment or even execution. It is no great surprise that the use of coded correspondence increased at times of war and persecution. As Akkerman describes, the use of cryptography was not uncommon from the Middle Ages onwards and was 'the domain of the respectable diplomat as well as the shadowy servant (2016: 70). Some of the best-known examples of Early Modern secret letters are those relating to the court of Elizabeth I, such as the letters of her cousin, Mary Queen of Scots, who was trained to encrypt her letters at a young age to ensure that she had adequate knowledge of how to protect her correspondence, and to protect herself (Akkerman, 2016:71). The extent to which early modern correspondents and their secretaries were proficient in the use of codes and ciphers can be seen in the fact that over three hundred cipher keys dating from the reigns of Elizabeth I to Charles II are currently held within the National Archives at Kew (Akkerman, 2016:71). In addition to the use of coded and enciphered correspondence, which would arouse suspicions if they were to fall into the wrong hands, writers could also protect their writing through the process of steganography which obscured the use of a code or cipher from prying eyes, such as the use of a cutout stencil to draw attention to particular words in a text, or the use of an invisible 'sympathetic' ink manufactured from citrus fruit juice, milk or urine which would oxidise when it came in contact with heat, thus revealing the hidden text (Akkerman, 2016: 80).

2.12 Enclosures and Copy Letters

In November 1686, Rebecca Paston, by this date styled as the Dowager Countess of Yarmouth, received a letter containing examples of her grandson's Latin verses: 'I writ to day to My Lord to giue him an account of My Lord Paston's health, learning and parts, and knowing how dear he is to y^r Ladyship I am confident y^r Ladyship will not take it vnkindly that I Send you a copie of my Lords letter, in which y^r Ladyship will see that he is very well now thank god, &c. you will find also in it two of My Lord Paston's latin verses, and a latin passage of an Authour called Quintilian [...]' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.252r.). On other occasions, Sir Robert Paston sent enclosures to his wife for her to view before asking that she forwards to another recipient and this can be seen in a letter from October 1682 in which Sir

Robert wrote to his wife ' I pray when you haue perused *the* inclosed send itt to Sir Leoline Jenkins'(BL Addit MS 27448, f.149).

The sharing of letters was not restricted to passing letters around to be read within a family, and the evidence from the collection of the later Paston letters is that the letters of others were passed between correspondents to share information, avoiding the need to reproduce its contents. Within the correspondence of Sir Robert Paston and his associates there are many references to other letters being enclosed for personal reading or for forwarding on to other correspondents in order to disseminate important information without having to make a copy of the letter.

In some instances, the enclosures contained draft copies of letters and documents for the recipient to review or redraft, such as that sent to Sir Robert Paston from W. Montagu 'who had inclosed the draught of Such a Letter to M^r Dunstar' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.419r). A number of Sir Robert's letters to his wife and Edward L'Estrange make reference to them forwarding documents for Sir Robert's information, or to allow him to sign papers, and this can be seen in his 1681 letter to L'Estrange when he confirmed 'I haue signed all y^e comissions you send mee w^{ch} will bee sent downe by y^e fridayes coach' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.36r). In most instances, however, the enclosed letters and documents are sent solely to disseminate information as can be seen in the following examples:

I had the Honour this morning to read {^to his Majesty} yor Lordships letter if the 13th that you were pleasd to favour me with, as also the Informac*ion* inclos'd in it: I also acquainted Him with what my Lady the Countesse of yarmouth {^had sayd and writt} relating to the same matter. (BL Addit MS 27448, f.125)

I take leave to enclose to y^r L^p my Letter to y^e Mayor of yarmouth (BL Addit MS 27448, f.20)

I Received Orders from them to draw up this Enclosed Letter which Was unanimously Signed by them (BL Addit MS 27448, f.187)

I haue Inclosed sent *your honour* by *mr Crasoe* a Coppy of *the* relation ffrom *Mr Thomas Gostling esquire* and also of *your* letter I sent to my lord Hide I haue nothing to Addit at present BL Addit MS 27448, f.123r)

Sr I haue receiued yo^r lre together with the counceles lre therein enclosed (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 120r)

Just as the correspondents shared the letters of others sent as enclosures, they also shared official documents and accounts for the managing of the family estates and other business matters. One such reference can be found in a letter from John Heveningham to Lady Katherine Paston; 'I haue sent you at last the coppys of the Accounts of both ffeffments ingrossed in books of the bearer' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.170r). References such as this in letters to a woman also serve to remind us that women such as Lady Katherine were very much involved in the management of the family estates, in Lady Katherine's case managing estate matters during her husband's episodes of ill health, and would have needed to have a good understanding of financial and business matters. Unsurprisingly, most of the letters with enclosed documents are to male recipients, and a number of Sir Robert Paston's correspondents mention of the enclosures they are sending with their own letter, such as Robert Doughty's opening lines in a letter to Sir Robert, 'I hare inclose you a draught of y^e proofs in y^e Case of the Knights of y^e Shire' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.406r). Within the letters of Sir Robert Paston himself, we find numerous references to enclosed letters and documents being passed between Sir Robert and his wife, and even forwarded on to others, as can be seen in his instructions to Rebecca in September 1679, when he tells her 'when you have perused y^e inclosed tack itt downe & send itt to M^r Fox' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.436r). In a 1681 letter to Sir Robert, Sir Leoline Jenkins explains that he has enclosed his letter to the Mayor of Yarmouth 'tis as y^r L^p commanded it, with a flying seal, y^t y^r L^p may please to peruse' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.20r).

2.13 Copy and draft letters

Not all of the letters contained within this collection of correspondence were prepared for delivery to an intended recipient. A number of the letters are clearly labelled as copies by the author, including copies made in the hand of Sir Robert

Paston; however, many more letters held within this collection do not have an address leaf or and do not include any signs of the letter having been sent or prepared for sending, and while it is possible that a separate address leaf for some of these letters has been lost over time, it is also possible, and indeed likely, that a number of these letters represent copies of the actual letters and documents that were sent to the addressee. Daybell writes that it was not uncommon for letter-writers to make neat copies of their outgoing correspondence for the purposes of filing (2016: 60). The documents marked as copies are, for the most part, letters intended for the King or Yarmouth's friends and political associates and the contents of the letters must have been considered important, or dangerous, enough to retain a copy either for his own records or as a means of proving what was sent in the event of letters being misdirected or lost. In many cases, the draft copies made by Sir Robert have been labelled as such in his own hand, as can be seen in BL Addit MS 27448, f.44, when he wrote a note identifying the document as 'A copy of A Letter to the Attorney General'.

It is, of course, also possible that many of the letters that do not have evidence of posting were draft copies made to prepare a composition before sending, especially when preparing a lengthy document on a matter of important business. The untidy, blotted letters in the hand of Rebecca Paston without dates, addressees or evidence of sending such as address leaves would most likely be draft letters. The cramped pages full of crossings out and ink blots would have been too messy to send and, as Daybell points out, it was not uncommon for writers to keep their untidy, rough drafts as copies (Daybell, 2016: 60).

2.14 Afterlives of the Correspondence of the Paston Family

Any discussion of the correspondence of the Paston family would be incomplete without considering the afterlives of late medieval and early modern letters and how collections such as this came to be preserved. We are very fortunate that the letters of the Paston family and their correspondents have survived from the fifteenth century through to the end of the seventeenth century, and in such great numbers. Their miraculous survival though the centuries is remarkable when we consider the fragility and ephemeral nature of the material artefacts, but is all the more remarkable when we consider the wilful and routine destruction of

correspondence that went on within the lifetime of the correspondents, and it is likely that family members may have chosen to destroy collections of correspondence following the death of a loved one to protect their memory and privacy in death, especially if the content of the letters was of a personal and intimate nature. In his discussion on the preservation and destruction of Early Modern letters and documents, Arnold Hunt explains that Early Modern letters were viewed as forms of speech and as such lost their voice with the death of the writer (Hunt, 2016: 190).

The correspondence of the Paston family was discovered following the death of William Paston, the second Earl of Yarmouth, but as soon as the chests of letters were discovered, they came perilously close to being lost forever. The fortunes of the Paston family had declined significantly in the late seventeenth century and the family finances continued to spiral into greater debt so that the second Earl of Yarmouth spend the last years of his life 'staving off bankruptcy by the narrowest of margins' (Castor 2005: 3). Predeceased by his sons who had all died without issue, when the second earl died in 1732, the estate passed to the hands of his son-in-law who oversaw the sale of the valuable contents of Oxnead Hall in 1734 before its partial demolition and the liquidation of the estate in order to repay some of the Paston debts (Stoker, 1993: 112). In the midst of the dispersal of the family's possessions and as Oxnead Hall began to fall into severe disrepair. Reverend Francis Blomefield, a local rector, was fortunate enough to be allowed to view the Paston muniments to gather material for his history of Norfolk and discovered the Paston family's collection of correspondence as well as deeds, leases and court rolls in as many as 40 chests of 'antique curiosities and evidences of Norfolk' (Stoker, 1993: 112). Following Blomefield's discovery of the letters, he wrote to the late Earl of Yarmouth's son-in-law:

There are innumerable letters, of good consequence in history, still lying among the loose papers all which I layd up in a corner of the room on an heap, which contains several sacks full; but as they seemed to have some family affairs of one nature or other intermixed in them, I did not offer to touch any of them, but have left them to your consideration, whether, when I go to that part of the country, I shall separate and preserve them, or whither you will have them burned, though I must own 'tis a pity they

should; except it be those (of which there are many) that relate to nothing but family affairs only. I have placed everything so that now the good and the bad are distinguished and preserved from the weather, by which a great number have perished entirely (Castor, 2005: 3).

We cannot be sure how many letters were destroyed by exposure to the elements as the house fell into ruin, or how many of the letters, if any, were thrown on the fire (Castor, 2005:3). The letters were acquired by various collectors and in 1787, John Fenn's edition of the fifteenth-century Paston Letters was published and became an instant success, and the Paston family and their letters were introduced to new generations of readers. The survival of these ephemeral items over the centuries is remarkable, but is all the more so when we consider the contemporary attitudes towards the preservation of correspondence.

Within the collection of the correspondence that is directly linked to Sir Robert Paston, Viscount Yarmouth, and his immediate family, it is interesting to note that so few of the letters that survive are from his beloved wife, Rebecca, especially as it is evident from Sir Robert's letters that he was in almost daily contact with her. The letters and documents that do survive in Rebecca's hand or contain her signature date to after the death of her husband in 1684. An explanation for so few of Rebecca's letters surviving can be found in a letter from Sir Robert to Rebecca from September 1675 when he writes to her '[...] your letters after I have read them over tenn times I committ to the fire [...]' (NRO: BL/Y/1/105, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 176). Another letter held in Norfolk Record Office dated May 1676 confirms that the burning of his wife's letters was a regular occurrence, 'I burne all your letters when I have read them over and over and keep none by mee [...]' (NRO: BL /Y/ 1/ 151, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 235). It is touching, and again indicative of the affection he had for Rebecca, that Sir Robert did not feel able to burn the letters of his wife as soon as he had read them, choosing instead to reread her words and commit her lines to memory before placing them in the fire. The destruction of Rebecca's letters seems all the more unusual when her husband's letters are preserved in such a vast collection of correspondence spanning centuries and generations of his family, and this is perhaps best summed up by Jean Agnew when she writes that 'sadly, he appears to have the one member of his family in three centuries of letter-writing to obey the command

“burn this” (2012: 19). Rebecca did not only give this order when writing to her husband, and in a letter to one of her Clayton cousins, dated 22 July 1675, which is now held in Norfolk Record Office, she asks her cousin 'Pray burn This when you have read all:' (NRS 4008), although it is possible that a proud and ambitious woman like Rebecca Paston may have also wanted her letters destroyed to ensure that details of her debts and numerous requests to borrow money were kept private in a bid to save face and protect her status and pride.

Rebecca was not the only individual within this collection of correspondence to ask for the destruction of her letters, no doubt for fear that the contents might fall into the wrong hands. Lady Elizabeth Littleton writing to Rebecca Paston in July 1680 discussing the Privy Seal and a 'Mr Arum' includes a short postscript 'pray Madam burn my letters' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.477r), though the survival of three of Lady Elizabeth's letters show that her request, on this occasion at least, was ignored by Rebecca, perhaps retaining them for her own insurance. While Rebecca was clearly insistent that her own letter should not be kept after reading, she clearly retained those of her husband, perhaps considering the Paston's large family home in Norfolk too full of visitors and strangers to be safe (Agnew, 2012: 18), and as Minna Nevala explains, 'home did not always mean privacy' (2004: 53). In addition to the concerns about the privacy of her own home, she may also have had concerns about the safety and privacy of their letters while her husband was travelling between Norfolk and London.

In addition to the concerns about the information contained within their letters, Arnold Hunt has also suggested that the instruction to destroy letters may also have served as a means of emphasising intimacy and trust between correspondents:

[...] letters could also play with the conceit of burning a letter as part of what might be termed a rhetoric of intimacy, a way of signifying that they were opening their true mind and admitting their correspondents to a level of trust from which others were excluded. (Hunt, 2016: 191)

As a result of Sir Robert respecting his wife's wishes to have her letters destroyed we cannot be sure if her request was made to save the couple from the

embarrassment of their gossip, indiscretions and discussions of finances being viewed by prying eyes, even with the added secrecy of their cipher, or if it was merely a means of retaining their intimacy and privacy as a married couple. Whatever motivated Rebecca to ask her husband to destroy her letters to him, her request, and similar requests made by her contemporaries, reflect changing attitudes towards privacy in the Early Modern period as well as an apparent understanding of the afterlives of letters and documentary records.

2.15 Keeping and Archiving Letters

In addition to the use of coded letters and the burning of letters to protect correspondence, important letters and documents could be locked away for safekeeping and two letters from Sir Robert Paston to Edward L'Estrange explain that his documents are so secure that he cannot access them as his wife has gone away with the key to the room in which they are stored:

'The presidents or formes of commissions I promised to send are soe carefully locked vp in a roome my wife has y^e key of att Windsor y^t I cannott yett com by them [...]'

(BL Addit MS 27448, f.32r)

'pray send me vp all y^e commissions by y^e Norwich coach, I haue formes by mee of all butt my wife has taken away y^e key where they are to Windsor with her' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.28r)

It was not only the matters of business and government that required safekeeping, and a 1669 letter from Sir Robert Paston's brother-in-law, Sir John Clayton, he described his young daughter's delight at receiving letters and her habit of locking her precious letters away. He wrote that 'my daughter Mis is exceedingly delighted at her letters, [...] I assure you she takes herselfe to be somebody now and lockes up her letters in her cabinet with great care' (NRO: BL/Y/1/28 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 86).

Earlier letters within the collection also make reference to letters being kept. A letter from Robert Turner to a 'Mr Leedes' of Clare Hall, Cambridge, dated August 1566 informs the addressee that his letters had been received by his master ' which

when he hadde redde he deliuered them vnto me to be kepte' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.7r).

The surviving Paston letters were discovered in the muniments room of Oxnead Hall while the house and its contents were being broken up to sell, and Blomefield noted that the room contained some 30 or 40 trunks of letters and family papers (Stoker, 1993: 112). James Daybell notes that the survival of personal correspondence, in particular the letters of female correspondents, depended greatly on the family's own tendency to hoard letters and documents, and this varied from family to family with some families keeping nothing, and others, such as the Pastons, retaining vast quantities of the family papers and personal correspondence (2006: 35). As discussed above, not all writers wanted to have their letters preserved beyond the point of the letter being read by its recipient, but other writers made conscious efforts to store and protect their letters, in the short term at least, but it is thanks to these individuals that we are fortunate enough to be able to study a wealth of early modern correspondence, and in some instances, writers commented on their letters being away for safekeeping.

2.16 Summary

This examination of the material culture of early modern letter writing reiterates and supports the notion that every aspect of letter-writing was prescribed or dictated by the social conventions of the day. As Whyman explains, 'the rank, kinship, and relationship of the writer and reader had a material impact on every part of the letter. These factors affected format and spacing, width of margins, quality and number of sheets of paper, forms of address, amount of space dividing parts of the letter, and even the number of lines filled with 'humble services' (2009: 21).

The formation of the lines on the page through spelling and punctuation was not yet standardised, and private letters display idiosyncrasies and personal systems, but the creation of the physical object of the letter and the surface appearance of the letter were heavily governed by social conventions as well as being constrained

by the materials and services available to letter-writers. In the case of many letter-writers, it is the physical object of the letter, from its materials to the use of its space and its distribution, that is arguably the most standardised part of the entire writing process. It is notable that even the most personal communication is governed and regularised by social expectations and social status and there is no part of the physical letter that does not convey some kind of message of respect, deference or social status.

The choice of letter-writing materials was standardised or regularised in the sense that there was no great variation in the materials available to writers to create their letters until the emergence of the steel pen in the later decades of the seventeenth century. Writers could buy the best quill feathers they could afford (though this in itself was governed by personal status and wealth, or lack thereof), and different feathers may have had different qualities for the writer, but they were ultimately variations on the same writing tool. Writers did not have the option of different types of pen, and the choice of writing surface became greater as more affordable, English paper increased in availability in the seventeenth century, but writers were constrained by the materials available to them and what they could afford to use in their everyday correspondence. The appearance of the letter was, of course, individualised through the use of personal seals and the often distinctive handwriting of the writer.

Early written correspondence was read aloud and shared around, but silent reading practices made personal correspondence, for the most part, a private communication. In spite of this, the act of communication between two individuals, even when sharing private and sensitive details with one another, is structured and created under the constraints of social expectations and conventionalised practices. Even in the most intimate, personal communications, the adherence to expectations and the correct representation of one's status is immediately apparent.

The emergence and development of a national postal service in the seventeenth century also standardised and regularised the physical object of the letter, standardising the prices of delivery for the small, rectangular letters which had been sealed and secured with wax and with directions for delivery written clearly

on the front. The development of a national postal network in the seventeenth century is also testament to the growth in literacy and the proliferation of letter-writing as both a polite pastime and a vital means of communication across the country. Susan Whyman's introduction to her detailed study of eighteenth-century English letter-writing states that 'During the eighteenth-century, the pen, the post, and the people became permanently connected to each other' (2009: 3), and while it is true that postal networks expanded and letter-writing increased in the eighteenth century, it is clear that this process was already well under way in the seventeenth century, laying the foundations for standardisation for subsequent generations of letter-writers.

Chapter 3

3.1 Early Modern Women's Correspondence

With the exception of the letters written by Lady Katherine Paston to her son William Paston (which were the subject of my 2009 M.Phil. thesis), London, British Library Addit Manuscripts 27447, 27448 and 36988 contain relatively few documents from or written by female correspondents.

The largest of the manuscripts in this collection is BL Addit MS 27447 and 229 of these documents have been transcribed for this current study. Of the 229 documents contained in this manuscript, 38 of these are from female correspondents, only 16% of the documents preserved within this manuscript. These 37 letters from female correspondents represent only ten individuals, with 22 of the letters by Lady Katherine Paston. BL Addit MS 27448 represents the smallest number of female letter-writers, with less than 3% of the 180 documents that have been transcribed being the work of only three women, including Rebecca Paston, Viscountess Yarmouth.

There is a stronger representation of female letter-writers within BL Addit MS 36988, with 25% of the 129 transcribed documents representing the writing of eight individual women.

If we combine all three manuscripts that make up the collection of correspondence that will be discussed in this study, female correspondents represent only 14% of the 538 documents that have been transcribed for examination.

In order to fully understand the education and literacy of women in Early Modern England it is important to consider the position of women and the expectations placed on them by their families and English society as a whole. The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries saw great social and religious change as well as the turmoil of religious persecution and these factors as well as the increased availability of printed books greatly influenced the increasing levels of literacy in this period for both men and women. The following discussion will consider the level of education received by women in the early modern period and their personal spelling habits,

providing specific examples from the letters themselves which will be marked by the use of angled brackets, <...>.

The education received by women in the Early Modern period varied greatly from family to family and across generations and branches of the same family and was heavily influenced by the social and economic standing of their family and even their family's attitude towards the education of women. Helen Jewell sums up education for women in Early Modern society when she writes that "throughout the period girls were educationally disadvantaged." (Jewell, 1998: 11)

Girls in unusually privileged circumstances, such as the daughters of Kings and their trusted advisers, were in the exceptional position that they could receive an education that would rival that of the most privileged and educated men. Margaret More, daughter of Sir Thomas More, and, of course, Princess Elizabeth, the future Elizabeth I, were fortunate enough to receive a humanist education from some of the foremost academics and thinkers of the period, including Juan Luis Vives and Roger Ascham, and both women were able to write persuasively and eloquently in English, Latin and French. The humanist education covered a range of subjects including 'grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, and moral philosophy', and was intended to prepare young men for careers in the church and public office (Houston, 2002: 31); extending such education to women was unusual. Humanist academics and thinkers including Sir Thomas More were open to the education of women and supported the radical idea that women were capable of displaying the same intellectual capabilities as men; however, the education of women would be restricted to a domestic context as they fulfilled their female duties as wives and mothers. Not only was it unusual to receive a prestigious humanist education, accepting attitudes towards the education of women was far from typical and well-educated women would have been viewed by most men as being 'learned beyond her sex' and even treated with hostility (Houston, 2002: 145, 146). Women could be educated and highly intelligent, but they were also expected to have practical, feminine skills that could show her to be a sociable and accomplished young woman. Even while receiving a high standard of education from the best scholars of the day (Jewell, 1998: 59) that allowed her to prepare a book of translations as a gift for her stepmother Katherine Parr, Elizabeth is also reputed to have exhibited her feminine skills with a needle and thread when she embroidered the

elaborate cover for one of her translations

(<http://genius.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/exhibits/browse/le-miroir-de-lame-pecheresse-the-mirror-of-the-sinful-soul/>. Accessed 20 July 2017).

The education received by most girls and young women in the medieval and Early Modern periods prepared them for a life as a good wife and mother, and as the manager of their own household. It was common for girls from gentry families to be sent to live with families of an equal social standing to continue their training to become accomplished young women ready to make a good marriage. A good marriage was not only desirable for the young lady, but the fortunes of her own family could be made or lost through her choice of husband and the success of the marriage. Rosemary O'Day describes the often-forgotten role of a wife within her household. The husband was the master of his household, but his wife held an important role there: 'the woman's role was so important that it was commonly believed that it was impossible for a man to head a household successfully without a wife, yet a widow could run a farm and household without remarriage' (O'Day, 1982: 179). The time spent with other gentry families not only improved girls' practical skills but was also an opportunity to refine their social skills and 'learn the elaborate manners necessary to hold a place in polite society' (Virgoe, 1989: 98). That the education of girls was not a priority for Early Modern parents, however, can be seen in documents such as the 1610 will of Anne, Lady Newdigate in which she states 'that my boys may be brought up in good learning and both they and my daughters be bred up in virtuous and godly life' (Fraser, 2002: 146). Girls were expected to 'learn how to behave to one another and to follow the occupations of civilised life: music, embroidery, dancing and exercises such as archery and hunting' (Orme, 1989: 154).

In order to understand women's literacy in Early Modern society it is important to understand how children were taught to read and write and the range of skills that were required to master each level of literacy (Hubbard, 2015: 557). Children first taught to read printed gothic 'black letter', starting with the letters of the alphabet and progressing to the Lord's Prayer and other short Christian texts (Thomas, 1986: 99). Once the printed gothic type was mastered, some – though not all – would move on to the simple Roman type. Keith Thomas describes how it was likely that early modern readers would have found Roman type a more

daunting prospect than the 'black letter' type, and it was not always the case that understanding of one type also meant understanding of the other (1986:99). Just as some were able to master one type over another, some people were able to read printed texts but were never able to read handwritten documents, especially given the range of scripts that were in use in the period including Secretary and cursive scripts (Thomas, 1986: 100). In the present day we do not tend to think of reading and writing as being part of the same skill set, but in Early Modern society it would not have been unusual to find individuals who were able to read, but who had never learned to write (Hubbard, 2015: 557). Such a situation may be linked to statements such as the following:

Both at the time and in our century commentators have remarked that seventeenth-century women's spelling performance is worse than men's (Sönmez, 2000: 405)

Hubbard has critiqued some of the ways in which academics and historians have attempted to measure female literacy levels. Some historians have measured female literacy based upon the number of women who were able to sign their names in full, while others have argued that the ability to sign one's initials was indicative of a certain level of written literacy (Hubbard, 2015: 555-556). Hubbard argues that statements based on such quantitative data, e.g. the work of David Cressy, do not actually reveal the extent to which these skills were employed by the women who had learned them and it is also worth noting that the ability to write was not necessarily a reflection of their ability to read (Hubbard, 2015: 557). The collection of Paston family correspondence contains evidence of letters written by a secretary, such as the letters of Eleanor Rutland and Mary Heveningham, but this is not definitive evidence that these women were unable to write for themselves, and both women were able to sign their letters or add short postscripts to the letters. For many women (and men) the use of an amanuensis was not necessarily a reflection of their own levels of written literacy; instead the decision to use a scribe may have been based on physical considerations such as ill health or poor eyesight, or for practical reasons. For female letter writers there was the additional consideration of being able to write but being ashamed of their handwriting and spelling, especially when writing to individuals outside of their family or their usual circle of correspondents, and even women who were

confident and competent letter writers employed an amanuensis when writing official petitions and formal letters, as can be seen in the letters from Lady Katherine Paston and Rebecca Paston, Countess of Yarmouth.

Hubbard explains that 'writing was a comparatively rare skill, and one for which most early modern English people had little use' (2015: 557), yet for the men and women represented within the London, BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 writing between the 1520s and the closing years of the seventeenth century, literacy and written communication were essential for the day-to-day business of managing estates, managing the affairs of the King and the state, and sharing news, advice and messages of love and encouragement with family and friends. It is worth noting, however, that the men and women represented by this collection of correspondence are predominantly from wealthy landowning classes with access to private tutors, university education, extensive collections of printed materials and whose professional and social obligations required the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Even when the education received by the sons of a family is well documented, the means by which the daughters were taught to read and write, and the individuals who taught them these skills remain unknown. For most Early Modern women, the evidence of their education is limited to the few pages of correspondence that have survived and been passed down to us through the centuries, and their spellings do raise interesting questions about their education and the choices they were able to make when deciding upon their preferred spellings. The discussion of the spelling practices of the individual female letter writers represented within this collection of correspondence and what we can learn from their spellings will be discussed in greater detail below.

Nothing is known about the education received by Katherine Paston (née Knyvett) or Rebecca Paston (née Clayton), but through the correspondence that survives from Robert and Rebecca Paston, we do know that their youngest daughter Elizabeth was educated alongside her brothers when they were tutored by the rector of the church at Oxnead, John Gough. We do know from her parents' letters that Elizabeth was not only being taught to read and write in her native tongue, but that she was also being taught French.

I haue given your sons great caution & the tutor great care who speakes nott Latine very fluently himself butt perhapps may teach itt better but Mis[s] who has the most witt in the world will bee att it with them and has in two dayes loaded herself with French (Robert Paston, NRO: BL/Y/1/137, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 218)

The surviving letters do not contain information on the education of their eldest daughter Margaret, or that of middle daughter Mary, but it would have been possible, and perhaps even likely, that Margaret and Mary were also taught to read and write alongside the older Paston boys. Even where children were educated together and by the same tutor, as with the younger Paston children, we see that by the time they reached adulthood they had developed their own distinctive spelling systems with forms differing greatly between the siblings, yet there are some spellings which are shared.

As some of the women represented in BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 are represented in more than one manuscript within the collection, the following discussion of the female correspondents, their handwriting and spelling habits is listed in chronological order based on the dates of the letters or approximate dating evidence.

The correspondence of Rebecca, Countess of Yarmouth and her daughters Margaret Alberti and Elizabeth Paston are discussed in the following chapter on the Paston family and their correspondence to allow a comparison of spellings and punctuation between male and female members and across generations of the same family. Before beginning such an analysis, however, it is important to understand attitudes towards spelling in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The Middle English period is normally considered to have ended at the turn of the sixteenth century. Middle English is renowned for the level of written variability in this period, with many frequently cited examples, including over five hundred recorded variants of *through* presented in the *Linguistic Atlas of Late Medieval English* (McIntosh, Benskin and Samuels, 1986), though it is worth remembering that despite this apparent level of variation, some forms were more frequently and widely used than others. Spellings in the Middle English period were in broad terms reflective of the writer's pronunciations and regional dialects (Baugh & Cable,

2002: 208); however, when they emerged in the late fifteenth century, printed books were potentially available to a national audience who would have spoken and written in a variety of regional usages and, as Nevalainen notes, 'the printing press became a vehicle for language standardisation (2006: 30). As the availability of printed materials increased, the focus shifted from texts produced for individuals and regional purposes, to producing texts for a national audience. The early English printers, such as William Caxton, were therefore faced with choices over the 'correct' way to represent such a varied vernacular in print, and Caxton himself commented on the level of variation within English in the late fifteenth century in his famous preface to *Eneydos* (Nevalainen, 2006: 30). Despite having an awareness of variation within English, Salmon notes that early sixteenth century printers had little interest in developing a standardised spelling system (1999: 25). Economic considerations were also a factor in the shift towards standardised spelling in print (Howard-Hill, 2006: 18), from thrifty use of materials to ensuring accessibility and availability to a wider book-buying audience. The growth in the availability of printed materials in the sixteenth century also saw the emergence of printed books listing spellings of difficult words, prescribing 'correct' usage and writers such as John Hart (1569) and William Bullokar (1581) suggesting reforms to simplify and stabilise the English spelling system. The teaching of literacy skills in Elizabethan England was described as being one of 'literacy first, spelling second' (Upward, 1992: 21), but as Upward describes, there are issues in trying to teach children literacy skills using a spelling system that is variable and unstandardised.

While printing began the process of standardising spelling in printed texts which in turn encouraged individual writers to consider their own spellings, it was not necessarily the case that this manifested itself in standardised spellings in private correspondence and Salmon notes that 'there was a greater possibility of interference by regional or class dialect, and a disparity between the spelling abilities of men and women (1999: 30). Many sixteenth-century documents within BL Addit Manuscripts 27447 and 36988 indicates the extent of the variation that existed in personal writing. Even within scribal documents in the Paston archive, such as those reporting the births of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Edward in the 1530s and the arrangements for their respective christenings, there is a lot of orthographical variation and phonological spellings including

<Englond(e)/Yngland(e)> *England* (the final -e in brackets is not a clearly defined letterform, and is more of a pen flourish), <Arcgebischope> *Archbishop* and the spelling of *cushion/s* as <koshons> and <quoyshon>. The personal letters from this period also contain some lovely examples of non-standard, phonological spellings including <berebrowsers> *beer brewers*, <morrabyllar> '**more abler*' and <hwmbyll sewtt> *humble suit*.

As we will see in the following discussions, by the seventeenth century, spellings within the Paston letters were still on occasions phonographic, but not to the same degree as in the sixteenth century. The individuals represented in this collection of correspondence were clearly literate and likely to be competent readers, therefore would have been familiar with the increasingly standardised forms in printed texts, but even by the seventeenth century, private letter-writers 'do not yet apparently feel obliged to standardise their orthography, even though grammarians were trying to stress the desirability of their doing so' (Salmon, 1999: 42).

3.1.1 *Eleanor Rutland (nee Paston), Countess of Rutland*

The earliest letters from a female correspondent contained in Addit MS 27447 are the letters from Lady Eleanor Rutland to her father, Sir William Paston (ff.74, 75 and 76), although folio 74r has been signed off as 'Elyanor Roos'.

Eleanor was the sixth child of Sir William Paston (d.1554) and Bridget Heydon, born in or around 1496. Her mother's family were related to Henry VIII's second queen, Anne Boleyn, and after becoming the second wife of Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland in the early 1520s, she found herself serving as a Lady of the Privy Chamber to three of Henry VIII's queens, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves and Katherine Howard. Through her marriage to the Earl of Rutland she had eleven children. The date of her death is disputed, either 1551 or 1559 (different monuments record different dates).

The three letters from Lady Eleanor to her father are undated, but events discussed in f.75r seem to date the letter to 1543, while a later hand (probably Francis Blomefield) has annotated folio 76r to date it to February 1543/4. The hands of the three letters do not appear to be the work of the same individual

(though further comparison is required), and the signature of Lady Eleanor clearly differs from the neat secretary hand of the main body of the letter.

3.1.2 Lady Muriel Bell

Lady Muriel Bell was the younger sister of Lady Katherine Paston born in 1581, and in 1605 she married Sir Edmund Bell, but she was widowed in 1607 (Hughey, 1941: 29). Despite lasting only two years, their marriage produced two sons, Edmund and Robert, the youngest born after the death of his father. Lady Muriel is only represented by one letter in this collection of the Paston family correspondence, BL Addit MS 27447, ff.221r-222r, and has been dated to 1618. Lady Muriel's hand is formed of individual letterforms that are not joined and are often formed of multiple pen-strokes. The overall appearance of Lady Muriel's hand is heavier and more rounded than a light italic hand (such as that of her other sister, Lady Abigail Moundeford), though there are attempts to add flicks, curls and flourishes, but they are more deliberate and less flowing than in more accomplished and elegant hands.

One of the most characteristic features of Lady Muriel's spelling is her use of the unusual <wh> spelling of *would*, <whould>, a form which she employed without variation in her letter of 1618. Lady Muriel's habit of doubling consonants in word-final position such as <whatt> and <itt>, her spelling of *desire* as <dissier> and her use of an additional <gh> in her spelling of *about* as <abought> are also distinctive forms within her letter to her sister, Lady Katherine Paston.

With only one letter in the collection attributed to Lady Muriel Bell, it did not appear that it would be possible to comment on the consistency of her spelling habits, however, two further letters are held in the collections of Norfolk Record Office and, as a result of Lady Muriel's distinctive handwriting and unusual spellings, such as her distinctive <whould> spelling, it was possible to identify two draft letters contained within the correspondence of the Moundeford family, BL Addit MS 27400, as being unfinished or copy letters in the hand of Lady Muriel Bell. The letters within the Moundeford correspondence are not dated, but their position within the collection alongside letters from the 1640s and the apparent deterioration in Lady Muriel's handwriting suggest that these were significantly later than her letter to Lady Katherine Paston from 1618, and the thirty-year gap

would appear to be supported by the content of 27400 folio 30 in which Lady Muriel describes how she is unable to travel due to her infirmity and age (by the 1640s she would have been in her sixties).

The identification of the later draft letters not only offer the opportunity to examine the consistency of Lady Muriel's spelling across different documents, it also affords the opportunity to examine the extent to which her spelling habits remained fixed or were altered across decades. These draft letters as well as the letters held in Norfolk Record Office show that Lady Muriel was consistent in her use of her distinctive forms <whould>, <dissier> and <abought> with all three spellings found in more than one letter. Similarly, Lady Muriel's surviving letters contain the repeated use of other distinctive non-standard forms, including her use of an initial <sh> in her spelling of *such*, <shuch>, her preferred spelling of *believe* as <belleee>. The use of these distinctive forms over a number of years indicate a fixed spelling system with preferred forms adopted early in life and used repeatedly over a number of years and despite the influence of the spellings of others and the increasing standardisation of written and printed English. It is worth noting, however, that the six letters that can be attributed to Lady Muriel Bell can provide only a small snapshot of her writing and it may be the case that she employed other variant forms that have not been preserved, but the repeated use of particular forms without variation within these letters suggests that Lady Muriel had her own consistent, and perhaps even fixed, personal orthography.

3.1.3 Lady Katherine Paston

The correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston was the subject of my 2009 M.Phil. thesis. The spelling practices of Lady Katherine were discussed in great detail and using the information gathered from her surviving autograph letters, I was able to recreate Lady Katherine's personal inventory of preferred spellings. Within the collection of the later Paston correspondence preserved in BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 there are relatively few letters by female correspondents, only 75 of over 500 letters are documents are by identifiable female authors and of these 75 letters by female correspondents in this collection, forty-five letters represent Lady Katherine Paston, the grandmother of Robert, Viscount Yarmouth.

Katherine was not a Paston by birth; she was born a Knyvett in 1578, daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Muriel Knyvett (née Parry). The Knyvetts and the Parrys could both claim links to the courts of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, and her grandfather, Sir Thomas Parry, had been Controller of the Household to Elizabeth I (Hughey, 1941: 16). Katherine became a Paston in April 1603 when she married Edmund Paston and by 1610 she was mother to William with a second son, Thomas, born in 1614. Lady Katherine Paston died on 10 March 1628/9 (Hughey, 1941: 23).

It is the collection of letters that survive from Lady Katherine to her eldest son that have received the most attention to date. These letters were written between 1624 and 1627 and represent Lady Katherine as a proud, caring mother offering news from the family home at Oxnead and words of encouragement to her teenage son during his time as a student at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Lady Katherine's surviving letters do not only present her in a maternal role, but also show her confidently managing business and legal matters on behalf of her husband during his periods of ill health. Far from being the stereotypical letters of a gossiping woman, Lady Katherine's letters show her to be an intelligent and competent woman who is comfortable with corresponding with educated men to discuss the business of her family. While she may have been comfortable with matters of business, Lady Katherine's letters to her son do contain news from home, and as these date to the 1620s, it is unsurprising that she shares news of illness and death among friends and family, but there are also some delightful, light-hearted comments that offer glimpses into a more playful aspect of her personality.

winnett was maried this mihellmas day to you know who:/::/

(BL Addit MS 36988, f.49)

The spelling habits of Lady Katherine Paston have been discussed at length in my previous research, and the survey of her spelling practices showed that far from having an erratic spelling system based solely on pronunciations, Katherine had a reasonably fixed and considered inventory of preferred spellings, with use of some occasional variants. By examining her inventory of spellings, it was possible to see some of the orthographic rules she was following within her own personal spelling system. Lady Katherine's surviving letters display a preference for <old> spellings of *should* and *would* as <shold> and <wold>, with occasional <oo>, <ou> and <ow>

variants, while <coold> was her preferred spelling of *could*. Her use of <bine> for *been* was fixed with no variants recorded in her surviving letters.

Lady Katherine was also consistent in her use of <gh> in her spellings of *write* and *writing* as <wright> and <wrighting>, and her use of the <gh> formation was probably an analogous spelling influenced by words such as *night*. The only recorded variant for <wrighting> is a single instance of an additional final -e, <wrightinge>, though the use of the final -e also extends to other <ing> endings, including <beinge> and <knowinge>. The inclusion or omission of final -e is another prominent feature of many early modern spelling systems, and Lady Katherine's is no different, with many examples across her correspondence, including <ore> *or*, <thate> *that*, <ar> *are* and <don> *done*.

Lady Katherine's treatment of <ou> words is also of interest, with her opting to use the single <u> in her representations of *trouble* and *double*, <truble> and <duble>. Katherine's spelling of *enough* also does not contain the <ou> digraph of the present-day spelling, but instead of the simplified <u> we might expect based on the spellings of *double* and *trouble*, Katherine has used <ow>, resulting in the form <enowgh>. The use of initial <i> for present-day standard <e> in <inlighten, incouedge> *enlighten*, *encourage*, and of <ar> and <er> in <parswad, parsayve> *persuade*, *perceive* may reflect changes in pronunciation (see e.g. Dobson 1968: 560-1).

Another frequently occurring feature of Lady Katherine's spelling is the use of doubled consonants, especially in medial position, as can be seen in her use of forms including <sonne> *son* and <bigge> *big*. Just as her spellings include additional letters, so too do her letters contain examples of words where we would expect to find a double consonant in the present-day form represented with a single medial consonant, such as in her use of forms including <peny> *penny*.

The letters of Lady Katherine Paston also contain examples of more unconventional spellings. The silent in *debt* and *doubt* was featured in the spellings of Lady Katherine's (predominantly male) correspondents, and so she would have been familiar with these forms, but the additional silent letter appears to have caused some confusion for her and her forms include a <p> resulting in the forms <dept> and <doupt/e>. The initial <gu> cluster seems to have been another

issue for her and we find forms with a simplified initial <g>, such as in the form <garded> *guarded*, and similar unsuccessful attempts to utilise the <gu> digraph, <gward> *guard* and <giude> *guide*. Just as Lady Katherine appeared to have difficulty with the initial <gu> digraph, so too her realisation of some <wh> words shows that this cluster may also have caused some confusion as can be seen in her use of forms including <howlsum> *wholesome* and <howme> *whom* being used alongside <wholl> *whole* and the conventional <whose>. While her use of silent letters and <gu> and <wh> digraphs do not conform to the conventional forms, Lady Katherine's attempts to employ them do indicate an awareness of spelling conventions being utilised by her correspondents.

While some of the more unusual spellings may have the appearance of erroneous forms, the repeated and considered use of these spellings show that these were Lady Katherine's intended spellings. That is not to say, however, that erroneous forms are not recorded in the letters by Lady Katherine, as can be seen by the use of forms including <eseptially> *especially*, <provke> *provoke*, and <nesenger> *messenger*.

Lady Katherine's spelling system contained forms which appeared to have been old-fashioned even by the 1620s, and her spellings also differed from those of her sisters, suggesting the influence of different individuals either while learning to write, or when developing their own personal spelling systems. Just as Lady Katherine's spellings often differed from those of her sisters, it is also evident that her preferred spellings were not adopted by her son, William, suggesting the greater influence of his tutors on his spelling habits.

The examination of the letters that survive in this collection show that Lady Katherine's spelling system had its own rules and patterns, and with the exception of occasional variants, her personal spelling system was less erratic and more consistent than first appearances may suggest.

3.1.4 Elizabeth Hobart

If we disregard the letters by Lady Katherine Paston and her sister Muriel Bell, we do not find another letter by a woman until Lady Muriel Bell's letter from her 'Nece Hobarte' (f.291r), dated 15 December 1647. Elizabeth Hobart (née Moundeford) was the daughter of Lady Katherine and Lady Muriel's eldest sister, Abigail, and her

husband Edmund Moundeford (Hughey, 1941: 135). Letters by Elizabeth's mother, Lady Abigail Moundeford are preserved in BL Addit MS 27400, *the Correspondence and Papers of the Moundeford Family*, and can therefore be compared with the spelling habits of her daughter and her sisters.

Despite being written in 1647, the letter by Lady Muriel Bell's 'Nece' Hobarte contains a number of spellings which would not look out of place in the letters of Lady Katherine Paston and her sisters some twenty years earlier. Forms including <wold> *would*, <bine> *been*, <ar> *are* and <thay> *they* are very similar to the spellings found in the inventory of spellings employed by Elizabeth's mother, Lady Abigail Moundeford, and her aunts Lady Katherine Paston and Lady Muriel Bell, suggesting perhaps a more conservative spelling system which retains older traits she has inherited from family and friends.

Elizabeth's spellings <thay> and <ther> are an exact match for those used in her mother's letters. Elizabeth also shares the <bine> spelling of *been* with her mother and her aunt, Lady Katherine. This form was one of three variant spellings of *been* employed by Lady Abigail, but it was used exclusively by Lady Katherine and even by the 1620s, Lady Katherine's use of <bine> looked outdated when compared with the modern spelling employed by the majority of her correspondents.

In some instances, we find spellings which Elizabeth shared with her mother, Lady Abigail Moundeford, indicating that these forms were clearly borrowed from her mother, and it is worth noting that Lady Abigail does not share the use of these forms with her sisters. Once such example is her chosen spelling of *believe* as <belive>, which is used by both Elizabeth and Lady Abigail, but is not used by Lady Katherine or Lady Muriel, who preferred the forms <beleue> and <belleue> respectively.

While her spellings of certain words have clearly been inherited from her mother, some spellings, such as her chosen spelling of *would* as <wold> are not found in her mother's surviving letters but are found in those of her aunts. Lady Katherine uses the form <wold> without variation, yet Lady Abigail's exclusive use of <would> is in keeping with the modern, conventional spelling, and is in this respect more standardised than the spellings used by her sisters (Lady Muriel uses the <whould>

form without exception), so it is interesting to see that Elizabeth does not share this form with her mother, opting instead for a non-standardised spelling.

Elizabeth's treatment of words with a modern <ou> is interesting. She uses the <ou> digraph in her spelling of <doubled>, yet her spellings of words such as *trouble*, <troble>, are closer to the single vowel spellings of the Middle English period ("trouble, n." OED Online. Oxford University Press, March 2018. Web. 27 May 2018). The use of <troble> is also reminiscent of the spellings used in the correspondence of Elizabeth's aunt, Lady Muriel Bell, yet in her chosen spelling of *country* as <cuntrey>, in a clear attempt to mirror the /ʌ/ sound, she mirrors the spelling employed by her other aunt, Lady Katherine Paston.

Elizabeth's spellings of *year*, *reasons* and *heart* do not contain the <ea> digraph found in the modern English spelling; rather, she uses forms that remained (according to records in OED and MED) widespread in middle and early modern English usage <yere, resons, harte>. Her <ere> spelling of *year* differs from that of her mother and aunts who display a preference for <ee> spellings such as <yeer>. Elizabeth's aunt, Lady Muriel Bell, also uses <ee> in her spelling of *niece* as <Neec>, whereas Elizabeth refers to herself as Muriel's <nece>. Her spellings of <ure> words such as <sure, asuranc> are more conventional than the spellings recorded by her aunts who preferred to use <uer> forms including <suer>.

Many of the spellings employed by Elizabeth Hobart in her letter highlight the use of <y> in place of the <i> of the standardised form which is a common feature in Early Modern spelling practices as the letters could be used interchangeably. This can be seen in her use of spellings including <poynt, rayse, faythfull & oyle (oil)>. While we do not have an example of Elizabeth's chosen form of *receive*, her use of <y> in the words listed above is reminiscent of Lady Abigail's preferred spelling <recayue>.

Her treatment of particular vowels may indicate something of her pronunciation, such as her use of <i> in her spelling of *servant* as <siruant> suggesting that she perceived her pronunciation of this particular vowel to be /ɪ/. This is interesting as it is not a form which has inherited from her mother or her aunts. Lady Abigail Moundeford's letters display a preference for using <a> in her chosen form <saruants>, possibly reflecting her pronunciation of the word, while her sister,

Lady Muriel, shows a preference for the form <searuants>. Elizabeth's chosen spelling of *business* as <bisenes> may also reflect her pronunciation and her use of <i> is shared with her aunt, Lady Katherine, in one of her variants <bisnes>, while her mother uses <e> spellings < besynes, besines, besenes>. The spellings of *business* recorded by Lady Abigail, Lady Katherine and Lady Muriel show considerable variation suggesting uncertainty about the 'correct' spelling of the word, with only Lady Muriel using exclusively <u> spellings, though without the following <i>, while Lady Katherine uses the form <busines> on only one occasion.

There are a number of words in Elizabeth Hobart's letter for which she has chosen to use a phonological spelling, possibly as a result of being unfamiliar with the word in its written form, as can be seen in her spellings of *cockerels* and *mitigate* as <cock Rayles> and < metygatt> respectively. Her spelling of *infirmitly* appears to be a little confused, resulting in the form <infernity>. The use of <e> in <infernity> and in her spelling of *began* as <begen> is reminiscent of features of the spelling habits of her mother, Lady Abigail, who showed a clear preference for the use of a medial <e> in spellings including < besenes, openion, derected & condetion>. The use of an additional <h> in her spelling of *rice* as <rhice> suggests that she was possibly unfamiliar with the spelling of this particular word (a word which entered English in the fourteenth century. "rice, n². OED Online. Oxford University Press, March 2018. Web. 27 May 2018" and has therefore attempted to produce the closest form to her perceived pronunciation. The use of an additional letter can also be found in her spellings of *much*, *great* and *declaration* as <mutch, greatt & declayration>. There are also a number of examples in Elizabeth's letter which deviate from the conventional form through the omission of a letter, or letters, for example, her spellings of *neighbours*, *liberty*, *affectionate*, *happy* and *niece* as <naighbors, librtly, afectionat, hapy & nece>. The omission of letters in words such as <librty> *liberty* and <matr> *matter* indicates a tendency to omit unstressed vowels, which is again suggestive of the influence of pronunciation on Elizabeth's chosen spellings. Her spelling of *burden* as <burthen> is also worth noting, as she records the archaic variant <th> spelling.

As with the other female writers represented here, Elizabeth's spellings of many words deviate from the conventional modern form through the use of a final -e, or in some cases, the final -e we would expect to see in the modern form has not

been used in the Early Modern spellings, for example <deare, waite, fewe> and <pleas, asuranc, ar, befor>.

Elizabeth Hobart's letter displays an inventory of spellings which are strongly influenced by her mother and her aunts, as well as a selection of spellings which she does not share with her female relatives and those which are based upon her perceived pronunciation of certain words.

3.1.5 Susan Cooper

The next woman to be represented in this collection of correspondence is Susan Cooper, identified in Agnew, 2012 as the housekeeper at Oxnead, the Paston family's Norfolk home. She wrote to Viscountess Yarmouth and is mentioned in a number of the Earl of Yarmouth's letters to his wife. In the notes on one of her letters in Agnew's edition of the letters of the Earl of Yarmouth (2012), it is noted that Mrs Cooper and Francis Rowllins were the only two of the Earl's servants to be named in his will suggesting a good relationship between the Earl and his wife and Mrs Cooper (Agnew, 2012:181 note).

Mrs Cooper's hand is not a flowing, cursive hand, but is instead formed of separate, individual letterforms. The appearance of Mrs Cooper's hand is low and flat with a slight italic lean to the right and the signature is in the same hand as the body of the letter. The letterforms do have looped ascenders and descenders, but the loops and flourishes are neater and more restrained than the flourishes of other hands.

Her spelling of <broke> is interesting, as she has chosen to use <oo> resulting in the form <brook>. As there is only one instance of this word in the letter it is not clear if this was her usual spelling of the word, an attempt to replicate a feature of the pronunciation or confusion with other words in close proximity such as *loose* <loos>.

On one occasion Mrs Cooper spells <there> as we would expect in the conventional modern form, however she opts to use <i> in place of the <e> in <thire> *their* and <thirefore> *therefore*.

Her <a> spelling of *perfecter* as <parfectter> (the final -ter has been added in her hand above the end of the word as 'parfect{^ter}') is similar to the <par> spellings found throughout the correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston in the 1620s.

The letter by Mrs Cooper also contains an interesting spelling of *extraordinary* as <exstraordinary> with an additional <s> which is clearly written, though this <s> has been omitted in Agnew's transcription of the letter in her edition of the Earl of Yarmouth's correspondence (2012; 181). The use of an additional letter is another feature of Mrs Cooper's spelling, and many of the words which differ from the standardised form do so only through the use of the additional letter. Her spelling of *sure* with the additional <h>, <shure> is an analogous spelling; she clearly knows the /ʃ/ sound is usually represented by the <sh> digraph and has opted to replicate it here. Mrs Cooper also displays a tendency to double consonants in words such as <vissitt, yett, returnning, ell (*else*) and inn (*in*)>. Just as some words vary only from the conventional spelling through the omission of a letter, or letters, as can be seen in the following examples: <finly> *finally*, <posible> *possible* and <nether> *neither*.

As we may expect from Early Modern letters, many spellings differ only from the modern form through the use of, or omission of, the final -e in examples such as <noe, againe, returne> and <handsom, purpos, se>. As <u> and <v> could be used interchangeably in the early modern period, her spellings of words such as *servant* and *have* are the conventional modern spellings with the exception of the use of <u> in place of <v>. <i> and <y> could also be used interchangeably and her spelling of *saying* as <saing> reflects this practice.

The fact that Mrs Cooper's choice of spelling was based upon her pronunciation of those words can be seen in Jean Agnew's transcription of another letter by Mrs Cooper (NRO: BL/Y/1/125 in Agnew, 2012:203) in which she discusses the amount of pewter she has got, though her Norfolk accent meant that she chose to spell the word <putter>, clearly suggesting that she was omitting the /j/ sound in the spoken-language equivalent, still a notable feature of the East Anglian accent.

3.1.6 Anne Baker

Lady Anne Baker (1620- c.1685) was the daughter of Francis Annesley, and her brother, Arthur Annesley, 1st Earl of Anglesey was Lord Privy Seal from 1673 to

1682 (Agnew, 2012: 318). A letter from the Earl of Yarmouth to his wife presents Lady Anne Baker as a gossip when he warned Rebecca to 'have a care in discourses of my Lady Hobart & Trevor nott to say more then what you allowe they should heare againe' (NRO: BL/Y/2/56 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 318).

One of the letters from Lady Anne Baker to the Countess of Yarmouth have been signed 'A:B:', but the similarities in handwriting and spelling show that these were indeed by the same author. Lady Anne Baker's hand is confident with strong loops and flourishes which intertwine to give words on the page a tangled, spidery appearance. Lady Baker's hand is not joined and the clear, distinct letterforms have long ascenders and descenders with large flourished loops. There is very little white space in the letters by Anne Baker; the body of the text is written from edge to edge with blank space only around the closing lines and signature of Addit MS 36988 f.447.

In terms of spellings which reflect the author's pronunciation, the letters of Anne Baker contain fewer examples than the letters of some of the other women represented in this collection of correspondence. That is not to say, however, that there are no examples of this in her letters, such as in her spelling of *employ* as <imploy>, reflecting the initial /ɪ/ sound.

The most common way in which the spellings of Anne Baker deviate from the modern, standardised forms is through her use of additional letters and final -e. Examples of her use of final -e can be seen in her use of forms including <deare, againe, doubte>, though there are many more examples across the three letters by Anne Baker in BL Addit MS 27447. An example in f.449r seems to show that far from being entirely arbitrary, Anne Baker knew where she intended to use final -e by adding the <e> above the word <cam> to correct her spelling to the conventional <came>. The additional <e> can also be seen in spellings including <certainely> and <receiueing>. There are fewer examples of Lady Baker omitting the final -e, as with her spelling of *else* as <els>.

As with her use of final -e, her spellings of many words are almost in the conventional modern spelling but for the use of an additional letter, which in some instances is nothing more than the doubling of the consonant, such as in <allmost, allready>, but in other examples, such as <spoake> and <answeare> we see the

inclusion of a medial <a>, which may, or may not, suggest the pronunciation of the word. While there are numerous examples of spellings with additional letters, there are also a number of examples of words which have letters missing from an otherwise conventional modern spelling, for example, her use of <wholy, accept & Irland>. In some instances, there are no additional or missing letters, but the letters she has used are not in the conventional order, as can be seen in her spelling of *Tuesday* as <Tuseday> and *formal* as <fromall> with a final <ll>.

The fact that <u>/ <v>, <i>/ <y> and <i> / <j> could be used interchangeably in Early Modern spelling is apparent in the spelling practices of Anne Baker, and many of the words represented in her letters vary only through the use of these interchangeable letters, such as in her spelling of <obiectiion> *objection*, <preuent> *prevent* and <satisfyed> *satisfied* and there are numerous other examples in her letters which follow this pattern.

3.1.7 Margaret Bedingfield

Margaret Bedingfield had herself been born a Paston in 1618, the daughter of Edward Paston of Appleton (Agnew, 2012: 110 n.407), and she went on to marry Sir Henry Bedingfield, 1st Baron of Beck Hall. Together, Margaret and Henry had a family including a daughter, also called Margaret, in 1646. The letter in this collection was written at Beck Hall in 1675 and makes reference to the author's husband meaning that the letter had to have been the work of the older Margaret Bedingfield as her daughter had taken holy orders in 1673 to become a Carmelite nun (along with her younger sister, Ann) when she was just 27 (<https://wwtn.history.qmul.ac.uk/counties/details.php?uid=LC006&county=Norfolk>. Date last accessed: 8 May 2018).

Margaret Bedingfield is represented by one letter in Addit MS 36988, dated July 1675, and one other letter contained in Addit MS 27448. With two distinct hands, the two letters are the work of two different people, possibly both secretaries writing on behalf of Margaret. In the case of both letters, the signature is in the same hand as the letter itself, meaning that unless one of the letters is, in fact, a holograph, Margaret did not sign her own letters. If Margaret Bedingfield had taken the decision not to sign her letters then this was not necessarily an indication of poor literacy or a lack of education, but could be the result of a lack of confidence

in her writing, a physical impediment such as poor eyesight, or may simply be the result of a preference to employ an amanuensis.

Margaret Bedingfield's letter in 27448 is relatively lengthy in comparison with many of the other letters from female correspondents within these volumes, yet the letter contains no deletions or corrections, suggesting that this letter is the work of a scribe, or it remains a possibility that the final version may have been copied from an earlier draft copy. The hand of this letter is light, flowing and italic with decorative loops and flourishes. That this letter is the work of an experienced secretary or confident letter-writer can also be seen in the use of hangwords at the end of a folio and the consistent and considered use of punctuation.

The letter in Addit MS 36988 contains the unusual feature of having umlaut-like dots above most <y> graphs like a modern umlaut, <ÿ>. The use of this feature results in the forms <mÿ>, <perticularÿ> and <ÿou'le>. The <y> graph is not dotted in the abbreviated forms such as <y^{rs}> *yours*. A similar graph is used in the abbreviated forms <y^e> *the* and <y^t>, however there is an upward stroke from the loop that distinguishes it from the <y> graph.

Unlike some of the other female letter writers represented in this collection, Margaret Bedingfield's letter does contain a number of abbreviated forms in addition to those discussed above.

One of the most noticeable features of the spellings utilised in this letter is the use of additional letters, either through the doubling of word-final consonants such as <continuall> and <forgett>, or through the use of additional letters in forms including <exspress> and <honnour>. In addition to the forms that vary from the standardised spelling through the use of additional letters, there are also examples of forms that deviate from the standard only through the omission of letters such as her spelling of *friendship* as <frindship>, *handsomeness* as <hansomness> and the simplification of the <gu> cluster in her spelling of *guardians* as <gardians>.

With such limited evidence for the spelling system of Margaret Bedingfield, it would not be possible to attempt to comment on preferred forms, however, some of the spellings employed in this letter are worth further discussion. Margaret has used the same form <hier> to represent the homophones *hear* and *here*. Again, the

limited evidence means that it is not possible to be certain if Margaret's spelling of *does* as <dose> was a regular feature of her spelling system or if the word was misspelled in a single instance as the result of a lapse in concentration or a slip of the pen.

A quick scan of the letter reveals several forms with an apostrophe including <thriue's> and <say's>, however, these forms are clearly not possessive and the use of these forms suggests that Margaret is familiar with the appearance of apostrophes in other people's writing, even though she does not know when to use it correctly. She does use the apostrophe correctly in the form <you'le> *you'll*, however does not appear to have used it in her realisation of *I'll* resulting in the use of the form <lle>.

3.1.8 Lady Elizabeth Littleton

BL Addit MS 27447 contains three letters from 'E Littleton' to Viscountess Yarmouth. Later annotations, probably in the hand of Francis Blomefield, identify the author as 'Lady E Littleton' but provide no further information. There are two possibilities to the identity of this Lady E Littleton which it may be possible to clarify with further research. One possibility is that she was Lady Elizabeth Littleton, nee Newport (1624-1693), the second wife of Sir Henry Littleton (Lyttleton), 2nd Baronet of Hagley Hall, Worcestershire, and Upper Arley, Staffordshire who served as an MP for Lichfield in the late 1670s (www.historyofparliamentonline.org). The second possibility is that she was Elizabeth Gibbons, nee Ayliffe (d.1684) who became the second wife of Timothy Littleton in 1668. Timothy, who was an MP from 1660-1670 was knighted in 1671, and the three letters are dated 1680 meaning Elizabeth Littleton would have been Lady Littleton by this date (www.historyofparliamentonline.org). Since both women were married to politicians, a connection with the Earl of Yarmouth and his wife is possible for both women, however, Agnew's edition of the Earl of Yarmouth's letters contains a letter from the Earl to his wife, dated 19 February 1678/9 (Agnew, 2012:375), which makes mention of 'Sir Harrie Littleton', suggesting an acquaintance between Lady Elizabeth Littleton, the wife of Sir Henry Littleton, and Rebecca, Viscountess Yarmouth may have been more likely.

The three letters from Lady Elizabeth Littleton contained within Additional Manuscript 27447 are all in the same hand and within the letters the signature matches the hand of the main body of the text. One noticeable feature of Lady Elizabeth's letters is the lack of any form of punctuation in any of the letters, although colons are used following abbreviations, for example <yo^r:> Her hand consists of clear, open letterforms and the flourished loops on the descenders are large and of a lighter weighting than the descender. The three letters indicate a preference for the use of long-s in initial position, however, short-s is used in medial and word-final position.

Lady Littleton's spellings of words such as *should*, *would* and *though* are the correct standard spelling we would expect to see today, and many of her spellings differ only from the modern form through the addition of a final -e in words including <queene>, <waite> and <whoe> (f.474r). Her spellings of other words look very different to the standard modern form through the inclusion of an additional letter in words such as <loocke> *look*.

Across the three letters by Lady Littleton, she showed a preference for including an <ea> digraph in her spellings of, for example, *fear* and *seal*, yet it is omitted in other spellings including <redy> *ready*, <esie> *easy* and <creture> *creature*. We can also see this in her use of <ou> in words including We can also see this in her use of <ou> in words including <Yarmouth>, <house> and <though>, yet once again we find that it is omitted in words such as <trobble>, *trouble*. There is also an example of the use of <ou> in her spelling of *one* as <oune>.

In the letters written by Lady Littleton there are some spellings which she has clearly based upon her perceived pronunciation of the words. In f.474 recto, Lady Littleton writes 'the Earell of Lesters askuch on ouer the house', and clearly her spellings of *Earl*, *Leicester's*, and of course, *escutcheon* have been influenced by their pronunciation, especially in the case of *escutcheon*- which she has chosen to write as two separate words- as she would probably not have had occasion to read or write this particular word on a frequent basis. Her spelling of Earl as *Earell* possibly indicates a rhotic pronunciation and perhaps a disyllabic pronunciation. Folio 477r contains the spellings <yousing> *using* and <tuke> *took* and it is immediately apparent that these have been based upon her pronunciation of the

words. <tuke> is interesting as she has chosen to represent /ʊ/ with a <u>, yet in her spelling of *look* as <loocke> she has chosen to employ the <oo> diagraph. Her spelling of *door* as <dore> suggests the more rhotic pronunciation of Early Modern English accents.

In contrast to her spelling of *escutcheon* as two separate words, there are examples of Lady Littleton writing what we would expect to see as two separate words as one word. This can be seen in her spelling of *as proper* as <asproper>.

As with most other writers in this period, Lady Littleton uses a number of abbreviated forms for frequently used words including <the, that, your, honour and present> ,

3.1.9 Mary Killigrew

Lady Mary Killigrew was the wife of Sir William Killigrew (1606-1695), courtier to Charles I and later a playwright. No dates for Mary's birth or death have been recorded, but we do know that she was born Mary Hill of Honily in Warwickshire. The couple's connections to the court of Charles I led to them being forced to live apart following the English Civil War, but the couple were reunited after the Restoration of Charles II when they were also able to regain their roles at court. The couple were painted in 1638 by Anthony Van Dyke and the paintings now hang together in the Tate Gallery in London (<http://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/van-dyck-portrait-of-mary-hill-lady-killigrew-t07956>. Date last accessed: 8 May 2018).

Lady Mary is represented in Additional MS 36988 by one letter to the Countess of Yarmouth dated July - August 1684. The letter makes reference to 'my lord y^r sons losse of his Lady' (f.229r), the death of William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth's wife Charlotte Howard (née Fitzroy) who was buried in Westminster Abbey in August 1684. Charlotte was an illegitimate daughter of Charles II and her mother was Elizabeth Killigrew Boyle, sister-in-law to Mary Killigrew.

Mary Killigrew's letter is written in a confident, joined-up hand with an italicised leaning to the right, and the hand of the signature matches the main text of the letter. The letterforms are long and slender with flourishes and closed loops on the tail of <g> and <y> and the lowercase <t> is written as one continuous pen-stroke.

The spellings employed in Mary's letter do not generally vary greatly from the present-day standardised spellings, with the deviation from the standard only occurring through the use of final-e or through the use of additional letters. The majority of the additional letters can be found in word-final position, for example, in her use of <dutifull> and <personall> and the inclusion of the final-e in her chosen forms <doe> and <losse>.

Another way in which Mary's spelling vary from the standardised forms is in her use of the <ie> digraph where we would expect to find <y> in the present-day form words including <dutie> *duty* and <familie> *family*.

With only one letter in the hand of Mary Killigrew in this collection, there is only limited evidence for her preferred spellings, however, her spellings of *beseech* and *sense* as <beceeche> and <sence> suggest an occasional tendency to utilise <c> to represent the /s/ sound in medial positions; however, this is not found in her spellings of *respect*.

Just as many of her spellings contain additional letters, Mary's letter contains a number of commonly used abbreviated forms including <y^r> *your* and <La^{ps}> *Ladyship's*, suggesting a confidence and a familiarity with spelling conventions of the day.

Mary's letter forms do, on some occasions within the letter, give the sense that the spellings are more unusual than they actually are, such as her use of a long-style <s> in initial and medial position in words such as *sure* and *respect*. Similarly, her use of <u> in medial position in place of the standardised <v> gives the impression of spellings which are more deviant than they actually are, as can be seen in her use of <u> in <seruis> *service*. There is also one instance of Mary using <v> in place of initial <u> in her chosen realisation of *upon* as <vpon>.

3.1.10 Isabella Waldegrave

Isabella Waldegrave was Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Mary Beatrice of Modena, wife of James II. Isabella had married physician William Waldegrave in 1681 and he went on to become physician to Queen Mary of Modena (Barclay, 2002: 87). As Catholics with close links to the King and Queen, Isabella and William followed them to France after the throne was taken by James's daughter Mary and

her husband, William of Orange. Isabella's letters to the Countess of Yarmouth that have been preserved in Addit MS 36988 are dated to January 1684/5 and September 1688, during the period that has come to be known as the Glorious Revolution, and prior to Isabella and her husband fleeing to live in exile in France.

Isabella Waldegrave is represented by two letters in Addit MS 36988, folios 235 and 260. The body of the letters and the signatures are in the same hand which is likely to be that of Isabella herself, however, in folio 260 the letter-forms in the signature are narrower and more upright than in the body of the letter and there is a difference in the initial <i> of Isabella's name, but the differences are not significant enough to suggest that the letters are the work of two separate individuals, and it is not impossible that her signature would have taken a slightly different form to her usual hand. The signature of f.235 is closer to the hand of the letter, yet the letter itself appears less careful and perhaps more hurried than f.260.

For the most part, the hand is not joined and flowing, but is instead formed of carefully shaped individual letter-forms. The overall appearance of the hand is that of a neat, regular, simple hand with almost no decorative flourishes, with the exception of the looped <y> and the arching ascender of the <d>. In terms of punctuation, Isabella's letters do not contain full stops to mark the end of a sentence, opting instead for the consistent use of commas, but stops are used after abbreviated forms, such as <L^p.>.

Many of Isabella's spellings only vary from the accepted, present-day form though the addition of a final-e as can be seen in her use of the forms <doe> and <waite>. Isabella's letter from 1684/5 contains a number of abbreviated forms. Some of these abbreviations take the form of a letter with a superscript, such as <y^t> *that* or <L^d> *Lord*, while other abbreviated forms contain the use of a contracted apostrophe, for example, <pleas'd> and <procur'd>.

3.1.11 Mrs Mary Knight

Addit MS 36988 contains a single brief letter of only 168 words dated 1685 and signed with the name M: Knight. The untidy and slightly naive hand stands out from the confident, flowing hands of the educated male authors of the

neighbouring letters in the manuscript and the hand is similar to that of Rebecca Paston, suggesting that this too may be the hand of a woman. The author of the letter is likely to be Mrs Mary Knight (c.1631 - c.1698), a famous singer of the day and a mistress of King Charles II (<https://www.pepysdiary.com/encyclopedia/11641/>. Last accessed 8 May 2018) and the Earl of Yarmouth's letters make a number of references to Mrs Knight.

As with many of the other women represented in the collection of letters, Mrs Knight's letter only provides limited evidence for her preferred spelling practices or the decisions that influenced these choices, but there are some recurring features which suggest preferred forms. The simplification of the <ld> cluster in *should* and *could* results in the forms <shoud> and <coud>. The spellings of Mrs Knight differ from standardised forms mostly through the inclusion of additional letters, and in particular medial vowels to represent the author's perception of the vowel sounds, for example, her inclusion of <a> in <neaver> and <spoake>, and the use of the additional <e> in <valleued>. Brief hints at pronunciation can also be seen in Mrs Knight's choice of vowels in her spellings of *infinitely* and *confirming* as <Infynety> and <conferming>. Unlike some of the other female correspondents represented in the manuscripts, Mrs Knight does appear to have been confident enough to employ abbreviated forms, such as <Lor^{dps}> *Lordship's*, as well as a range of punctuation including colons and semi-colons.

3.1.12 Martha Clayton

Despite sharing the maiden name of Rebecca, Viscountess Yarmouth, Martha Clayton was not, in fact, related to the Viscountess as it may first appear. Martha was the daughter of a London merchant, Perient Trott and in 1659 she married Robert Clayton, a merchant banker and politician who was knighted in 1671 (www.historyofparliamentonline.org) and was elected Lord Mayor of London in 1679, and Martha's letters mention the 'lord maer' (though her letters are undated so this may be later than her husband's year as Mayor). Martha probably spent most of her life in and around London and if her spellings reflect any features of her pronunciation it is probably that of a London accent.

The two letters from Martha Clayton to Rebecca, Viscountess Yarmouth (f.496r and f.499r), display some very interesting spellings, even when compared with the spellings of the other women represented BL Addit MS 27447.

The spellings exhibited in Martha Clayton's letters are very much based upon her perceived pronunciation of the word. One of the most noticeable features of her spelling is her use of <e> where we would expect <i> in words such as *it*, *him*, *his*, *king*, *nothing*, *service* and *kill* which she spells as <et>, <hem>, <hes>, <keng>, <notheng>, <serves> and <kel>. Far from being a mistake or a slip of the pen, the repeated use of such spellings across her two letters suggest that this was a fixed feature of her own personal spelling system. Her apparent preference for <e> spellings can also be seen in her chosen forms <besenes> *business* and <retern> *return* where we would expect to find a <u> spelling in the standardised form.

There are more spellings within Martha's two, reasonably short letters to Rebecca, Viscountess Yarmouth which would suggest features of her pronunciation in mid-seventeenth century London. One interesting form is her spellings of *mayor* as <maer> (used three times across the two letters) and <mare> (used only once in f.499r). Her spelling of *bonfires* as <bonfiers> is probably an attempt to reflect her pronunciation of the word.

Martha's spellings of *your* are interesting. Of the fourteen instances of the word in her two letters, she displays a clear preference for the form <youer>, using it with only one variant form <yoaer>, which is probably little more than a slip of the pen on this one occasion. There are only two instances of the words *they* and *there* in f.499r, and on both occasions, Martha has opted for <a> spellings, <thay> and <thare>.

Martha's spellings of words such as *honour*, *honourable* and *humble* indicate that she was not in the habit of pronouncing the initial <h>, known as /h/-dropping, resulting in her chosen forms <oner>, <onerable> and <umble>. /h/-dropping was a feature of English from the Middle English period especially in 'weakly stressed positions' and 'French loan words with an initial /h/' (Nevalainen, 2006:126) and while such forms would be heavily stigmatised in present-day English, they were not considered to be a problem in Early Modern English.

Her treatment of modern <ou> words is of interest, as several of her spellings deviate from the standardised usage, especially in her spelling of *honour* as <oner>. Within BL Addit MS 27447 we see many male and female writers using what would be considered an acceptable present-day American English spelling without the <u>, or in abbreviated form, for example <honour_>, however Martha Clayton has consistently opted for an <e> spelling, possibly to represent the unstressed vowel sound. The <ou> is also omitted in spellings including *Yarmouth*, which she spells <Yarmoth>, yet she uses it in *countess*. Just as with her <ou> spellings, her use of the <ea> digraph is also interesting, especially her use of <ea> in her spellings of *quietly* and *present* as <quieatly> and <preseante>. Similarly, her spellings of *great* and *speak* do not contain the <ea> digraph we may expect to find in their standardised forms, instead Martha has chosen to represent these words as <grate> and <speke> respectively.

The use of <k> is interesting in Martha's letters. Her spelling of <thanks> is the correct present-day spelling, and she uses the initial <k> in her spelling of <king>, however in both letters we see her opting instead for an initial <c> in her spelling of *kind/kindness* as <cynde/cyndnes>.

Another noticeable feature of Martha's spellings is in word-division where a present-day reader would expect to see a single unit. This can be seen in her spellings of *about* <a bout>, *tomorrow* <to morrow>, *ladyship* <lady shep> and *informed* <in formead> and none of these forms would pose any great difficulty for a modern reader; however her spellings of *convinced* <con uenst>, *because* <be cose> and *account* <a coant> are less transparent for a modern reader.

As with much of the variation that can be found in Early Modern spelling, many of the spellings which differ from the standardised form differ only through the use of a final <-e> or the loss of the final <-e> where we would expect to find it in the modern spelling. Martha's spellings with an additional final <-e> include <deale>, <thanke>, <righte>, <requeste> and <feare>, whereas her spellings without a final <-e> include <com> *come* and <don> *done*.

3.1.13 *Stuarta Howard*

Stuarta Howard, the step-daughter of William, second Earl of Yarmouth, is represented by two letters, BL Addit MS 27448, f. 385 and BL Addit MS 36988 f. 126. Stuarta was the daughter Charlotte FitzRoy, Countess of Yarmouth and her first husband, James Howard. Stuarta never married and was a lady-in-waiting to Mary II, though her rumoured relationship with Lord Portland appears to have been the subject of scandal when her half-brother, William, shot Lord Portland for refusing to marry Stuarta (Beauclerk-Dewar & Powell, 2008: 45-46), though it is unclear if there is any truth in this.

Stuarta's letters are in a confident, almost masculine hand and she utilises the full page, leaving no white space at the sides of the page. A later hand has dated the letter in 36988 to 1677 when Stuarta would have been as young as nine (some online sources list a year of birth of 1668), while the letter in 27448 was dated by the author in December 1699, meaning that there is a twenty-year difference between the letters. There is a similarity between the hands, but the hand of the later letter is lighter, more confident and more mature. The spellings employed in the earlier of the two letters are clearly more phonological than the later letter with forms such as <tolke> *talk*, <dead> *did*, <pepall> *people*, <whot> *what* and <whan>. The 1677 letter also displays a tendency to drop the final-e, as can be seen in the use of forms including <non> *none*, <tim> *time* and <ar> *are*. The 1699 letter displays similar features, but there are fewer examples of the omission of final-e, instead there is a tendency to include an additional final-e, as in the form <answeare>. The influence of pronunciation can still be seen in Stuarta's choice of vowels in the spellings of words such as *willing* (also *unwilling*) and *still* as <welling> and <stell>. This can also be seen in her use of an <a> spelling of *venture* as <vanture>. By the time of the later letter, Stuarta also employs the commonly abbreviated forms <y^e> *the* and <y^r> *your*.

Another notable feature of the 1677 letter is the absence of any punctuation, so the entire letter is written as one continuous sentence. By the time of the 1699 letter, Stuarta was employing commas, but no other punctuation marks.

As with the discussion of women's letters in BL Addit MS 27447, the letters preserved in 36988 show that among the women represented in these letters at least, spellings did not deviate greatly from what we would now expect to find as

the standard form. The limited evidence presented by these few letters can, of course, only hint at the range of spellings that may have been employed by these women in their other correspondence; however, it is worth noting that the majority of the forms discussed here would not cause any great difficulty for a reader unfamiliar with Early Modern spellings as most of the spellings vary only through the use of additional letters, the simplification of consonant clusters and the use or omission of final-e.

3.2 Summary

Many of the spellings utilised in the letters discussed above can encourage us to speculate about what they tell us about the pronunciation of that individual or the period in general, but it is worth bearing in mind that while spellings may be suggestive of pronunciation, the spellings may have been inherited from other writers, such as in the case of Elizabeth Hobart sharing a number of her spellings with her mother and her aunts.

A few pronunciation-based spellings give the impression that the spelling practices of these women are idiosyncratic and that the women themselves are perhaps less well educated, but upon closer inspection, we see that most of the differences between the early modern forms and their present-day counterparts are only through the use or omission of final -e, the use of interchangeable letters such as <u> and <v> or the use of occasional additional letters. Such differences would have little or no impact on a modern reader's ability to understand the words.

As can be seen from the discussion above, the women do not display a great deal of variation within their personal spelling system, showing that once they had decided upon their preferred forms they were fairly rigid in their spelling habits despite the influences of their circle of family friends and correspondents, and the influence of the increasing standardisation of printed texts. The majority of the women's letters preserved in this collection are, unfortunately, single letters, or where two or more letters do exist by the same author they span only a short period of time, such as the three letters by Lady Elizabeth Littleton which all date

to July 1680, and as a result cannot give any indication to the way in which spellings may have varied across multiple epistles or across a number of years.

The only real exception to this within this collection of correspondence is Lady Katherine Paston who has over thirty letters spanning a decade from 1618 to 1627 allowing the possibility to conduct a diachronic analysis of her orthographic data. The only other author whose spelling habits can be examined diachronically is Lady Katherine's sister, Lady Muriel Bell, but the later letters that can provide valuable information on the development and consistency of her spellings are not held within the collection of correspondence at the heart of this current study. Examination of the spellings of Lady Katherine and Lady Muriel, and to a lesser extent other female correspondents within this collection, show that by the mid-seventeenth century while women's spelling habits were still less standardised than their male counterparts (but not all), it was far from erratic and haphazard and was instead based on personal, individual spelling systems with their own considered rules and patterns. The personal spelling systems remain with the individual for years and this is often fixed with little or no variation, or in some examples, new variants enter the individual's inventory of personal spellings. In many cases, the use of variant forms also indicates that while the author is utilising a non-standard spelling, she has an awareness of the standard form and is often attempting to recreate the standardised form, as can be seen in Lady Katherine Paston's struggle with the <gu> diagraph in words such as *guard*.

3.3 The Pastons and Their Letters

In addition to the letters written by Robert Paston and his wife Rebecca, BL Addit Manuscripts 27447, 27448 and 36988 also contain several letters written by their children. Robert Paston and Rebecca Clayton married in June 1651 and their first child, Margaret, was born in 1652. The couple's first son William was born in 1654 followed by a second son, Robert, in 1656, third son Jasper in 1660 and fourth son Thomas born in 1663. The couple also had another two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, born in 1664 and 1667 respectively.

The younger Paston children, Jasper, Thomas and Elizabeth, were tutored by the rector of Oxnead, John Gough. Far from being model pupils and excelling in their

educational pursuits, the Paston children appear to have been easily distracted and reluctant to focus on their studies. In 1675, when Jasper was fifteen, Thomas twelve and Elizabeth only eight years old, Gough wrote to their father to share his frustrations and experiences, describing himself as 'ashamed'.

"They so little proffitt in their learning that I am ashamed of them & though I do what I can, & scould at them more then I would or indeed should every day yet it signifies nothing. Their minds are so much upon their pleasures that the book is a toyle & irksome, I hope your honour will consider of disposeing them shortly for what they will learn here is inconsiderable. Far be it from mee to grudge my pains if thereby I might serve your honour, but when I lose my time & they get nothing it is no little trouble to mee & puts mee upon beseeching your honour for their good & my ease to beg a release." (NRO: BL/Y/1/89 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 157)

Despite these concerns, Gough continued to tutor the Paston children, and less than a year after the letter expressing his frustration at his thankless task, his perseverance was beginning to have more positive results when he praised Thomas's hard work and Rebecca to take note of her son's achievements.

"Mr Thomas has been a great while very good and is mightily studious and industrious, indeed he now deservs commendation & it would be injustice not to let him have it & your honour may be pleased some way or other to take notice of it for his further encouragement." (NRO: BL/Y/1/118 transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 194)

Subsequent letters from Robert Paston to Rebecca make reference to Thomas being at school or being a schoolboy, and in 1688/9 at least, Jasper and Thomas were attending a school in Fulham, London. (Agnew, 2012: 78)

The following discussion will analyse the spelling habits of Robert Paston and his immediate family based on the evidence of their writing preserved in BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988, comparing the spellings of his wife Rebecca, sons William, Robin, Jasper and Thomas, and daughters Margaret and Elizabeth.

3.4 The Spelling Practices of Robert Paston, First Earl of Yarmouth

BL Addit Manuscript 27447 contains thirty letters in the hand of Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth (1631-1683). Robert Paston was the son of Sir William Paston and Katherine Bertie and as a teenager, Robert was an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, continuing the Paston family's links with Cambridge University. Robert married Rebecca Clayton, the daughter of Sir Jasper Clayton, a London haberdasher, in 1650. In 1660, Robert Paston received his knighthood 'at Canterbury as one of the party that rode out of London to greet the King' (www.historyofparliamentonline.org). In the same year Robert Paston began serving as Member of Parliament for Thetford and was later MP for Castle Rising until 1673. Following the death of his father in 1663, Robert inherited the Baronetcy of Oxnead and in 1673 he was created Viscount Yarmouth before being given the title of Earl of Yarmouth in 1679. In addition to his career as a politician, Robert Paston also had an interest in science and alchemy and in 1663 was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The letters of Robert Paston were transcribed in full, including addresses and notes, words which have been crossed out and later annotations in another hand. Following transcription, the letters were then subjected to a questionnaire of frequently used words, vowel patterns, consonant clusters and other common features of spelling habits. The discussion below analyses the most frequently occurring features of Robert Paston's personal orthography and, where possible, attempts to offer a possible explanation for his use of a particular form. An example of a transcription of one of Robert Paston's letters has been included as Fig. 2.

3.4.1. Vowels and Vowel Patterns

<e>

Although the alternation of <e> and <a> is not a frequent feature of Robert Paston's spelling habits, there are some occasional instances which are worthy of attention. One such example can be found in a letter from August 1676 (f.372r), where *chapter* is recorded as <chepter>, though the lack of any further examples means that it is not possible to establish if this was a fixed spelling or a single erroneous occurrence. His repeated use of <e> in his spelling of the Norfolk place name *Yarmouth* as <Yermouth> is clearly his intended spelling. Robert Paston's

letters also contain several examples recording his preferred spelling of *Saturday* with a medial <e>, <saterday>.

<e>/<i>

The spelling of words with an initial <e> or <i> is interesting as it is not always in keeping with the standardised usage. Robert Paston's chosen spelling of *empower* in folio 316r has an initial <i> resulting in the form <impower> and this can also be found in his chosen form <inclosed> *enclosed*, in folio 324r and <ingrossment> *engrossment* in folio 329r. Folio 368r contains an instance of initial <i> being used in place of a conventional <u> in his realisation of *uncertain* as <incertaine>. It is worth noting that this particular feature of his spelling habits is used relatively infrequently.

The use of <i> where we would expect to find <e> in the present-day standard form can be seen in folio 324r where he has recorded the spelling <risented> *resented*, suggesting that Robert Paston was attempting to reflect the /ɪ/ sound of his pronunciation. In contrast, there are also examples of <e> being used where we would expect to find <i> in the present-day standard, such as in his spelling of *particular* as <pertecular> in folio 336r, yet this appears to have been either a single instance or a rarely used variant as other instances of the word show him using the medial <i> of the standard usage.

<ea>

Robert Paston's use of the <ea> digraph is also of interest, both in its use in conventional modern forms, as well as spellings which deviate from the present-day standard form. Examples of his inclusion of <ea> include <extreamities> *extremities* (f.310r) and this particular form may be suggestive of his pronunciation of this word with a medial /i/ rather than the /ɛ/ of the present-day English pronunciation.

His use of the <ea> digraph can also be found in his variant form of *receive*, <receave>, which he used in a letter dated 13 April 1670 (f.316r), however his preferred form of the word appears to have been <receiue/receive> which is used consistently throughout the rest of his letters in BL Addit MS 27447 with minor variation through the use of the <v> or <u>.

Like Lady Katherine Paston, Sir Robert's use of <hart> for present-day English *heart* presumably reflects his pronunciation.

Robert Paston's spellings of *here* and *hear* are not consistently distinct with some clear confusion between the two words. *Hear* is consistently spelt with the <ea> digraph of the present-day spelling, though most instances of the word differ from the standard form through the use of a final -e, <heare> with some examples of the present-day spelling, and his use of the <ea> digraph extends to his spellings of *heard*, *hearing* and *overheard* (which he spells with a <u> in place of <v>). His preferred form of *here*, however, appears to have been less fixed than his spelling of *hear*. The most frequently used form of *here* is his double <ee> spelling, <heere>, with an occasional variant without the final -e, yet there are also numerous examples of Robert Paston using the <ea> spelling <heare> as another variant form with these variants often being used within the same letter. The use of the <ea> variant may be the result of confusion between the homophones *here* and *hear*.

Final -e

Another feature of Robert's spelling habits- and of Early Modern spelling habits in general- is his use of a final -e where it is not a feature of the modern, standardised spelling. The use of this additional final -e is particularly noticeable in his spelling of words which already have a final -e, resulting in a <ee> spelling of words including <hee> *he*, <wee> *we* and <mee> *me* which he extends to his spelling of *being* as <beeing>. The use of these forms are used repeatedly throughout his letters and give his writing a characteristically Early Modern appearance. This use of a final -e is also a feature of his spellings of *do*, *go* and *so*, as can be seen in the repeated use of the forms <doe, goe & soe>. In many examples, Robert Paston's preferred spelling differs only from the standardised spelling through the addition of a final -e, as can be seen in his use of the forms <greate, owne, deare & againe>. The use of final -e can also be seen in Robert Paston's preferred spellings of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* as <Norfolke> and <Suffolke>. In addition to the numerous examples of spellings with an additional final -e, there are also many examples of words without the final -e we would expect to find in the correct, modern spelling of the word such as the repeated use of forms including <els> *else*, <com> *come* and <som> *some*.

The use of final -e is not consistent however, and it is possible to see a number of examples of variant forms with and without the final -e being used within the same

letter. This can be seen in his use of forms such as <thos/those> (f.310r) and <said/saide> (f.316r).

Perhaps the most interesting use of final -e in the letters of Robert Paston is his consistent use of his preferred spelling of /ll/ as <lle>.

<i>/<j>

Just as <i> and <y> could be used interchangeably in the Early Modern period there are also numerous examples of Robert Paston's use of <i> where a <j> would be found in the standard modern form of the word. Examples of this usage include his spellings of <iustice>, <subiect>, <iudge> and <maior>. With the exception of the alternation of <i> and <j> as discussed above, Robert Paston's use of <j> is otherwise in keeping with conventional modern usage, and I can find no examples of <j> being used in place of <g> for /dʒ/.

<i>/<y>

The letters <i> and <y> could be used interchangeably in the Early Modern period and this can be found throughout the letters of Robert Paston, such as his use of the forms <yt> *it*, <voyce> *voice* and <sayd> *said*. This alternation of <i> and <y> resulted in spellings which may appear more unusual to a present-day reader including his spelling of *eye* as <eie> (f.324r). Venezky writes that in present-day English 'suffixation [...] causes the alternation of <i> and <y>' (1970:144), yet this does not appear to have been a fixed feature of Robert Paston's orthography as can be seen in his spelling of words such as *dutiful* which he has recorded as <dutyfull> and in his spelling of *daily* as <daly> (f.370r), he does not substitute <i> for <y> but omits it altogether.

Final <-ie>

One of the most noticeable features of Robert Paston's spelling habits is his frequent use of final <-ie> in place of word-final <-y> in words including *pity*, *happy* and *every*, resulting in the forms <pittie, happie & everie>. In the case of most words this is quite a minor deviation from the accepted conventional <-y> spelling yet it is enough of a difference to give the individual words the appearance of having an unusual spelling. The <-ie> spelling of <everie> extends into his spellings of *everyone's* and *everybody* as <everieions> and <everie bodie> in folio 324r.

The use of <-ie> in place of the final <y> is not consistent however, as can be seen in the <y> spellings of words such as *bounty*. Within the letters contained in BL

Addit MS 27447 there are also examples of words where we would expect to find the use of an <-ie> digraph, for example *counties*, which Robert Paston has chosen to spell as <counteys> with a <y>.

<o>/<oo>

Robert Paston's use of <oo> is mostly in keeping with present-day spelling conventions, however there are a few exceptions, such as his preferred spelling of *two* with a <oo> digraph resulting in the form <too>, and in his spelling of *going* as <gooing>. In words which contain the <oo> digraph in the standardised spelling, such as *door* and *poor*, we find a preference for the <ore> forms <dore> and <pore> which may be indicative of a more rhotic pronunciation. In words where we would expect to find <oo> in the standardised form, such as *bloody*, we find Robert Paston employing the <ou> digraph, resulting in the form <bloudie> (f.326r).

In an undated letter (f.362r), Robert Paston records a non-present-day standard spelling of *road* as <rode>, though he has used the accepted modern spelling of the homophone *rode*.

The use of <u> in place of the standard <o> can be seen in Paston's use of the phonological spelling of *Monday* as <munday> (f.331r).

Folios 329r and 331r contain an unusual spelling of the word *women*, which Robert Paston has recorded with a <eo> digraph which may be based upon his perceived pronunciation of the word.

<ou>

Robert Paston's use of the <ou> digraph is mostly, though not entirely, consistent with its usage in standardised spelling. His preferred spellings of words such as *trouble*, *bound* and *pounds* are in keeping with the standardised modern form, however where we would expect to find <ou> in the standard form of words such as *four*, we find that he has chosen instead to spell this word as <fower>. The use of <ow> in place of <ou> can also be seen in his preferred spelling of *house* as <howse> and in his variant spelling of *you* as <yow>. His occasional <ow> spelling of *you* does not appear to have extended to an analogous spelling of *your*, which is sometimes written in an abbreviated form omitting the <ou> and with a superscript <r>. The use of <ou> or <ow> was not without variation, even within the same letter as can be seen in folio 329r which contains two variant spellings of *hour*, one with the <ou> of the standard form, <houre>, and one containing the unconventional <ow>, <hower>.

The majority of <ou> spellings are in keeping with the standardised forms, however some letters contain examples which deviate from the accepted British English spelling, such as his use of forms including <favor> *favour* and <honorable> *honourable*. The use of <o> in place of <ou> in words such as *favour* is now a recognisable feature of conventional American English spelling.

<u>/<v>

A characteristic feature of Early Modern spellings is the apparently interchangeable usage of certain letters including <u> and <v>. Robert Paston's use of <u> and <v> has resulted in the use of variant forms of the same word, even within one letter, such as his spellings of *several* which he spells with a <v>, <severall> and with a <u>, <seuerall>. He appears to display a preference for using <v> for /ʌ/ in initial position in words such as <vpon> and <vnder>, yet in medial position he alternates between the two letter forms even within the same letter, for example in folio 362r where he records <severall> and <seuerall>. In his spellings of *have* and *give*, Robert Paston is consistent in his use of <u> in the forms <haue> and <giue>.

3.4.2 Consonants and Consonant Clusters

<c>/<sc>/<s>

Robert Paston's letters contain a number of instances of <c>, <s>, <cs> and <z> being employed in words which deviate from the standard present-day form of the word. His spelling of words such as *sense* displays his use of <c>, <sence> (f.310r), probably an analogous spelling influenced by his spellings of words within the same letter such as *assurance*, or perhaps as a result of confusion with the word *since*. In contrast, he employs an <s> spelling of *choice* as <choise> in folio 338r. There are also instances of his inclusion of the <sc> cluster in his spelling <descision> *decision* (f.336r) as well as one occurrence of its use in initial position in his use of the form <scene> which may look like the accepted present-day spelling, but in this case (f.453r) it is his intended spelling of *seen*.

His use of <s> and <z> in his spellings of *cousin* as both <cousin> (f.370) and <couzin> (folios 370r and 458r) shows that his spelling of this particular word was subject to variation, yet in his preferred form of *assizes* <assises>, he is consistent in his use of the <s> graph.

There are also a small number of examples of his use of <ck> to correspond to /k/ in his spelling of *public* as <publick> (f.336r) and *stomached* as <stomacked> (f.431r).

<gh>

Paston's spelling of <gh> words is, for the most part, in keeping with the standard modern form when corresponding to /f/ in words such as *enough*, and in words where <gh> corresponds to /ø/ in words including *delight* and *though*. However, there are examples of non-present-day standard usage, such as his inclusion of the <gh> digraph in his spelling of *waited* as <waighted> in folio 412r. His use of the <gh> digraph in this particular instance may be the result of confusion with words such as *weight* and folio 336r does contain an example of the standard form of *weighed*. Folio 368r contains a single instance of a <gh> spelling of *write* <wright> and in the same letter he records the present-day spellings of *writes* and *written*. The use of the <gh> form is not in keeping with his preferred spelling <write> so may have been the result of the influence of other writers who may have employed the <gh> digraph as a marker of vowel length. The single instance of this spelling alongside a conventional spelling of *writes* suggests that Robert Paston was not attempting to signify a feature of the pronunciation. His spelling of *surveyor* as <surveighor> in folio 370r, suggests that he may have been unfamiliar with the spelling of this particular word, and his use of the <gh> cluster may in this instance be an attempt to mark vowel length.

<gu>

Folio 370 recto contains a non-present-day spelling of *guard* as <gard>, suggesting that this is a phonological spelling without the need for the silent <u> of the initial cluster.

<-tion>

Robert Paston's use of <-tion> spellings in words such as *admiration* and *satisfaction* are, for the most part, in accordance with the conventional modern usage. Robert Paston's spelling of *occasion* as <occatation> is an analogous spelling following his consistent spellings of <-tion>. The analogous use of <t>, such as in his spelling of <occatation> may also be seen in folio 362r in his use of the form <espentially> *especially*.

3.4.3 Frequently used words

Been

The letters of Robert Paston contain a number of variant forms of <been>, and in some instances he employs more than one variant within the one letter. Folio 310r contains an example of his use of a non-conventional and slightly more archaic form, <bin>. Paston's most frequently used form of *been* is the standard form with an additional final -e, <beene>.

Believe

The letters of Robert Paston contain a number of variant forms of *believe* indicating that his preferred form of this word was not fixed and may have been subject to the influence of the spellings employed by other writers, and it is perhaps worth noting that his spelling of this word displays the most variation of any frequently used word within his letters and is suggestive of the level of variation that still existed in the second half of the seventeenth century. Folios 326r, 370r and 372r record his use of the form <beleeue>, three instances of <beeleeue> can be found in folios 336r, 360r and 372r, with individual instances of <beelieve> (f.324r) and <beleeve> (f.334r) with one instance of an <a> spelling in a letter from July 1686, <baleeue> (f.368r). His use of the forms <beleeue> and <beleeve> vary only through the alternation of <u> and <v> and is therefore a likely candidate for his preferred spelling. As with other deviant spellings in his letters, the use of the <a> form <baleeue> may be little more than a slip of the pen or may have been unconsciously borrowed from another source.

Desire

Robert Paston's preferred spelling of *desire* appears to be in keeping with the present-day standard form, as can be seen in folio 336r. Folio 334r, however, contains an example of a spelling which does not match his most frequent usage. His spelling of *desires* as <diseires> is interesting because not only does he use <i> in place of his usual <e> spelling, but he also the medial <i> has been replaced by an <ei> vowel cluster. This may have been an occasional variant form that is not recorded elsewhere in the letters by Robert Paston preserved in BL Addit MS 27447, and it may also be possible that he has borrowed this form from another writer. The one instance of the <diseires> form means that it is unlikely to be an individual attempt to highlight a feature of the pronunciation.

Shall

The majority of the instances of *shall* in the letters of Robert Paston record the accepted standard form of the word, however, folio 370 contains three instances

of a clear <u> spelling, <shull>, suggesting an attempt to signify an unstressed vowel. While there is no clear usage of this <u> form in the rest of Robert Paston's letters preserved in BL Addit MS 27447, folio 376 recto contains one conventional spelling of *shall* and one with an unclear medial vowel which may be a <u> or a <a> which was not fully formed.

3.4.4 Other Features

Additional letters

Some of the most interesting spellings exhibited in the letters by Robert Paston are those which deviate from the modern spelling through the use of an additional letter. One of the most frequent examples of his use of an additional letter is his preferred spelling of *like* as <licke> with an additional <c>.

Many of the examples of spellings containing additional letters differ from their modern equivalent only through the use of doubled consonants, such as in the spellings <Aprill> *April*, <wittnesse> *witness* and <beeing> *being*. The doubling of consonants in Robert Paston's letters is most frequently found in word-final position, such as in his use of forms including <itt, gett & finall> *it, get & final* and again it is only the use of these double consonants that separates his chosen spellings from the accepted standard form.

'Missing' letters

In addition to the words which differ from the correct modern spelling through the use of an additional letter there are numerous examples of those words which deviate from the conventional form through the omission of a letter. Many of the instances of this are simply the use of a single consonant where the standardised form contains a double consonant, as can be seen in his use of spellings including <aprehension> *apprehension* and <accomodation> *accommodation*, both of which could still be found as erroneous spellings in the present-day. Robert Paston's spelling of *parliament* as <parlament> may not be in keeping with the correct modern form, but his chosen form without the medial <i> is in keeping with a common mistake in the present-day spelling. His use of forms such as <chritmas> (f.326r) without the <s> is clearly an erroneous spelling as the correct modern form of the word is employed elsewhere in his letters.

Word Divisions

Many spellings recorded in Robert Paston's letters differ from the standard spelling of the word through the redistribution of the word boundaries. Examples of words

divided into two separate words include <cheer fullie> *cheerfully*, <streight ness> *straightness*, <present lie> *presently* and, the most frequently occurring example, <to morrowe> *tomorrow*.

Abbreviations

The most frequently abbreviations in the letters of Robert Paston are his abbreviated forms of *the*, *that*, *your* and *which*. His abbreviations of *the* and *that* take the form of a <y> with a superscript <e> and <t> respectively, though Paston also writes these words in full on other occasions. The use of <y> in the abbreviated forms of *the* and *that* is a fossil of the Old English letterform thorn, <þ>, which corresponds to <th>. Thorn remained in use until the fifteenth century, but confusion between thorn and <y> resulted in later printers and writers using <y> to represent <th> in abbreviated forms in a practice which continued as late as the eighteenth century.

He is relatively consistent in his use of the abbreviated form of *which* <whi> which appears in his letter as <w^{ch}>, though there are instances of the word being written in full. Similarly, he is relatively consistent in his abbreviation of *your* as <y^r> which has been expanded to <your> in the transcriptions.

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Robert Paston does not appear to have frequently used the common abbreviations for words beginning with clusters including <pro->, <pre->, <per->, opting in most instances to spell in full words such as *promise*, *present* and *person* and, for the most part, he spells these words in their correct modern form. However, two of these abbreviated spellings in his choice of the forms <presents> and <presence> are written in with a slanted <p> followed by a superscript flourish. His spelling of *particular*, is also not in keeping with the present-day form and is instead spelt with an initial <per-> cluster resulting in the form *perticular*, which does not appear to have been an uncommon spelling in Early Modern English.

Fig. 2: Example of a letter from Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth to his wife Rebecca, Viscountess Yarmouth, dated September 1682.

BL Addit MS 27448

Folio 132 Recto

September the 22th 1682

My Deare Sowle

As I am now writing I hope Kirle is with you, heere is att dinner with mee, Baron Attkinns, Sir william Adams the Mayor of Norwich Alderman Gardiner who has shewne himself very right, and Alderman Stebbings and seuerall more soe that I haue nott time to say much, for you know all the substance allready. On Munday I shall haue time to enlarge on all thinges, I would nott omitt this post however to Kiss your hands, Mr Cecill writes you a letter howeuer and you may hint to the Secretary that the surrender is nott onely according to his draught but fuller, pray Present my humble service to my daughter Paston, to charles & the little ones to deare Betty, to Jasper & Thom, my son Paston I heare had great preeparations made for him att Lynn of which in my next, I am sorrie to write soe short a letter to you, butt the post calls, and I can onely giue you an Huzza to your health now in the Mayor of Norwich hands and Captaine Haughton and all the rest, I am these two or three dayes better then I was, god send mee to meet you with ioy, I am yours till death

Yarmouth

The fanaticks meake the Charter went of with bells and bonefires:

{folio 133 verso}

September The 22 1682

Fig. 3: BL Addit MS 27448 Folio 132 Recto

3.5 The Spelling Practices of Rebecca Paston and her Family

3.5.1 *Rebecca Paston, Countess of Yarmouth*

Rebecca Paston, Countess of Yarmouth, was the daughter of Sir Jasper Clayton, a London haberdasher. Rebecca married Robert Paston in June 1650 and they had as many as nine children together. Within the lifespan of these letters, Sir Robert was known as the Earl of Yarmouth before becoming Viscount Yarmouth, and as a result, Rebecca is also known by various titles, but as we will not be considering the letters in a chronological order, I will refer to her only as Rebecca.

Following the death of her husband in 1683, Rebecca lived as the Dowager Countess of Yarmouth, living at various addresses across affluent areas of London, including Downing Street. Contemporary accounts of Rebecca's personality showed her to be ambitious and not easily liked (Agnew, 2012: 18). In the year following her husband's death, a letter was sent to her son, William, describing Rebecca's reception at Windsor as 'contemptuous' and describing the Dowager herself as an 'indiscreet & mischievous woman'.

Rebecca Paston, Countess of Yarmouth, is represented by only six documents within this collection of correspondence, as well as one letter written by a scribe on her behalf (BL Addit MS 27448, f.327). Not all the writing of Rebecca, Countess of Yarmouth, that has been preserved in BL Addit Manuscript is in the form of a letter and evidence of Rebecca's writing can also be found in the form of a 'memorand ham' (Addit MS 36988 f.261r). A note on the back of a printed pamphlet (Addit MS 36988 f.88r) is identified by Francis Blomefield as also being in the hand of the Countess of Yarmouth.

In addition to the examples of Rebecca's writing held in the Paston family archive, twenty-two letters in Rebecca's hand are preserved in the Clayton family archive

in Norfolk Record Office and a further full letter to Lady Danby is preserved in the British Library's Egerton 3338 MS along with a fragment of another incomplete letter, though this incomplete letter does contain Rebecca's signature. 'Yarmouth'.

Rebecca's hand is untidy and sprawling and many of the letter forms are not clearly defined and are identifiable only by context. A number of her letters contain words that have been overwritten which add to the generally untidy appearance of Rebecca's writing. Rebecca's hand contains a number of characteristic letterforms. The form of the letter <t> varies depending on its position within the word with medial and word-final <t> being formed by one pen line looping down and back across the ascender to form the cross-stroke while initial <t> is always capitalised in a form which is very similar to an uppercase <f>, again with the cross-stroke formed from a continuation of the bottom loop. While the <t> is formed from a single continuous line, the <d> is not. The bowl of the letter is open and does not join the ascender as would be expected, instead a cross-stroke is used to close the top of the bowl. Rebecca Paston used long-s in initial and most medial positions, though some of the forms are between long and short <s> and are therefore problematic when transcribing. The rounded <u> form is used for both <u> and <v> in initial and medial positions.

Rebecca Paston's letters and notes within this collection of correspondence have a generally untidy appearance, even when writing to the King. Rebecca's holograph letters utilise the full width of the page and she leaves little blank space on the page.

Some of the more unusual and potentially challenging spellings in Rebecca's writings are her representations of place names and surnames. The French town of Toulouse is discussed in BL Addit MS 36988 folio 261 recto and Rebecca is clearly trying to represent her pronunciation of the name in her use of the form <Tolows>, a place name that she may have been unfamiliar with in its written form.

Similarly, <Mountigue>, also found in folio 261 verso, refers to Edward Montagu, 2nd Baron Montagu of Boughton, while the surname of Sir Edward Villiers (1620-1689) is recorded in BL Addit MS 36988 f.261 as <Uielors>, <Uilores> and <Vielors>.

As with many non-standard forms from this period, the inclusion of or omission of final-e is the only way in which they differ from the standardised spelling and this

can be seen in the use of spellings with an additional final-e such as <noe>, <Looke> and <newse>, and those without the final-e including <on> *one*, <se> *se* and <Tak> *take*. The spelling of *do* as <due> is employed twice in Rebecca's letter from 1685 and deviates from the standardised form, however her letters within the Clayton family archive, dating from the mid-1670s, indicate a preference for the form <dou>, suggesting a conscious shift in Rebecca's personal usage within her lifetime, though the relatively limited evidence for Rebecca's writing means that it is not possible to be sure which, if either, of these was the preferred spelling throughout her life. In some instances of this usage, Rebecca's similar letter-forms for <u> and <n> make it unclear whether the form is <dou> or <don>, and this is made apparent only through the context of the usage, but her usage of <ou> forms is confirmed by the use of <douing>. Where we would expect to find <oo> in *afternoon*, Rebecca displays a consistent use of the form <after nune> in the letters to her Clayton cousins held in Norfolk Record Office. The use of <u> to represent /u:/ is also repeated in Rebecca's spelling of *choose* as <chus>.

The letters of Rebecca Paston contain examples of pronunciation-based spellings. One example of this in her letter of January 1685 where she has opted to employ the form <ayers> to represent *heirs*, not representing the silent <h> of the standardised form. Rebecca's realisation of *imagine* and as <emagone>, with <e> for <i> apparently an attempt to represent a lowered pronunciation of the initial unstressed vowel was a distinctive feature of her personal orthography. Similar forms appear within the letters in the Egerton MS and the Clayton family archive including <enosency> *innocence*, albeit alongside <inclosed> for *enclosed*. Rebecca's odd spelling for *auditor*, viz. <oditor>, might also be noted.

One of the most interesting phonological spellings within Rebecca's letters can be found throughout her complete letters within the Clayton family archive when she subscribed her letters as the addressee's <afexsinit> servant, and this <x> spelling appears to have been inherited from her mother, who will be discussed in greater detail below. In this particular realisation of *affectionate*, Rebecca has chosen to represent the /ʃ/ sound with a <x> instead of the conventional <ct> cluster and while the form may have appeared unusual, even within Rebecca's lifetime, the evidence provided by Rebecca's surviving letters indicate that she was consistent in her use of this form. The use of <x> to represent /ʃ/ is mirrored in her spelling

of *satisfaction* as <satisfaxsion>, a form that is used in her letters in the British Library Egerton MS and her letters in Norfolk Record Office; however, her representation of *expectation* in the Egerton 3338 f. 125 does not follow this pattern, with Rebecca opting instead for the form <expattasions>. Rebecca's surviving letters contain unusual representations of the medial /n/ in *suddenly* and the final /n/ in *sudden* which appear to suggest that Rebecca interpreted her pronunciation of the /n/ in both words as being closer to a velar nasal. The forms <sudingly> and <suding> are recorded in separate letters that are also preserved in separate archives, indicating that this was indeed her intended spelling and not merely a slip of the pen or an individual error.

We are fortunate to be able to consider Rebecca's spellings alongside those of her mother, Mary Clayton, and two of Rebecca's daughters, Margaret Alberti and Elizabeth Paston, thanks to the survival of letters in their hands.

3.5.2 Mary Clayton

Rebecca Paston is not the only female member of the Clayton family to be represented within this collection of letters. Rebecca's mother, Mary Clayton, is represented by one letter within the Paston family correspondence (BL Addit MS 27447 f.319), written to her son in law, Sir Robert Paston in an undated letter. As is so often the case with letters concerning the affairs of Sir Robert and his family, Mary Clayton's letter discusses the family financial and business matters, offering her hope to Sir Robert that his fortunes will improve.

Mary's letter displays a number of phonological spellings including a simplified form of *knowledge* without the medial <w> and final -e resulting in the form <knolidg>, which is similar to Rebecca's consistent use of the form <obledg> for *oblidge*. Like her daughter, Mary also employs <x> in her spellings of *affection* and *affectionate* as <afextion> and <afxnit>. Another notable phonological spelling is her representation of *Norfolk* on the address leaf as <norfuck> and her spelling of *Westminster* has been simplified to reflect her pronunciation resulting in the form <westmester>. Where we would expect to find a final <-er> in words such as *better* and *letter*, Mary has employed the forms <betre> and <letar>, with the latter perhaps suggesting an attempt to represent stress on the final syllable.

Other patterns within the one letter by Mary Clayton indicate a preference for the doubling of word-final consonants, as can be seen in her use of spellings including <iff>, <triall> and <troubill> and the use of single vowels where we would expect to find digraphs in the standardised form, such as her use of the forms <jurny> *journey*, <hartily> *heartily*, <helth> *health* and <Deply> *deeply*. It is also worth noting that Mary's letter did not contain evidence of the use of abbreviated or contracted forms.

3.5.3 Margaret Alberti (nee Paston)

Margaret Alberti was the daughter of Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth and his wife, Rebecca Clayton. Margaret married Girolamo Alberti di Conti, a Venitian and a Catholic (Agnew, 2012: 13) and she moved to Venice following her marriage. One of Margaret's letters written to her mother from her marital home in Venice has been preserved in Addit MS 36988. Margaret's letter contains a number of interesting spelling features as well as offering a personal insight into the life of a married woman living in a foreign country. f.220r, dated July 1683, begins with an apology to her mother that she was unable to answer her last letter as a result of being in labour. Margaret describes her joy at being delivered of twin boys and expresses her thanks at the 'maracle' that she survived the ordeal of childbirth before expressing her sorrow at the death of one of her newborn sons just a day after his birth.

"God almighty was pleased to release me from that torment by my being delivered of too sons at berth but is in this world tis vain to hope for a Solled Joy without being mixed with Sorow so by the death of one of them the day after its berth has abated the Joy of haueing brought too at one time the other I thank God is uery well & I hope will Liue with me as for my self I am alive by maracle both my children being duble born the first with its bely formost & the Second with its back" (Addit MS 36988, f.220r)

Her letter continues to discuss her father's death in March 1683 and she blames her father's stressful lifestyle at court for his early death.

"So perhaps if my dear father had contented him self with the holsume aire of pore oxned without troubleing him with State afairs & folowing the

Court that your Ladyship would not now be a widoe" (Addit MS 36988, f.220v)

Margaret's letter is in a dark, heavy, looping hand with the occasional flourishes on ascenders and descenders, and the cramped signature is in the same hand as the main body of the text. Margaret's hand is similar in appearance to that of her mother, Rebecca Paston, though is perhaps more regular than her mother's hand. The body of the letter is written from one edge of the paper to the other, leaving no margins of blank space around the edge of the page. The overall appearance of the letter is therefore cramped and untidy, with a number of corrections and deletions as well as ink blotches. The letter contains almost no punctuation, with only one clear full stop or comma to break up five pages of text. Unlike many writers of this period, Margaret Alberti's letter contains no abbreviated forms with the exception of abbreviated titles such as the Italian <Sig^r> *signor*. This untidy appearance and lack of punctuation and letter-writing conventions such as abbreviated forms indicate that this epistle is not for show or for sharing with others. The letter has a purely communicative function between a young woman and her mother at what was clearly a difficult time in her life following the loss of a child and her father.

One of the most noticeable features of Margaret's spelling system is her representation of vowel sounds which may be indicative of her personal pronunciation of these words, or these may be the result of spellings inherited from family members or close friends. The present-day <e> in words such as *German*, *serve* and *concern* appears in Margaret's letter as <a> resulting in her use of the forms <garman>, <sarue> and <consarn>. Similarly, Margaret chose to use <a> in her non-standard spelling of *miracle* as <maracle>.

Margaret Alberti's distribution of <e> and <i> is also of interest. Where we would expect to find initial <e> in words such as *England*, *enjoy* and *endure*, Margaret's letter contains initial <i> forms, <Inglan>, <Inioy> and <indure> as an attempt to reflect the /ɪ/ pronunciation. Initial <e> spellings are used in words including <extremety> and <especially> indicating a clear attempt to represent the initial /ɛ/ sound. Where we would expect to find <i> spellings in words including *birth*

and *since*, Margaret's chosen forms again deviate from the present-day standard form through her use of <e> resulting in her use of <berth> and <senc>.

Margaret Alberti's letter also indicates a non-standard distribution of the <ou> digraph. Where we would expect to find <ou> in *labour*, Margaret has opted to omit the <u>, while her spelling of *double* contains <u> instead of the <ou> of the standardised present-day spelling. There is also evidence that Margaret's distribution of the <oo> digraph deviates from the standardised form in her spelling of *poor* as <pore> and in her use of the <oo> digraph in her spelling of *two* as <too>, a spelling which she shares with her father, the first Earl of Yarmouth.

The letter from Margaret also shows a preference for the use of <i> in place of <j> in words including *enjoy* <Inioy> and *journey* <iornye>. Where we would expect to find a <j> spelling in the standardised form of the word *subject*, we instead find that Margaret has opted to use a <g>, resulting in the non-standardised form <subject>. While this is based on the limited evidence provided by one letter, the spellings employed suggest that Margaret either does not use the <j> graph or does so only very rarely.

The evidence from Margaret's letter indicates a preference for the use of the <s> graph where the standardised form of the word contains either a <c> or a <z> as can be seen in her use of forms including <consarn> *concern* and <amases> *amazes*, yet in initial position, Margaret's employment of <c> and <s> does not deviate from the present-day forms. Her realisation of *republic* as <republick> does deviate from the standard and also mirrors her father's use of the <ck> digraph in word final position.

Another common feature of Margaret's spelling system is the consistent use of a single consonant where we would expect to find a double consonant in the present-day spelling of words such as *sorrow* <sorow>, *possible* <posible> and *approach* <aproach>. Word-final double consonants in standardised spellings such as *loss and less* appear with a single consonant and final-e, resulting in the forms <lose> and <lese>. In addition to 'missing' letters, Margaret's letter also contains examples of spellings which contain additional letters not found in the present-day spelling.

Margaret Alberti's letter to her mother contains a number of spellings such as *thank* <thanke>, *speak* <speake>, *ship* <shipe> and *no* <noe> which differ only from the standardised spelling through the addition of final-e. In addition to these spellings, there are also a number of examples of spellings which do not contain the final-e of the standardised form. These spellings include *fortune* <fortun>, *private* <priuat>, *promise* <promis> and *sense* <senc>.

Margaret's letter contains a number of distinctive, non-standard forms such as her preferred <gh> spelling of *writes* as <wrights>, her spelling of *friend* as <frind> and there appears to have been a preference for a phonological spelling of *business* as <bisnes>.

3.5.4 William Paston

William Paston was the eldest son of Robert and Rebecca Paston and was known within the family as 'Billie'. William was born in 1654 and in 1673 he married Charlotte Jemima Henrietta Maria Fitzroy (Agnew, 2012:143), the illegitimate daughter of King Charles II and Elizabeth Killigrew. Together, William and Charlotte had four children, Charles, Charlotte, Rebecca and William. Charlotte had previously been married to James Howard and their daughter Stuarta Howard is also represented within this collection of letters. Sir Robert Paston died in March 1683 (Agnew, 2012: 25) and William inherited his title of Earl of Yarmouth, and in July the following year, William was widowed when Charlotte died suddenly (letters referring to her sudden death can be found in BL Addit MS 36988, f.229 and f.231, the former from Lady Mary Killigrew, her aunt). Charlotte was buried in Westminster Abbey. William remarried three years later and his second wife was Elizabeth Wiseman (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-21513>. Date last accessed: 8 May 2018). With James II on the throne, William became a Catholic and was awarded with the role of Treasurer of the Household, but as William III and Mary came to the throne just a few years later, William returned to Protestantism (<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/10.1093/ref:odnb/9780198614128.001.0001/odnb-9780198614128-e-21513>. Date last accessed: 8 May 2018). Along with his title, William had also inherited his father's poor financial affairs and debts, and William shared his father's financial

mismanagement and by the time of his death on Christmas Day 1732, he was in financial ruin. William had survived all of his heirs and with his death, so to died the Paston family line.

Like generations of Pastons before him, William attended Cambridge University, a student at Trinity College, but there is no clear description of the education he received as a child, or if he was tutored alongside his elder sister, Margaret, but the fact that he was only two years younger than his sister and that his younger brothers and sisters were educated together suggests that this was a possibility.

William is represented in this collection by only one letter and one short note at the end of a letter by his father, however, a selection of his letters has been transcribed in Agnew's edition of Sir Robert Paston's correspondence and I have consulted these transcriptions to provide additional information on William's spelling habits.

What is notable from William's letter to his mother in July 1693, preserved in Addit MS 36988, f.271 and included in Fig. 5 below, is how many of his spellings differ only from the standardised form through his use of letterforms, employing long -s and medial <u> for <v> in words such as Ladyshipe. The letter does contain some non-standard spellings, such as his contraction of the final <-ed> in <declard>, but his spellings of place names are phonological, such as his spelling of Hamburg as <Hamborough> (although the letters in the Norfolk Record Office collection suggest that he was more familiar with the spellings of French place names).

His letters within Norfolk Record Office and transcribed in Agnew's edition, do however, offer some more spellings that are reminiscent of those employed by his parents, such as his use of the <ea> digraph in his spellings of *extreme* and *extremely* as <extream> and <extreamly> which he shared with his father, Sir Robert, and his younger brother, Thomas, who was nine years younger than him.

One notable spelling within a letter to his mother dating from April 1671, is his use of <h> in his realisation of *we* as <whe>, perhaps an analogous spelling based on words such as *who* and *whom*, although by 1677, William is using the form <wee>, which is also found in the letters of his father, mother, and youngest sister, Elizabeth, indicating a shift within his personal usage. It is worth noting that at the

time of the first example in 1671, William would only have been sixteen or seventeen years of age, and so his spelling system would not have been fixed and he may have been experimenting with his own orthographical rules, and his use of <whe> in another letter from 1671. As with so many of the correspondents of this period, a number of spellings vary only from the standard form through the addition of a final -e, such as in his use of <doe>, <bee>, <businessse> and <successe>. The letters written by a teenage William, dating to 1671, also contain spellings which would not have looked out of place in the spelling inventory of his mother, Rebecca, such as his use of <bed> for *bid* and <seting> for *sitting*, the use of initial <i> in his spelling of *enquired*, and the use of initial <e> in <Embassadour's> *Ambassador's*.

Although the evidence presented here for the spelling systems of William Paston is limited, it does suggest that at a younger age at least, William did share spellings with his family members, perhaps through shared tuition, or intentionally copying the spellings of his parents, but the range of words recorded in these letters sadly does not include any spellings that are so distinctive that they could clearly be attributed to a particular source.

3.5.5 Robert Paston (Robin)

Robert Paston was the Earl of Yarmouth's third child born in 1656 and was known to the family as Robin and was occasionally referred to as Bob. To avoid confusion with his father in the discussion on the spelling habits of the Earl of Yarmouth and his immediate family I will refer to the younger Robert Paston by his family nickname, Robin. At the age of nineteen, Robin went on the Grand Tour, accompanying the Earl of Plymouth (Agnew, 2012: 17), and two of the letters preserved in this collection refer to his time on the Continent. Robin was made a freeman of Norwich in January 1678 and one letter suggests that Robin was a 'great favourite of the weomen' (Addit MS 28621 ff.34-35, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 319). Robin married widow Hester Mainwaring in 1680 and his second wife, Anne Harbord, in 1689, but both marriages failed to produce a surviving son (Agnew, 2012: 390). The Earl of Yarmouth's letters suggest a close relationship between the Earl and Robin, asking to be remembered to his son Robin in a number of letters to

his wife and discussing their mutual business affairs. Robin died in 1705. Robin Paston is represented by four letters within this collection.

As with most of the correspondents of this period, Robin's letters display a number of spellings which differ from the present-day, standardised form only through the use of an additional final-e, such as the forms <meete>, <kinde> and the forms <soe> and <doe> which he shares with his father and brothers.

Another spelling that Robin appears to have shared with his younger brother, Jasper, is the simplified form of *character* with an initial <c> where we would expect to find <ch> in the standardised form. Examples of contemporary spellings in the OED show that the <ch> form was in use in this period. While Robin has omitted the silent <h> in his use of <caracter>, his 1674 letter to his father he has included an additional <h> in his representation of *such* as <shuch>. While additional letters in some words may indicate an attempt to represent the author's perceived pronunciation, on this occasion, it would be unlikely that Robin pronounced *such* as /ʃʌtʃ/, although he may have perceived an element of aspiration in his pronunciation which he has attempted to represent in the written form. The use of this particular spelling is not restricted to this one instance and is therefore not accidental. A letter contained in Agnew's edition of the letters of Robert Paston, first Earl of Yarmouth, shows that Robin made a deliberate choice to employ this particular form when he repeated the form in a letter in April 1675 alongside his spelling of *any such* as the single word <anyshuch>.

Robin's letter to his father sent from Angers (Addit MS 27447, f.492) suggests that, at that point in his life at least, he represented the initial /ʃ/ of *sure* through the use of the <sh> digraph in an analogous spelling, <shure>. That this spelling was not unintentional can be seen in his use of the related form <asheure>.

Robin's choice of vowels in a number of spellings may also reflect his perceived pronunciation of those words. The use of the form <injoy> suggests he was attempting to represent a pronunciation closer to /ɪ/ than /ɛ/. Similarly, Robin's spelling of *been* as <bin>, another form which he shares with his brother Jasper (and similar to their mother's use of <bine>), is indicative of the pronunciation /bɪn/ as opposed to /bi:n/.

A common feature of Early Modern writing is the use of abbreviated or contracted forms and it is no great surprise that these also feature in the spelling system of Robin Paston. Robin makes use of common abbreviated forms such as <w^{ch}> *which*, as well as some more unusual and unconventional forms. The letter dated to 1674 contains the contracted form <return'd>, and in the same letter we find <my thank's>, *my thanks*. It is possible that this was an analogous form influenced by the contracted <'d> forms that he was familiar with or may have been confused with the use of possessive apostrophes, an error that writers continue to make in the present day. It is worth noting that in this and other letters by Robin Paston, he does spell *thanks* in the conventional standardised manner, without a final-e to be contracted. While analogy or confusion may offer an explanation for this particular usage, the same letter also contains one instance of the more unusual form <ha's> *has*, alongside examples of the conventional spelling. The fact that the form <ha's> was used only once suggests that this was not Robin's preferred or intended spelling and was probably an error.

In addition to these abbreviations, Robin also abbreviated the place name *Plymouth* in the name of his friend and Grand Tour travelling companion, the Earl of Plymouth, resulting in the form <Plimth>. It was not uncommon for writers to abbreviate personal names, and Robin used a contracted form of his own name when signing off his 1674 letter, signing himself as <Ro: Paston>. This contracted form may also reflect the fact that he was known as *both* Robert and Robin to his family.

3.5.6 Jasper Paston

Jasper Paston (1660 - 1685) was the fourth child born to Robert and Rebecca Paston, and was named after Rebecca's father, Sir Jasper Clayton. Jasper Paston is represented by one letter in this collection of letters written when he was around 22 years of age. Jasper married Margery Fairborne, the widow of Sir Palmes Fairborne, in 1683 (<http://www.westminster-abbey.org/our-history/people/sir-palmes-fairborne>. Date accessed: 10 March 2017), only two years before his death. Although this one letter only offers limited evidence for Jasper's personal spelling system, it can provide some indication of Jasper's preferred spellings and may even suggest similarities with the spelling systems of his parents and siblings. A January

1674/5 letter from John Gough to Jasper's father, Robert, Viscount Yarmouth describes teenage Jasper's character and his intellectual abilities.

[...] I do now upon better experience speake that nature has not been niggardly in furnishing Mr Jasper with abilityes of mind for a scholar. The truth is, my lord, his reason and judgement are in my opinion more then ordinary for his years, & his temper so even that whatsoever school he be put to where he may be followed close & lookt after there is no doubt but he will in time make a good scholar. But time must be allowed & that no short one seeing he is now so backward. (NRO: BL/Y/1/82 transcribed in Agnew, 2012:150)

Far from being destined for life as a scholar, Gough is concerned that without the discipline of school, Jasper will be easily distracted and will 'love his pleasures too much, & neglect his study' (Agnew, 2012: 150). Gough also expressed concern that young Jasper had a 'disinclination [...] to any learned profession, he having upon all occasions when I have discours't with him upon the subject declared against beeing a scholar [...]' (Agnew, 2012: 150). John Gough's frustration at Jasper's apparent lack of professional aspiration also appears to have been shared by his father when he wrote to Rebecca Paston in 1676 that 'Thom plyes me with Latin letters butt Jasper is the worst and I knowe nott what he can be good for, which makes me have the worst opinion of him' (NRO: BL/Y/1/134, transcribed in Agnew, 2012: 212). The idea of a difficult relationship between father and son can also be seen in a letter from Yarmouth to Rebecca when he complains that gossip about the family originated from letters between Jasper and his siblings, describing his children as 'the traytors in oure owne family' (Agnew, 2012: 339).

Jasper's spelling in Addit MS 36988, displays a tendency to employ additional <e>s in medial and word-final position as can be seen in his spellings of <Extreemely>, <intereest> and <hee>. Some of the spellings employed in this letter also indicate a tendency to simplify some double consonant clusters such as in his use of the forms <wel> *well* and <diner> *dinner*. There are, however, examples of the double consonant clusters remaining, for example, in the form <carryed> and his use of a double <r> cluster in his preferred spelling of *character* as <carracter>, though this form also displays simplification of the initial <ch> cluster, omitting the silent <h>.

The <ch> digraph does not appear to have been an issue for Jasper in his spelling of other words, however, even when the word may have been seen as more unusual or more challenging, as can be seen in his 'correct' spelling of *yacht*. It is, perhaps, unsurprising that Jasper, who had by this date embarked on a career in the navy, should display a familiarity with specific maritime terminology, even though his one use of the word *maritime* saw it spelt as <maritine>.

Jasper's spellings within this one letter also contains a number of spellings which hint at preference in the use of <i> where we would expect to see <j> or <y> in the present-day spelling. Examples of this can be seen in the use of the forms <voiages> *voyages*, <allwaies> *always* and <Maiesty> *Majesty*. This apparent preference for <i> spellings can also be seen in Jasper's chosen spelling of *been* as <bin>.

3.5.7 *Thomas Paston*

Thomas was the youngest of the Paston sons, born to Robert and Rebecca in 1663. A colonel in the army and supporter of William III, Thomas's image has been preserved in a 1688 engraving with the portraits of six Portsmouth captains (now held in the National Portrait Gallery) which shows him as a young gentleman with a long, dark, curled wig, lace neckerchief and elaborately decorated jacket. Although the surviving images of his father are eighteenth century reproductions, there is more than a hint of a family resemblance (www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw57502/The-Portsmouth-Captains. Date last accessed: 9 May 2018). Like his brother Jasper, Thomas married a widow, Dorothy Rokeby, daughter of Edward Darcy (Agnew, 2012: 391); he drowned in 1693 (Burke, 1844 [1964]:402).

As a child, Thomas was tutored by the family's local rector, John Gough. Mr Gough thought that Thomas had the potential to become a scholar. Thomas later attended school with his brother, Jasper, and two letters between his parents refer to Thomas's time as a schoolboy.

BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 contains only three pieces of writing by Thomas Paston, with only one piece of writing surviving in each of the manuscripts. Unlike a lot of the individuals represented in this collection of

correspondence, Thomas is not only represented by pieces of correspondence, but is also represented by a short fourteen-line poem for his father written in 1673 to congratulate his father on being granted the title of Viscount Yarmouth in August of that year. Thomas's poem is competently written for a child of ten years of age, though it is possible that he had some assistance with the composition. The hand of the poem is neat and careful with individual letterforms, and the initial <s> takes the form of a long-s with a narrow top and large, looping descender. Young Thomas's attempts at a flourished hand are heavy and deliberate rather than light and flowing. The signature below the poem is in the same hand and the initial <t> of Thomas's name has a large, confident cross stroke that is almost as long as the rest of his signature. The bold initial t remains a feature of Thomas's two letters which date to 1682 and 1684, though his handwriting style is much looser and lighter than that of his ten-year-old self. At first glance, the hands of the two letters do look to be different; the hand of BL Addit MS 36988 f.212 is slightly narrower and more italicised in appearance, while the letterforms of BL Addit MS 27448 f.298 have a fuller and slightly rounder appearance, with a similarity to the hand of Viscount Paston. Closer inspection of the letterforms reveals these to be the hand of Thomas Paston, with distinctive features such as the small tight knot at the end of the looped ascender of d.

Unfortunately, the two letters written by Thomas do not share many words with distinctive spellings to allow comparison with one another to allow a discussion of the spelling features he may have shared with the members of his immediate family. Both letters contain an example of *business* and both of these letters share the same form, <buisnes>, and given the two-year gap between the letters in BL Addit MSS 27447 and 36988 it is likely that this was either a fixed form within his personal spelling system, or was at least a preferred and frequently used option. Both letters also contain instances of the word *desired*, however, in this case the spellings do not match, with <desired> used in BL Addit MS 27448 f.298 verso, while Addit MS 36988 contains the form <desiered>. With only two letters to compare, it is possible that one of these forms was a preferred form with the other a variant within his personal spelling inventory. Thomas's letters also share the use of the <ea> digraph in his representations of *extremely* and *answer* as <extreamly> and <answear>.

As with the letters of his father and brothers, Thomas also shows a tendency for the doubling of word-final consonants in forms including <lett>, <forgitt> and <usuall>. Both of Thomas's letters show a preference for the simplification of -ed to <d> or <t> as can be seen in his use of the forms <askt>, <talkt>, <Receivd> and <orderd>, and this can also be found in his use of <conferrd> in the poem written for his father as a child. Unlike many of the letter-writers represented in the correspondence of the Paston family, Thomas does not display the same use of final-e, with only his spellings of *so* and *do* containing the addition of a final -e.

3.5.8 Elizabeth Paston

Elizabeth was the youngest of the Paston children, born in 1667. Elizabeth is represented by one letter in BL Addit Manuscript 36988, folio 121 recto, in which is addressed to her father, Viscount Yarmouth at his lodgings in London. The letter is dated 1676 in the hand of Francis Blomefield. A short note also in Blomefield's hand on folio 122 verso explains that Elizabeth's mention of the 'sad misfortune that befell [his] Lordship coming from Kensington' (f.121r) refers an incident on 9th August 1676 in which shots were fired at Viscount Yarmouth in his coach. At the time of writing, Elizabeth would have been only nine years old and along with her elder brothers, was under the tutelage of John Gough, rector of Oxnead.

The letter itself is of interest when compared with the other correspondence in the collection as unlike other letters, faint lines are visible on the page having been drawn to keep the writing neat and straight on the page. The lack of errors makes it a possibility that young Elizabeth was copying from a draft copy written by her tutor to allow her to write to her father. The letterforms in the body of the letter differ from those in the signature, such as the exclusive use of *e* throughout the body of the letter compared to the use of the *ε* graph in the signature which may indicate that the letter is not in Elizabeth's own hand. However, the *b*, *s* and *t* graphs in the signature and the weight of the hand do in fact match the body of the letter, suggesting that the letter and the signature were in fact written by the same person. While the use of abbreviated forms was a common feature of early modern spelling, Elizabeth's letter contains no abbreviated forms. It is likely that this letter is the work of a young writer still learning to read and write, perhaps with the assistance of her tutor. The spellings employed in the letter do not vary greatly from the standardised present-day forms and those forms which do deviate

from the recognisably modern spellings vary only through the use of an additional <e> in the forms <bee> *be* and <wee> *we*. The spelling of *between* as <beetwen> is a non-standard form, though yet again this form does not vary greatly from the standard form.

3.6 Summary

What is clear from the letter-writers discussed above is the extent to which their spelling cannot be considered fully standardised, and the extent to which individual practices and habits could vary between members of the same family. This non-standardisation and idiosyncrasy clearly varies between individuals, but the distribution and frequency of non-standard forms varies even between siblings who would have received the same, or a very similar, level of education; it is known that the younger children of Sir Robert and Rebecca Paston were educated together by the same tutor, John Gough, but their sons were in the fortunate position to attend university and continue their education while the daughters could not. The sons would arguably have been more familiar with the standardised forms and the increasing notions of 'correct' English', and it is notable that in a comparison of the letters of the teenage William Paston and those written some years later, there has been a shift in his usage of certain forms, such as <whe> and <wee>, suggesting that he was making conscious decisions about how he represented himself on the page. It is, however, worth remembering that it was not only the educated male writers who were making conscious decisions about preferred forms, and we can see similar shifts in usage in the letters of Rebecca Paston and other female letter-writers.

It could be argued that while standardised spellings were becoming more widespread, the use of distinctive spellings and identifiable handwriting added a sense of the individual behind the letter and thus added an authenticity to writing at a time when writers were conscious of the security of their letters. It could also be suggested that standardised forms were viewed by certain individuals as little more than a desirable model form as opposed to the clear distinction we have in the present day between correct and incorrect forms. Whether by coincidence, or

by design, we do see forms shared between family members, suggesting that in some cases at least, writers were making conscious efforts to copy forms used by others, perhaps as children and young adults viewing the spelling of their parents as 'correct', and when viewing the letters by Lady Katherine Paston it is possible to see the extent to which she was corresponding with her son, so it is unsurprising that children may inherit spellings from their parents, and this is more immediately apparent through the use of unconventional forms such as Mary Clayton and Rebecca Paston's shared use of <x> spellings of *affectionate*.

As was discovered in my previous research into the spelling habits of Lady Katherine Paston, it is clear that the male and female members of the family were not simply employing variant forms haphazardly but had their own rules and spelling systems which they used consistently with the use of some occasional variants. In this regard, the spelling habits of male and female correspondents could be viewed as equal, but it is clear that the surviving letters of the male writers discussed above could be considered as more, but not yet fully, standardised, with many of the deviations from the standard spelling only deviating through the use of, or omission of final -e. The letters of the Paston brothers and their father are also suggestive of spelling trends of the late seventeenth century, including the use of double consonants in word-final position, and the simplification of the final <-ed> cluster to <-d>. The use of more standardised forms is not to say that the letters of Paston males were not without idiosyncratic and non-standard forms, as can be seen in Robin Paston's use of <ha's>, indicating that even educated males were still capable of idiosyncratic usage, and their letters also reveal phonological spellings, especially when using words or place names with which they were unfamiliar.

Such a study of personal spelling practices does, however, only tell part of the story of the writing habits of male and female letter writers, as we can only base such analysis on the material that has survived, and while we know that writers made conscious decisions to change their spellings, we cannot be sure to what extent the spelling habits remained fixed throughout a lifetime without a wealth of source material to support such a study. We can consider the level of education that individuals were fortunate enough to receive, but without physical evidence

of their education in written English, we cannot be certain of the extent to which the forms learned as a child remained with them into adulthood.

The study of spelling practices only reveals the extent to which part of the written language could be considered standardised, and to gain a greater understanding of the standardisation of written English, it is also important to consider the development of punctuation practices, as well as the extent to which formulaic constructions were utilised in personal correspondence.

Fig 3. Example of a letter written by Rebecca, Dowager Countess of Yarmouth, dated 30 August 1683.

BL Addit MS 27448

Folio 251 Recto

Ag^t The 30: [FB - 1683 35 C 2.]

Sir

I haue made my humble adreeses To your majesty, by The Queen; her Majesty promissing me To moue your Majesty; in our Woodfarme concerns: That you would graciously be pleased To grant My Son Yarmouth; The honor To be Trusted with The managment, of The Farme: (Since it Tis not Your Pleasur To grant a Leass): we having Emproued The Farme from 4000: To 19000 a yeare, May be a good Reason besids many mor (if Your Majesty will Think) for my Son To haue {^The} Fauour of The Managing Part; and it being a Sepraited Farme: from any of The other of Your Majestys Customs: and it Consists of neare to Seuerall Comodetyes That pays Dutys: That it was Euer managed a part: and must always be so still: and Thos method, and ways we haue Tak on To manag: and Emproue The Farme by: are now called for by The Commissioner of your majestys custome: from our agents: To manag by Thos Ruls This Farme: Still by: I humbly beg and besech your majesty To Take it into your considerasion That you can make no mor of The Farme: by Taking it out of our hands: and puting it inot your comissioner, and if there a Creus, no profit: To Your majesty, by Changing of hands; Then it Tis onely; a Fauour; and whether we; or The Comissioner of The Customs Shall be Trusted. by your majesty To manag This Farme, and now if They and we are put into The Balance: I hope your majesty Kindnes To Your old Friends: Will waigh downe The Seale

{folio 251 verso}

I haue presumed To inclose My Lord Spech in Parlement, That The Dead; and Liuing My lay befor your majesty: What I hope may moue You Sir, To be gracious To This Famely: and I am Sure That You due in our cass, will in:Corage and Sture up: many of Your Subject: To due great Seruis, when Thay Se you So gracious To us: I haue great hopes from your goodnes), when I call To mind; how graciously You were pleased To Speak in our cass To Lord Danby when he was Lord Treasur and put a

stoop at That Time: from hauing The Reuersion giuen a way from us: Judging it a hard cass; and since Your majesty was was King. and it can into your hands, by The demis of your Brother, Your majesty has ben so gracious as to continue it. To mak is Liue comfortably: and your fauours are continued, in giuing my Son Yarmouth The honor of The whit Staf, and Looking Kindly upon me: and My Famely: and Saying also at The Treasury Bord: you would be Kind To The Famely: your majesty will haue now at michalmas 20000: a yeare come into your hands out of which I hope your majesty will be most graciously pleased To consider me and my Famely I haue uery great need of Yout Fauour: for I haue

{folio 252 recto}

contracted debts of My own: Since I was a widow: becaus my Estat in Land: The Tenants cannot pay: Corn is so Low Prised in The contrys: and I want Suport for My qualety: My Lord Debts are not yet all Payd: altho we his Exsexetors: haue {^done} all That Lys in us :) my 2 younger Sons, are unprouided for: and haue nothing: but what fortunes There wifes Brought: Them): My Son Yarmouth; had, upon his marag: of madam Howard 3000 a yeare: The King gaue him as a barging upon marag: and her Son had The holl Estat Setled upon him: I need Say nothing hope To moue Your majestys Bounty and continued FauoursTo him; Since his marag: and 4 Children: and his being in your Majestys Seruis: and being a True Loyall dutyfull Subjet: all These Reasons will moue your majestys goodnes: and mercy and Justnes: To Take nothing from him: That The Lait King gaue him: in marag with his naturall Daughter: Sir your Majesty will haue 20000) a year now at m__ld: by this Farme and I beg your Fauour To me and mine: and you will neuer haue The Leas for giuing The Father Less and widow at The years End: becaus I am Sure god will mak it up To your majesty: in his Fauours & blessings on you and yours -- and now I {^am}

{folio 252 verso}

with beging your majestys Pardon for This Long Leter: but if I writ any Thing I must writ all This becaus my lass Requirs it: I beg what you will due for me: and mine: upon my humble Request heare; you will graciously be pleased To declaire: as sounne as may be: fir wee haue come neare: and I must now order my affair acording: as your Pleasur is Towards me: for I cannot Subsist but by Your Fauour;

and I desire not To be hapy, if you due not Please To mak meso; god almighty
blese your Majesty: and make your hart Kind To

Sir

Your Majestys

most Dutyfull and obedient

Subjict

Re: Yarmouth

Dowager

I furder beg your majesty will consider: we haue neuer Lesoned The Reuengs of
The crowne: but: by many ways: by our Seruisis: increased them and set up The
Rits and Prerogitiue: many ways-

Fig. 4: Example of a letter from Margaret Alberti to her mother the Dowager Countess of Yarmouth dated July 1683.

BL Addit MS 36988

Folio 220 recto

Deare Madam

I reseved from the hands of Sig^r Corigo your Ladyships Letter which I was not able att that time to answer haueing upon me the pains of Labor which after haueing indure fiften days in extremety God almighty was pleased to release me from that torment by my being delivered of too sons at _____ but is in this world tis vain to hope for a Solled Joy without being mixed with Sorow so by the death of one of them the day after its berth has abated the Joy of haueing brought too at one time the other I thank God is uery well & I hope will Liue with me as for my self I am alive by maracle both my children being duple born the first with its bely foremost & the Second with its back

{f.220v}

but God will lett me liue at {^least} to see your Ladyship befor I dye {^dear} madam in your Letter I find the Sad Story of my pore fathers broken harte which was a thing I neuer dreamt or could never haue imagened the K: ingrattetude amases me beyond all things in this world & to Speake the truth Hee merits not haue so fathfull a subject nor so reall a frind {^but} the old proverb fails not which says many in this world are incapable of knowing the {^Good thay:} InJoy tell after Lost. this maks me see the vainety of folwing courts & maks me thanke God that fortun has condemed me to Lead a priuat life in which perhaps I have sufered Lese disquiet then you madam which haue Liued in a figur much diferen from mine: So perhaps if my dear father had contented him self with the holsume aire of pore oxned without troubleing him with State afairs & folowing the Court that your Ladyship would not noe be a widoe

{f.221r}

& by that means depriued if the comfore which you inJoyed in his company & in this Just accasion for your greef the greeates testemonye of your kindnes that you can {^now} pay to his memory is to comferte your Self & by that mean procure the presarueing your health to be in his rome both father & mother to his children Left

behind to your Ladyships care especially my Sister bety who I hope by her obedient
maryin to your content may suply for my misfortune & the Lose of my pore Sister
mary I should be uery glad to know how my younger brother & my Sister bety are
prouided for Sig^r Corigi told me that three days befor his parting from London that
my brother wrights me neuer a word of it only he wrights to my husband to
procure him the comand of a uenician Shipe I am uery sory we can {^not} Sarue
him for the republick as yet make noe prouision for wars by sea & especially
comanded by strangers we are heer much alarumed with the apro{^a}ch of the
turks to the walls of uenia which if thay take
{f.221v}

they are uery near the state of the republick & we at uenice that haue Liued so
long in quiet Shall be uery much imbroyled with a war so near us
madam I giue your Ladyship a thousand thanks for your great cieuety to those
uenecian noble men which is very much to my aduantageat uenice the kindnes
showed to noble uenici[ans] by those of my famely
now madam I must tell your Ladyship that I haue in my hands & bisnes of uery
great consarn to confer with your Ladyship but of to great consarn to trust to a
Lesser unles I war sure that it should be safly deleuered to your hands but perhaps
I may perswaid my husband to Let me make a Jorneye to see you very shortly if it
be posible to haue the Leauē of the inquesitor of the State but if that be not to be
had I shall shortly send to Ingland sūme trusty person on purpose in the mean time
may all the blesings of heauen & earth atende you I am dear Madam your Ladyships
most obedient daughter

Margaret Alberty

{f.222r}

as for the bisnes with the king of the 20000 sence your Ladyship has not has the
opertunety to speak with {^him} that I fear it may be hard to haue the mony
although he promises if your Ladyship thinks fete to propose it to S^r Robert Clayton
I think it would be beter & the mony _____ In this I Leauē it to your Ladyship
descresion senc I haue found the sūme of mony to comply with my promis to the
master of the bisnes with a garman prince I am now at Liberty to treat for my Self
& what euer I get now is my one Dear Madam I hope now to mak ues of so
considerable a bisnes to the aduantage of my self & famely & senc God almighty has
giuen me so great a blesing perhaps I make a uiset to Ingland in sum few months

time In the mean time I humbly beg of your Ladyship to let me hear from you as often as you can & when your Ladyships cannot I humble beg of you to order my sister bety to Let me know of your health which is the only thing desired by madam your Ladyships most obedient daughter M Alberty

{f.222 v}

the list of the ueneciana fleet

6 galiaqqe

30 galia

40 galioti

4 galia bastardi

7 galys of the Pops

7 galys of Malta

5 of florene

3 of Qont

3 of Corfu

3 of Safalonia

& 30 Ships of war

besides what thay hire euery day all ships & galys that will com into thar sarues

Fig. 5 Example of a letter written by William Paston, second Earl of Yarmouth to his mother, Dowager Countess of Yarmouth, dated 11 July 1693

BL Addit MS 36988

Folio 271 recto

[Later annotation- Blomefeild]

Public News

July *the* 11th 1693

Deare Madam

I gaue your Ladyshipe an account in my last of the receipt of Mr Dawsons and Lords agreement & Bond touching *the* concern of the Woodfarme which I shall be carefull of & follow *your* Ladyships dirrections the news here is of *the* peace to be declard betwixt Savoyarde and France the middle of this month

we haue no account of the Streights fleet the winds haue been contrary which is *the* true reason; the merchants are in great ____ here; from Holland they giue an

account the fleet is at Lisbon upon advice of Merchants in London & we in our gazett give the same by advice from Merchants in Amsterdam ____ Queen Mary is removed to Kensington for six weeks & Lord Sydney is come ____ from Ireland and the Lord _____ are gone yesterday there was a report that we ____ lost 20 ships coming home richly Laden from Hamborough

there is little news from flanders or the Rine _____ we lost severall

{f.271 verso}

in a dispute about a great convoy Anselm the secretary to the sea admiralty had a hearing in Counsell and s_____ is in Custody of a messenger

Our fleet will go out to sea again in safer days many sea men *that* were sett sick ashore haue absconded themselves I haue no more to Addit but that I am

Your dutifull and Affectionate son

Yarmouth

My Wife and I and my children present our duty to your Ladyshipe

{f.272 verso}

These For the Right honorable The Countesse Dowager of Yarmouth at Causton nere Norwich in Norfolk

Fig 6. Example of letter from Robert (Robin) Paston to his father Robert, Viscount Yarmouth, dated 1674

BL Addit MS 36988

Folio 104 Recto

[1674]

I am extraordinary glad that the town of Yarmouth has ha's bin Soe kind to Your Lordshipe; as to chase your Lordshipe {^their steward} I hope your {^ Lordship} will liue to injoy it 3 times as long, as my Lord Clarendon did, My Brother did write to me by your Lordshipe a very kinde {^letter} for which I haue return'd him my thank's in this letter which I will pray your Lordshipe for to giue him: My Lord Plimouth presents his seruice to your Lordshipe and my Mother, he is the most altered that euer any one was, for {^he is} the curtiousest and ciuill, and does all his exercieses soe readily

{Folio 104 verso}

That Mr Cheek write to the King 3 or 4 days a goe; and did giue a very good carecter of him, to the King: I am every day more in loue with France then other, we are very merry hear, we meete att some yetilliuemans house or other euey night and dance and Masquecurrade till 12 or 1 of the clock the {^women} heare are much better humored then ours are in England, and I can finde now shuch language Masters as they are, (if the language {^ be} learnt by hearing of them talk) for their tongues does not lye still halfe an houre.

{f.105 recto}

int he ~~we~~ whole day: Mr Cheek presents his Service to your Lordshipe and I more only desire that your Lordshipe will allways haue a good opinion of him who is: ~~your~~

Le

Your Lordships Most

Dutyfull and Obedient

Son Ro: Paston

[FB - 2d Son of Ld Visct Yarmouth]

[FB - Character of Lord Plimouth & of the French women]

Fig 7. Example of a letter written by Jasper Paston to his father, Robert, Viscount of Yarmouth, dated September 1682

BL Addit MS 36988

Folio 203 recto

My Lord

September *the* 17th 1682

I have waited all this time to pick up some Maritime newes, to acquaint *your* Lordship *with* and now haueing had *the* oportu-nty of going to sea *which* his _____ I shall give *your* Lordship a full account of Everything that passed, Monday morning about 6 of *the* clock I tooke beale at white Hall to waite upon his Maiesty down to his yachts, *which* John King , and about 10 got to Tillbury, where *the* King Landed to view *that* fortifications, after some stay *the* Quene came in her barge, *then* they presently went over _____ to my Lord Fenrick howse where I meett *with* Sir Thomas Meares, to whom I was to address my selfe by my Lord Bruncker and Lady Williams Intreest to be presented to *the* King and duke, my mother write to him to request *the* favor of him, *which* I delivered & after he had ___ he tooke me by *the* hand, and said come Mr Paston a long *with* me; I will doe *your* busines Efectually after hee had found an oportunity he told *the* King here is a son of my Lord yarmouths *that* has bin at Sea 3 voiages we have a very good carracter of him and hee is a ve^ry hopefull young man, *the* king asked wher is he, *then* Sir Thomas presented me, I Kissed his hand and *the* King said it is very well Mr Paston, but Sir Thomas still repeating *the* lame woords *with* so much hartiness as *the* king & Quene went to diner *then* Sir Thomas carryed me on to _____ *the* Cleaveland yachts, where we had a very go^od diner there being Sir John Chestly, Sir John Varbrow Sir Richard Haddock, Mr Brisbon; who were all vey Kind to me, but perticular Sir John Chestly who told me he would be allwaies as ready to serve me as I should be to aske him, towards 3 of *the* clock we set saile from Tillbery, for Sherness: *with* a pritty fresh gale at the NE: & NNE.

{f.203 verso}

the King was Extreemely wel pleased *with* *the* workeing & saileing of his new yachts *that* _____ *which* in deede wronged all *the* rest, at 8 of the clock Tuesday morning we got to Sherness where the King and Duke went ashore to see *the*

fortifications Sir Thomas Meares and I went to waite on him and to find an
oportunity of being presented to *the* Duke after *the* King had seene all, Sir
Thomas Littelton Envited him to a treat of cold meate and his Maiesty Eate very
hartely, and made so littel Stay as I could not find an oportunity to be presented
there, for *the* King took his barge and went away for Chattam, it proveing Littell
wind *that* he could not saile with his yachts - about jj of *the* clock we got to
Chattam, his Majesty went on board *the* great Britannia, we still followed to git an
oportunity, *which* Imediately we did, & Sir Thomas *with* all *the* hartiness
Image-nable presente me to *the* Duke and told him how Long I had bin at sea and
gave a very good carracter of me, *the* Duke was pleased to say, I know mr
Paston & *then* asked who I was *with* Last and some other such Quetions, and said
well Mr Paston I shall take care of you, this was done with so much Kindness from
Sir Thomas as I can't Express, he brought me to mr Seuell who told me would doe
me all *the* kindness ____ in his power; I am assure *your* Lordship I was taken notice
of and vsed *with* a good deale of respect, and *the* Kindness thing of all was *that*
the king bad me set down at *the* table with him and I did, Here was my Lord
grasson my Lord rennet *the* Duke of Albermale Lord ossery Lord Berkely *with* some
few other gentlemen *that* set down *with* him at Sir John ganders, after *the* King
had dined we went on board, it being calme we got no farther *than* the hope there
his Maiesty sent for his Barge and a bout 2 of *the* clock in *the* afternoon
wednesday, went up to London now I have given *your* Lordship a full and true
account of our voiage, *which* I hope will be pleaseing to *your* Lordship, I desire
your Lordship will be pleased to returne Sir Thomas Meeres thanks *which* will be
very well taken he was heere this after noon to give my mother an account of
Every thing; now my Lord give me Leave ti subscribe my selfe *your* Lordships most
obedient son and humble Sarvant Jasper Paston : my most humble service to my
Bro: Paston

{f.204 recto}

Theese

For the Right Honourable the
Earle of yarmouth att
Oxnead Hall Neare
Norwich in Norfolk

Fig 8. Example of letter from Thomas Paston to Mr Reeves, dated February 1684

BL Addit MS 27448

Folio 298 Recto

Machlin february 24 1684

Mr Reeves

I have Receivd *your* kind letter and thank you for all ^{^your} kindness but I am mightily ashamed you have had soe much trouble with ~~my~~ the beasts; ~~Le~~ ^{^Sir} I am Almost distracted to hear the mair is dead; if it wer my own it would not move me the least, and what to say to my brother Yarmouth I cannot Imagine, I am soe afraid he will be apt to think some ill thing of me; Dear Mr Reeves because I would preserve my credit unspotted I beseech you make ^{^it} *your* buisnes to acquaint my brother Yarmouth of it and lett him know that I

{continued down left-hand margin}

could not doe more in that affair to serve him then I did how-ever the event has proved unlucky yett I am sure therupted noe trouble or pain to serve him, and if you will write to him be-fore you send over the storehorse whither he will have another

{folio 298 verso}

^{^mare} bought to send over with him or how he will have the affair orderd, and desire his speedy answeare and in the mean ^{^while} because Mr Hanbury Complains of the stable pray lett the horse be sent to the Hague under Mr Hanburys eye; Lett my brother ^{^know} what an honest Gentlemen Mr Hanbury is and his skill in horseflesh and make my excuse as well as you can Dear Mr Reaves I wish you a good Journy into England, {deleted} *sir* if you have bought those things I desired you be pleased to take care they be safe convey to Oxnead and lett me know what all comes to and I will order *your* money *Sir*

Your Affectionate humble Servant

Thomas Paston

{folio 299 verso}

A Monsieur

Monsieur Reeves:

Marchant Angloise

a Sa maison sur Ma la

Rivage des heren a

Rotterdam

Fig 9. Example of letter by Elizabeth Paston to her father, Robert, Viscount Yarmouth, dated 1676

BL Addit MS 36988

Folio 121 Recto

Dear Sir

I am very Sorry to hear the sad misfortune that befell your Lordship coming
{^from} Kinsington, sir I am very Sensible of it and I thank God for spareing your
Lordships Life; My Lord I take it as a great favour that your Lordshipp will receive a
letter at my hands; I am very glad to hear that every day your Lordship is better
wee give your Lordship humble thanks for the buck you gave beetwen us and wee
will drink My Mother and your Lordships health wishing you both here I hope it will
not bee Long before your Lordship will bee in case to come into this country sir
when you come I hope you will make your settlement here that wee may enioy
yoor good company; pray remember my duty to my Mother and my Grandmother;
and accept the same to your self from Bear

Sir

Yor most dutifull and ever obediant daughter

Elisabeth Paston

[FB - 1676]

{folio 122 recto}

These

For the Right honourable the Lord Vicount Yarmouth at the Golden Ball in Suffolk
street

Chapter 4

4.1 Pragmatic Features

The previous chapter provided a detailed investigation into only one aspect of the written communication and the evidence from the letters examined highlighted that while spelling was in the process of becoming more standardised, individual writers had their own personal spelling systems to which they adhered, often with little variation. Spelling is only one part of the written language involved in the creation of a letter as a communicative act and this chapter will examine the use of pragmatic features including the use of punctuation and the influence of letter-writing manuals and formulaic constructions in shaping the letter as a piece of written communication. Using examples from the later Paston letters, this chapter will consider the extent to which these features could be viewed as being standardised and the way in which these pragmatic features could be adapted and employed by writers to perform the communicative act.

At this early stage in the current chapter it may be worth flagging the importance of pragmatics and socio-pragmatics in this study of the standardisation of written language and correspondence. In Jucker and Taavitsainen's *English Historical Pragmatics*, this field of linguistics is very simply defined as 'the study of language use' (2013: 1) and their definition continues by emphasising its purpose as studying language as 'a means of communication that is being used by people interacting in specific situations, with specific intentions and goals and within specific contexts. Historical linguistics is interested in the way that language changes' (Jucker & Taavitsainen, 2013: 2). This simple definition sets pragmatics at the heart of the study of written correspondence, arguably the most speech-like and direct manner of communication that we as historical linguists can turn to in our study of everyday language use by ordinary people in the past. The study of historical pragmatics remains a relatively new area of linguistic research, but it has allowed historical linguists to chart the developments in language use over the centuries through the examination of a range of surviving source materials including studies into the speech acts recorded in early modern trial proceedings (see Culpeper and Archer, 2008) and speech acts in the works of Shakespeare (see Ulrich Busse, 2008). The study of pragmatics in written correspondence of the period has also

been the focus of detailed study by Susan Fitzmaurice (2002) in her authoritative and detailed examination into familiar letters from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and, more recently, Graham Williams' comprehensive investigation into the pragmatic features within the letters of Joan and Maria Thynne (2013), including a detailed description of their punctuation habits and the speech acts and utterances employed within their written correspondence.

The ways in which written English has developed and matured in everyday writing is of particular importance to this current study. The previous chapter examined the extent to which spelling habits were in the process of developing into what could be considered a standardised system, while also documenting shifts and developments within the usage of particular individuals represented within the later Paston letters. The use of punctuation has often been overlooked in favour of the study of lexical, phonological or grammatical developments in the early modern period. The following discussion will consider if it is possible to document similar developments within the use of punctuation marks in early modern correspondence and the manner in which these marks were employed by writers within their personal writing while also considering the effect that the punctuation marks would have had on the communicative function of the letter and way in which the letter would be interpreted by the reader.

4.2 Punctuation in the Later Paston Letters

As part of the diplomatic edition of the letters that forms of the basis of this thesis, I have attempted to transcribe the punctuation as faithfully as possible, though it may be the case that some faint or obscured punctuation marks may have been overlooked. The current chapter, which draws upon the edited materials, offers an analysis of the various practices of punctuation adopted in the letters, in the light of contemporary views on the matter.

As we will see, a close analysis of the punctuation practices of early modern letter-writers is only possible through the use of diplomatic transcriptions which attempt (as fully as possible) to represent the repertoire of punctuation marks employed in their letters and it is important to document these marks even when the usage may seem incorrect or problematic to a modern reader. The interest in the history of punctuation has focussed on punctuation in printed works, especially

examining the punctuation practices in the printed works of writers including Shakespeare and Milton. Punctuation practices employed within personal holograph letters has been largely overlooked unless considered as part of a wider discussion on the writing practices of an individual, such as in the Thynne letters (Williams 2013) or the letters of Bess of Hardwick (Wiggins 2017). Examination of early modern punctuation theory has provided an invaluable insight into the conventions of the period, but it is clear from the holograph letters within this collection of correspondence that the recommended, conventional usage prescribed in contemporary guidebooks did not reflect the usage in personal writing.

Punctuation in the early modern period, just like orthography, was not yet fully standardised. While many of the punctuation marks used in the sixteenth and seventeenth century would be familiar to present-day readers, the manner in which they are employed does not always conform to the conventions of modern punctuation; indeed, it varies from writer to writer and from letter to letter. This chapter will examine the use of punctuation in the letters discussed in the previous chapter in order to examine in greater depth the extent to which early modern English personal punctuation usage was becoming aligned with conventions published during the period. It will also consider whether individuals continued to employ their own rules and systems for punctuating their writing and – if so – whether these personal rules were employed with any degree of consistency, and whether the punctuation used varied depending on the intended audience.

The discussion will also consider the larger trends exhibited across this collection of letters from the mid-sixteenth century through to the end of the seventeenth century and the extent to which some marks fell out of favour, while others started to emerge in personal writing during this period.

4.2.1 On Early Modern Punctuation: the printed tradition

To understand punctuation in the context of early modern letters we must consider the function of punctuation in present-day English. John Lennard describes punctuation as being 'to written language as cartilage is to bone, bearing stress and allowing articulation', its function to punctuate the act of reading and

make the written text readable (1995: 65). Lennard also reminds us that there are no fixed rules of punctuation, only conventions of usage, and that the evidence of punctuation in printed and holograph documents should not be thought of in terms of adherence to or deviation from 'rules' (Lennard, 1995: 69). Malcolm Parkes opened his seminal study of the history of punctuation, *Pause and Effect*, by describing its primary function as follows: 'Punctuation became an essential component of written language. Its primary function is to resolve structural uncertainties in a text, and to signal nuances of semantic significance which might otherwise not be conveyed at all, or would at best be much more difficult for a reader to figure out' (1992: 1).

The origin of modern punctuation lies in the range of marks employed in medieval manuscripts to instruct readers when to pause when reading aloud; the marks employed in these medieval manuscripts were a significant development in themselves from the earliest manuscripts which contained no punctuation, and in some cases had no breaks between the words on the page. From the late fifteenth century, printers were forced to make decisions about how they represented punctuation, and as Crystal notes, most printers followed the punctuation of the original manuscript (2005: 261). By the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the increased availability of printed texts and the development of silent reading practices helped to form the basis of the modern punctuation system to guide readers through the printed text, and developments in punctuation and written English were established and spread at a greater speed than innovations had spread in the manuscript culture of the middle ages (Parkes, 1992: 56). The influence of Humanist scribes from the late fifteenth century helped to shape the typology of modern punctuation marks, introducing parentheses and making the general repertoire of punctuation marks 'both supple and subtle' (Lennard, 1995: 67). While the punctuation marks themselves may be recognisable to present-day readers, the use of the marks may seem unconventional, and as David Cram notes, the punctuation practices in the seventeenth century can have the appearance of being 'more of a hindrance than a help to understanding' (1989, 309).

As discussed in the previous chapter, it was not until the middle of the sixteenth century that grammarians and spelling reformers began to turn their attentions to standardising written English, and the same went for punctuation. A number of

writers in the second half of the sixteenth century and seventeenth century attempted to describe punctuation marks and the conventions of their usage, giving consideration to the rhetorical and grammatical functions of punctuation.

Two major trends influenced contemporary discussions of early modern punctuation, the traditional rhetorical approach to punctuation where punctuation is employed to reflect the varying pause-patterns of the spoken mode, and the grammatical approach which regarded punctuation as a means of indicating syntagmatic relationships in the written text (Baron, 2001: 23). While writers may have lacked uniformity in the terminology used to name the marks and the recommendations on the correct usage, one common theme across the guidebooks of the period is the description of punctuation marks in terms of the length of pause denoted by the use of that particular mark. In her examination of the emergence of silent reading practices in the early modern period, Elspeth Jajdelska notes the consistency with which writers describe the temporal characteristics of punctuation marks and succinctly summarises the general consensus among those writing about punctuation in this period: '[.] is a longer pause than [:], which is a longer pause than [;], which is a longer pause than [,]' (2007, 50), however, she notes that there remained 'considerable inconsistency as to where and how the marks should be employed' (2007, 52). Jajdelska argues that early modern punctuation should not be thought of in terms of rhetorical or grammatical punctuation, but instead should be understood in terms of grammatical punctuation aiding readers' understanding as a result of the pauses and breaks it creates (2007, 46). To support this argument, Jajdelska cites research by Hill and Murray (2000), which by analysing gaze duration, found that the pauses created by punctuation actually allowed readers to process syntax (2007, 46).

Such considerations underpin much of the most impressive writing from the period. John Hart, who also suggested reforms to English orthography in *The opening of the unreasonable writing of our English tounge* in 1551, described the use of seven punctuation marks. These marks remain in use in the present day, even if the terminology he used to describe them is unfamiliar; for example, the colon is referred to as 'a joint' and the exclamation mark is 'the wonderer' (Salmon, 1999: 22). Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Hart's own terminology had changed by

the time of a later work, illustrating that the language of punctuation was not fixed even for those who chose to study it (Salmon, 1999: 23). Interestingly, Hart saw the issue as soow poised between writing and speech, literally between eye and ear: in *An Orthographie* (1569), he explained punctuation to the reader as follows: 'I will brieflye write of distinction of pointing, which (well observed) maye yeeld the matter, much the readier to the senses, as well as to the eie as to the eare' (1569 [1969]: 44). Hart's *Orthographie* helped to provide a basis for subsequent grammarians in their discussion of punctuation (Salmon, 1999: 23).

Hart was not the only writer to describe early modern punctuation as part of a wider study of grammar; Aldus Manutius (1561), Clement (1587), Butler (1633), Daines (1640) and Jonson (1640) were among the writers who also made contributions to the study of this field, although recommendations and descriptions varied between writers. Charles Butler's *English Grammar*, published in 1633, has a discussion of punctuation that has been described by Vivian Salmon as 'a coherent and intelligent treatment of punctuation' (Salmon, 1988: 285). Butler's discussion divided punctuation marks into primary marks, including full stops, commas and colons, and secondary points, including the apostrophe and the hyphen, and the term *semicolon* was first recorded in Butler's discussion of the primary marks (Salmon, 1988: 297).

4.2.2 On Early Modern Punctuation: private usage

Modern scholarly discussion of early modern punctuation has focused on the punctuation practices of writers and printers in significant early modern literary texts, such as the works of Shakespeare or of Milton, and it is possible to discuss and analyse the conventions of early modern punctuation that were disseminated by contemporary printers and grammarians. Describing and providing explanations for the use of specific punctuation marks in personal writing from the early modern period, however, presents a very different challenge. As Vivian Salmon explains, 'As before, punctuation appears to depend even more than orthography on individual preference, but it also depends on the type of manuscript being punctuated, its purpose, and consequently the degree of its formality' (1999: 43). Salmon argues that 'it would not be possible, nor particularly rewarding to attempt a detailed analysis of the punctuation of individual writers of the period, since so

much depended on education, on the writer's purpose and general predilections' (1999: 35).

The aim of this present study is to examine the extent to which the individuals represented by the letters and documents in this collection employed punctuation marks within their written correspondence. In order to describe the use of punctuation, I will use the letters of various individuals for a survey of the punctuation marks used by individual letter-writers to consider the extent to which their practices fit with the conventions of the period while also considering the existence of personal punctuation systems.

The punctuation practices of individuals in their private correspondence has received little attention to date. One notable exception to this neglect is Graham Williams' examination of the punctuation employed in the holograph letters of Joan and Maria Thynne in late sixteenth and seventeenth century England (2013), in which he notes the inconsistency within their punctuation practices. Within this study, Williams highlighted differences in the punctuation practices of the two sisters, with one sister displaying greater consistency and a wider repertoire than the other, and both sisters displaying variation and inconsistency in their own usage. Alison Wiggins, in her study of the letters of Bess of Hardwick in the sixteenth century, describes Bess's punctuation as both rhetorical and 'light' with a limited repertoire of marks, utilising only a full stop and 'something between a comma and a short virgule' (Wiggins, 2017: 109).

The education received by an individual writer and their choice of writing model influenced their understanding of the function of particular marks and the subsequent use of the marks in practice: 'When a young writer sought to imitate what were regarded as the best models, their studies would fix in the mind the details of the punctuation of a model text; subsequently they would adopt similar practices in their own writings' (Parkes, 1992: 87-88). It is unlikely that every letter-writer in this collection had studied the grammatical theory of the day, and therefore punctuation practice must have been influenced by their education, works they had read, or the writing of others. It is therefore likely that they had no theoretical knowledge about the use of punctuation marks, and we must therefore be cautious about making assumptions as to the level of influence these

texts had on the punctuation of individual letter-writers. An element of caution must also be exercised when considering the influence of these works or the extent to which they reflected current usage, as Parkes notes that these guides often reflected writers' own 'attitudes towards language in general rather than the prevailing uses of punctuation in particular' and may not, therefore, reflect more recent innovations (1992, 4).

While variable and not yet standardised, it would be wrong to suggest that early modern writers were ignorant of conventional usage or that their personal punctuation practices were entirely haphazard or unstructured. The letter-writers considered in this brief survey clearly employed their own individual inventory of punctuation marks, and the tables below illustrate the consistency with which some of the writers employed particular punctuation marks. As with the personal spelling systems, the letter-writers within this collection do display preferences for the use of particular punctuation marks over others. It is also clear from the letters in this collection that there was an awareness of conventional usage and punctuation marks beyond their personal inventories, and it is possible to see evidence of writers using marks such as apostrophes and quotation marks in some letters while they are noticeably absent in others.

4.2.3 Repertoires of punctuation

Sixteenth and seventeenth century grammarians may have disagreed on the names of specific punctuation marks, but the origins of the terms for the three main punctuation marks, the comma, colon and period (full stop), can be traced back to classical Greece in the second century BC when Aristophanes of Byzantium set out his system of rhetorical punctuation in relation to rhetorical units (Baron, 2001: 20); the names of these units are now preserved in the punctuation marks that were used to mark out the pauses (Baron, 2001: 20). The specific use of these marks has changed and adapted over the centuries, but in present-day usage, these marks remain the most frequently used of all punctuation marks. Kirchhoff and Primus cite Meyer's 1987 study of modern American punctuation indicated that the comma and full stop accounted for 47% and 45% respectively of all punctuation marks employed, with other marks such as the semicolon accounting for only 2% of usage (2016:97).

The comma is the most frequently occurring of all punctuation marks and it began to replace the virgule in printed texts from the early 1520s. In present-day usage, the comma is frequently deployed, and Trask's *Penguin Guide to Punctuation*, advises readers to disregard any advice they may have received regarding commas being used 'wherever you would pause', describing such advice as 'hopelessly misleading' (1997: 13).

Guidebooks in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on the other hand, offered (often inconsistent) rhetorical and grammatical advice, with writers such as Clement and Puttenham in the 1580s advising readers that commas signified pauses. A century later, however, the pendulum had swung in favour of grammatical analysis: writers including Thomas Lye (1671) advised readers that commas marked the shorter parts of the sentence, Joseph Aiken (1693) advised that commas were used between words which depended on one another, while Guy Miege noted that commas divide the 'members of the sentence' (Jajdelska, 2007: 49-50).

It is clear from the guidebooks of the period that grammarians were considering the function of the comma beyond simply indicating a pause, and Salmon notes that as early as 1587, Francis Clement wrote that the comma is used before the relative (1988: 293), and Christopher Cooper in 1687 wrote to clarify the correct use of the comma with *or* (Salmon, 1988: 295). Salmon describes the work of the seventeenth century grammarians as beginning to clarify the written form of English (1988: 294), and these works formed the basis of further discussion of English grammar and syntax in the eighteenth century. As we will see from the following discussion of the punctuation practices of individual writers, writers such as Sir Robert Paston, display a significant reliance on the use of commas to punctuate his letters, and Vivian Salmon has suggested that the 'over-generous' use of commas, may have been influenced by treatises instructing on effective public speaking, which may have appealed to a politician such as Sir Robert (1999:47).

In 1551, John Hart described the function of the full stop as 'a pricke thus to signifie the ende of a full and perfite sentence, as the head and feete are the extreeme endes of a body, which prick the Greekes and Latines with many other nations doe use: and the sentence before it, they call Periodus that is in Latine

circuitus vel ambitus, and after some comprehentio, and we sentence, after which we vse to begin with a great letter' (Hart, 1569 [1969], 44-45). Full stops are used within the letters in this collection, but in personal letters, they are not used as frequently as a modern reader might expect, and this can be seen in the surveys of punctuation above, with some writers employing the full stop only to mark the end of a paragraph rather than the end of a sentence, although even in this context, some writers still displayed a preference for the use of marks such as colons and colon-virgules.

Use of the colon and semicolon can still cause issues for present-day writers, with many people unsure about how they should be used. The function of the semicolon in modern prescriptive grammar is to join two semantically linked sentences, and *The Penguin Guide to Punctuation* advises readers that the use of the colon in present-day English is 'to indicate that what follows it is an explanation of what precedes it' (1997: 38). Hart's *Orthographie* describes the colon as 'accompting a full sentence, as a complete bodie' (1569 [1969]: 44) but makes no mention of the semicolon. Charles Butler, on the other hand, describes the colon as a point of 'perfect sens, but not of perfect sentenc', while the semicolon is described as 'a point of imperfect sens, in the midle of a Colon, or Period' (Butler, 1634 [1910]: 58-59).

The writers of the later Paston letters make frequent use of both the colon and semi-colon, but the manner in which these marks are employed would not fit with accepted present-day punctuation conventions. The writers in the seventeenth century letters frequently employed the colon or semicolon to mark a stop in place of the use of a full stop. As we will see in the examples of Rebecca Paston's letters, writers used the colon and semicolon almost interchangeably and in place of the comma, thus giving the letters a disjointed and fragmented appearance, and also rendering the text difficult to understand; David Crystal has noted that in early use of the colon 'there was no limit to the number that might appear in a single sentence' (2016: 217).

The apostrophe first appeared in the mid-sixteenth century and was used to indicate the elision of a vowel and Parkes refers to it as a 'peculiarity of written English' noting that it was 'retained to indicate a missing letter when the vowel no

longer appeared in the spoken form' (1992: 55). In the *Orthoepia Anglicana*, published in 1640, Simon Daines reluctantly included the apostrophe in his list of punctuation marks, including it for information only and not because of its value or function as a stop, 'for pause of time, it hath none belonging to it' (Daines, 1640: 72 cited in Rodriguez-Alvarez, 2010: 39n). As we will see in the subsequent discussion of specific examples from the later Paston letters, there are examples of apostrophe usage which would fit with present-day examples, but there are also examples of usage which would be incorrect, such as 'ha's', *has* in the letters of Robin Paston, son of Sir Robert Paston.

While the sixteenth and seventeenth century letters do contain some idiosyncratic spellings and forms, there are no forms which deviate dramatically from the standardised form, and it is for this reason that an unconventional apostrophe in the word *business* in Ruth Hughey's 1941 edition of the *Correspondence of Lady Katherine Paston* stands out as unusual. In his edition of Lady Katherine's letters, Hughey transcribed Lady Muriel Bell's realisation of *business* as <buss'nes> with a variant form <bus'neses> (Hughey, 1941:45-47) suggesting that Lady Muriel was perhaps employing the apostrophe in order to indicate the omission of a letter. However, examination of the original letter indicates that Lady Muriel did in fact spell the word with a long -s followed by a short -s and Hughey had misinterpreted the top loop of the long -s as being an apostrophe.

The origin of parentheses, or round brackets, have their origins in the ideas and practices of Humanist scribes in the late fifteenth century who introduced these marks to separate interpolated remarks from the surrounding context (Parkes, 1992: 87), and Parkes notes that these marks were most frequently employed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (1992: 87). In his 1582 *Elementarie*, Mulcaster explained to his readers that the use of parentheses 'warneth us that the words inclosed by them, ar to be pronounced with a lower and quikker voice then the words before or after them' (1582: ch. xxi, cited in Lennard, 1995: 70). It is worth noting that many of the writers in this selection of letters did not always employ the parentheses in pairs, but often used a single, normally right-hand bracket, almost employed as a virgule.

The earliest letters within the collection are notable for the use of the virgule (/). The virgule was employed throughout the middle ages to mark all non-final pauses and Houston notes that by the fifteenth century, the virgule could be used interchangeably with any points used to mark intermediate pauses (2015: 148). From the 1520s, however, the virgule began to be replaced by the comma (Parkes, 1992: 51). The comma seems to have started to replace the virgule in printed texts from the 1520s, but as evidenced in these letters, the virgule remained in use in personal correspondence well into the seventeenth century. There are examples of virgule-like slashes and flourishes used at the end of final paragraphs, dates and signatures, though it is not clear if individual writers were intending to use these slash marks as virgules or simply as a decorative flourish. A letter signed *Dettyden* and dated October 1699 (BL Addit MS 27448, f.383), contains the use of a single virgule and colon mark, almost 170 years after virgules had fallen out of favour in printed works.

The exclamation mark and the question mark are conspicuous by their relative absence despite having been well established by the later part of the seventeenth century. Writing in 1561, Aldus Manutius advised his readers to avoid using the exclamation mark, preferring the use of a single point (Salmon, 1999: 22). I have been able to identify only one clear instance of an exclamation mark within this collection of correspondence in an undated letter from Thomas Corie to the Earl of Yarmouth in which he writes 'I wish she wer!' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.414). The fact that only one exclamation mark is recorded within this particular collection does not, of course, rule out the possibility that these letter-writers employed the mark elsewhere in letters and papers that have not been preserved.

Nunberg, Briscoe and Huddleston (2002) make the distinction between segmental units of punctuation including commas, and the blank space between words, and non-segmental units of punctuation such as capitalisation (Kirchhoff and Primus, 2016: 93). In printed texts, the second half of the seventeenth century (and well into the eighteenth century) saw the development of the use of capital letters to signify proper nouns and words that were considered important within the text and Salmon notes that printers of the period were probably unsure of the correct usage, and so opted to use capitals for all nouns 'without distinction and purely for aesthetic reasons' (1999: 50). The distribution of capital letters in early modern

letters can also appear haphazard and unsystematic. The letters of Rebecca Paston, Viscountess Yarmouth, contain the consistent capitalisation of the letter <t> in initial position from the definite article through to proper nouns. The initial <t> in Rebecca's letters is clearly of a different form to her lowercase <t>, with the capital normally having a stroke across the ascender as well as across the top as in a conventional uppercase <t>, <Ƨ>. Conventions of present-day written English require the use of a capital letter to indicate the start of a new sentence following a full stop, however, this convention had not yet been fully adopted by early modern letter-writers, and while there are many examples of this 'correct' usage, there are also many examples of new sentences opening without the use of an initial capital. Most of the discussion within this thesis has focused on the items of personal correspondence within the archive of the later Paston letters, but the collection also contains a number of official letters, petitions and patents in the hand of scribes and secretaries, often signed by multiple individuals, and many of these letters contain frequent capitalisation of both proper nouns and titles, and words that required emphasis within the text. An example of this can be seen in a letter, described in the endorsement as 'Mr Pepys letter from the Commissioners of the Admiralty', dated April 1678 (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 385), and the letter exhibits the frequent capitalisation throughout this extract:

'After Our very hearty *Commendacions*, In pursuance of his *Majesties* Order in Councill of the 5th instant, These are to signify to you his pleasure, that all Vessells *which* are and shalbe from time to time employed by the Principall Officers and *Commissioners* of the Nauy Officers of the Ordnance, and Victuallers of the Nauy in the Transporting of Stores and Provisions from any one Yard or Port of his *Majesties* within this Kingdome'

4.2.4 Patterns of punctuation in the Paston letters

Letter-writers such as Lady Katherine Paston exemplify the fluidity of punctuation during this period of transition as the virgules (and her own variants thereof), which she may have learnt as a child in the sixteenth century, are used alongside more innovative punctuation marks. The tables below, adapted from Graham Williams' study of the punctuation habits of Joan and Maria Thynne (2013: 75), illustrate the distribution of punctuation marks across the personal punctuation

habits of Sir Robert Paston and his sons, his wife and daughters and other women represented in this collection of personal correspondence. The distribution of punctuation marks illustrates the extent to which, just as with personal spelling habits, individuals had their own personal preferences when selecting punctuation marks, with some writers displaying a range of marks within a letter, while other writers exhibited a preference towards a consistently more restricted repertoire.

Table 1: Survey of the Punctuation Practices of Sir Robert Paston and his sons

Italicised numbers denote stops used in abbreviated words and titles.

Sir Robert Paston - BL Addit MS 27447											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
f.307	136			1							
f.310	233	6	2	2	1						
f.324	510	12		2							
f.326	247	8		1		1					
f.327	556	17	2								
f.329	622	13		1			1.5				
f.331	123	1									
f.334	580	14	2								
f.336	551	19									
f.338	921	23		2	1						
f.360	327	11		1	2						
f.362	679	10	1	2					1		
f.368	665	5	1	3	1						
f.370	1302	25	3	4							
f.372	318	7		2	1						
f.376	225	9		4							
f.378	138	6		2							
f.394	243			2							
f.403	202	3		1		1					
f.412	172	6		1							
f.415	83	1		1							
f.431	407	20		2							
f.435	1066	45	1	5	1	1					
f.444	220	7		4							
f.453	188	8		2							
f.455	199	6	1	1							
f.458	225	9		2	1						
f.470	128	3	1	2		2			1		
f.494	636	23	3	15	13						2x ./
BL Addit MS 27448											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
f.1	298	16			1	1					

f.3	181	12		2		1					
f.5	213	5	2	1		1					
f.7	449	23		1	1						
f.9	145	4		1		1	1				
f.13	258	6				1	1.5			2	=r=
f.15	152	4									
f.28	162	2									
f.32	255	9				3					
f.36	159					2			1		
f.38	224	10				2					
f.45	257	10				3	1				
f.49	267	11		1		3					
f. 59	148	7		1							
f.61	227	13		1							
f.68	186	10				2	1				
f.70	659	48		1	2						
f.98	270	15		1	2						
f.100	296	24			1	2					
f.104	199	9		1							
f.110	122	11		3							
f.111	230	5		3					1		
f.114	818	57		7		1	1				
f.116	210	7						1			
f.120	215	5	1	1	1						
f.127	1277	48		13			1				:r:
f.132	231	17	1	1							
f.134	359	22		3							
f.137	828	38		6		1					=r=
f.139	432	14					2				
f.149	683	35		4							
f.154	115	3									
f.193	138	10		2					1		
f.196	226	12					1				

BL Addit MS 36988

Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
f.100	476	11	1								
f.102	661	14		1		1					
f.178	316	16		1	1	2					
f.182	333	19	1	2		2					
f.184	266	12		1							
f.185	171	10			1	2				1	
f.187	167	7		2	1			1			
f.207	259	19				3					

William Paston

Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27448	217	7		5	2				1		

f.160											
Addit MS 36988 f.271	267			2							

Robin Paston											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27448 f.367	124	1	1	1							
Addit MS 36988 f.104	261	10	1	4	2	3					

Thomas Paston											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27448 f.298	304	5			4						
Addit MS 36988 f.212	386	12			2						

Jasper Paston											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.203	879	41	1	5	3	1					

Charles Paston (son of William Paston)											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.264	331	5	2	1		1					

Table 2: Survey of the Punctuation Practices of Female Correspondents

Lady Katherine Paston - BL Addit MS 27447											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
f.231	295			5					4		
f.232	313	2	5	6					6		
f.234	234	7	3	9					1		
f.236	423		11	16					9		
f.238	394	5	10	11			1x)	1	10	2	
f.242	299	7	4	8	1			1	3		1x ;/
f.244	185		4	2					4		1x ;/
f.246	383	22	2	4	8			1	1		1x ;/ 1x //:
f.250	623	26	5	9	4			1	6		1x ;/
f.252	280	10		3			2		2		
f.254	336		10	10					2		
f.256	455	5	14	6				2	6		3x ./
f.258	244		2	8				1	9		
f.260	160	1	1	5			1x)		2		
f.262	275	3	3	5					5		1x :-/
f.264	267	8	3	6					1		1x :-/
f.266	197		5	10					3		
f.268	243	9		6				1	6		
BL Addit MS 36988											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
f.25	209		5	4							
f.27	510	6	15	16	1				6		" "x2
f.29	341	3	8	7					6		
f.31	530	14	10	14			1		7		1x):)
f.36	694	21	6	11	2		1x)		5		
f.38	447	6	2	13				1	7		1x ./
f.40	400	6	5	17					4		
f.41	350		7	12	1			1	5		
f.43	439	18	3	8	1	2			5		1x ;)
f.45	473	19	2	18	2				5		1x ;)
f.47	411	9	9	3			1	3	2	1	2x ;)
f.49	260	1	7	6	1				3		&c.
f.51	216	1	9	5					3		
f.53	311	1	12	11					2		
f.55	441	4	11	16	4				7		1x :)
f.61	209	1	6	9					3		
f.63	300		11					2	6		
f.65	434	6	7	8			1x)		6		
f.67	536		30	5					6		
f.69	345	2	15	7				1	3		
f.71	322	5	9	6					3		

Rebecca Paston											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27448 f.311	143	2		6	2	1					
Addit MS 36988 f.89	1301	65	1	6	18		1x)				
Addit MS 36988 f.246	426	3	1	38	1						1x :)
Addit MS 36988 f.261	149			6							

Mary Clayton											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27447 f.319	383	10	4								

Margaret Alberti											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.220	972		1	3							

Elizabeth Paston											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.121	176	1			4						

Stuarta Howard											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27448 f.385	351	46				1					
Addit MS 36988 f.126	146			1							

Anne Baker											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27447 f.447	455	5	1								
Addit MS	218	4		1							

27447 f.449												
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Margaret Bedingfield												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27448, f.212	543	26	6		3							
Addit MS 36988, f.111	263	6	5	3	1	4						ÿ

Muriel Bell												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27447 f.221	1114	2	3	24	23		1.5					1x /:

Martha Clayton												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27447 f.496	129	1										
Addit MS 27447 f.497	268			1?			3x)				=?	
Addit MS 27447 f.499	159	2										

Susan Cooper												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27447 f.348	493	9		1	1							

Mary Heveningham (scribal)												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27447 f.158	134	4	3									

'Nece' Hobart												
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other	
Addit MS 27447 f.291	475	7	1	10				6				1x /: 2x ./

Mary Killigrew												
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Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.229	146	2		2	1						

Mary Knight											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.240	169	4		12		1					

Elizabeth Littleton		
Addit MS 27447 f.474	152	No punctuation marks
Addit MS 27447 f.476	99	No punctuation marks
Addit MS 27447 f.477	122	No punctuation marks

Eleanor Roos/Eleanor Rutland (scribal)											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 27447 f.74	298		2								
Addit MS 27447 f.75	214							3			

Isabella Waldegrave											
Letter ID	Words	,	.	:	;	'	()	/	:/	-	Other
Addit MS 36988 f.235	159	6	2		2	5					
Addit MS 36988 f.260	147	6				3					

The principal punctuation marks employed by the writers in this collection include the comma, the full stop, the colon and semicolon, the apostrophe and parentheses. Less frequently used were the virgule (at this date, as we have seen, rather old-fashioned) and the hyphen.

Sir Robert Paston's letters include 1180 clear punctuation marks (including dots and colons used to mark abbreviations), and of these marks, commas account for 79%

of the punctuation marks employed. By contrast, full stops only account for less than 2% of punctuation marks, while 11% of punctuation marks are colons and semicolons, accounting for an additional 3%. The other marks including parentheses, virgules and dashes make up less than 2% of the total marks employed by Sir Robert. Of the seventy letters in the hand of Sir Robert Paston that are held within BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988, only fifteen of his letters contain the use of clear full stops, mostly to mark the end of a sentence or paragraph, though it is worth noting that the two points recorded in Addit MS 27448 f.5 and the single point recorded in BL Addit MS 27447 f.455 were actually employed in these instances to mark the initials of an individual being discussed in the letter and an abbreviated form respectively.

Within the letters of Sir Robert Paston there is therefore a notable preference for and reliance on commas to mark the text, with remarkably few full stops deployed to indicate the end of sentences and paragraphs. In Kirchhoff and Primus's discussion of the use of the main punctuation marks in present-day English, the full stop is described as signalling the end of one string of syntactic parsing and separates it from the material following the full stop (2016: 97), but in the letters of Sir Robert Paston, the full stop is only employed to mark the end of a sentence on relatively few occasions; instead a colon is preferred, or on some occasions a semicolon.

Sir Robert's reliance on the use of commas throughout his letters suggest that he did not subscribe to the contemporary notion that the use of commas, colons and full stops directly related to a specific length of pause. The correlation of the punctuation mark to a specific length of pause was promoted by Daines in the 1640s who likened the pauses indicated by certain stops to the pauses taught by his singing teacher as a youth (Salmon, 1999: 36), but Daines was not the only writer to make this link, and almost a century before Daines published his *Orthoepia Anglicana*, John Hart in 1551 had compared the pause of a comma to a crotchet, while the pause of a colon was likened to a minim in length (Salmon, 1999: 22). Naomi Baron points out that in the early modern period, university education was still based on oral culture in preparation for careers in politics, law or the church, so it perhaps to be expected that many of those who were fortunate

enough to receive a university education still placed an emphasis on rhetorical values, even in written form (2001: 42).

The letters of Sir Robert's sons, William, Robin, Jasper and Thomas follow a similar pattern to their father, with a consistent reliance on commas to punctuate the text and comparatively few full stops, colons or semicolons. The letters of William and Thomas Paston (including William's brief note at the end of Sir Robert's letter to Rebecca in Addit MS 27448, f.127) contain no full stops across almost 1200 words in total, and Thomas also displays a preference for the use of semicolons over colons, with no colons used in either of his letters. When discussing the use of punctuation in the late sixteenth century, Salmon remarks that following the availability of printed texts and the development of private reading, the comma, full stop and colon were still widely regarded as having the same role within the text (1999: 28), and although Sir Robert and his sons were writing almost a century later, it is possible that they still regarded these marks as having the same, or similar, function and were therefore still using these marks in such a variable manner.

The use of apostrophes within the letters of the male and female correspondents represented in this collection is sporadic and inconsistent. In the letters of Sir Robert Paston, most of the recorded instances of the apostrophe relate to the name of his friend, Edward L'Estrange, though it is worth noting that there are also a number of instances in which Sir Robert writes his surname without the apostrophe as 'LEstrange' or 'Le Strange'. Most of the letters exhibiting the use of apostrophes contain examples of contracted forms including 'wish't', 'T'was' and 'dar'd' as well as some more unusual forms including 'ha's' *has*, 'hee'l' *he'll* and 'wou'd' *would*, and it is clear that for most of the letter-writers within this collection of correspondence, the apostrophe was considered a mark of omission, not possession. That is not to say, however, that there are not some examples of the apostrophe being used to mark possession including in the letters of Sir Robert Paston, with examples including 'king's' (BL Addit MS 27447, f.372) and 'Mr Doughty's papers' (Addit MS 27448, f.1), but for the most part Sir Robert does not employ the apostrophe to indicate possession, instead using a final <s> or, on occasion, the additional word, *his*. The '*his*-genitive' has its origins lie in /h/-deletion in the Middle English period when 'weak forms of *his* becoming

homophonous to the ME genitive singular *-es/-is*. Thus in casual speech *the kyngys son* and *the kyng hys son* would be indistinguishable' (Lass, 1999: 146), though its use is a peculiar feature of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English. There are numerous examples of the use of the *his*-genitive, most notably in the address lines of superscriptions directing the letter to an individual's house or areas such as St James's in London; examples can even be found in the letters of Sir Robert Paston when he directed ten letters to 'Alderman Briggs his howse' and directed a further three letters to 'Alderman Briggs howse', 'Alderman Briggses howse' and 'Alderman Briggs in Norwich'.

4.2.5 Elizabeth Littleton and Martha Clayton

The punctuation employed by the female correspondents is very various. The three letters of Elizabeth Littleton contained in Additional MS 27447 are notable for their lack of any punctuation marks. The three letters range from 99 to 152 words in length, yet do not contain a single full stop or comma to punctuate her text. These three letters date to the late seventeenth century, and despite it being likely that she would have encountered punctuation in letters addressed to her or even in printed books she did not employ these marks herself, either through unfamiliarity with the conventions and practices of punctuation, or possibly because she was more concerned with the self-expression than giving any consideration as to how punctuation might assist recipients in their understanding and interpretation of her correspondence. Other female writers, such as Martha Clayton, who is also represented in BL Addit MS 27447 by three letters, are only a little less sparing in their use of punctuation marks. One letter, f.496, contains only one single comma despite being 129 words in length and this stop is employed at the end of the letter as a final stop which is positioned separately from the final word. Similarly, punctuation is minimal in Martha's 268-word letter written over four sides of paper, f.497r-498v, which contains only three right-hand parentheses and a double hyphen, or what may be her representation of a colon. Martha's final letter in the collection, f.499r-500v, some 159 words in length, contains only two commas:

thare hath ben A common Consell thes day held uery quieatly for the
Common besenes of the Citty and notheng ells As I Am In forme ad offeread
At, only my lord maer, And Aldermen And Common Counsel Are to wate

open the Keng to morrow to retern thanks to hes majesty... (BL Addit MS 27447, f.499r)

Even though very sparing in her use of punctuation, nevertheless Martha employs different marks across these three letters. The three right-hand parentheses are employed without corresponding opening brackets and are employed like commas to divide a passage of text. These parentheses sit level with the main text, while Martha's commas are shorter and sit low on the line like conventional commas, so it is therefore unlikely that these brackets were in fact Martha's attempt to represent the form of a comma. As Martha's spelling is idiosyncratic and clearly influenced by her perceived pronunciation, it seems that, while Martha may have read extensively, she did not feel the need to adapt her own personal spelling and punctuation to the conventions of printed texts or the spelling and punctuation habits of her correspondents.

4.2.6 *Rebecca Paston*

The few letters in the hand of Rebecca Paston are of interest as her letters appear to be in draft format and while her husband, Sir Robert, displayed a clear preference for the use of commas throughout his letters, Rebecca's letters do not indicate a preferred manner of punctuation. She uses of sixty-five commas, six colons and eighteen semicolons in BL Addit MS 36988, f.89, yet in f.246 of the same volume, Rebecca used only three commas alongside the thirty-eight colons that are used in the letter. Rebecca's use of punctuation in the latter example is also worthy of attention, as the document, opening with the title 'Remarques: of what Mrs Langford Tells me: of affairs in Holand', appears to be a series of notes and comments:

Fergison: In Pacent Wards and all This conuent he tells People: due now
Pray: for The marters wife: and hire Children: and Say The Duke of
Munmouth: was a Marter for his Religon: and That his Sons are The Rit Ayrs
To The Crowne: and That Munmouth Party is uery Great and Many in
Amsterdam: (BL Addit MS 36988, f.246)

To the eyes of a modern reader, Rebecca's frequent use of the colon to create short sentential units within the document gives her writing a very fragmented appearance, perhaps the result of pauses in Rebecca's thoughts as she made her

notes and added further comments. Rebecca's use of colons would not fit with rhetorical or grammatical punctuation practices and therefore may suggest that the colons were being used like commas and final stops depending on the context. Additional evidence for Rebecca's punctuation can also be seen in her surviving letters held in Norfolk Record Office in the collection of the Clayton family correspondence (Rebecca was a Clayton by birth). Although many of these letters are in a poor condition and the ink on some of the letters has faded over the centuries, it is still possible to see her clear and continued use of colons, as well as evidence of her use of commas and semicolons which are absent from the drafted notes held within the British Library collection. The following extract has been taken from a complete letter in the hand of Rebecca Paston, dated 22 July 1675, held in the Clayton Papers in Norfolk Record Office:

The Reason My son desirs it is: To haue all the security: of my Mothirs: att an End; and My Mothir and Brothers Trusts att an end: which if Dr yaits be payd; and That Judgment of The Soyl: all my mothers and Brothers: Trust att an End: he beliuēs it will be a great clog off: The Estait; ...

The above extract displays Rebecca's use of colons and semicolons to divide her writing and this gives her writing a disjointed and fragmented feel which may not have been so apparent through the use of commas and stops, and the letter from which this extract has been taken does contain commas but does not contain any full stops, although there is a colon-virgule symbol which has been used as a sentence break. It is possible to read parts of this and other letters in Rebecca's hand temporally rather than grammatically as she perhaps intended to imitate the rhythmic patterns she perceived in her speech, with the colons denoting pauses and the semicolons employed as stops, although her use of these marks does not appear to be uniform across this or her other surviving letters. In his examination of the letters of Joan and Maria Thynne, Graham Williams notes similar fragmented constructions in the letters of Joan Thynne, noting that her 'rampant' use of commas, colons and full stops make the text difficult to understand, and he refers to this style of punctuation as 'staccato' (Williams, 2013: 80). While there is a possibility that Rebecca was attempting to replicate the pauses in speech, Williams suggests that Joan's emotional state at the time of writing may also have influenced her use of punctuation (Williams, 2013: 80), and Salmon too makes

reference to the use of punctuation to reflect a writer's emotions (1962: 348). It is a notable feature of most of Rebecca's surviving writing, especially her letters within the Clayton correspondence, that she is concerned about paying debts and asking for loans from family, and it could be the emotional strain of financial pressures that give her writing an urgent and disjointed feel. This extract also displays Rebecca's erratic use of capitalisation, opting to capitalise <t> in all initial positions, yet not capitalising the proper noun of the name, 'Dr yaits'.

4.2.7 Mary Clayton, Margaret Alberti and Elizabeth Paston

One letter within the collection is in the hand of Mary Clayton, mother of Rebecca Paston, and her letter displays much less frequent use of punctuation marks alongside her 'phonological' spelling. Her letter contains only a few commas and full stops and no other punctuation marks, suggesting that she is familiar with the use of the basic punctuation marks and employs these sparingly but competently. The one letter in the hand of Margaret Alberti, eldest daughter of Sir Robert and Rebecca Paston, is a lengthy letter of almost a thousand words in length, yet contains only one full stop and three colons. The lack of punctuation in the letter may be a result of her personal stresses at the time as she writes to inform her mother of a difficult birth and to discuss the death of her father; it is evident that her concern lay more with conveying her thoughts than with the appearance of the physical letter, and indeed the letter itself is of an untidy appearance with ink blots and deletions throughout. A letter in the hand of Margaret's younger sister, Elizabeth, which is neatly written on ruled lines (perhaps indicating the influence of her tutor, John Gough, or it may have been copied from a draft) contains only one comma and four semicolons to mark out her 176 words, with no full stops to mark the end of her sentences.

4.2.8 Lady Katherine Paston

The inventory of punctuation marks associated with the letters of Sir Robert Paston is more limited than that of other correspondents, including his paternal grandmother, Lady Katherine Paston. As discussed above, Sir Robert's personal writing relied heavily on commas to punctuate his text, but Lady Katherine employed a range of punctuation marks, utilising as many as eight different types of punctuation marks within one letter, as can be seen in Additional Manuscript

36988, f.47. Within her inventory of punctuation marks, Lady Katherine used symbols which were beyond the core punctuation marks of full stops, commas and colons. Used almost as frequently as the core punctuation marks, Lady Katherine's use of a colon and virgule symbol, *:/*, is a recognisable feature of her writing and appears to have functioned as a final stop in most in most instances. Some of Lady Katherine's letters contain evidence that she may also have employed these symbols to add emphasis, especially when repeated, as can be seen in a brief postscript informing her son of the death of a neighbour, 'Mr Rant of Norwalsum died this morning of a burninge ague as Mr Thomson tells vs *:/ :/*' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.45r) and the use of three of these symbols in another postscript adds a sense of Lady Katherine's mischievous excitement at sharing the news of a wedding: 'winnett was married this mihellmas day to you Know who *:/ :/ :/*' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.49r). A letter by Mary Knight, a famous singer and reputed mistress of Charles II, contains a similar double colon mark (*::*) which she also appears to have employed for additional emphasis (BL Addit MS 36988, f.240). The colon-virgule mark is not unique to Lady Katherine's letters, and is found in a few instances within the letters of her grandson, Sir Robert Paston. Born in the late 1570s and educated in the final decades of the sixteenth century, Lady Katherine would have been familiar with the use of the virgule and indeed she utilised the virgule in a number of her surviving letters. While it is not clear how the virgule and colon mark was adopted into Lady Katherine's inventory of punctuation marks, it may have been the result of a period of transition from the use of the virgule to the more widespread use of the colon. Lady Katherine's letters also contain examples of similar punctuation marks with a virgule and a preceding point, (*./*), and there are other examples of a semicolon or colon combined with a right-hand parenthesis, resulting in the forms *;) and :)*, the latter also featuring once in a letter by Rebecca Paston (BL Addit MS 36988, f.246). Seen through the eyes of a twenty-first century reader, it is difficult not to view some of Lady Katherine's punctuation marks as seventeenth century 'emoji', especially her use of (*:-/*) in two letters in Addit MS 27447, ff. 262 and 264. Lady Katherine is also the only letter-writer within this current survey to have employed quotation marks (the *diple*) in a letter, using them for two quotations to her son when offering him advice in Addit MS 36988, f.27:

and remember that now is the cheeffest time to gayne the truest good bothe for sowll and body: your, ~~xxxx~~ Cunditt of Comfort tells you: that: “the seeds whⁱch now in youth you sowe”: “Springe vp and sprout increase and grow”. Wherefore Labor to sowe: {[^]for} your grownd is as the tilled earthe, if you sowe good seed. you shall reape a pleantifull and comfortable Crope: but if it shold lie still with out good seed: it doth naturally bringe forthe noysom weeds: /

While Lady Katherine's letter is the only example of the use of quotation marks in this collection, it is worth noting that the marks are cramped on the page and positioned above the colons suggesting that the marks themselves were an afterthought after offering the lines of advice to her son. The above example not only displays Lady Katherine's use of quotation marks, but also her use of commas, colons and full stops, as well as her characteristic use of the colon-virgule at the end of this passage to indicate the end of the paragraph. Her use of a clear comma in 'your, ~~xxxx~~ Cunditt of Comfort ' appears to be erroneous, and used alongside a deleted word may have been added in error while rewording this line (the deleted word is not shaped like any of the surrounding words, suggesting a deliberate rewording rather than deleting a misspelt word). In this particular passage, Lady Katherine has not been consistent in her use of capitalisation following a full stop, as can be seen by the lower case 'and' and 'you'. In contrast to the female letter-writers discussed above who were all writing up to half a century after Lady Katherine's death in 1628, Lady Katherine is a confident writer, both in her orthography and in her use of punctuation marks.

4.3 Summary

The Paston family correspondence and papers held within this collection begins in the middle of the sixteenth century and the latest letters in the collection are dated to the final year of the seventeenth century. As can be seen from the examples above, through this period the use of punctuation in personal papers and correspondence became increasingly, if not yet fully, standardised. Within just decades of the final letters in this collection, there is evidence that individuals were even more aware of 'correct' spelling and punctuation. In her study of a

selection of eighteenth century family correspondences, Susan Whyman describes the Evelyn family letters dating from the 1720s which had been corrected by a member of the family to highlight the mistakes in the spelling and punctuation (2009: 32).

While it is easy to record the particular instance of the punctuation marks as part of a diplomatic transcription, it is not always quite so easy to explain the reasoning and influences behind the use of some of the punctuation within the letters in this collection. Attempting to account for individual punctuation systems is further complicated by the inconsistency and variability within the letters by individual letter-writers, and in the case of some of the writers within this collection it is possible that the writers themselves could not provide a definitive account of their own punctuation systems, having adopted the use of punctuation marks from other writers without necessarily understanding the function of the particular marks they were employing. The possible lack of comprehension and punctuation theory can be seen in the unconventional usage of some punctuation marks, writers trying to get to grips with the use of relatively new marks such as apostrophes, or the overuse of punctuation marks that disrupt the flow and understanding of written communications.

The study of the punctuation practices of the correspondents represented within BL Addit MSS 27447, 27448 and 36988 has highlighted the extent to which the use of punctuation varied between individuals. The punctuation practices of female writers vary considerably, from Lady Katherine Paston's extensive repertoire of punctuation marks and usage that was both conservative and innovative, through to other writers such as Elizabeth Littleton who did not employ any punctuation in her letters either as a result of a lack of knowledge of punctuation, or through not feeling the need to employ punctuation. Variation and unconventional usage was not restricted to the female correspondents, and even educated men, including Sir Robert Paston, displayed idiosyncratic practices such as a reliance on the use of commas over all other punctuation marks. It is also clear from this collection of correspondence that writers were influenced by both rhetorical and grammatical punctuation habits. The later Paston letters span almost two centuries and in this time there is a clear progression from the use of virgules and limited punctuation

through to the use of an inventory of punctuation that is recognisable to a present-day reader.

4.4 Letter-writing

Much of this examination of the later Paston letters has so far centred on the spelling and punctuation used to create written communication. Although not yet fully standardised, it is possible to see that spelling and punctuation practices were in the process of becoming increasingly standardised under the influence of print culture and humanist practices. In the final chapter of this thesis, we will see, from an examination of the letters as physical objects, that the material culture of early modern epistolarity was also heavily influenced by social conventions. However, it is important not to overlook the ultimate function of a letter as a piece of written communication.

Formal letters in the present day are also guided by a series of rules and conventions including the correct terms of address, the correct placing of the date or signature and the correct use of 'sincerely' or 'faithfully' when signing off at the end of the letter. Letter-writing in early modern England was similarly governed by a series of epistolary rules and formulae which dictated the layout of the letter, especially with regards to the opening and closing lines of the letters. This current discussion will consider the extent to which early modern letter-writers adhered to formulaic epistolary constructions, and will also consider if it is possible to track developments in use of letter-writing formulae over the one hundred and fifty years covered by the later Paston letters.

Although the spelling and punctuation used to create the written letter were not fully standardised, the contents and constructions employed may be thought of as aspiring to standardised conventions. Terms of address in the opening lines, subscriptions of the letters and other changing social and letter-writing conventions are all relevant here. The nature of the documents held within these manuscript collections also allows comparison between the strict formality of business correspondence and the terms of endearment used within closer family circles. This comparison will be conducted through the letters of Sir Robert Paston, Viscount Yarmouth and his wife, Rebecca.

The study will also analyse briefly the various text types and subtypes contained within the later Paston family archive, considering some of the speech acts that help to identify these subtypes. Comparison will be made with the subtypes identified by Alexander Bergs in his examination of the fifteenth-century Paston letters (2007).

4.4.1 Letter-Writing Manuals and the Structure of a Letter

Letter-writers in the early modern period benefitted from the wealth of printed materials available to them, some offering advice on correct use of written English, and others offering guidance on how to write a suitable letter. The increasing social importance of letter-writing was indicated by the number of manuals and guidebooks produced in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries 'attests to the prestige attached to the accomplished letter writing, and to the growing sociocultural significance of letters in the period' (Schneider, 2005: 43; see also references there cited). Letters in the early modern period were not simply a means of communicating news or a request, but they were also a means of communicating respect, deference and courtesy, and it was in the early modern period that letter-writing grew as a social skill as well as a communicative act.

Letter-writing manuals in the early modern period followed on from a well established medieval tradition of texts offering rhetorical advice that had been extended and adapted to written correspondence (Green, 2007: 102). The spread of humanist ideas in the fifteenth century has been described by Gary Schneider as providing a 'reenergization of the familiar letter' allowing its use for a range of purposes through the early modern period (2005: 41). The connection between the familiar letter and the spread of humanism can be seen through the influence of works such as the 1522 *De Conscribendis Epistolis* by Erasmus, which emphasised the importance of familiar correspondence, and as Schneider points out, the familiar letter was considered a 'valuable form of humanist discourse' (2007: 42).

Although in Latin, the works of writers such as Erasmus influenced subsequent generations of writers, including William Fulwood, Walter Darell and Angel Day, to provide letter-writing advice in English. Day's *The English Secretorie* of 1586 was heavily influenced by the works of Erasmus, including dividing letters into the

same parts and using the same classifications of letters as Erasmus (Robertson, 1942: 19). The *Secretorie* is arguably one of the best known manuals of the sixteenth century, offering advice to readers on how to structure letters, the correct use of greetings and farewells, and offering readers example, formulaic epistles on a range of subject matters on which they could model their own letters. The success of Day's *Secretorie* is reflected in the number of reissues with additions well into the seventeenth century and it was in that century that the use of letter-writing manuals became increased, especially among the upper classes (Nevala, 2004: 212).

The guides on how to write a suitable letter were not necessarily written with a one-size-fits-all approach to written communication with writers directing their advice to students of letter-writing from a range of backgrounds and in order to meet a range of social needs. Linda Mitchell describes seventeenth-century manuals such as John Brinsley's 1612 *Ludus literarius* as being aimed at more affluent students with a knowledge of Latin, while other works, including George Snell's *Right Teaching of Useful Knowledge to Fit Scholars for Som Honest Profession* (1649) was aimed at those looking for a basic level of instruction in the skills of written communication (Mitchell, 2007: 179). Perhaps unsurprisingly, John Brinsley believed that that students' letter-writing skills were greatly enhanced if the student modelled his writing on a good letter-writing manual (Mitchell, 2007: 179).

In her study of the form of early modern correspondence, Minna Nevala (2004: 38) provides a detailed order of the parts of a prototypical early modern letter, and it is evident that this particular model would fit well with many of the seventeenth century letters within the later Paston family correspondence. Early modern letter-writing manuals not only instructed writers on the correct use of opening and closing formulaic constructions that would convey appropriate levels of respect and deference, but they also informed readers of the correct way in which the letter should be ordered and structured (Nevala, 2004: 37). It is also clear that remarks regarding letters being written in haste, or the writer being forced to finish writing belonged to a firmly established formulaic model of letter-writing that had altered little since the Middle Ages:

1. direct praise of the reader
2. a commendation of the writer himself
3. an expression of gratitude for the reader's help
4. a notification of the health of those near the writer, or a desire to hear of the writer's good health
5. an acknowledgement of the main purpose of the letter
6. polite notification of the main purpose of the letter
7. offer of service
8. apology for finishing the letter at that point
9. a pious farewell or prayer for the reader's benefit
10. sometimes the apologetic 'in haste'

An undated sixteenth century letter to Sir William Paston (BL Addit MS 27447, f.125r), written in an untidy, loose secretary hand with an unclear signature which appears to bear the name Thomas Andrew, provides a good formulaic illustration of Nevala's opening construction:

[1] Right worchipffull Sir in my Rygt Vmble manner [2] I Recommend me to yow a cordyng to {^my} dewte [3] thankyng your worchipe of all kyndnes & my wyff duth the same & [5/6] I beche yow to speke to my lord to be soe good lord to me to send me a letter ~~xx~~ commendyng me in the same to seeesse all suche godes as hery fox hath the wech is not of my lord of ssurrey is free to haue toward the gret thing charges I haue had with the said fox & it is run to the summ of XXs or lytyll a boue as far as I can yet Inquier...

The remaining lines of the letter do not adhere to this structure, but there are many examples of other letters within the Paston family correspondence which do follow this formulaic closing structure, as can be seen from a 1556 letter by William Paston to his grandfather, Sir William Paston:

'[...] [7] I shalbe glad to wayght vppon you, asshortly as yt shall please you to haue me cōmendyd vnto my lady my grandmother/ [9] I shall pray allmyght god to haue you both in hys kepyngē./ [10] scrybelyd in hast at lyncollnes Inn/ the 10 of December/ by your obedyent sone./

Nevala's account of the formulaic structure of an early modern letter mirrors George Snell's advice to his readers in his work of 1649:

1. The writer should use the proper greeting by being aware of whom he is addressing.
2. The writer should use phrases of respect throughout the letter.
3. The writer should close the letter not too abruptly but with a transition phase leading to the subscription.
4. The writer should write a subscription that is not too long, yet filled with respect and honor.
5. The 'indorsement' should be concise with titles and so forth so that nothing is redundant.

Such rules from this and other manuals of the period would have been carefully studied and practised by students keen to perfect the skills required to produce business letters that were both effective works of written communication while also adhering to contemporary social conventions. (Even in the present-day, of course, written communications are still structured according to similar conventions based on the purpose of the letter and the status of the addressee; see Mitchell, 2007: 180.)

Frustratingly, it is not possible to know which of the various letter-writing manuals that were available in the sixteenth and seventeenth century proved to be most influential on the correspondents represented in the later Paston letters, or the extent to which their conventional usages were inherited and borrowed from family and friends. However, what is clear is the extent to which the structures and constructions within the letters are conventional or formulaic. It is also apparent that the correct use of these formulaic and conventional practices had social implications for the writer and the addressee.

While models such as this give a detailed representation of the structure of early modern letters, in simplified terms, the three main parts of a letter were the salutation, the subscription and the superscription, with the main body of the letter open for the letter-writer to structure and adapt as their letter required (Nevala, 2004: 39), and the following section will consider the use of formulaic constructions within the opening and closing lines of a letter.

4.5 Terms of Address

The use of the correct address terms has been described by Andreas Jucker as a 'compulsory component of both public and private letters and occurs from the beginning of letter-writing in English' (2013, 86). The address terms used in the greetings and opening salutations of a letter give an indication of the relationship between the author of the letter and the intended recipient. When writing to a social superior, the opening lines offered a chance for the author to flatter and impress the recipient before entering into discussions of business or requests for money in the body of the letter; when writing to a relative or close friend, it was an opportunity to emphasise their relationship through the use of terms of familiarity and endearment. The importance of the correct term of address to the success of a personal request or business transaction cannot be overestimated.

The terms of address employed in sixteenth century letters are predominantly terms of honour and rank which promote the notions of status and social standing through the use of honorific titles and phrases with various combinations of adjectives and intensifiers (Nevala, 2004: 91). The earliest letters in the Paston correspondence analysed in this thesis date to the middle of the sixteenth century, and the formulaic conventions of the period are evident in the opening and closing lines of these letters. The formulaic salutations of the period promote ideas and promises of duty and service to 'worshipful' masters:

My deuty remembred... (BL Addit MS 36988 f.3r)

S^r my most bownden dutie promysed... (BL Addit MS 36988, f.8r)

My dutie humblye remembrid as may please yo^r W^rshipp... (BL Addit MS 27447 f.116r)

my bowndone dewte rememberyd to yowre worshyppe maye yt plesse the same...

(Addit MS 27447, f. 122r)

In addition to promoting ideas of social duty and service, writers were also keen to promote ideas of religious duty and devotion by offering prayers and blessings for their family members and acquaintances. Written by an amanuensis, Eleanor Rutland's 1525 letter to her father makes reference to her duty and her prayers for her father.

Ffather my dewtye don in my moost humble man^{ner} I hartely Re^{com}mend me vnto yow praying yow of yo^r blessing. (BL Addit MS 27447, f.74r)

The same religious devotion can be seen in the letters of Lady Katherine Paston, written a century after Eleanor Rutland's letter to her father. Lady Katherine's letters offer prayers and blessings to her son while he was away from the family home at university. While many of the words of blessing and devotion in the letters in this collection may feel like little more than the formulaic constructions of polite Christian society, Lady Katherine's words have a greater sense of a genuine desire for her son's wellbeing and health in a time of disease, while at the same her blessings may also have offered some comfort to herself as concerned mother.

My good Child the lord blese the evermore in all thy goinges outt and thy Cominges in...

(BL Addit MS 36988, f.27r)

My good Will:/ the mercy of the Lord be evermore w^t the and blese preserve and keep the... (BL Addit MS 36988, f.36r)

The letters Lady Katherine received from her son would have provided her with much relief and comfort. William addresses his mother in the salutation of the letter as his 'Most Deare and honoured Mother' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.34r), and

William also returns his mother's blessings and prayers in the closing lines of his letters.

...Beeseching god to showne downe his Blessings one you: and all your housholde... (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 32r)

...praying to god almitie To protecte you now and euer... (BL Addit MS 36988, f.34r)

Helena Raumolin-Brunberg's study of address terms in early English letters (1996) has shown the extent to which the structure of opening salutations simplified significantly across the early modern period, and this is clearly supported by the evidence contained within the collection of the later Paston letters. Within the Paston family correspondence, the opening salutations of the sixteenth century such as 'Ryght worshipfull master' were often complex with more than one modifier and the use of such structures continued well into the seventeenth century, as can be seen in William Paston's opening address to his mother in the 1620s: 'Most honoured and Deare mother' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.32). By the final decades of the seventeenth century, the opening address forms had simplified to the use of one unmodified noun, such as *Sir* or *Madam*, although the use of modifiers could still be found in the use of address forms such as *Dear Sir* and less frequently used forms such as 'Honoured Deare Cosin' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.376).

4.5.1 *Sir Robert and Rebecca Paston*

The letters of Sir Robert Paston, the first Earl of Yarmouth and later Viscount Yarmouth, are as formal and polite as one would expect from a man of his social standing writing in the second half of the seventeenth century. It is also worth considering Sir Robert's letters in a separate discussion because his surviving letters allow us to contrast the formality of his political self with the language of love and affection in the personal letters to his wife, Rebecca.

A small number of Sir Robert's letters and documents within the collection of correspondence were intended for the king. These letters, perhaps surprisingly, do not open with distinct and reverential salutation as we would find in the other letters in the collection, or as we may expect to find when writing to the sovereign. On one occasion the letter opens with no salutation but immediately

begins the business of the main body of the letter (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 187), while on another occasion, there is no separate line of salutation, but in this instance the body of the letter does begin by addressing the King, 'Y^r Ma^{tye} may well imagine...' (BL Addit MS 27448, f. 154). While the letters to the king may not begin with the formality that we might expect from letters of this period, they close with the conventional ideas of humility, submission, and service to the king, '...y^r Ma^{tyes} most dutyfull & most humbly thankefull subiect' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.154r) and 'Y^r Ma^{tyes} Most dutyfull submissiue subiect & servant' (BL Addit MS 36988, f.187).²

Unlike the conventions of the previous century which often saw the use of lengthy, deferential formulaic introductions to letters, Sir Robert's letters to male correspondents discussing matters of business and politics normally open with 'S^r' or on some occasions with the more deferent 'Hon^{ble} S^r'. A copy of a formal letter written to the Deputy Lieutenants and Justices of the Peace of Norfolk in 1682 opens with the greeting 'Gentlemen & my Hon^{ble} Friends' and repeats this line in the closing lines of his letter, with added emphasis on the idea of friendship, signing himself as their 'much oblieged & most humble servant' (BL Addit MS 36988, f. 184r). When writing to a closer acquaintance and frequent correspondent such as Edward L'Estrange, Sir Robert opened the letter by addressing the recipient using his title and full name, 'M^r L'Estrange', a referential form of address which was still a marker of familiarity (Nevala, 2004: 88), and Sir Robert often signed his letters to Edward as his 'affectionate friend and servant'.

None of Sir Robert's surviving letters are so familiar, or arguably impolite, as to address the recipient solely by their first name, even when writing to his wife. Based on the evidence from Sir Robert's surviving letters, he used kinship terms such 'Deare Bro^r' far less frequently than the referential and honorific address terms discussed above. It is worth noting that the use of kinship terms such as *brother* and *cousin* were not always indicative of a genuine familial relationship but were often used to address close acquaintances to emphasise the close nature

² It is possible that such a salutation might be so formulaic that Sir Robert could assume it to have been supplied by the person charged with reading the letter aloud to the monarch. The use of salutations to the King could be worthy of further research.

of their relationship; the term 'fictive' is applied to the use of these family kinship terms between non-relations. (Nevala, 2004: 89).

In contrast to the conventions and formality of Sir Robert's letters to male friends and associates, the letters between Sir Robert and his wife Rebecca suggest that they were a loving couple who were devoted to one another despite their financial struggles and political concerns. Most of Sir Robert's letters to Rebecca open with the address 'My Deare Hart' or 'My Dearest Hart', openly displaying his affection for his wife. Only a few of Sir Robert's letters to Rebecca open with the line 'My Dearest Deare', or 'My Deare', but even these are familiar and affectionate and in one letter, Sir Robert addresses his wife as 'Deare Sowle' (BL Addit MS 27448, f.132).

Unfortunately, no letters survive from Rebecca to her husband, so we cannot be sure if she addressed her husband with equal familiarity and affection or if she perhaps used a more formal term of address as a sign of deference to her husband. Of the few letters and notes that survive in Rebecca's hand within the Paston family archive, only two of these letters contain salutations, as she writes to the King requesting assistance for her financial troubles in widowhood (BL Addit MS 27448, f.251). Rebecca's surviving letters within the Clayton family correspondence in Norfolk Record Office were written to her Clayton cousins and these are opened with the simple salutation, 'Sir'. Even when writing to the king, Rebecca begins the letter 'Sir', in contrast to her husband's letters which did not address the king directly.

On a number of occasions, Sir Robert's letters to Rebecca begins with the opening salutation such as 'My Deare Hart' before describing the news and events of the day with no further salutation or pleasantries toward his wife. However, on other occasions, he expressed his delight at having received letters from his wife, while in one other letter he shares his sadness at leaving his wife again.

My Dearest Hart

Thy deare letters are y^e greatest ioyes I haue heere... (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 365r)

My Deare

After parting from you y^e sad thoughts brought mee asleep... (BL Addit MS 27447, f.360r)

While the opening lines of Sir Robert's letters to his wife give some indication of their relationship, it is the closing lines that offer the most revealing insights into his affection for his wife. Sir Robert and Rebecca spent much of their time apart. Sir Robert's business and political career meant that he was regularly travelling between Norfolk and London, while London-born Rebecca preferred life in the city to that of the Paston family's Norfolk seat, Oxnead House; thus many of Sir Robert's surviving letters to his wife are addressed to her lodgings in London. With so much of their time apart, it is not surprising that Sir Robert used the closing lines of his letters to ask to be remembered to their children and to tell his wife how much he longs to be with her again.

I hope to see thee shortlie w^{ch} will be y^e greatest ioy that he {^can}
vndergoe (BL Addit MS 27447, f.336r)

...my deare I will not tell you how much I long to see you little I haue y^e
happinesse of itt for w^{ch} aboue all earthly things he longs that is
My deare y^r most passionate servant
Robt Paston. (BL Addit MS 27447, f.327r)

...my deare belieue mee when I tell you theres nothing in this world so
deare to mee as you are & euer shall whilst hee has breath

y^t is
y^{rs}

Yarmouth (BL Addit MS 27448, f. 127)

The language used by Sir Robert in his signatures is that of affection, love and passion, and his letters show greater variation in the signature lines than in the salutations, subscribing himself in a number of ways including 'Y^r most passionately & vnalterably, Yarmouth', 'I am y^{rs} Eternally', 'I am y^{rs} till death' and simply 'thine for euer'. The language of Robert's superscriptions is very much in keeping with the conventions for self-reference in the closing lines of letters which allow writers to present their respect, service and affection towards the recipient, and Minna

Nevala notes the frequent and formulaic use of verbs such as *serve* and *command* and the use of adjectives including *humble*, *obedient* and *affectionate* (2004: 95). Sir Robert's apparent longing to hear from and be reunited with his wife can also be seen in the postscripts in his letters and in one letter he is at pains to remind Rebecca that, at a time when mistresses were common in the upper classes, he only has eyes for her.

Lett my coach meet me on Friday att Norw^{ch} and for anie weomen to entertaine me I care for none but y^r self and desire to meet you alone att home (BL Addit MS 27447, f. 331)

Sir Robert's terms of affection and endearment feel personal and individual, but as Minna Nevala describes, husbands more than their wives used formulaic terms of endearment in their opening salutations (2004: 141), including the terms *my dear* and *my dearest*, and the terms of affection are even more conspicuous in the closing lines of letters when men expressed their feelings for their wives (2004: 141). It is evident that the conventions of personal correspondence also governed aspects of the letter which modern readers might consider personal and individual, such as the use of terms of endearment between married couples, and it is clear that these remained highly formulaic.

4.5.2 *Communication in the Later Paston Letters*

Epistolary culture in the seventeenth century, that is, the act of creating, sharing and consuming a piece of written communication, as well as the afterlife of the material letter, is described by Susan Fitzmaurice as having 'permeated every aspect of English life' (2002: 4). The next stage of the discussion will consider the primary function of the letter: a means of performing a communicative act over time and distance.

Letters are classed as one distinct class of text type in their own right (Bergs, 2007: 28), but this text type can be broken down further to reveal the various subtypes and subgenres that can be found within the later Paston family archive. One of the most obvious distinctions to be made within the collection of correspondence is the distinction between the personal, familiar letters intended to be read by one individual and the non-private business letters or official letters

that may be read and shared by a number of interested parties (Bergs, 2007: 27). The distinctions are reflected in differences in language and the physical letter itself, from the use of larger and better-quality paper and the use of neat scribal hands, language that was formal and deferential and written with spelling and punctuation practices that were more standardised than those found in personal epistles.

However, it is important to realise that the distinction between the letters intended for public or personal consumption is not quite as clear cut as might first appear, and there is a gradience of usage. Many letters contain discussions of business or official matters before continuing with more personal and familiar matters, with a shift to more familiar address terms. In many of the holograph letters dealing with matters of business or local politics, the postscripts serve as an opportunity for writers to break with the formalities and offer their regards to the addressee's family or other close acquaintances. And letters which can be categorised as personal correspondence can be further divided into more specific categories within a continuum of practices.

Thus, although letters themselves form a specific text type, within this text type there are distinct subtypes, including 'orders' or 'love letters' (Bergs, 2007, 29) which can provide further information on the variety of matters that are discussed and shared through the medium of written communication. Alexander Bergs has identified the different text types contained within the fifteenth-century Paston letters including letters, petitions, accounts, bills of complaint and recipes, and within the wider text type 'letter', Bergs identified the subtypes of report, request, orders, counsel and phatic (Bergs, 2007: 34).

While the letters concerned with matters of business and politics are key to understanding the status of the Pastons, it is the familiar, personal letters which remind us of the importance of letter-writing in the relationships between families, from requests for financial assistance to letters of love and loss, and as written communication was designed for communication across distance, it is unsurprising that private letters. Douglas Biber describes personal letters as being similar to conversation, 'being involved, situation-dependent, and non-abstract' whereas professional letters are characterised as being a persuasive genre, non-

narrative and 'characterized by markedly explicit and elaborate reference' (Biber, 1991: 167).

In her seminal study of the familiar letter in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Susan Fitzmaurice cites Erasmus's description of the familiar letter as a 'mutual conversation between absent friends' (2007: 18), and it is the notion of the personal letter as written conversation to which we move next, examining the ways in which letter-writers conveyed their most personal thoughts and emotions through written speech acts. Fitzmaurice describes the extent to which private correspondence can be viewed as conversational in both form and function (2002: 23):

[...] the letter may be more like conversation in its effect than one might suppose because one's language is not merely plain and transparent, but must be tempered and beaten to suit the speaker's sense of and relationship with the addressee. It consists of conventional or formulaic utterance in order to meet basic expectations of politeness in the in the course of the exchange, but it also consists of particular locutions expressed and phrased in order to carry out specific tasks that the letter is intended to perform.'

The letters of Lady Katherine Paston are confidently written and display conventional constructions in the opening and closing lines of her letters to her son, but within the family news and advice for her son's wellbeing, Lady Katherine, often through the use of postscripts, adds wonderfully conversational asides to her son in which you can get a sense of her personality. Perhaps the best examples of this are her postscript in Addit MS 36988, f.49, in which she playfully informs her son that 'winnett was married this mihellmas day to you Know who :/ :/ :/'. Lady Katherine's conversational postscripts to her son also saw her attempt to report direct speech, in this example, the speech of a child (Hughey (1941: 134) suggests a possible son of Philip Alpe who worked for the Pastons around this time):

Your sceruante Phillupe woold goe neer to pose you w_t his new englishe: he cam w_t tears in his eies to me and sayd: his Nastas goggs did dite ha hans: I was desirous onc more to heer his pretty playnt: he cried nasta Lillo goggs did dite his hans: your 3 pupis weare so bowld w_{it}h him:/ (BL Addit MS 27447, f.238)

In the previous discussion on punctuation it was noted that Lady Katherine employed speech marks to mark out quotations in a letter to her son, and while she has not employed them on this occasion to indicate speech, she has intentionally altered her spelling to mimic the speech of a child talking about William's dogs, giving the postscript an added sense of being informal and conversational. The deliberate altering of her written language to achieve a speech-like effect is indicative of a confident writer making a particular decision for a desired communicative effect. It is interesting to note that these most conversational and informal comments are restricted to the postscripts of her letters, perhaps suggesting that she felt more comfortable with informality outside of the constraints of the main body of the letter.

In order to consider the letter in terms of a conversation, Fitzmaurice argues that the wider context of the letter, including the circumstances in which the letter was written and the relationship of the writer and addressee, must be taken into account. In consideration of the large number of documents, identifiable and anonymous writers, known and unidentifiable readers and audiences as well as the range of document types and the wealth of subject matters contained within, the following discussion will examine a small selection of speech acts and the communicative function in a selection of familiar letters preserved within the later Paston letters.

Directive speech acts are defined by Ulrich Busse as 'speech acts by means of which the speaker requests the hearer(s) to do (or not to do) certain things' and directives can take the form of commands, requests, and invitations (2008: 88). Requests are ultimately written with the expectation that the addressee will be in a position to fulfil the needs of the writer and as a result, requests can range from ordinary, domestic requests to urgent pleas for assistance.

Some of the requests made within the later Paston letters are relatively unremarkable requests, such as Lady Katherine's request for her son to send her gilt paper, but other requests are made as a result of specific circumstances, such as a grieving John Paston's request to his father to send him suitable mourning clothes so that he may respectfully mourn his brother's sudden death (BL Addit MS 36988, f.86), and it could be argued that requests in response to sudden and

serious situations place a greater sense of obligation on the reader. One example of a writer making a request of his addressee is Sir Robert Paston's request to Edward L'Estrange to have papers sent to him by coach; Sir Robert has been forced to make this request as a result of his wife taking the key to the room in which his copies of the commissions have been locked (BL Addit MS 27448 f.28). The main purpose of his particular letter is to make the request for the papers, and following a brief formal opening address of 'mr L'Estrange', Sir Robert begins immediately to make his request and to explain the circumstances that have made this request necessary, but the letter is brought to a close with a formulaic, polite subscription.

Sir Robert's letter begins with the directive performative *pray*, signalling to his addressee that he is about to make his request, and alerting the reader that he will be required to complete an action to fulfil an obligation (Fitzmaurice, 2002: 20). Graham Williams explains that *pray* was the most frequently used directive performative in early modern letter-writing (2013: 134) and this is supported by similar constructions throughout the later Paston letters. This letter also contains reference to another type of directive, the apology, when Sir Robert explains to Mr L'Estrange that he will make an apology to Major Ward, but unfortunately, the letter does not contain examples of the language Sir Robert intended to use to make his apology.

The financial concerns of the later generations of the Paston family are well documented within their letters. The demands of lavish, gentry lifestyles and many failed business ventures meant that debts continued to spiral until the family line died out in the 1730s. The family's poor financial state is reflected in requests for financial assistance, and though not part of the Paston family archive within the British Library, Rebecca Paston's letters to her cousins making requests for financial assistance convey a sense of urgency and desperation. The Clayton family correspondence in Norfolk Record Office contains twenty-two letters from Rebecca to her Clayton cousins, and throughout these letters Rebecca makes requests for loans for specific sums of money, with explanations of the family's circumstances and needs, and often with the promise that the money will be repaid. One letter in the Clayton family papers, dated February 5 1674, opens with the brief

salutation 'Sir' and within the first line of the letter, Rebecca makes a request for £250:

Sir, I haue a uery great ocasion for 250ls: and I most earnestly inteat you,
To oblidg me so much, as To Lend it me. I {^will} pay it you againe att our
Lady = next and the other 200, you formerly Lent me [...].

In this instance, Rebecca offers no explanation for her request, or the apparent urgency with which she needs the money. As with so many requests, Rebecca employs the directive performative *pray* as she implores her cousin to 'pray now continue your fauor', perhaps concerned that he may not fulfil her latest request for yet more money in addition to what she has already borrowed from him. Rebecca's use of language is intended to flatter her cousin as she emphasises his 'generos Kindnes'. The subscription to the brief letter presents Rebecca as her cousin's 'most afexsionait kinswoman & humble servant' but she adds a postscript, reiterating her promise to reward her cousin's generosity, but it is here that the urgency and desperation of her request is made all the more apparent when she asks that she is told by five o'clock that evening what her cousin is willing to lend her on this occasion. Rebecca's promises of repayment and reward for her cousin's financial assistance fall into another category of speech act, the commissive speech act in which the writer or speaker commits themselves to do something, such as making a promise or vow (Fitzmaurice, 2002: 57), and in this and other letters, Rebecca is making a promise that she will repay her debts. It is interesting to note that all twenty-two letters that have survived in the Clayton family correspondence contain requests to borrow sums of money or detail existing debts, suggesting that the letters were kept to keep a note of how much Rebecca owed to her family and other debtors, and it is possible that the addressees doubted Rebecca's sincerity in her promises of repayment, or her ability to fulfil her promises.

4.6 Summary

To a present-day reader, the letters of the early modern period may appear rigid and formulaic, but even now in written communication we are also influenced by rules such as the correct way to address an email or the correct layout in a formal

letter. What is apparent from the letter-writing manuals and the extent to which letter-writers followed their recommendations is that the structure of the letter itself is an act of communication (Fitzmaurice, 2002: 19), conveying deference or superiority: the structure of the letter and the use of the page as well the opening and closing addresses were all designed to communicate particular meanings dictated by social conventions.

The use of formulaic address terms emphasises the importance of social structure and hierarchy in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. However, it is notable that these complex, formulaic address terms were dramatically simplified over the course of the seventeenth century, with occasional exceptions in particular circumstances or as a preference of individual writers. As the complex address terms and prayers for the health of the addressee gradually diminished, personal correspondence arguably became more personal and less rigidly formulaic. However, even in personal correspondence, the appearance of the physical letter was shaped by social conventions, so that even the most personal letters had to maintain a socially-acceptable public image. The constraints and conventions of the material letter will be examined in the next chapter of this thesis.

Chapter 5

5.1 Conclusion

The main research question of this thesis was to establish the extent to which spelling and punctuation practices could be considered standardised. It is clear from the examination of spelling habits in this body of correspondence, that spelling practices were still far from being fully standardised and writers still displayed idiosyncratic, comparatively phonographic spellings. My previous research into the spelling practices of Lady Katherine Paston found that although spelling in the 1620s was not yet standardised, individual writers employed forms which were not as irregular and idiosyncratic as might have been expected but were instead employing a range of variant forms that can be explained and often identified as belonging to an individual's personal spelling system. Within these personal spelling systems, it was possible to establish a series of rules and patterns for preferred orthographical choices within the spelling systems of individual writers where the surviving written materials could provide sufficient data for such an analysis and potential reconstruction. This earlier research highlighted the fact that some writers employed forms that were so distinctive that they could be identified as belonging to that particular individual.

This current research has focused on the seventeenth-century letters of Sir Robert Paston and his immediate family, as well as considering the personal writing habits of female correspondents. Within the letters of Sir Robert Paston and his family it is clear that spellings are not yet fully standardised; however, the move towards standardisation is evident, with the male writers displaying a greater degree of standardised forms.

There are, however, exceptions to this pattern, as can be seen in the letters of writers such as Abraham Swift, writing to the second Earl of Yarmouth in the late seventeenth century, where phonographic spellings are employed in abundance. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to conduct sufficient biographical research to provide a full commentary on Swift and his life, but his letters, and those of other individuals could be included in future research. Writing in the later seventeenth century, Swift's letters display a greater degree of irregularity and

variation than did the letters of Lady Katherine Paston almost a half a century before.

Lady Katherine's spelling system appears to be more fixed and structured than many of the female correspondents who followed her, but there is limited documentary evidence for many of these women, and Lady Katherine's letters also reveal a greater degree of confidence and innovation than many of the male correspondents when it comes to her use of punctuation.

The degree of variation across the entire collection raises some interesting questions that are not easily answered four hundred years after the writers put pen to paper. As today, some people would have been naturally better at spelling than others and may have written with greater confidence, but others writers, both male and female, may not have felt the need to adapt and conform to a written standard as long as their epistle could serve its communicative function. Many of the social conventions of letter-writing and the use of formulae were used to convey respect and deference for social superiors, but in writing personal correspondence to family members, there was perhaps less emphasis on the use of these features, or the use of neat handwriting and 'correct' spelling. It is worth recalling that many of the developments in the English language have come from the aspirational middling classes and not from the nobility and gentry, like many of the individuals represented in this collection.

The development of punctuation marks in the early modern period is significant as an indication of changing reading habits in the period as well as the writing of ordinary people becoming more sophisticated as they were able to take greater control of how their words were interpreted. The analysis of punctuation habits within the later Paston family archive highlights the diversity of punctuation marks and how they were employed by individual writers. The analysis of the punctuation habits of individual writers provided some interesting findings which indicated that punctuation was also subject to personal variation across the letters of the same writer, and between letter-writers. However, the most notable finding was the extent to which some of the female writers, such as Lady Katherine Paston, were able to use punctuation with a greater confidence and consistency than their male

descendants, even displaying innovation in the use of speech marks where no other correspondent in the collection did.

The letters of female writers such as Lady Katherine Paston and her great-granddaughter Margaret Alberti, show that women were sharing maternal advice and personal information in their letters, such as Margaret's description of a challenging birth, and were perhaps, therefore more mindful of the letter's communicative function rather than the spellings used to convey their messages. But the fact that these women were able to put pen to paper - in 'speech-like' texts such as these letters -- to record their daily lives enables us to come as close to the 'voices' of Elizabethan and Stuart women as it is possible to get.

A study such as this highlights the enormous benefits of examining transcriptions that are as faithful to the original letter as possible. Faded ink, water damage and bad handwriting are additional challenges to producing a faithful, diplomatic transcription. Viewing the original letters also presents an opportunity for a new analysis of spelling and punctuation habits where many other editions, with different purposes, may have silently expanded contracted forms and added potentially meaningful punctuation marks that were not present in the original letters.

The physical manifestation of letters has also been addressed. The physical letter and the use of space on the paper indicate the importance of the material object to convey meaning beyond the words written on the page. Additional meanings could also be conveyed by the colour of sealing wax and the methods of securing the letters, providing some indication to the recipient of the nature of the epistle and the contents within. Early modern letter-writing was governed by the appearance of adhering to social conventions, and even when letters were personal, the layout of the letter and its nature as a physical object, writers were still concerned with the social conventions of the letter.

The use of formulaic address lines and subscriptions may seem heavily prescribed and formal, but of course modern letters still rely on simplified formulae such as *Dear Sir/Madam*, *To Whom it May Concern*, *Yours Faithfully* and *Yours Sincerely*, and the way in which modern letters are structured again adheres to rules that we are probably employing subconsciously. Such conventions in present-day usage can

be traced back to the formulae and conventions that originated in personal correspondence in the early modern period.

The production of the physical letter was standardised not through social conventions, but through the limitations of the materials available to individual letter-writers that had remained unchanged for centuries and, in many cases, would develop little in the centuries that followed. It was up to the letter-writers themselves to adapt, shape and individualise their materials in order to individualise their letters.

The spread of literacy and the increase in the writing and sending of personal correspondence (as well as the need of the state to control the spread of dangerous and seditious materials) is reflected in the emergence of a national postal network, and the seventeenth-century letters within this collection mark a time of transition from reliance on personal carriers, to a dependence on the postal service, though it is clear that writers still relied on friends, family and chance travellers to carry their letters to their intended destination. The period of transition was not without its issues and the letter-writers took every opportunity to voice their frustrations. However, any mention of the letter-writing and the delivery of letters must be viewed with caution, as many writers used apologies for the standard of their writing to show themselves as humble and modest, while apologies for late or missing letters may have been little more than an excuse for not writing. The social implications of writing a good or bad letter were never far from the mind of early modern correspondents, and this is evident throughout the letters in this collection.

It is easy to take written communication for granted, but it is important to remember that letter-writing in the early modern period was not a quick or easy task, requiring light, space and materials, and the ability to produce letters would also have depended on the eyesight, health and abilities of the writers, so what we have in these letters is testament to their desire and drive to communicate. The influence and spread of printed materials and the growth of literacy rates in the early modern period is well documented in helping to spread a standardised form of written English that would continue to develop and mature over the following centuries. The early modern period was also significant for the spread of written

communication and the emergence of a national postal system in response to these demands. The networks of correspondence laid down by these letter-writers and the generations of writers that went before them laid the foundations of modern communication that is perhaps all too easy to take for granted.

The wealth of material and data gathered in this study also highlights the potential to expand on current discussions and to consider new angles for future research.

The findings of the research questions presented in the opening chapter of this thesis can be summarised as follows:

- (1) Spelling practices do vary between male and female correspondents, but the extent of the variation depends greatly on the individual writer. The later Paston letters allow examination of the development of spelling habits over generations of the same family. There is a clear progression towards more standardised forms, but non-standard usage remains frequent until the end of the seventeenth century, and it is also possible to see generations of the family sharing spellings, indicating the influence of family within the adoption of personal spelling habits. Male writers within the seventeenth-century Paston letters still display a degree of variation in their preferred forms; although variation becomes less frequent towards the end of the decade, there are enough non-standard forms remaining to be able to distinguish between writers and identify personal practices. Female writers also exhibit the use of non-standardised forms. However, the traditional claim that women are just bad at spelling due to poorer education is not entirely accurate, and, while women do display a greater degree of variation than their male counterparts, their spelling practices should not be thought of as chaotic and haphazard, with women evidently forming their own personal rules and systems. Within the later Paston letters, there is evidence of writers making conscious decisions to change their spellings, either as a result of influence from education and print culture, or the adoption of non-standard forms that may have been borrowed from another writer.
- (2) Examination of individual practices within the seventeenth-century Paston letters makes it possible to see a development in the use of

punctuation. Male correspondents are confident in their use of punctuation, but even educated and experienced writers, such as Sir Robert Paston, display a limited repertoire of punctuation marks which are not employed as we would expect in present-day usage; even within his own letters, Sir Robert's use is variable and inconsistent. The female writers in the collection offer a range of punctuation practices, from the total absence of any punctuation to a varied repertoire, and some use innovative and distinctive punctuation marks, such as Sir Robert's grandmother, Lady Katherine Paston. As with the male correspondents, women were often inconsistent in their use of punctuation, which suggests that writers were only beginning to get to grips with punctuation in their personal writing.

- (3) The use of formulaic opening and closing constructions and address terms gradually simplifies over the course of the seventeenth century, even though these constructions remained formal and conventionalised, even within personal correspondence.
- (4) The material culture of letter-writing develops through the course of the later Paston letters. As literacy rates and written communication increased, a Post Office was established to control the network of correspondence, standardising the letter-writing process. Earlier letters in the collection show signs of hand delivery, but, by the end of the seventeenth century, physical evidence of the postal system can be seen in the use of more precise delivery information on letters and the use of postal handstamps, while writers themselves also make reference to the new system and their frustrations with the delivery of their letters. The influence of social conventions in the letter-writing process is also evident in the physical appearance of the letters, with the use of space dictated according to politeness and social standing and the size and quality of the paper varying according to the function of the letter. While the letter-writing process developed under the influence of social change in the seventeenth century, the materials required to produce the letter had developed little in centuries with writers still having to make or modify their own materials. Such conditions remind us that letter-writing was a time-intensive process that not everyone in society

could have access to; however those who were able to afford the materials and write the letters clearly embraced written communication and laid the foundations of communication for future generations.

5.2 Future Directions

The archive of the later generations of the Paston family contains a wealth of material that could form the basis of many future research projects. In terms of extending the research conducted in this current thesis, perhaps the most obvious area for future research would be to extend the analysis of the spelling habits from the small selection of informants previously discussed to consider the habits of a wider selection of correspondents and writers represented in this archive.

Alternatively, the current study of the Paston family correspondence could be narrowed to offer a more in-depth analysis of one or more of the correspondents to produce a detailed linguistic biography on the model of Alison Wiggins' recent publication, 'Bess of Hardwick's Letters: Language, Materiality and Early Modern Culture' (2012).

The communicative function of the letters has only been analysed as part of a very brief discussion, but this could be expanded to consider the epistolary utterances within the letters of selected writers, and an excellent example of this kind of detailed examination of the communicative acts can be seen in Graham William's study of the letters of the Thynne sisters. Similarly, the use of address terms in the later Paston letters has only been briefly considered within this current work, and a further development of this discussion would be able to draw upon a significant amount of data representing individuals of age, gender and social status. Within this collection of correspondence and family papers, the official documents, such as petitions, patents and the numerous business letters, have been overlooked in favour of the personal correspondence. An examination of these letters would offer an opportunity to investigate the pragmatic and communicative functions of different text types and business letters.

Another future direction for this research would be to present the transcriptions (or a selection) in an accessible, searchable format, such as an online resource to

make the material available to a wider audience of researchers of linguistics or social history. The Paston Footprints 600 project, a collaboration between the University of East Anglia and Paston Heritage Society, launched in 2016, aims to digitise the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Paston letters that are held in the collections of Norfolk Record Office to make them publicly accessible and to add to the earlier generations of letters that will be celebrated in 2018 as part of the 600th anniversary of the first Paston letter (<https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/-/paston-footprints-600-project-invites-volunteers-to-uncover-family-s-secrets>. Last accessed 25 July 2017). Such projects highlight the interest in developing accessible online resources, but this project only tells part of the Paston family story, with a vast collection of the family's letters remaining undigitised in the British Library.

5.3 In sum

This analysis of the personal writing habits and wider epistolary culture above can provide only part of the story of early modern letter-writing, and the limited survival of early modern correspondence means that it is not always possible to get the full story of the subject of the correspondence or the correspondents themselves. However, it is clear that the surviving material allows historical linguists and historians to gain a greater understanding of several aspects of early modern society. The findings of this current research highlight trends within early modern literacy and the gradual move towards the standardisation of written English. However, this study also identifies the deeply personal nature of much early modern correspondence, showing how the deployment of language and material features allowed letter-writers to create a highly personal and individual representation of themselves.

The examination of spelling and punctuation practices within a family such as that of Robert and Rebecca Paston does, of course, allow a direct comparison of practices within an immediate family and with earlier or later generations of the same family, but similar comparisons can also be extended to other collections of correspondence that have survived from the early modern period to gain a greater understanding of the extent of variation and individuality in personal correspondence. It is also hoped that the transcriptions provided here might assist

other researchers to undertake comparative work with other collections, enabling further, deeper insights into the people and the culture behind such letters.

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Additional Manuscript 27447

[FB - Ordynauce for the Christenyng of Prince Edward Born 12 October 1537 29 H
8]

Thus muste be ordened ageyne A Quene shall be delyuerde

Ordynauce ffor the Quene to take hyr chamber and for the Apparelling and
Araying aswell therof as of other place and also for christening of the Kyngis soone
or Dowghter.

Ffurste/ that daye that Quene in good · tyme Shall take hir chamber the Chapell
wulde be well; Wurschupfully arayed where hir highness that day shall here masse
and be howselde

It-m- The greate chamber wolde be hongede with riche arras wt_a Clothe of Estate
and a Chayer where the Quene commyng from hir Masse stonyng or syttyng as hir
plesure take spices and wyne//

It-m- The nexte Chamber betwene the greate chamber and the quenys chamber to
be well and Wurshipfully hanged/

It~m - the Quenys owne chamber must be moost richely honged wt_Arras/ & A rich
bed all · thorowght cealed wt_arras the flore to the doore all couerde wt
Carpettis/ And so it was a fayer travers of syngle sattyn/ The bedde arrayed(e) wt
shettis of Lawne or fyne Raynes greate pillowes wt_an hedde schete accordyng to
the schetis/ a fayer payer of Ermyns wt_a Bordor of rich cloth of gold(e) of the
breade of the cloth and a hed shete of ermyns of cloth of gold(e) on the same
sewte and so it was doone/ A paillet by the bedis fete arrayed accordyngly to the
bed wt_shete & panes except the cloth of gold(e) of the panes to be of a nother
colour than that ofer the bed & ouer the pallet to be honged A fayr large sparviour
of crymysin satten

{Folio 68 verso}

With~ a Bolle of gold or sylver gilte and aboue the opennyng of the sparvar to be
embrowderd(e) wt_the Kyng and quenys armys And the remeñte to be
embroderde wt_crownes of gold(e) & so it was doon.

It-m, that such Estate both Spirituall & temporall as schall like the kyng highness
to assigne be nere the place wher the quene wt_goddis grace shall be delyuerd to
the enfent than {Anon?} after such deliuerauce had that thay be redy that the
childe may com soner to Christendome//

At pe church doore or Porch

It-m that it be ordeyned at the church doore that Carpette Bedde & large be layde vnder the foote and the Porch of the church doore be honged with rich clothes of Arras of golde. And that it be sealed wt clothes of golde.

It-m· that the Sergeāunte of the kyngis pantry or quenys be ther wt a Sawlt cellar of golde and Salte therin redy to take the assay or þt the salte be hallowede wt a fayer towell of Raynes about his nekke The thesarour of howshold(e) to goo afor hym wt his staff & present the assay.

It-m that the foonte of siluer being in christchurch at Cawnterbury be sent for or els a newe made to the same intent to be cōserued & kept in such place as it shall please the kyng for semblable caus hereafter and wheder that it shall please the kyng that it be doon in any of the foonte(s) or in a foonte of ston that it be ordeyned(e) that the same foonte be layed & coverd(e) in the bothom wt softe raynes in dyuers foldis and so it was at Westmynster made of stoune.]

{Folio 69 Recto}

Betwene the quene & the high Awlter covred in cloth of golde/ & the steppes of rede Wurstede and the foonte of wm forth be seitt covred(e) ronde abowte wt rich cloth of gold & vnder the fete that ther be laed(e) large and greate Carpette(s) by greate breade & length.

It-m· that ^{ouer} the foonte be honged a greate and large canopy of damaske Sattyn or Raynes. the border lyned of cloth of golde or els well embroderd or els a rich sellar of cloth of gold(e) wt a large & rich vallance.

The travors of the Church

Itm~ · that by the on side of the church ther be honged a travers wt Carpette(s) & quoyshons. A fair pāne of coles newe brymyng befor wt a good femetory & that ther be chausers of water wt Basyns of siver & ouergilt to the intent & need be to washe & that of euerich of thes Assay be made//

Ffor the Cristenyng of a p[ri]nce or p[ri]nces

It-m as for the array of the childe that the wome~ ordeyn for the lynnen cloth & that thys childe be borne to the church in a Rich mantel of cloth of gold furred wt Armyns & wt a trayn borne vpe.

It-m · If it so be þt a Dutches beir the childe. A cowntes must beyr the trayn And a Dutches the Crysom.// And in goyng to the Christennyng that ther be a C· torches or moo borne afor the childe · vnlight/ And as sone as the child com[m]yth to the church doore that they þt beir the torche goo & stond about the foonte as nigh the walles of the church as the goodly may.

{Folio 69 Verso}

Ffor the Bryngyng of the Prynce or p[ri]nces to þe church

And at suche tyme as the child com[m]yth to the church. Þt̄ it be brought to the travars -ther be made redy to the christendom & in the meane while that the bishop w̄t̄ the gosseps savyng þe Lady god mother be w̄t̄in the Canopy of the fonte so that as sone as the Baptisar com[m]eth to the fonte w̄t̄ thoffycers of the church the Bosseps Estate and other such as it shall lyke the king bet̄win the said canope And that certen noble kn̄ighte(s) & squyers in good direccōn be assigned(e) to sprede & hold(e) at large the said canopy ·

And beside this vnderneath the said canope ther be referred a good & large place for the coming to the foonte of the childe & other ladies & estate as that it shall like þe kyng to com therwith

Itm as sone as the childe is christened(e) that the said(e) torches be light

Itm· ther be ordeyned a fair litill Taper for the chalde to take in his hand(e) after his crystendome beyring it to the Awlter//

Ffor tharayng how the church & the Aulter shall be Arrayed(e)

It-m that all the holl church wher the christēdom shalbe had(e) be honged(e) w̄t̄ Arras or cloth of gold in the richest wise And also the high author of the church wher the child shalbe brought in semblable wise arraid(e) & ther offer his tapre w̄t̄ such a same of gold as shall please the kynge(s) highnes & þt̄ vnder the fote in the chauncell carpete(s) be layde.

{Folio 70 Recto}

After baptyng what shalbe doon in the church

It-m· that the Sergeaunte of the Ewery be redy in the church w̄t̄ basons cōvenyent both couerd & oncouerd(e) such as the case shall requyre for Bosseps to washe·

It-m · that then the kynge(s) - offycers to be Redy w̄t̄ spices and wyne

How the prynce or prynesse shall be brought to their loggyng /./

It-m· that al this doon - the prynce or prynces so baptised be brought to the Chamber of the loggyng w̄t̄ all the torches lighte

Itm~ · it is to wytte of the king wheydar he will that the gyftis that shall be gyvyn be borne pryvely or openly·

As for the Quenys beddis

Ffurst ij payre shetys of Raynes eyther of iiij breadis & v yardis long· ij hede shetys of like Raynes of iij breadis & iij yardis long. ij Long. ij square pillowes of fustyan

stuffid with fine downes euerich wt ij beres of Raynes a pane of skarlet furred with Ermyns & bordered wt Crymysyn veluet vpon veluet cloth of gold(e) and hede shete of like cloth of golde furred in like wise a kenertor of fyne lawne of v breadis & vi yarde(s) long a hed(e) shete of the same lawne of iiij breadis & v yarde(s) long.

Ffor the paylet by the beddis side

It-m A fedder bed wt a bolster of downe A mattras stuffid wt wull · ij Long & iiij shorte pillowes wt ij beret of Raynes A payr fustyans of vi breadis & v yarde(s) long / ii payr of shetis of Raynes of iiij breadis & v yardis long. ij hed shetess of Raynes of iiij breadis & iiij yardis long. A pane of skarlet. furred wt Ermynt bordred wt blew veluet vpon veluet

{Folio 70 Verso}

Cloth of golde & hed shete of like cloth of gold(e) furred wt Armyns & kenertor of fyne lawne of v breadis & vj yardis long A sparvwer of crymysyn satten embroderd(e) wt crownes of the quenis armes & other devicis· & lyled with dowble tartren garneshed with stryng of Silke blew Russet and gold(e)· & a rownd boll of siluer & gylt iiij koshons couerd in crymysyn damaske cloth of gold A Rownd mantel of crymysyn veluet playne ffurred thorough wt fyne Ermynt bakkis for the quene to were abowte hir in hir Payllet & all other thingis necessary for the same paillet.

As for the hall Cradill

It-m · a litill Cradill of tre in a frame couerd and paynted wt fyne gold & devicis of a yard & a quarter long & iii breade xxij ynches iiij panellis of siluer and gilt ij like panellis for the same frame V bukkils of siluer on either side the Cradill wtowte tonges for the swadlyng- bandess· ij Mattrasses & ij pillowes for the same Cradill ij panes of skarlett that on furred wt Armyns & that other wt gray and both bordred with cloth of golde furred ~~accordyng to the pane/~~ the on Crymysyn thother blew· ij hed shete of like cloth of golde furred acordyng to the Panes. A sparvur of Lynyn cloth for the same cradill A travers of Rede tartran . ij cradle bandess couerde in Raynes for the same Cradle.

As for the greate cradle of Astate

It-m · A great Cradle of Astate cōteynyng in length V foote dd and in breadith ij foote dd couerd in crymysyn cloth of gold(e) with iiij panellis of silver & gilt grauen

{Folio 71 Recto}

Wt̄ the kyng & the quenys armys/ Also ij litill Panellis for the frame of the same cradle· viij bukkles w̄towte tonges on eythar side of the said cradle/ A mattres for the same cradill ij pillowes w̄t̄ iiij beres of Raynes A payr of ffustyan/ A pane of fustyan skarlet furred w̄t̄ Armyns and brodred w̄t̄ blew velvet vpon veluet cloth of gold tissewe And a hed shete of like cloth of gold furred w̄t̄ Armyns A sparvior of crymysyn damaske cloth of gold(e) lynes w̄t̄ rede double Tartran garneshed with fringe of silke & golde A Baille couerd in bucram Wt̄ a bolle of Siluer & gilte aboue for the same sparvyoer. And ij swadle bandis that oon of blew velvet· And that other blewe cloth of golde and all other necessaryes thervnto-

Ffor the yong prynce or p[ri]nces/ and(e) for þer chaber

It-m A mantel of Rich cloth of gold(e) w̄t̄ a long trayn furred w̄t̄ Armyn to beyre in the prynce or p[ri]nces to Crystenynge and other tymes xxiiij yardes of fyne blanckett · xij yardes of skarlet xxiiij ellis of fyne Raynes for dyvers thinges necessary to the same ij quoyshon of leddor made like a covryng A quoyshon for the nourice/ A greate chamer/ a bason of Latyn, and ij greate Basons of pewter for the Landre(?) in the Norcery ffor the chamber & all other necessaryes.

Ffor Crystenynge & other thinges necessarye

It-m A trauers of rede double tartran w̄t̄ a cele to honge in the chambre . Viij pecys of Bawdekyn of gold(e) to honge abowte the fonte and for celyng in dyvers placis at þt̄ tyme and þt̄ the p[ri]uey & dyluere corde lynd frengis silke & threde Canvas bacram crochetes hokes Naillis hamers w̄t̄ tonges Cariage & all oper necessaryes//

{Folio 71 verso}

Westmynstr hall & the white hall well honged w̄t̄ Arras for the prynce to be borne through the palays in the church & have ageyn the same way whan he is chrystened(e) - The cupborde & wyndowes in the quenys chamber couerd in blewe Worsted(e) Banckers of rede Worsted A trauers of Sarcenet blew A nother of blewe tartran Barreis & stayers & steppis in Westmynster church coverd(e) in rede worsted(e) & nailed(e)

It-m A Cele of Bawdekyn of gold(e) lynes w̄t̄ bucram fringed w̄t̄ Sylke by the vallance to honge_ower the prynce by his chyminey

Itm A mantill of skarlet furred w̄t̄ mynyuer pur er

It-m · ij Paillete(s) of Canvas ij Mattres ij payr of blanquette(s) iiij payr of shete(s) ij carpette(s) of rede wor sted(e) A grete pere of Ledder for water

Itm~ · the parlement chamber richli honged(e) and sealed w̄t̄ stayers couerd(e) in blewe Wor sted garneshede w̄t̄ Riband & gylt Nailles & couerd(e) w̄t̄ a pure

imp[er]iall · the cortyns & a travers of blew tartran Carpette(s) laid(e) wt_o other rich aray for the quene to be purified

Ffurst the prynce or prynces shal be brought to the other porch of the church where the Bishop~~ shall be redy to reyceyue it and to do such obseruance as is req^ured(e) by the lawes of the church · the covent being redy wt_o procession to bryng it vpe to the fonte and after the Solempnyty is doon at the Door ther must be redy the cloth of Estate to be borne ou er it wt_o iiij men of wurshipe either knighte(s) or squyers assigned y erto aforethe torches also & lighte(s) being ther Redy to bryng it vpe to the foonte

It-m whan the prynce or prynces is brought in to the church it shall be borne in to the travers therto to have fyre & wat er Redy to be changed owt of the cloth redy to the foonte wich in the meane While shalbe halowed by thabbot of Westynst er or by a nother in his stede

{Folio 72 Recto}

Itm Whan the foonte is hawleod(e) the childe shall be brought owt of the travers to be christened(e) · and aft er yt borne vp to the awthor and after all the Solēpnyty doon at the awthor the child shall be brought downe again in to the trauars & there abyde while the Lordis & Ladies take spicis & wyne

It-m it shall be cōformed at the same tyme it shall be brought to the bishope yt shall do the the Solempnytie the wich parfety accomplished it shall be borne hom ageyn the same way that it come wt_o torches light afor it and the cloth of Astate borne ow er it

[FB - 10 September 1533 25 H8]

A Remembrance of the Cristenyng of the Lady Elisabeth · daughter of oer Suffraigne Lord the kyng henry theight

Be it knowen þt in the yere of oure Lorde on^t · v^c · thre & thritty the xxvth yere of the reigne of oer soveraigne Lord henry theight by þe grace of god kyng of Englund(e) & of Fraunce defencer of the faith Lord(e) of yreland(e) and in erth next vnd er god sup erme hed of the Church of Yngland(e) the Xth day of the moneth of ~~Maye~~ September after None in the Porch of the conventuall church of the ffryers called obs erugnt(es) of thordre of Sent Fran^ucis by the mano erof o er saide Sou eraigne Lorde the kyng at the towne of grenwich of the Dyocesse of Rochest er manyfestly set ~~themas~~ the mooste reverend fab^ʒ in god Lord(e) ~~themas~~ by the Suffrance of god Arcgebischope of Cawnturbury p^ʒmate of all Englonde And Legate of the See Apostolique(?) / And also the Noble {wo}men lad Elisabeth late wif of the Lord Thomas Duke of Norff^ʒ And Margarete Late wyf of Lord Thomas Marques Dorsset now dede Wurthy to be had in Remēbrans Accōpanied wt a greate multitude of noble parsonages of bothe men & Women Brought forth & ~ offered(e) to be baptised(e) & p[ro]fessed(e) in the christen faith the moste noble infant doughter to þe oer said(e) Souueraigne lord the kyng- than being of thage of iiij dais / And also ther being the right Reverend(e) father in god Lord John By the suffrans of god(es) Bushoppe of London Clade & Araid(e) wt Mytre bugle pastorall & cape Aydyng or Assistyng hym there / And then the right Wurshipfull & religious men dompne Will[ia]m Abbot of sent Peter at Westmynster / And thabbot of sent Calbons(?) And Rob[er]t Abbot of Stratford(e) al exempte / Monasteries cladde wt cappes & mitres holdyng the shepardis bagles(?) in their hande(s) and consequently there vpon they askyng of the said(e) Reuerende father· Enqueryng what name the said infant shulde be called(e) they gave by holl consent the name of Elisabeth wich so doon ~~they did christyn the said infant~~ the said Reverende fab^ʒ after the maner vsid in holye church dide christen the said infant by þe name of Elisabeth

{Folio 73 Recto}

According to thimposicion of the saide most reverend(e) faper Archbishoppe the godfather And of þe Dutches & Marques godmothers/ And then all Ceremonies Orisons and(e) admracons vsed to be obserud(e) & saide abowte the Cathecirâcon or prosession of them that shuld(e) bne cristened(e) doon and baptised the same infante wich was brought in tharmes of the Lady Dutches of Norffk in the in the Name of the saide Conventuall church the Cristenyng foonte ther sett vpō and garneshed Royally to christen the said infante after the Dew Costome of þe church by the said(e) name of Elisabeth at the p[ro]mes of the said mooste reverend(e) father in god(e) and the godmothers proferssing exp^ʒssely the ffaith of christe in the styde & name of the said infante By thes worde(s). I baptise the in the name of

the father & the soon & the holy gooste / wich thingis as is afor saide doon· than & there sir Thomas Wriotisley als^r Gartier Principall kyng of Armes openly declared & p[ro]lamed owt of wrytyng the name & dignitie of the said Lady Elsabeth vnder thes wurde(s) þt folowe God of his infinite grace & goodness gyue & send good lyff and long to the right high & exelent Lady Elsabeth· And consequently after the permissis the said(e) Reuerend(e) father þe Bushoppe of London bad many orisons & ceremonies at the high author of the said(e) church vpon the said infante vpon the wich all & Singuler The moost reverend father the godfather and the right mighty Prynce Lord Thom^as Duk of norff~ And Lord Charles Duk of Suff~ And theRight honourable men Lord Thomas Marques Dossett Lord henry Marques of Excester · & henry Erle of Essex · henry Erle od Wurcester & Thomas Erle of Wiltshier George Vycount rochford(e) · John Lord(e) hussy and thom^as Lord Borough Barones~ / And s3 Will[ia]m fitz Will[ia]m vnder tresaro er and sir Will[ia]m Pallet contoll er of o er said Sov eraigne Lord Kynge(s) hows

{Folio 73 Verso}

Knightis and thom^as Crīwell esqyer tresaro er of the kyngis _____ & c. And the right Wurshipfull men of the noble Cytty of London Stephyn Pecoke Maior John Alen Micheall Dodmer Will[ia]m hollies knichte(s) John hardyng Rauff Warren Richard Choppyng Aldermen of the City of London & then being present to bere wt_nesse of & vpon the same promesses aforsaid(e)

folio 74r

[FB - Letter to Sir William Paston from Lady Elyanor Roos, his daughter.]

Ffather my dewtye don in my moost humble man³ I hartely Recōmend me vnto yow praying yow of yoer blessing. And(e) ffather I understand by reason that yow Ar one of Mr lovette(s) executōrs yow may doe my Lorde muche good(e) wiche yf yow doe I know well yow shall opteyne my Lorde(s) favoer for ever and that wold be to me most consern wherfor I besiche yow in asmuche as I can or maye that ther be no luck(?) founde in yow and then I trust my lorde wilbe soe good vnto me that I shalbe able to doe for my Susters in comyng. Sir my lorde sent me a letter wiche I sende yow ___ enclosyd vnknowing to hym by the wiche yow shall perceyve that he supposyth yow may doe hym muche good. Wherfor I besuche yow as ever yow lovyd me that ther may be no fawte founde in yow for yf ther so shold be sum wold rewy__ at it and they that lovyth yow wold be Agen sory for it and I assure yow it wold be to me the greatest favor that myght come to my herte I besuche yow to sende me so parte of yoer mynde by wrytyng agene. And I pray yow to make muche of my coseyn George Paulett for my lorde fauv³y(es) hym muche and I am muche beholdyng to hym as I shall shew yow at my next metyng with yow and thus oer Lorde sende yow long lyff ffrom Compton the Vth day of June

yoer Lovyng Dowghter

Elyanor Roos

[FB - 5 June H8.
Elyanor D^r to S^r W^m Paston
& 2^dwife to Tho^s Lord Roos
& Earl of Rutland 28 June 1525 17 H8]

Thus

My verie good ffather in my humble wise I recōmende me vnto you verie glad I ame to here of youre helthe and amendemente/ And taduertise yow of suche ____ as be here occurvaunte be thies) that I have [^]{herde of} the holye woman of Kente examyned before the Lorde of the kinge(s) Counsaill whiche is on³ of the moste abhomynableste maters that ever I herde of in my lif as shalbe publissed openly to all people w^tin theis thre of foure dayes at the furthest Also I here not yete of the cōmyng home of my Lorde of Wynchester to morrow my lorde William taketh his ioerney into the partes of beyond these And as any other ____ shall hereafter come vnto my knowelege/ I shall aduertise you thereof accordingly as knoweth owre Lorde who kepe you/ written at hallywell the xvijth Daye of nouembre

humble doughter

By yoer

Elynor

Rutland

Also I doe most humbly beseche you of yoer dayly blysing and I praye you to recommende me vnto my mother and desyre hir of hir dayly blysing ____

{Folio 75 Verso}

To my verie good ffather
[Sir] William Paston

Therle of Rutlands lettre

British Library Additional Manuscript 27447
Folio 77 Recto

Aftre my hartye cōmendacōn~~ Wheras yo^u bargained with me for the maner or
Chauntery of Carleton for the sōme of two hundreth pound(es) in which bargayne I
promised to discharge you agaynst sir William Willoughby Kñight claymeng the
same by vertue of the Patronage therof and also of the pencōn of _____ /
fforasmuch as the said syr William Willoughby and I be at no certayne point for the
said sy³ William Willoughby shall have oōn hundreth and twenty pound(es) and I
fowre skore and twenty pound(es) I requyre you to deliuer the said two severall
sōmes vnto sy^r Edward North Kñight chaunceloer of Thaugmentacōn of the
Revenues of the kinge(s) ma^{t(ies)} Drowne to the by hym payd _____ vs in sōme
aforsaid when we shalbe agreed for the Preeste(s) pencōn at the receipt wherof I
shall deliver acquitaunce for the premisses accordingly and in the meane tyme
accept the deliverye of the same vnto the said syer Edward as if it had been
delivered vnto myne owne hande(s) accordingly And thus fare you hartely well-
ffrom Westmer the seconde daye of December 1544

Your loving ffrend
Antony Wyngfeld

{folio 77 verso}

To my loving ffrend
Mer William Lyomyng
sōn of the Dewke of
the King(es) Maiesties
Pyruye Counsaill

Carleton

Sir Anthony wingfeld his lettre to ___ Mr Wm Lyoming to paye the mony for Carleton
to the hands of Sir Edward North

20 Decembr: 1544.

Syr evermore desyerynge your daly blessyng / thes shalbe to advertys you that my horrs wer gone downe the daye bye fore I receaved your lrē the wych wer so ambigus vn to me, that yf I had my hors styll, I shulde haue stauē in dowte, whether that I myght come downe or not / for in the waynge of the on parte of your lrē, w^t the other, yt semed vnto me to be your rather pleasur / that I shulde contynu styll, then other wyes / wher fore I shall desyer you to be so good grandfather vnto me as to haue me in assuer?? remembrans, wyth your beneficiall helpynge handes . orells I shall not be abull to contynu longe in london / for thes fower causes followynge / the on for yt greate charges/ the seconde, for the smalle frenchepe y^t ye now a dayes to be had/ the therde, for the want of mony that ment p[ar]tly come playne of non, by cause thay canot borowgh/ the fowrth and chefe cause , for the diabolicall coretussnes? that ys at thys tyme among all men/ for excepte a man haue of hys owne he ys lyke to go wyth owte, for awte y^t he shall gete of ony mā S^r thus ye perceauē that I was comepeplyd to borowgh five ponde, of my cosen rycharde haydon, of the wych I payd the ponde, fyve shelynges, for the charges of my man, and my horrs in london, and syxantwenty shellynges, and eyght pens, for my a myttans into my chamber in lyncollnes Inne wych I truste you wyll a low a geane / and as concernynge tyllny and others I can here nothyng of them, for hether to Day haue vsed silens , as for us I can lerne as for my comynge downe vnto you, I shalbe glad to wayght vppon you, asshortly as yt shall please you to haue me cōmendyd vnto my lady my grandmother/ I shall pray allmyght god to haue you both in hys kepyngē./ scrybelyd in hast at lyncollnes Inn/ the 10 of December/ by your obedyent sone./

Wyll[*iam*] Paston

[FB- H viii 1546? 1556]

{Folio 87 Verso}

To hys right worshypfull
Grandfather S^r Wylliam Paston
knight geve thes

dated the Xth of December

William <page damaged> & squyer Cōmyssioners amonge that in the <page damaged> his most Royall magestie by force in his *lettres* patente(s) <page damaged> of a Relieff ij^s of the p_____ gr^aunted to his magestie by his high <page damaged> howeuer_ vpon *prorogacon* at Westmer the iiijth daye of Novembre in the first yere of his most g^acyous Reign by allottement amonge oer Selffe(s) the said cōmyssioners assigned & allotted to the Hundred of Happinge To the chieff constables of the same hundred and to John Blomefeld gent Thomas Mydelton Andrewe Bychesse {[^]Thomas Chamberlyn} & _____ Awlsyn & Thomas Tyralle in the said hundred & to every of theym gretynge/ On the behalf of oer said Sovereign Lord the king we straytelye charge & cōmaund you & every of you/ All excuses laid a p[ar]t that yow & every of yow p[er]sonallye doo appere & be before vs the said cōmyssioners at ?Acle? on[^] Wesdnesday next beyng the ij^d Daye of ap[^]ll next cōmyng by vijth of the klokke in the fore Noone of the same Daye/ Then and there to here suche thinge(s) as shalbe y^e-even you in charge by vs the said cōmyssioneres on[^] the behalf of oer said sovereign[^] Lord conc[^]nyng the p[^]myss. And further to *procede* in the same in suche forme as by vertue of oer seid sovereign[^] Lord the kinge his most noble Grace(s) said *lettres* patente(s) shalbe to you by vs the said cōmyssioners enioyned & cōmanded for the most spedie expedicon of the said ij^{de} paie^t of the said Relieaf?? And that you & every of you to whoes hande(s) this oer p[^]cept shall come to send the same to every oon[^] of yow have warninge of ther said appar^aunte(s) to be obserued kept the daye & tyme aforesaid/ ffayle ye not herof as you will answer to the Kinge his Magestie at your vttermost pitte yoven? vnder oer Seatte(s) the xxxth of Marche the yere of the Reign of oer said sovereign Lord Edward the Vjth by the g^rce of god of Ingland ffrance & Ireland king Defendor of the fayth & in yearth? of the chirge of Ingland & also Ireland the Sup^rme hede the iiijth

[FB - 30 March 1550
1 E 6]

{Folio 88 Verso}

The present ___ S^r *William* Wytton\haue dais to certefye accordinge\ ther chardgs before the cōmissyon[^]\at hycklynge on wednesdaye\nexte being the IXth Daye of \ Aprill/ A^o ___ E sixti/iiijth

British Library Additional Manuscript 27447
Folio 91 Recto

After oure moste hartye cōmendacōns this shalbe to signifie vnto you that we have
receyved the kinge(s) ma^{ties} Commission _____ of his courte of Requeste(s)
Auctorising vs to heare And examyne certen matters depending in variance
betwen you And Inhabit^aunte(s) of the toknes? of Wynterton and Somerton
conteinid and specified in A bill of Complainit sent to be withe the said
Commission the Cotype of whiche bill we send you heare w^t requyring you and in
the kinge(s) ma^{ties} behalffe commanding you And either of you to Appere before vs
the xiiijth daye of January nexte enseweng After the date heareof at wynterton w^t
yo er Aunswere redye made in wryghteng And Also to bryng suche witnessys And
proves as yow haue takehinge? to the sayd byll and the matters thearin comprised
/ writton At Norwiche the XXVIIjth daye of decembre/

By yoer loving ffreinde(s)

[FB - 28 Dec^r 1551]

Thc

John Robsart

Thc #JB.

{Folio 92 verso}

To the Right Wourshippull
S^r Wylliam Paston Knight
And to Anthony Bramton
his s ervante/

geve theis/

The Lre from the comyssyoners
for the Apperance as Appereth
dated the xxviiijth of december

1551/

[Different hand - The copy of the last Lres dated the xxviiijth day of decembre]

My humble dutis vnto yo er good W ership remembrid It may like the same to be advertised That allthis persent I do send vnto you the full sume of all thinges nedefull for _____ purpose which I can ___ abill as yet to Instruct you of/ ^{and} which is conteyned in xvj Articles which accordyng to my bounden duti_ I shuld ^ {have brought and} awayted vppon yo^r Wership thes with _____of my ffaith as yet I haue not recovered the hurt which I did get at my last cōmyng vnto you. I think that the next waye to opteyne thevidence oute of Mer nortons? handes. Orelles to knowe whether he hath them yet or not ware? That your wership~ by some frynds of yours shall Wryte ^{vnto} or speke w^t the same Mer norton? and say that ther is variaunce? betwixt you and mer _____ or some other for certeyn lond(es) in whetacre. Supposyng that the sight of the said Evidence shuld right well declare the _____ lyeng and abutting of thos land(es) which you Demaunde ther / Orelles you maie devise such other matter as you think good, Iff ^{surelie} I coulde Or ware abill by any meanes to further you touching the p^ymysse Good will shuld not want in me by all meanes to accomplissh the same · at all tymes wherout I shall besech your Wership~ to trust / My freind Barnard this beyng as was at my house whan I was from home· ~~what~~-who trustely requested my wiff_? to have your W^rship~ in Remembraunce of this matter wherof I do now advertise you, w^t spede/ who from tyme to tyme hath as earnestlie travailed w^t me in the same as yf the matter ware towards hym selff. And [Sir] yf I maie knowe that your good and W^rshipfull pleasure shalbe that I shall at my tyme awayte vppon you to doo? You further p__vise in this or in my other matter beyng w^tin the Levell of my small doynge shulnot fayle God wylllyng/ to awayte vppon you Immediatly/ Thus _____ tholie Gast . To whom as I am boundon· I shull contcally? pray for yoer good and Wurshipfull p__nacion/ Skribled in hast at halleswith this Sundaye the xxvi of marche. 1553

Your Werships to cōmaunde

Thomas Baly

[FB - 26 March 1553]

{folio 94 verso}

To the right worshipfull
S^{ir} William Paston knight
yeue theis /

In most humble wise sheweth vnto your Highness your faith full servant Gregory Fines esqere brother & heir to Thomas Fines esqere son and heir to S^r Thomas Fines K^t late Lord Dacre of the South that whereas the said^d S^r Thomas Fines K^t late Lord Dacre by that courte of the _____ Lands of this your Highness realm in the time of the late King of most famous memory King H the 8th y^r majesties father was attainted of Felony and other offences wherof your said subject standith and is a _____ in his blood linage honor degree & dignity corrupted It may therefore please your Highness by the assent of the Lords Spirituall & temporall & of the comons in this persent parlement assembled & by the authority of the same that your said^d subject & his heirs may hereafter vse & haue any action or suit & make his pedigree & convey _____ in blood linage & honor degree & dignity as heir as well to & from his said father as also to any other p[er]sons in like manner form & degree to all entent(s) instructions & purpose as of the said S^r Thomas Fenys Knight late Lord Dacre had never been attainted and as it _____ attainer were or had been had the corruption of blood between the said^d S^r Thomas Fenys Knight Late Lord Dacre and^d your said^d subject & his heirs or any Judgement or other matter of Record concerning the attainer of the said S^r Thomas Fenys Late Lord Dacre is or should be corrupted to the contrary in any wise not withstanding

Rote parl- Anno primo Elizab soit fait coure Il est desire Regin_

{folio 100 verso}

Patent fortetestoring
George Lorde Dacre
I Elizab· /

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 115 recto

After my righte hartie commendacions to you & my cousin your bedfellowe remembred, wheuar we haue slacked of our monethly certificates to haue been made concernynge our commysion for the lokinge to the portes within this countrie, the chiefest occasion wherof for my parte hathe bene by reason that I haue not had my healthe but if yt shall please you to apointe anie tyme & place for us to mete at, so as we maye haue tyme to require the certifcates of our deputies before. and my cousin moundeford also maye haue knowledge of yt, I shall contentedlye bestowe my travell acordinglye If sicknes had not letted me, I had awayted vpon my Lorde his grase at norwich before this tyme and so to haue spoken with hym herin my self /

Sir I haue sent you by this bearer an obligacion for one of the officers {^_____} his appearunce this next terme at my sute. Wherein I hope you will make a favorable returne, for yf yt dothe {^_____} towche your case and other of your callynge as myne / And so I Bidde you hartelye farewell / ffrom Saxlingham this xxiiijth of Aprull / 1566

your assured cousyn

Xpofer Heydon

[FB - 24 april 1566]

{Folio 115 verso}

To the righte Worshupfull & his veraie louynge cousin William Paston esquier
Sherief of Norff and Suff yeue theis

Sir Xpofers lettre

My dutie humblye remembrid as maye please your Worshipp_ be advertised that
{^our} _____ of Gresham/ who was prysoned with Bakers/ hath bene in the
begynnyng of this terme in the eschequer And hath made suche complayunte
Ageynst Cowell of Cromer & Clement ffuller of gressham to the Lorde chieff Baron
& the rest of the Cownte there/ that the Sheriff of Norff was callid vppon ageyne
to cum vnto <deleted> {^as my} _____ yt was yestardaye before I made retorne of
my _____ into Mr ff _____ office / where it was delyverid me with a charge to se
the peintour therof Therfor Sir I haue seante you a Mandatum so as ye maye
seande for {^them} in secret manner vnto take _____ of them for ther Apperance
though it be the last Daye of the terame / And advise them to com to me to my
and here in _____ at the Sygne of Cheker by furny f _____ In And I will so Devise
for them as theye shall secretlye appere as {^ _____} further _____: he hath
further made a great complaynte in open Courte Ageynst Sir Edmunde wyndham /
_____ trowble in pryson at {^norwich} was: for that he woulde not cease in
pursewing the _____ {^& sute} ageynst Cowell & ffuller: as other fowle matter
which the vndershryve of Guff harde hym openlie vntter in the courte. {^And} he &
I made Mr ffrances Wyndham previe of the tholle matter; which I am assurid he
hath advertised his father of & I think his ffrinde & p[ar]tener Bakon is _____ in
{^all} this matter and that he is a _____ of his sute ageynst cowell & ffuller And if
Bakon be not ___ of parson : it ___ And to staye hym that he maye be further talkid
with your Lyvoryers a: bowght / but the best cloth cost ix s the yerde all thinges
shalbe sent downe byt he next carryars: ffor nevere I can advertise your
mastershippe of noon but my masters _____ doth_ And thus Levinge further to
trowble your mastershipp with this my rude & hastie lettres: I besече almyghte
god Longe to p[re] serve you with my and mines and seande you increase of muche
worshipp / scrybled in hast this tewsdaye the xiiiith of may 1566

Your servaunte to comande
Thomas Jermy

{Folio 117 verso}

To the right worshipfull and speciall good master / Master Wylliam paston esquier
at {London - deleted} Norwich dd __16

Jarmyes lettre

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 118 recto

After my hartie commendacions Theis are to lette you vnderstande that the poore mane the berrer hearof John Barton; ys ___ he gyveth me to vnderstand owtt Lineid at the sute of on John Lyllye of Bett____, syns which have master vndersheryf beinge at yarmoth sent for this berrer. And vnderstandinge that this berrer to be a verye poore man called hym to agree with the p[ar]tie. And so he hath Done as it shall appere by his acquittance made from the seme Lyllye. And after t____ to hym; nowe this poore mane; not able of hymself to find oute remedye to reverse the same outelawrye so his povertie beinge such {derisith - deleted} desierith and cravith your helpe in whom (as it is shewed hym) Restith yet remedye, _____ my charge, theis are therfor to desiere you to shewe vnto hym such reasonable fryndshapp as restith in you; and this berrer shall not only be bound to be _____ at your comandentt but I also to shewe vnto you my pleasuer for any frynd of yours that maie lye in me as knowith god who ever kepe you as my sylf I bydd you most hartely farwell ffrom Stokesby this Vth of October Anno 1566

your Lovinge Brother in Lawe to

his power charles clere Esquire

{Folio 119 verso}

To the right worshipfull and his vearye Lovinge Brother in Lawe william paston esquier heighe Shreave of norff yeve theis with _____

___ Charles Cleires lettre

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 120 recto

Sir I have receiued your lettre together with the counceles lettre therin enclosed /
which althoughe ye requireth no great hast {^as yt serveth by the _____ in
yt for __ __ ____} yet I shall goe willinge against mondaye next (at which tyme I
meane to be at norwich) drawe lettres vnto the portes accordinge to the ____ of
your said lettre / And so in the meane tyme with my right hartie comendacions to
you and my cousin your bedfellowe I bid you hartelye farewell/ ffrom
Baconsthorpe this xiiijth of ffebruarye 1566/

yours assuredly

Xtofer Heydon

{Folio 120 verso}

To the right worshipfull and his verie lovinge Cousin William Paston Esquire /

Sir Xtofer haydons lettre

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 121 recto

Ryght worshopfull Maystar paston My good maister I haue me commended vnto you
sactyfying you that Wylliam Letstear ho hathe your gylldyng as doe a great
defyanes with me for that. I wyll not Resyne that gylldyng a geane in so moche
that he sent hys saruant with the gylldyng to my house whom I was at the chorche
a_ saruys me wolde haue de lyuared hym to my focke but I had done the erand to
m_ fockes be for & thay wolde not Resyne hym but hys saruant deed macke hym
fast by the dor poste In the _____ and by my consell I ded haue hym home A gene
and ded delyuar hym to hys sockes for he wolde not be tanked weth at that tyme
but I haue wetnies thear ___ left hym nomor to you at thys but Jesu haue you in hys
kepyng

by your saruant to command
hary browne
thys byll made and thys thyng done
the xxv daye of Apryll

I praye you good maistar let me know wat I shall do In thys mattar

{Folio 121 verso}

Thys byll be delyuard vnto maistar Wylliam p paston With spede
sent {pps- deleted} to John brampton by hary to London the xiiijth of Maye

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 122 recto

my bowndone dewte rememberyd to yowre worshypppe maye yt plesse the same
that a saruant off mylordes woo you nowe canne be ffore yowe by the assyrement
off ___ Rychard ffowllmerston & was broutt before hym by wonne Robert Smythe
ffor a gelldyng that was Solld by the same my lordes manne ___ to the sonne
smythe an the gelldyng beyng challenged the Same smythe was dryven to seke
___ppe hym off womme he boutt the same gelldyng // ffore maye yt plesse yowe to
be so good masteron to my Lordes sarvant as to take bayll ffor yourr apparransse
yn the swmme off ffyffe powndes monne & by thys yowr good ffavouro he shalbe
the morrabyllar to brynge fforthe hym off womme he bowtt hyo ffo strwstyng
that yowe wyll have consydderrassyon off my hwmbyll sewtt yn the _____ the
pore manne by the menys maye the better chere hym follwe thys _____ to trowbyll
yowe with my bowlld sewtt wyssyng in to yowe f_____ hellthe wythe yn cresse off
moche worshype thys xxvij of maye

yowerys to command

William Cobbltt

{Folio 122 verso}

To the worshyppfull mr william pastown Esquier ___ off the quenys monst_____ off
the peppe yn the cownte off norff

Mr Cobetes lettre

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 123 recto

Ryght worshipfull master, wylliam parson I have me hartilye comendide vnto youe trusting youe be in good health & my mistress your wyff with all your howshoulde , The cause of my writting vnto youe at this tyme is to let youe vnderstande that I am ____ massers & ther wyth the bayliffe of the towne is offendide & willide them to go vnto the Justes to c^rayve the good A_____ without Any cause why but not with standinge the dide offer me V nobles of money to releasse them which I woulde not tayke in hande vntill I knew your pleasure therin for they will cume vnto youe to compleyne of me therfore I shall desyre youe to mayke them Answer vntill I do for your worshippe at this tyme but wyss hinge your health Longe to continewe

By your sarvante to commande anthonye paxston

In his power

desyryng yow to loyk one the other syde for ther is ther naymes

{Folio123 verso}

Edward Tomson of Cesim__

Thomas hunter of steberd

John muntyn of _____

Wylliam hansurt of hemam__

pes____ of steberd

May it please yowr mastersshipe to calle to remembraunce my _____ request made vnto yow which is for a lytle sume of mony dewe to me pertly for certen landes of ~~yowr~~ lying in paston as yowr mastersshipe knowith : I would desyer yow yf it would please yow to be so goode vnto me as to let me have yt now, for althowgh yt is but a lytle sume yet should yt plesur me much at this tyme I have sent yow by this bearrar the p[ar]celles which declare wherby yow pay it yf thes be any thing mysse I of my part requyrid I pray yow vse yt at yowr plesur so that yowr mastersshipe will make a fynall end with me out of hande. I know what is my dutie but what yt shall please yow to gyve me I shall take yt thankfully but yf such other man had yt I would be loth so to loose yt for as yowr Mastersshipe know I have payd that & more out of my owne purse and must do so styll as long as I have the _____ good Mr Pastun have sum respect to my chargis my sute being so esy I would gladly have waytyd vpon yowr mastersshipe my self but _____ occasion seruid _____ Thus not forgettyng my duty of commendations to yowr good mastersshipe I cummytte yow into the trytion of the almightie God. ffrom Buxton the xvij of Aprill By yowr poore frind to my lytle power /

E Stubbe . /

{Folio 124 verso}

To the worshipecfull Mr William Paston Esquiar delyuer this with Sped.

Mr stubbes lettre for rente.

Right worchipffull Sir in my Rygt Vmble manner I Recommend me to yow a cordyng
to {^my} dewte thankyng your worchipe of all kyndnes & my wyff duth the same &
I beche yow to speke to my lord to be soe good lord to me to send me a letter ~~xx~~
commendyng me in the same to seesse all suche godes as hery fox hath the wech is
not of my lord of ssurrey is free to haue toward the gret thing charges I haue had
with the said fox & it is run to the summ of XXs or lytyll a boue as far as I can yet
Inquier if that my said Lord & ____ Well _____ to ____ I maye have said of the
p[er] son of tes _____ g _____ ____ word my sayd charyf the wech I have had
with them both the wech be gret to me And this letter my Lord may send me to
Rychard haries and I beche yow geff the sayd haries {^&} cheke or ____ that he may
the mo ____ be a ford to be pert agayns me _____ hym with other lewd
body is agayns me __ th_s I out yow to moch payne the wech I _____ to Desyre
yow myn owne gentyll m paston & pray yow to be good __ to fox and to your p[er]
son and I pray {^yow} send {^me} lust word how the_ or leek to do and wether fox
shall _____ oor not _____ besech yow leet this harmes be well handy be but
_____ to hardely but so that he may both be a _____ and also glad to have my good
will at his _____ comyng And I And _____ yow of a party of _____ com it shall not be
refused

your_s[er]vant thomas Andrew

{Folio 125 verso}

[to] the Ryght Worchipffull William Paston Squyer

pleasithe it youre mastershippe to vnderstonde that as I came homwardes I had
comme by Sporle/ & ther I ded calle foure of youre cemmyty & made an entrye in
to all suche londes as M[r] pagrave helde of yow in ferme or by copley either in
sporle pagrave pagrave dunham & in other townes adioynng / accordyng to the
tenure of the latter of attourneye / youre mastershippe made met & sent for men
out of dunham Custleaker newton & of the eldest of youre cemity of sporle but we
cowde do lytell good for gret p[ar]te of the lond is enclosyd & certen weyes
extendyng to Castleaker newton dunham & chaker from pagraves house whill it
stode / nowe fordene & _____ / & news newe weyes bsyd / so ys that if we
shuld folowe the boke by the {^Comon} weyes that be now bsyd) it wulde take
awaye youre own landes / & therfor I thought it better to leve & meddle no
further at thys tyme / tyll suche tyme as youre bokes & master awdeleys with the
bokes I receyuyd of yow at london myght go to gether / pagrave hath a pece of
lond lyeng upon Redfyble conteynyng xxiiij akers abbuttyng upon the comon of
pagrave of the est p[ar]te whiche {^he} entendythe to enclose it nowe shortlye
youre tenntes ther have the leste knowlege of ony men that ever I ded se for they
came sey almost nothyng / also I came homward by gresham & toke iiij of youre
tennantes with me & made me entre in youre name in to all suche londes as sir
Edmond Wyndham holdythe of yow by ferme or by Copley in aylmerton ffeodr
feldryghm susted gresham & basyngham & that done I ded Ryde to beston to Mr
Wyndham to Beacon with hym who is nothyng the man that burges hys seruaunt
declaryd onto yow but denyethe every wurde / & sent for burges the tyme I was
ther & gave hym a gret rebuke / & burges almoste denyed euery wurde he spake
onto yow / & fyr he lokyd upon youre boke of Reconyng & is content to paye yow &
allowe yow euery thyng conteynyng in youre boke / savyng xlvj _____ for the
rep[ar]acon of the tythe bern at paston & thre poundes xlj for issues of certen
chargyd upon hym for dummes londes & _____ & also xlvij ij which yow
requere of hym for the relyssys / thes thinges he desyreth yow it maye be respytyd
it / & as towchyng thexchange / if it shall please yow

{Folio 126 verso}

he is content to Comon with yow in it / & trustythe yff that yow & he shalle agre
for it without any sute / & if it showld please yow to have youre londes ageyn / he
is sure he shall have hys ageyn whiche canne be no losse to hym & therefor he
seythe he wyll not shewe you thexchange / & synst do in it as it shall please yow /
he wyll not gretly steke

in it / to take whiche weye it shall please yow in it / & as towchyng fyve poundes /
_____ of the xv poundes yow payd hym for the tythe berne at paston he desyrythe it
maye steye tyll suche tyme as he maye speke with yow / for he canne calle to no
ffurther remembrau[nce] than of the recey_____ [of] the tenne poundes / & as

towchynge hys demaunde of yow of xxxiiij^{li} xvij^s as wherof xxx^{li} is for the tythe berne/ & xxviiij^s due to beston / for iiij yeres / & x^s & iiij^d for youre londes at wynterton whiche amountythe to xxviiij^s due to bromtholme / whiche rentes hath alweyes bene payed / & as for xiiij^s iiij^d whiche he demaundythe for the londes you ded purchas of John dowe & _____ he is content to dyscharge it/ & lese it rather then he wuld charge youre londes / _____ herafter/ & also he is content to dyscharge the vij^s he doth Clayme of yow for a relese / & is towchynge the reste of the demaunde ~~he is to~~ whiche is xviiij^s ix^d _____ he is content it to respytyd tyll yow speke to gether/ I send yow youre _____ Reconyng & the demaunde accordyngly as he is nowe agreyd upon heryn enclosyd / I have also entred in to youre londes at caster / *that* _____ hath occupied for cabbottes londes / & as towchynge the beyng of youre _____ / the tyme was past befor my Comyng home to gett onye Cattell & as I p[er]ceyve p_____ have gottyn none nowther whome yow spake to for the same befor yow take youre lourney to london / & therfor I thynk in est marshe be verye fewe/ & in wykhampton marshes as John woderow sheweth me / ther be an hundred {^gret cattell} every man *that* hath cattell put them fourthe when barlysele was done / whiche was done thre weke befor my Comyng home / I have bene *with* youre ffermers for money _____ ageynst mydsomer / if they have entendyd to kepe ther daye I have declaryd onto them *that* I wyll dystreyn them/ if I mysse at my day_____ cowde have but {deleted} foure ponde amongyst them all & *that* I had of Thomas bataly / as sh_____ as I canne receyve

{Folio 127 recto}

it I shall not fayle to send it onto yow I have spokyn *with* the balyes of yermouthe for the Indenture / ~~master cowell hath~~ which they shewe me Mafter Corbet hath / who shalbe ther the Fryday next aftyr mydsomer daye & then it shalbe seallye/ they have made out _____ deke so lowe toward the se as they canne/ but they have not yet hange ther gates / we have Cutt out the deke ageynst peches house toward yermouthe so *that* the woter dothe ebbe & flowe / & makythe youre ffence a good fence / _____ on monday last was from paston syxe stonyd horses / *with* whome I have some <page damaged> kepe them in pasture other thynges I have not to _____ strybled at Caster on the satyrday beyng whytson evyn

By youre s [er]vaunt John Baselyn

Remembraunce ___ to my _____ Awdelye

_____ afor he knowe the hande of the wryter of thys ad uert _____ at the tyme of
ther _____ after my comysson) or enye tyme afore ./ as by the
sight of the ___ {^same ___} warde ./he _____ to Jermy _____ declare_

As nyeare theare is nowe shewid ·J· _____ in p[ar]chymment of the same adwarde /\
nyeather · the same by request be don syns or mony for that Mr paston hadde
never enye delyverid / nor never ~~kenowe~~ knewe of enye ad warde before this the
___ Aprell last past 1570 / other then this in paper adwarde delyverid by m_r {^___
Edward} Clere to the L___ of Wyl wynterton within theis iiij__ yeres past

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 131 recto

At Aylesham - 5^o february. 1572 /

It is ordred and agreed _____, that on the ixth daie of februarie all Butchers _____
_____ Typlers and victuallers shalbe before vs the Justices of peace for ent_____
obligacions and recognisances / And _____ to _____ directed to the chief constables
accordynglye.

The surveyors, to be the chief constables in every hundred . /

Everie butcher to be bound by obligacion recognaisance in XXli And everie
victualler in the somme of X^{li} : /

The p[re]cept to the chief constables . /

Towching service lately commytted vnto vs, wherin yow are to be vsed on the
quenes Majesties legacs _____ies shalbe to require you that aswell you your selves
be before vs at Ludham on mondaye next by ix afore the clocke in the forenoone
of the same daye, As also that you cause all butchers In _____ Typlers &
victuallers within your hundred then and there to Appere before us, To thintent
they maye be dealt withall accordynglye as ys to vs p[re] scribed / whereof we doe
especially wishe you the chief constables in any wyse not to fayle / And thus we
byd you farewell ____ 5^o Febr. 1572

The hand or recognisance & condicion . /

_____ me A b de C. in Com__ norff. tenere et f__inite
obligari du_e Elizabeth _____

The condicion of this oblig__ is suche That if the within _____ A B doe not from
the daye of the date wh__ written Bylle dresse __ suffer to be eaten in his house
or habitacion Anye Kynde of befe mutton veale or other meate being fleshe
commonlye sold by butchers whatsoever yt be in the tyme of Lent that then Sir. /

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 132 recto

___ as yt plese god so be ___

Woorshipfull master that the presentacion of St Peters of _____gate, wherof we ar
p[ar]ishners remaynethe in youre gyfte we ar the rather embowldened, in that the
bearer here of is commended to vs, to be of honeste connersacion, to craue the
gyfte therof -- wyche yf yt shall please you vppon this our requeste to condescend.
there vnto. we shall thynke our selves greatlye behowlden vnto you. And thus we
betake you to almightye, who kepe, you and yours, longe to contynewe in
woorshipe to hys wyll and pleasure ffrom Norwiche the 20 iour de octobre anno
___ 1574.

your_ woorshipps to vse //

Ellys b_____

{Folio 132 verso}

Too the woorshipfull Wyllyam Paston esquire at Paston hall dd

Mr Elles bates lettre for the este of my _____ for _____

Sir theare is dewe vnto me on yeres fferme of the demeanes of {^my mannors of} Martebyes & Bramptons dewe at Mihellmas last as also for the Rentes dewe for the same tyme payable for the sayde Mannors . And for ____ I mynde shortelye to travell to London yf you maye convenyentlye I praye you paye it to this bearer Thomas Jermy :/ or {^all} suche order as ye shall ____ : And theare ys {^also} Arre__ge of sum the deates __ffermers dewe for the mannor of Bramptons synce the death of your vncler Sir Thomas _____ is not Answere in your last payment of xlili alle monye paide by ____ryme / as also for the fferme of the demeane La__ horseye ____ the saide mannor of Bramptons {^for the ____} as Jermy shall fullye satisfye you / I wishe And thus not ____

Sir theare dewe vnto me our {^holle} yeres Rente & fferme at mihellmas last for the mannors of Martebyes & to Bramptons in warham & horseye as also arrerages of the {^for the} enter ____ & {^to the demeane} ffermes of {^____} for ____ of the mannor of Bramptons {warham-deleted} synce the death of your vncler Sir Thomas Woodhowse :/ And for that ones in the yeere I kepe a reconynke of any poore _____: and beinge determyned : to take my jorneye shortelye towardes London. of you maye convenyentlye / I praye you paye the same to Jermy or suche order, as ye shall ferme thinke good:/ And thus Abille you . I hartelye bydde you fare welles : ffrom oxneade hal xixth of november 1574

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 134 recto

Memorand that the commysion concerninge m^r Cobbes of Sandringham was in the
custodie of Sir xpofer heydon at his death, & included in a box, ___ box was in a
cubberd ower the porche enteringe into his studdie chamber nere the chappel in
Ba_insthorpe house

___ me william Colberte

[FB- _ Janr 1583]

British Library Additonal MS 27447
Folio 136 recto

Mr that the Comysson & deposicions concernynge the Sute bytwyn Sir Thomas Tyndalles & {^ _____} others playntiff & Mr Jefferye Cobbes of Sandryng~~ham~~ was me the custodye of Sir Xpofer heydon knyght at the daye of his death · Vnder the Seale_ of the Comyssions & included in a Boxe / Which Boxe was in a cubborde over the porthalle entrynge into the studye Chamber neare the chappelle in Baconesthorpe howse /

{Folio 136 verso}

William Colbertes his remembrans 1583 iij_ Janury concernynge a commssion betwen Sir Thomas Tyndall knight & others ____ & Jeffry Cobb Esquire / posed by John Sower 1599/

To the lordes and others of her Majesties moste Honorable preuy counsell

Lamentabelye complayninge Sheweth vnto your honors poorest oppressed
Suppliant Henrye Skarborowghe of Northwalsh in the countye of Norff yeoman
___ whearas of vertue of your Lordeshippes letters directed to crtayne gentlemen
___ the _____ <page damaged>ange of pore Afflicted p[ri]soner out of the _____
your cha_____ <page damaged>inge betwene your afforesayde Orator and one Thoms
Grym_____ <page damaged>afforesayde gent, where___ althowghe they con___ but
onelye the <page damaged> of ___ ____ In conscience to be dew vnto the
Afforesayde Thomas / vpon a londe of CCli yet upon other considerations they
ordered vnto him the sum of lxli to be payde in th___ yeres which althoughe it
semed very hard on the p[ar]te of your sayde Orator yet he being desirous of heart
and liue bye consented thear vnto : But the afforesayde Thoms seking the
vttervndoing of your poore Orator and his, ___ to _____ there vnto, since which
tyme the order of the afforesayde gentlemen not being certefied vnto your honors,
your poore orator was forced to p[er]serve a petition vnto the sayde gentlemen for
the fynal determinge thereof in whom the defaulte shoulde be fownde,
Neuerthesse your poore orator can neyther obteyne suche fynall determination
nor yet there certificate Ackordinglye whereby your sayde poore Orator is still
detyneyd in prison upon execution of the bonde Afforesayde of CCli onelye
remayninge vnpayde but xvijli vjs viijd vpon thr bonde. And also the _____
hathe certayne londes in his handes in morgage of your sayde orators in discharge
of the bonde Afforesayde which notwithstanding his Imprisonment he dothe still
detyne, contrarye to all _____ And good conscience, to the vttervndoing of
your poore orator his poore wife and children for Euer ___ And also the
afforesayde Thoms hathe certayne other londes in his handes to the value of CCli,
and xxli of your sayde poore orators which Althoughe they be fullye satisfied yet
the sayde Thomas refuseth to del_____, may it therefore please your good _____ in
tender consideration _____ sses And for Jhesus Christe his sake to gravnte
your honorable lettre vnto certayne other gentlemen within the sayde co_____ to
enter agayne Into the hearing of the Afforesayde cause And fynallye to determene
the ___ or els to signifye p[re]sentlye vnto your Lordeshippes in whom the defaulte
shalbe fownde ___ that thervpon your Lordshippes may take suche order As vnto
{deleted} your honors shall sea___e beste to agre with _____ and good conscience.
And youre poore oppress___ suppliant, with his poore wife and children shall daylye
praye to Almightye god, Ackording to there bownden for the p[re]seruation of your
honours in all healthe peace and felicitye longe to continue

{Folio 138 verso}

20th Feb 1587

The humble petition of henry scarborowghe prisoner contrarye to all good conscience vpon an execution of a bonde of CCCLi wherof there remayne ____ but onelye the sum of xvijli vijs viijd ____ general ____ for suche ____ hearing hearde his complaynt and not determenyng the same that it would please ____ to ____ sp ____ for the endeng thereof or els the ____ state thereof to be certefyed vnto your Lordesheppes

[other hand- A certo certain *gentleman* in *the* contrie to hier examin and end if thej can if not to certefie]

Sir William Paston William Bleaerhanet Deane of Norw^{ich} Robt Suckling Tho: Pye

[FB - 5 Novr 1591]

After Our hartie comendacions whearas ther was a graunt passed from hir Majestie to certene p[er]sons of the penalties and forfeiture of certen penall statutes for the sowinge of hemepe & fflaxseade within the cowntie of Norff & Suff The which of late hath bene reuel___ to William Barker & Robert ___ for ___ yeares for thonly benefitt & repar___ of a peere or haven called Sheringham in the county of Norff. fforasmuch as we are informed that great somes of money haue bene _____ and __ gathered by vertue of the former graunt And some sumes of monie haue bene receyued since the last patent was renewed (whearas noe accompt haue bene made to our knowledge) we have therfore thought good to require you inhabitinge nere the seid harborargh to call before you the patente both of the former & latter graunt. And to take there accomptes, vpon the what haue bene collected by vertue of the seid grauntes And what haue bene imployed & bestowed to the benefit of the seid peere and harborr___ / And that further we wold have you to enquire by all good meanes how to controll the seid ___ accomptes if you shall suspect any cause of noe trueth therin. we doe alsoe thincke it good further convenient that you doe informe your selues what agrement and composicion haue bene made by thoffendors against that that statute And what haue bene vsuallie taken by them both by ___ of the former grauntes and of late by the new patent either of p[er]ticuler p[er]sones or of wholl townshipes or hamlettes we are alsoe to require you cause the seid peere and worke downe at Sherringham to be considered viewed & ordered by your selves and ___ by some men of skill & knowledge And to informe vs truely what benefit hath ensued by the charges imployed to the amendment of the seid haven and to the _____ and countrie And in what sort & stake thr same now is And what good the certyne _____ of the seid workes by the benefitt of this c_____ is growen to Wherefore we pray you truely and vprightly to be informed and to certifie vs of the same p[ar]ticularly and without p_____ soe soone as conveniently you maye. In the meane season we geuen order tillwe may herin receyve satisfacion from you to staye the further collectinge of any somes of money by coller of his last grant. Lastly we are informed. That the soile of the ffromiches of Burie is not apt for the sowinge of hemepe & fflax seade and alsoe ther is want waters in those partes which wilbe ins_____

{Folio 139 verso}

with the wateringe therof. We praie you to informe vs of the trueth of the allegaciones by in_____ of such p[er]sones as doe dwell nere vnto the seid fframiches of Burie and what you doe thinck whie they ought not to contribute after that ___ As the rest of thes shire haue gathered & collected And generallie

& thorough the whole countie of Norff it hath bene p[er]formed. Soe we bid you
hertilie farewell ffrom the court at white hall the 6 November 1591.

Your louinge ffriendes

In° Comt

William Burghleye / Charles howard

H hunsdon / l. Cobham l.buckherst/ Woolley/

fortescew Wylmmaye

To our louinge friendes 1. Sir Arthur Hevenengham knight 2. Sir William Paston 3.
Sir Henry Woodhouse 4. Sir John Paiton 5. Mr Nathaniel bacon 6. Mr Clemente
Parson] or to iij_ of these

{Folio 140 verso}

· 6 · _____ · 1591 · The ____ of ____ lordes of _____ lettres for _____

_____ of the servys & Accions of Clemente Paston Esquier deceased ____ of the
companye of the bande of gentylnen pensyoners to kinge henrye the viij____ kyng
Edward the vjth & Quene Marye & to Our sovereynge Quene Elizabeth _____
Majestie

Nowe Reynyng _____

This Clemente Paston furst servide in ffrance a man at Armes vnder Sir John
Walloppe Knyght the__ beinge Generally for the saide Kyng henrye the viijth {hys
Armye} of _____ seante into _____ in Ayde of Charles the Vth at the Seige of
Lendersye __Anno xxxv King henry viij /

And vppon the Retorne of Sir John Walloppe to the Kynges Majestie from
Landerseye he comended to his Majestie amonge other gentylnen Clemente Paston
for the good syrvice p[er]formed at Landerseye -/ Whervppon the Kinge awerdede
Clemente Paston for his syrvice & placed hym in the Rome of a gentylnen _____
_____ {_____ - faded/illegible} a _____pleyne & had the charge of a
hundred soldeiores at the Seadge of Bolleyn in ffrance

The next yere Anno xxxvij king henry viij this Clemente Paston was Appoynted a
capteyne to serve on Sea on a shippe of the Kinges Majestie callyd the Anne
Gallaunte vnder my lorde William howarde Admyrall of the Kynges Navye In wyche
servyce In the saide &_____ / beinge Allone devyded by ffowle wether from the rest
of the Kynges Navye ./ by good ffortune lorde the Admyrall of xij gallys of the
fraunche Kynges And the Captayne & admyrall was Callyd Barnard of Orneson &
Baron St Blanch____ wiche gallye & capteyne he presented to Kynges Majestie then
levige at Grenwiche/

And for that servyce don yt pleased the Kynges Majestie to graunte to _____ the
Randesome of the seide Baron With a warrauntt vnder his majesties sygnett to
carye this Baron his _____ to his ffather _____ at Casterhalle in Norff & to _____ hym
_____ as his _____ / tulle the saide Barron hadde _____ with C P for his
Ransom this warraunte dated in July: & the vijth daye of October _____ the Barron
made compesy____ for his Ransom / for a good some

{Folio 141 verso}

wiche billes of composcyon & _____ ys _____ to be seen vnder the Barrons owne
hande & Seale /

This Clemente paston in September Anno primo King Edward vjth was at
Muselberowghe ffeide in Skotlande vnder the Ladyng of the Duke of Somersett ./

Lorde protector / and _____ generall the kynges Majesties Armye / in wiche
syrvyce Clemente Paston Receyved to wooundes

In Anno primo of Quene Marye the sa{page damaged- illegible} did so _____
ageynst wyat & his Rebell_____ {page damaged -illegible} Majestie _____ hym xxli
a year pensyon that {illegible} _____ & also gave hym the mannor of h____ in
Gloster shyre in ff_____ ffarme after the death of Sir C_____ Barker __ therlodge hys
wyff / a mannor of good valewe :

And in Ann^o v_____ at _____ Philppe & Marie/ the seide Clemente Paston vnder
the Lorde Clynton the Lord Admyrall of the Quenes Majesties Navye was
appoynted Capyteyne of her Majesties greate shyppe callyd the greate Bark _____
_____ of _____ _____ contynewed vppon the londe ij nyghtes __ on
he__ daye Burnynge & dystroyenge the countrye fo__ the lande & _____ saffetye
without losse//

And in Anno Vto Regine Elizabeth the saide Clemente Paston served in the Quenes
shippe called the vycторыe vnder the Earle of Lynolne Lorde Admyralle _____ for
the servyce of the Towne of Newhalon in ffrance under the _____ of the Earle of
warwiche their generall of her Majesties Army there

{Folio 142 verso}

[FB - Clement Paston 1598]

_____ _____ _____ esquier & _____ to ij kinges & ij Quenes
_____ B _____ 1598

Wheras heretofore my aged honored father did make a demise into the Towne of Thetford of diuerse his priuiledges fayres tenements & stalls as in the drawght of *that*: lease more plainly appereth: I expected Long sithens (that *yow* taking knowledg of my right) hauing geuen assente to no further use of *the* fayres and other tthings so demised : *yow* shold come to such composition as may stand with my likinge.

And seing *the* *peruersenes* of some fewe, who continually haue by their bad conuersation geuen me many occasions of hard opinion: and ___ aduerture are now stirrers of strife, by urging delayes in answere of a busines so nerely concerning my estate / I haue thowght good to moue, *yow* & such others. that haue semed. to be allweyes my espetiall wellwillas . that I may reccaue a direct resolution whether *yow* purpose to do that fitteth *yow* ___, or whether: by delay I must be urged to acquire by Lawe, that *which* is in all due: righte accrueng vnto me. And forsomuch as I am unwilling to lay burthen of law, other then upon those whome I suppose to know, to be the {deleted} detractors of my righte I requeste *that*: spedy repaire & neighborly procedings, or otherwise to expect *that*: rigor of lawes aduantage: written from my house at Thetford *this*: instant euen of St Mathew,

Your louing neighbor

Edward Clere

{Folio146 verso}

To my *worshipfull* frend *the* Maior of Thetford, *the* burgesses and others my wellwillas of *the* towne of Thetford

I haue longe expectedd that sithens *your* lease is expirid *which* by a demise assented as by ___

[another hand - Letter from *Sir* Edward Clere to the mayer of Stretford, concerning *the* Taxes ____]

Sir now that thassyses in Norff be past, wherby as I conceaue yow may the more conveniently vnderstate that good offices to my father which ___ my last being with yow yow promised I have made bowld heerby to put yow in mynd therof at this ___ the rather for that there bee advertisements lately come owt of Ireland by Sir C ___ of Doughetry the head of this last rebellion is slayne and his followers wholly defeated whereby that contrey is now full delivered from the feare of any future fodein Garboyles wher vpon diverse of myne owen acquaintance of I have estate(s) of Land in Ireland, which I have spoken with all since ___ Last march came, are with great hope of no les proffit: preparing themselues ___ h___ wordes spak which cowrse both for that those be not many whose estate for matter of good Land exceedeth my Wyves, and that allso I would very willingly convey my self from the view and Remem-brance if it were possible of the Indignities done vnto me heer I would be glad to betake my self allso, if I had stock ___ inable mee thervnto which as yow at my fathers Lands to obtayne for ___ for would I intreat yow that whatsoever favors wilbe likely to be done me in that point it may be performed with suche exp_dicion as may be to my most aduantage in setting me fortune and the rather bycawse that in that Course of ___ on I can say that a fayer Circuit of Land yeildeth a like pre = portion of ___ with little other benefit. The ___ wheron it may please yow to take occasion to persuade in this poynt is allredy soe longe as it ___ no further addition, bad bycawse I suppose that if your Reasonable mo-tion shall in any ___ be stucke vpon, the occasion therof will proceed from a Conceil my father hath receyved

{Folio 147 verso}

eyther from some idell Report or ill intended persuacion that my _____ estate showld be worth 1000. or 1500 li _____, I would intreat yow to persuade him to giue me no further Cridit to those reports ther vpon good Consideration the Reportes ___ therof shall seem worthy the Crediting.

According to your success in your generall motion, my desier is yow would indure for a proportion of howsshold stuffe as bedding and Lyanen and suche like with some horses, which as they be not in Ireland to be bought for any Reasonable prices, howsoever in England I be dryven into the state of a Reprobate, yet there they may helpe to make me seem worthy of a better Respect, which as I hope

in that Respectes of Nature yow may be affected as the _____ yet yow doe _____ the extremity of the Indignity offrid not onely to my self but the vertuous dead ashes of my deceased mother. Soe in hope that your intendid motion wilbe no less sucesfull then it is in all respects reasonable and confess able I craue

pardon and in all thankfullnes of mynd doe devote my self in the future hope of a more con_____ lyfe to be ever ridy and desirous to do yow^u servis

London this 18 of July 1608

Ra: Sydley

I pray yow^u Sir remember my duty to my father, and on my behalf as you shall thinke it convenient to desier him somewhat *that* rather to be myndfull of the offices of the Nature towards me in report that in whatsoever
<deleted>remote<deleted> corner of the world I must _____ over the remnant of the vnfortunate lyfe __ I must still be _____ by the name of his

{Folio 148 Recto}

disgraced sonne. I attend *that* good howre of receyuing some good Newes from yow^u at *that* place I towld you of, being the howse of one Chambers a p_____ neer vnto Somersitt howse

{Folio 148 Verso}

To the right *worshipfull* my Singular good frynd Sir Thomas Knyvett knighte at his howse of Ashwell Thorpe ar eles-where in Norffs these dd *with* speed

Deliver this letter to *the* Carrier if Norwich *which* lodgeth eyther at *the* Signe of the Bull or the seruants in Bishops gate street

[another hand- dated the 18 of Julye 1608]

My worthy good Sister I cannot neither in like quantitie nor qualitie of paper giue answere to your kind letter by reason I made an end of either yesterday but in true reciprocall affection within the ruines of this poore paper wall I doe assure you of a neuer fayling frend and so much will I promise for hir who in expectation you hope for mutuall comfort and societie with as the seate which your welbeloued sister left you: And so hauing in more then fitting breuitie past ouer the forepart of your letter I come to the latter desiring your acceptance of this vnmanerly posted answer. For your token my man and your messenger erred both alike in the substance though not in forme for my man brought backe your token and Chaplayne left your veluet behind him which I am yet alitle sory of but I desire you will conuay it mee with the next speediest messenger and for my ladies token I send you it by this bearer Now for Franke gonne if you will send mee your direction of what you would haue it I will doe my best to satisfie you in euery point: If you cannot send this night let your instructions bee directed to Arundell house But I looke for george keeper this night to come to see a horse of mine the bying of which wilbe worth his trauell and so sell him I am gone in the morning very earlye And so desiring god to send vs a merry meeting with my due respecte to My Lady to who I desire to bee excused for my silence my want & paper compelling mee heerto with my vnfayned love to your worthy selfe I rest

Kennighall 5to Novemb: 1609

Yours Assuredly Tho. Holland

{Folio149 verso}

To the righte worshipfull his approued kind sister the Lady Bell at Thorpe.

Vltimo die Novembre *Anno Domini* 1610

Be *that* knowne vnto all men by theise *presentes* that we whose names are herevnder wrytten _____ *servantes* to the right *worshipfull Sir William* Paston knight late of Oxned in the countie of Norff knight deceased haue receyved and held the day of the date abouewrytten of *Sir John Heuenyngham* knight executor of the last will and testement of the said *Sir William* Paston such seuerall *sommes* of money as we herafter _____ *mencioned* and sett downe, beinge due vnto vs for our wholl yerres wages ouer & besides such wages as was due vnto everie of vs at the tyme of the decease of the said *Sir William* Paston more at lardge appeareth In Witnes wherof *which* we whose names are herunder wrytten haue put to our severall handes the day and yere abouewrytten

Robte hynde >----- his marke ----- *ijli vjs viijd*

By me John S_endell >-----*ijli vjs viijd*

John Harman W his marke -----*ijli vjs viijd*

Richard Vipond + his marke-----*ls/*

Thomas Jopps []_ his marke -----*ls/*

Richard Rooston + his marke-----*ls/*

~~Edr Shapt~~ Edmond Shank----- _____ ---*iiijl-iijs-iiijd*

John Hales @\ his marke -----*ls/*

Thomas Ormes-----*ijli-ijjs-vjd*

Robert Lockett + his marke-----*xljs viijd*

Anne Peake + her marke-----*ls/*

Sir I receiued your lettre and whereas you wayte by the same that lately persuinge the will of my vncl Clemente Paston you doe fynde that the is a legacie given vnto you of twentie poundes which hath ben due vnto you (as I gather by the saide will which I have also lately persued this ten or twelve yeares) duringe all which tyme Sir William Paston beinge one of the executors to my vncl, and haueing his will aswel as I he might have payde you the same and had more iustice ___ then I so to doe. for that he did continewally from tyme to tme Receiue all the debtes and proffittes which might be Raysed of suche of my vncl's debtes and goodes as we that were executors were to Receive. And yf that then Sir William Paston did not pay you nor you woulde not in his tyme demaunde the same of him. nor of me. nor of Mrs Alice Paston who was also an executor. And nowe you demaunde I make this answe (that god willinge) I will be at Thorpe vpon Tuesday nexte. and yf you sende me an Aquittance I will pay six poundes thirteene shillinges and fouer pence. which is the thirde parte of the saide xxli the other two partes (yf you will have me pay) you must recover the same of me by order of lawe. And the cause why I deny to pay the other two partes accountinge to twentie markes is for that I have an Indenture of Clementes and a bonde of Sir William Paston and the like of Mrs Alice Paston that they shall beare eiche of them the thirde parte of all <illegible- page damaged> legacies and debtes as shall be due from my vncl. So <illegible> you Recover the saide xxli from me by lawe. I shall have <illegible- page damaged> Remedie to recover two partes againe of their heires or execu[tors] < page damaged> I am further to imparte vnto you that wheras I ma advised < page damaged> Counsell that I am wronged in A greate parte of a marshe of < page damaged> called Posweeke also Stargote marshe which Sir William Paston <page damaged> am informed) did lett A parte therof (as <deleted>beinge<deleted> {^yf it were} his inheritanc[e] <page damaged> which I clayme to be myne. And although I did beyre with this <page damaged> wronge in Sir William Pastons tyme for some consideracions: yet nowe I am Resolved to try the tythe of the saide marshe. And conserning the same I haue talked lately with Mr John Jermei who tolde me that Sir William Paston had given and devised vnto you the marshes of his lyinge in Runham nexte this marshe of myne by colour of which gifte ___ suppose that you advised to make A tytle to that_ote of posweeke marshe which I ___ to be myne. and (as I advised) was wrongfully by Sir William Paston detayned from me. And as I doe vnderstand that the saide mr Jermei doth at this present vse and occupie that parte of Posweeke ___ Stargete marshe which him selfe doth acknowledge to be myne. as also the other parte which I Clayme to be parcell of the saide marshe. And haveinge talked with him he saide vnto me (as I Remember) that he woulde say no

{Folio 151 verso}

tytles, but that it did Comence your self Wherefore I have thought good to signify vnto you. that I can be Contente to Avoyde (yf it may be) suites betweene kinsmen. That your self shall choose one gentleman and A lawyer and I will choose an other gentleman and A lawyer and then to heare what can be saide and proved for the tythe on both sydes. And so to make A frendly ende betweene vs. or els to leave it to the laws to iudge the Righte but this must be that we must agree to allowe the testimoney of honest Credeble men although they deliuer their testimoney vnsworne Concerninge the knowledge and vse of the saide groundes for otherwyse I see not howe the cause can be desyded without A Commission to ende their othes which cannot be done, but by suite, either in the Chancerie or at the Comon lawe. I doe Request you to signifie vnto me what you will doe Concerninge the promisses for ___ the marshes are Reasonable dry and may be easilie vowed, and perchance will not longe be so. And I am Resolved before the nexte tearme either to ende the cause by frendly ___erment or els to Recover my Rygt by lawe and so moche I haue saide vnto mr John Jermey and Requested him to signifie vnto you And so in hast I Comitt you to the tuission of the Almightye Appleton this xxvjth of July 1612 Your verie loueing kinsman

Edward Paston

I pray you Comende me hastely to my ladie your wyfe

Sir

I received lately a letter from yow, with a bill of exchange for thirty pounds, the ^{^whiche} monie I haue not as yet receiued by reason I ame yet at Paris, but I haue taken order that I shall receive it here very shortly And whear as yow are desiros to know whear I would haue my money paid which yow shall send me. To beseech yow to send it as yow doe to Paris for yow cannot send it vnto anny other plase of france whear I shall be. And (as I haue written vnto yow before hand | I shall euer let yow vnderstand whear I ame and whether I doe intend to goe I would desire yow to giue me leaue | if yow and my mother might thinke it so conuenient we goe in September next into Italie to see that contrie and learne the langauge, and I would not tarye thear but only the winter and in the springe I would retune thourouge Germanie to se that contrie and ____ which by rep____ are well worth the seinge I doe intend very shortly as son as I shall find compaigny for thear is of all sorts which doth vndertake that voyage I shall take care with whome I doe goe. Whear as I vnderstand that yow are traueilling to medle with the walnut tree which was blowne downe before my coming frome home __ without knowing whether I be contented thear withal I beseech yow to take it and doe thear withal what it shall please yow and also with what ____ thear is also which doth belong vnto me which may doe yow anny seruice. I cannot omit to giue yow most humble thanke_ for the care which yow haue taken in causing the wood and timber to be felled and sould accordinge as I appointed, and in plantinge others in ther steads. And soe comending my most humble and obedient duty and seruice vnto yow most humbly desiringe yower blessinge neuer ceasing to be yower most louing and obediend sonne Orleans the 21 of March 1614

William Paston

{Folio 154 verso}

To the Right Worsh his very louing father Edward Paston Esq at Appleton giue these.

Norff

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 155 recto

My beloued good Sister

The pracious time of my sister Paston being heere caus[ed] my forbearance vntill my last howre I am sory to heere of the paine falne into your hand though I will hope it to bee better then the report of Barnard who said it was like the greife which Franck Bulwer _____ which god deliuer you from: I shall rather wish that societie my time is limited but my loue is perpetuall excuse the one by the acceptance of the other so shall ceremonie obey substance and my best endeouours be dedicated to your seruice to Sir Tho. and my lady and thearto my indessolable affection to your worthy selfe So I rest

Your true louing brother and

faithfull frend

Tho: Holland

Quidenham

17° Maij 1615

[FB - 13 J. I]

time Wasted and consumed ___ of which euery Christyen, must Labore by all means justly to be more carfull of and to seek to ___ itt; for the lord haue created fro his work : and not ti be spent, in ___ se_____

itt is mispent furst I iolenes; secondly in imoderatt eatting & drinking Therdly in imoderatt sleeping : Fourthly in wicked and vayne speakeing fithely in gaming dancing and reuillry 6 in wicked thoughtts and vayne thoughtts.

God haue allotted no time for A ___ thought ; and therfor howeuer {illegible} ___ the time from ill thoughts: furst we must watch ___ our hats/harts for out of them cometh the attire ___ Liff: ___ we must watch ouer our ___ making ___ A couenant ___ we must often let ___ hart to god disier in his grace; that when A ill ___ come we might haue grace to ___ itt with A good motione; as to bigg a thought be Lust w___ I thought and dissier of ___; and to be humbled when ___ with itt ___ and to repent of ___ we must Likewise vse often meaditation of the Lord of God of the works of God of the presanc of God and this will be itt greatt means to pressarue vs from ill ___ we must liekwise meditatt on the ___=ments of God Weather they be neer ore farre from vs;

Good Sister) lett me entreat you to doe me so much kindnes as that theare may be some starch made in the closett at Paston, whether ther be any weightings concerninge differences betweene *Sir* William Paston. & *Sir* Henry Woodhouse about the tythes of Beckton, or any other busines betweene them, & whether ther be not some award vpon a reference to some gentlemen in the cowntry to end all controuersies betweene them, if any such things can be found if you wilbe pleased they may be brought to Norwich in Easter weeke, I shalbe very thankfull to you for the same. ffor ther is a very straunge peticion exhibited by *Sir* Henry Woodhouse to my Lo: Chauncelour against me of a debt almost of a 1000*li* that *Sir* Will: Paston should owe to him vpon an Accownt rest vp by *Mr* Loueday, wherin he might haue recouered the right of *Sir* Will: if ther had beene any such matter, he liuinge at the least seauen yeares after the difference began betweene them & to charge me as executor vpon an Accownt, when ther is no bonde nor specialtyes to shoue, I think ther is neyther law nor conscience. So with my wifes & my kinde salutations remembred to *your* selfe & my good Brother desiring God longe to continewe the health of you both & of *your* sweete children, I rest

your assured louinge Brother

John Heuenyngham

Ketheringham this 30th of March 1618

[FB - 16 J. I.]

{Folio 157 verso}

To the Right Wor: my assured louinge Sister the Lady Paston geue these /

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 158 recto

Good Madame

my hart is full to speake with yow. And were I as fitting to take a iorneie as I could wish, my self would haue cumme vnto yow. But being altogether vnfit at this tyme, I earnestly request your La:ships paynes to cumme to dynner to morrow to Kettrin=game I haue euer found your worthy mother, a second mother in hart and affection to all myne. And God knoweth, to whom nothing is vnknown I am the like to all hers. Good Madame lett me be beholding vnto yow for the vndertaking of this paynse and I hope it shall not repent yow therof. Thus with my hartie Wellwishes and longing to see yow I rest

Euer yours

Mary Hevenyngham [signature different hand]

{Folio 159 verso}

To the Right Wor my much aesteamed freend the Lady Paston giue thes

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 160 recto

Good Madame. Whereas this bearer Mr David Tylls showed me this day A Lease in Reuertion made by Sir William Paston, of certayne Landes and Tenementes lyinge in Buxton. Which were purchased by my vncler Clemente Paston of one Mr Clifton - to the whiche lease (as it doth appeare by the same) my cozen Sir Edmonde Paston shoulde haue sealed. Nowe for as much (that as I doe take it) the said houses and Landes by my vncler Clemente (as it doth appeare by his will) are intayled vnto me in Reuertion after Sir Edmonde Paston. I doe request the said landes and Tenementes vntill I doe talke the said Sir Edmonde :Paston so comendinge me to Sir Edmonde Paston and your selfe I leave you. Townbaringham this xxijth of August 1618

Your Verie louinge Cozen

Edward Paston

{Folio 161 verso}

To the Right Worshippfull and his very Louinge Cozen the Ladie Katherine Paston at Paston hall giue these

Good brother. considering you haue shewed so great a desire to haue all matters accorded in loue : concerninge such demands as by the bid in chancery dothe appere : and to that ende haue requested a forbearance from any further proscedinge vntill Easter Terme: promising that full satisfacktion shall be afforded me. for purchisinge of land with the stock in your hands : out of the answerable respecte had vnto your self with Mr Jermy will vnder your hands: sett downe what those perticulars are you doe intende to giue satisfacktion me : and that you will parforme the sam with in the time promised: as also to do no acte to preiudice in the meantes time: which may be ocasioned by my not proseding : then for the resons fromarly named howsoever m^r Jermy hathe Layed many aspersions very vntrue: vpon my dead father and my self not doubtinge but suffitiently {^to} cleer bothe of vs. if occation be offered : yett for the Loue of peas. I will be content to bury the rem^embranc of them : / but if M^r Jermy shall refuse to sett downe {^ his owne intent ___ messenger} vnder his hande I shall thinke he only seek ___ to gayne time : and byt cuninge to intrape me: he intendinge nothinge less then to giue satisfacktion: seeking still to wronge me and my just Cawse :/ to prevent which I can do no less then with all dilligenc and expedition seeke to obtayne the effectt of that: which bothe your self {^and} all others which hathe heard of this matter dothe iudge to be bothe resonable and consionable:/ yet shall it be still withe all respecte to your self. as much as by all means I can procuer but good Sir Consider {^it wer most fitt} that this shold be establyshed by {^a} decree for the more sertinty and to secure it to those to haue in all right it dothe be longe | Thus good Sir desiringe you to conffer with M^r Jarmy: and to send your answer with all speed in wrightinge: for the time pasethe fast away and I must resolve of {^sum} sertine cawse: and so commendinge me

{Folio 163 verso}

The copy of a letter to Sir Jo: Heu: the ___ of _____ 1618.

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 164 recto

Good Sister) I came hithre this morninge thinkinge to speake with Mr Jermy, that you might haue been resolued from vs both, of that which you desire, but he was gone from home this morninge very early & retourneth not till to morowe at night, but U purpose (god wilinge) to be heere agayne vpon Wedensday morninge, & vpon Thursday you shall Receiue a letter from me by Mr Browne, what Mr Jermy doth determine therein offer ther shall no paynes mor case be wantinge in me to beinge all thinges to a quiett peace betwene vs, & to giue you satisfaction in any reasonable demaund you can desire. So with my most kinde affection remembred to you; & my good brother, & the rest of the good company now present with you, wishing you & all yours much health & happines, I rest

Your most assured louinge brother

John Heveningham

Norwich this 5^o of October. 1618.

{Folio 165 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my very louinge Sister the Lady Paston geue these

Good Sister, Mr Jermy {^such} that he will performe the which heertofore he hath promised for the buyinge of land for the children with such money as is remayinge in his hands, & he sayth he hath entered bonds for the securty of that money, but for settling his hands to any thinge which you desire, which now at this present I propowded to him, he will not by any meanes be drawn to. My opinion therefore is (if it please you to approue therof) that seinge ther be so many witnesses of that before specified which he hath spoken & that ther are bonds of his Remayinge in my handes, for the securinge of such meanes as was in his hands at Our last accompt, and that we cannot preiudice your proceedings in the Chauncerie, with your _____ this suite, accordinge to my motion to you heere at our meetinge at Norwich the last weeke which he was not acquainted with, I thinke there wilbe no daunger to you to stay till Easter tearme within which tyme perhaps he may be perswaded to this which tou desire, & for myne owne part betweene this & that tyme I hope I shall giue securty by land for such money as shalbe Remayinge in my hand. So remembringe my kind affection to you, wishing all health & happines to you & yours I rest

Your assured louinge brother

John Hevenyngham

Norwich this 7th of October 1618

[FB - 16 J. I.]

Upon saterday I should Ryde into Suff & stay theare all the next weeke at most. therefore I cannot wright to you agayne./

{Folio 167 verso}

To the Right wor:ll my very louinge sister the Lady Paston geue these./

My worthy Sister

I receaved your letter within 4 dayes after the date of that letter which did impart to vs your safe cominge with your sweet boyes to London the vnderstandinge of which was most welcome to vs all god blesse you with them make you long happy in them ans giue good successe to your worthy care and intention : I hastned after you the letters which I procured from my cosen Dix to the Gentleman I tould you of with a letter of directions from him for your proceeding therin: But for the better issue of the buisines he hath promised to deliuer this letter himselfe and to put you into such a away that you shall not err for he will repaire to that gentleman with an other very powerfull with him and with your solicitours so season him that he nothing doubteth of an honorable victorie to you therin therefore cause your solicitor to bee perfectly instructed to goe through therewith. I heere your London Journey is layed on mee to be the cause and I am very willinge to take it upon mee for I will rather desire to faile of their good opinions then not expresse my sincerest affection to your selfe for I cannot but hope of your praeuailinge in so conscionable a cause: All our familie I praise god is in good health but my selfe have had the running ouer nyne hedges all this weeke but now voluntarily stayed Newes of the Country I cannot possesse you with any but of the Death of yonge Pettus who hath left a Rich widow no lesse worth then 8000*li* his sole executor he hath giuen two shillings a week for ever to the Poore of the towne and five pounds a yeere to maintaine an excercise with many other workes of charitie I will no longer detain you from your more serious employment but with the remembrance of my kindest respect to your Honourable selfe with the like from my wife and to my brother with all good wishes to pretty Will and my beloued god sonn I comitt you to god and ever will rest

Your true faithfull brother

Tho: Holland

Qudenham

28° 8bris 1618

[FB- 16 J. I.]

{Folio 169 verso}

To his honored Sister the Lady Paston at hir Lodgin at St Gyells in the feild give theise

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 170 recto

Good Sister) I haue sent you at last the coppys of the Accounts of both ffeffments ingrossed in bookes of the bearer, if he could haue doone them sooner, you should haue Receiued them before this tyme, I will also send you very shortly all the Rentalls & ffermals of all Sir Will: Pastons estate that you may compare them with our Accompts & if it please you euey yeare soone after our Accompts are perfected, eyther my man Machett shall enter them into your booke, or you shall haue my booke for any that you will putt in trust to engrosse them into yours. / I haue lately Receiued the Auditt Accompts which Mr Hornesby tooke for three yeares since Sir Will: Paston died, which you shall see before our next Accompts after that I haue examined them with ours. Thus with my wifes & my true affection recommended to your selfe & my good brother, wishinge you & all yours, all health & happines, I rest

Your assured louinge Brother

John Heuenyngham

Kettringham this 10th of
ffebruary. 1618.

G

{Folio 171 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my very louinge Sister the Lady Paston, geue these./

Good brother. I have heard in deed of the | hopefull prosedings between the feoffes and Sir Richard Cicele. and I haue heard that you have Layd out 3000li towards the sam : but did not know whether you had so much besids blunston. as 3000li but bye your kinde letter I am now resolued that you haue Layd out 500li more then you. yet haue in your hands the which kindenes I can not. but most kindly acksept : I will with my best strengthe with my frinds request it. may be Alowed to you: at your next Acount. And I am the same for Blunston as to heer to fore. and will procure if posible I cane that it may be ackscepted. <deleted>as you heer to fore desiered<deleted> and I make no doupt ofe it. if the incombranc {^named} be not lett : or if I shold be so much crost as I can not prevayll. then will I by the grase of god. repay you all the mony that I haue receiued. sinc the first time which as I thinke : come to 145li: for Asuredly you shall be no looser bye my ocation. I will rayther strive to doe you and yours any good. then hinder ye. the lest peny: and so good brother. hopinge all shallbe to your content. I will now no longer be trublesum but will <deleted>now<deleted> end: with my most kinde and true Affecktion to your worthy self and my good sister. to how I wish as to my own hart and so comend you to the mercy of the most heist

{Folio 172 verso}

To my very Asured

My euer honored Lady I doe acknowledge my self to be more then bould in daring to write vnto your worthy self yet I hope that the confession of my fault (with the occasion thereof) by your favourable construction maye obtaine pardon at your hands ffor Sir John havinge written his lettres vnto Mr Binge very effectually concerninge your Ladyships desire (which was as a comaunde vnto me) I went to Norwch with a resolucion to haue left the same lettres at Mr Brownes to haue beene conveyed by your owne direccions vnto Mr Binge but I goinge vnto Mr Jermy (if he did stand so affected) might pleade only for himself in opposicion of the decree in that pointe for the purchasinge of lands & it enkindled an exceedinge rage & heate in Mr Jermy who saide that he caried not for your suite he had dealt soe iustly & honestly in the trust reposed in him but Sir John his dealinge vnderhand by instrumentes & his vnkindnes now in disioyninge him self at the daye of hearinge of purpose to extenuate his worth & reputacion & to oppose him doth not a little vexe his spiritts. But he sayde Sir John was likely to receive a blowe for it was Mr Paston his ayme & ende that the decree should enioyne the ffeoffes to purchase landes which should be entaylid vpon his sonnes & some other speches of like nature which occasioned me to staye the deliuery of the saide lettres to Mr Browne with a self perswation to haue procured Sir John to haue beene at he daye of hearinge in person which I conceited was much desired by your self but my expectacion proved wyndy for I found Sir John cold in intertaininge such a motion as benge secured in that pointe by yourself & Mr Paston therefore I haue sent the saide lettres vnto Mr Binge by Mr Pickerall his sonne of Intwood and haue given Mr Allen direccion from Sir John his parte If your Ladyship thinke it fittinge yow maye send vnto Mr Binge therby to vnderstand whether he hath receiuid the saide lettres from Sir John or not least yow meete with a lawyers trick If Mr Binge should not be present at the heeringe Mr Jermy maye be demaunded whether I {^ or some other} did not acquaint him from Sir John that he was willinge & desirous that the decree might enioyne the ffeoffes to secure the monyes in their hands by purchasinge lands & that Sir John had brought as much land as cost him neare MMDCCCLi which he intended to secure for parte of the monyes in his hands and also would very shortly purchase more lands for the securinge

{Folio 173 Verso}

of the residue of the ffeoffent moneyes which is in his hands Good Madame I beseech yow passe by my bouldnes herein & lett these my illiterate & tedious lynes be only knowne to your Ladyship for Sir John hath noe notion of them. If your Ladyship hath a desire to make me happy make vse of the power yow have over me in comaunding any office or servyce wherein I have abilitie to make performance Thus which my dutifull remembrance to your Ladyship shall prayenge that your felicities may neuer cease I remaine as ever it becometh me

your Ladyships in all dutie & servyce to command

S Machett

Norwch xvj^o Aprilis 1619

{Folio 174 verso}

To my honorable & good Lady the Lady Paston of Paston these be dd at London

To the right ho:ble Fr: Lo: Verulam Lo: Chauncellor of England

The humble peticion of the Ladie Paston.

Aprill 29 1619

Showeth that your Lordship out of your noble disposicion havinge given a lust and honourable hearinge to the cause betwixte your petic husband Sir Edmond Paston plt and Sir John Heveningham et al defendante and reserved the nominacion of 3 or 4 newe ffeoffees to be added ; and have the lands purchased shalbe estated in the nearest manner accordinge to the Conveyances, which your Lordship with the Master of the Rolles would see and then sett downe as by the order annexed appeareth.

The plaintiffe is exceedinge sickly in the Countrye which with much perplexitie requireth your petic hast for his better comforte

She therefore must humblie provieth that your Lordship: will be pleased to continewe your reward of the said house and of your petic greate extremity and appoint some short tyme for the doeing thereof. And shee with the whole house shall ever acknowledge themselves bound to your honourable Lordship:

{different hand} I will call the Master of the Rowles in to mee on saturday next in the afternoon and will then peruse the conueyances and giue dispath to this cause according to my order vpon the hearing in open court

fr. ver. Cano

{29 Ap. 1619. 17 J. I.}

My deere Sister

I am very sory to vnderstand of the continuance of your indisposition of health and no lesse perplexed that I cannot afford you my visitation at this present in respect of many occasions which doth constraine my personall seruice against these Assizes In consideration wherof I desire these lynes may excuse mee: ffor the buisines of the feofment when I came to Norwich I found that Sir Jo: Heueningham had not giuen any notice of a meeting according to our agreement at London so as my Cosen Sidly could not be with vs no more could Mr Paston neuerthesse the three of vs present haue agreed vpon these points: first for the Auditor wee without consent haue nominated Mr Blofeild and to that end I desire you will send for him and let him know so much if he will vndertake it what his fee shalbe we will set down at our next meeting which is appointed to bee the two and twentieth of this month and in the meane time Sir Jo: Heueningham and Sir Tho: Hyrne vpon tuesday next is to be at ffelmingham to view Mr Crofts his land wherof you haue a perticuler and if he will afford it an indifferent penniworth they to conclude for it if you so like of it before any other If that will not come then informe your selfe certainly of B___ Hasborough of Mr Scainler will giue collaterall assurance and make a reasonable valew wee will goe through for that or _____ with you will or Sir Samuell Iryons: The mony that is in hand to be bestowed {^now} in our generall collection before the account becleered exceedeth not sixe thousand fiue hundred pounds

{Folio 177 Verso}

besids that which is alreadie laid out wherof Sir John Heueningham is to stay fiftene hundred pound vntill miclemas next vpon condition that he shall answer you fourscore pound for the halfe yeere promised at Miclemas last and the halfe yeeres profitt at our lady next {^which is 48li} and so if he can put away his land between this and Miclemas to any other wee will accept of the 1500li or if he cannot wee will take a some which he shall lay out of 80li ___ over all which he taketh kindly and saith he will performe: we haue likewise sent a warrant to Mr Jarmy to prouide all the mony dew from him before our lady according to the Decree which is to be payed In sixe months after Miclemas and not fiue months after the last Decree as they would haue had it so Likewise Sir Jo: Heueningham is to do the Like so as wee will vndoubtedlie lay out now presentlie fiue thousand pound and you shall receaue rent for the other so as I account by Miclemas which that alreadie purchased you shall haue coming In aboue 4000li a yeere : Be not perplexed either with Sir Jo: Neglect or Mr Pastons Jelowsie neither of which can hurt you for although you may take an action if vnkindnes aganst Sir Jo: for omissions yet I doe verilie beleeeue he will neuer goe about to wronge you his fault

therfor is a sinne of ignorance as for the other, his Jelowsie will soone be reconciled be therfore of good cheere so long as my leggs will carry mee and my best endeouour may pleasure you I will neuer faile you And so my deere esteemed vntill our mercifull god shall giue permission vnto our good meeting I doe in the integratie of a faithfull hart comend to you my best affection wishing you the accomplishment of all your worthy desire with which I will rest

Your deuoted affectionat brother

Tho: Holland

Norwich 2d Maij 1619

{Folio 178 verso}

To his honored sister the Lady Paston giue theise

Good brother. I haue receyved by your man m^r matchett your kinde letter. together with your koppis of the Accownts : I know not in what tearmes to expres my thankfullnes for the kindenes you shew to me and mine. I know of your owne self you ar free {^enough} from wronginge any one / and I did: and ever will acknowledge it :/:/:/ and if I did ever desire to see these Accounts it was not to question any thinge that was in them_ for you shall well finde that was my not my intent : but only to haue eased my self of findinge out Sir William pastons estate. which of nessesity I was to make knowne at the comission:/ which with much adoo we fownde out the most parte :/ but M^r Jarmis frowardnes hathe cawsed much truble to vs all: wheras if he wold haue consented to the Just desier of vs all. he shold haue shewed himself a fare more worthy plan: and haue deserved the nam of a frinde to the howse of Sir William paston: and haue eased me of many a carffull though and it is well parsayved how he seeks to gayne time ells he wold not haue called for an other comission considringe he might haue finished all at this last comission :/ or whether he giue it out that he will haue our intendinge nothinge less therby to go beyonde vs. if we sitt secure :/ he haue shewed so many rare devises sinc this bisnes begane that I can proue . he hathe an extrordinary invention:

Good Sister) although I needed not to haue written to you at this present about this busines, because that which I would efford therin, is first for the good of yours, my selfe neuer intrudinge opposition to you therin , yet because my lord Chauncelour ordered the Last seruice, that I should send my brother Paston, the reasons why I desire to haue the land newly purchased to be estated for want of issue of my brother Paston, vpon my wife & her children. I haue therfore sent you a copy of the said reasons heere inclosed & haue appointed my solicitor to procure the eight day of ffebruary next if he can. for my Lord Chauncellour to heere thes reasons alledged by my cownsell. I wish the happy continuance of my brothers posterty as large as the world endureth, & my heart is free from the desire or hope of that ____ my children shall come to that land, yett seinge it is ther right both by the loue of God a man, the world would much condeme me, as I should be negligent in doinge my best endeauour to haue it settled vpon them.

Thus with my wifes & my kind affection remembred to your selfe , & my good brother, wishinge all happines to you both, & to your sweet children, I rest

your assured louinge brother

John Hevenyngham

Kettringham this 18th of
January. 1619.

{Folio 182 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my very louinge sister the Lady Paston geue these. /

Most worthy Sister

Mr Pastons resolution came to Late for wee made out our warrants yesterday for all the farmers and balies to attend vs the wednesday after. the assize: against which time you shall doe well to be truly informed of the best penneworths and such purchases as you best affect and that the owners come or send their euidence but come is most materiall ffor my cominge now ther is no possibilitie which I am much perplexed for being no lesse desirous in will and effect to be the same you esteeme mee and assure your selfe so long as life remayneth in my carcase I will not faile to performe the best offices your loue merriteth which hath no proportion and therefore infinite excuse nor my coming I intreate you which neuer shalbe exempted to worke your contentment A former excuse you shall have by Phillip who came away earlie this morninge and doth came home by ffelmingham the Newes of our Nephews mariadge I thought I should haue imparted first but you haue preuented that God increase their happines and all our comforts: So in more then post hast my deere sister Gods goodnes light vpon you and yours with my dear Sister and farewell

Your most faithfully

Tho: Holland

Your rogue was this day branded

For an incorrigible rogue

7° March 1619

{Folio 186 verso}

To his honored sister the Lady Paston giue theise

Good Sister) my wife & my self thinkinge longe to here of the recouery of your health, haue sent this messenger of purpose to giue vs certayne motiue therof & withall I haue sent you by him accordinge to my promise three score & ten pownd. which was due for the halfe yeares Rent & ffarme of the mannor of Lownd at Mihelmas last & the halfe yeares ffarme for the demeanes in Blunston due at Cristmas Last & wheras Sir Thomas Holland did lately wright to me from you. that you had vse of more money then that halfe yeares ffarme. if it please you I will presently lend you a hundred pownds till Mihelmas for I was now provided to pay in fifteene hundred pownd in Ready money beside the ffarme in Blunston, thinkinge to haue kept the Mannor of Lowns still, because you should see that I did not mistrust the title of eyther of them both, but because Sir Tho: Holland sayd that I would turne ouer the worse & keep the best pennyworth, I was willinge you should haue both, if it weare to your likinge, & wheras I made a motion to him, that I would because your ffermor for the mannor of Lownde it was in regard I was informed ther might be an improuement of a seuerall fishinge theare, with bestowing some 40 or 50li _____ to make a head to stopp the waters at a certayne place, which would haue beene a commodyty to me. & a future good to you, & yours but yesterday heere beinge one Mr Brantby, who was bayly to Mr Jeruages in the se ports a longe tyme, & very well knowe all gentlemens libertyes theare, he resolued me that in his knowledge it was a comon fishing, & what cost was bestowed theare would be so set, whose speaches hath discouraged me for takinge a lease there _____ therefore if it please you to haue the sayd mannor you must prouide a baylie to gather vp the Rents, now due at our Lady, & I shall otherwise dispose of my money, which I had thought to haue payd in. Thus my wife & my selfe recommendinge our best affections to your selfe, my good brother, & the worthy Lady Bell prayinge for the safe Recouery of your health, & desiringe God, that all heauenly & earthly felicityes may be multiplied upon you & your sweet children, I rest your most assured louinge brother.

John Heuenyngham

Kettringham the 29 of March

1620/

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 189 recto

I have perused your lettres & receive most comfort in your acceptacon I have made an Indorcement vpon the backe of your petition & have gott their handes subscribed as yow may see by that here inclozed being also resent that mr Edmu. Paston may please also to accompa-ny that with his hand to which purpose Phillip must solícite him & then I must rece_____ make progrression or otherwise as yow shall thinke fitt. The purchace for Beccham is concluded at 2800li & _____ to be yelded at Michaelmas & then to answeere yow the rentes due for the half yere then past The farme of Sir John Heveningham also is now to be convenid at & dispatched as was formerly agreed: Beccham is to be finished as London this nexte terme & the other soane after / mr Jermy is required to pay 2200li part of the 2800li upon Saturday next to Mr Browne for Sir Samuel Trian & I have caused Philip to make an affidavit hereof for an attachment I cann remember noe other thinge vpon this _____ I send yow myne & _____ & rest ever at your Service

William Denny

Norwich 8. June 1620/

{Folio 190 verso}

To the right Worshipfull Sir Edmund Paston knight & the lady Katherin his wife my most Especiall Worthy frinds at Paston

ddr

hast

{Folio 188 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my very louinge Sister the Lady Paston geue these.

Most woorthy Sister) I am very sorry that woodyard hath so much forgotten himselfe & fayled in his promises to me in not payinge {^yow} his halfe yeares ffarme which was due at Midsommer last & I am assured my self that I haue not payd it you all this while, which I would haue done longe before this tyme, if he had not so faythfully promised the payment therof. I haue therefore now sent it you by Mr Browne, hopinge the next halfe yeare at Cristmas he will make speedyre payment therof which now will speedyly approach. I haue written to Sir Walter Deuereux that he would perfitt the collaterall assuraunce which he promised to make this Tearme for the said ffarme, & I haue sent to Mr Denny to desier him that he may haue care therof, & by the next accompt at Easter I hope the assuraunces of all parts shalbe due to me for the same, wherin I doubt not of your furtheraunce & of most of ther other ffeoffees. So commendinge my wifes & my most true affection vnto your selfe & my good Mother, wishinge you both & your sweet children all health & happines, I rest

your most assured louinge brother

John Heuenyngham

Kettringham this 6th of November. 1621./

I haue sent you but xxxijli xs because the fermor was loth to giue more by reason of the low price of all things ther contrary to his promise to me, But I doubt not, but if things hold att the valewe thay are now, it wilbe lett for 80li a yeare, at the expiration of ther lease which wilbe at Mihelmas come twelmonth as I take it.

{Folio 192 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my worthy esteemed Sister the Lady Paston geue these

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 193 recto

Most worthy Sister) my wife desireth me to be her secretary, she beinge very busy in pre_____ & to signify vnto you that my moother is very vnwillinge to haue a married man, therefore she wold be loth he should haue an ill journey to loose his labor. I thanke you for your willingnes to lett my wife haue your newe hatt, but she is now restless not to weare any this summer. we weare yesterday at Mrs Knyuetts who is very well with her two children. Thus hartely thankinge you for a most kind entertainment at your house, with our most kind salutations remembred to my good Brother, your woorthy selfe & Lady Bell, prayinge God to sende you & your blessed children, much health & happines, with eternall ioyes hereafter, I rest

your most truly af_____ Brother

John Hevenyngham

Kettringham this 13th
of July. 1622.

{Folio 193 verso}

Letters

{Folio 194 recto}

To my woorthely esteemed Sister the Lady Paston geue these ./

Sir Jo Henigham_

Good Sister) I haue sent 10*li* to be left for you at Mr Browne, which is all the money I Receiued of Woodyard for this last halfe yeare ended at Midsomer last, I sent the same by Machett to Maudlin ffayer whoe Woodyard appointed to pay him the rest of the ffarme, & then I did purpose it should haue beene brought altogether to you, but he faylinge therof, & sayinge that I had disposed of the Rest of the money which is very false, I will wright a very sharpe letter to him, both that he shall pay you the rest of the money presently, & to tell him of his false information. _____ you weare mistaken concerninge the marsh *which* Mr Gilbert hath, for his yeare expireth at our Lady next, & I do not heare of any leases come out at Mikelmas, but if ther be any expire then, or that it please you to haue Mr Gilberts marsh at our Lady, you knowe you haue the commaunde of any curtesie I can doe you therin, or in any thing els that lyeth within the abylytie of my power. So commendinge my wifes & my most true affection to your selfe, & my good brother, desiringe God to multiply all his blessings vpon you & your sweete children, I shall euer remayne

your vnfayned louinge brother

John Hevenyngham

We wil not forgett our
kinde remembrance to the
good Lady Bell

Kettringham this 27th of August. 1622./

{Folio 196 verso}

To the Right Wor:ll my much respected Sister the Lady Paston geue these./

Good cozen these shalbe to signifie vnto you that accordinge to your request ___ vnto me at our last meetinge at Norw^{ic}h. I did send to Mr Thomas Waterman to make a surveye and a platt of the Mannor of Midleton neere Appleton. And I sent to the baylie William Gryffins to provide for his diet. And to speake to diu^{er}se of the Auncient tennantes to informe him of the grounds and to shoue him the same, Mr Waterman came to me to Appleton the eueninge before I went to London. I did agree with him that he shoulde haue beene the charge of his diet & of those of the tennants as shoulde get w^{it}h him to shoue him the lands. and for him selfe he shoulde be allowed a noble a daye for so many dayes as he shoulde worke a bouthe the saide survaye and platinge. the next Morninge he went aboute his worke. I haue not talkte with him since I came home, but I vnderstand by one of the tennants that he tooke so much paines about the sayd Surveye ~~that~~ that he was almost tyred before he could make an end, and soe ___ home, hath appoynted (as I am informed) to goe againe to make an end of his worke wh^{ic}h when he hath done I will send you a bill both for the Charge of his dyet & the tennants and for his fees wh^{ic}h you must take order to be payd. I doe further let you vnderstand that at my benige at London this tearme, I and Mr Blofeild and your man Mr Alpe went to Mr Deny the councellor and there I shewed & deliuered unto him a Copey of a bill wh^{ic}h I haue skillfull in draweing of bills in the Chauncerie to the end that Mr Deny might he better vnderstand the busines, although I left out diu^{er}se thinges wherein I did farther instructe the sayd Mr Deny. who toulde me that he woulde drawe a very fortunatt effectuall ____, and after he had doone, he and Mr Blofeild went {^woulde goe} both to Mr Thomas Criwe to haue his opinione concerninge the same. what was done since I doe not knowe for that I cam from London within, two or three dayes after. Nowe it resteth that I aduise you to sende to Mr Blofeild to come to you soone as he cometh home, & to knowe of him what is done more concerninge this busines. with the conference wh^{ic}h I haue had with Mr Blofeild and the not allowinge of almost. 50li wh^{ic}h Mr Jermy doth demande to be allowed him for sutes commenssed against him {^in} the Chauncerie by my selfe & Sir Edmund Paston wh^{ic}h I denye shoulde not be allowed him. out of the feoffees Nor be I think there wilbe proued that there remayne in his handes well nigh. 400li wh^{ic}h I doubt wilbe hardly recouered without sute, for that I suppose he will denye a great- parte of the money to be dewe from him And therefore seeinge the benefite as to redounde to Sir Edmund Paston and your selfe: I doe aduise you to send to Mr Deny and to talke with Mr Blofeild to vnderstand howe this Matter must further be proceeded in. So good Madame Comendinge my selfe to Sir Edmund Paston & your selfe I leaue you. Townebarningham this 26th of Maye 1623. Your very louing cozen

Edward Paston

{Folio 198 verso}

To the Right Worppfull his very Louinge Cozen the Lady Katherine Paston at paston
give these

British Library Additonal MS 27447
Folio 199 recto

Our most honored & good Lady

Both our duties & Love humbly remembrd to your Wor:pp your Lapps wanted
favour in acceptinge her poore handy work in this Kynde hath nowe after a longe
season encowraged her to present this pore Cake & to send yt by this poore Pedler
an Inhabitant in this parishe who having a occasion, to Paston & those partes
promiseth to delyvor yt safely & carry yt in his Box Beseching you to pardon her
bouldnis And so, as we are bound we dayly pray for you & the
{deleted}worll{deleted} Right wor:ll our lovinge knight that Almighty God will
protect & blesse you with his Eternall blessing & all the Posteryty of Paston Hall:
And we can not forgett our love & dutye to the good La: Bell yf she be there or
when she come

your Worppps poore & ould Inhabitanter of Whyte Grene

Cawston this 18th of

November 1623

Jane & Jo: Smith

{Folio 200 verso}

To the Right Worll & most honored Lady the Lady Paston at Paston

Good Cosen. I doe keepe still the two bills which you sente vnto me concerninge our suites with Jermy in the Chancery wherof the answer_ of Mr_ Jermy to the secounde bill which is by vs exhibited against him I haue particulerly perused the same, and gathered out notes of those matters wherin (as I thinke) he doth wronge vs and vniustly Charge vs in matters of that importance, and so much concerninge our Creditt__ that I iudge it verie fitt to make Replicacion to the same. About this busines I purpose (god willinge) if I be well and that great froste and snowes doe not hinder my travell) to goe to Thorpe vpon the first day of the next sessions. And I desire that you will come the same day to Norwich for that the next day I woulde wee might have a meetinge of all the feoffees and Mr_ Denny at the maides heade that we might haue a Conferrance about this matter, and especially aboute the exhibitinge of a petition (yf Mr_ Denny and the other feoffes shall thinke it good) to my Lorde keep__ as an Answer to the order which his Lordshipp hath set downe concerninge mr_ Jermys petition. And in any wyse we must meete all for I suppose that we must set our handes to the petition. Wherefore I pray you good Cosin that you will sende a man of purpose to Sir John Heveningham Sir Thomas Holland Sir Thomas Hyrne and Mr_ Martyn Sidley to request them, that wee may meete together vpon Wednesday come senight that we may have a Conferrance together, and then I will bringe with me the £100 bills which you sent me, and such notes as I haue made Concerninge the same. And I desire you that you will bringe to Norwich with you the bill of Complaynt exhibited against {^ Sir John Heveningham and} me and mr_ Jermy and ~~Sir John Heveningham~~ by Sir Edmunde Paston in the Chancery and the Answere to the same So good Madame with my Comendacions to Sir Edmunde and your selfe I leaue you. Appleton this secounde of January 1623

Your_ Loveinge Cosin

Edward Paston

{Folio 202 verso}

To the right Worshippfull his verie louinge Cosin the Ladie Katherin Paston at Paston hall giue these.

Most woorthy Sister) you haue shewed so many testimonyes of your loue to my wife, and in her to me, as she doth eteeme you next her owne Mother the best freinde she hath, we can render you nothings but our thankfull harts for the same, and our best endeauours to performe all sincere offices of your most affected freindes.

My wifes cough (thankes be to God) is well abated, by means wherof she resteth better then she did, eateth and digesteth her meate reasonably well, that we are all now in good comfort and hope of her recouery, her new Doctor is with her euery other day and sayth that all must be done by degrees, for if the cough should be sodaynely taken away, ther may be a worse inconuenience ther vpon, but still she continueth weake and fainte, I pray God dayly to encrease her strenght and blesse all meanes that are intended for the recouery of her health. My wife cannot forgett your dreame, for Mr Gawdy and Mrs Jermy came hither that afternoon you went away, and I am sure Mrs Jermy was not heere this & yeares before. Mr Gawdy had a fitt of ague at Claxton vpon Sunday last, that it seemes he had a good mynde to come hither the next day, he hath has the two fittes heere, and we sent him home, ___ my sonne to accompany him this day in my coach, he maketh much of my daughter, and ther is now great likelyhood of the proceedinge of the match, if God crosse it not otherwise. Thus presuminge you thought longe to heare from vs with our most true and harty affections remembred to your selfe and my good Brother, wishinge all prosperyty to you both, & to your sweete children, I shall euer remayne

your vnfayned louinge brother

John Hevenyngham

Kettringham this 5th of february . 1623. /

{Folio 204 verso}

To the right worthy and my much Honored Sister the Lady Paston geue these/

Madame

It hath pleased you non the second time to reach owt your bountifull hand to me: which I embrace, as becommeth me, with all thankfull acknowledgement. I thinke, I may truely say; I haue never, vpon so Litle acquaintance, and desert, received so much courtecie, & bountie from any. And so standing bound in a double obligation; of conscience, & thankfulness if I should not have a singular care of your hopefull sowl, I were not iustly to be ranked in the number of Christians. I perceive, your Ladship feared his excess at tennis, though (I am persuaded) there is not any exercise more wholsome, & not many more gentlemanlike : yet (by Gods blessing) to prevent danger, & inconvenience, which might growe by the immoderate, or vnreasonable vse therof, I have prescribed him howers of exercise somewhat more particularly, then I had formerly doun, allotting to morning exercise, till somewhat past eight; to break-fast, till nine; to studie, from one till somewhat past three; to exercise, till prayers. These & any other cour courses taken, or to be taken, I now doe, & ever shall humbly submitt to be moderated, or altered at your good pleasure. This my prescribing he entertained cheerfully, & these howers he observes carefully. I finde him of disposition very flexible to good counsell & order: in which I much much ioy. his conversation & demeanour is generally, not onely approved, but applauded. his health (I thanke God) is sound. And that he may ever so continue, & be blessed with long life, & sound health, & all the blessings of the right hand, & the left, I devoutly beseech the father of mercies: into whose mercifull & blessing hands in like manner I humbly commend your *Ladyship*, to whome I am so exceedingly beholding. With my service & Love commended to Sir Edmund , & to your *Ladyship*, I rest

your Ladships firmly obliged, & faithfully

devoted,

Samuel Walsall

Corp. Chr. Cambr.

Februar. 28.

1623.

{Folio 206 verso}

To the right *Worshipfull*, my most worthie friend, the Ladie Paston at Paston

Woorthy Sister) you may be assured that I will always acquaint you, with any thinge concerninge the estate of Sir William Paston before I conclude therof, and will not die any thinge without your approbation. And Seinge you Like So well of the S_____ I Sent to you, beinge So recommended to vs by the Bishopp, I haue thought good to giue him my allowance to be in that place./

My wife desireth to be excused that she wrighteth not to you her Selfe, but she hath begonne in a course of Phisicke with Doctor Rant, yesterday beinge the first day, he hopeth well of her, although she hath beene very ill, Since you were Last with her, she hath had a very Soare cough, is Sicke for the most part after her meate, ~~hath~~ yett eateth Litle or nothings, is kept from Sleepe with her cough, is much trobled with shortnes of breath, all of which the Physitians agree of core Signes that she is in a consumption.

We both hartely thanke you for your kinde letters, & for Sendinge hither of purpose to vs. We can retourne you nothings but thankfulness for the Same, and desire your hartly prayers for the recouery of her health, for if it should please God to lay Such a crosse vpon vs, as to take her away, ther was neuer man nor poore children had Such a Losse. So recommendinge my wifes and my most kinde affection remembrede vnto yo, I shall euer remayne,

your most affetionate Louinge brother

John Hevenyngham

Kettringham this 24th of february. 1623. /

{written down lef-hand margin} We had almost forgott to certify you how the match went forward which you So Louingly desired to knowe, which hangs now in Suspence in the difference of 500*li* betweene vs, but my Lady Gawdy was neuer kinder to my wife then now she is, in Sendinge her _____ & come hither vpon ffriday last of purpose to See her, thay weare merry together She Sayth my wife must yeeld, & my wife telleth her she must yeeld. Ones agayne we commend our best love to my good brother & your Selfe, I wish all happines to you & your Sweete chidren.

{Folio 208 verso}

To my much Honored Sister the Lady Paston geue these ./

Good Cousin, although I sente you a mesage by Mr Edwarde Cooke Concerninge your travelinge to London and our busines there. Yet that nothinge may beforgotten I haue thought good to write particularly vnto you, first you must remember in any wyse when you come vpp to London to bringe vp with you the decree which my Late Lord Chanclor made for the desbursment of such somes of Money as was confessed by the old feoffees to be restinge in their handes.

_____ I doe further _____ vnto you that I haue a copie of the bill exhibited by Sir Edmunde Paston against Sir John heveningham my selfe and Mr Jermy which I will not fayle to sende or bringe vpp to London. Sir John heveningham and Mr Jermies Answere I haue not therefore you must in any wyse remember to bringe vp the _____. And you must also remember to bringe vp the copie of the bill which Sir Edmunde Paston your selfe and the other feoffees did nowe last of all exhibit vnto the Chancery against Mr Jermy. And you must bringe vp also his answere.

I purpose (god willing) to take my iourney towardes London vpon the nyneteenth day of this presente moneth of Aprill next cominge and I determyne to lye at Newmarkett the next night beinge the twentieth day. And yf you purpose to goe to London (yf you haue no greater busines) but to followe the cause against Mr Jermy) I woulde we might meete together that night that we may travell both together to London for yf you goe before I doubt that till I come vp you shall _____ but a litle busines.

Nowe as Concerninge the purchase of Skeiton of Mr Myles hobarte I woulde haue you to be very well advised haue you deale and what you agree vnto for Mr Roberte ffeilden toulde me that Mr Mallos who is the saide Mr hobartes solicter) toulde you that I did offer for the saide purchase two thousande poundes and therefore I woulde haue you to be very carefull to enquier what the saide Mannor is worth. So good Madame comendinge me to Sir Edmunde and your selfe I leave you Appleton this xijth of Aprill 1624/

your very Louinge cozen

Edward Paston

{Folio 210 verso}

To the Right Worshippfull his very Louinge Cozen the Lady . Dame Katherin Paston at Paston Hall deliver these

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 211 recto

Most woorthy Sister) we see by dayly experience, how mindfull you are of any courtesy you can performe to vs. My wife liketh the wastcoates so well, & the good pennyworth of them, that she purposeth to kepe them both & hartely thanketh you for them. She hath now left all her Phisicke, & hath sent to my Lady Knyvett to speak to her Phisitian at London, to haue some cordiall watres from him, who is accountd a very ___ rare man for diseases of that kind, & hath cured many. My wife would desire you that/ one of your_ men might repaye to my Lady Knyvett, for those things (if they be not sent by the carriers this weeke) & to buy a tronke, & send them safe by the next weeke, & also to pay my Lady Knyvett for them.

So desiringe God to heare our prayers for my wifes recouery of her health, we comend our_ selues & hartly affections vnot you, and shalbe euer ready at your dispose

John Hevenyngham

Kettringham this 23rd of Aprill. 1624./

{Folio 211 verso}

To my most esteemed & woorthy Sister the Lady Paston geue these

Good Cozen here was with me two dayes {^agoe} Mr Waterma__s sonne who brought me worde that his father hath made an end of the platt of Middleton and is redye to deliver the same, I am of opinion that if the sayd platt shoulde cost you an hundred Markes it were well bestowed for by the same you and the heires of the Mannor May at all tymes hereafter knowne and se all the ____ and cobbyholde lands of the Mannor (and as I take it the free holds also which without the platt you can hardly doe for that I have not seene any perfect Serverys before, Nowe to make this platt _ good & peere of Evidence there must first a courte be warned and all the Tenantes to have them notice given of the day when the sayd _ Courte shalbe kept, and they all charged to come to the same, And the warrant for the sayd Courte must be made by all the feoffees vnder there handes, and Mr Jermy him selfe yf he will sett his hand there to. And the daye sett downe when the Courte shalbe kept. And although I doe well allowe that Mr Edward Cooke shall keepe the other courtes of the sayd mannor yet this particular courte I thinke it fitt to haue it kept by Mr Thomas Blofielde bot for that he is the feoffees Auditor a very good attorney at the Common Law and hath ben alonge courte keeper and hath greate expediennce in keepinge of Courtes for it may be here {^ _____} rise some questons such as Mr Cooke being but latly vsed to keepe any courtes cannot easilie decide at, This busines may be lett alone till after the terme or the assises Whereas I writt vnto you that I purposed to tarrie here vntill tuesdaye next I doe purpose to goe to Townebarningham where I purpose to tarrie fower or fiue dayes. So good Madame commendinge me to you and yours I leaue you Thorpe this 29th of May 1624

your very Louing Cozen

Edward Paston

{Folio 213 verso}

To the Right Worshippfull his very Lovinge Cozen the Lady Katherine Paston at Paston deliver these

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 214 recto

Sir, haueing So fytt a messenger, these are to desyre yow ones more to acquaynt Sir William that I continue my sute vnto him for such ___ terrors dragges and evidence as concerne the mannor of Marriots as I bought of his worship. I hope by your me___ he wylbe pleased to appoynt your self (or Some other mete person) to make search for them and haue them in a readynes for God wylling in your Chayning of the nexte weeke I purpose to attende his worship for the ___ of them. In the meane whyle hopeinge to be beholding vnto your selfe for yor frendly furtheraunce, with the remembraunce of my duty to Sir Wylliam and my harty Salutacions to your Self I take my leave Beckham this present Thursday

your very loving frnde to vse

Tho: Gibson

{Folio 214 verso}

To his Very Loving frind Mr Hayward at Paston these be dd.

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 215 recto

Reverend Sir/ In matters of Conscience I am satisfied the King will sooner beleieve
his Clergy then his Lady makes mee desire *the* favoure of you to *present the*
inclosed to *the* King when you haue a ____ able oppertunity and you will very
much oblige

your_ very humble Or_

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 217 recto

My deere Sister

I shall very willinglie subscribe to *your* bill and iustifie all *that* is within my -
_____ but be suer euey thing *which* is asserted against be *preciselie* to be
proued for _____ *your* selfe it will so startle him *that* he will extend all his able to
worke his _____ vpon *the* familie I ioyne with their opinion who would not giue him
so long avacation to put his ill intrution in practice, but I condescend to *that* you
shalbe best advised, I am glad you haue *Sir* Heueningham along with vs To satisfie
your desire to know what mony I was in bond soe to *Sir* Rychard Cecill it for *the*
purchase of Midleton It was four skore twelve pound sixe shillings eight pence
which I entred hand to pay *Sir* Rych: Cecill *that* 23 of Novemb: after *the* purchase
made *which* I gaue *Mr* Jarmy notice of by my letter and desired *the* mony *that* he
had receiued of Caister rents towards *the* payment of it *which* he refused to paye I
shall wish a happy *preceeding* and good successe and *your* deserved comfortable
reward for *your* sonne for *your* high meritt And so my sweet Sister *with* myne and
my wifes best respect _____ to you I rest

your faithfull Louing brother

Tho: Holland

{Folio 218 recto}

To his Honored Sister the Lady Paston at Paston giue thies

Madame

Bacon one of the constables at Paston was at your Ladyships vpon tuesdaie last to giue notice that the subserie for the inhabitantes of Paston shold be paid at Palles in Walsham this daye . Si^r Edmondes parte for the auoiding of further troble to the collector or your^r Ladyshi^p I haue paid & receyued A di scharde therof: which I thought requisiteto signifie vnto you: Sir Ed: yester day was vp & merry Mr William haue bought him A new sommer nagge is liuely & merry. your hospitalitie doe intertaine good company. All your housholde is well & desire your spedie retorne & prosperus succes in all your affaires with health & hartes ease.

your Ladyships more then I may

William Brende

August . 5. 1624

Mr Call as my selfe being aboute to pay vjli for xxxli asseised at xxxvli & vijli was demanded. Mr Walter Mr Neue & Mr Rante did ___ affirme to the collector their assentes only to xxxli & Mr Jermy said it was innough & the commissioners to their thinckinges did assente. They all say ther is no helpe if the rolle retorned in the Exchequer doe agree with this rolle of the collector. I thought good before I paid ___ to aduertise your ____ All your conscent or take such order as in your wisdome shalbe thought fitting: And with all to inquiror yf any commissioner, or all together haue authoritie to assei se any {^after the publique ____} but them selues or the assesment at least to finde out yf you can by whose meanes this vnfriently acte is performed

Walsham 5 Aug. 1624

som spedie order wold be taken for

the payment

we finde in Mr Rantes booke also the assesment was no more then ~~the~~ them xxxli asseised which was produced.

{Folio 220 verso}

To the right worshippfull and most worthy Ladye the Lady Katherin Paston dd theis
Norwich

My deer Sister

our weekly task must yett be contened, for I can not gett leue of my good Nep: to depart vntill his Retturne from London but then he haue promissed me to bringe me vnto you: take noe care I I prethy for bringing my stuff and truncks: for I will not troble any of your company haueing a purpose to hyer a cart hear to bringe them directtly to Paston. glad whould I be to be with thee; if I could handsomely deny my Nep: for I know his Stufkey kindred (I can not call them his frindes) will censure me much and imputt his keeping house to me for I hear they are much discontented that he should keep so much as searuant hear if they know my minde and dissier to be eles whear they whould free me from blame but I am ressolued not to take any greatt hurt for ther vnkindneses for ther best affecttions are litle worth the vallenging being so vnconstant as they remoue them vpon meer conceayts from them that haue best dessarued of them: :

Now sweet Sister I wish I wear with you some few howers to disscourss with thee, vpon a disscourss which on had with me this other day aboutt _____ greatt bussnes in hand I could rellatt itt better by word then by writting and some sattissfacttone should I rec: from thee of those thngs that being putt to me, by reassone of my ignoranc in this bussnes) I could not answer: this itt was I being att Kettringham vpon Wednesday Last did ther meett with Mr Wittle: and muould Lady and I being together and speaking of you; he came vnto me and sayde; O madame that I wear any way interested in that Lady; for she is in a bussnes that I fear will worke her much discontent in the end I asked his reassone the cause being so good; your demaundes so iust. ~~her~~ your course so temperatt why itt should be thought to be so dangerous for you he sayd itt was true. all this I sayd but he wished me withall to consider the times whatt they are and the manner of proceeding of thatt courtt whatt itt is you complayne that in the conuayance ther is not prouission for the secuernig of the stock

{Folio 221 verso}

and that ther are greatt sumes of mony in the feofees hands vnsecuered /: and other things he aleadged which truely I can not rem: but for these tow I remember he sayd: whatt if by amending † or _____ to amend this in the conuayance ~~ther~~ ther may be startting holles found to ouerthrowgh the conuayance; and as the cass standes with your father in lawe matters be agayne called into questyone which now may perpetually rest, besides the cours of that Court is to drawe the sumes of mony in contreuerssy into the Court ther to Lye vntill matters be desided which many times is a Long as the mony is hardly drawen: out agayne if euer; and for this I can sumwhatt speak for my Cosen Harysone was so ordered for 40li; but neuer a peny could he gett agayne: although itt was noe more dew for him to pay then for me: and so was my father searued

for the 400*li* in Garretts bussnes; much talk we had many wayes att last I asked him if itt weare fitt itt should should still goe one as itt now was; he sayd noe by noe means but that the monys in the feoffees hand should be imployed in purchassing of Land; I sayd it ___ would haue ben grantted vnto you would neuer haue stured out if doores aboutt itt; for itt is all you haue dissiered; he sayd he would vndertake to of them should doe this *that* is *Sir* Jhon: He: and *Mr* Jerme: I sayd I thought you did belleue *Sir* Jhon would but for the other you could never finde him forward; in itt; nor willing to geue you any content: when you haue trauelled to him to ___ *your* self in this or any other bussnes ~~XXXXXX~~ he sayd being this week att Nor: he had some speak *with* *Mr* Jermy aboutt itt who prottessed he would pressently paye in tow thousand; and then thes should be in his hands some 3000*li* more *which* hw would pay into *Mris* Paston: by ___ the ___

{folio 222 recto}

and neuer rec: peny agayne; and so ther should be noe more fear of him; I did belleue: this might be in his heatt vttered; but I sayd I thought they that had intered into the trust of the ffeoffees__ could not when they would shake itt of: neyther is itt *your* dissier; ~~to~~ so to haue itt: but only an honest care that the monys that was raysted out of the Lands of *Sir* Will: Pass might be secuered for *your* good and preffermentt of his possterty: the conchlussion was: he would wish me ~~xx~~ to aduice you to staye the sutt a whill; and if they did not performe whatt they now promissed; then you might proceed att *your* pleassuer ; truely I tould him my brayne could not shott leuell: to thes kinde of busneses neyther could I tell [whatt] to writt yet gladly would I wish a nend of itt; and doe the best to effectt itt and I did assuer him if that would be done for purchassing of land that he promissed you would ___ ___ *your* sutt and so I ___ belleue you would after we brake vp your disscourss I went vnto *Sir* Jhon and had some speach *with* him: of whatt had ben spoken ; he; tould me he had that day written vnto you: but to whatt purposs I did not inquire if itt wear to staye the sutt ~~and~~ *with* a promiss to laye out the monys vpon Land: I thinke it wear the best to accept itt; had not that ___ discourssing untill ben ther noe talk should haue ben aboutt this; for I finde them sparing and I loue not to medle; *with* that *which* concerns me not: well my prayers to the Almighty is that he will directt the in the best courss and deliuer thee out of thy enymys hands both bodyly and ___ and thus *with* my Kindest affecttions to thy deere__ self; and my good bro: I leue thee and thine to the mercy of the [Almighty] Resting thine euer

Meriell Bell

{Folio 222 verso}

To my most beloved kinde Sister the Lady Passton these be deliuerd I pray
Paston

Maye it please your *Ladyship* I had present accesse vnto his lordship who pryuatlye red your lette, then calling for m^r hobard and m^r Shepherd he openlye red the same agayne to them, and coming to that part where your *Ladyship* would vndertake the ffeoffees _____except m^r Jermy , would haue their monies _____ his *Lordship* made a purpose yet comending yoar indicious and discreet wrighting; he and sayd that his Cosen there present would not goe to anye particular men for part of the monie but as he makes the bargaine *with* your *Ladyship* he _____ that your *Ladyship* should prouide him the monie fullye then m^r Shepherd asked me if that Master Jermy should fayle would not the rest of the ffeoffees paye the whole somme to whom I answered it maybe they will yet I had no power to make anye such bargainne for them in conclusion his lordship appointed the euidence to be brought to Mr demmes on ffrydaye or Saturda[y] next and so at the meeting of the ffeoffees the 22 of Septe__ to make up the Bargaine he and his Ladie doth commend them to your *Ladyship* and my Ladie Bell

I haue spake *with* Mr Mchet and haue received 32li 10s for the __ yeares same for Blunston he sayth that the rest of his masters monie shalbe __:_____ against the sume the ffeoffees meet this sending my lord_ _____ by Edward Jepson I humbly rest

Your *ladyship's* obedient seruant

Phillip Alpe

Norwiche this 23 of August 1624

{Folio 223 verso}

To the Right *Worshipfull* the ladie Paston giue these

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 224 recto

Noble Lady

I have euen nowe received your bookes & ____ your comission & depositions returned nothing more is _asyet done. I have {^____} order with mr Smith- for circumspection- & as occasion you shalbe sure to heare our __ Justice Chamberlayne is appointed to goe sitt at Chester as cheife Justice their & Sir James Whitlock that sitts their shall come in his place: The seid Chiefe Justice shalbe lord Traesourer Sir Randall Crewe lord chiefe Justice The parliament is put off till the 2 of ffebruary here was a taalk of the plague but noe such thing - onely a newe kinde of ague this with my best remembred to your self Sir Edmund Mr William & I am yours euer most assured

William Denny

This Instant tuisday 1624
Graies London

[Later hand in pencil- 'Legal appointments & promotions Parliaments sitting the plague']

Folio 225 recto

To the right worshipfull my most respected & very Good Lady the Lady Katherine Paston at paston

The answer of Edward Paston Esquire to the reasons sett downe by Sir John Heveningham knight why the lands that are to be leased by the ffeoffees of Sir William Paston in case Sir Edmond Pastons issue should faile should be estated upon the heires males of *the* Pastons & not to the Lady Heveningham though she be sister to the said Sir Edmond & next heire generall after his children.

The first reason by Sir John sett downe the saide Edwards leaveth to be answered by his counsell for that he taketh it to be a question or point in lawe./

To the second reason the saide Edward saith that he hath produced almost twice as many witnesses that testifie that Sir William Paston had a very good opinion of him & his sonnes as Sir John hath produced to the contrary and that he hath to shewe three or fower *lettres* very kindly written from Sir William Paston vnto him (after he had refused to seale the counterpaines of his Jndentures) that will testifie as much And the said Edward further saith that neither Sir John heveningham nor any other can prove that he or any of his sonnes did ever give to Sir William Paston any occasion of displeasure whatsoever whereby he shold be provoked to give from them any inheritance of better then three thowsand pownds a yeare *which* had continued in the name of the Pastons since the begininge of the raigne of henry the sixt & a great part of it longe before & especially the second sonne of the saide Edward whose name is William & was the saide Sir Williams godsonne. And of whom the saide Edward hath heretofore been tould that Sir William Paston saide he would make him a better man then his older brother except it were only that the saide Edward refused to seale and subscribe the Counterpaynes of two Jndentures *which* Sir William Paston would have had him seale & the reasons why he did refuse are these ./

ffirst he did certainly knowe that {^old} Sir William Paston his grandfather had given to his vnckles John and Clement Paston the Mannors of Sporle Oxned ___arlingford & did so other marshes & lands to the valewe of better then twelue hundred pound a yeare & intayled the same to them & their heires males beinge all parcell of the auntient inheritance of the Pastons And that Sir William their nephewe his said vnckles had as he was informed ioyned together ~~as he was~~ in setlinge not only the saide mannors but the inheritance of the name in themselves and in the heires male of the name *which* were himselfe the saide Reward & his sonnes of the saide Sir William & his heires males should faile. And he was advised by his counsell not to be a ffeoffee in trust to the vse of others to these mannors & lands *which* were intayled to himself & his

{Folio 228 verso}

heires males as he verely beleveth ____ any power of ____ And to prove that his time the saide ____ that he said Sir John in a suite commenced against him in the

Chauncery by the saide Edward he did produce many witnesses wherof one doth depose that *Sir William Paston* did in the xliiiijth yeare of the late Queenes raigne revoke a conveyance made in the xiiijth yeare of the saide Queene. And the saide witnesses doe further testifie that the wrightings of the saide Revocations were shewed vnto them all except Edward Peck clerk to John Jermy d__pose that ever they sawe the Conveyaunces nor that in the same there was left in *Sir William* a power to Revoke them at his pleasure And these revocations beinge made after the death of his vncles John and Clement the saide Edward verely thinketh that the saide *Sir William Paston* had noe power to revoke & give away at his pleasure these mannors & lands *which* were given vnto them & *which* they left vnto the name & could not give away the same __not John Paston though he had two daughters *which* were his heires And the saide Edward further saith that his grandfather old *Sir William Paston* lyuid till he was ____ his ____ yeares of fowerscore ____ *Sir Thomas Paston* his father died some three or fower yeares before his father & left two sonnes wherof the eldest was not aboute three yeares old & himself beinge the younger not one yeare old & his grandfather dyd age at Paston some six or seven score myles off from where his father dwelt it is noe maruell that old *Sir William Paston* shouldnot mention them in the intayld of his mannors & lands when he beinge a very old man they had none about to put him in mynde of the intaylinge of his lands to them & their issue And the saide Edward further saith that in one of the conveyances the Counterpaine wherof he was requested by *Sir William Paston* to seale was contained the mannors of Paston in the towne of Paston *which* is his inheritance beinge a very auntient mannor And *Sir William Paston* was both a ffreeholder & a Copieholder to the same and he thought it noe reason to subscribe & seale the counterpanes of these Indentures that did not only give from him all the auntient inheritance of the name but also a mannor of his owne in Paston where *Sir John Heveningham* cannot proue that there is any other mannor but his nor that *Sir William Paston* did ever keepe any _____ there intituted by the name of the mannor of Paston that ever the saide Edward could h____. And

{Folio 229 recto}

therefore the saide Edward thinketh that he had iust cause to refuse to seale the Counterpaines of the Indentures before mencioned & for other matter but this he saith as he did before that neither he nor his sonnes did ever giue *Sir William Paston* any displeasure or taste of mislikinge ./

Item the saide Edward futher saith that *Sir William Paston* almost to be nyntie yeares old that he purchased ____ ____ mannors & lands to the valewe of one thowsand pownds a yeare *which* mannors & lands he gaue almost all to his grandchilde the Lady heveningham wyfe of the saide *Sir John* & to her heires males Item the saide *Sir William* dyed very rich & made the saide *Sir John* his whole ____ by *which* executorship he could not be but benefitted many thowsand pownds Item by the second Conveyance the saide *Sir William* hath stated or conveyed vnto the

saide Lady Heveningham or to her heires males six or seven hundred pounds a yeare of the antient inheritance of the name of the Pastons if *Sir* Edmond Paston his issue male should faile And the saide Edward futher saith that the surplus of the money *which* the ffeoffes are to imploye more then they shall disburse is only raysed of these mannors & landes *which* are of the antient inheritance of the name & not one penny of *Sir* William his purchased lands and therefore the saide Edward & his sonnes being the next heires males to *Sir* Edmond Paston (if his issue male should faile) they hope it will please my Lord Chancellor to order that the purchased lands by the ffeoffees shalbe rather stated to the heires males of the name of the Pastons then to the heire generall espetially consideringe how greatly *Sir* William Paston and that *Sir* Edmond Paston hath not as yett any daughter to inherite soe that if the issue faile the purchased lands shall for ever goe from the name if they be not settled in the heires males of the Pastons ./

The reasons why the lands to be purchased ought to be estated vpon Dame Bridget the wyfe of *Sir* John Heveningham (& her children) who is the nexte Lineall heire to the saide *Sir* William Paston & *Sir* Edmond Paston in case the issue of the body of the said *Sir* Edmond Paston shall faile and not to be estated vpon the Collaterall issues of Edward Paston Esquire.

ffirst for that the ffeoffees receiuinge the receues and profittes of all the same Mannors & lands in trust & that it is omitted how the overplus of the profittes of the same mannors & lands by them received should be performed to the heire at the Common Lawe accordinge to an estate made of lands at the Common Lawe whereof noe vse is declared & not upon any stronger or Collaterall issue And therefore if by lawe or equite the lands to be purchased shallbe limited to *Sir* Edmond Paston as next heire by the same same reason he failing of issue the lands to be purchased ought to com to his next heire *which* is the Lady Heveningham & her children

It doth appeare vnder *Sir* William Pastons owne hand that Edward Paston & his sonnes should be all omitted in the second Conveyaunce & it is already proved by severall witnesses that *Sir* William Paston had such dislike of Edward Paston & his sonnes that he repented him that he had vsed Edward Paston in the conveyaunce of his lands & intayled the same vpon his sonnes And to the intent to have left them out of the conveyaunce *which* is without revocation he would have defaced the same Conveyaunce and made a newe & there be many of good creditt that will affirme the same /

Sir William Paston who was the Grandfather of the saide *Sir* William Paston & Edward Paston beinge owner of the same Mannors & lands in the disposinge & intaylinge thereof he never limited any parte thereof nor any estate or remainder therein to the saide Edward Paston nor his father but for want of issue male of his other sonnes (alwayes omittinge the father of the saide Edward Paston & his children) he did limitt the ffee simple to the saide *Sir* William Paston before the saide Edward Paston to whom all the same mannors & lands should have discended by course of Lawe before they could have com to the saide Edward Paston & his sonnes if *Sir* William Paston himself had not entayled the same vpon Edward Paston & his sonnes for want of issue male of *Sir* Edmond Paston wherefore the saide Edward Paston might be contented for the mannors {^& lands} already limitted to him & his sonnes without seeking the true intent of *Sir* William Paston. /

{Folio 230 verso}

A copy of this copies of the _____ of the _____ his reasons
against this First the sume to be settled after the issue male

_____vpon the daughters of Sir _____
my ldes

secondly for more of _____ of

My good Will: Christ Jesus blese the ever: I did take thy wrightinge to me in very kinde parte, seinge that at that time thow mightiest haue pretended wearines withe travill yett woldest {^not} make that any lett to hinder me of thy most Louinge and respectiue lines, the w^{ch} wear and euer shall be most wellcom to me, I was glad to heer of your prosperous Jorny , and of the kindwellcom which you found from that worthy M^r : whom, I wold by any means thou sholdest haue a very reuerend respect ofe:/ and because good child that thou be not too talketiue before him, but onl;y to learne what is fitting behaiour for you to vse before him and that obserue and doe: be Louinge to thy tutor honest M^r Roberts and be ruled by his aduis in all things for I repos a spetiall trust in him for thy good:/ be Carefull in your recreations for ouer heatinge your blude : and if at any time you sweat or be too hote, doe not drinke till you haue made water, for so you know wear want to doe at hom:/ and now you must haue a mighty care of your self ore ells it will be as much as my Liffe is worthe too:/ medell not good [chi]ld withe any of the towns men ther [...] earnest or Jeast. provke non to anger [...] your self well and louingly to all sorts. [...] blesinge of god allmighty. the father [...] blesed spirite be euer more vpon [...] and sowll amen. Farwell good will: in hast written:

I thanke the good will for thy kinde token. I willbe in thy dept for it and paye by the next saff mesinger

by thy <page damaged>

A Beever Hatt

My good will: the Lords blessing be evermor vpon the. I haue receiued two letters from the this weeke w^t a booke all of which are most wellcom to me: I am glad to heer by good M^r Roberts that thow hetherto hath demeaned thy self well and as it is meet thow shooldest {^haue} giuen good respect to all; all good news of the, and from the, cheers me more then any thinge in this world: and I know thow dost loue to haue me cheerly . goe on still my good child in all well doinge and be then as mery as mery maye be :/ M^r Parker I hope by this time haue deliuered my latter and token to the he was to be at Cambridge on monday or tuesday Last: I doe Like that thow doest inditt thy owne letters thy selfe. for thow weart wont to know how to speake to me. and hetherto I doe Like exedingly of them and of the well wrightinge of them: the vse of wrightinge will perfect your hand very much: I am so strayed of tyme as I can not tary longer to talke w^t the now: but bid the farwell. besechige god to keepe the in all thy ways now and euer more:

thy most louinge mother
Katherine Paston

at the commencement I will send a beauer hat to the but I feare it will be to bigge or to Littell or the broad verged or sumthinge amis:/ but if ti shold not doe comly send it me a gayn and I will send for an other for the :/ farwell and euer more well:/

good will tell tom Hartstonge that I doe like well of his wrightinge. I wold haue written to him to put him in minde of sum thinges but I haue now no time:/

{Folio 233 verso}

To my beloued sonne William Paston these at Cambridge spede:/

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 234 recto

My good childd I could haue hardly writtenu to the at this time, but I am loathe to
_____ desceive thy expectation for I doe imagin(e)? thow desirest to heer forme
me, and I am excedingly glade to heer of thy good health, I pray god to continew it
to the, thy cosine Gawdy is a widow. hee departed this liff of Sunday Last he died
of consumption: his mother towld me onc: that he gott that surfitt wt too violent
playing at tennis. I think I towld the of it onc before, desiringe that thow sholdest
beware of the two great and continuall exercise of it: sum doe use to heat them
selues very much wt it and then drinke burnt sake or such like: but for the: I can
not be parswaded, but it shold be very hurtfull and dangerous so to do wherfor it
thow louest my liffe lett me intreat the to be very carfull of thy self for ouer
heatinge thy blud:/ and so for this tim farwell good Will the Lord preserve the
body and sowll. & Comend me to good Mr Roberts, very kindly: and to those two
gentellmen wch cam to visit the heer: farwell farwell:

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

Reme[m]ber me all so to the most worthy docter:

Friday night Late

{Folio 235 verso}

To my most beloued sonne William Paston at Corp Christy Colledge Cambridge

My good childd the lord his sweet mercy and bleasings be euermore vppon the and vs all:/ I thanke the for thy many letters. thay can neuer be too many:/ Now least I shold forget to be thankfull for a sorte of tokens. bothe for booke ans candell: ther want but a bell: coold you not haue parswaded your cosine mun bell. to haue com this way: then I shold haue been fully suplyed of bell booke and candell:/ If say least I shold forget to thanke the) I will begine wt it :/ as allso for the pote of olivs :/ John Gowld was to trew a prophesier for more then ten days did he giue out that younge koks child was buried. befor it was sike:/ but that littell younge chill was quite cast away: as we may I thinke say willingly and foolishly. for it is sayd for certine that when the owld man was sike of two sorss: the younge folkes sent the childd to his grandfather: and the owld man did keep the childd and made it lie wt him a? nights when he was at that poor pase him selfe. so the child was buried on munday was seunenight and on sunday was younge koks wiffe p{^r}ayed for at church:/ but I heer she is now on the mendinge hand: of 12 of them. ther are but. 5: leafft aliue. and 4 of them haue bine sike. so now my hops and thoughts: be at an ende for goinge to paston vntill it shall please god to remoue his heauie hand: all the towne is very well ells: and so are the nayghbours townes Phillups quartine Ague com to a Cotidian ague it takes him in the night. yett is he now more cheerly wt his euery day fitts. then when thay cam euery third day:/ and now farwell my good childd the Lord send vs a joyfull meentime at paston

this is my sixt letter. and I assure the I am very weary:/ Sr Charll? grose haue sente to borrow horses of thy father agaynst the Asisez: so by that means I can not so soone sende to Cambridge as otherwise I wold: but affter the Assizes week, I will not fayll to send to the: farwell my good childd for this time: thy father rem[em]ber his loue to the and so do I:

thy most louinge mother

Katherin Paston

{Folio 237 verso}

To my most beloued sonne william Paston of Corp Christie Colledge Cambridge

Post payd 4d

My good child the Lord Jhesus blese the for euer more:/ I doe not yet know, what to thinke of this new fownde pedder: for I had sett by my rest, onc a weeke, namly on the wedensdays to haue written to the: hopeinge to haue hearde from Cambridge on the munday euery week by him:/ but now I parceiue he will haue {^such} a wandering and vncertine motion, as till he doe appeer in his liknes. I shall not know when nor whether to finde him: too by good chance I hearde. he must haue my letter this sunday night: if I will sende any by him: the which I sende. though my warnige was very vnseasonable :/ I therfor can not so conveniently wright to thy tutor at this tim. it is as much as I can doe for this:/

I haue heard latly from paston. Phillup haue bine at deathes dore w^t his ague. but I hope the mallics of it is past. becawse he write he finde him self more cheerly then euer he coold be till he had ouercom extremities cawsed by his fitts:/ non haue died on Coks howse this 3 weeks. but he wright) that younge Coks wiffe is sike, but sayde to be an ague I pray god gravnte thate be the worste otherwis all the towne is well. bleased be god for it :/

I am very sory to heer- mun bell - is so very ill I pray god amend him euery way:/

and tell me if this be not the dangerous yeer for you / new bachilors. if other new bachilors shold meet you prowder then thair sellues. take heed and be ware of pride therefore Least &:/ farwell my good child in all hast that may be: but forgett me not to thy good tutor I hope to haue more leissure to wright to him by the next certine mesinger:/ and so the Lorde be w^t the:/

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

Your sceruante Phillupe woold goe neer to pose you w^t his new englishe: he cam w^t tears in his eies to me and sayd: his Nastas goggs did dite ha hans: I was desirous onc more to heer his pretty playnt: he cried nasta Lillo goggs did dite his hans: your 3 pupis weare so bowld wth him:/

My good child Christ Jesus blesse the for euer more I hope befor this time thou hast receiued my letter, which I sent by younge Jo: Wyteman of Sporrll: I haue Likewis inquired out this honest foot post: whose name is Nipps. he haue promysed to deliuer the this letter. so shallt thou {^haue} two: this weeke from me: but I shall want a mesenger for my next weekes letter wherfor it willbe a fort night befor I wright agayne to the: /

this daye I receiued letters from Paston. and I heer that ther died but. 4. at wallsom wherof but on child in the marketsted. the other 3. in the out shiffts. not on this fortnight at _____: but. 6. at Norwich in all, died the Last weeke: wherof not on of the Visitation: blesed be our mercyfull and grasiois Lord for his gracious deliueranc: and I pray god send vs to heer good news still from hom: that we may returne in saffitie thethaer agayne: ./

I haue reciued bothe thy kinde letters together I am exedingly glad to heer of thy healthe and well doinge I shall allwais pray my god: to blesse the in all good Coorses that in liffe and deathe thou mayst be his: for his mercy sake:/ ther could non be more glad to se the onc a weeke. I one a day or an hower: might it be as much for thy good as I could wish. but surly ther is the plase, now is the time to do thy self good by applyinge thy time in good and Vertuous delights. and if thou canst not attayne to Learninge the Lattin tounge parfitly. yett bestow thy time in redinge good English bookes which may furnish thy minde w_t good things: the post posteth? me so as I can tary no longer at this time. farwell my good will: the Lord keep the ever: I pray the rem[em]ber me to the good docter to hom I am much _____ for thy sake: /

Com[me]ned me Likewis to thy good tutor by the next oppertunty I will wright to him: com[mend]: me to Robert bell: and Last not hast to thy own self

by thy most Louing mother

Kathrine Paston

{Folio 241 verso}

To my most dear sonne william Paston of Corpus Christy Colledge at his Lodginge thes - these Cambridge payd: /

British Library Additional MS 27447

Folio 242 recto

My good child, the mercy of the Lord be ever more vpon the, I do imagine that thow didest earnestly expect a letter from me the last weeke, and I had pen in hand to begine to the, but thy brothers illnes prevented me at that time, and made me vnfit for any thinge that was good: he is now and haue bine sinc very well Blesed be the Lord. I pray god send him helpe of that most vncomfortable truble; / I humbly beseech the Lord to sende you bothe of you) his grase and mercy to healthe and Liff to his good will and plesure and the comforts of many: /

I am very glad to heer by Mr Roberts. that thow doest continue in thy well doinge I parsayve hee receiues a great deall of content by it. goe on my good harte: to thie purpos to perseuer in thy good Coorse. it shall redownde {^to} thy owne best good bothe in this, and the liff to com: I haue Cawsed tom Ayde to make the a new sute, but I feare it is very cowld as yett. I pray the weare thy scarlett sute w_t out spotts as much as may be: I will send you the other er it be longe: farwell my sweet will: for this time. I pray the rem[ember] me to the most worthy Doctor, and good Mr Roberts and I comend my Loue to the. and to the gracious protection of the Allmighy: in hast I rest. thy

thy most Louinge mother

Katherine Paston

Thy father and many good frinds heer rem[ember]: them selues to the: this 2 of march: / : /

{Folio 243 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston at Corp: Christie Colledgeat his lodginge ther these Cambridge

[another hand- The Third Letter march /]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 244 recto

My good child Christ Jesu blese the ever. I could not omit this fittinge oportunitie.
but will repayer my last weekes omission wth my double writing to the for I am
promised that this my letter shall com to the by Saturday night and then shallt
thow haue two of min in on weeke which will make a peec of amends to the:/ I
shallbe most glad to heer of the continuanc of thy good healthe by thy next. I doe
purpos to send the sum shirts and such other things as I think thow shallt need: till
then farwell my sweet will. the mercye of Christ blese preserue and keep the
soule and body: Com: me to good Mr Roberts I will wright to him nest week(e?) if
god Lett me not: farwell onc agayne to thy own selfe:/ hast this present thursday
Late:/

by thy most Louinge mother
Katherine Paston

thy father and brother who be bothe very well rem[em]ber ther Loue to the: /

{Folio 245 verso}

To my deerest sonne william Paston these I pray at Corpus Christy Colledge at his
chamber these Cambridge

My sweet will: grase mercy and all healthe be multiplied to thee, I doe much desire to heer of thee and thy good tutor, for I haue not receiued any letter scinc mun cam form the; it is a very sickly world for agues I did never know any time, wherin ther wear half so many, we haue had many in our house down of it, but I thank good Soon vp agayne, and now thy brother I thinke haue gott on, for he haue bine but ill this seuennight; thy father is excedingly well agayne as euer. blesed be my good god for it for he was as dangerously ill as could be;/ I send on to norwich on purpos, hopinge this saterday to meet w^t thy letters, which I praye may euer be mesengers of such good tidinges to me, as hetherto thay haue bine, w^{ch}, is of thy wellfare euery way; thow must still take a mighty good care of thy diet and recreations shun acses in ayther: and be sure that pastry crust and cheese do not make the _____ //:

I desire Likewis to heer that Mr Roberts haue Lost his ague fitts, I pray the do not forget to send me word of it in thy next; all=so how poor tom hartstonge dothe w^t his arme, whether he can stur it or is Like to haue any vse of it, I pray god sends me good tidinges of you all; I pray the com[m]end me very kindly to the most worthy docter; and to good Mr Roberts: and thy owne self. though Last of all yet not least of all, to me; espetially heeringe of thy well doinge, which dothe so much comfort me, as I will not hide from the, the content I take in it:

the which I am parswaded, will rayther incouredge the to goe on in virtuous Causes / then be any cawse to procure neglect to the; for good minds are allways drawn on by good means, farwell my deer will: for this time the blesinge of god the father sonne and holy sperit be euer more vpon the, and vs all: /

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{Folio 247 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston these at his Lodginge Corpus Cristy Colledge
Cambridg

My good Child the Lord of infinite mercy blese the for ever more, and I humbly thanke him for thy good healthe which he have given to the in this sikely seson which is an extrodinary mercy to the and me shewed, blessed be his holy name therfor, and I pray the doe not fayll to render most humble thanks vnto his majestie on thy bared knees from the ground of thy harte: in thy Closit privat-ly by thy own self . when non may heer or see the, but hee alone who searchethe the harte and the raynes : and then I haue no doupt but he will be pleased to continew his good favor vnto the, even to thy end ; and at thy end:/ I reioyce at the many testimonys of the thy Ciuell and good demenur; which thy good tutor affore-dethe the, I pray the still haue a Care, still to giue him all satisfaction, for I know he studieth thy welfare every way . and allthough learninge coms not easily to every one. yett to those which, haue a loue to it, it is of all things most delightfull beinge onc gayned, studie now therfore, a fewe yeers, and I haue no doupt, but through the good blesinge of god and thy good in devor but thou shalt easely atayne to it .-/ thy good father remember his loue to the, and he is very ill agayne with the truble in his legge but otherwis I thanke my. god well thy prety brother haue bine this 3. weeks petifully te terified with an ague, but I trust his fitts doe now, I hope, begine to shorten, he haue bine a most patient enduror of a great dell of truble; and I haue a good hope he shall be

{Folio 250 verso}

very well agayn :/ Tom: Harston is com hom agayne, and I am very glad to se that he haue so much strength in his arme, for I did fear he had bine starke lame of it but I haue now good hop of it; on munday Mr Croke I thinke; will take it in hand, first by Phisike and after by applieng strengthy things to it :/ I like it not a mis, that you haue stayed his younger brother, if he will doe but suply his brothers plase till hee com backe agayne : which shallbe as soon as cane be conveniently :/ lett your linin be very well ayred before it come on your backe or on your body, for it is very howlsum : I am glad of thy offten wrightinge to the agayne; I had sent Haggin the last weeke to the, with my letters but that I se Tom. harts: frindes had great desire to haue him hom : and I had no warninge of ther purposed day of sending not a quarter of an hower : so I defered wrighting till I did se him :/ Sweet Will: the Lord Blese the still, for thou arte to me a great comfort ~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXX~~so longe as thow doest so well and beest so well, and thy Const_____ purposes to contine in the good Coorses comforthe my harte and sowle : for what is ther in this liffe which can Joy me so much as the perseveranc in all good Coorses farwell sweet harte for thus time in great hast as may be / thy most louinge Mothe[r] Katherine Paston

{written up left-hand margin of page} I send 2 boxes of marmelate on to Mr
Roberts on to the by father Johnsons: but he haue no letter. for that Philup will be
with you first :/

{Folio 251 verso}

To my deerest sonne Will: Paston these at his lodginge Cambridge
phillip 4: April

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 252 recto

My sweet will: the Lord blese the ever I beinge at Norwich, haue mett with thy Louinge lettere and kinde tokens, and I thanke the for thy loue, I am very glad to heer by every letter that thy good health continuethe, as allso thy stedy purpos to be a comfortable and a good child, I besech the allmighty to assist the with his blessed and holy spirit) to perseuer in his feare the which will guide the in every good and perfitt way :/ I am glad to wright to the though it will be a short letter: for my wearynes, and small time to stay heer might haue exopsed me at this time of wrightinge: but I will not omite on weeke (with out a great lett:) wrightinge to the till I se the, I pray the Commend me very kindly to good Mr Roberts and thanke him I pray the for his comfortable and kind letter/ and good chilld haue a care still to be rulled by his good Cownsell and direck-tions, I know asuredly it doe mightly Conscern thy good every way :/

I wright this as much in hast as may be: with a pen of my Cosine Cooks which I think haue writen many an indenture, it {^is} but a bad on and my hast makes it not better

{written up left-hand margin of page} farwell to thy deer selfe) Christ Jesus blese the evermore: thy good father I thanke god is finely well and thy prety brothers fitts are sumwhat qualyfied, farwell agayne and agayne thy most louinge Mother Katherine Paston

{Folio 253 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston these at Corpus Cristy Colledge these Cambridge

April the 12 Cowell

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 254 recto

My good childd the Lord Jhesus Christ blese the ever more: I haue receiued thy louinge lines together *with* Mr Roberts letter by your honest pedder and I feare I shall disapoynt him this weeke for this youthe will not be sayd nay. but must haue a letter for you and I doe not vnwillingly wright by him but by way of prevention only that whearas you wear desirous to make a speedy Jorny and a suddine return together *with* thy tutor: I pray the to forbere yett a whill from cominge: for so it is that two or 3: of our company haue bine of late exedingly ill to Agus Cowld and swelld fase so that I haue bine faynt to make vse of thy chamber for some of our Company. not knowinge what shifft to haue made *with* out it: I have sent for Mr Birch who haue bine heer ever sinc thursday Last: and he liethe in your brother toms chamber. and tom I haue sent to my Cosine Coke his howse till Mr Birch his returne : and the he com back in the cotch. this poor shifft am faynt to make for Lodginge. so that if thow sholdest now com. it wold be very vnseaso-nable. I trust the lord will bringe vs safe to paston whear I haue wished me full many a time: If I heer any news from paston on wedensday by George prowse who is then to com I will send the an other letter by the pedder but if I heer not from thenc then take this for all :/ farwell my good *william* I pray the remembr my loue to thy owne

{written up left-hand margin of page} selfe and Cosine Robine. and forgett me not to thy tutore in all hast. by thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

I shold be glad of a quire of gillt paper. I will be in your dept for it.

{Folio 255 verso}

To my most deere sonne William Paston these Corp: Christie Coll: Cambridge
Payd 4d :/

my good child Christ Jhesus blese the ever more I thanke gos I can now tell the that we are preparinge home . and hope to be there before Easter. if thou sholdest now come to pagraue, thou sholdest not finde a lodginge for we pake all a way John borows is extremly ill I feare he will hardly eskafe it. I doe not know what to thinke exept he be in a consumtion. I in tend to send him home first :/ at this time is your cosine betty mondeford at pagraue. my sister haue sente very kindly to se me. and I haue rec: from her: 3 or 4 kinde letters ~~ffrom her~~ very latly of which I am very glad :/

I have a great desire that thou sholdest receive te holy Communion in that plase, I: wold not for any thinge you shold com away before that time: I hope you haue the good docter wallsalls his diections for preparinge your self before that time./

I could be most glad allways to haue the at home with me, but sure it can not be so good for the to be at home, as to be ther . I know if thou doest make good vse of thy time ther, in any resonable measure: it maye doe the good all the days of the liffe; besides: ther is that soscietie which thou delitest in the wante of which at home dothe make the loue to be much abroad and maye bringe those in conveniencis whoch I wold be sory for: conscider; who is ther to keep the company and it wold as much dislike me to haue the as yett / to wander to much abroad. / for the loue of god settell thy minde to continew ther wher most likelyhood is of most good for thi self: then will I not be agaynst thy cominge home sometime to se thy frinde. [an]d if soon affter Easter {damaged}

{written up left-hand margin of page} sholdest make a Jorny. I will not be agaynst it. but doe not com to tary longe. vntil neer whittsontid:/ this is my minde and desire. I hope it shal well sute with thyne./ I had thought to haue written to Mr Roberts at this time. but my nec Betty haue prev[en]-ted me with her pleasinge Company :/ so I am faynt to take the oppertunty of diuer time to wright this to the - / farwell good will: I pray the Lorde increase in the all mercys and grases to thy liues end :/ I pray the remember me to thy good tutor thy most louinge mother
K. P:/

{Folio 257 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston these at his Lodginge Corp: Cristy Colledge
Cambridge

My good child. I pray god be thy giude in all things: / the time now aprochethe that I shall expect thy promis of coming hom: and I hope nothinge but the acte of god shall keep the from me: for in that case promises are to be dispensed _____ all: and if deepe snows or glasinge lcie ways be: then if frostinge of horses will not searve. I aduis the to tary god his Laysur and pleasur:/ but if you may venture now: then I haue appoynted C_____ to attend the heather I pray the haue a great care of ridinge too fast: for in that is apparent danger:/ I shall be very glad to se the heer Saffly ariued / honest Mr Munday was heer and com wthin two days of thy tutor which for Lodinge sake I was glad thay did not meet heer together:/

Mr Smithe and his wife are gone home I pray god be ther saffgard :/ and restore healthe to the poor towne of paston:/ I pray the com[m]and me to Sr Jo: He: and all the rest of our well wishing frindes | whether so euer thow goest :/ and I beseech god to blese the body and sowll: in this and in the wold to come :/ com[mend] me to honst Ro bell: I hope thow willt bringg? Him agayne to the:/ and so farwell Late to night:/

[by] the most Louinge

[mo]ther Ka Paston

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 260 recto

My good child the lords mercy and blesinge be evermore vpon the: I will wright these twe ore three lines to lett the knowe that I did resceive thy kinde letter by John borows and allso) that I thinke not to wright any more to the till I see the, which willbe in the latter ende of the weeke. affter easter weeke if god lett me not: till when and for ever I pray as I begane that the blesinge of god Allmighty the father the sonne and most blesed spiritt preserve the body and sowll from all evell: I pray the *remember* me to the most worthy good doctor I thanke him for wrightinge to me: comend me Likeuis to thy good tutor and so in hast I bide the farewell good Will: /

thy most Louinge mother Katherine Paston

good friday :/

{Folio 261 verso}

To my deerest sonne *William Paston* these at his lodginge in Corp: Christie Coll: at *Cambridge*

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 262 recto

My good childd the Lord blese the ever :/ I was glad to heer by Phillup of thy good
healthe and allso by Mr Roberts letter to vnderstand of thy wellfare every way: the
hope of {^the continuanc of} which dothe {^still} cheer me every way :/ thy father
have bine very ill with his owld tru-ble in his legge so that he haue kepte his bede
with it this 5: or 6: days . but now god be thanked it is on the mendinge hand but
yett he can not indure to sitt vp :/ your brother and all good frindes heer are well,
I hope thow doest keep good fiers . this cowld wether. for it is bothe comfortable
and howlsum : heer have bine much lose heerabout with these great windes and ill
wether; divers botts with wheat which was to be deliuered for the kinges provision
at Yarmouth ____: sunke in the riuer, which is the owners lose and not the kings :/
I was sory to heer of tom harstons beinge ill, but hope well of his recovery: I did
wright to the last satterday when I has very littell time to say any thinge for hast:
Commend me very kindly to good Mr Roberts I doe not know how the squars goe in
the mean time I pray god blese the farwell sweet harte to thy owne selfe :/ thy
most louinge mother Katherine Paston

{written up left-hand margin of page} my Neec knyvett hathe a yonge sonne and is
very well :-/

{Folio 263 verso}

To my most beloued sonne william Paston these I pray ye at Corp Christ Colledge
Cambridg

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 264 recto

My good Will: I was in hope to have seen thee this weeke, but I heer so bade newes of the increase of the sikenes at London, that although I have great ocation to haue bine ther, yett will I forbear till it shall please god in mearcy to scease it, I am sory to thinke off removing the from that good plase wher thou arte so well: nyther wold I for. any cause haue: the hom till whot wether or fear of danger provoketh me: wherfor I haue leaft it to Mr Roberts best conscideration: for I am so lothe thou sholdest loose thy time *wit^h* beng at hom, and I am lothe likewise to haue you be ill at ease ther wherfor if thou sholdest com hom soone. I pray the resolute *wit^h* thy selfe to apply thy self strictly. to Certine howers tasks every day, otherwis I am afrayd thou sholdest be wonderfully hindered in thy learninge :/ but if therbe just cause of feare of faringe, and that you will purpos to settle: thy self to par-forme my desire, then com and wellcom and if you hier hacknys com very easy jornys: but if you wold be sent for then lett me know in thy next :-/

{written up left-hand margin of page} far ^ well my good child the allmighty of his infinite mercy blese preserue and kepe the and vs all for his mery sake: thy most louinge mother Katherine Paston

{Folio 265 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston these at his lodging at Corp Cri: Coll:
Cambridge :/ pd

xxiil ____ Cowell

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 266 recto

My good chilld the Lord Jhesus Christ blese the ever more. I must needs put the in minde to be very carfull of thy selfe this arshe cowld and blacke wether take heed thy new sute be made warme enough Least cowld: be taken vpon shiftinge of clothes. and as great care is to be taken. for thy body: so much more for that pretious sowle every foot a good motion a good thought in thy harte: in that company. so ever thow beest in: thow shalt not be a whitt the les mery but a great deall the more :/ I looke on wedensday com sennight to se the if it please god :/ Mr Cawll goethe away this Friday with good man payne: but Mr Smithe tary this night hopinge Jo: Caddor haue sente for Mr Smithe :/ which if he haue not done. lett him bear it ofe with head and showlders as he can: Comend me to all good frinds with you wher so ever thow beeste: and so farewell: my good chilld: in great hast this ffriday morning thy most louing mother
Katherine Paston

{Folio 267 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston at Ketringham

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 268 recto

My good will: the Lord Jesus be thy protect-tor now and ever: I doe not know whether this my letter shall com to the, whillst that thow arte cominge homward, I pray god thow mayst doe for the best, for if thow mightest haue thy health ther as it hathe pleased the Lord, hetherto to send it the, then wold I not haue the hom till July monthe, but I leave it to good Mr Roberts, his discretion, to doe what he shall se most fitt to be done I have bought the a cooler sute to wear, as allso cloct bands but will not send them till I heer whether thow comest or no :/ I pray the remember me to the most worthy docter: and I pray the giue him great thanks from me for it :/ and likewis comend: me very kindly to good Mr Roberts: I will wright to him next if I doe not speake with him soon: and so for this time farwell my sweet will: to thy deer selfe very late thys fridy night :/ in great hast :/ thy most louinge mother
Katherine Paston

{written up left-hand margin of page} Mr Cawll desires that if Mr Roberts and you remove his sonne dick Cawll: might com hom with ye :/

never wors pen never wors paper nor wors writer :/

{Folio 269 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston at Corp: Coledge in Cambridge pd: 4___ /

Mr _____: amongst divers gentlemen of worthie ranke I haue presumed to request your self to the sollemnizacion of a mariage betwene a cople of Servantes of Lowes contynuance with mee, especially the one; whoe having had her enduration with my wife from her infancy hath bene a great motive to me, to engage my self to divers of my frends and neighbours, for ther better preferment. And amongst the rest I haue cast myne eye vpon your self whose worth of know to be such, as either freely to restore the pledge, or els to make me able to be a redeemer of it againe vpon the like occasion, which I wilbe willing and ready to performe vpon the least oportunitie that presentes it self vnto mee./ But if I may not enioy your personall presence vpon that day, being the xijth of July next on Thursday, at the white hart in Stowmarkett, I shall then be noe Recusont of your loue, and be allwayes studious to de_____ it so great a love to your self I rest

July 1626./

Your louing ffrend

Wheras we have longe since Receiued Lettres from the Right honourable Earle of Arrundell & Surrey, Lord Liuetennant of this county _____ for _____ view ande supply to be made of all the _____ both of horse and ffoot, within this County which in fauor of the Countrey in their buisy seasons of Haysee_ and Harvest we have adventured to forbear his the same might for ~~for~~ the most parte be over pussid we had now thought good by these to requier yow to call your ffoote company within your C_____ before you and to see all desentes both in the men and the times Supplye for as ^they may be compleat by the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ xxvijth daye of September next beinge _____ daye vppon which daye we doe requier yow to pre_ent muster and Trayne them at Newe Buckenham greene _____ in which place one of will not fayle to take an exact view of the same/.

In the meane tyme we praye you to giue such _____ chardgs and demaund vnto _____ the saide Company as you maye not fayle to haue them in readinge at an howers warninge vpon all occasions and that vpon n payne of death to every of them that shall make defaulte ffor soe wee are Comanded by the Lords of the Councell to denounce vnto them/. And soe desiringe your Carefull indeauor herein wee bid you hartily farewell and rest

Your very louinge ffrindes Cha: Cornwaley Anthony Drury John Hare William de Grows
From East deerham this 15th of August 1626 2 ch. 1

We requier yow in any wise to giue Notice to the cheife Constabl^{ll} that they ~~XXXXXXXX~~ _____ mony ~~XXXXXXXX~~ to paye the muster master his allowance/

{Folio 273 verso}

To _____ very wourthy ffrinde Thomas Knyvett & his Captaine of the ffoot _____ within the Hundred of dep_____ giue theis

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 274 recto

William Paston Esquire & Lady Katherine Bertie Daughter of Robert Earl of Lindsey marriage articles He to settle an Estate of 1000L per annum & to receive for her fortune 2000L

22 June 1629 5 C 1

{Folio 274 verso and 275 recto}

Articles of agreement had and made this two and twentieth day of June in the yeare of our Lord 1629. Betweene the right honorable Earle of Lyndsey _____ Lord _____ Chambrelayne of England for and on the _____ of the honourable Lady Rodger the Lady Kathyryn Bertie eldest daughter of the said Earle or _____ parte and William Paston of Paston in the County of Norffolke Esquire on thother parte at followeth

Inprmis wheras a marriadge by godes permission is intended to be had and solemnized accordinge to the rytes of holy Church betweene the said William Paston and the said Lady Kathyryne The said William Paston for _____ his heires executors and adm-: doth grant and agree to and with the said Earle his executors and assignes by these _____ that for and in consideracion of the said marriadge and the some of the foure thowsand poundes of _____ Englishe money to be paid to the said William Paston his executors and assignes as hereafter shalbe herein expressed ____ he the said William Paston shall withall convenient speed procure soe manie mannors messuage landes and ____ as then _____ side shalbe of the yearly value of one thowsand poundes to be letten by the yeare by good and sufficient Conveyaunce in the law to be stated vpon the said William and the said Lady Kathyryne for their lifes and the life of the longer liver of them for the Joyncture of the said Lady

Item the said Earle for him his heires executors and admrs doth _____ graunt and _____ to and with the said William Paston his executors and assignes by these _____ that he the said Earle in Consideracion aforesaid shall pay vnto the said William Paston {^or his _____} the some of foure thowsand poundes before mencioned in ____ and sonne followinge namely vpon the day of the solemnization of the said marriadge the saide _____ within sixe monethes next after the said marriadge the said Earle {^to paye} the some of one thowsand poundes within sixe monethes {^_____} one other like some of one thowsand poundes of the money other part of the said foure thowsand poundes and within sixe monethes hense {{next line obscured by crease in centre of page}} thousand poundes Part of the said Joyneture shall happen not to be made as aforesaid within sixe monethes next cominge after the said marriadge had. then the first payment of the said William or his assignes is followeth and not otherwise namely the first thowsand poundes parcell thereof within sixe monethes next after the said Joyneture shalbe soe

made as aforesaid and for within everie sixe monethes next following one ^an other the like some of one thowsand poundes of like money vntill the said three thowsand poundes resadue of the said porcion of fouer thowsand poundes be by the said Earle vnto the said *William* satisfyed and paid And al the said paymentes to be made in ____ Chappell of the Roiles In wittnes wherof the parties aboue named haue hereunto mutually sett to their handes and Seales the day and yeare aforesaid

Sealed and deliuered in the presence of us *William* Paston T Holland John Paston
G__ Sammers
{Folio 275 verso}

Articles betwixt my Jo: Willughby & Mr William Paston Esq

Good Brother)

At my returne from London *wch* was *the* latter end of the last weeke, I presumed I should haue found my money paid according to your last appoyntment *wth* mee; but missing it here, and being vrged by some present necessity; wherew*th* I haue, in p[ar]te acquainted you formerley , I am bould to send this messenger my servante to you to receiue it, by whome you may safly send it, the want of it at Mickel: at *wch* time I had reason to expecte it inforced mee then to borrow 200*l*, *wch* now I must be carefull to repay and am vtterly vnprovided of p[re]sent moneys to discharge; In *wch* regard, I p[re]sume you will pardon my p[re]sent vnwonted importunity; and account mee as I am, and euer will continue

your affectionate brother ready to serve you

Tho: Pettus: /

Rackheath this 14th of November .1638. 14 C I

Sr I pray present my best seruis *wth* my wiues; to our much honored good sister; Sr John Holland, & his Lady. /

{Folio 287verso}

To his very Louing And much honored Brother Thomas Knyuett Esqr present these

Sr By a latt Ordinance of Parliament there is forthwith to be rayed fyue Hundred horse within the Associacion to be Employed aboute Grantham for defence of our ffrontiers & to be mainted foure moneths yf occasion soe require whilst Sr Thomas Ffairefax army in the west pursue the enemy. towards a happy Conclusion of the vnnaturall war the number of horse allotted vpon our Countye is One Hundred wch the Committee of both _____ by their letters hasten to the Rendevous & should haue benn there the 14th of this Instant for restrayninge Newarke fforces & preventinge of those changeable Alarums vnder wch the Cuntry suffers more then would mayntayne a steady defence, yett herein the Parliament hath benn soe willing to shewe their Care of vs & Incorage vs to our owne presetvacion as they haue passed an Ordinance for the reinburseing out of the Excise the whole charge of raysinge & paye of the horse with Interest after viijli per Cent for the forbearance in the meane tyme requiringe the members of Parliament & Committees of the respectiue Counties to take Care that the service be performed & that they would Ingadge their personall Creditt to the Renders in Observance whereof wee haue Considered what Gentlemen are most able to furnish the present money & being fully informed of your estate wee haue thought fitt to desire you without delaye to bringe into the standinge Committee of Norwch the Summe of one hundreth poundes where you shall haue security from such of them as you shall before you bringe in their proporcions required & thus prayinge you not to fayle as you tender the good of your selues & of the whole Kingdome we rest

Sr Your Asured Loveinge ffreinds

J Hobarte, W Paston, J Potts, Tho: Sotherton, Fran: Gardy, Tho: Gaudy, Rich Berney, Roberte Woode, [Mr Francis Neaue?]

Norwch July 16th 1645. 21 C. I.

Wee expect your answer without delay after receipt of this letter or otherwise wee shallbe enforced to returne up your name & neglect to Parliament wch may turne to your trouble.

{Folio 289 verso}

To our Assured Friend Mr Ffrances Neaue Gent at Witchengham? these present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 290 recto

Dec: 5th. 1645

Att the Comttee of lordes and Commons for advance of Money _____

Whereas *Sr Wm Paston* is assessed at two thowsand pownds for his *wch* parte, and hath paid Eleauen hundred Pownds for his 5th & or _____ at Norwich It is ordered that his assessment of 2000*l* be discharged ./

Vera Copia

Dan: Cox

Deare Aunt,

_____ be my troble for your la: _____ infernety it is my Crose that I canot waite upon you on of my cock Rayles is dead an other about it and that siuent who use it rid about bisenes haue bine at the same poynt this is watis {^but} I canot be s-atisfied to be longer ignorant of your la: health wch if it pleas god I may liue, no kinswoman you haue Aunt can be glader of, then my selfe,, tho: incapable of geuing your la: asuranc of my afection to you, I had ever a harte to loue & saue you// I can tell your la: no newes but the Armys highe declaryation, wch I p__s____ you haue sent/ 120000li they will sell out for ther yerly pay wch will be a small matr In this yere kind____ to rayse many twelue mo__ tho: it is as all things now Cared in so great a mist as fewe can see through yet ther ar so good resons geuen for it that I canot but belive your la: will ____: that our deare bretherin will come in for ther Cuntrey men, befor the end of this next month; but it is not _____ to haue it publisht/: if it be for ther aduantage to me herefor it need not be doubled, wch that Your La: may be sure it is or no hope of any action Of Christianity from them/ my pr____ is no hap____ then she haue bine but ____ is _____ think like a d_____

godalmighty pardon him & it wold be a mercy for them ____ gods will be dune ./ if ir pleas god Aunt so sone as I can get horsis & librtly from my plough ____ we will see you/ if it pleas god that I ____ till michaellmas & can gett a good Reuart for mer__ I will goe sugen sume ____ for I am not used well by sume of my Naighbors who laise most impartially the greatt burthen of quaitning _____ & any Chores ____./ Can most unequally upon me wch I dōbt not but when they want me thay will repent of, my sister stewart ____ your La: will eate mutch of the Oyle of swette Alinore & rhise, sugar Candy uery often, she begen to hare so mutch of your la: troble as makes hir uery seusable of _____ god all mighty metygatt is to your la: is me prayr & make vs hapy here-aftre wch hope is the only Cordiall in all afflictions . to deare madam

your la: truly affectionat Nece

& faythfull siruant Hobarte

Morly the 15th
of Des: 1647

my mother last weke of hand was well god be thanked

{Folio 291verso}

For my deare and honord Aunt the Lady Bell this /.

Norfolk

Paston

Ffor as much as it Apeareth vnto vs by *the* Seuerall Accompts for *the* Kings Bench & Marshalseys for the yeare of our Lord 1647: That Diuers of *the* now or late Cheife Constables in this County are in Arreare Seuerall sumes of Moneyes for quarterage or quarterly payment Contrary to *the* statute in *the* Case made & prouided, the particular(es) whereof are sett forth by *the* sayd Accompts. These are therefore to Authorize you & in his Majestys Name straightly to Charge & Comand you Imediatly vpon sight hereof to Leuye by Distresse & sale of the goods of the now or late Cheife Constablesall and Euery the sum(es) so in Arreare vpon them as aforesayd, And Also the sume of Twenty shillings for these and Euery of these seuerall Negletts in nt payment of the sayd *quarteredges* to *the* Treasurers for the Kings bench and Marshalseyes att *the* seuerall *quarter* sessions of the yeare holden for this County According to *the* statute in that Case made & prouided. And this shall be your sufficient warrant Giuen vnder our hands and seale the first day of August Anno Reg Caroli Anglie &c vicesimo quarto Anno__ Dom 1648./

To Ffrancis Heruau & Geoge yonge ___ Either of them & such as they shall Thinke fitt to make vse of with them in *the* sayd seruices, & to *the* Constables & other officers of the seuerall Townes to be Ayding & Assisting vnto them.

Noble Sr

I received *your* letter & returne you many thanks for *your* lovinge expressions to me and my daughter; It is true that I received a particuler from you by Mr C_____ & truly I was not satisfied in it not but that I did _____ you would make good *your* perticuler in the Vallewe but I found by him that you did export 4000l portion & for that portion I thought his estate offered to be soe finale, truly I intended to my daughter but 3500l but for her aduancement I would strayne my selfe to 4000l but Mr C_____ knows that when I offered 4000l I did insiste vpon 1400l *per annum* to be settled, Sr I finde by *your* letter that there is a greate dette vpon *your* estate in which I confesse you deale very _____ to expresse it soe readily, but I feare If you & I should *proceede* I should not be able to satisfie the portion soe speedly as *your* occations may require it & soe I may turne you to p[re]iudice. I should accordinge to *your* letter most willingly give you a meetinge but my occations att this p[re]sent calles me to London to supplie our selues with those things that we shall want for our settlement in the Country att Darsham & yet I ame not very fitte to travyll att p[re]sent haveinge a shire of the _____ vpon me , but I hope god willinge to returne to Ipswiche before whitsontide & the weeke after whitsontide I intend for Darsham & then I shall If you desire it give you a meetinge wheare you please & we shall then see howe things be on both sides & If we may effect a mache for the good of bothe our Children I shall be very glad of it, ffor although I have bene formerly ingagde vpon a mache for my daughter as I doute not but you have heard yet, I thinke it is quite of, but you shall knowe plenty before we meete for I doe soe vallue *your* selfe & *your* sonne that I would not drawe the least p[re]iudice vpon eyther of you & doe desire that things may be carryed very privatly vntill we meete & see howe things may be effected. And thus not beinge very well able att p[re]sent to writte muche I shall Committee you into the hands of the Allmightie & ever rest

Ipswiche 24 Aprilis./ 1654
[FB - 6.C.2
Father in Law to Sr
John Knyvett Kt of the Bath]

Your most faithfull seruant
Tho: Bedingfeild

{Folio 293 verso}
To his ever honored frende
Thomas Knyvett Esqr
att Henham hall
be these dd

Noble Sr

I received yours of the 27th p[re]sent & accordinge to your day have p[er]vsed the bookes & returned them by your sonne that you & your Counsell may p[er]vse them. I finde by your letter that you cane not finde that the estate {damaged} grandfathers will which I haue p[er]vsed & {damaged} p[re]sent we shall take the assurance as it is d{damaged} & If we finde cause of a fine we may loke at {damaged} ffor the severall mortgages to be mentioned in the assur{damaged} I see {^noe} cause for it for all of them but 500l is p[re]sen{damaged} to be taken ofe & that 500l which is to {^remayne must} be mentioned. what I have vndertaken god willinge I shall p[er]forme which is to pay this terme 2000l & 1000l a yeare after of which your sonne is to have 500l & the other 500l is to be psyd to discharge the mortgage that are to be settled are to be freed by you from all monberances(?) & I doe expect as you wer pleased to p[ro]mise att our first meetinge that your sonne should come free from all ingagement(es); I should have bene very glad to have mett with you before my goeing to London but should very vnwillingly drawe you out of Norff to the p[re]iudice of your health, I shall certenly expect your brother att London accordinge to your letter for with out him or your selfe I see not howe things should be doone, truly Sr I doe not make ant douts or scruples about the setlinge of the estate but what I conceydr(?) necessary & fittinge to be doone but desire to dispache it with the least troble that may be. And thud with my wives & my best seruice & respect(es) to your selfe & all the good Company with you I rest

Your most faithfull frend & seruant

Tho: Bedingfeild

[FB - Father in Law to Sr
John Knyvet K of the Bath]

{Folio 297 recto}

[FB- Sir Thomas Kneuet of Ashwellthorpe {deleted} Cf. Blomef. V.159-160 circa 1650-1660]

{Folio 297 verso}

To his ever honoured frend Thomas Knyvett Esqr att his house att Ashwell Thorpe p[re]sent these

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 298 Recto

Noble Sr

I vnderstandinge by your {page damaged} Knevett that you _____
_____ *that* you are well stored with spramells. imboldene me out of my grate and
Cordiall desire I haue to serue you, to intreate you *that* you will fauor me soe farr,
yf it may be *with* out preiudice to your self whose Consent I shall euer prefer in
equall ranke *with* my owne | that you will pleassure me *with* the loane of a Cople
of Retrivinge Spramells , I beinge indeede by the neglect of my servants vtterly
vnfurnished, hauinge of twenty Cople nou aboute foure or fiue Cople left to three
or foure Cast of haukes. Sr If you cann pleasure me, I shalbe a faithfull retorner of
them, and be sure what else I haue worthy *your* Consideracon you may dispose of
it as freely as your servant

Chap: Nor: 27th Sept
Hobarts

John:

Sr I beesech you oblige me soe farr as to present my best respects and service to
my worthy friend Sr John Holland and the noble Ladies whose hands I kisse

{Folio 299 verso}

To my worthy and much respected ffreend Thomas Knevett esquire theise

Quidenham

Sr

According to youre desires Sr William Doyley & Mr Baldock mett at Yarmouth 28 Decemb. Mr Rant not meeting in regard of hi[s] brothers extraordinary sickness at this p[re]sent They (after each of them had endeavored treat will seuerall of the Burgesses singly) delivered the proposalls (whereof this is a new copy) to the two bailiffs, wheupon they had a meeting of 58 p[er]sons, where after two hours debate They sent six of their Aldermen to Sr William Doyly & Mr Baldock with a positieue Negatiue to every proposall And yet it is most notoriously visible That they haue more then a desire to haue the land which makes Sr William Doyly to be so farr from despayr That he hath better hopes in doing services vnto you, and Sr William tells me he himself will write to you more p[ar]ticulers by the next I haue no more But that in this and in all other your command I rest

Your most faythfull servant

John Whyting

Yarmouth Decemb. 31 1658

{Folio 301 verso}

For his much honored freind Sr William Paston Baronet at Queen Street These

4d

Norff.

Grand Jury Chamber September the. 3rd: 1661

At A meeting of the Deputy *Leitenants* of this County then present _____

Horatio Lord Townshend
Thomas Lord Richardson
Sir Phillip Wodehowse
Sir Robert Kemp

Sir John Knyvett
Sir Edward Walpole
Sir Thomas Rant?
John Windham Esquire

It is then agreed by the deputy *Leitenants* mett there. That there be a viewe & muster of

All the forces of this County/ Horse & foote vpon the dait(es) & at the plase(s) hereafter sett downe Vizt.

September 3rd 1661

Then ordered to muster as followeble. Vizt

Deputy *Leitenant*(es)

The Muster at yarmouth the:23:th}
Of September being Monday }

Tho Lord Richardson
Sir Robert Kemp
Sir John Knyevtt
Sir William Doily

Horse. Captaine Cattelyn? his Troope at Lingwood Heath.	Sir William Doily his Regiment Vizt Blomefeild, Walsham, East & west fflegg at Lingwood Heath September the 24 th being Tuesday.	Tho Lord Richardson Sir Robert Kemp
--	--	--

Sir Robert Kemp his at Bedingham Holmes	Loddon, Clavering, Earsham, & Henstead at Bedingham Holmes the 25 th of Septr being Wednesday. /	Sir William Doily Sir John Knyevtt
---	---	---------------------------------------

Capt Guy Von his Troope at Heydon Olland(es) the 30 th of Sept	The Lord Richardson his Regiment Vizt Eynsford, Millford, Comstead & South Erpingham the 30 th of September at Heydon Olland(es). /	Tho Lord Richardson Sir Phillip Wodehouse
--	---	--

Sir James Astley his Troope at Heydon Olland(es) the 30 th of Septr	Holt North Erpingham & Happing at Heydon Olland(es) the 30 th of September...	Sir William Doily & John Windham Esquire..
---	--	---

The Lord Townshend Townshend his Troope at	Sir Ralphe Hart his Regiment vizt Gallow Burther__ss, Laundwitch	The Lord
--	---	----------

Hempton Greene. Smithdon & North Greenhead at Sir Ralph Hart
Hempton Greene the first of October
Being Tuesday ./ Sir Edw: Walpole

Sir William Hobell Clockclose?, ffeebridg Marshland Sir Char Mordaunt
His at Cottrell Heath. ___ Lynn at Cottrell Heath the
second of October being Wednesday

{Folio 302 verso}

A Copie of the Lord Leitenantes lre to the Deputy
Leitenantes of Norff.

Sirs

I transmitt to you A Copie of the Lord(es) of the Councill(es) Lord to mee, & I knowe you will praise the importance of the service & though there might be some reasons of delay off putting all in Areadines & good pasture? upon former letters yet the late Art of Parliament having declared his Majesties auncient vndoubted right to the Militia, & for the p[re]sent Government if it resorted to his Majesties Instructions. It will ill become vs nowe to be found backward or negligent in this servise. And therefore to p[re]sent all surprizall(es) ___ indices that may come to the publique peace. I pray you yo give mee A speedy Accompt of the State & readines of his Majesties forces both horse & foote in your County, & what other _____ you make either vpon p[er]sons or thing(es) that tend to the publique disturbance And that you vigorously with your moderacion & prudence pursue all thinges that tend vnto the p[re]serving the peace of the Nation, & observing this letter of the Lord(es) of his Majesties Councill. which noe way doubting I rest

Southhampton house the
22th of August 1661

Tho: Southampton

A Copie of the Deputy Leitenants lettre in answere to the Lord Leitenants
lettre

My Lord

Wee have read your Lordshipps lettre of the 22:th of _____ Monthe
wherein you are pleased to require of as A speedy Accompt of the State & readines
of his Majesties forces in these Counties of Norff & Norwich both or none of them
in such

d_____ as may be most for the ease of the County & with as much speede as the
season of the Yeare & the occasions of the Countrey will p[er]mitt. It is nowe not
onely & firstly but a very busy tyme. the. middle of Harvest & wee are desirous to
spare the Countrey till that be finished. But wee hope sooneafterto give your
Lordshipp such an Accompt both of the number & Con디션 of our C_____
band(es) as well geve good satisfaction to your Lordshipp. In the meane tyme we
shall not be wanting to be very vigilant & industrious for p[re]serving the past? &
observant of all the Commands in your Lordshipps & the Lord(es) of the
Councill(es) lettres & remaine

Sept 3o: 1661

My Lord

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 303 recto

King	L	L Peterborowe{deleted}	
Queene	M	Douegary	27
Duke	N	Ld Danby	28
Dutchess	O	L Anglesey	29
Ld Hyde	+	H Sauille	30
Brounskill	1	Ld Sunderland	31
C Werdene?	2		
Offices	3		
Greenwa_?	4		
D of Portsmouth	5		
Mrs Knight	6		
Sr Robt Clayton	7		
Ld Hallifax	8		
Ld Peeterborowe	9		
Ld Townshend	10		
Sr J Hobart	11		
Attarney Genrall	12		
Tresury	13		
Report	14		
Well	15		
Ill	16		
Fals	17		
Taylor	18		
Bucinon?	19		
Friend	20		
Enemy	21		
Trusted	22		
D of Norfolk	23		
Ld Arundell	24		
Norwch	25		
Charter	26		

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 304 recto

The King ▽
 The Queene □
 The Duke **
 The Dutchess ♀
 My Ld Treat H
 My Lady Danby -°
 Lady Shrewsbury D
 Dutchess of Ports P
 Mouth
 Peregrine Bertie ≡
 Sir John Clayton ∞
 That concerne ∴
 of ours-----
 Sr John Pettus ∴
 Sr Francis Compton ∴
 The Bp of London ♁
 Brounschill ♁
 Hildersly ♁
 Brounescills affaire ℥
 Sr Henry Bedingfeld ⌘
the Elder
 My Lady Bedingfeld ∩
 Sr Henry Bedingfeld ∩
 younger
 Ld Peeterborough ↻
 Lady Peterborough ⊕
 My Ld Bathe ⊕
 My Lady Bathe o
 My Lady Shannon ♁
 Daughter Paston m
 Son Paston ψ
 That business X
 Ms? Rogers ∩∩
 Mrs Knight ↑↓

My Lord Yarmouth 7
My Lady Yarmouth 6

{Folio 305verso}

Lord Privy Seal 88
 Lord Chanselr —
 Prest? —
 Mr _____ —

[different hand - Cyphers]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 307 recto

My Deare

If I should tell you *the* difficulties and disappointments I lie vnder you would pittie mee butt I hope to surmou[n]t them all and give a good accoum{^pt} of my iourney att last and hope in a fortnights time more to be soe happie as to kiss *your* hands with a sereene browe

The Painter coms away in *the* Thursdays Coach on Saterdag you must send an horse to Norwich for him

Yesterday I solemnelie Kept my Wedding day with Sr John Holland and diuerse of my friends I had 15 pies in a dish

My Deare I onelie sett pen to paper to keep my word everie post and for hast beg *your* excuse till *the* next post who am for ever

Your passionate lover & servant

Robert Paston:

June *the* 16: 1666:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 308 recto

Sr/ X:ber *the* 10th: 66

The Scotch Rebels I peresive are dispersd it hath given a sufficient {^proofs} of *the* profoundly imbib'd malice of *the* Presbyterian Principle which certainly is not less to be suspected than *the* Popish: my Ld: Willoby's being lost in an Hericane Since *your* Lett: hath been otherwise re-ported *which* I wish may be true; I hope at X:tmas to se *you* in *the* Country, if *you* come not down, let me send for my Nephew Rob:t to my House where he shall be very welcome to

Sr

Yr most ffaithfull humble Servant

Bacon:

{Folio 309 verso}

These present To the Ho:ble Sr George Reve Knt: & Bart: A Member of Parl:mt

London

Madam

The sence I had of *your* Ladyships displeasure was impossible to have bin removed without som assurance, *that your* ladyship had a right vnderstanding of *the* exreamities, that haue bin put upon me in *the* advance of my rent to so extract a pitch, & proportion: as to exclude thos reserves, *which* I only designed where I thought my selfe so much obliged, this misfortune reduced me to ingenious confessions, *which* have bin so generously apreheended by *your* Ladyship; that I must with silence & admiration consider a bounty in you beyond all things of example madam I am humbly to acknowledge *your* favor in *the* removal of the stop through *your* intercession to his Majesty. The consideration of my owne disadvantage in *the* advance of *the* thing doth only trouble me in denying me those ways of Gratitude I had propounded. Madam I must make it my industrie to be servicable to you all my life, to shew the devotion I have for my Lady Castlemaine to be beyond any thing but her owne obligations, which shall ever be owned by all my relations to *the* world, & by my self with all the industry & gratitude that any occation can offer to

Madam

Your most obedient & most

humble servant R Paston

october 30th

{Folio 310 verso}

These Present

To *the* Right Honorable The Countess of Castlemaine

coppie sent Octobr *the* 30 1667:

Madame

When I waited on my Lord Chancellor yesterday morninge I found the Patent was not brought engrost from the Pattent office, and that morninge alsoe A Caveat was putt in from Steel my Lord therefore tooke the opportunity to send word that the Pattent was to be brought to the seale to morrow in the afternoone. and then any one from Mr Steel might be heard; but told mee priuately that the King had been soe kind to mee as to Commaund him what euer pretentions or Caveat there was to seale it; for whoeuer opposd it. I shoud haue his title, and accordingly my Lord promist woud appoint Steel an houre, after this I tooke care and sent away Taylor to the Pattent office

{Folio 311 verso}

with my Lord Chancellors Receipt; soe that it will not faile I hope to be seald on {= deleted} to morrow in the afternoone of which you shall not faile to haue notice this is the full account at present which can be giuen *your Ladyship* from

Madame

Your Ladyships

Most humble and faithfull Servant

my wife presents her {^humblest} servise to *your Ladyship* and hopes my writings will excuse hers

Ro: Howard

Honoured Sir

I have got 1000 of the Encouragements printed as alsoe the direccions for the building for *which* I have paid and have them ready to send downe. I have likewise bought a Chaine for you setting out *your* ground: I have discoursed *your* bussinesse to one Mr Ffeige an Industrious honest p[er]son formerly entertained by my ffather and his Partners as Overseer of their Mines & Workes who doth will understand the dealing with workemen and buildings He alsoe doth understand the nature of Brickkills anf will be a verie fit p[er]son to be entertained by you to be resident at Yaremouth. I shall see when I come downe what Brick grounds you have And if it happen as (I doe not question but it will) That you have a convenient Play about Little Yaremouth It will turne to a verie good accompt to you And you able to afford Bricks 1s or 2s in *the* 1000. cheaper then any else by reason of the easinesse of carriage: As I intend (God willing) to settle your businesse you shall not feare to be any looser by your Brickill ffor you may have p[er]sons that will find all materialls making and burning for 6s & 6d or 7s a thousand *which* if you sell at 10s from the Killt is very considerable p[ro]ffite and 2s cheap[er] then others can reasonably affords This Person is fit for any service of this nature If you thinke it convenient that he shall come downe ____ you beginne at Yarmouth I will send him by sea thither as soone as I heare from you where I will informe him of the whole scope of the designe of the building soe as he shall be able to doe you good service therein I desire that their may be noe failer of the money as you spake of before I come downe *which* I think will be either one ffriday Or monday come seavennight but am entertaine wither by Oxnead or not But shall give you by *the* next accompt Pray let me know what things you will have sent you and by whome Soe desiring nothing more at p[re]sent But that this may kisse your hand safely arrived at Oxnead with your go{deleted} Vertuous Lady & Daughter & the rest of your good family to whome I desire my humble service may be p[re]sented

{written up left-hand margin of page}

I subscribe my self

Your most humble devoted servante

Ste: Primatt

Inner Temple {1}o Aug 68

Pray direct_____

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 314 recto

To the Kings most Excellent *Majesty*

The Humble Adresse of the Mayor Aldermen and Common Councill men of *your Majesty*s Burgh of Great Yarmouth in the County of Norffolk

We *your Majesty*s most loyall and dutifull Subjects being intirely satisfy'd in *your* Royall care to preserve all *your* people in their Rights libertyes and propertyes as appears in all *your* repeated Acts of grace and more especally in *your Majesty*s late Royall Declaration do heartily offer to *your Majesty* our most humble thanks for the same And do assure *your Majesty* of our lives and fortunes in the Vindication of *your Honour* and preservation of *your Majesty*s sacred person and government beseeching God long to blesse and preserve *your Majesty* to reign over us in health peace and prosperity . / .

[FB- after the Charter

Of 20. Char. II 1668]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 315 recto

Jo: Cartwright

Rico Garret

Jo: Basse

Will woods. lye low water marke

___ & Tho: schilcher bye Baylisses making

& Will Lowes -- abanker *the* ___ forside

I distants will: Lowe, & Dawes

Flatye downe build Jeffries Jane *the* lukeing

dame Barratts key.

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 316 recto

Memorand That I *Sir Robert Paston Knight* and *Baronett Doe* hereby impower and authorize *John Sandford Gent* to collect recover & receive All my Rents for all my *Mannors Lands Tenements & hereditaments whatsoever* in the Counteys of *Norfolke & Suffolke* and in either of them, which shalbe due and in acordance upon the ffeast day of *St Michaell the Archangell* next comeing after the date hereof And to make and give acquittances for the same Neverthelesse In Trust that the said *John Sandford* shall thereout pay and satisfie vnto *Mr Ffrancis Ffleximer* A Debt of Two Hundred Pounds and all interest thereof which is due unto him by Bond wherein I the saide *Sir Robert Paston*, *The Lady Mary Clayton* and the said *John Sandford* are? & stand bound unto him in fower hundred pounds (which Bond beareth date with these p[re]sents) And upon further trust that the said *John Sandford* doe pay the residue of the said rents unto mee the said *Sir Robert Paston* my *Executors* and assigns In wittnesse whereof I the said *Sir Robert Paston* haue hereunto sett my hands & seales the thirteenth day of *Aprill Anno Domini 1670 22d* Car 2d xr

Sealed 7 Deliuered in *the*

Robert Paston

P[re]sence of *Ric Hawkins*

Will: *Dalton* dd his *Servant*

Sir ,

I haue receiu'd *the* favour of your letter with *the* in-closed Dupilcate *which* might have been much better dispatched from Norwich to London then to haue taken its way by Ox-nead to your trouble, but I can well excuse my share in it since it brought mee *the* advantage of heareing of your & your families welfare, And for your sake I shall take charge of it, Though it comes after I haue sent away *the* other three Hundreds to *the* Exchecquer.

Sir The waters *which* are soe strong to make a sober man drunke, may make a modest man bold, And raise his temper to *the* same effects *that* wine dose, And with this addi-tion *that* we haue not only *the* company but authority of *the* Divine & physician on our side, Besides *the* Ladyes who daylie increase uppon us, And *that* is *the* reason why I prez-sume to begg once more *the* favour of your Tent: The truth is our Company is now growne soe great, & our house is soe smale, That *the* least ventulation or {deleted} casckade from *the* modest sex is beleiu'd by them to bee heard by us, *which* causes an extreordinary flusshing, or els dangerous fumes: I know sir you are {^the} civillest person liuing to *that* tender sex, And therefore uppon their account I am much more cone-fident of success then from *the* title I can pretend to in your favour though I am really

Your most humble & faithfull Servant.

J Hobart

Blickling July *the* 24th 1671.

Sir I begg *the* honour to kiss my Ladyes handes, Soe doe all our company to you both.

{written down left hand margin of page}

Sir if you doe not forbid mee because every day is precious I shall presume to send a carriag for your Tent tomorrow morning And take greater care then last tyme in *the* speedy returne

[FB - 23 C 2.]

Sir Robert

I am hartie glad your wife is upon her Jurny pry god send heer well hether and
blese your desier I was yestur day at westmester hatt to atend your bisines with
Cornwalis we had in thursday and another of his aquintince I gaue them tham ffor
and the best knolidg I D_____ in the bisenes, which the offer was uerie glad to
heer, for he had bin in the dark befor I shoud the right and truly he has bin uerie
kind and Carfull. with loue and afextion to do his utermost to serue you and Mr
bulard is a most Carfull man. has bin _____ with me, and met me at m_r
th_____ Chambar ___ to Consulit before the trial. nou to tell you the ___ was that
my Lord keeper reseue it to be _____ by a mastar ofe the Chansrie and than to
haue him giue the repeat, but had it not bin fore Cornwalis that toute my lord that
he had a letar undar sir robart paston hand that you do haue onn the Est. of 200l_i
to --___ inn {^itt} _____, other wais the bisines had you or your sid, non sir I
remember there was some thing sayd of suchathing formarly

But I take it you did than show me a Copie of the letar you sent him fore God sake
iff you haue it by you send it mee by the next post, if we can git the dau doute not
but it will be a boue 200l_i in your purse, iff you giue me helth hop to liue to see
you in a betre Comession than at present be for a nothr year com about, for there
is no certean thing so much consrne me as the repitation of your famely. And do
protest to god neuer any losse or affliction I haue met with in this world has so
Deply _____ my soull. the lat troubill her fall upon you. but do not in the lest
despair but to liue to see them betre which is the Daly prair ofe sir Robart

your most afxnit

mothr and humbill

servant Mary Clayton

{folio 319 verso}

Thes for the honorabill

sir Robart Paston at

his house in Oxnett

norfuck

My Lord

Though I haue not *the* Honour to know your *Lordship* but by your great meritts, yet having seen yours of the 6th and 8th instant to Mr Tailor wherein you are pleased to expresse a great and exem-~~p~~lary charity towards this poor & almost ruind Cathedrall; I thought it my duty to giue your *Lordship* and Sir Robert Howard our very hearty thanks for your benignity unto us therein expressed, and doe wish wee were in any capacity to doe your Honours answerable services especially in the Lands of Steele, whom wee haue alwayes looked on as a person so disloyall to *the* king, and injurious to *the* Churc, that wee should not reioice at his *Majesties* translation of them from him into such noble and faythfull hands as your Honours; if my Lord of Derby the late rightfull possessour of them (to whom wee all lye under very many obligations, and none of us under greater then myselfe ha-ving by the favour of his Honourable Father been p[ro]moted unto *the* Bishoprick of Soder and Mann, and by whom, as I haue heard by my late dear Brother Sir Orlando Bridgeman and others, they were uniuistly extorted and detained by his oppression and fraud) shall giue us our free liberty of assent and concurrence with your Honours, to whom therefore wee humbly begge your Honours permission that wee may make our su-~~t~~able and seasonable application in this particular, it being as a becoming civility in my brethren of *the* Chapter, so but a necessary duty in mee who am under such circumstances to acquitt myselfe unto such a Patron, as becomes

{Folio 321 verso}

The Deanes Letter {^to} the Earle of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 322 recto

[later hand - before 1673]

November 30th

Deare *Sir* Robert

I haue bin so harrassed *with* my owne & otherfolkes buisnesse that till now I had no oportu-nity to write to you: my Sister is very well but so afflicted for her son Will, that nothing would give her satisfaction, but to send purposely to Angers to know how he does, & this morning I haue sent away my man Catterall to give vs true information of all things, & with much adoe haue borrowed 100li - for this present occasion, wee here every {^where} very ill things of his ____ & I hope you will comply with all his frinds to help him to a better so soon as you can possibly: wee haue bina court & since visitted 3 of the Dutchesses wee find every lady very civill, this day I made Mr Williamson a visitt, to feele his passe, who I think is very cordiall, & if wee can be so fortunate as to live vpon any thing his promises all his interest & assistance to serve you, I haue acquainted my Sister *with* what I think may doe your buisnesse, & I hope wee shall find successe in it; This day I haue attended till 4 a clock to find *Sir Tho: Osb:* but cannot meet *with* him, so I can give you no farther account of the Spice, but I beleeeve in a little time it will be perfected: I am sorry don failed you of *comming* downe, but he says he will waite vpon you so soon as he can possibly, & therefore I referre all Thy misery till you see him & because wee haue no news and so Conclude *with* _____ you *thus* I am

Your most Afectionate Bro:

John Clayton

These
For the honorable *Sir*
Robert Paston *Knight* & Baronet
At Oxnead neer Norwich
Northolt

My Deare Hart

Since my last I haue beene Worcester Howse and sufficientlie caressed by *the* Chancelor, but *the* Service I haue done *the* King I must {deleted} repeat is soe greate that I am looked on in a capacitie of nott beeing denied anie thing in his Maiesties power, The King intends me personall thanks and great promises I heare, but in modestie I forbear *the* Court for a while, itt was *the* happiest opportunitie for a foundation of Somwhat considerable that ever God Almighty putt into my hands,

My Act of Parlament was read *that* second time yesterday and committed to such a committee as I could nott haue named a better I wish now from *the* Committee Chamber, Mr Crouch chairemen I de-sired itt for he did me soe signall a fauor in *the* howse in dispatching *the* second reading that everie bodie thought itt iust Sr John Holland spoke nobly for me soe did diuers others, The Regular proceedings is to giue summons to *the* towne of Yermouth to appeare to *which* purpose the milored order is sent to ____ itt on to serve *the* bayliffs withall saterday com sevenight is *the* day giuen them, feare nott *the* success with all

{Folio 324 verso}

the aduantage imaginable I hope *the* _____ att Christmas will relish with *the* most gratefull ____ and that we ever had, in this world I neuer had soe much satisfaction as to haue served my master soe eminently

The Hog is arriued Ile send John lea-man downe this weeke

The day I hope to com downe on will be *the* twentie second of December if nott *the* next day after Christmas day as *the* necessitie of my affaires requires then Ile send bellie before But I must be up againe in ten or twelve dayes for I must nott be out of *the* Kings eie this Parlament when I com *which* I long for Ile tell you all, for my bill I make itt noe request to *the* King I keep *that* for somewhat Els

My deare I long to see thee if what I write cannott cheere you nothing will This day an accident fill out to one of *our* members Sir Richard Everard as he was goeing home his brother in law drew uppon him & cutt him ouer *the* path how this will be ri-sented we knowe nott I beelieve The Dowager familie blese to heare my name in everieons

{continued up right hand margin of the page}

mouth & that *the* King is soe kind heere inclosed I send you *the* orders of my bill I haue writt to Witton to com up & bring his lease, lett it ____ send me *the* counterpart, if I haue itt nott heare allreadie, my humble service to *your* mother,

my loue to *the* ____ ____ I charge yow be merrie & giue god thankes for or good
fortune Thine for ever Robt Paston Nouem: *the* 29

{along bottom of page}

direct *the* letter to *the* howse of commons ____

{Folio 325 verso}

These Present To my Honored Friend The Ladie Paston att Oxnett in Norff:

Franc Robert Paston

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 326 recto

{across top half of page}

My Deare Hart

I am faine to write on a little volume beeing much in hast and a vast deale of business lyng uppon me I haue this day beene retaining my counsell for Saturday, for that is *the* bloudie day, I haue vast friends butt must suffer all *the* opposition Yermouth can make, I haue nott beene att court yett, may thinke nott butt *that* I menage my affaires with as much prudence and policy as my pore witt can designe and when I bring anie thing to perfection Ile acquaint you with itt, butt you'l find mee struggle hard form somewhat Colthorpe, has nott Wittons lease I was with with him, I beleue Mr Earle

{Folio 326 verso}

though prattant sent me word this day hee deliuered ^{^itt} himself to Colthorpe who shewed me everie writing he had of mine this is a materiall misfortune to me if Earle whome yett I haue nott spoken with produceth itt nott, Ile write to tturton by *the* next *the* Duke is com from sea with all his gallants my deare I am_____ my affaires for *the* good of you and my posteritie of *which* on Chritmas Eve he hopes to giue you a faire

accompt who for ever remaines

Your most passionate Servant

Robert Paston

{postscript up right-hand margin of page}

Never lett a writing of mine be parted with without a note vnder *the* receiuers hand

Decem *the* 6:

{on bottom of page}

These Present To my Honored ffriend The Ladie Paston att Oxnett in Norfolk

Franck Robt Paston

My Deare Hart

Yesterday my Committee satt and I had a verie full one, my Lord Comburie and all *the* Chancelors friends were there and my counsell, *the* towne of Yermouth had verie little to alleadge a for themselves but time *which* they earnestly implored but *the* deniall of that is a thing *which* though I could haue carried against them, I was adui-sed to graunt in order to *the* cleering passing of my bill *which* is in greater forwardness then *the* Kings owne bill for *the* too millions and a halfe, soe after all my friends had named a short time I my selfe {he- deleted} stood up and desired they might haue till the Thursday after twelfe day. *which* {of- deleted} all my friends tells me is *the* greatest expedition I could haue putt to itt and now that is *the* last day of asking and barrs them of anie Idea of retardment in *the* Lords howse, witton is gone this day out of this towne full of ioy and assurance , and by agreement is to mette me att Oxnett too dayes before twelfe day for I must com away on *the* munday to be heare on *the* Wedensday for my Committee sitts one thursday and before *the* thursday after I dare assure you my act will pass, yett there are enough would oppose itt if they _____,

{Folio 327 verso}

Therefore looke uppon that as don itt beeing forwarder then *the* Kings owne bill, and will assuredly pass att *the* same time.

I haue in prospect somthing els *which* I bee-leeue may be feasible that perhapps may saue mee *the* sale of Mautby The Yermouth counsell was ouerheard by to say well you haue gotten _____ for *your* towne but I feare you will gett nothing els, they dispaire totallie and their iourney served for nothing but to lett them see itt is in vaine to contend, when I com downe I shall haue severall stories to entertaine you with, and I hope to pass *the* twelve dayes with as much satis-faction as I ever did on my life, I haue heard *the* same newse in towne you write me from Norfolke but I am wholly bent vppon profitt for my Childrens sake and I am verie confident *the* king will nott denie me anie reasonable thing,

pray send away *the* horses betimes on Sa-terday morning, for I intend to com out on Wedensday morning and to be with you if I can on Friday, therefore send me in answer to this time I intend to bring downe for Bob a suite and cote somewhat though nott quite licke his brothers therefore make him noe clothes

{continued up right-hand margin of page}

Sir William Killegrew _____ soe damnably for 19 ___ owing for wine that I was this morning constrained to giue one mr Hooker who under takes to pay him heere a bill uppon Hurton to be sent to Mr Briggs for that sum, my deare I will nott tell you

how much I long to see you little I haue *the* happiness of itt for *which* aboue all
earthly things he longs that is

My deare *your* most passionate servant

Robt Paston:

My service to *your* Mother my loue to my Children

{Folio 328 verso}

These Present
To my Honored ffrend
The Ladie Paston
att Oxnett in Norfolke

Franck
Robert Paston

My Dearest Hart

I can now tell thee most comfor-table newse *which* is that this day my business was reported in Parliament, and *the* debate las-ted manie howres extreame hott on both sides att last as {att- deleted} to *the* decision of both itt came to a question and I carried itt butt by one voyce *which* was *the* Speakers casting voyce for though I had my owne besides eightie of a side yett I relinquished that knowing *the* Speaker to be my ffriend who decided *the* quarrell for mee now {deleted} I haue hard luck if they hurt me though *the* Ingrossment comes on wedensday morning againe into *the* howse in order to itt's pass-age to *the* Lords, I haue beene with *the* Speaker since with my Lord Townshend (who is *the* best friend) I haue in *the* world,) & Sir John Holland who is a verie kind one to prevent *the* danger of future Risks, we I hope you need nott doubt to haue a finall accompt of this once in a forth-night, But that *which* is a reall ioy to mee is to find *the* King soe much concerned for me as to be much offended *that* for his sake I should run such a hazzard, when itt was over my noble Lord Fitz harding came to mee Sir Sayos hee I haue somewhat to assure you from *the* King *which* is that he is studying a way to gratifie yow, therefore lett *your* friends and your self consider Ile serue you to my utmost power my Lord Townshend has told mee *the*

{Folio 329 verso}

same againe to day and _____ me to be apeeded in declaring now I am resolved to ask somewhat that as I told you shall sett me free in *the* world and putt som money in my purse if *the* King affords me that first and _____ giue me a title too I will cheere fullie accept itt, butt I know soe much what *the* want of money is and what *the* streight ness of a fortune is yt if itt pleaseth god Ile make use of Gods providence to provide for *the* one, and doe hope in som measure to fix itt before I see thee, *which* shall be true enough to bring you up present lie after *our* Ladie day *which* I accompt *the* be-ginning of Aprill or thereabout, *that* wee may take *the* pleasure of *the* fune may iune & iuly and haue a touch of *the* Countrie and venison, August & September, my Deare feare me nott for menaging my affaire to *the* best interests, and if I once gett money I thinke I shall knowe *the* way how to liue to myself and keepe *the* maines,

As anie certaine progress goes forward you shall heare from mee and I shall propound to *your* aduice before I ask

your Brother is married butt to _____ *the* world marries againe to morrowe I write now from his lodging they all present their service my deare this will proue a chargable busi-ness to mee, butt Ile conquer itt now if I can *the* Bayliffs of Yermouth looke licke fallowe candles for this day att

{Folio 330 recto}

twelve of *the* clock they thought they had carried all cock sure

to morrowe Ile to Bluuyes and search *the* towne for Lodgings or an hower to please
you

My deare I hope *your* prayers will make him prosper who is soe full of business att
this houre beeing to goe speake with my Lord Lindsey that I haue but time to say I
am

Your most affectionate servant

Robert Paston

Feb *the* 4th:

{Folio 330 verso}

These Present

To Honored Friend

The Ladie Paston

att Oxnett in Norfolke

Franck

Robert Paston

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 331 recto

My Deare Hart

I can say nothing by this post but that I cannot com away on munday wedensday I am confident I shall, I am now running to Parsons Greene where *your* son is to be my bed fellowe my business goes well *the* broad seale will be on this night I am faine to borrow pen & inke in my Lord Arlingtons Lodging to lett you Knowes I am

Your humble servant

Rbt Paston

Lett my coach meet me on Friday att Norwich and for anie weomen to entertaine me I care for none but *your* self and desire to meet you alone att home

March *the* 24th

{Folio 332 verso}

These Present

To my Honored Friend

The Ladie Paston

att Oxnead in Norfolke

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 333 recto

[FB - 1673]

These verses are to let you Know how glad
I am at that great honour which you had
Lately conferrd uppon you, & to say
that for your further happyness I pray
It croessus son, to save his fathers head,
Being dumbe before , I spake merely out of dread;
sure Joy may doe so much <deleted> make me speak,
And at your great advancement silence break:
And what the country at this change doth doe
I may Presume, and with more reason doe.
My fathers honour that's so deare to me,
Must needs inspire me with an Eulogy.
And Lest I should be tedious, Ile it done,
And only say your most obedient son;

Thomas: Paston

[FB - Feb 1673]

My dearest Deare

I can now tell you my act is passed *the* Lords howse as well as *the* commons Yesterday mornening and the Parlament will breake up on Tuesday, and then *the* King will pass itt, The towne and my self are hea^ring to gett yett something putt into *the* bill *which* may be for both *our* aduantages butt whether wee shall agree itt or *the* thing bee don is yett a question, My Lord Townshend is fallen desperatelie ill of an impostume in his head *which* causeth fre^quent fainting fitts, and I am in som feare itt may proue dangerous, I am soe verie busie about finishing my owne affaire *that* I cannot yett giue you anie accompt of *the* wayes I designe to turne it to my aduantage, but a back friend of mine *that* Loues nott *the* Chancelor my Lord Ashley by name told *the* King this morning he would giue me four thousand pound a yeare for my bill the King re^plied he diseires itt were itt ten times as much butt I haue those will tell *the* King another tale, and in a day or too I shall be able to goe to court my self butt Ile make all sure att home first, I sent for Dickinson this morning to speake to him about what you acquainted me with

{Folio 334 verso}

butt he sayth his wife & himself are goeing into Yorkeshire this Spring soe I did nott thinke fitt to press it anie further you may gett either your Cousin Hoggan or som other *which* will be as good if nott better, May write me word if yett you haue found mrs Roch her bond if nott write a line or too *your* self to Dickinson to gett you such a release under her hand as may ____ us from *the* debt to *which* for all ought I knowe wee stand verie liable, I beleeeve I shall write *the* next week for too or three horses to com up in order so my journey downe,

Nurs Port shewes her fickle humor to leaue you now, butt were I as you I would shew my self constant neuer to admitt her againe,

I shall bespeake *the* Ringles for dishes & *the* other thing and you may please to change what you will away though I know of none you haue un^less *the* Tankards *that* are nott of *the* newest fashion

I had a verie kind letter from Will this morning I am goeing to see him shortlie I could find in my hart to bring him downe with mee beeing hee must com noe more till Christmas nor would I

{Folio 35 recto}

haue him much att London this hott weather I am glad to heare you are all well att home Sir William Argly presents his service to you and giues you thanks for sending to shottam he Swears he is *your* servant,

This day I dined with my Lord Manchester where there were an hundred & fiftie People :

The Dutch haue taken six of our Shippes about Guinny and throwne aboue 600 people ouer bord man woman & child The Post calls me in hast abruptly to say I am

Your most affectionate seruant

Robt Paston:

Feb *the* 23

{Folio 335 verso}

~~haue him much att London in *the* hott weather I am glad to heare you are all well at home~~

These Present

To my Honoured ffriend

The Ladie Paston

att Oxnett in Norfolke

Franke

Robt Paston

My Deare Hart

Victoria

If euer flesh was tired out itt is I that haue taken more paines this day then an horse, soe that you must now expect a verie Short Epistle This day my friends stuck to me and all *the* young gallants my Lord Arran & youthes *that* neuer take *the* paines to com to *the* Howse were sent by *the* King & had *the* patience to loose their dinner for *the* Yermouths mens con-fidence was soe great, as their sollicitor pro-mised noe less thn his neck if they failed to carrie itt was *the* hardest driuen battaile that ever I observed, betwixt *the* Kindness of my friends & *the* malice of my enemies in Short att foure in the afternoone wee came to *the* question whether *the* bill should pass or noe and by *the* sound I and all my frinds, thought wee {att-deleted} had lost itt butt uppon *the* descision of *the* howse I found I carried itt by thirtie voyces, soe I am past *the* malice of *the* howse of commons and must run *the* Risk of *the* howse of Lords where wee thinke there is noe danger, god be prayed for this dayes success.

{Folio 336 verso}

My Deare My Aunt Bertie is *the* best woman in *the* world and beeleeue me when you com to be acquainted with her will be as great a comfort to you as anie of *your* acquaintance, This good Ladie has beene all ouer *the* towne to looke you a conuenient howse and has found a verie Excelent braue furnished howse in Lincolnes end fields in Portugall rowe three good roomes of a Howse, now if you would write her a letter what linnen & pewter you desire she will agree for all she is a shrewd woman, Blauges Lodgins are eight pound a weeke I haue seene them and licke *the* others better and my Aunt has beaten them downe to three pound ten, and sayth she will gett *the* ten shillings abated, pray my deare take notice of her great Kindness and of anie thing to her you would haue her to doe and she will take a pride in itt, you may remember you and I were once to see Sir Thomas Osburne & my Ladie this is *the* next dore to that place but much a better furnished & finished howse, of *which* by *the* next you shall haue a pertecular description itt will accomodate that you writt for full will tis quiett good ayre Blauges a most publick & a durtie place and vastlie deare,

{continued up right hand margin of page}

the plate ~~came~~ was sent to *the* carts but this day, you will receiue them the next week They stayed for *the* Tankards, send up your plaine ones, they shall be weighed and allowed for My deare when I gett pen in hand I knowe nott where to end, Sir John had a great supper for vs att *the* Sun and there were seven hundred people att itt I thinke but my feares of yermouth made me melancholie, I hope to see thee shortlie *which* will be *the* greatest ioy that he ^{^can} vndergoe *that* is

yours for ever

Robert Paston

{Folio f.337 verso}

These Present

To my Honored ffriend

The Ladie Paston

att Oxnett in Norfolke

Francke

Robert Paston

This day Irons brought to ___

My Deare Hart

Yesterday att *the* Quakers I had Thirteene Lords and Earles dined with mee in order to my committee in *the* afternoone my Lord of Lindsey tooke a great manie home with him, soe in *the* afternoone I had att *the* committee aboute thirtie Lords and Earles Three Dukes Counsell on both sides were heard, Butt The King hath beene soe passionate for me as you neuer heard, Sent for my Lord of Dorsett who was Chaire man & my Noble friend, and bad him from him tell those Lords *that* were against mee That he would neuer breake up *the* Parlament till mine ^{^act} were past; Att last after too houres The Lords bad us withdrawe and sent for mee in, my Lord Lucas asked mee if there were anie thing in my act preiudicial to *the* kings interest, whether I would be contented to referr itt to *the* King, I told him nott onelie soe butt I would giue *the* King att his choise a peece of Land to build a fort to ^{^ keep} mee and them in awe, my Lord Lindsey stood up & sayd he would be bound I should performe what ever I sayd, then they bad me with-drawe & within a quarter of an houre whilst *the* Yermouth men & I were scolding in *the* lobbey I was called in againe & my Lord Dorsett told me from *the* rest that they thought itt nott soe fitt to impose & anie engagement uppon mee *the* king hauing expressed such a readi-ness to trust mee, and bad me giue *the* Lord speaker first that there was a fuller committee then was ever observed next that they passed my bill without amendment, and thirddie that there was nott one that gaue a

{Folio 338 verso}

negative voyce, soe I went and gaue euerie Lord perticular thanks amongst *which* *the* Duke of Buckingham & Manchester Dorsett Lucas diserved itt perticularlie, itt was gods mercie that I could gett out that day for I had kept my bed three dayes before of a cold and was verie ill though I would nott write soe to you, Tho Yermouth men grumbled licke doggs & weare they haue yett 3000ls to spend att ~~lawe~~ lawe butt I doubt they will lett me alone for acts of Parlament are prettie sure cardds there lacks nothing nowe butt *the* report to *the* howse *which* will be to morrowe or next day, and then *the* Kings passing itt *which* will be on *the* last day of *the* Sessions *which* wee expect to be tuesday next, my Deare I can by noe meanes com-ply with *your* motion of my nott comming downe I would loose *the* Pleasure of beeing att home one three weekes for anie thing I can forever, I approve *your* time of *the* tenth of Aprill against *which* time Ile accomodate you with a cleare and convenient place of abode though though where-soever you are *your* owne chamber must be of *your* owne furnishing, I see others Lodgings my Lord Townshend att foure pound ten a weeke accomodated with furniture would make one sick,

therefore if you can pick up soe much furniture that may be spared as will goe a good way in a bed & hangings you may doe *your* self a courtisie heere and Oxnett heere after

I hope to bee att home *the* middle of March

{written up right hand margin of page and Folio 339 recto}

I must see my wife & child ____ my horses & ____ cattle & grounds, for *the* obiection of my frindds comming to see mee itt is a pore one, he *that* expects to gett anie thing in this world must nott stand on such thinges, besides *the* most conuincing argument is that I beleeeve a iourney to Yermouth will be most necessarie for mee butt shall haue a further prospect into my affaires everie day and giue you an accompt, mr Henshawe is out of towne gon to waite on Sir William Backhowse att *the* Assises att Reading and I am going to my Cutt of boyld mutoun at home att a ____ and ____ for I haue kept to *that* diett this weeke all but yesterday att *the* Quakers as soone as this is digested I ma by promise to wayte on *your* sister att Sir Johns Ladie and Doctor Floyds wife to a play and *the* husbands by consent are to goe somewhere Els, pray lett mee see *your* closett up in itt's prime and entertaine mee Kindlie for *the* keeper Ile send you word by *the* next, I am affraid if I should giue him much warning he might play som Rouges trick with mee Therefore I would send one downe first that might ouersee him Whilst he doth goe then when he is gon I feare he will still shackle uppon me pray send me som of *your* considerations on this point,

for Peggs Valentine he shall haue a present sent downe by *the* Coach this week To morrowe I begin my circuit to visitt all *the* Lords in Peticular my deare I am *your* most affectionate servant

Robert Paston:

Feb *the* 21

I forgott to tell you that I haue a gallon of *the* best orange flower water in *the* world for you to drinke giuen you by mr Henshaws ____ say is I shall send itt downe or keep itt heere for you, till you com:

{Folio 339 verso}

These Present
To my Honored ffriend
The Ladie Paston
att Oxnead
in Norfolke

Francks
Robert Paston

Sir

I wayted this forenoon in the Exchequer to get your busines dispatched and *your* warrant is entered & the Debentur signed by *Sir Robert Howard*, and both mr Burges and the other Clarke thought for to have it deli-vered out to me without any further scruple but the entring Clarke would not (after a long Contest) let it pass, untill <page damaged> give him some reason why this payment ___ to <page damaged>, did not begin at Lady day 1666, from which time the patent directs it, or els in-forme the office how the Arrears have been paid, that they may not come open account with them hereafter; or if they be struck off, & not to be paid at all, why there was no such mencion made in the warrant, that something may remayn before them, to answer these obieccions hereafter, If you can give me satisfac-tion in these p[ar]ticulers, be pleased I pray to write a line or two of them, that I may have no more Rubbs to morrow in this busines, when I come to take out the Debentur from *Sir Robert Steward* office, & pass that & the warrant in the Pells, where I know the master of that office is more scrupulary than in all other places, With my humble service p[re]sented to you . I remayn

Sir

Your most humble servant

_____ 73

John Fisher

{Folio 341 verso}

These p[re]sent

To the Honourable William

Paston Esq at his lodging

at the upper house on the

right side of Suffolke Street

Mr Barnard

I knowe I shall not need to sollicite yow to promote the Election of Sir Robert Kempe your Neighbour, nor give yow reasons to induce yow to itt, Yow knoweing his worth & fittnesse to serve his Countrey in Parliament, And truly after hee was proposed soone after the death of my Lord Rychardson by my Lord Townshend with the approbation of most of *the* Gentlemen of the Countrey, T'was beleived that there would not haue bin any opposition, Butt itt is now & hath bin for sometyme reported, That there are some p[er]sons that endeard to give some disturbance by proposeing Sir Nevil Catline A very worthy Gentleman, Butt I doe knowe that by letter vnder his owne hand to my Lord Townshend hee declared, That hee will not bee _____ therein, butt on the Contrary will promote the Eleccion of Sir Robert Kempe all hee can, I am soe confident of his In_____ & worth as I assure my selfe hee doth & will abide by itt whatsoever is reported Butt itt is yett said here that there ia an Intention to sett upp some for him att the day of Election contrary to his desires & ingagement, *which* I should bee sorry to see because I am very sensible of the ill effects of a Contested Eleccion *which our* Neighbour Countrey feeles & Complaynes off, I heare some of the Clergy ___ very active & looked vpon as the Choise promoters of this intended opposition, I am heartily sorry for itt, even for the Clergies sake, for who I have had a kindnes & a due effect ffor if that they will, well consider itt, they can not butt _____ that this setting vpp a person how deserving soe ___ against his will & ingagement, *which* hee himselfe have noe reason to take well from them in opposition to the Lord Leivetennant all the deputy Leivetennants most of the Justices of the peace most of the gentlemen & p[er]sons of the greatest Interest & quality in the County itt will bee looked upon butt as an affected affectation to shew their spiritt power & Interest, which have ever till now wisely closed with that of the Gentry, *which* truly mr Barnard I doe very much feare may turne att one tyme or another extreamely to the _____ of the Church & Clergy, I heare itt is given out as many other things are falsly enough _____ to Sir Robert Kempe that hee have bin heare to say that had hee a 100 Liveings to dispose off that hee would not give any of them butt vnder Condicion of Resignacion & that this have bin muche resented whither bee have sid this or noe I knowe not, Butt this I knowe that itt have bin saide that one of the Eminentest Lawers for Banning & place that this conaty have had made this Example by those that never intended itt I knowe not where patrons shall see that those whom they Cont of kindnes & respect to their persons & parts have freely p[re]sented) shall bandy *against* them in the Choyce of a Knight of the Shire parely vpon account to putt an affront vpon them & to lett the world knowe how little power & Interest the Lord Leivetenant & Batlemen have in the County that they oppose, I doe out of my tender respect to *the* Clergie in generall wish they would tymely weigh the Consequence of this opposition & doe desire that yow who are

well knoweing & knowne amongst *your* bretheren And vpon whom I have ever looked as vpon a person sober & discreate would vse *your* Interest _____ to those of *your* acquaintance & others that are active ____ tymely to give over this attempt *which* I am Confident they will in the end _____ in & yett the opposicion highly resented, And now Mr Barnard whether yow will vse my name to any of them, haveing freely delivered my selfe out of noe other end then out of my respect to the Clergie in generall I leave itt frankely to your owne Choyce & discretion & remaine

Your affectionate freind

John Holland./

{Folio 343 verso}

A Copy of Sir Jo: Holland Letter

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 346 recto

Whitehall 11 Sepr 1675

Sir

I receiued the fauor if *your* letter of *the* 6th instant & doe assure you that if anything past bordering vpon disrespect to each other it is entirely forgotten by mee it had neuer happened & I shalbe reddy not onely to lie nott to Sir Geo: Reue vpon all occations but seruiceable to him or his _____ it shall (if euer) bee in any power I am glad mr G_____ hath bin punctuall in payment of Interest I doubt not but ___ _ mr miller in paying or securing the principle to *your* sattisfaction assoone as hee coms to age *which* miller about 15 month hence & that nill com on apace hee is now at Gorambury *which* the matter of *the* Rolls & next thither on Teusday last *which* on intention to stay ther some time but before hee quitted the place hee was uery carefull to reply to *your* Sonns letter & really his *Lordshipp* was vnder some trouble in receiuing nigh about the same time 4 addresses from Eminent ffriends & therefore his *Lordshipp* Chose not to intermeddle in the Election being vncertaine in the event & apprehensiuie of disoblidging any of his worthy Neighbours or other _____ here vpon the place of great quallity I *with* his *Lordshipp* wish to serue

{continued down left-hand margin}

Successe & you all happinesse remaining Sir *your* most humble seruant
Ste: ffox

{Folio 347 verso}
ffor the much Honoured Sir
Geo: Reue Kt & Baronett
at his house at Thwaite
by the post of Eye in Suffolke

British Library Add MS 27447
Folio 348 recto

Oct the 4 [later hand 75]

Right Honourable

I hope *your honour* hath by this receivd great satisfaction in my Lords entertainment at yarmouth for by the relation of all it was exstraordinary free & handsom I know *your honour* hath the full relation of all but the pleasure I haue in hereing make me so reioyce that I cannot pass it by in silence, on saturday Last Sir John Hubbard knowing my Lord was from home came to giue his vissitt, for his Lordship went to Buck hall the day before Sir John with all his prudence could nt but think it must needs A peice as it was ; done one purpos yett for all this my Lord was pleasd to <deleted> think of returnning the vissitt this afternoone but I think his Honour is preuented by very much companie that did come in this morning as my Lord Richardson Sir Robert Yellop & very many more, indeed I think it is noe reason my Lord should returne such A visitt for shure oxnead is much neerer then Rain_am for he could visitt there the Last weake for his Lordship Lieth sick of the Gout but the saing is fulfilled burds of A feather will flock together, this day one of the knott brook Loos & sent my Lord A pre-sant of teall it is Mr Smith who hath nether come nor sent till this day, I know *your honour* hath A much perfect^{ter} a count then is posible for me to giue for I am first to write A Line or two & then

{Folio 348 verso}

began thirefore ^I beg *your honours* pardon for the faults on this paper & what euer ells I haue at any time <deleted> inn,

Mrs Paston Mis & the two Gentlemen are very well Mis & the 2 Gentlemen desire thire dutys should be presented to *your honour* Mis begins to be mighty wild but not such words as she had before, I thank god my Lord is finly well & I belieue is better then if his honour should meddle with phisick, haueing so much companie conti-nually his his Lo^rdship cannot Atall observe himselfe he is very merry & when his honour had the flux it was not with Grips so that I hope it may doe him good, *your honour* is pleased to say my Lord Liks all things, if it be so I haue great satisfac-tion for I desire to be noe Longer at oxnead then while I can giue my Lord & honour content, I pray god giue *your honour* health & so good end to all those great concerns as hath kept *your honour* now from oxnead so that I may hope to Liue to se *your honour* againe in norfolk this is the harty desire & prayers of

Madam

Your honours Euer obedient seruant

Sus: Cooper

{Folio 349 verso}

These

For the Right honourable the Lady viscountess Yarmouth at the Golden Ball in
Suffolk street London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 356 recto

March 4th 1675/76

pardon the rudenedde of this note I haue but time enough iuste to tell you
Considering what you ar pleased to write vnto mee touching northfolk {^that} this
day good tydings came vnto from {^mee} the partie you wotte {^of} touching your
buisnesse and am at this very instante making an expresse dispatch abowt the
same matter which I hope may proue effectuall right as I alwaies sayd I am sure
another thing muste bee first don by the carrier which is a safe waie I shall unite
at large Supertotam Materiam bith to the Master and the men

Your faythfulleste humble Seruant euer

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 357 recto

Darsham March: *the* 8th 75

My Lord /

This day in a letter I receiud *the* certainty of your Lordships being our Lord
Leiutenant and in it a desire of doing a Gentleman a Kindness, nothing but his
friendlie importunities (which superseded all modest considerations/ could ever
haue perswaded me to haue troubled your Lordship, for dar'd I ever assumd that
courage of writing, I had long before payd *your* duty & these humble
acknowledgements which your Lordships favours may iustly challenge, the person I
am to recommend is Alderman Bendick's son of Norwich a man of greatt ingenuity
worth & honesty, and in all circumstances fit to be clark to your Lordships, Deputy
Leiutenants, which place he begs tyme of your Lordship, now I've attempted to
serve my friend, I could wish my endeauours may proue sucessfull, yet neither by
the prevention of your Lordships placing it elsewhere

{Folio 358 recto}

ffor I may probably guess there is a friend of mine (whome your Lordship haue
continuedlie and in tend further to oblidge .) may expect some profitable
employment on this occasion, if so, I would be so far from appearing an ennimy to
his int___, that I would ioyne all my prayers and wishes for his good fortune in it,

I must now let your Lordship know how proud I am of the honour of being ____
known to be your Lordships Relation & ffriend and that I valew my self on nothing
so much , as that pleasing consideration, of our County's common consent, in
concluding your Lordship to haue no little kindness for me, tho I confess yet it
looks more like a Paternall inheritance then a personall merit, yet I hope time may
make the ___claim an equall share in it, since from my soul I may ____, there is
none in *the* world now passionatlie (my Lord) your Lordships most obedient servant
and oblidgeed Kinsman: Tho: Knyvett

{Folio 357 verso}

M: P:

I beg my duty {^& seruice} to my Lady, and all ___ relations of your Lordships
famyliie my mothr ioyns with me, and her ____ tribe

My Lord;/

My wife hath receiv'd your Lordships present, & it came so seasonably that I beleive your Lordship hath preventid her longing, which no place in Norfolke could haue don so soone but your Lordships gardens where there is so great variety & plenty. Shee hath all ready fallen upon the Cheryes & intends for the pease as soone as they can bee dresst. Shee with her sister send your Lordship their services, & when it is safe for her to take a iourny, they both will waite upon your Lordship at Oxnead & pay their thanks for this & all other your Lordships favours to them the persons to whom your Lordship is pleas'd to give commissions at Lyn are both my friends, & I doe engage to your Lordship they will approue them selves faithfull to the Kings interest & to your Lordship, I thank your Lordship that you are pleas'd to doe mee so great an honnour in Lyn as to owne those persons who were active & forward in my con-cernes there. I did designe to pay my duty to your Lordship writes to my Lady Yarmouth, I desire your Lordship to send her all our services when wee know her Ladyship comes into the Country, wee all intend to Kisse her Ladyships handes. My Lord I am very sensible how much I am obligd to your Lordship, & wish I were able to make your Lordship any suitable retournes, I shall bee very glad of any oppportunity of being serviceable to your Lordship, & when ever I shall bee so happy as to receive your Lordships commands they shall bee most willingly obey'd by

My Lord
Your Lordships most Humble Servant & Kinsman

Holkham May 13th 1676/

Robert Coke

My Deare

After parting from you the sad thoughts brought mee asleep and Mr Snelling and I _____ waked till ~~ten~~ seven of the clock brought vs to hoggsdon; and ten to Bishop Stafford, where wee found my Lord Marshalls artillery ready to receiue him butt wee Stayed too howers att sickquett before he madam Child, my Lady Frances his daughter and Mr Cranes sister of Auing came then wee went to dinner where wee were very merry and my Lord the Kindest and to mee &, my con-cernes in the world, wee had that health begane by the Lord & Lady, who sayth she will com to Oxnett when the Assises are ouer, till when I beeleeue she stayes about Newmarkett, My Lord will bee att Norwich on wedensday and my Lord Howard bothe, who followes after; wee came on the rode as farr as Littlebury where I now am, & they went on for Newmarkett, I doe hope in god my Lord Treasurer will write mee somewhat which I may shew to encoarage the deputy Leiftenants, and all my friends

{Folio 360 verso}

I hope ___ writt to swaere the iustices coms by Sir will Doyly or some other way, I am iust now taking coach for Thetford hauing nott as yett mett any sinister accident, pray god keep you merry and in hart & pray lett my Lady & know that though wee doe what wee can with Sir J H as she directed yett our reliance is on her I need nott mind you of any thing on tuesday morning I hope to heare from you for in this world theres nothing can consolate mee for my absence from you but that: Remember mee to my daughter mary & Mrs Henshow, Mr Snelling present his seruice I am for euer yours

Sunday morne 8 of the clock :/

Yarmouth

{Folio 361 verso}

These Present To the Right Honorable The Lady Viscountess Yarmouth att the golden ball in Suffolke street London

British Library Additonal MS 27447

Folio 362 recto

July the 17th 1676: [later hand- 28.C.2]

My Deare Hart

On Sunday night I came early to Thetford where I am lodged and ____ equally as well as att Mrs Ainsworths I mett a letter from my Lord Cheif Baron and this day I haue sent to him to Rury to acquaint {^him} that I and seuerall gentlemen stay heere for him and to desire him to com to morrowe morning through this towne where is Sir william Doyly who gaue mee your letter & the ____ heere in Sir Will Adams & Lee and Huet will bee heere this night and about windham my friends will meet which I heare will be very numorous, I hear my Lord Town-shend will nott appeare butt itts yett uncertaine, all the militia officers will bee to meet my Lord Cheif Baron and and such a noyse if hounspetts as will outdoe the Sheriffs I am glad my Lord Treasuror promiseth mee a letter on tuesdays post to be att Norwich in the middle of the ____ which as itt is powrefull & vigorous will exalt or debase my reputation, I heare my Cousin {^Coke} will bee very splendid att the Assises with new lieries and he very fine, my Lady Anne Cokes great bellie goes on for certaine, Mr doughtie my Secretary tells mee that vpon the last present of frute which went on friday to my Lady Anne, she tooke itt extreably kindly and sayd she either had or would write to your Ladyshipp all this day wee are idle for Mr Doughty is gon the second time to my Lord Cheif Baron from mee who had appointed mee to meet him att Attleborowe butt I haue pressed him againe to com this way and shall haue his answer perhapps before I seale this letter, he writt mee one very respectiue letter which I sent to my friends att Norwich who were in som in certainty of the time of thy comming, I am a little surprised att 5 coming to sett you the story of □ for now she must expect to bee interested in the affaire and I that pay soe deare doe humbly desire to pay butt one and reserve fauors for som other opportunity when X _____

{Folio 362 verso}

vp trump for I cannott abide wheadles espetially when they ____ what I am nott able to satisfy therefore I desire to stick in the right rode where there are soe many more powerfull instruments though 5 may cast out small words sumtimes in this can neither doe good nor harme.

I shall menage all your ____ wirth the best of my discretion and giue you an accompt I doe heare that the towne of yarmouth who intend __ meet the iudge in great numbers doe make Bowers lead a very vneasy life and if repent____ could retract a dangerous scandall I presume hee would giue ____ more intelligence of that kind till the next time, may keep faire with your mother I ____ you without her downe right assis-tance ____ can neuer bee gon through, the coachman that came downe with

mee if he had or doth goe directly to London will be there to morrowe night,
which will {^be} sooner then *the* common poet butt he gooing to Bury to try to gett
fares for London I rather chose *that* common way *which* in *the* surest way Little
Snelling is stepped ouer to Bury this day and nott yett returned all *your* children
are well att home I heare I haue now noe more to say till Mr Doughty coms back
from Bury and soe subscribe my self

Yours Eternally

yarmouth

all heer present their service to you: mine to ma__ Mrs Henshaw my son &
daughter: Charles and Charlotte: /

My Lord Cheif Baron coms through this towne of Thetford in *the* morning where *the*
maior & corporation & my self & severall gentlemen are ready to receive & attend
him

{Folio 363 verso}

These Present To the *Right* Honorable The Lady Viscountess Yarmouth, att *the*
golden ball in Suffolke street London

Thetford July. 17. 1676.

Madam

After some hours stay upon the rode in expectation of my Lords coming by I at last understood that his Lordships intention was to stay at this place till to morrow which news ___ mee this night hither. The reason of his Lordships stay was because my Lord cheif Baron moves not from Bury till to morrow where his honour intends to meet on the rode and accompany to Norwich. I put in execution the contents of the honourables letter as much as the shortnesse of the time would permit and I question not but that if my Lord had thought fit to have proceeded on his journey he would haue had many persons to have attended him. But indeed the great meeting will be at Norwich to morrow where most of the cheif Gentry of the country are by agreement to meet & to way lay my Lord & the judg to welcome them into Norfolk. The properall of meeting my Lord cheif Baron (before there was any certainty of my Lords coming) was by the means of Major Doughty made by Sir William Doily ___ at a meetinge of the Deputy Leiutenants & by them unanimous^{^ly} agreed that they out of the great honour they had for my Lord Leiutenants would pay all the respects they could to his so near relation, & referred the particular determina⁻tion of the time untill Saturday following, but in the mean time agreed to send a letter to my Lord cheif {^Baron} to desire leave to waite upon him in a distinct body from that of the Sheriff {^& to know what time he would be coming to Norwich} & by the answere to theis letter on Saturday morning they and _ ___ that his Lordship could not come from Bury untill Tuesday morning whereupon they sent orders that my Lords friends would be pleased to meet at Norwich by nine of the clock to morrow and at the sound of all the militia trumpets they are to march out of the citty in a body. This unanimity & vigour in my Lords friends has put such a stop to the supposed designs of the subscribers that they now give out they will none of the cheif of them be there & tis very like seeing

{folio 364 verso}

they are in like {^in danger} to be out numbred & Ecclipst so much they will save the little of their reputation by keeping close. For truly most honored Madam I beleive their will be one of the greatest appearance of Gentry that has been known at an assizes of some years, how it is your honour shall hear by the next porte. In the mean time after craving my most humble service to all with your honour, I take leave to subscribe my self as with all heartinesse I am

Right Honourable

Your honours most obliged & most humble Servant

John Gough

{Folio 365 verso}

These To the Right honourable the Lady Viscountesse Yarmouth at the golden ball
in Suffolke Street in London

humbly present

2

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 366 recto

Honoured Madam

In obedience to my Lord Lieutenants command I presumed to giue Your Honour an Accompt of His Lordships and my Lord Cheife Baron's reception yester-day at Windham; where they were mett not onely with the persons, but Affections of the greatest part of the Gentry with in this County; these were about 30 Coaches ,and neare a thousand Horse, who did all meet him 3 miles beyond the High Sheriff for distinction sake, and conducting him within two miles of Norwich, the High Sheriff with his party did Being my Lord Cheife Baron into Norwich, my Lord Lieutenant making a Halt with his party and came not into Norwich untill halfe an houre after, to the admiration, & great Satisfaction of all: the Reception was so splendid, that there could be no addition but by Your Honours long desired Compa-ny, and the Company of your Right Honourable concernes, which wee here with great earnest-ness expect: my Lord Cheife Baron the last night and this day my Lord Marshall dined with my Lord at the white swan, with as many

{written across page} Gentlemen of the best Quality as the House could hold:
Honoured Madam, the Subject being so pleasant, I hope Your Honour will pardon my enlarging so much upon it: I being desirous upon all occasions, to testify my selfe

Honoured Madam

A most Faithfull Servant to Your Right Honourable

Family

Edward Lestrange

Norwich July the 19th 1676

[later hand 28 Ch.2.]

{Folio 366 verso}

These present To the Right Honourable the Lady Viscountess Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 367 recto

Madam

I wayted vpon my Lord, & did vnderstand the greater kindnes he had formed, that if I did owne to be a ffermor of the excise in Norff I should haue a 100li per annum clear, & if a nother _____ wear settled vpon mee althow remote it should ve worth to me in the whole 500li per annum, I shall very readily & thankfully accept & act in my station as is ffitt

And I doe ffather vnderstand by his Lordship that now the ~~Tyme Mynes~~ _____ vpon the Tyn will be Lett I shall this night write to my ffrinde mr Hutchinson to come & wayte vpon your Ladyshipp, he is a person that haue fformerly wayted vpon my Lord about the buissnes & he is in trustead by thoes persons that shall giue securilye in that affairs as well as by me, And if your Honor shall thinke ffitt to Moue in the bussines, I dare bowldly say thear will be puncktuall perfformance of what shallbe vndertaken, so presentinge my Humble service to your Honor I take leaue, & shall allwayes remaine

28 July 1676

your Honors Most oblided Humble Seruant

Christo: Fay

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 368 recto

July the 28th 1676

My Dearest Hart

Thy deare letters are the greatest ioyes I haue heere I thinke to com away from hence on thursday next vnless your letter by that post which shall bee called for att Norwich att meet mee on the rode should desire my stay , I haue written to Yarmouth to Mr Dawson about Dunston business butt yett haue nott as the answer butt if none of them com to day shall send euer shelter on purpose about that and stowers business & I haue sufficiently examined the business of K and shall haue custome enough if itt falls into my hands I haue sent for Jey of Norwich com ouer to mee and will make my harmes with him and if he haue another county Through Peregrine Bertie and my meanes w__ll haue som of the proffitts : butt I doe baleeue that will be hard to procure for him I wish wee find nott our owne __ & therefore itt were nott amiss to keep an hand of __interest for the home farme, Sir John Pettus is very kind to mee and has beene heere this two dayes , I would _____ haue his Lady & you friends, my Lord Marshall is by this time in towne . I shall speake to mr Snelling butt he must first bee in townes I would nott haue you insist too much on the commissions misteke for there are things soe ordinary as itt's butt a friuolous matter to mention itt, this is a most sweet place if God were pleased to giue mee where withall to support my condition , neeres ____ to bee a great deale of company with mee to day loord Paston Sir John Pettus ____ckendon and diuers more I haue a good patty of venison for them and now I talke of venison pray forgett nott Mr Bulwers on Saterdag the 5 of August which you may thus performe Mr Fisher has a warrant for a Buck in Copt hall park which heel deliuer in to your hands and lett himhaue one heere or els will Clestins will giue halfe a Buck att your first word butt itt imports Mr Bulwer for the credit of the feast, I wonder you wright

{Folio 368 verso}

mee nothing of my Lady Darbys comming for I heare she is Expected att Holkham to morrowe, but I presume because you say nothing she will nott com so soone or els she keepe her iourney very priuate, I am glad to heare you say * & ∇ keep up their interest butt all is soe incertaine in this world that noe man knowes which way to turne him a __butt himself what you sayd of Lewis letter was truth I has in the gallery att Mr Stawses euey morning 30 or 40 gen-tlemen I am infinitely glad my Daughter Paston is so Kind to you for differences att home are won then abroad Mr Le Strange thanks you for your thanks for his letter pray lett your answer to this com to Norwich where Ile make prouision to receiue itt, if I bee aduanced further heere is : soe much company I can say noe more Sir John Rowse Sir William Adams _r He_se, Sir Francis Mannock that my hower in a small court, butt nothing is nice licke your company my service to my son & daughter my daughter Mary Mrs

Henshaw: Charles & Charlotte Mr Jey will doe what I please hee'l take an hundred pound a yeare for Norfolke and if Peregrine Bertie gitts him another county heel take 500lb per annum for all & Peregrine or els I alone if nott Peregrine & I shall deuide or keep the rest of the proffitts, Jey writes concerning the tinn business himself I haue noe more att present Mr Doughty parts now for ~~Norw~~ Yarmouth & on Monday you shall heare further from

Yours for euer
Yarmouth

{Folio 369 verso}

These Present to the Right Honorable The Lady Viscountess Yarmouth att the golden ball in Suffolke street London:

July the 31: 1676

My Dearest Deare

On friday the Bishop of Norwich died I am sorrie I heard nott of itt time enough to write by that post. my Lord Chief Baron and I endeauored to haue given him a visitt butt hee was soe ill that he desired our excuse I hope your Bishop of Exeter will succeed him, heere are now with mee Sir John Rowse Colonell Knyvett Captaine Knyvett and young Bedingfeld, which are soe good company they make mee merrie in spight of my hart, your Children are very fine Children and mis very pretty and the wittiest in the world wee all haue beene hunting this morning and had very good sport I wish you had the back with you, as to my Yarmouth affaure I sent Mr Doughty ouer on friday, who spoke with Mr Dawson & Mr Dunston the surveighor who is mighty civill to mee and told Mr Doughty that if I had nott sent hee must in _____ haue ___ in his report that my side in the properest place for the King to build a custome howse on, he promised to com over to mee this night or to morrow and further promised to make ___ a report by letter if I should re-quire him as I should desire butt say tho hee shall doe itt personally more significantly _ I shall press him to doe both, for hee is to goe from hence to Wells, and from thence to Lynn where his circuit___ which may bee some time before he coms to London I haue promised him as gratuity if itt likes effect, and I am well befriended it what is conuenient for the King should bee kindred , I will either bring or send itt by the wedensdays post which will bee butt att London one day before me.

My Lord

Townshend and my Lady haue beene att Blickling most part of the last week and on saterday came my Couzin Windham to wait on mee and told mee my Lord Townshend had commanded him to present his service to mee and bid him lett mee know hee was my humble servant to which tooke little notice & diuerted al by the discourse made that was nott soe much as asking him one questi-on good nor bad of any of them, mr Snelling went ouer to visitt Mrs Ramsey who told him my Lady Townshend my Lady Hobart & Mr Windham were there the day before & my Lady Hobart was saying noe man had beene soe well receiued into the country as I, butt I knowe them all and shall gard my self from all their falshood & enioy as well as I can, to morrowe & writt to Sir Henry Bedingfeld to com & dine with mee, and then wee shall talke somewhat together as too think a most sweet place and I am lothe to leaue itt butt noe place without you in pleasant to mee and besides I haue

{Folio 370 verso}

a vast resort of company that my howse is licke a little court yett I may protest I know of noe man has been drunke heere nor I my self half way nor a quarter, Every body heere almost has flares and I haue had a great one , Sir Edmond Bacon had licke to haue died att Norwich of itt and fell into

cramps and conulcions els he had beene heere as to *the* business of *the* verdict against Artteuse *the* Jury had neuer giuen itt butt that they were assured my Lord Townshend would remitt great damages and not small ones, butt I ~~well~~ beleeeue my Lord Cheif Baron will soe certify as that *the* Doctors ~~will~~ haue a new tryall if itt bee nott quickly made an end of, itt is *the* makers of ___ sorts of people that are out of play to magnifye euey thing butt *the* truth of this story & *the* Parson *that* was *the* wittness will appeare in itt due time

my Cousin Cookes steward writt a letter ouer heere to Mr Hurton to borrowe tom Rungings of mine foot deep to *which* I made Mr Gough returne a very ciuill answer that I had none of *that* ___ butt what I was ashamed to send butt *that* I desired *your* Steward might com ouer and ___ any thing him self that was for his turne to accomodate them, they doe expect my Lady Danby this week I shull bring up som spiritt of scurvy grass for my Lord Lumsden and for *our* selues for *the* world has nott a more soueraigne remedy

pray present my service to my sonn & my daughter to Charles & Charlotte to my daughter Mary & Mrs Henshaw as to what you write mee concerning your mother I am very glad she is soe kind to goe Pray present my duty to her, and as to Sir John I should very well _____ you should both ask for his wife & Children & euen bee ciuill to his person butt to haue any thing to doe with him is butt to betray ourselves , I told you before itt would com to a wh_ning story and that he thinkes reasonable to purge all his falshoods by contempts haue his perticular ioy that wee were fallen out that he might noe more bee troubled with us, for my part I am resolved to haue nothing to doe with {^him} further then speaking to him & eating & drinking with him, lett him either bee distracted or sober he shall stand on his owne feet, the world shull nott stirr mee from this and when I tell you any other story remember I dissentt I hate and abhor the remembrance of his ingratefull returnes to mee the disowning the curtesys I haue don him, and laying on the farmers, his buteners to you a thousand perticulars to mee which I cannott now remember , his vsing mee in his owne how was it I

{Folio 371 recto}

had com on begging for a meales meat in soe much that your owne mother and his wife were ashamed att it, I haue sayd enough and the less fury and transport I am in the more resolute I am in the ___ butt this needs noe way appeare butt in the want of that intimacy which vsed to bee, and for a formall ciuility I shall bee content with itt as to □ I doe nott approue writing to him, nor to haue any letters shewed △ of my magnifying myself or vpbraiding his delay I could nott reconcile itt to my reason and doe thinke that thing in itt self would rather hinder then further the matter,

I haue sent the Sister Nunber note inclosed signed by my hand I haue soe many services desired to bee inserted into the letter that I shall onely say that Children presents their daly and all the company their service with great deuotion maior

Doughty & Gray to will haue theirs in by name: on thursday morning I intend to bee in the coach god willing by feare of the clock and perhaps if I find my time serue may call att Sir John Hollands, I shall take order for your letter which I expect att Norwich and we I besheeche god send vs a good meeting on Saterday in the Evening by wedensdays post you shall haue another from mee and so I am for euer

My Dearest Hart
Your most passionately & vnalterably
Yarmouth:

I send you my Lord Barkshires letter *whic*h keep till I com for I haue nott answered butt meane to doe itt from London when I can say any thing to *the* matter:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 372 recto

August the 2d: 1676:

My Dearest Hart

This is my last from hence, Mr Dunston the king's surveighor and mr Dawson is heere with him and wee are agreed thus that I prepare a letter from Charles Bertie to him for his report of Yarmouth which he will answer the post after as Effectually as I can desire soe you must desire Charles Bertie by the next Mondays post to write him this letter and send itt to the Secretaryes of the custome howse & itt coms to him immediatly they keeping correspondence with him from towne to towne and he has now left Yarmouth, and is goeing towards Lyn and we further itt will bee six weekes before he come to London and if I should stay all the time there were noe hopes of Effecting {^any} thing this yeare, he promises to speake all the aduantages of itt that possible and I haue promised him if I gett the order for the build ing the custome howse and that any effects succeeds, I would giue him twenty pounds, I haue this day a great deale of company with mee itt beeing the last day, to morrowe I intend to call att Sir John Holland and doe beleeeue I shall com noe further then Thetford and the next day to Littlebury and on Saterdag night I hope to waite on you I shall call for your letter to morrowe att Norwich few words are now best I haue lett my Chepter with Sir Henry Bedingfeld who has promised mee his Lady should keep a correspondence with you and that I should find the effects of what hee would sudd[en]ly haue informed of, I haue now noe more to say butt that I am

Your most affectionate humble servant
Yarmouth:

{Folio 373 verso}
These Present

To the Right Honorable The Lady Viscountess Yarmouth att the golden ball in
Suffolke street
London:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 374 recto

My Lord

Your Lordshipe not being pleased at all to alter the letter I haue Sent the Same againe Signed and Sealed, and am very glad I was returned out of Northampton Shire before you had occasion to make vse of it; in my way thither I went to Kimbolton to wayte on Lord Manchester, but he was at London, and I there found my Cosen Mountagu had effectually obserued you Commands; I humbly thanke your Lordshipe for faououring vs, in this Solitary place, with the intelligence of affaires aboue: I hope next Weeke to kiss your Lordships and my Ladys hands in London, and {^ought} to goe much Lower in all obseruance to you both, who haue been pleased to doe So Much Honour to

My Lord

Your most obedient Seruant
W Mountagu

(Sept. 1)

My Wife beseecheth Your Lordshipe and My Lady to accept of her humblest Service.

{Folio 375 verso}

For the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 376 recto

[Page damaged. Many words obscured.]

September the 27th 1676:

[FB- An: Octob: 5th]

Sir

Yours I receiued, and the post before haue sent downe a letter to the Deputy Leiftenants, for my Secretary to deliuer them att the Sessions, I doe suppose you will then bee there, and I shall desire you to giue mee som accomp[t] of how these matters therein recommended to them, of which I shall write to my Secretary to informe you,

As to Mr Walpoole I cannott beleeeue any gentleman can bee guilty of soe meane a thing and therefore I freely told you of itt as itt was told mee, neither shall I act any thing that I shall feare to iustify not belee[ue] otherwise of him then what you are pleared to represent which is a worthy person & my ffrien[d] what relates to my concerne in the E___ is a matter that has made much noyse butt itt's <page damaged> incertaine which way itt will goe itt beeing adcour<page damaged>ed to the last of October in reference to the seuerall propositions then to bee received by bidders, if itt should fall to my share to bee concerned in itt, I should bee glad to serve you in any oppportunity that may express mee to bee

Sir

Your affectionate ffriend & servant
Yarmouth:

{Folio 376 verso}

<Damaged- difficult to read>

To my very worthy friend Edward Montagu att Gressenhall

_____ Nor__

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 378 recto

July the 14th 1677

Sir

I desire you to present my service to all the deputy Leiftenants which shall meet att this sessions, I knowe of noe perticular business to recommend att present, the weekes pay I shall defer vntill I com into the country and the generall muster which I intend personally to bee att wee shall fix att the Assises when I hope to waite vpon them att Norwich, I doe suppose the fittest time will bee the latter end of September, of which in-tention som notice may bee giuen to the officers that their may bee noe surprise , and that those which haue made defaults {^att} the last priuate matters may bee punctuall then in their appearance,

Sir I haue noe more to say att this time butt to assure you I am

Your most affectionate ffriend & seruant
Yarmouth:

an: July 10

{Folio 379 verso}

These Present
To my Honored Friend Edward Le Strange Esq
Leaue this with Alderman Briggs in Norwich:
Franke Yarmouth

July 14: 77

British Library Additional MS 27447

Folio 380 recto

My Lord

Though I cannot writte you any more yet itt becommes me to returne you my thanks for the honour of your last letter, I am now in prone & redde to take such measures as sr John Clayton shall devise us for I thinke itt so noe purpose to make any step in this business till he comes to towne, so otherwise I shall be a grate ignoramus in itt, & may doe itt hurt but I will follow whatt directiones your Lordship & he shall giue me, the deplorable condition that Flanders is in makes all people here haue sad hartes for in thought that Brussells before this maybe taken by the French, wich will be pleasing nuse to your good friend Caudle face the rest of them your friends, the King will be next weeke for Windsor, & shortly after for New markett my service to my couzen Paston to go home I wish all success in his affaure att Norwich, & am my lord with hart & hand

your Lordship's most humble seruant & affectionate Kinsman
Pere Bertie

Sep 8 1677

{Folio 381 verso}

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount Yarmouth
These present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 382 recto

Whitehall Sept. 23.

Sir

Among those many to whose kindnesse I am oblidge for the good hopes I haue from my late journey to Thetford I am sensible how much I am like to owe to you, And must beg the Excuse that I did not particularly wait on ___ at the house to tell them so , in the short time I stayed at Thetford, But I assure them whereas an occasion of any kind presents itself to ___ you or your friend , you shall find how just I can be to my friends , and those that haue to charitable an opinion of me a Stranger or you & the generosity of your Neighbors are pleased to haue. I beg you will continue still to haue it, and (as you haue great right to doe) to account me heartily & with acknowledgement,

Sir

your uery humble & faithfull seruant
Joseph Williamson

Mr Tirrell

Madam

the inclosed was designed for monday post but by this ____ of my seruant omitted and giuing of it a new case I am loath to send it empty especially when I haue soe good newes to tell you yet before I come at it I must confesse the phonatickes for they are the persons that make (some say buy) votes, that cry up a Brigs a Brigs, that giue drinke in great plenty, in a word that owne the opposition and bears the charge agit the Collo-nell There are others ingaged with them otherwise their numbers would be laught at but none appears in {^it} but Phanaticks and lett this bee as in truth it is the great Honor of the Collonell) These phanaticks on munday night last treated their party in great numbres with great noyse of bells and voyces in seuerall partes of the city I was an ey- and Ear-witnesse of too much of it looked as bigge as they spoke and talked and gaue out <page damaged = 2 words> spend fiue hundred pound in ~~xx~~ treats this weeke. yesterd[ay] <page damaged> {^did} and to morrow the Collonells friends will find treats too seuerall parishes and that with more cheerfull {^nesse} then his enimyes ca_ <page damaged> appear with for they hang their heads because their deare frien[d] Huntington hath lost it at yarmouth Sir Thomas Medowes who is what euer some may say of him An honest stout Kings man hath carryed it by fifteene and will appear heer on mon-day with all his freeholders of Norwich for the Collonell a gentleman hee is of such down right honesty that I am uery glad wee bare againe cemented him to my lord. Wee are uery ____ and now feare noe miscarriage god blesse and preserue your Honor that wee may be made happy with your coming amongst us in the prayer of

Your most obedient
J Hildegard

My old friend Mr Herne is the Collonell Antagonist it was last night affirmed from his owne mouth he would ride. soe lett him in an halter hee deserues it.

13. Febr. 77.

{Folio 384 verso}

This

To the right Honourable the Lady Viscountesse Yarmouth overages the golden ball in Suffolke street London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 385 recto

After Our very hearty Commendacions, In pursuance of his *Majesties* Order in Councill of the 5th instant, These are to signify to you his pleasure, that all Vessells *which* are and shalbe from time to time employed by the Principall Officers and Commissioners of the Nauy Officers of the Ordnance, and Victuallers of the Nauy in the Transporting of Stores and Provisions from any one Yard or Port of his *Majesties* within this Kingdome & another be exempted from the present Embargoe upon Significacion vnder the hands of two or more of the said Officers or Contractors for the Victualling that the said Vessells are really Employed in his *Majesties* Service as aforesaid without expecting any Passes from Us his *Majesties* Commissioners for Executeing the Office of Lord High Admiral or Certificates from the Officers of the Customes. Soe Wee remaine

Derby House 9th
Aprill 1678
{later hand 30. C.2.}

Your *Lordshipps* very Loveing Freinds
Monmouth Anglesey Crauen

Lord Yarmouth ___ of Norfolk

Folio 386 verso
For Our very good Lord the Lord Yarmouth Vice Admiral
of Pepys Norfolke
Derby House 9th Aprill 78

{other hand}
Mr Pepys letter from *the* Commissioners of *the* Admiralty
April *the* 9th 1678:

Norwich Aprill. 29 1678

Right Honourable

This morning I came to Norwich by my Lords appointment but yet was not so early as to find the Citty in a very sedate condition. indeed all things here I found in a hurry by reason of the Mayor's phanatick jugling tricks. For on Sunday night the citty officer came in with orders from the Mayor to cite all persons concerned against wednesday to think of the Election of a new Mayor and pretended that this present Mayor was detained in London & consequently there could be no election of Aldermen. This news made the honest part of the citty to abate in their zeal to make their friends in this election, but this morning the Mayor himself came home & presently issues out his summons for the election of Aldermen in two of the great wards. Twas eleven of the clock before this Notice was publickly given but I understand the phanatick party had notice of it yesterday. Upon this hasty Summons some of the citty who were cheif of the severall wards went to waite upon the Mayor and desired to know what rooms of Aldermen were void & how they should accordingly dispose themselves for a new choice but he refused to give them many answeres. At the meeting now at two of the clock the same thing was demanded of him & the order of Councill required but the mans confidence denied to produce any thing so that beeing left in an amaze they proceeded in the first ward to their choice & there it beeing by the Townclerke declared that onely one place was void they supplied it with nominating Mr Bucknam. Mr Checkering was out by act of parliament in this ward but was new elected onely by one voice honest Mr Wissiter beeing set against him. There is no in debate the Aldermen of the second great ward wherein there are four vacancies & how they proceed the honourable shalle know as soon as I can here certain intelligence of it

{Folio 387 verso}

Now Madam in the second great ward in the stead of Thacker they have chose Mr Gardiner a man of such worth that few ___ con parabell and in the room of ___ a very good man Mr Leonard Orborne is susti-tuted. Alderman Crow contrary to expectation was chosen & continued by an unanimous consent but there was a great dispute between Paine an old Alderman and parmenter an indifferent man but the major part of the votes are for parmenter by seven and paine the most impudent & troublesome fellow in the whole corporation God be thanked is turn'd out. but that which is best of all the dissenting party taking things upon presumption are run to ring out bells & acquaint the Coffee houses that paine is taken into his place again & so they may be lawghed at sufficiently but the truth is what I write. The third ward which will be call'd to morrow morning I hope verily is secure for us. the onely doubt is of the fourth wherein the Mayor is but I hope they are now put into such a method as will defeat the designs of the adversaries. T'was vert ill luck that Wissiter a right honest man was not chosen as he was the first time but the reason was because Alderman Woodhusing subscribed would not bee allowed to be out of his place. To morrow tis determined to urge the Mayor to produce his order of councill & till he does so they resolute not to proceed to election. The [ph]anatick party bear upe & pretend the great favour & kindness they had from his Majority but there are few that beleive them except their own

party. I beg your honours pardon for this hasty scribe it beeing now almost eight of the clock before I could hear the full result of all and I know my Lord beleives to see mee every minute wherefore I subscribe my self

Right Honourable

Your honours most dutifull Chaplain & humble servant
John Gough

I crave my humble duty & service to the *Collonel* and his Lady

Folio 388 verso

These

To the Right Honourable the Lady Viscountess Yarmouth over against the golden ball in Suffolk Street
London

{other hand}

Mr Gough Aprill the 29 1678 norwich Bisnss:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 389 recto

Oxnead May 1st 1678

Right Honourable

I received yesterday the great favour of *your_ honour_* letter & return my humble thanks for it & all other respects and kindnesses you have been pleased to shew mee I was very much rejoyced at the first news that came of the Mayors overthrow & my Lords Victory. I wish the citty had been so well prepared as to have followed the blow & not permitted one branch of faction to get into their magistracy but Madam I understand that though the first three great wards in the citty did very well (of two whereof I gave *your_ honour_* an account on Munday) yet the fourth has played the trick. was before fear'd For they haue chose the Mayor again to be Alderman, & Cockey who was thrust out in the former ward as he deserved, the factious party were here so strong as to take him in & laid by Lowe a person though in the late election against as yet of much more honesty then both those ~~xxxx~~ persons mentioned. And this I doubt not was a plott they haue been for some time hatching, & haue carryed it so priuately & this election coming on so suddainly, they wanted time & not care to hinder effectually this mischeif. I think all persons that have ever dealt with this phanatick crew have found them so full of tricks of dishonesty that they had a great need to have their friends true & firm, and *your_ honour_* I find having met with false friends , upon that account I wonder you had any victory at all & that *which yoar honour_* has got must be valued as a double one . who these falsefriends should have been I could have guest but my Lord, obliging mee by the strictest lye of secrecy was pleased to be my interpreter and when I heard the persons I was full of wonder & trouble that *your_ honour_* may be better satisfied in them but if not; I humbly conceive that my Lords safest was with Mr D as matters now stand is to hide it hee beeing as by his place may be concluded acquainted with many {^of} his Lordships private & great concerns which he may be a prejudice to the successe of ~~xxx~~ if his Lordship should proceed with severity & speed in this case, besides his father here is very usefull & serviceable to my Lord upon all occasions whose assistance hoch is so needfull . his Lordship probably would want if he should hastily lay by his son. But I speak but my own private sentiments leaving it to *your_ honour_* to do as you shall think best but this I was

{continued down left-hand margin}

bound by my Lords commands to write to *your_ honour_* having before spoke it to my Lord when I saw him so wonderfully concerned about this businesse & his Lordship laid this command upon mee to ___ the same to *your_ honour_* this poste. I crave the favour of my most humble duty & service to my letters his Lady & Mr Robert & subscribe my self

your_ honour_ in all duty & service
John Gough

{Folio 390 verso}

These
To the Right Honourable the Lady Vicountesse Yarmouth over against the golden
ball in Suffolk Street
London

[Rebecca Paston's hand
Mr goughs May the i 1678 norwich Bisness]

Right Honourable

I should haue waited vpon your Lordshipp but that your Secretary promised to give your honor an account of our proceedinge at your Comission saturday last which was aswell managed as wee could expect I was seuerall tymes before with Mr Baret and put him into a Smooth and suer way as to his testimoney and tooke from his owne mouth his deposicion which I Send your Lordshipp inclosed , which he swore send forward before the Commission and I take it to be very Materiall for your Lordshipps interest but I desier you would not make it publique, only mr woodhouse maye make some vse of it for your tryall as two which I doe hope will goe very well I cannot be gone for London till this day Sennight and Shall god willinge waite vpon your Lordship and take your Comaunds before I goe, I was inforced Saturday after dinner to leaue the Commissions and here happened an omission in grate _____mr Cories _____ see in pleasures is but 2s, but I think if your Lordshipp please to order him halfe appeere consideringe his _____ & readines for your Lordshipps Service it would not bee misse_____ and my wifes most humble duty to your Lordshipp _____ My Lord
your Lordshipps most obedient servant
Tho Bulwer

Buxton 23 June 1678.

My Lord. It soe fell out that many of the _____ your lordshipp was pleased to bestowe vpon me, are lost and if your Lordshipp would please to order my _____ onto _____ which such a some as the _____ I should be a rich man and would neuer trouble your Lordshipp with a _____ begging of that nature againe/

{Folio 392 verso}

Ffor the Right honourable the Lord Viscount yarmouth present

Gentlemen

As I have alwaies been beforehand with ___ ___ in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ point of Realities
Soe I shall bee loath to bee behind hand with you in poynt of Civill Expressions,
which I have alwaies found to _____ in Complement, I could wish that such an
accomodacion might be made as may interpose betweene vs my speedy inventing
of Righting my selfe by other waies which I shall deferre no longer then the next
Terme, being served therin to by the Inchoachment made vpon mee for my owne
Civilities which were more intended to perpetuate ___ advantages which tooke its
Life from my Compliance with you for that season as will appeare by ___ publike
Letter or from Major Thayter & m^r Gleadford ther Bayliffes in acknowledgment of
my Comession & their promise in behalfe of the Towne that itt should not redound
to my prejudice which I haue found too much to make mee beleive that you
further intend mee the Capacity of owneing my selfe what yett I am & should bee
glad if possible to continue

Gentlemen

Your Affectionate Freind

{Folio 393 verso}

Copy of my Letter to the Bayliffes of Yarmouth

Aug: 11: =78.

[Top of page damaged. Three lines of text obscured]

To

Whereas his majesty has ben {rest of line missing} of certaine Seamen Watermen
{rest of line missing} Boatmen within this County And {rest of line missing} right
honourable majesties Commissioners of the admiralty by especiall warrant to me
directed hme willed & required me forthwith to Impresse or cause to be Impress
some marriners Seamen Watermen Bargemen & Boatmen within this said County as
well within Liberties as without I doe thereby Constitute & appoint you prest
Master within the Corporation - - - - of Great Yarmouth - - ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ willing
& requireing you forthwith to press or course to be Imprest there all such able
Seamen Watermen Bargemen or Boatmen aboue the age of eighteene yeares &
vnder the age of fifty yeares as you shall finde there or shalbe found by you within
any of the presincts therevnto belonging which said persons by you doe Imprest
you are to deliver to Robert Bendish of Norwich Gent: Conductor thervnto
appointed vnder my hand & seal for to receive them & this your warrant to
Continue for 28 daies from the date hereof & noe longer In pursuance of which
orders & directions All maior_ Justices of the peace Bayliffes & other officers what
soever are required & Comanded to be_ding and assisting as they sende
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ this his majesties Concerne & Service: Given under my hand
and Seale at Oxnett this _____ day of 1678

[later hand- 30 C 2]

{Folio 395 verso}

Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 396 recto

Right Honorable

The great kindnes I haue receaued from *your* Lordships hath Encoraged me to troble *your* Lordships *with* these few Lynes, Maij it please *your* Lord-Ships, I am Informed *that* one Mr Jarmin hath Informed *your* Lord shipe *that* I haue declined my _____ a bout my place, *which* is not soe, for I am yet in great hope being restored as Mr *William* Lynstras will further Satisfie *your* Lordshipe as his Comming up. one Thursday next I begg *your* Lordships pardon in troblin *you* *with* this , I rest *which* *with* all Humble duty to the Counties of _____ and my Lord Paston and my Lord I am *your* Lordships Most Obedient Most Humble Seruant

Edmund Bassett

{Folio 397 verso}

These

For the Right Honorable Robt Earle of Yarmouth In poll mall London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 398 recto

Jan 28th 1678

Mr Tyrrell

There being a new parliament: to bee Suddenly chosen my old friend and yours Sir Allen Apsley) who hath beene soe long a Seruant to the Corporation of Thetford; hopes ___ Corporation will neither forget hi nor lay him a Side . Your: Neighbour my Lord Chamberlaine) you will finde very earnest on the behalfe of Sir Allen with all his Interest as I am in my wishes and inclinations, though I cannot presume to pretend to an Interest further then old acquaintance and haueing had former Experience of your and the Corporations respects and Kindnesse to mee or the like occasion : A word or two

{continued down left-hand margin}

ffrom you how this affair is like to god with you will bee {damaged} welcome to him who with all respects and Kindnesse {damaged} [your] selfe, (though in his bed) full of the Gout re{damaged}ine

Your assured friend
to Serue you

Townshend [signature in different hand; very shaky]

{Folio 398 verso}

For Mr Tyrrell at the Crosse Keyes in Thetford in Norfolke

[Later hand-

Jan: 28 1678

Ld Townshends lr to Mr Tyrrell]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 399 Recto

Sir

His Majesty having thought fitt to dissolve the late parliament, and to issue forth Writts for new Elections: Tis Expected that the Writt for Chusing Knights for the Sheire in this County will bee Executed, on Munday the tenth day of february next, I hope the Electors in this County will make choice of such persons as are of vnquestionable Loialty and that will bee most serviceable to the King, the Church and the Country Now I find the inclination of the Country to bee most for Sir Christopher Calthorp and Sir Nevill Catlyne, which agrees with my Judgment and shall haue my Concurrence, and I hope all my freinds will industriously ioyne with mee therein

Wherefore I desire you to use your vtmost diligence in this juncture of affaires to promote their Election for the service both of the King and people, wherby yow Engage them and

Sir yor affectionat friend

Jan: 31:1678/79

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 401 recto

Sir

His Majesty haveing thought fitt to dissolve the last Parliament and to Issue forth Writts for new Eleccions, Tis Expected that the Writt for Chuseing Knights of the Sheire in this County will be Expected on Monday the Tenth day of ffebruary next I hope the Electors in this County will make Choyce of such persons as are of unquestionable Loyallty, and that will be most Serviceable to the King, the Church, and the Country. Now I finde the Inclination of the Country to be most for Sir Christopher Calthorpe and Sir Nevill Catelyn, which agrees with my Judgment: and shall have my Concurrence And I hope all my ffriends will Industiously Joyne with me therein, Wherefore I desire you to use your utmost dilligence in this Juncture of Affaires to promote their Election for the Service both of the King and People Whereby you will Engage them, and

Sir:

your Affeccionate ffriend

Jan: 31. 1678/79

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 403 recto

February the 3d 1678:

Mr LEstrange

I haue had better success in Marsland then I hoped for becawse Sir Tho Hare has returned mee a ciuill letter that hee and all his tennants and more he can bring will per-sonally extend the Election, Mr Bell Onburgh Tincham &c the same now I find the porer sort of Marsland men expect their quarters to bee payd and a place to ly in on Saterday night either att walton or Swastham, and a direction to com ___ in Norwich thay acquaint Sir Christopher Calthorpe & Sir Neville Catlyne with this, my son will bee heere on Thursday and will lett Sir Christopher & Sir Neville Cateline knowe that if Kings stand as I hope they will flourish, They shall nott loose their time nor their money by this service I am in great hast

Your affectionate friend & servant
Yarmouth:

My service to Mrs L' Strange

{Folio 404 verso}

For My Honored Fr[iend] Edward L Estrange Esq att Gressenhall

Sir I forgott to desire that a speedy answer may bee sent by you to Mr Fincham what Sir Christopher sayth Sir Neville will consent to I am sure pray oblige mee in your cure of this matter

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 405 recto

Whitehall Febr. 8. 1678/9. [later hand 31 Ch. 2.d]

Sir/

I had not time last night to acknowledge by *the* returne of *the* Messenger *the* Corporation were pleased to send me, *the* particular obligations I find I have to your friendshepp in all this matter. I assure you I am more sensible of it, & should be more ready & desirous to suppress it to you on all occasions.

By *the* fauour of God Almighty, I mean to waite upon *the* Corporation at *the* time fixed for *the* Election, to returne them in person those fast acknowledgements I owe them for this so franke & oblidgeng fauour to me, & particularly to assure you of my being *with* much truth

Sir, Your most faithfull humble Seruant J. Williamson

Mr Turill

{Folio 405 verso}

Feb: 8. 1678/9 *Sir* Jos: Williamson Lr to Mr Tyrrill
Complements

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 406 recto

Oxnead March the 31th: 1619.

Honored Sir

I hare inclose you a draught of the proofs in the Case of the Knights of the Shire, as fully as I can att present make them out, what I can gather vpp material before the hearing; I shall bee sure to send forward, as they come to my hands, In the {^one ____} tyme Sir Christopher & Sir Nevills Sollicitor may bee furnishing the Breifes by these instructions & those I sent your Honor vpp before with such others as are above from other hands.

The Gentlemen that are the witnesses intend to sett forward in the twoe day Coach next Monday, If the day of hearing bee not putt off further by the intended petition, which I wish heartily may take effect, ~~xxxxxx~~ Mr Geo: Ward is soe extreemely ill of the Gout, that the Doctors feare hee will not bee able to vndertake the Journey soe soone, And I am my selfe by reason of my fathers being very dangerously ill & weake by promise ingaged to him not to stirr if hee continues soe very ill as hee is now, Mr Gough & my selfe being sent for about 3 a Clock in the morneing to him & Itt was very much feared hee wou'd not have lived till ~~xx~~ wee gott to him, butt hee is now something revived & better yett rather then there sahl bee any prejudice, I will take post though I bee not goeing staying & comeing 48 houres, If I can butt see my father butt in any hopefull Condition, & otherwise I hope, itt will not bee expected.

Here is orders of the house served on the ~~xxxx~~ High Sheriffe vnder Sheriffe & Mr Huston to attend the hearing. Butt here comes alsoe a Messenger that serves a warrant on Mr Scarburgh (who will doe noe harme I beleive) Dr Hildyard Mr Dunn & diverse others, which is signed by the Speaker, for them ____ to giue their attendance as witnesses for Sir J: Hobart & on their demand of money for their Charges

{Folio 406 verso}

answers they must aske for them att the barr. Butt this I thinke is more then Mr ~~xxxxx~~ Speaker can justifie to send his warrant for witnesses without order of the house soe to doe & there is noe such mention in the warrant Bee please to inquire of the Sollicitors what the practice is are to aske some of {^ the } members how such proceedings are justifiable, & if not Mr Speaker must make a Recompence in standing vpp for the Knights of the Shire stify to keepe them from complayneing to the Rouges of the Irregularity. Butt if itt bee the practice pray lett Sir Nevills Sollicitor gett a warrant for his witnesses & send itt downe in a letter to ____ or some body else that may bee trusted which may bee made vse off as there is occasion, butt I wou'd not haue the Charge of a Messenger about itt, for I can not tell whether itt will bee worth the tyme or not. Sir If you please to speake to Sir Nevill that some order may bee taken, for the defraying of the Charges of such as are not able or willing to leave their owne, Eyther Mr _ordon or Capt Houghton or Major Bendigh, for else there may perhapps bee some grumbling, Capt Gaybon takes care for these of Sir Christophers side of the Country The other party have as his said hired 30 places in severall Coaches for their Company,

Just now comes in newes that the day holds, (had not the ffast day prevented) Soe that all care shall bee taken to bee ready agt Saturday the 12th: I can att present add noe more for feare the Rest shou'd not gett tyme enough to send the letters, itt being now past 6 a Clock, I am

Sir
Your Honors most faithfull Servant
Jo. Doughty: /

{Folio 407 verso}

For the Honorabable Collonell Paston Att the house of Comons doore
Westminster
Franke.

Macklin May. 18th. 1679

My Lord

I was not a little Surprized yesterday when a Servant of my Sonne Arundell gave me a Letter from his Lord together with an Order from the house of Lords, Signifying their *Lordshipps* pleasure, *that* my Sonne Should give me notice of a Bill, haueing been read *the* first time, for the resting of my Estate in Trustees hands, for the paying of mine & my Sonnes debts, raiseing Provisions for my Children, Buildings &c, & Settling the Remainder after my death on him & his heires; to which I ~~XXX~~ hope I Shall never need make any more {^perticuley} Answere (altho if I would now I cannot as haueing not yett received any Copy thereof) but most humbly to desire their *Lordshipps* to throw it out with Some remarkable note of their just resentments vpon the promoter of this most vnparelled peice of Confidence that ever man had, for a Sonne after Soe long & vnnaturall prosecutors of his father at Law, to Endeavour, now in his absence to haue him Convicted & Suffer by Act of Parliament as Criminall for Crimes worse if it be possible then those of Idiotisme, Lunacy, or Treason; lesse then Some of which Crimes, never yet deprivd & turned any man against his will out of his Jusy Estate & property, & without Soe much as the least Crimes layd to his Charge barely to gratifie an insatiable Sonne, & Snatch his cause out of Chancery, to Inact _ the perport of that ~~xxxxxxx~~ false & most Scandalous bill of his, now depending there against me, becausel doe not dye Soe Soone as he & his Governors would haue me: whch wicked attempt in him, & of Soe desperate example & consequence to all men hereafter, I am Sure I may reckon my Selfe to be Sufficently Secured against by the unbyassed to all, & especially to any of *the*

{Folio 408 verso}

members of that high & most illustrious assembly of the greatest, true noble men & Court of Judis_ture which any former or this present age can shew throughout the ~~xx~~ whole world . My Lord I a now prepaireing ~~xxxxxx~~ for my Journey to the Spa__, for the necessary Support & prolongation if possible for Some time, of my Crazy life, & for which I had as I am sure your Lordshipp well remembers, both his *Majestys*, & the Lords leaue, Some time Since for my {^_____} beyond Sea vpon that attempt, & Shall be ever ready at the Least of his *Majesties* or their *Lordshipps* Commands to returne & waite vpon them though I hope that, whenever any Such Commands Shall come, they will be graciously deferrd (if not extreme vrgent) vntill my returne from those wters, though noe time nor place Shall ever detain me {^from} paying of all Sort of resigned ready duty & obedience to all Such most wellcome Commands, as long as I haue leggs to walke or hands to Creepe on, in their Service; all which I most humbly begg of your *Lordshipp* may be Communicated to the house of Lords with all the duty & humility Imaginable from their &

my Lord

Your *Lordshipps* most humble & most Obedient Servant
Norfolke & Marshall

{later hand}

18 May 1679
32 C.2.

{Folio 409 verso}

[later hand

_____ - - -car 2di

Henry Duke of Norffolk father of Henry letter against his son Henry Earl of Arundell
after duke of Norffolk]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 410 recto

Madam

Meeting my Lord Sunderland oppertunely I desired to know if his Lordshipp wanted any further Informacion as to the2 offices mrs Knight brought to his Lordshipp to gett the Kings grant: But he told mee in 3 or 4 days he would give mrs Knight an Accompt: and when I was coming away he told mee; if I waited on his Lordshipp any morning after tuesday He would giue mee an Accompt on service further satisfaccion therein if need required pray madam desired mrs Knight to acquaint my Lord with my name & that shee desires I may waite on his Lordshipp.

I deliverd the Case by the duks direccions to the Kinge (vizt) Carmerdens & my own & the duke Spoake to it: and did desire the king to order a disput_, for delay was worse then denyall; soe by the king: (Lord of Essex: & mr Hyde) wee are promised vpon Wednesday to receiue satisfaccion or before and all things done according to our minds: His Grace desires mee to come to him & informe him if any failure happen: by whom & for what & his Grace will remove the Estoppell My duty to my Lord I am

Your honours obedient Servant
P Brunskell

31st May 1679

{Folio 411 recto}

These present To the right honourable the Lady Viscountess Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447

Folio 412 recto

As your Majestyes person is sacred to mee soe is your Royall word, and vnder a less ~~presumption~~ warrant this presumption could nott bee authori-sed, I therefore humbly begg of your Majesty to Remember your promise we long depended vpon and renewed latter I waighted on you att Whitehall to make mee an Earle when you made any and {^nott} longer to forgett mee, since this iustice of your Majesty will enable mee the better to serve you when the country sees mee borne up as well as others by your Majestys fauor soe long expected, my owne lameness att present ~~xx xxxxxx~~ hindring mee from attending your Majesty, my self butt I cannott doubt of a Gracious answer in the present order for a warrant which my friend that brings this, can receiue your Majestys commands for: ~~— there is butt one letter and that~~ which in all humility I beg as well as the title of your Majestyes

Most dutyfully deuoted subiect
yarmouth

July the 17th 1679

[later hand 31. C. 2.]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 414 recto

I humbly conceive that his Majestie may legally make such Grant and Patent as above mencioned and I doe not see wherein the same can any wayes be prejudiciall to his Majestie or his Subjects.

Edm: Saunders.

I am of opinion the King may legally grant what is premised; and such Grant in good hands may be helpfull to the Administracion of Justice in the Kingdome, but the Patentees being intrusted by this Grant in great measure for the publique ought to be very circumspect and pursue the publique designe of the Grant for the Publique

Williams

25 July 1679

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 415 recto

August *the* 2d 1679

Mr Le Strange

Pray acquaint my friends that god willing I intend to dine with them att *the* Kings head on thursday next with my son Paston and my son Robin and haue appointed som venison to bee there for dinner, I intend to reach Attleborowe on wednesday night in hast I am

your most affectionate friend & humble servant
yarmouth:

{Folio 416 verso}

For my Honored Friend Edward Le Strange Esq att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich

[later hand - Aug: 2d 79]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 419 recto

My Lord

Your Lordshipe and Sweet Lady doe more and more oblige vs, as I see by your extreame louing Letter, the Courtshipe of which I pretend not to answer, but Shall the business, being greedy of opportunitys wherin to Speake my gratitude: I haue inclosed the draught of Such a Letter to Mr Dunstar as I Suppose will cause a meeting to Redress your Lordshipe; The forme cannot be much otherwise considering in What Capacity your Lordshipe desires it of me: I put no hand to it, till you had Seene and approve it, Espetially Since I see ther will be time enough for your Lordshipe to send it me backe to Signe, inregard I find by the Letters you sent, that Mr Dunstar will not be ther this fiue Weekes; before which time and our sending, I wish *your* Lordshipe, by my Lord Treasurer, or otherwise {^ could learne} the true end of this Commission; for if it be done with an intent to reduce the Wharfes and Keys to a fewer number, that so the Kings charge and Expence as to officers and Waiters may be less, it may not be fitt for your Lordshipe, or me, to doe any things towards the multiplying them, Especially when a New {^one} may doe it at any time: I haue returned the Cobby of the Commission and Certificate, and the Letters: When Your Lordshipe hath corrected mine to your best approuement I Shall obserue your further Commands being

My Lord

Your obedient Seruant

W: Mountagu

(August 14th)

[later hand? 1673-1679]

Folio 420 verso

For the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Viscount Yarmouth These present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 421 recto

Aug. 14. 1679. {later hand 31 C.2}

My Lord,

I have receivd a Complaynt from the County of Norfolk that the Parliament Writt (which is sayd for some time to have been in my Lord Pastons hands, though I do not well know how it came there) is not yet deliverd to the Sheriff, and by this means the Country may either be Surprizd for want of timely Notice to appear at the next County Court, or be putt to very great charges if it be delayd a Month Longer, I know your *Lordship* is too generous and too Wise to suffer any Inconvenience to the Country which may be in your *Lordships* power to hinder, and therefore I pray your *Lordship* to Command that the Writt be forthwith deliverd to Sheriff, and Notice thereof given to the Country. Else I must be forced to look vpon that Writt as either Lost or miscarryd, and Seal and send another forthwith by an Express to the Sheriff. It will be for your *Lordships* Service not to suffer any Complaynts of this Nature to be multiplyd or improvd, and therefore I pray your *Lordship* to take this Advertisement in good part, from

My Lord,

Your *Lordships* very humble Servant

Finch. C.

[Later hand- Earle of Yarmouth.]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 423 recto

Right Honourable

I forbore writing on Munday in hopes that by this time I might have been able to have given your honour some satisfactory account how our elections here were like to go. As for the Colls at Norwich there is no doubt, All our fear is for the county though if wee reckon not amisse the phanatick party can haue no great hope. However they do not give over their endeavours, but are most diligently & vigorously active in the behalf of Sir John Hobart. T'is hard to make a certain judgement of the event but we have good reason to hope well. And I assure your honour there shall be nothing wanting in mee to give his greatnesse a defeat. The method of his agents is to cry out popery which they conclude him to be zealous against but in the mean time do not reflect ✕ upon the danger of the presbyterian faction which I fear they'le find as dangerous & destructive to the interest of the King and Kingdome. I thinke the clergy in generall will be right enough, and my Lord Bishop has writ a letter to them to perswade them to be so, a copy where of I shall shew them at Northwalsham to morrow where I expect to meet some number of them And being thus preingaged I hope the Coll & your honour will excuse my {^not} waiting upon him through Norwich which nothing but the Seruice of my King & country should hindered mee from doing. I crave the favour of my most humble Service to Madam Paston & her little daughter

My Lord is very well onely this cold weather keeps his Lordship in his chamber. I am

Right Honourable

your honours most dutifull chaplain & obedient Servant
John Gough.

{Folio 424 verso}

These

To the Right Honourable the Lady Viscountesse Yarmouth
humbly present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 425 recto

Norwich Septemb. 1. 1679

Right Honourable

The reason I writ not to your honour this day sennight was because I w[as] unwilling to be the messenger of Such ill news as then happened to day (God be thanked) I have better to acquaint your honour with wher_ I came to Town this morning there was a rumour of an opposiⁿ to be made against my Lord paston & Mr Briggs which yet was reckoned but an idle story till eleven of the clock when my Lord having rid some time & for want of employment & to be his friends together having began his poll there were two persons with a seeming ly formidable appearance shew'd themseves in his chairs, the persons were counsellor Bacon (as he is called) and [th]e formerly Alderman pain. This appearance of an opposition rows'd our party to diligence & after a poll of fivehour's _____tis thus concluded. My Lord P. 1500 Alderman Briggs 1307the two opposites had the one eight hundred & odd the other nine hundred. Thus the day is our own in the citty not withstanding all tricks & so I doubt not but the next election we may haue in the county shall bee. I haue no more but to render my humble thanks to your honour for all favours & to say that I am

Right Honourable

your honours most dutifull chaplain & humble Servant

J Gough

{Folio 426 verso}

These

To the Right Honourable the Countesse of Yarmouth at her house in the Pall Mall over against the green dragon near St James's in London
humbly present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 427 recto

Norwich. 1 Sept. 1679.

Madam

I did not like the Complexion of last munday from the beginning, & so I stayed not above an hour after the worke {^began} & left the accompt there of to come to your Honor by other hands, which I went to see my noble old Friend Sir John Holland, whom I found very ill that Evening, & left him so again in the wednesday, but tuesday was a well day with him, and I hear now from Mr Clarke the Apothecary that he is much mended since.

I know your Ladyship hath an Accompt of this dayes worke from Mr Doughty, whi I believe is tried enough, for he & many others have labour'd very hard & to good purpose, all this day, & I am sure my Lord is so weary & Mr Paston too, that neither of them can well put pen to paper, ahving (as I have don) fasted till now, almost 7 at night.

At first for almost an hour, wee thought there would have been no opposicion, & when the Sheriffs were almost ready to declare for my Lord & Alderman Briggs, up started Alderman Pain, & (by his Instigacion) Mr Tho: Bacon, which occasioned a Poll that lasted 6 hours, & from where they are but iust now return'd, I have put their numbers in the margent, by which your honor will see the odds, & have no more time than to present my Lords & mr Paston's humble Dutyes with my own most humble service to your Honor, & to remayn

Madam

your Honors most faithfull Servant

John Fisher

For my Lord Paston - 1415

Ald: Briggs - 1217

Ald: Pain - 958

Mr Bacon- 833

If I had had time or paper, I should have wrot the like to my Lady Paston, which my Lord desires your Honor to acquaint her Ladyship withall

{Folio 428 verso}

These present To the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth at her house In the Pall mall
London post

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 429 recto

Right Honourable

I doubt not but before this time *the Honourable* election of *Collonel* Paston at Norwich, then which I think nothing more could have been wish't for. Wee are in this County somewhat beholding to the faction in that by their little Strugling they giue occasions to us of atcheiving great victorys and of giving to his *Majestie* greater demonstrations of our firm & unshaken Loialty The elections that have been hitherto made in Norfolk are such as none but factious persons I think can find fault with .I wish that those places that are yet to elect may follow such good examples as haue been set them. To morrow comes on the Yarmouth election & there is good ground to hope that *Sir Tho. Meddows* will be one, as on the otherhand is feard that *Mr Harbord* will prevaile at Thetford I hope that if he become a new Burgesse hee will likewise become a new man. *Collonel Paston* & *Mr Robert* to morrow will begin their journey for London, and I intend (God willing) to waite upon them so far as Hitherset where the hackney coach is appointed to meet them by ten a clock. Here are a great many Gentlemen to day that are come to take their leaue of the *Collonel* & to wish him a good journey, which that he may have & your honour may meet him & *Mr Robert* with ioy is the hearty prayer of
Right Honourable your honours most dutifull & obedient *Servant*
John Gough

{Folio 430 verso}

These To the Right Honourable the Lady Viscountesse Yarmouth at her house in Suffolk Street in London
humbly present

British Library Additonal MS 27447
Folio 431 recto

September the 3d 1679

My Deare Hart

I am now with many of my friends att Oxnett taking leaue of my son who intends to com towards you to morrowe butt as to my self I doe nott intend to precipitate myself soe soone vpon the incertaine tyes of this world yett I am att a dayes wanting when euer you call, bee itt better or worse wee are decently merrie and Thom Wood who drinks your health in a swinger is telling the story how hee whipped impudent Payne of Norwich that stood with your son, now: for fowre miles together Payne riding & coming the while, your son will stay till your letters com in to morrowe morning & bee for thetford to morrowe night , you haue soe good an accompt from others of the victorious honor your son came of withall in spight of the hidden malice of the factious party, If my fate will keep mee sutably to my title I am sure I can serve my King in my station as consi-derably as any body butt if my iust pretences can admitt of noe dispatch, nor encoragement I must sinke, butt I will yett hope better, pray god I may find to morrowe the King is a condition to admitt of ___ 4 and that hee has noe returne of his distemper, I send John Graut, & the page ___ before mee, the page has beene ill butt I consi-der how you want him & I send him, I haue enough heere and too manie, I haue nothing of newse butt that wee are much reioyced to

{folio 431 verso}

find the citty soe loyally firme and not {^to} bee abused as the country people are with lyes, which is soe stomacked as they are neither soe much elated with their former victory as wee supposed, they doe allready begin to suspect Gleare & to repent their choyse, butt in most places the manner of Elections ___ with that which I feare will nott sute the Kings affaires, my duty to your mother, blessing to Betty Jasper, my service to all my friends, He send vp Nogg venison wine & what I thinke convenient by sea if you can butt bid mee cheer up in your next, butt when I heare you are well itt serves to alleviate all crosses that lye upon my maw for I am yours with all my sowle

Yarmouth:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 433 recto

Oxnead 8 Sept: 79

Madam

I humbly thank your Honour for your favour of the 4th instant, and presume my Lord Paston got well up last Saturday, by whome your Honour had a full Accompt of all Affairs in this Country. Sir Chr: Calthorp according to his own Resolucion, would willingly have stayed at home, & desird me to have stayed with him, but Mr Paston's & some other friends Importunity carried him away to Norwich on the Sunday night before the Eleccion, & the next mor-ning, I attended upon my Lord Paston thither, and when I had don Sir Chr: as much mischief as I could, by giving of him my vote, I left the Town, & went to Sir Jo: Holland & acquaint him with your Ladyships kind Expressions towards him, of which he is very sencible, & I hope will like to return your Honour his thanks for them, I heard not from him since last tuesday & then his servant told me he was on the mending hand but I have not heard from Sir Chr: since the Eleccion who was not very well then, but complaining of an unhappy blow he got on his head as he came down in the Coach from London. There were but two new members chosen in all this County, & one of them is dead since the Eleccion, Mr Geo: England of Yarmouth, and it's conceived, when a new rent is issued, his Brother (that marryed Mr Bulwer's daughter) may succeed him. I thank God my Lord is very chearly & can be no otherwise so long as Mr Woods is with him, who hath favour'd him with his Company a whole weeke. with my most humble service presented to your Honour, I remayn

Madam

your Honours most faithfull Servant
John Fisher

{Folio 434 verso}

To the Right Honourable the Countess of yarmouth at her house In the Pall mall
London post

September the 15th 1679:

My Dearest Hart

Your last brought strange newse butt itt was all about Norwich the stay of the Duke of Monmouths beeing discharged by places and ordered to goe beyonde {^sea} which was more then yours mentioned, itt putts vs all in a maze what to thinke of the change we suddainely butt I conclude 3 goes with Θ I should bee very glad in yours to find any confirmation from 7:10:6 that they haue any hopes of 3 by 2 or 3000, els if itt bee nott quickly finished, theres noe more hopes I am glad you say 25 500 LLL will bee don before I com I am sure itt will make my iourney vp much more pleasant and giue mee som life, I cannott Imagine the perticulars you conceale from 4 butt setts my thoughts a musing I am very glad my son went to Windsor and that hee had soe kind a reception from the King and the Duke, I perceiue by yours ittts yett vncertaine whether the King coms to Newmarkett, and I shall steere by your aduice as to any motion towards you, which will bee brisk if the contents of your last holds any proportion, with reallity, which I pray god itt may, and that I find you nott flag in your imaginations, I thinke the best friend wee can hope for any good in in³ in² and XXX

{Folio 435 verso}

butt I need giue you noe aduice, whose vigilance and Dexterity if itt might butt bee altered with success could nott bee mended, however vpon your last desires to brisk vp, I intend to morrowe morning to goe my small progress to Sir Neuile Catlyne to Captaine Cokes to maior wards, and to Mr Wards of Brooke I propose to bee att home on thursday night, butt your letter, which I shall meet passing through Norwich in the morning will much steere my cowrse for I goe to dinner to Ward of Brookes, and from thence to Sir Neuille Catlynes, from whence my next letter will I presume bee dated, on wedensday I shall dine att Captaine Cookes, and on thursday in my way homeward att maior Wards, I shall bee much pressed to goe to Sir John Rouse his which is 8 miles for Sir Neuille Catlynes butt vnless in yours I find great encouragement, I shall shorten my iourney, I wonder in your last you say nott on _ word of K which I hope my son will press on and you may vse 2 expectation at an argument to hasten them for els you'l find them vnready when opportunity serves, and you see - by 3 2 Θ how fatall all delayes are, Mr Fisher staves att home to take the Bayliffs accompts of two yeares, and I haue ____ to him to prepare ____ to bee ready in Nouember with his last accompt, for that beast will neuer doe mee credit or service more then to creem himself, Mr L Estrange coms vp on the towne of Deerhams Errand and will waite on on you the latter end of the next weeke pray for him kindly for hee is a serviceable friend and loue to our interest,

{Folio 436 recto}

I can write you {^noe} great newse from hence I thanke I am fine ly well, and my infirmities teacheth mee to take care of my self: I had an alarem that my Lord of Arundell & his Lady were com to ____ butt nott hearing itt confirmed from Norwich on Saterdag haue forbearred yett to send to them, I heare my Lord of Peterborowe came ouer with the Duke, butt you say nothing of that nor of my Lord Bercklays

beeing made an Earle which was in the Coffee howse letter att Norwich som posts since, Itt cannott enter into my head that 7 should bee 20 and the persons out of faour you speake of that are soe violent against the Duke, pray lett 6 Know I am her servant, I haue written to your mother, you neuer speake one word of Sir John Clayton where hee is machinating, I must make an end with him this Michaelmas either by the lease or a compensation for itt of 200ll per annum as Mr Loades and Dawson shall thinke best for my aduantage and what must bee don had as good be dispatched butt Ile haue him bound to his good behavior for hee is the wont of men, all herre present their dutys, my loue to sweet Betty & to Jasper to my son & daughter & the sweet Babes. God comfort and preserue you euerlastingly and send you & I am speedie efectuall relishes of his prouidence pray when you haue perused the inclosed tack itt downe & send itt to Mr Fox, I am well pleased with the letters from Venice butt must take som time to answer them, I am yours from the passion of my sowle
Yarmouth

{folio 436 verso}

My Deare Hart iust as the Post was ready to goe away, coms in your Packquett to my amasement in the contents I know nott where I am butt bid god speed to the discouery of any presbiterean plott I shall answer you for Sir Neuille Catlynes, for this newse which I suppose will bee ill att the ramping horse shall make mee cheere vp my friends and my sett because you tell mee 3 will goe on & 2 assures itt when 20 coms to towne who I am glad is kind to mee as my son assures mee the king is & the Duke, pray thanke my son for his letter which Ile answer at my returne on friday, in the meane while for god sake ___ vp 6 and 7 daughter to bee quick in our dispatch of 3 now the king is in on friday by the flyng coach Mrs Cooper will send you vp full 3 pint of the stringest Hewitt water which was left behind by mistake , butt if you putt a little rectified spiritt of wine about one quarter of a pint to a quart of the other water itt will make it very high: Sir Christopher Cal-thorpe & Sir Nicholas L Estrange now with mee present their humble seruice to you; adieu till the next my service to Sir Richard Duttin & my Lady:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 437 recto

From Sir Henry Bedingfeild
September 26 1679:

Madam:

In my Last from Lynn I gaue your Ladyship an account of my Lords reception there, which was very noble; after the Corporation entertainment was ouer my Lord was invited by the Major to Lye att his house which my Lord was pleased to accept of; and had a very handsome supper and the fiddles, ans all the good company after supper to divert him: next morning my Lord was nobly regalled att Mr Lonsteads, & from thence my Lord came to Mr Foster from where he parted this morning, and is thank god gott very safe hither, where his Lordship takes up his Quarters this night ; I humbly beg your Ladyships blessing, and the continuance

{Folio 437 verso}

of your Ladyships fauours on

Madam

your Ladyships Most Dutyfull & Obedient Son
Rob: Paston

{Folio 438 recto}

These For the Right Honorable the Lady Countess of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 439 recto

My Lord

Mr Attorney Generall desires mee to draw a Commission during pleasure to manage the Revenue for the King and to receiue it: and he will assist vs in it: and will recomend it to the Lords Commissioners of the treasury: and thinks after he has done it will be propper that the Lords Commissioners: summon all the officer of the Court to see if they can objecte against it; and he will be for vs tooth & naile; But as matters now stand he advises vs to breake the Ice this way and gett into it; after wee are in he thinks wee may easily renew it for a Longer terme and gett assurance of the King for a reward as his majesty pleases I like his friendly advise and Shall God willing be ready on munday evening for the Attorney

Your Lordshipps most humble servant

P Brunskell

6th Dec. 1679:

{Folio 440 verso}

ffor the right honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth

28° {page damaged}

Deare Sir

your most Kinde & Ingeniuos Letter was very acceptable & timely account you gaue (together your sentiment of the addresse of your Countrymans wiffe to the Noble Earles Countesse) very prudent) but I must also tell you that vpon Christmas day last in the forenoone an addresse was sent to the Countesse (inclosed in a letter to one Mrs Cooper (whoe waites vpon her Honor) to the purport you prescribed) but was returned without answer, the truth of {[^]the} matter is thus. Mrs Stebben is very very great with chyld (& by her greife in great danger of Miscarr-yinge, which added to the Inclemency of the season, and her twoe children newly recouered of the small pox) did praeuaile with manifesr in wrightinge the merritts of her case as not dareing to make a personal application to her Ladyship. so by this tyme you may see that you & I center'd in the same point. which I am not sorry of). I humbly beseech his Grace (& pray you) to weigh seriously this affaire & to haue noe probable meanes vnattempted to praesure a truely Loial & honest gent & his Family from uery impedent & threatning Ruine his Roial Highnesse & ovr noble Lord Lieutenant may be verie Instrumentall to the healing of this soare. but his Grace is Instar-omnium to praeuaile with them herein, & vpon his prudent & noble Conduct in this Concerne of Consequence doth your honest Country-man (vnder God) Depend. I haue noe Designe in the espousing this businesse but what tends to aduance the Interest of the most Noble house of Norff: & the discharge of my Obligations (as a good Christian) to affect refeiffe to the Destressed; which I am glad you are so sensible of your pretty littll Mis you mention I feare is not at Oxned: I wish shee w^x{[^]e}r! for then you might haue some pratend to ground your Action of Defamation vpon in respect being superannuated as to point of Marriage but you & I are (I feare ~~xxxx~~ those ready {[^]to} veliety then Action. Sir I can neuer sufficiently acknowledge his Good Graces acceptance of my iust ~~xxxxx~~ indeauors to Conciliate Differences & your concurrence to promote all faire waies to promote the obteyninge therof. My most humble Duty to both their Graces . My sonne giues you his most hearty seruices. Ald. Paines head is out of Joynt & hath ben so aboue this 2 yeares. the Ald: Stebbinge is your very obleiged seruant & so id vnfeignedly

Sir your old Faithfull & most humble Servant
Tho: Corie

Sir I send you Mrs Coopers lettre to Mrs Stebbinge & the Coppie of The address to the Countesse vnder her owne hand.

{Folio 442 recto}
Post payd. 6_

Madam/

God be thanked I am a liue & my name is John Taylor. Our letters Pattents will bee sign'd to morrow by Speciall Order from the Kinge & by Spesiall direction of my Lord Chancellor & had Mr John-sonn gott it {^in} redines it had bin seald upon Satturday, but I went with it to the Hamper {^offices}, & haue gott it reddy & went to Mr John sonn to ~~acquaint~~ acquainte hime to pay the Offices their fees which had it bin in my hands it had bin finish_. However it hath falne out extraordenarely for our advantage in 2 respects: (i) my good wise ~~xxxx~~ Earle of Derby by the advise of my Lord Roper his Secretary of State, hath Sent an Order to withdraw his stop & So wee are of that Rock, hee disowning any pretence to out Lands as by Ropers learned Letters to mr Thomson doth appeare but only clames a remaynder at Domesday &c ----- But a little before Sir Robert gaye mee the meeting at my Lord Chancellers yesterday; there came a pecearing Ratt cather, from Esqr Steele to putt a story to our Grant, under the name {^of} Don dego, bell, & Draggon ---- beeing acquainted there with {^I} came to the fenattick messenger & tould hime, that oppression & Fraud, was like Murther, it would out at Case , & desired to know what hee gaue the Earle of Derby for that estate & whither hee did not know the Estate was in the Kinge {^& that the Kinge as well} Sir Robert & the World woald make him judge of his vnjust Fine , & did him further acquainte Mr Steele that the Kinge hath had the best & ablest advice of the eminentes Counsell in his dominions in his poynt & desird hime to acquainte him so from his freind John Taylor. - with some more particular advise not hath to be mencioned, which made the Sneaking fellow run like a car away verely dissattisfy'd, that so holly a brother is likely to bee crusefyd for his vnparrelled Actions. Butt my Lord Chancellor beeing acquaint-ed herewith sent word to {^Mr} Steele that by the Kings Speciall Order hee would Seale it upon Munday: I haue saued you 5 ginneys in Sir Roberts hands which hee would haue giuen to mr Sollicitor to noe purpose which I hope you will Send for them for mee to gett those Other Records ready to avoyd any Scrupell or doubt but that the Right is in the Kinge to mentayne my promise with the Clerkes with Some more Money. --- As for Mr Johnson I leaue him for his negligence by your Honours approbacion, but in my opinion hee doth not merritt in &c ----- Upon Munday I dine

{continued down left-hand margin}

with Sir Robert & am to goe with him in the afternoone for our Grant vnder the broad Seale: So with my most vnfayned & humble Service presented to your Honours & very good Lord I remayne as your Honour & my very good Lord I remayne as your Honour Knowe mee to bee, your Honours most faithfull & reddy Servant to comand

J Taylor

December the 21 79

{Folio 443 verso}

These for the Right Honourable the Countes of Yarmouth with my humble Service
ddd

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 444 recto

January the 12th 1679

Sir

I thanke you for seuerall letters I beene lately very much indisposed by the gout, which has hindred mee writing to my friends butt I haue the same hart and respects to them all, amongst which Sir Christopher Calthorpe and Sir Neuille Catlyne haue nott the least share, pray Sir attendance on the deputy Leif-tenants present my humble service to them I thinke if they please itt will doe well for to long the weeks pay that the Stock may bee ready in the Trears on all occations, other matters that coms before them as well as that I submitt to their pleasures, I wish my friends would discountenance all petitions, if any presume after the know ledge of his Majestys mind to shew our county a bad example, monsieur Du-vall desires that Captaine Guibbon woald destraiues vpon Thorham and Denham, my Lord Parbecks estate and nott on my Ladys signature he beeing willing to answer onely for the time since her widdowhood I wish the matter fairely ended Sir I am your most affectionate ffreind
Yarmouth

my service to Alderman Briggs
Sir Robert Paston is sent to the tower:

{Folio 444 verso}

For my worthy Friend Edward L Estrange Esq
Leaue this att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich
Frank
yarmouth

[later hand - Jan: 12: 79:]

Du Vall & Guybon

Madam

I shall this afternoone waite upon Sir George Jefferys to acquainte hime that when I & my freind hath brought things to perfection from all Record wee will attend him: I finde that the clerks haue gott the first Originall Grant of H8 & other Reords in Redines, & therefore 5li will bee the vtmost I shall expect vntill I haue Sir Georges opinion which of necessety {^must} bee had or otherwise things must stand for now I begg leaue of you to take my owne way ti bring things into adirecter & exater Way then euer Mr Turner or Sir Robert Or the Atturney Generall or Mr Hoult did ___ again or could think of, They haueing noe eye upon the founacion, upon which the Grant of the Queene was built & the Foundacion fayling, the Structure must needs fall to the ground. It is impossible to say more & can do more then I haue or will {^doe} but wanting Money as I was promised by others 300li at my first entrance; I know things had not stuck here upon this Turne of the tide, but I haue greater hoppers then euer but only an ecclips of Money which I haue spent out of thy owne estate nere 200li easely recouered in a yeares time besides loss of my practise: But confidence in the justnes of your Honour & goodnes makes mee thus to make my selfe a drugg to serve you & am fully determined nothing shall disingage mee from sending you, but want of Money: which I hope feare will not prevent you in prosecuting so great a cause, beeing backt with such good interest, & had I Money I would haue secur'd the mentioing so smale a sume as now I doe expect & doe hope you will Order mee to receiue it, by this messenger which is all from Madam

Your most humble & faithfull Servant
J Taylor

Jan: this 26 / 79

{Folio 446 verso}

These for the Right Honourable The Countess of Yarmouth with my humble Service

ddd

Deare Madame my brother hath spoake againe to the King and belike that his Maiesty hath ordered him to write to my Lord of Ormond another Letter your Ladyship will finde this a meere delay and so a Losse of the busines if you doe not this uery day before any such Letter goes to the Duke of Ormonde either goe your selfe to the King if able or els imploy some of the most powerfull that are Concerned to tell his Maiesty that you are all satisfied with the acounte that my Lord priuy seale hath had out of Irland allready and that my Lord priuy seale neuer intended the nameing of the management of it in Irland to retard the busines but to further and speede it though others that say an answeare of the Kings Last Letter shall not come till mid sumer next <illegible> hath no intentione but by delays wholly to supplant your Ladyship and the answeare to another Letter must come Long after next

{folio 447 verso}

midsummer , if there be a delay of this busines till a letter come out of Irland. I Looke vpon it as gone therefore be pleased by Madame Gwynne meane or some other powerfull persone to haue the King taken of from any farther thoughts of this Letter goeing for Irland, for though my brother being so Innocent himselfe of any vnworthy Action doth not suspect any others yet some others haue Certainly put the King vpon this letter to delay & so vndermine your Ladyship ___ and if your Ladyship ___ are Contented to accept it as it is with all faults what neede any further sending to Irland, deare Madame Consult with Madam Gwynne for she hath more wit then all the rest your Ladyship hath to doe with in this put them altogether and resolue to put of this fromall letter goeing to Irland and Let some discrette body apeare roundly in behalfe of it this day or bid it far well, I doe not see besides my brother that any of the men haue done any thing Considerable in it all that euer will be done in it your Ladyship will

{Folio 448 recto}

finde must be done this day to preuent this Letter goeing for Irland therefore I beg of your Ladyship ___ to be vigorous, and if the King intends it for your Ladyship no doubt he will vpon good reason giuen Grant a Warrant this day I am euer as oblidged

Madame
Your Ladyships most humble and obedient Seruant
Anne Baker

Saturday allmost one of the Clocke

{Folio 448 verso}

To the Countes of Yarmouth Humbly present these

{another hand possibly Rebecca Paston} 1680
Lady Bakers Letter about The Duke of ormond acompt from Irland of the green wax

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 449 recto

my honoured Lord the reasone of your Lordships no Sooner receiueing an acounte from me of your Comaunds was that my brother was gone to dine with my Lord of Essex and it was Late before he cam^e home, all things are as well as to him as your Lordship could wish and he presents his Seruis to your Lordship and my Lady, and Says you neede not once thinke that he would be so uniuert or vnkinde as to passe the Seale with out heareing the vtmost your Lordship vs hath to Say for your Selues nor doth he See but you haue a better reasone to expect the Kings kindenes and fauour then most and his Justice as to your Lordships great expence So that the rattle from the Gentleman had not the Least good efect, for the enemys of your Lordships good Cause, My brother Lordship says Mr Aram

{Folio 449 verso}

Shewed him that your Lordship and Mr Brunskill had resigned the patent vnder your hands be pleased to get the best arguments to de-fend your Selfe against that obiection I am in hast but euer

my Lord
your Lordships obedient Seruant
A B

this Tuseday morning

Folio 450 verso

To the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth Humble present these

1680:

My Lord./

Thus morning I was to invite the Recorder to *the* howse but hee sayes that these holydayes & the Sessions preuents his coming till Tuesday seauen night beeing the 20 of Aprill; but with all further tould mee that hee would haue you with all the speed immaginable Send mee downe to Chester to gett all things in reddnes *against* his coming to dine *with* you upon Tuesday Seauen night beeing the Twenteith instant & hath entred it in his Almanack has to for-gett: Therefore I presume to advise *the* Lady to giue a Visit to the Dutches to know what ~~you~~ shee will contribute to bring things to perfection: & when shee hath done that I will immediatly goe, for my Stay heere hath bin upon noe other accoumpt then to Serue *your* Lordship: But to goe downe *without* a considerable Sume, I would not appeare *with* my finger in my mouth to noe purpose, For if wee haue all the Law and Reason in the World grounded upon neuer so many Records, Theyre Money will make an interest sufficient, that if they appeare *with* Tom Thum or a Ballett of Chevey chase, they will destroy vs: Bee pleasd to consider then what I haue to doe *against* the Recorders coming; To gett the Deanes & Chapters consent some may-bee are greast in the fist by ^{^the} Steele, & will pull backwards: To gett their Atturment of the Tennants belonging to our first Letters pattents. To ingage the Recorder of Chester & Mr Lutwege to bee on two sides, *which* will bee as great a support to vs there as wee can possibly imagine: But the first step must bee to gett the Deane & Chapters consents ^{^their returne} & then to gett the Knowledge of the Vallewes of the estates *with* their peticion to the Kinge; this will take time & expence *which* cannot bee done at my fathers: I will invite all Our Tennants thither, & giue them the greatest in-couragment I possibly can & will not Spare any cost to ~~likke~~ linke them to vs: *which* cannot bee better done, then by treating them ciuilly: To *which* end i haue write to my father to prouide mee good store of good Liquor, ^{^ & other provisions} for noe doubt Mr Steele hath giuen notice to his Baliss ^{^& _____} there & hath instructed them all hee can to oppose mee: It is good to acquainte the Recorder that hee take of Alderman Viner, for it is but a cheat in Mr Steele, to sell him an estate, that hee came into without any con sidera-~~tion~~tion, & the Right beeing in the Kinge, *which* hee must informe my Lord chancellor after my returne of the Deane & Prebends consents & then to gett Sir Roberts pattent ~~for~~s_____ by my Lord Chancellor is the way & that Mr Recorder will concur *with*: I am resolud not to goe into Ireland till this is finisht but will Send the Kings letter to the Duke & my authorety to Mr Longfeild to whom I haue ordered him 50li out of my purs alreddy to putt my busines in Action *which* I might haue said in my purse had I gon but was & am Still resolu'd to see this at an end *which* will now bee sudden-ly if Wee doe not *procrastinate* our owne designes *which* may bee done *with* a great les difficulty then I haue don others: I doubt not in the least but to make you a Sudden & welcome returne of their consents to the King & then all World can neuer bee able to withstand vs haueing a 4 fould cord, as I formerly haue instanct to *your* Lordship: After Sermon to morrow I intend to waite upon *your* Lordship & So remanyne

my Lord *your* Lordships most humble & faithfull Servant
J Taylor./

Aprill 10 80

{Folio 451 verso}

For the Right Honourable The Earle of Yarmouth

with my humble Service

ddd

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 452 recto

My Lord./

This morning I was with Sir George Jefferyes to acquainte him that I would doe nothing without his advice, & further that if I went down into Cheshire without the Kings Order & Comission to mee {^my appearances} would signify/ little & acquainted him of the substance of all the Kings Authorety to mee which Sir George did very much approue of saying here words, that what euer was for the Kings advantage, the Charg, or to whome the Kinge should shew any favour of Kindnes as to these Lands, hee would to the vtmost of his power obserue the Kings Comands in all things. Therefore I would intreat your Lordship to gett this Letter of the Kings Signd which all the speed you can & keepe that of the Bishops till my returne ~~xxx~~ of what the Bishop Deane & Chapter will consent vnto: ~~xxx~~ But this letter of mine from the Kinge will bee the only meanes to make all parsons conformable what the King shall desier for himselfe, the Church, or you & this apes-able with Sir George Jefferys opinion: I shall waite upon your Lordship in the euening, (which Doctor Taylor) if I can possible meete with him, that So wee may conclude of my speedy dispatch out of Towne for my Stay here in not getting things preparad against Sir George Jeffe-rys comeing downe to Chester will ___ the letter ___ of all our enterprizes, this I thought to surmise to your Lordships approba-con & remayne

your Lordships most humble Servant
J Taylor

Aprill this 13 /80

{Folio 452 verso}

These for the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth with my humble Service
ddd

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 453 recto

April the 15th 1680:

Sir

I receiued yours and doe desire if possible, the address may vary as little as can bee from the words you writt mee, I haue beene troubled with an old Lady, my Lady Zouch her case is to bee scene in the inclosed pray recommend her to the best fauor of my friends, and att least lett noe hasty thing fall on her concerne, present my humble service to the Deputy Leiftenants who I am sure shall find mee most ready to serve them and shall bee most infinitely satisfied with what they shall please to order concerning musters or Otherwise, of which I desire som accompt from you, as soone as I shall receiue the address I will waite on his Majesty att windsor with itt and lett the gentlemen know how itt was receiued for Mr Jesop I neither will bee his prose-cutor nor his aduocate, I am with much Kindness

your most affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth:

{Folio 454 verso}

For my Honored Friend Edward LEstrange Esq

Franke

Yarmouth

Leaue thus att Alderman Briggs his {^house} in Norwich

[later hand- April 15 1680 Lady Zouch]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 455 recto

April the 17th 1680

Sir

Somewhat you promised morallie I might expect in the phrase of your letter I find will rellick infinitely, I haue writt to Thom. loire to promote another from the Citty that I may att the same time present his majesty with both, att Windsor for I cannott expect you should finish att Norwich, butt I pray write mee word when you thinke they may com from the ad-vertisement of the Session to the last place, the sooner the better, the ban is more honorable then the reare This day I was att the cowncell for they satt vpon a further purge of Justices, butt I was att the present consent then should remaine as they are I hope to receiue a list from you of the seat of the Cheif constables and I doubt nott butt his Majesty will thinke as well of his subiects in Norfolk as of any in the nation my humble seruice to all my friends, to whome I hope to giue an Early visitt this summer

I am yours affectionately

Yarmouth:

{Folio 456 verso}

For my Honord Friend Edward L Estrange Esq
Leaue this att Alderman Briggs howse in Norwich

Franke
Yarmouth

Madam./

I am safe come to Chester & had bin sooner but that the Stage coach was 2 passages taken up but as soone as I came hither I waited upon the Bishop whoe informed mee that hee had receiud full instructions from his Grace the Arch: Bishp & would joyne with the Deane & Chapter after I waited upon the Deane & the Probends distinctly & their Counsell & ~~xxxxx~~ all but 2 whoe I am affrayd Steele hath bin tempering which {^doth pull back} but upon Munday next the Deane will call a Chapter & then the next poste god Willing you will heare further of their full consent & Peticion annext to the Schedule what Lands they now enjoy & what they doe not enjoy ~~last~~ that will cause great care dilligence & expence {^to find out} what the Gentry enjoy & their vallewes which I would intreat your Ladyship to prouide Moneys for without that I cannot Stir, I haue gott the Deane & Chaptes counsell, opinion as also the Bishop & Deane & 4 Prebends consent to write a peticion & shall doe well with the other in case they should not agree for the Major park, doth out power the lords & is conclusiue to them: I wish your Lady Honour would bee pleasd to send mee word by the next poste when Sir George Jefferys comes downe, for they doe not expect him hither till August & acquainte Sir George from mee that Vsually the cheife Justice of Chester doth send to Mr Booth Protho noter for him to giue notice to the Sherif & hee to the County of his coming that so all causes & trialls may bee gott in redines before his coming, I would haue writ to him, but thought it inconvenient vtill suchtime I had gott things in a better reddines: But God be thanked I finde such compliance amongst them as I doe, to submitt to the Kings pleasure, which will bee carried on with all the secresy immaginable they expect a 1000li addicion {^yearly} to their Reuenues which wee may well comply with their beeing sufficient to sattisfy vs & the Jentry noe more but earnestly intreat to send mee word from the recue which comes that so I may haue all things in reddines for his further di-rection with my true Loue & respects presented to you & my good Lord & remayne
Madam your most humble Servant
J Taylor

{continued in left-hand margin}

Direct your letter for mee at Mr Singleton's house in the Bridge Street in Chester & it come safe to my hands

As for what the Kinge hath Granted vs by Pattent they all agree that wee shall haue their consents & {^_____} desier to haue Sir George opinion whither I should send up the Pattent to haue it amended & to make an entry in the kings name immediatly for most all the Tenants will Atturue to _____ I am at Br _____
XX

{Folio 457 verso}

For the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth at his howse in the Pell Mell nere St Jamses
London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 458 recto

May the 20th: 1680:

Sir

This day dined with mee, Sir Chrstopher Calthorpe Sir Neville Catyline, my two Couzin Knyvets Thom Bedingfeld and your Brother, I receiued your and find in all matters your great diligence which I shall ever prize if I haue noe opportunity to reward itt, the knights gaue mee an accompt of Mr Walpoles affections & carriage therefore I doe desire you art to trouble him the affaires of the Leiftenancye, and of the rest I shall consi-der when a new commission is, my wife went after dinner to Windsor where she will bee and my son too; when those gentlemen comes thether to kiss his Majestys hands; pray present my most humble service to the deputy Leifte-nants that meet now and lett Mr Shadwell Know I writt to him to fincham as hee directed and my letter was returned mee sealed, by the Lyne bagg, of which the person that menages those letters shall heare of I hope Mr Walpole shall nott defend that conclable and I wish the rest in the list were out that are factious, my service to any of my friends I am with much sinceritye Sir your honours friend to serve you

yarmouth

{Folio 459 verso}

These For my Honored Friend Edward L Estrange Esq

Franke
yarmouth

Leaue this att Alderman Briggs howse in Norwich:

[FB- later hand- May 20th 1680]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 460 recto

My Lord

Your letter found mee in such a con-fused condition by the dangerous sickness of my wife, that I am nott able to write more then that I readily promise forty pounds or if you please more shall bee settled on the church of Chester for euer whatever your Lordshipp vndertakes for ee in that affaيرة concerning the graunt of the Estate possest by Mr Steele shall bee made good by my Lord your Lordshippes
most faithfull & humble servant

Ro: Howard

Micham June the 6th 1680

Pardon the confusion I am in that that can write noe longer butt what you doe I will make good.

I doe vndertake Sir Robert Howard shall settle forty pounds a yeare for euer out of the graunt of the lands possessed by Mr Steele vpon his recouerie of them vpon the church of Chester yarmouth June the 6th 1680

{Folio 460 verso}

Copy of Sir Robert Howards letter to mee June the 6: 1680

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 461 recto

Windsor June 10: 1680

That day delivered into the hands of Mr Fraser by the Right Honorable My Lady yermouth five papers concerning a Discovery of the mines in the Dutchy of Lancaster *which* are as follows: 1. The Petition delivered to his Majesty in the name of the Earle of Arran *with* the Earle of Sunderlands Reference there upon directed to Sir Robert Car Chancelor of the Dutchy bearing date at windsor aug: 9 1679: The 2^d paper is a large Answer from Sir Robert Car to the said Reference bearing date april: 5. 1680 3^d: Contains the state of the Case, *with* Mr Sanders opinion upon it bearing date april 12. 1680 | 4 is a copy of an order directed to the Solicitor or Attorney Generall to prepare a Bill for his Majesty Royall Signature to pass the Great seal of the Dutchy containing a grant to &c: of all those Mines of lead oare Groves & Rakes &c. lying in the Dovegang in the weapentake of wichworth in the County of Derby being parcell of the Dutchy of Lancaster 5 and last is a copy of a warrant directed to the Chancellor of the Dutches containing his Majesty's Royall Grant of the said mines to &c.

{Folio 461 verso}

all *which* paper are deposited into the hands of the *said* Mr Fraser and to be faithfully keepe and improved to the advantage of the Honorable persons concern'd in the above mentioned discovery according to the articles to be agreed upon after the obtaining of his Majesty Royall Signature to the passing of a warrant in the said Fraser' name: and to make all those papers or any one of them to be forthcoming to the parties concerned when ever he shall be required thereunto: In testimony whereof he has signed this note day and place above mentioned

James Fraser

{Folio 462 verso}

Mr Frasers note about the papers deposited in his hands June: 10: 1680/

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 463 recto

My Lord

Wee having understood (by a letter of your Honours inclosed in one from Mr Thomas Ley of Cliffords Inne unto our Right Reverend Dean to be comunicated by his Lordship unto the Chapter of the Cathedrall Church of Chester) your gracious inclination and promise of setting fourty pounds per annum for ever upon our poor Cathedrall (out of the lands now possessed by Mr Steele, when recovered from him by Sir Robert Howard or your selfe) doe in this paper returne your lordship the humble and hearty thanks of the said Dean and Chapter, and doe hope that the same God who breathed into your pious brest such charitable intentions, will recompence them with answerable comforts, wee not knowing of your own generous soule, nor any past merit in our selues, or future capacity of serving your Honour otherwise then by our prayers, and by acquainting your lordship with our feares that Mr Tailor (who hath taken a great deale of paines to trouble both himselfe and us,) has miserably mistaken his Groundwork, as our counsell does informe us: and by assuring your lordship that wee haue alwayes disowned and discouraged his intermedling with the affayres of our Church: whose duty it is faithfully to serue, and zealously to pray for his Majesties long life, and prosperous reighn over us, and in all things to promote of our Church: And since it is no lesse an act of Divinity to preserve then to create, will in all these relations, wee are confident, much rather preserve then destroy

His Majesties most zealously Loyall subjects and My Lord/
your Honours most obedient and most thankfull Servants
The Poor Dean & Chapter of Chester

Chester June 27th 1680

{Folio 464 verso}

These

To the Right Honourable the Earle of [Yar]mouth at his house in the Pall Mall
Westminster

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 465 recto

Mr Tailor

Yours of *the* 26th instant came to my hands up at Chester, whither I also returned *the* very day I promised you, but you were then gone, and I could haue wished you had stay'd, for I could not preuaile with *the* Chapter to omitt one expression in our letter to my Lord of Yarmouth concerning you, which I belieue would not be pleasing, but being the mouth of *the* Chapter I must speake their mind Mr Attorney Eyton had it from mee on Saturday morning last to send up to mee his friend to London, who must giue *the* Chapter an account of the deliuary of it, I shall be glad to hear from you: who I doubt not will excuse mee if I can promoue litle in *the* midst of so many violent and crosse tydes; *the* like whereof I cannot expect to meet with till I come to *the* Isle of Mann, whither I purpose God willing to goe in July next, and should be glad in the interim to hear what you haue done with *the* Master &c of Cloth-workers Hall about *the* school at {damaged} designed by Philip Christians will, of which I am sure they will {damaged} an acount from mee and wherein I desyre my good freinds Ewan {page damaged} of Grays Inne Esq and his Fatherinlaw Capt: Caine of whitechap-pell to be assisting unto you for their Countries good.

I praesume you tended my humble duty to my lords Grace of Canterbury some newes of which with what further occurrences happ-en at Court and Citty will oblige

Sir your affectionate Freind

Henric: Sodoreng

Chester June alt 1680

Bishop of St Asaph who dyed this day sevenight at Shrewsbery is to be buried at St Asaph tomorrow I would be glad to know how I may eyther recover dilapidations of my Cathedrall from his Executors or how myne shall be excused: I haue heard hee *pre*tended some act of Parliament would free him it there be any such I pray you buy it for mee

Sir I haue inlosed a letter to Mr Cadman a Cheshyre stationer some where in *the* strand I haue now forgotten where but I thinke in *the* first lower walk of the new Exchange however I pray inquire him out and de-liver it, and be so good as to exert some such notes out of it as may concerne my rights priuiledges or power, of which I remember is treats in one Chapter and be pleasd to comunicate them unto mee with all speed and you will exceedingly oblige

sir yours H.S.

[FB - Henry Bridgeman Dean of Cheste &c Bp of Soder & man]

{Folio 465 verso}

These For John Tailor Esq at his lodgings in Mr Cheffins house over against the Golden Ball in Durham yard in London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 466 recto

Norwich St Swithens Day

My Lord

The County Sessions ended yesterday, Mr Page *that* had *the* Cushion made a very honest, & Loyall Speech *which* they call a charge. There was 18 or 19 Justices of *the* peace, Sir Nevile Catlyne & Mr Suckling were *the* cheifest persons *that* I saw there, Sir John Pettus did but onc appeare, Sir William Addams is out of *the* County. Sir Thomas Meadow I presume hath waited vpon *your* Lordshipp at London They giue it out here *that* if he receive any Commission from *your* Lordshipp about *the* _____ his Lady will neuer Lye *with* him again Tis a Lewd Towne, & some thing must be done in a short time, Alderman Gooch who is a very honest Loyall person would haue Captaine England continued; Captaine Houghton would haue me aske Mr Wood if he will be conserved in a Military employment, *which* I believe he hath noe inclination to. My Lord the County & *the* 3 hundreds are to haue a Tryall at Bury about Oxnead Brady, Mr Palmer is Attorney for Sir John Hubart & Sir Roger pitt, I goe this afternoone to Oxnead to bring John Griffin to Morrow to Norwich to informe *the* Gentlemen *that* are *your* Lordshipp's Friends *with* Mr Knowes conserning *the* Buisnesse, & tis very likely *the* next weeke Mr Mico's Testimony may be desired at *the* Assizes, if it be necessary tis hoped *your* Lordshipp will send him downe Dr Hildeyard was made believe *that* *the* grand Jury of this Sessions would signe *the* addresse *which* he offered to them, & was refused here is *the* boldest Loyall Address by *the* Appren-

{continued down left-hand margin}

tices of this _____ Caly that was yet ever presented to his Majesty tis going about for Subscription; My Lord humbly thank *your* Lordshipp for all *your* Noble Favours to

My Lord

Your Lordshipp's most obedient & most humble servant
Matt Peckover

{Folio 467 verso}

For the Right Honourable The Earle of Yarmouth att his house in *the* pall Mall
London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 468 recto

May it please your Lordshipp

There is but two businesses to stay mee in Towne (vizt) the Greenway, and this last _____, as to the Greenway, nothing can be done in it, vntill my Lord Major hath done; and that all the other partyes may be heard, about the latter end of August. And Thomas Aram cannot be heard before that time. As to this last Prop of all, there need not any body appeare, vntill ~~the~~ they be Comissionated to Arte, And as to my selfe, whether you will have mee A Comissioner, A Cheife Clarke, or Receivor (if the thing goe on) I submitt it to your Lordshipp and my Lady. And will returne (if God blese mee with life) as Soone as the Comission, or deputation, is finished. And as to Sir Robert Carrs business, nothing can be done in it, vntill Sir Robert Carr hath declared whether he will give a heareing or noe, before he pass the Bill, if he appointe heath, and veronden a heareing it will be Michaelmas, ~~that~~ due he be in Towne, ~~that~~ or any thing can be done, but if he pass the Bill, then be that tyme the Patent be passed, I will be in Towne, and Mr Berresford who is in Towne, and knowes how to finde the Records, I will order him to attend your Lordshipp, and will leave exacte direccions with Mr Strafer besides together with coppyes of the most assentiall parts. ffor _____ King is if Opinion, that if I Stay here these dogg dayes, I Shall not escape this fitt, and therefore on munday I intend (God willing) to beginn

{continued down left-hand margin} my journey. I am

‡ Your Honours most obedient Servant
Per. Brunskett.

8th July 1680./

Folio 469 verso
For The Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth

(1680:)

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 470 recto

July the 12th 1680:

Mr L'Estrange

I receiued yours, and doe desire you to present my very humble service to all the Deputy Leiftenants: that meet att Norwich to whome I haue att this present nothing to recommend butt onely my deanes that they will bee pleased to appoint musters, and an exact inspection into the defects of the musteroll, I hope ere long to kiss that hands of which I shall giue you notice when I can sett my precise time butt att all times I am most ready to express my self to those worthy friends and to your self as

Sir

Your most affectionate friend & humble servant
yarmouth: /

{Folio 471 verso}

For my Honord Friend Edward L'Estrange Esq Leaue this att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich.

Bowes 23th July 1680

May it please your Lordshipp

I am by Gods blessing just now arrived alive at Bowes haveing had a most tedious journey and been forced to sitt vpp diuers nights ill of my Astmah : in soe much that at present I cannott possibly ride or goe : I dare say that it would breake my wife & parents hearts to part with mee in this Condi^on: And therefore humbly begg of your Lordshipp and my ever honoured Lady your Countess: and my kind Lady Baker and very good Lord privy seale to forgiue mee and spare mee for some reasonable tyme vntill I be recovred: and more especially to Consider: That I left London mearely for want of health: And I protest in the presence of God I never did any thing directly or indirectely with mr Arame I ever esteemed a Ka_e: now he is stopped there is nothing to be done but to gett a further Confirmation of our patent which the king & Counsell haue ordered: (but as yett is vnrevoaked:) or a new Comission to manage it for the king and Lett the patent hange in a bey ouer :vizt as it doth vnrevoaked vntill wee haue settled the Same by the Comission: your Lordshipp knowes what a while things have depended vndispatched with my Lord Major therefore I could not but expecte a Slower dispatch for the King and the Lords of the Treasury and for that reason adjudged my Stay in London for the present really ~~vnes~~ vnnesessary: As to the Greenwax I have Sent your Lordship a draught of 2 warrants for the Comission is the better: and Lett the patent Stand as it does: and were I in Town all I could doe is to Solicitt & Lay down my Share to pass the patent or Comission which may be done by any honest Attoreney or friend or Servant of yours or my partners and I will order my Cozen Nutt the merchant to depositt my part of the expence: I see noe objeccions against any of our affaires therefore wee need of answering or appeareing personally : as to the dukes business your Lordshipp writes nothing what the Treasury has done: & your Lordshipp hath full & perfecte direccions here to Setle it: And as to my Lord Arrlingtons and mrs Gwyns business if Sir Robert Carr will dispatch it pass the ~~ex~~ patent: if not that must hange vntill Sir Robert be in London againe

{Folio 472 verso}

I humbly advise your Lordshipp to gett the deputacion from my Lord Major and then shew it to the King & gett the warrant signed: and if your Lordshipp will please to take this solliciting part vpon your honour or my Lady and excuse mee a Little while I will make greater hast to London Being now without diss__acion a very weake & sick body But I hope by Gods blessing to be well againe & as a___ as ever I haue been to manage our affaires and without Complement I am a most faith full honourer & Lover of your Lordshipp and my Lady and neuer will be awanting in doeing any thing ti the vtmost of my power to serve you or yours being as subscribed

Your Lordshipps most dutifull & faithfull Servant
P Brunskell

My Lord

I haue putt mr Myddletons name in both warrants & I really thinke it will be gratefull to mr Hyde doe what your Lordshipp thinks fitt and I conceive that the warrant which confirmes our old patent would be lost for vs if the King would pass it: But I feare the Lords of the Treasury would obstruate it more then this new Comission I begg of your Lordshipp to advise with my Lord privy seale & gett which of them dressed & done as his Lordshipp in his great wisdome Shall thinke or like lest: and before you can gett any patents finished your Lordshipp shall be assured I will be in London: your Lordshipp must not acquaint my Lady Baker that mr Myddletons name is inserted: But my Lord privy seales Loves him & will like it better

pray my Lord lett mee know who has the next nominacion to the Charterhouse for a friend of myne hath a fine ingenious ___ and I will present his Lordshipp with 50 ginneys secum dum consueludium

{Folio 473 verso}

ffor the Right honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth at his howse in the pell mell at St James
London

(1680)

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 474 recto

July the 27 80

Madam

your Ladyship I know must much admire that a Stranger Should thus pursue your Ladyship with the troble of Letter when it is Im-possible to loocke through the meane-ing tell I haue the honour of seeing your Ladyship which I beg may be this day att my house in great queene street next dore to the Earell of Lesters askuch on ouer the house I would waite upon your Ladyship att your oune house if it ware asproper for the busines as I am sure it is my duty I hope my Letter to windesor came to your Ladyships hands I beg ten thousand pardons for all my presumptions whoe is in all reallity your Ladyships most

obedient Seruant

E Littleton

pray Madam name mee not to any Creture tell I haue had the honour of seeing your Ladyship

{Folio 475 verso}

ffor

the Right Honourable the Lady Yarmouth present

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 476 recto

July the 29 80
{FB - 32 C 2}

Madam

pray lett my Lord Priuey Seale See this paper to morrow if his Lordship doe no^{^t}
Say this is the proper and the onely way to put this in

I haue orderd one to haue Sum other papers redy by to morrow morn-ing to Show
my lord and your Ladyship which will I doe not feare putt your Ladyship in the
right and most esie way to doe the busines and Sett all things rite which is much
and most harttyly wished by your Ladyships most

obedient Seruant

E Littleton

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 477 recto

July the 30 80

Madam

I beg pardon for yousing your Ladyships name to my Lord Priuey Seale but most for your Ladyships Seruice as wee came along Mr Arum thought it most materiall for your Ladyship take a Coppy of the Priuey Seale downe to windesor that it mite Show what thy intended to pas by it Soe my lord haue Giuen it to his Ganttellman to Coppy and bring it to your Ladyship pray Madam Stay alittle for it if it be possible to be don in an hour your Ladyship will haue it your Ladyships most obedient Seruant

E Littleton

pray Madam burn my Letters

{Folio 478 verso}

ffor the Right Honourable the Lady Yarmouth present

{other hand}

Lady Littletons Letters about Mr Aram

May it please your Lordshipp

I could not answer your Lordshipps Letter sooner because I receiue Letters vpon the posts retorne & liues remote from the post howse: And this is the first day I haue been cleare from any Astmah: Really my Lord my Journey had been very tedious to mee being forced when I had riden all day to sitt vpp in a Chair at nights and now to retorne soe speedily to take a Journey of 200 myles is an Affrightment to my ffather Mother and wife. But my Lord take the Case to be absolutely vrgent (as your Lordship writes and as I beleiue) for my personall Solicitacion: yett life and health is to be preferred before Estates As to our Green wax: if wee must haue a heareing before the King: pray my Lord Gett a day prefixed and my Lord Majord business done which will greatly advantage our cause And pray my Lord Consider that the parliament will not sitt till Michlemas: nor the King goes not to New Markett till September and then it is that the treasury will adjourne and if I be in London before the day of hearing which shall be appointed; It will be assoon as I shall be needed ffor as to our affaires I am sure they require it not . Because your Lordshipp and my Lady have also the most perfect direccions in scriptis from mee (which increased my distemper to Leave matters to ~~leave matters~~ cleare at my departure from London and gett Leave to stay here: fearing my want of health: Therefore I Beseech your Lordshipp to Consider my weake Condiicion & weigh well if there be such absolute & vrgent nesessity for my speedy retorne ffor Godsake if the your Lordshipp and my Lady can dispence with mee any Longer (and in the interim gett things into a posture and gett dayes prefixed as neare Michlemas as may be) doe it: ffor in the presence of God I ly not I am vnable to take a journey speedily and I find vast advantages by my natiue Aer: And as your Lordshipp valued health and went into Norffolke and left the solicitacion to my Lady whose great wisdome prudence & _____ can (if shee condiscend to honour mee) with my Large instruccions I left behinde mee with your Lordshipp;) effect great matters: I most heartily Therefore beseech your Lordshipp to Beleiue mee that nothing But selfe murder whereof I should be censured to be guilty if I vndertake my Journey presently) can retard mee: and when your Lordshipp has gotten mee the Longest tyme and given mee the

{continued down left-hand margin} third Alaram: God Almighty worke his will) I will sett forward and be in London against the day of hearing that shall be be appointed: Being as subscribed my Lady and

Your Lordshipps most humble & faithfull Servant
P Brunskell

first August 1680

{Folio 480 verso}

ffor the Right honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at his Lordshipps howse in the poll moll by James
London
ffranke

Bowes: Tuesday morne 10th August 1680: /

Ever honored Madam

I have written several Letters to my Lord at which I perceiue his Lordshipp is displeased: seeming ly censuring their Excuses: when as God knows it adds to my affliction in 2 respects: 1st That being soe weake not able to putt {^on} my Cloaths or Ly in my bedd: I should be pressed to retorne to London & vndertake a Journey of 200 myles 2^{ly} That his Lordshipp in generall enjoyne mee & gives mee noe particulaer reasons for it: I writt a letter in answer to my Lords last letter which I suppose my Lord received on Wednesday last: vpon thursday last my distemper seized mee & now am feebly Languishing vnder it having sitten pillowed vpp in a Chaire 2 dayes & nights and not able to stirr: and Least my Lord should write to mee & expecte mee to Come away by this post to make bold to write to your honour the state of our affaires: and first for the Greenwax: In Case your honour has gotten my Lord Majors dispatch: and that wee must have a hearinge before his Majesty I beseech your honour to deferr the day of hearing as Long & as neare Michaelmas as may be. But I admire that wee shall be putt vpon further hearings & debates I am sure the king is fully satisfied how clearely our matters may be Legally: prudently & practicably done: I cannott add one bitt of Informacion: But to press your honour to worke the duke to influence the king & Treasury to settle in: Comission as proposed and sufficiently explained by the instruccions I left behinds mee: as to our Lead mynes: I suppose vnlike Sir Robert Carrs retorne they sleep and cannott be oved: I begg of your honour to Labour also our affaires and drawe them to some issues: I live 5 myles from the post howse & being sick at home could not goe to receive & answer Letters by the same post I am extremely afflicted for my forced Stay here and it greives mee that I left London: ffor this Journey has sett all my ill humours a ffloat: and I have

{continued down left-hand margin}

taken some purging medecines to Carry them away: and I beleive shall have my health much better when I gett safe to London againe: which shall be as soon as ever I dare vndertake it: ffor I am really faithfull to my pastures: and never had to doe with mr Aram nor never will haue any thing to doe with him: And to summe vpp all: If your honour by {^my} Lord privy sealesnadvice could gett those warrants or any other thing effected in my absence in order to impower vs: wee should soon settle our matters after my retorne: and Beleive mee that I will retorne to London without sending for assoon as my body by Gods blessing shall be inabled to travell by Coach or otherwise by duty to your honour & my Lord I begg pardon for this trouble & susbcribe my selfe as I really am

J Brunskell

{Folio 482 verso}
Mr Brunskells Letter
1680
upon his being Sent
for out of Yorkshire

Bowes 10th Aug: 1680

Madam

Since my departure from London I haue Languished vnder my distemper without intermission and have been vpp 2 dayes & nights in my Cloaks neither able to sleep: eate or stirr: and because my Lord privy seale : your Ladyshipp and my Lord Yarmouth & Lady are pleased to conferr your honour vpon mee as to Esteem my appearaunce necessary to our matters speedy effecting: I am the more afflicted that my sickness should hinder my speedy retorne to London: Yett Seeing It is the goos will & pleasure of God to Lay it vpon mee: I am sure your Ladyshipp bad raither haue the business retarded then mee buried. for a Journey in this Condision would certainly shorten my dayes if : not end my dayes speedily: Therefore I humbly begg this favour amongst all pleased: to press my Lady Yarmouth to gett our old patent Confirmed or else a Comission further to settle the Greenwax according to one of the warrants I sent a draught of: And in Case wee must haue a hearing before the King: that the day may be fixed for it as neare Michlemas as may be without ~~doing~~ deferring it soe Long that wee may Loose it: And if your Lordshipp would be pleased to consult with my Lord privy seale & my Lady Yarmouth & Lett mee receiue 2 lines with resolucions are taken I would giue the lest assistance to it I can at this distance & assoon as I am abke to vndertake a Journey Godwilling I will retorne to London: This vnfortunate Journey of myne hath sett all ill humours in mee on floate: and I am taking some purging medecines to Carry them off: and if God say Amen: I may be able soe Long to retorne to London: my duty to my Lord privy seale and most

{continued down left-hand margin}

sincere acknowledgments to your Ladyshipp for all your singular favours I subscribe my selfe as really bound

your Ladyshipps most faithfull servant to Comand
P Brunskell

{Folio 484 verso}

ffor the honourable the Lady Baker at her howse in Jermayne Street by Saint James Square in London

giue this to the Countes of Yarmouth

1680

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 485 recto

Know all men by these presents That I Robt Earle of Yarmouth doe by these presents remise release and forever quitt clayme vnto John Woodroffe Nicholas Cutting Peter Cantier and John Robius of great yarmouth in the County of Norffolk Esquires and vnto Robert Slipper ffrencis Todd John Butler and Samuel Sadd of yarouth aforesaid yeoman and to every of them All that accion ans cause of accon of trespas which I haue brought against them in the Cort of Comon pleas at Westminster In witnes whereof I haue here vnto sett my hand and Seale this 16th day of August in the yeare of our Lord 1680./

Sealed and delivered in the presence of
Robt Doughty
Jo: Doughty:

[Bottom right quarter of page missing. Other signatures missing?]

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 486 recto

19th Aug: 1680

Madam

My ill & sickly Journey hath been cheifely occasioned by Change of drinks: and now being ___ and accusstomed to them: I thanke god I am much recovered with in these 4 or 5 dayes: & I finde much advantages by the ffresh Aer; Therefore am vnwilling (vnless your Honour adjudge it necessary:) to Leauē it suddenly: I doe vow & protest to your Honour that my severall Letters and retornes apologizing for my stay were noe fictions or feigned excuses; for I did my selfe a vast injurt with repining & murmuring at the Long distance & my absence from London. But seing your Honour & my Lord were in London; and doe vnderstand the whole affaire I rested ffreed from the feares of miscarrying; I hope your honour hath made a faire progress in the Dukes business about disposing of offices: And as to our Greenwax if wee must haue a hearing: I will not faile to be in London before the day I have received an accompt from some friends that noe private business will move at the treasury or Councell yett whereupon I stayed my retorne as I designed Last Monday to sett forward; and though I know my Lord & your honour (considering what refleccions haue been wrongfully thrown vpon mee (as if I were in a conspiracy to defraud my partners) may be jealous and angry with mee: yett I did write enough to Cleare it & protest against all singular practices desiring noe Longer to Liue there I can justify all mu transaccions with a Cleare and good Conscience : I feare your honour is Angry because I haue heard nothing these 6 past dayes my duty to your honour & my Lord

your honours ever dutifull servant
P Brunskell

{Folio 487 verso}

These present To the Right honourable the Countess of Yarmouth at her howse by
St James
In London

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 488 recto

Edinburgh
Nov. 23d 80/

[FB- 32 C2]

Madam

I recieved your Ladyships wherein was One enclosed to the Duke which I did immediatly present to his Highnesse; but I needed not represent to him My Lords zeal in his service for his Highnesse had notice of it before from Collon: Werden, viz: that his Honour did resolve to bee at the house tho carried thither in his Chair, and hop'd to bee the first man who should vote the bill out of doors, His Highnesse spoke of it last night at supper, & thence took occasion to commend my lord, & remember very Affectionately his known Loyalty & affection to him. I have little of newes to remitt your Ladyship from this barren place. Only, Three Notorious Fanaticks were lately apprehended nigh this City, & more they suspected to have some wicked design upon his Highnesse

{Folio 488 verso}

for their Blunderbusses being Examin'd were found to have in each of them six or seven chaw'd bulletts; & they being tortur'd would confesse only, that they had an invent to kill two Ministers to do which they needed not to have come to Edinburgh, for they live twelve miles; His Highnesse was therefore advisd by the Councill and other friends to bee carefull of his Person, & was contented to have his guards increas'd. One of them being to suffer to morrow was question'd at his indictment, whether they did well to Excom-municate the king. hee answer'd very roundly, they did well, & that in defence of the holy covenant twas lawfull to kill him & all others who were Enemy's to it, adding, hee was very glad of the Opportunity to bear witness to this death. Some of thois gang are now in London shelter's by a great man, however his Majestys death, if untimely, must bee revengd on the Papists. I suppose, your Honour ha's by this time seen the Councills letter to the king; the Bishops also have written another to his Grace of Canterbury to bee communicated to his Majesty, to the same purpose, which will bee soon printed too. Wee are still very heartily caress'd here. I hope to return against your Ladyship's day; In the mean begge leave to subscribe my selfe

Madam

My Humble duty, I pray Madam, to my Good Lord

your Ladyships most Humble & obedient servant

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 490 recto

Madam/

After all our jealousy and feares of my Lord privy seale: I find he is faith full to vs: vpon Wednesday night after he came from Councell he received a Letter from Ireland; that the accompt will be here speedily & I heare from some other friends the same: Mr Hyde told mee yesterday that my Lord Chancelour did direct his Majesty: But his Majesty was soe kind to vs that he told mr {^Hyde} that noe Letter came from Ireland with an accompt in a poste or 2 he would heare it: and mr Hyde will assist vs in it to goe through: my Lord privy seale & my Lord Chauncelor _____; Because the Lord Chanceler would {^not} admitt his accompt as an Authentick one: But that which is coming over will be the same others for I am now revived: ffor God is above the devill our Cause is just: and I am Confident wee shall haue a happy issue

your honours most humble servant
P Brunskell

17th Dec: 1680

Folio 491 verso
ffor the Right honourable the Countess of Yarmouth

{other hand, probably Yarmouth}
1680:
about the acompt out of IrLand

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 492 recto

Angiers Feb: 22:th

My Lord

on Munday last I tooke my leaue of My Lord Plimmouth because I was resoluēd to goe the next Morning to Angeirs; My Lord was very sorry to Part with me, and I beleue If I had not Promised ~~him~~ for to returne to his Lordshipe in 3 or 4 Months againe, he would not haue let me I Parted from him, He was just at Parting very Kinde to me, promising me when ever it lay in his power to doe {^me} or any that belongs to me any Kindness, that I should finde him very ready: I doe resoluēd to continiue my intrest with him, by writing very often to him, and att Easter I doe intend to goe for 3 or 4 days to waite on his Lordship. My Lord I haue bin soe little a while in this town, that I am not yet able to giue your Lordship any farther

{Folio 492 verso}

account of it, but that I ~~that~~ I doe like it very well, by reason there is but 3 English in the town besides my selfe, I finde it much for my advantage coming to this town for since I came hiether I haue {^not spoake} one word of English, nor doe Intend to speake a word while I continue in this town, I haue taken ~~a~~ a Master of the Langage, and am fully resoluēd to studie the French very hard, ~~I~~ I doe intend the next post to write your lordship a letter in French; but I hope your Lordship will forgiue all the faults there will be in it for it will be the first that ever I write; My Lord there has bin a great many scandalous reports raised in England {^of Mr Cheeke} and some of them carried to the King, it would be too teedious for to write them to your Lordshipe; therefor I shall only beg of your Lordship not to beleue

{Folio 493 recto}

any of them for I doe asheure your Lordship they are all very fa{^u}lse: Pray My Lord Present my duty to my Mother, and my humble seruice to my Brother and sister Paston, I hope my Brother has receiued, before this time, my letter wherein I did returne my thanks to him for the kinde letter he write me. My Lord my Marchand att Paris (for what reason I know not) is not very willing to receiue my letters therefore if your Lordship please for to direct my Letters onely for me att Madame Maries in Angiers and Pay the postage att London, to Paris they will come very safe to me; I dayly Praty for your Lordships health and prosperity for I am very shure in that consistes the happyness of

your Lordships Most Dutyfull & Obedient son: Ro: Paston

Octobr i

Deare Brother

I recieved yours last post, and haue as you desired me communicated *the* contents of it to the Cittizens and Gentleman who seemes soe surprized of yt. few will giue credit to any such thing, however I haue sperited them all I can possible, and I hope his Majesty if there be occasion will find many friends here: but I can answer for very suer; as for my busness here: I find soe great a Change *that* I can hardly yet think my selfe in *Norwich*: for of *the* list you gaue me, I find N: Copper is for me but very coldly, Mr Barton: I hear id wauering: Mr Curtois against me , Warfe for me but says he can doe little good, Mendum against me; Thompson for me, but ungratefull Lulman has gott away all his intrest, who came to see me and I spoak my mind very plainly to him upon his telling me he was egaged against me; Mr Drake against me; Mr Reeves of Brakendale, violent against me; Lemman against me; Forrest against me; Law gl Brewer for me but says 4 parts in 5 of gl Taylers are against me,

{Folio 494 verso}

Mr Davy and Postle, will doe what they can, Disly against me Mr hurton will be for me, Dr Parham, and Mr Hastings I doubt will doe me little seruce the both has bin with me, Mr Beckett will doe *what* he can; Sam: workhouse Mr Stebbins has made him firme to me; Gibbon, Briggs. Both *the* Osborns Whirefoot, Ellis and all *the* rest in Combinations against me; in short I find soe smale hope *that* unless this Stopp *with the* writts alters mens mind I see noe probabilitie however I del declare I will side to Show *the* world how false and ungratefull Sir N and Dauy are and *that* I may distinguish my friends from my Enimies. I find they haue bin undermining me thes 6 months, and that im-pertinent fellow Milburne of Yarmouth has bin ouer here to assure *them* I will be for *the* Repeal of P: and T: the appe-hension where of makes me Lose all my friends, besides they declare open against trusting any one relating to the Court |: howeuer I am Extreamly oblided to his Grace for finding I am like to be ran down here has reserued a Place for me at Rising; if there should be our frind here has bin all *the* Roagery at work imaginable, and I haue mett with soe much ingratitude, *that* I think I will neuer more come

{Folio 495 recto}

amoangst such a porcell of Rogues: to Morrow I goe to my Cousin Aydes where I will Stay afew days till I hear from you, In the mean {^time}; Steb: Work: Cicill, Chapll and others are endeauouring to gett *the* Maior who has *the* best interest in town to declare for him-selfe or Blowfild to joyn with me; for Mr Bar: __s intrest must not be Espoused and yett I must joyn with some body but wee haue now time

enough to Consider these matters; here has bin little or nothing Spent but *the*
hogshead of wine *which* I haue paid for; and haue stopped *the* Drink you ordred Mr
Cecill and Stebbin to take care of. howeuer; I shall wont a smale supply to returne
home with, for I find what you gaue me will not hold out to London, therefor pray
Send an order to *your* Steward; and lett me know how you would haue me
ma-nidge my Selfe and your directions Shall allways be ~~punct~~ punctually observed
by him who is upon all occasions

your Most affectionate Brother

and humble saruant

Robert Paston

my humble service pray to my fisher ./

Ald: Lynn. Mr. Peckouer &c are *your* very humble sarvants./

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 496 recto

Madam

My lord maer is com home and the keng was As youer oner ses uery cynde And
conserneng that besenes of my brothers youer letter hath con uenst hem so I shal
be glad be cose youer oner hath taken A grate deale of panes A bout et the keng
had no time to speke of et now bot As long as it is don it is wel so my umble thanks
to youer oner A[nd] my lord And thanke hem for his leter my lord maer hath sent
to haue bels And bonfiers And All that can be done my serues to youer oner And
shal be youer umble seruant ,

while I Am
Martha Clayton

May 26 wedensday

Folio 496 verso

These

For the {^righte} onerable the lady yarmoth

Madam

I make no question but the noys of the common hole hath yech youer oners ears and por-haps made grate noys at wenssor that youer ladyshep may not be all together A stranger i wil geue youer ladyshep ashorte store of It as i heard et the common hole was by de-rection of the corte of older men summond to haue an Accounte and declation of the poll this day = whare et sems et was A uery greate aperenes

{folio 497 verso}

and the besenes declaread tha ware cold to gether for A petetion was presentead to me lord maer from the hol which when read was Atendead with the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ aclamacions of the hole hall chewing thare concurence upon which the mayor and oldermen with drue lending the shriffs to declare the effectes of the poole The substance of the petition was to set them selues to rights touching the pretendead disorder at the laste common hole

{folio 498 recto}

and umbley to ~~his~~ adress to his magesty the parlemente might sit & my lord maer tooke ocaation to tel them that as to their peticion hee should redily serue them as to the other) that he had lately reseuead from his Magesty that thes parlement shuld set in nouembor next and that hes Magesty had declaread the same to the judges before thare circuits therefore dead hope thare consern for that might haue ben syaread) the same being antecipated by hes Magestys

{folio 498 verso}

grassious ententions) howeuer he ~~xxx~~ would humbly lay thare desiers at his Magesty feete with the forst oppor-tunyty madam this is the truth of things who

British Library Additional MS 27447

Folio 499 recto

Madam

thare hath ben A common Consell thes day held uery quieatly for the Common
besenes of the Citty and notheng ells As I Am In forme ad offeread At, only my lord
maer, And Aldermen And Common Counsel Are to wate open the Keng to morrow
to retern thanks to hes majesty for hee ____ as to them In the In the besenes of
the water bayles which is the A coant thay I can geue youer oner at preseante I
geue youer ladyshep thanks for All youer cyndnes but feare you shld kel youerself
for youer frend pray let me beg of youer oner to haue more care for the time to
come which shal be my umble requeste

fryday

Martha Clayton

{written down left hand margin}

my umble serves to my lord and yoer lady shep

{Folio 500 verso}

my lord mare presents hes serves to my lord And youer ladyshep I feare youer oner
cannot read eat

theise

for the Countes of yarmoth

newmarket march: 20

Sir

I haue resceiued your two letters and I aske your pardon if I haue not answer your firste before this time, but andeed I was in hope to send you some other letters, that your friends mayt haue rescuiued by themself how please they were both here with the letters they resceiued, but princes are uery lost to writt, ~~xxx~~ though I can assure you upon my word that it is for noe other reason but losenes to writt, for they are in the bottom as well as wee can wish, pray present my humble duty to the lady your neighbourg, and aske her from me a thousand pardon if I haue not writt to her yett and if I doe not doe it till munday, shall send you the letter by some body, that will goe with the dutie

{folio 501 verso}

a munday, for he would goe for london then, and back again here a wenesday I thought to goe with him, but I shall not, soe you must see him your self self if you haue anie thing to say to him, the king will stay here this forteen neighs ~~xxx~~ yett, I haue noe news to writt to you, and soe I shall say noe more but to assure {^you} that I am and shall euer be with all sincerity

your most humble seruant,

r: feuersham

{Folio 502 recto}

[FB - Lewes Duras Marquis of Blanquefort in France. naturalized in 1665. created Baron Duras in 1672. succeeded his Father in Law as Earl of Feversham in 1677.]

{Folio 502 verso}

for Sir richar dutton at his house in the palmail, London

free

ph: Frowde

Oxborrow March 13:

My Lord

I Cannot vnridle *the* meaning of Soe large reports for Succeeding my Lord Townsshend and *that* neither from *your* Lordships nor by *your* order I should haue any Notice; My Lord being assured *your* letters are interrupted I haue Secured this by priuite Couer and begging *your* Lordships pandor, for *the* freedom of Speech I desyre this letter may be burnt and not kept among *your* papers, and from henceforth I shall Signe in stead of H: B: ; Thomas Blunt:

My Lord pretending business att *the* assises I thought might doe *your* Lordshipp Some Seruice by discouering *the* behauour of our Countye men att this great nick of Change , and I hope it will bee acceptable to you to know, first,

That vndoubtedly Sr Jo: Hobart and Sr Robert k___ partye are desiyring also mischeife to ___your Influence on *the* County and debauch most part of *the* deputie Leiftenants and Milicia officers to refuse further Comissions in a Compliment to my Lord _____

{Folio 503 verso}

Share out of Subscription is much fortified and *the* Prester Jacks haue putt itt into a motion for future practice, *which* Certainlye will Conduce to *the* aduantage of Succeeding ___ of that fraternitye.

I found all out of *the* pale of Presbitrye Infinitlye Satisfyd *that* *your* Lordshipp is our Governor, but *the* aforesaid Partye Cannot Conceale their affliction, nor Some of them from Muttering *that* *the* Church of England and *the* popeist Joines to the *the* Suppresion of other dessenters, Sr John Hobart droled much with me on *the* Interest I haue in *your* Lordship in Lord Treasurer and Mr Coke, my replies I hope were modest att being my business to preuent their plotting, and descouering thier berryer *which* I am Sure I affected;

My Lord though I doubt not of *your* Lordships ___ all into a good nature yet I hope you will not be displeased if I speake my foolish opinion, First *that* *your* Lordshipp would Consider atitle before _____ of Comissions, and if it might bee secure not to displace Sr John Holland yet, but with all kind-ness draw him to you wherby he might defect

{folio 504 recto}

the other partye and *this* you doe by making his peace att Court for his foolish Speech and I am perswaded he would bee much more Joy'd to redeeme his Creditt, he is Soe Considerable a Man with *the* vulgar as his Sooden departure, may

inflame *the* reck'ning of discontent, Sr Robert Kempt and others will dye att my Lord of foot, but lett them goe;

If *your* Lordshipp wants Comissions I haue 2 or 3 NeighboursI willingly would ingage to *your* Seruice, I beg you would nott displace Mr LeStrange Clerke to *the* Leiftennancye till you haue well weigh'd *the* employment or ____ with me.

My Lord I should bee most Joyful to Serve *your* Lordship but I feare itt's only from my Closest, my qualification denyes my Entrance any where eles, and my Loyaltye and Seale to *the* Court renders me odious and Suspicious for *the* Countrye, besyde *the* honour of *your* Lordshipp's kindsman and friend makes my Lord __ partye to look me as if they had *the* Collick, but my Lord I am att all times readye to performe what *your* Lordshipp shall Comand

My Lord

_____ Sert. & kindsman

A: B: junior

My humble Dutye I beseech *your* Lordshipp to my Ladye

British Library Additional MS 27447

Folio 505 recto

An Essay on *the* life & death of *the* late Earl of Yarmouth:

I long have staid not doubting but some witt

In true born Epicks would this life have writt:

But Since *the* lawfull sonns of *that* great art

Soe false can prove to honor, and desert.

An unexpericnd stranger acts *their* part.

From *the* first images of reason when

Some little thought just speak him to be man,

His early sence with just success persu'd

The manly course of being wise & good.

Thru rugged paths he follow'd up *the* chace

Uncharmd by pleasures, & untam'd by ease,

Noe toyl cou'd stop him in his eager way

Whilst from a far he saw *the* glorious prey

Held up, & promis'd if he won *the* <illegible>

True sence & honour sucre *the* prize he sought

Nor cou'd he miss, who *with* such courage fought

He won: and to reward his generous toyl,

The gods gave more, & added to *the* spoyl.

Language & arts on easy terms resign'd ,

And he then was complaisantly Kind;

Noe Science but gave up & own'd his sway,

Whilst his great Genius suffering noe delay

Or found some made, or conquerd out his way.
Thus stor'd withall th' accomplishments that might
A stranger entertaine, or friend Delight
The generous youth untaught to be confin'd,
And earnest still to finish up his mind,
Resolv'd abroad to see the various scene
Of diverse courts, of citties, and of men;
And like those witts, which Rome, & Albens bred,
With pleasure see what they with pains had read.
Here be new beauties, new experience met,
And still found something wanting to be great,
When pleas'd to find new conquest still remain'd
He still fought on, and a just triumph gain'd.
His stedy sence led him to brave designs,
He search'd the springs that move the Frenchmen's winds
Learn't all their laws, their customes, & their rights,
Their arts in peace, & postures in their fights
Their life, their language, their gentile address,
And all their commendable arts to please.
From other courts, he other vertues brought;
Here he refin'd his action, there . his thought;
Whilst like the Bee from flowr to flower born
He cull'd from all, what might his soul adorn
And the dull refuse did with pleasure scorn.

And now my Vein. manage thy artless pen
With thy best skill to draw the following scene;

Cast first in shades with a dark gloomy streak
A crownless Monarch shrouding in an Oak:
Thence thro' a thousand dangers waft him over,
And show him riseing on the distant shore:
Then with a stream between doe you design
An Hero sending from his empty'd mine
The last remains unto that Princes hand
To help his arms to gain their just command:

{Folio 505 verso}

This done -- In landskip from above describe
A stately Senate house, where every Tribe
In their own Patriarch's met are come to end
The bloody feuds which civill warrs attend
There make the Hero in full Senate move,
Hence they did the royall Martyr love,
They Vote their homage to his exile son,
And fix a day to place him on his throne.
Thus drawn let Envy tell me, if she see,
A fairer peice than Paston's Loyaltie.
Lett others boast how bold they were in fight
And tell of numerous dangers in their flight
Our Hero is content to let them Know,
He dar'd in midst of Traytors to be true;
And by a prudent and well manag'd stay
Did more successfull Homage pay,
And was noe less a Sufferer than they.

Now was *the* Golden age, & Charles return'd
And we for joy noe more or losses mournd;
Discord, & War were now in Triumph led
And Peace sat crownd upon *the* Monarch's head.
But yett as when a Ship by tempest tost
Tho' safe at harbour has her Cargo lost,
The Prince tho' Safe, & welcome to *the* Shore
Sees from *the* Strand vast ruins all before,
And finds this Treasures, like his subjects, poor
Thus in an empty throne a while the sate,
And calmly poys'd *the* burthen of the State,
Viewd *the* dear reliques of his martyr'd Sire,
And a small crown snatchd from *the* rageing fire
At length he calls a Senate to appear
And thus *the* business of *the* state Declare:

See here, dear Subjects See *your* Monarch stand
From twelve years night new born to this command
See the unhappy once from court to court
By jealous princes made his rebells sport,
See him, by heavn's just hand he's come
From barren Earle to an empty home
His crown's empovrish'd his Exchequor dry
His empire ruffled & his neighbour high.
You Know *the* rest, tis *your* part to debate
And Safe the Sinking grandeur of *the* State

Our generous Hero eager to obey,
And rap't with joy to See that happy day
When free from Treason to a rebell state
He might releev his injur'd Prince's fate
Magnificantly loyall to his King
Votes, & obtains a generous offering ,
And does himself the mighty present bring
How great the action, & how brave the mind,
How noble, & how loyally design'd
Wittness those poets who were honest then
And fairly Sung of Maximilian.

But pittie, mighty shade this age forgiue.
They cannot write soe well, as thou couldst liue
{Folio 506 recto}
In publick business loyall, and unmov'd
By Princes honour'd, and by Princes lovd;
Grac'd with whose favours just returns thou mad'st
Duty for love, & care for honours payd'st
Thy thoughts were ever busy to persue
What honour cou'd inspire, or courage doe,
To make thy Prince as easy & as great
As seemd fortold in his illustrious fate.
Not one fable step in all thy progress made
Shew 'twas true honor, not ambition led:
Noe foes, but Such as envy'd favours gat,
Shew 'twas thy merit not thy faults they hate:

And not a friend, but what was Caesar's too,
Did thee as brave a friend as Subject Shew,
But oh

In vain poor artless pen. in vain thou'rt Kind !
Thou wouldest Alass ! but can'st not retch *that* mind !
The Prince himself was puzzelld how to prove
His Sense of so much duty, Soe much love:
And found a means as rare, as was his worth,
Goeing himself to give his favoursu birth.
Lets honoursu less deserts might well commend
But such a visit Suited Such a friend:
A friend So firm Soe generous, and brave,
Noe frowns cou'd awe him, and noe Smiles deceive
A friend whose Services shall Still remain,
And still in long Successions entertaine
This happy Isle *with* instances so great,
Noe Prince shall ever this lov'd friend forgett.

Such was in publick *that* brave man I write
Constant, and zealous for his Prince's right.
Nor was his life in his retirementu less
When he Kind friends *with* his enjoymentu bless:
Hus entertainmentsu gave a mixt delight,
His person awes *them* as his Witt invite,
Soe gracefull, Soe Majestick yett so free,
Twas equall pleasure, or to hear, or See.

Great, yett familiar, pleasant , but yett wise
Coud give a friend his freedome. <illegible> his vice .
True to his friends, & carefull and Syncere;
In counsell Klnd, as in reproof Severe.
Just to his foes, and tender of their fame
Still praised their worth, when he their conduct blame;
Their persons and their vertues cou'd commend
And was to all but their faults a friends.
What Foes he had, the ferment of the times
Produc'd, Foes to his vertues not his crimes ;
But of his friends the number was as great
As lovd, or honoured, either Prince, or State.
And yett

Soe strict and soe impartiall is our fate
In vain we offer , and in vain entreat
Nations of friends in joynt petitions mett,
Noe pardon, not for one dear friend, can gett
Cou'd vows, or wishes, Sighs : or tears have mov'd
We ne're had lost what we Soe long had lovd
{Folio 506 verso}
But in heav'n too lovd him; Heav'n that never meant
To give the blessing it in pittty bent;
And Nature now to that blest seat commends
The best of Subjects, and the best of friends.

What sorrow needs must Such a loss ensure

As hard to draw, were cruell to renew:
Yett this was Kind in *that* Severest Stroak
Heav'n left us Copies of *the* peice it took
Soe lively; Soe capriss *that* we may find
Each grace *that* did adorn *the* parent mind
Who *with* Successive vertues Shall maintaine
The glory lost *thereon*, and new glories gaine
Still by a new Succession to encrease.
And never but *with* time it Self decease.

Epitaphium

Hie meritis requiescent honor: mors aemule vich
Veortalem dicit, sed pia fama negat.

Honourable Sir

The veneracion I haue for *the* memory of *your* noble father, *the* great respect for *the* family, and *the* honor of *your* former acquaintance, Tho now worn out have engag'd me to this design *which* Nature never meant me for: Had it been possible for a Passion to have made a Poet I had ___ noe other influence; for Im Sure, no man ___ might more effectually procure, can more passionately desire, or be more Sincerly concertid for the perpetuall honour of *your* great & illustrious family than

Sir

Your most humble most devoted Servant

A S:

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 507 recto

L et all lament Gush out in floodes of teres,
A nd mourne for her, who s nou above the shphaeres.
D oe you Exprese your Griefe with mournfull voice,
Y ou nou may weep, who did before Rejoice
E ven for that Planet most noble & Renon'd

L ike unto her theire is non to be Found

I n all thinges Just & in her actiones Wise,
Z ealous to Good, till death did her surprise.
A Virgin pure she was, Enduc,d with Grace,
B lest with all virtue superior to her Face.
E ver shunning vice, Could it not her betray.
T o sin (if Knouen) she never did Give way.
H er Beuty, Goodnesse, by all were Admir,d.
P raises of all for her, are (sure) Required.
A mong the saintes in heaven nou she is,
S inging Haleluja,s in Eternall Bliss.
T h, allmightie Pouer hath Given a Diadem
O f Glore to her praising his holy Name.
N ou & for euer Lasteth her Great Fame.

British Library Additional MS 27447
Folio 508 Recto

Honored Madam

You & all your workes can well endure the Test, A Critick cannott find a fault how can a frend then your worthy exprissions, are as perfect as your affections And all are as far about my flattery, as your virtues my immitation. Madam your stay, is our loss & the misery is, wee cannott helpe it; We must satisfy those wher you are but much against our wills; Wee haue but two Coachorses any way fiyy to moue. ther fellowes are now farr poorer then in the middist of winter. The last hard weather almost gaue vs ther skinns; May, must now repayer them, or a new Fayer vs; I find a duple greife in deare Thorpes visitation. God bee mercyfull to them by a suddaine remoue that wee may al merrily, frendly, & safely meete; Butt Madam I ame sorry to see your stay must grow like the dayes longer still; Whitsonday methinkes stands further, oft, then it did yesterday; Heauens will please certynly bringes together att length, thats the only comfort left, till then I shall pray for your health, & studdy on to express my selfe furthur

Your Ladyships most respectiue Nephew

Holland

Madam.

My wife haue a desire to appeare to your Ladyship vnder mee, but would express her selfe about mee

your lady ships

All: Sandys

{Folio 509 verso}

To his Honored Aunt The Lady Bell att Edenthorpe these

Additional Manuscript 27448

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 1 Recto

Januarie the 8th 1680:

Sir

I thanke you for kind letter to mee, I pray present my humble service to my worthy friends the Deputy Lieftenants, to whose care itt would bee superfluus for mee to recomend any thing, and I know you will lay before them all thinges necessary to bee considered, I haue mett with an order in Mr Doughty's papers, signed butt nott executed, I heere inclose itt, andn you may send mee up such a receipt as is fitt for my son to signe, pray allsoe send mee vp a note for your owne sallarie, and one more for your riding expences, and incident charges of paper parchment &c; with a blanck for the sam which you may hint to my consideration in letter, I am att present without a secretaire Hauing recommended mine to a farr more beneficial employment in that of the barbadoes) butt if their bee any Commissions ~~vacant~~ to bee drawne for vacancies doe desire you will send mee them vp to bee seated I thinke Sir Christopher Calthorpe, wants officers which I desire him to chse to his owne good liking

{Folio 1 verso}

I am sorrie your Lady has beene ill and that you haue had soe much sickness in your family pray god send you all well to doe, and that wee may liue to see our selved in faire weather, which often happens after the most violent stormes, my wife & my Son and all of vs returne you our most ciuill respects, and I am

Sir

Your most assured friend
& humble servant

yarmouth

Pray send the inclosed to the young heire

{Folio 2 verso}

These
For my Honored Friend
Edward L'Estrange
Esquire

franke
yarmouth

To bee left att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwch

[Jan the 8th C20 appointed Secretary]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 3 Recto

January the 15th 1680:

Sir,

I received your ciuill letter, Mr Verdon was dismissed by his black gard att Waltham, ouer whome hee thinkes hee has aduantages, which as reason and time shall permitt hee'l make the best of,

I am much oblinded to the gentlemen for commanding Carter to the King's head by which Mr Sheriff may find that if the whitehorse will nott downe now, itt may haue as little influ-ence heereafter, yesterday his Majesty had a petition from the Citty, which hee answered with as aduice to my Lord Maior that they would looke after matters that concerned them, The two notes signed I haue heere inclosed, and filed vp the blanck with tenn pounds I hope this may meet you as you desired itt should,, when you see any of my friends I begg you would giue them my most humble seruire, I am

Your assured friend & servant

Yarmouth

my wife &: son
Paston returnes
you their service

{Folio 4 verso}
For my Honoured Friend
Edward L'Estrange
Esquire

Franke
Yarmouth

Leaue this at Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich

[Jan: 15 80/1]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 5 Recto

January the 26th 1620

Sir

By the last post my Son Paston wrote to most of our considerable friends, to make their interest strong that wee may nott ever haue Sir J.H. entailed on us as Parlament man I doe suppose the men lickely to contest the point are Sir Cristopher Culthorpe Sir Thomas Hare & Sir Jacob Astley wee haue written to Sir Thomas to know his mind and att least to gett him to fix his friends for his further directions pray gett a meeting of som of our friends that wee may bee vnanimous for two whosoever they are, perhapps now his Majesty has shewne his resolutions, to stick to himself & friends the temper of som may be altered & the choyse nott runn soe currant against vs doe your best in the case & lett mee with speed heare from you how the country dayes stand, for I would not haue our friends surprised, I am

Your most affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

I am faine to write by Norwch nott knowing where your post lyes:

{Folio 6 verso}

For my Honored Friend

Edward L'Estrange Esquire

att Gressenhall in Norfolke

Franke

Yarmouth

Leaue this to be sent as directed att Alderman Briggs in Norwich

[Jan: 20: 80/1 Election]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 7 Recto

February the 3d 1680

Sir

I doe most hartily thanke yow for most kind letter, and that other to my son, as the matter of the fellowe that has the 4~~l~~ per annum sallarie out uith him and place whome the deputy Leiftenants shall thinke fitt, they may signe an order for another, and if itt needes my hand you may send itt mee vp, I wish Verdon may bee soe wise as nott to giue any aduantages against himself the next Parlament which Sir Yett: hauing out shott him-self in his sewing the order soe severely on him, will itt may bee studiously giue him as occasion, to betray himself by his passion or resentments, Monday is the day of triall & I doe wish, good success to our two friends, never shall wee able to preuaile if wee doe nott now doe itt, neither were thinges ever soe well layd in, yett I doe beleeeve Sir Itt will haue a great party, wee are vnder great sadness heere my son has lost his second son a luckes hopefull boy & my daughter very ill, and licke to miscarrie, hee writes himself to night, to som of his friends, from Mr Jessop a man that would with such vnusuall invokations of god and the

{Folio 7 verso}

powers of heaven officiously pawne his sowle to mee without either soe much as tyng him my self to any conditions, or will-ingly accepting those in which hee soe bound vp himself - Ileae him to answer itt butt that hee should soe insure Sir Christopher Calthorp & Mr Le Strange for whose sake I did itt that stickes a little on my stomack, however I doe well to bee shewne att the white horse,

pray present my humbly service to all my friends I hope Sir Neuille Catlyne had my which I directed to Kirby cane by the beckles post and now an Hare & an Astley for my mony towards the good effects of which I haue don all my possible, I should bee glad to heare our fate as soone as may bee I doe suppose mr Verdon will lett vs heare if right I would haue all faire play agreed on both sides that there may bee noe grounds petitions, for wee yett know nott who are to bee iudges of them, I haue noe further to say butt that I am

Sir your most affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

My service to Alderman Briggs who I hope will try *the* other walk with my son;

{Folio 8 verso}

For my honored Friend
Edward L'Estrange *Esquire*
Att alderman Briggs his howse
in Norwich

Franke
yarmouth

[Feb: 3^d 80/1 Election]

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 9 Recto

Sir

Haveing bin advised by my ffreinds to Joyne Interest with Sir Henry Hobart (a person of Honour and knowne Loyalty) to stand with him as representative to serve in the next parliament I earnestly desire your Concurrance to ingage yo'r Interest for vs both, Alsoe that you will please to meet at the White Swann in Norwich vpon Munday the 25th of this instant by Tenn in the Morning, there to consult with his and my ffreinds such Methoda as are most proper to effect the same, pray excuse me to our ffreinds that I doe not write to each, they being soe Numerous and the tyme too short, And be assured I shall vpon all occasions demonstrate myselfe a faithfull servant to the Countrey and particulerly:

Sir

Your faithfull ffreind & Servant

Paston

pray Communicate this to your Neighbours & our ffreinds

[FB - (17680)]

9th March 1680

Whereas his Majesty by Letters Patents vnder the Great Seale of England beareing date the 25th day of May 1678 has granted to Henry Earle of Peterborow Robert Earle of Yarmouth Henry Lord O Bryen Sir ffancis Compton Bernard Greenvile & Henry ffanshaw Esquire & Percivall Bramshell Gentleman a full moyety of the improvement of all the ffines & penalytes of Greenwax. And of all the ffines called capias pro ffines vpon Judgments Quod Capiertus vel Comittitus over & aboute the sume of 500l per Annum which is all that his Majesty then received thereout as a Salary or Reward to encourage them to be industrious to improve his Majestys parte as well as their owne. And Whereas as Clause was therein incerted that did impowre his Majesty & any six of the Privy Councill at any time to revoake the Same His Majesty by his cheer in Councill dated the 4th day of May 1679 was pleased by the advice of his Privy Councill to order the right honourable the Lords Commons of his Majestys Treasury to prepare a Warrant for his Majestys Royall Signature in order to the Revoakeing of the said Grant by Privy Seale or Great Seale. And whereas the Judges did obstructe the passing of any new Grant to divers of the old Patentees as others for the management thereof. Yett afterwards did certifie that it was for his Majestys service to Grant A Patent therefore to Thomas Aram Gentleman with his Majesty was graciously pleased vpon their humble peticion to Stopp at the Privy Seale. Alsoe another intended to be passed to one mr Corkclough. And Whereas his Majesty vpon the humble Applicacion of divers of the old Patentees to be heard concerning the said Matter by their Councill. His Majesty by his Order of this Board the 4th of this instant was graciously pleased to appoint this day for the 3^d heareing. And accordingly Councill attending in their behalfe were fully heard: And his Majesty there vpon was pleased to declare by the advice of his Privy councell that A Grant to many persons to manage the said Revenue was prejudiciall & inconvenient for his Service. And was further pleased that a Grant in like manner as the as the Judges had certified for the said Thomas Aram should be made & granted to the said Percivall Brunskell to be Surveyor & Contrroller of the said Revenues dureing his Majestys pleasure vnder Such Rules & direccions as he should from time to time receive from the Lords Commons of the Treasury or Lord Treasurer for the time being. And for his care & paines therein to receive the like Salaries rewards And that he the said Percivall Brunskell & all the partyes concerned should wholly depend vpon his Majestys bounty to be further rewarded as his Majesty had graciously promised: or otherwise as his Majesty by the advice of the Lords Con___ of his Treasury or Lord Treasurer for the time being should think fitt

{Folio 12 verso}

1682 The Paper of our Last hearing at the Council Table

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 13 Recto

April the 9th 1681

[{Upside down above main paragraph in same hand} my service to the Alderman
tell him wee must bee <illegible> his Majesty will loue his bare faced friends]

I thanke you for all your letters and punctuall accompts from time to time, you
must excuse mee if I doe nott make my returns soe punctuallie, for somtimes
thinges are soe that I am loth to write, butt now I thinke I may wish som comfort
assert what I haue written I shall leaue itt to the Gentlemen I meane the De=puty
Leiftenants of Norfolke to make such a returne as the King may know I haue
obeyed his commands to them (in which number putt in Sir (Nicholas Le Strange)
and send mee his Commission drawne vp to seale, if such a letter coms to mee I
shall yett Sir Thomas Hare to subscribe itt heere I would haue this onely from the
deputy Leiftenants Leaseing out the wind - & the wal - both in my superscription
& any subscription, for you must superscribe my letter to all in order, present my
most humble service to my two Knights to the maiors of hors & foot and to all my
friends in generall who I hope to visitt this summer the port home fleurr

Yours in hast

Yarmouth

I make itt my request that I my self may haue the hearing of Mr Du Valls business
and that noe order of distress may pass before

{Folio 14 verso}

Aprill the 9th 81

Sir Nicke L'Estrange Deputy Lieutenant and Mr Duvalls case to be heard by my
Lord.

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 15 Recto

April *the* 9th 1681

Gentlemen

By his *Majestys* express commands I am to present {^you} with his kindest respects, and with {^thanks} his ^ for *your* affectionate loyaltie to him, hee bidde mee assure {^you} hee will stick to his friends and doubts nott of *the* continuation of *your* kindness *which* have beene represented in *the* best characters I could, butt nott soe well sett forth as accepted by his *Majesty*, this perticularly concernes *your* selves butt by *the* declaration comming out you will see more, I desire you will bee pleased to putt *the* militia in such as posture as may {^bee} most convenient and ready for his *Majestys* service and *that* I may receiue *your* commands if you haue any thing to returne to his *Majesty* or to

Gentlemen

Your most humble servant

Yarmouth

{Folio 15 verso}

Coppie of my letter to *the* Deputy *Lieutenants* by his *Majestys* command April *the* 9th 1681

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 16 Recto

My Lord

Yesterday morning these Following Deputy Lieutenants met at the Castle in Norwich vizt Sir Neville Cateline, Collonell Suckling Collonell Knyvett, Major Ward, Major William De Grey, & Captain Cooke: where according to their commands I read His Majesties Declaration to them ; who were all infinitely pleased with it, and I may truly say, that Declaration has put new Life and Soul, into all His Majesties Loyall Subjects, for His Majestie has therein; given such weighty reasons for His late proceedings, and such great assurances that he will protect all His, Dutifull, and Loyall subjects, from all Arbitrary {^Power} that never any thing was Received with more Joy and Satisfaction:

I here Inclosed send your Lordship the Copy of the answer of the Deputy Lieutenants to Yours of the 9th Instant; which I hope will be as wellcome to Your Lordship, as yours was to them: I can not send the Originall to yout Lordship till after Ffakenham Sessions which are upon Thursday next: For Sir Francis Bickly, and Sir Christopher Calthorpe giving notice that they could not attend at Norwich by reason of Sicknes, and desiring to haue the Letter brought to them, in their Divisions, I am Comanded to attend them accordingly; so that on fryday next I hope to send it away by the post to your Lordship:

Yesterday in the Afternoone seuerall Gentlemen met at the popping Jay , where it as agreed by Sir Nevill & the Rest that Letters should be sent, to Sir Thomas Hare and Sir Jacob Astley to desire them to Stand for Knights for this County, (when ever His Maestie shall please to Comand an other Election) promising them all the ffaithfull Assis-tance that may be: a Copy of which Letter, (as it was then subscribed by Sir Nevill, and about 20 Gentlemen more,) I here Inclosed send Your Lordship, but the Originall I cannot send to Sir Thomas Hare till next Frydat, for I am to carry it to Lin and Fakenham Sessions, to get the Gentlemens hands of those Divisions to it: I hope Sir Thomas will not deny the Gentlemen's request, for I am Informed that Sir Jacob

{Folio 16 Verso}

will comply with the Gentlemens desires: Wee choose to begin thus soon, that wee may not be Surprized, as wee were the last time: but I hope Wee shall not haue a new Election before Wee haue a new Sheriff, for this is most certain, if ever His Majestie expects good parliaments, He must choose such Sheriffs as are known to

be well affected to the King and Church: and I dare affirme at this time no honest Gentleman would waue *that* Office , upon *the* Account of Charge:

It was yesterday recomended to mee by *the* Gentlemen, to request Your Lordship *that* Robert Day of Skouton Esquire might be put in to *the* Comission of *the* peace againe, he having wholly deserted Sir J: H and his party, and *the* last Election brought in 120 men for Sir Tho: Hare & Sir Jacob Astley and publickly declared: *that* he would {^never} serue *that* person with his Interest; who should endeavour to prevent *the* Succession in *the* Right Line, or make any alteration in *the* Government of *the* Church, as by Law established:

Dr Hyldeyard having lost his Eldest Son yesterday begs Your Lordships excuse for not writing this post, and desires he may receiue Your Lordships Comands concerning Smith:

There were only some priuate Musters Orderd yesterday, by reason of Seuerall Vacancies amongst *the* Officers, some of *which* died, their naturall Deaths, & others purged away this spring; but *the* Collonells haue strict charge giuen them, to fill up all Vacant places *with* speed; and to Comand their Captain that their Troops & Companies may be ready upon Warnings.

I send your Lordship a Deputytation for Sir Nicholas whome I hope to see at Fakenham Sessions, and then I shall giue your Lordship a further Accompt: *the* post will only giue mee leaue to add *that* I am

My Lord

Your Honours

Most Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Norwich Aprill *the* 15th 1681

{written down left-hand margin}

All *the* Gentlemen present their Humble Services to your Lordship, and begg *the* favour to haue mine presented to *the* Right Honourable *the* Countess of Yarmouth and *the* Rest of your Right Honourable Relations

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 18 Recto

Noble Lord

I was very glad to hear *that* you were able to go to Oxford, & that you returned safe: I pray God in crease *your* strength & health. *that* we may heer enjoy the benefit of *your* advice & assistance, *which* hath raisd *the* spirit of *our* loial men to that height that we now triumph both in City & Country, & doubt not to shew it upon all occasions. I should haue mentiond some particulars, but last night Alderman Bendick told me, he had giuen *your* Lordship an account allready. I thank God, I haue enjoyed more ease last month then I expected & I think *our* good success of publick affairs hath contributed to words it if it pleas God to bless the King *with* a stedfast resolution to keep *the* laws & encourage his officers, I do not question but *our* turbulent men will soon be quieted, & *your* Honour & I finde much ease & comfort *which* is *the* Constant praier of

Your Lordships

faithful servant

Ant. Norw.

My wife & children present their humble service to my noble Lady & *your* Lordship & then I desire you to accept of mine *with* my hearty Benediction. Apr. 18. /81

[FB - 18 Ap. 1681. 33 C2. Anthony Sparrow Bp of Norwich]

{Folio 19 verso}

To the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 20 Recto

Whitehall · 4 · June · 81

My Lord

I take leave to enclose to your Lordship my Letter to the Mayor of yarmouth. 'tis as your Lordship commanded it, with a flying seal, that your Lordship may please to peruse. The lettre of the Corporation to your Lordship I have at last found to be lodged as the Adresse now is, in the Hands of the Writer of the Gazette. your Lordship's Gentleman, when he calls anon, will (I hope) have it deliver'd to him. I have no order to write to Mr Mayor of norwich 'tis a good while since that adresse is come to hand. I am with a very perfect Respect

My Lord

your Lordships

most humble and most

obedient servant L Jenkins

Earl of yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 22 Recto

My Lord /

In our last of the 8^o Instant wee Ren'dred our humble thanks to your Lordship for presenting our Adresse to his Majestie And your Lordship an accountt of what had passed in an Assembly the day before, Last munday we called another Assembly hoping of better successe then in the former, but the same persons continueing still in the same ill temper, the Assembly has the same Effect; wee doe Intend to trye them once more, And if then wee cannot perswade them to a better order, soe that the briefnesse of the Corporacion may be performed wee must be formed (Although very Loath) to pray the hearing & determining, of our defference may be by the King & Councell in which wee shall humbly beg of your Lordship the honour & ffauour of your Assistance, Wee haue this post wrot to the Right Honourable Sir Leo: Jenkins (not to trouble him about our defferance till wee can see waht they will come too) but to giue him an accountt of Some words Spoken by Sir James Johnson of this towne Reflecting upon his Majestie the words are that the King of ffrance Could who well & gouern well, our King could whore well but not gouern, these words were spoken in the hearing of two _____ mr Daniell Butts & mr John England who haue reported them but by the presevation of Sir James or his ffriends,haue both absenced themselues, Soe that wee could not Effect the gitting an Informacjon against him; wee haue wrot this at Lardge to Sir Leo: Jenkins, But shall not trouble your Lordship any ffurther then to add the Assurance of our being

My Lord your Lordships most Oblidged humble Seruants

[different hands]

Jeffry Wards
Tho; MedoweBayliffs
John fforside

_____ June 22^o 1681

{Folio 23 verso}

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of yarmouth att his house in the Pell Mell
present
in
London

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 24 Recto

My Lord

Wee send your Lordships last letter by which wee perceiue that our Letter send to the Right Honourable Sir Leo: Jenkins did not come to his hand, for which wee much admire, because that letter with your Lordships was deliuer'd in att the post house, by a person of of worth &, honestly, who will testifie the truth of it if Comanded, & wee haue made the strictest enquiry wee can (priuately) to finde out the miscareage, but cannot, wee conceiue it must be Interrupted: a coppey of which letter (for your Lordships better sattisfaccion) is hereinclosed: & wee haue againe this post (not hearing any thing from Sir Leo: Jenkins) wrot to him to white=Hall, to giue him againe an accountt of the words spoken by Sir Ja: Johnson:

my Lord according to what wee wrot in our Last wee Summon's another Common Councell in which Some of those persons from whom your Lordships formerly read a letter, still continued to make disturbance, but not with that vygour as formerly Soe that wee hadd the Assembly & did Some buisnesse which concern'd the Corporacion, ~~but~~{^And} for your Lordships further sattisfaccon Sir Tho: Medowe Intends (God Willing) to set out for London Munday the iio Instant, & will then waite vpon your Honour I giue a full accountt of all the transactions: Wee are

My Lord

your Lordships most ffaithfull seruants

Jeffry Ward

John ffessire Bayliffs

yarmouth July 18^t 1681

my Lord

for fear of miscarriage againe wee haue presumed to Inclose Sir Leo: Jenkins his letter to your Lordship which wee beg may be deliuer'd

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 25 Recto

Right Honourable

In our last of the 10^o Instant Wee Rend'red your Honour our humble thanks for communicating to his Majesties gracious & King answer to our Adresse, & doe now presume to giue your Honour the trouble of these lynes to acquaint that as here a report spread abroad that Sir James Johnson of this towne haue spoken some words Reflecting vpon his Majestie Soe wee haue vsed our vtomost endeauours to gitt those persons before vs, whoheard the words spoken but they (being as wee conceiue prevayl'd vpon by Sir Ja: or his ffriends) haue absented themselues, & are gone out of towne, soe that wee cannot effect the gitting an Informacion against him: the persons (beng but two) are mr Daniell Butts of South=Towne _____one of our Common Councill, & mr John England of this Towne _____who haue reposted the words spoken by Sir James, &c. that if the King & Councill please to Comand them before them they would there declare the truth, the words that Sir Ja: Johnson said (as they are giuen to vs) are: that the King of Heaune could whore well & gouern well, our King whore well but not gouern; this wee thought our Selues oblided to make knowne to your Honour & shall neuer ffaille to our power to proue our selued truely Loyal to his majestie and

Right Honourable

your Honours &c:

yarmouth June 22^o 1681

directed

For the Right Honourable Sir Leolyne

Jenkins his majesties Principall

Secretary of state att Whitehall

{Folio 25 verso}

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of yarmouth att his house in the Pall Mall
present
London

July 4. 1681

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 26 Recto

July the 2d 1681

mr L'Estrange

pray draw mee vp a comission for Mr Matthew Peckover & Mr Francis Rawlins gentlemen to bee {^ioynt} muster masters of the militia of the county of Norfolk & citty of Norwich which I think has noe distinct muster master, I haue presidents of all formes of commissions left me by Mr Doughty which I shall send you the next week for I intend new Deputy Leutenants and a totall alteration in the militia of Yarmouth soe that som grists will com to your mill I receiued your letter with the list of Justices which I shall present a little nearer the time

pray make my compliment the Colonel & his new Lady to whome I wish much ioy, and to the Colonel that hee may haue the same vigor as when hee encountred my Lady ironside the smiths daughter att Rickmansworth

My Lord Shaftesbury is gon this day to the tower for high treason tis thought more his size will followe foure or fiue of a less magnitude are sent before & afterhim FitzHarris his paper left with the Doctor of the tower before his death is ordered to be printed_ I haue receiued a letter from Sir Neuille I am sorrie the present should haue soe much noyse in the nation & now fall nott to an Exemplary patterne pray doe your best by my next I shall tell you when I hope to see you my service to Mrs L Estrange

I am your true friend & servant

Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 28 Recto

July the 9th 1681

mr L'Estrange

pray send mee vp all the commissions by the Norwich coach, I haue formes by mee of all butt my wife has taken away the key where they are to Windsor with her, butt from the Deputy Leiftenants and other officers you may haue them pray try your skills this session I haue written to the Bishop who will shew you my letter butt none of those to that straine must goe about to my friends to whome one by one present my service and make my apologie to maior ward that I haue soe long neglecte writing to him butt noe man liuing is more hartely to them all and to you then I am

then I am

Your most affectionate ffriend to lowe & serve you

Yarmouth

My service to ~~the~~ Alderman Briggs

{Folio 29 verso}

For my very worthy Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich

July the 9th 81

send up Comissions

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 30 Recto

Norwich July 11 1681

My Lord

I am this day informed that there is a note of severall Gentlemen's names sent vp to your Lordship in order to be putt into the Commission of the peace, amongst the rest I am told Mr Burleigh is in the list, I have already given your Lordship some account concerning him, & I hope you will not be prevailed vpon to make him a Justice, for twill be a thing so fatall vpon mee that twill make my employment vncomfortable to mee, & wish I had never medled with it, for I am certeine he will doe mee all the mischeife he possible can by rendering mee obnoxious to the Bench without cause or reason for faults perhaps he vsed to commit himselfe, & I must be perpetually vindicateing my selfe, & some things may stick with suspitions ill affected pesons though I be never so innocent; The reason I vnderstand that induceth some Gentlemen to offer him, in to supply the defect of the cushion, I cam assure your Lordshipp that if mr Mingay & mr day be putt into Commission, the Cushion willbe full enough, & supplied too with very able persons, & there willbe noe want of mr Burleigh truly my Lord I shall thinke my selfe very vnfortunate if I cannot obteine this favour of your Lordshipp att least to suspend the Act for 2· or 3· sessions till I can give your Lordshipp a personall account, & I doubt not but in that time you will find some other honest Gentlemen of my mind, & those perhaps to that are now willing with his comeing in, that doe not throughly vnderstand his imposeing way. my most humble service to your noble Countess & to my Lord Paston I am ~~xxx~~ with all respect

my Lord

your most obedient servant

Js:Moatham

{Folio 31 verso}

These present

To the right honourable the Earle of Yarmouth att his house in the Pell=mall neere St James's

London

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 32 recto

July the 14th 1681

Mr L'Estrange

The presidents or formes of commissions I promised to send are soe carefully locked vp in a roome my wife has the key of att Windsor that I cannott yett com by them, therefore if you send mee vp those you haue already by the hackney coach on monday I shall seale them, I haue none that I remember for mustermaster, therefore you must send mee vp drawne one according to your best skill and the words of the act, I would haue itt drawne by way of Indenture In two parts for mr Peckover & Mr {^Francis} Rawlins to keep each one in the same forme & words deuiding the power and proffitts equallie betwixt them, Ile send you downe the other papers next weeke with a note of your owne fees for commission, and in any thing Els I can serve you in you'l find mee allwaies very ready, there will bee noe alteration in the commisson {^of peace} this Assises butt presently after, Great menns heads are too full of business to bee toyled I haue priuate reasons of my owne which I shall satisfie my friends in when I see them, and pray lett Mr Day know I doe nott forgett him butt will serve him, I wish I could heare good newse from Norwich which is more then I dare expect I am

Yours affectionately

Yarmouth

{Folio 33 verso}

These ffor my Honored Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Stanninghall neare Norwich

July 14: 81

Send up Comissions

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 34 recto

My Lord

In Obedience To Your Lordships Comands I haue sent you by *the* Norwich Coach 10 Comis-sions to signe, and seal Vizt:

Major Boteler: *Captain* Godfrey: *Captain* Oxburgh: *Captain* Mapes: *Captain* Lieutenant Grey: Ensigne Normington: Lieutenant Cassell: Ensigne Lombe: Quarter Master White: and one for mr Peckover, and Mr Rawlins to be Joynt Muster Masters:

If Your Honour designes any new Deputy Lieutenants be pleased to Let mee know, and I shall be preparing Comissions for them:

The Subscription to Our Norfolke Address goes on Briskly, hauing in two dayes time gotten 100 hands but *the* Money Address would not take, for the Reasons I acquainted Your Lord by my Last of *the* 13th Instant:

The Tendure of my Owne, & Wifes, humble Duty & Service, to Your Honour, the *Right* Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth, & the Rest of Your *Right* Honourable Relations concludes mee

My Lord

Your Honours Most Obliged & Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Staninghall July *the* 15th 1681

Collonell Harbord and his Lady present their service to Your Lordship

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 36 recto

July the 26: 1681

Mr L,Estrange

I haue signed all the comissions you send mee which will bee sent downe by the fridayer coach I pray present my service to all my worthy ffriends there and deliuer this letter to the Deputy Leifttenants I doe suppose you haue a bill for riding charges & paper which if you send mee vp I shall signe heere I hope to see you shortly in Norfolke butt my affaires pemit me nott to com downe soe soone as I thought itt is now the fashion that all addresses com well attended by gentlemen and I hope I shall nott carrie the Norfolke one without company I haue nothing els att the present more to say but that I am

Yours affectionately

Yarmouth

my service to Alderman Briggs: /

[different hand - at Normington at the Red Lyon]

{Folio 37 verso}

For my Honored Friend

Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Alderman Briggs his howse
in Norwich

July 26- 81

Address

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 38 Recto

August the 2d 1681:

Mr L'Estrange

I thanke you for yours with the accompt of the Assises, I hope I shall heare further of you when they are ever, the Address is long of comming and if itt comes nott to my hands on friday next I cannott goe with till after tuesday which is an anneversary I allwaies keep, I am well pleased that the gentlemen my friends made none of the triumphall trayne, with the Shreeves 4 Coaches and the combination liueries, and that the pacht Jury haue yett don noe more harme, for Verdon told mee hee feared they would frome a petition to his Majesty counter to the address,

I sent downe the commissions sealed by mondays flying coach to bee left att Mr Briggs with a note on the top in Mr Fishers hands of your fees,

I am glad mighty Sir John did nott beare vp Mrs Deanes cawse against Verdon, nor his cheef Engineer from beeing bound over the Assises, I enclose the note for your disbursments and have putt in 15ll and shall allwaies bee most ready to serve you In any way that lies in the power of

Your affectionate ffriend & servant

Yarmouth

{Folio 39 Recto}

For Edward L'Estrange

Esquire

To bee left att Alderman Briggs his howse in Norwich

[other hand - August the 2d 81 A Note of Fees for Comissions

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 40 Recto

Mr

John Taylor our seruis worth & love Loue Most kinde Respectes to you Remembred
theis are to Certefie you That wee and the rest of the Tennantes of Claughton
belongeinge to the Manner of Berkinhed in Worrall in the County of Chester, doe
hereby most Humbly Request your Worship to doe vs the favoer as to directe vs
howe to drawe our humble suppliant or peticon and to whome wee Maye for our
Redresse by twoe or three Lines from you except after the Receapte here of,
{deleted} for wee are sorely appressed by Esquire Powell whoe houlds the Manner
aforesaid for Wee doe vnderstand that Now theis Abby Lands are Colled in question
by his Gracious Majestie whom god preserue in health Wealth and prosperretie
which shall and is our daylie prayares to Allmightie god soe to Continnue him And
that Esquire Powell hereinge thereof is now sellinge the said Manner to the right
Worshipfull Colonell Whittley praye Let vs haue you advise herein what Course wee
should tacke for our addresses herein except as aforesaid and wee shall give you
sattisfaction for your Care and paynes herein and soe desiringe your anser once
More Leue att present but shall ever Remyne

Your friends and seruants to there power till death

Samuell Sharpe

John Sykcocke with the rest

of the tennants

Claughton August the 5th 81

Mr Taylor My deere Loue to you Remembred further most humbly request you Not
to neglecte herein but let my friends haue a speedy Answer herevnto and you shall
ever Ingage him _____ is you most humble servant friend

Raphe: Edge:

1681

To all to whom these presents shall come, the Mayor Sheriffs Cittizens and Commonally of the Citty of Norwich send Greeting , know ye that the sayd Maior, Sheriffs &c upon good Considerations htem thereunto mouing, haue granted and by these presents do grant unto, our Souereigne Lord the King, his Heires, and Successors all and singular the mannors, Messuages, Lands Rents, Tenements and Hereditaments, with the Appurtenances whatsoever whereof or wherein the sayd Maior Sheriffs Cittizens and Commonally are now, or at any time heretofore haue been any way Seized, possessed or interested in right of their Corporate Capacity by any means howsoever. And further for the Considerations aforesaid, the said Mayor sheriffs &c haue granted Surrendred and yielded up, and by these presents do grant Surrender and yield up unto Our said Souereigne Lord the Kings most Excellent Majesty all Charters, Franchises, Letters Patents of Incorporation, powers, priuiledges, Libertyes and Immunityes whatsoever at any time or times heretofore granted to, or held and enjoyed by the sayd Maior, Sheriffs, Cittizens & Commonally, or they or any of their predecessors, by any ways or means, or by what name or names soeuer.

In Witnesse whereof the sayd Maior Sheriffs Cittizens and Commonally in Common Councell Assembled haue hereunto affixed their Common Seale this 29th day of September --- in the 34th yeare of the Reigne of Our Souereigne Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England &c.

Sir

Least any mistake should be concerning the Statute 11^o _____7^o Cap: 15^o,
Because you are of opinion it ~~was~~ is obleet. I humbly informe you, That the Statute
was duely observed, vntill the times of Rebellion, as of great vse, & benefitt,
accordingly as the preamble purports. And that it is not repealed: Soe that in
case, you should think fitt, to advise his Majesty, to dispence with that part,
relateing to the Justices, as too laborious for them to view, & examine the
Estreats: Some way is to be contrived, that his Majesty may have a controll, vpon
(and a due accompt from) Sheriffs, and Stewarts, of ffines, and Amerciaments paid
in the Court & Affeered, & levied: ffor the ffines in Turnes, are pocketted &
concealed: you did objecte to mee, that the same are inconsiderable, and belong
to Lords, And Grantees. I think it my duty to informe you alsoe, That it appears
by the Nomina Villari & Clame Rolls, or particuler Grants in the Exchequer: Crown,
not Granted out: Therefore I humbly propose (if the Statute be dispenced with)
That all Sheriffs, and Stewarts, may retorne duplicates (of all ffines, &
Andciaments, as well such as shall be paid in Court as leviabie before any be
levied) vpon Oath, duely to the Clarck of the Pipe, or Kings, or Treasurers
Remembrances, in some short space of time, after the Courts holden, or kept, As
to ffines of Alienacion, which you were pleased to say has noe relacion to the
Greenwax. And fell {^not} vnder my Survey; The Pt ffines are admeasured, by
Perfines, And are levied, by process of Greenwax now. And the perfines were
aunciently Greenwax: Wherefore I humbly conceive, I could not omitt them, &
discharge my duty: I hope you will pardon this bouldness from,

Your most humble Servant

P Brunskell

10th Sept 1681

{folio 44 verso}

A copy of A Letter to the Attorney Generall

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 45 Recto

October *the* 11th: 1681

Mr L'Estrange

I receiued *your* letter from Norwich Sessions from whence there is *the* least of business I euer saw though one too vnfortunate of *which* neither out of Mr Pickovers (who sayes most as to *the* euidence) nor out of *yours* can I make any certainty, neither know I whether Verdon stands committed or is vpon bayle, I am sure itt is very vnhappy and giues *the* other party aduantages to shew all their spleene, I pray step to Verdon & inclose a letter from him to mee, to aduise mee how his misfortune may worke noe effects in *the* matter he knows I haue prepared for *the* next Shreeve that wee may haue noe more of *the* old gang these accidents doe vs more harme then wee can easily repaire, butt when I vnderstand more, I shall bee able to make further measures, I am now on my bed in an ill case to write hauing had *the* new feuer and *the* griping of *the* guts this forthnight Rawlins shall com downe *the* next week to see som frutes of his employment for by *yours* I find *the* musters will bee late this month, pray answer this by *the* next post, present my humble service to *the* Colonel his Lady, my wife presents hers to you & *your* Lady

In all things I can thinke to serve you in you'l find mee

Sir Your affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

{folio 46 verso}

These

For my honored Friend Edward L'Estrange *Esquire* Att Stanninghall neare Norwich

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 49 Recto

March the 9th 1681/2

Mr L'Estrange

Yours I receiued with all the Papers and those with some additionall ones of my owne his Majesty has seene and approved butt they haue layne long in the Secretaryes hands, and I have reason to believe their has beene som tugging to get the old commission of the peace to haue stood without alteration, butt on Munday last by the Kings order the list of the iustices from the Deputy Leutenants modell was sent to my Lord Chancelor and by him is now signed, and his servant shewed itt my son yesterday, and promi-sed itt should bee dispatched by monday, Mr Baspole has desired mr Warkhouse to looke after itt, and I haue written to him to doe soe this day Mr Shadwell by pretended or voluntary mistake was left out butt vpon my Sons intimation itt was promised to bee rectified, other mistakes there are none except som new sham bee putt on vs which I am apt to beleeeve will nott att this time of day, The Commissions shall bee sent downe before or att the Assises butt you must fill them vp with what date you please, my service to the Colonel and his Lady and to Mrs L'Estrange, my Wife & son will bee att Newmarkett on Wedensday next, I am

Your Affectionate ffriend

Yarmouth

I haue written to Sir Neuille Catlyne about som address from the cuntry as well as from ___ citty: som expression of congratulating the Dukes returne may nott bee amiss

{Folio 50 verso}

For my worthy Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Stanninghall neare Norwich

[another hand]

March the 9th 81/2

Address

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 52 Recto

Sir

His Majestie hauing lately Dissolued the parliament at Oxford, & by His Declaration assured us, that no Irregular proceedings shall make him out of Love with parliaments, but that He resolves to meet His people in frequent parliaments; Wee may reasonably expect that it will not be Long, before there may be a new one called: and that wee may not be wanting (according to the utmost of our powers,) to present such persons to the Country, as may be fitly qualified to be their Repre-sem=ntatiues, and persons known to be truly Loyall to the King, and Well affected to the Church of England, as by Law Established; Wee upon mature Deliberation, haue Unanimously resolved, to propose to you, to stand, for Our Representatiue, at the next Election; Faithfully promising to serue you, with our best Interests upon so Honourable an Occasion: and this Wee the rather offer to you, considering the great disadvantages you appeared under the last Election: hoping that as you had the trouble in the Last, so you will haue the Honour of good Success in the next which wee shall ffaith fully endeavour to promote, by declaring Our Selues

Sir

Your most Faithfull Friends & Servants

{folio 52 verso}

A copy of the Gentlemens Lettr to Sir Tho: Hare & Sir Jacob Astley:

At my Lord Yarmouths desire according as Mr Pastin informed me; I make his Lordship these following propositions for him to take his choice of, before I give my consent to his going on with the long Sough on Cromford Moore./

To allow me an eight part of the proffitt ariseing out of the Lead Care proportioned according to the Parsons tenth part./

Or to pay me fifty Guinies downe, & an eight part as before after one thousand pounds shall be raised.

And further to comply with his Lordships desire as farr as in reason can be expected from me (tho' I am least willing to deale that way & cannot all how to set a value of it without I knew with the Parson sets upon his); yet at all adventures because my Lord has such a desire to have it all to himself, I will take paid downe three hundred Guinies./

And I give his Lordship a months time to make his choice of which of the abovesaid propositions he pleases, & am willing in the meane time he make with necessary preparation he will to carry on the Sough; but the months time expired after he has received these propositions, his Lordship not to proceed till he has made choice of one of them./

The *King* haveing granted a charter to *the* Citty of Norwich & thereby incorporated them & *com*missionated them to bee justices of *the* peace & to bee *com*missioners of Oyer & Terminer (*with* their Recorder or steward of the quorn) It soe happens that *the* steward will not Act & their recorder cannot be present at their sessions - What way is there best to record the charter soe as to empower the Recorder to constitute a deputy to act in all things as himselfe might doe were hee personally present:

The purest way were to renew *the* whole charter & to name a person therein to Act in *the* absences of *the* Recorder as his deputy & to *com*missionate such deputy to bee justices of peace &c as *the* Recorder himselfe is *com*missionated to bee & to Act in his absence as *the* Recorder is himselfe *com*missionated to Act -

If this renewing of *the* whole charter bee too chargeable I conceive the *King* may grant a new charter of confirmacion of *the* libertyes Granted by *the* former charter *with* such addicjon of such powres as aforesd for *the* Recorder & deputy Recorder to Act & doe as aforesayd - The like charters of confirmacion *with* new powres to that effect as aforesd have been granted to most corporacjons in England

{continued down left-hand margin}

*with*out any surrender or repeale of *the* former charter

W Thursby

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 57 recto

Norwich

At an Assembly held the last day of March 1682

Jutor alia sic Intratur

Mr Maior, Augustine Briggs Robert ffreeman and Robert Bendish Esquires Mr Ald Gardiner and Mr Ald Nicholas Helwys Mr Phillip Stebbing Mr Henry Brady Mr Thomas Greene Mr Thomas Goslyn and Mr Peter Copping or the Maior part of them are Appointed a Comittee to meet vpon Mr Maiors Summons And Advise with Mr Recorder and the Steward concerning an Additonall Charter to the Benefit of the City, or a nere Charter and to proceed by their Advise

[other hand? - Vera Copia - Corie]

28_ die Aprilis 1682o/

By the Committee Appointed by A Common Council held the last day of March 1682 for an Additionall or New Charter for the said City, Present Mr Maior Mr Recorded, Mr Steward Robert ffreeman Augustine Briggs Esquires Mr Phillip Stebbing Mr Henry Brady Mr Thomas Green Mr Peter Copping Mr Ald Nicholas Helwys

At this meeting it is Agreed that the Coppie of the last Charter be delivered for Mr Recorder and Mr Steward to {^peruse and} to consider ~~xx xxxx~~ of what Shall be Added for the Advantage of this City, or A New one, And that any person of the Common Council may Offer to the Recorder and Steward such reasons as they conceiue to be fitt to be proposed in an Additionall or New Charter,

5o Maij 1682

By the same Comittee present Mr Maior Augustine Briggs Esquire Mr Ald Gardiner Mr Ald Nicholas Helwys Mr Henry Brady Mr Philip Stebbing Mr Thomas Greene Mr Peter Copping Mr Thomas Goslyn

It is Agreed that if Mr Recorder be in Towne to morrow, that Mr Ald Gardiner Mr Alderman Nicholas Helwys Mr Philip Stebbing & Mr Thomas Goslyn doe repaire to him, and Mr Steward; and Pray their Advice concerning the obtaining of his Gracious Majestie

{folio 57 verso}

A New Charter, or a Supplementall Charter, of they thinke convenient And that *the* fforreigne Receivers doe pay foure Guines ti them to giue the Recorder and Steward to each of them 2 Guines, And if Mr Recorder be not in Towne that this Committee doe meet here againe vpon Thursday at foure of *the* Clock afternoone:

9^o Maÿ 1682^o

[other hand? - Corie]

By the Same Committee present Robert Bendish Esquire Mr Alderman Nicholas Helwys Mr Alderman Gardiner Mr Phillip Stebbing Mr Thomas Gosling Mr Peter Copping Mr Henry Brady:

Mr Nicholas Helwys {^Alderman} Mr Phillip Stebbing Mr Thomas Goslyn and Mr Alderman Gardiner, Who were Appointed to waite vpon Mr Recorder and Mr Steward, Report that Mr Recorder could not till his retorne from London, get time to peruse the Charters, And before he had read and considered them, he could not giue his Opinion And that it would take a moneths time at least to peruse them (If he should remeine soe long in his place) Mr Steward said he would not giue his opinion without the Concurrence of the Recorder: /

[other hand? - Corie]

11^o die Maÿ 1682

By the same Committee present Augustine Briggs Robert ffreeman Esquirs Mr Alderman Gardiner Mr Henry Brady Mr Phillip Stebbing Mr Thomas Greene Mr Peter Copping & Mr Thomas Goslyn: //Mett, and Concluded that nothing farther could be done in this Affaire Till Mr Recorder & Mr Steward have perused the Charters

[other hand? - Vera Copia - Corie]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 59 Recto

May the 3^d 1682

Mr L'Estrange

I thanke you for all yours, I desire that beeing I spare Rawlins to com downe to visitt the masters, that warrants may bee ordered for the horse & foot to bring in the mustermasters fees, and nott to adiourne itt to the next musters this I begg may bee your perticular care, allsoe I doe desire you to speake to the deputy Leiftenants of Norwich that the Norwich Regiment may bee mustered, I hope before the Assises to bee with you my self, pray lett mee heare from you concerning this my desire who am

Your very reall assured friend & servant

Yarmouth

and I pray lett the order runn for all arrears of Norwich Lynn & Yarmouth & the rest of any bee: if need bee sett my hand to the order,

{folio 60 verso}

For Edward L'Estrange att horstead neare Norwich

[other hand - May the 3^d 82 To order Muster Masters Fees

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 61 Recto

May the 20th 1682

Sir

You best know how I haue served you, I doe hope you will bee as present to your self in beleaving my proposition, which is immediatly to call an assembly for the delivery vp of your Charter to his Majesty which if itt passeth through my hands, by your directions I hope I shall worke the change, for all aduan-tages can reasonably bee propounded to mee, I will not conceale from you that I have a pettion, which I will nott deliuer for that sake till I haue your answer, which I hope will bee a ground for mee to cement all differences, which allwayes worke wors effects, att long runn then in the first prospect, you cannott thinke butt this aduice coms from my kindness to you & to the citty in generall, I will nott write you all I know butt this bee pleased to take a priuate mark of that itt is altogether impossible to defend itt as itt now {^stands} I besheech you make that a service grateful to the king by that voluntary act, which els hee will serve himself in without you, I pray lett mee haue your answer while the petition is in the Pockett of

Your humble servant

Yarmouth

{folio 62 verso}

Copy of my letter to the mayor of Norwich may the 20:/ 1682: concerning their Charter

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 63 Recto

Since the writing of my letter coms in Mr Cecill from the Assembly att Norwich which had all the artifice vsed to haue frustrated itt by nott hauing 13 aldermen there, soe I was faine to send to them one by one to appeare, Mr Briggs was att Church butt att the fifth summons came my partie would bee satisfied with nothing butt the absolute surrender of the Charter and refused to proceed in any manner of citty business till that bee don, which Alderman Briggs sayth hee cannott consent to because hee is sure the King desires itt nott now who should preach this doctrine to him you may guess, you may if you haue opportunity lett the king know this and with what small encoragements I haue worked soe great a thing for his Majestyes service I could wish you woud discourse Sir Leoline Jenkins and tell him itt's giuen about that the king desires itt nott then why should I desire itt? butt these are there shamms the maior sends mee priuate word hee will leaue them all & com ouer to mee, and I am sure to haue itt my owne way for all expedients are now out of dores, Mr Cecills letter is calculated for LN view if they delight in their owne good, I wish you could send mee mee as true & as good newse from London Pack & keep close to him for 20: I suppose you will bee will bee well pleased, with this dayes newse, Mr Norris has beene with mee to day all goes as you would haue itt in 25 26:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 64 Recto

Norwich May 22: 1682

My Lord

this day the Mayor Receiued your Lordshippes Letter And Callde the Alderman together to advise with Returne to make I find he is positiuely Resolude not to Call an Assembly But haue drawne up a Letter (as I am informde) to justifie ~~xxxxxxx~~ Himselfe _ from those things Charged in the Petition but the truth of that will be at any time proved to your Lordshippes Satisfaction: I hear alsoe he suggested that it haue bin managed by private Caballs & but very few Concernde, the Hands will prove the falshoode of that & if soe why haue the Mayor all along Refusde them a vote in the Assembly Hitherto or to Call one Now which must of Necessity giue a plaine demonstration who is in the Right: Mr Gardiner did in my Hearing perswade him to Leaue it wholly to your Lordshippe but he said he should Act by advice of his Brethren which I suppose he Chose Knowing the Majority of the Bench are Phanaticks & would Consequently oppose it; My Lord the Honest Loyall Petitioners present their Humble duty & thanks to your Lordshipe for the favour you haue already shewne them & Commend me to tell you that they will always serve the King & your Lordshipe faithfully, & they hope your Lordshipe will not be ~~xxxxxx~~ perswaded by tripling storyes of Mr Mayor to desert this Cause which is Really the Kings: the Letter which they now send you, haue mett with much opposition amongst themselues in the Court & by some of them was Refusde to be subscribed, Mr Alderman Gardiner tells me who comes now from the Court that they haue Left all things to your Lordshippes Management & desirde you to Endeauour to make Leaue in the Towne of & that if your Lordshipe by another {^Letter} intimate that it will be a service to the King they will all unanimously agree to deliver it up, if it be soe Your Lordshipe haue it in your Power to put a speedy End to all; the Petitioners Knowing themselues in the Right are Resolude as a man not to Retract & many more then they that subscribed it, & they desire your Lordshipe would not giue any Copy of it till it be deliverd up to the King & if there must be an Hearing at Councill they wil take care for the Management of it:

My Lord I am

Your most Humble & obedient servant

Jo Houghton

{folio 65 verso}

To the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at his House in the Pell Mall
London:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 66 Recto

Norwich 22^o die Maÿ 1682^o

Right Honourable and our Singular good Lord

The frequent Instances your Honor hath given vs of your Kindenesse to this Loyall City, Obleigeth vs to Retayne those Impressions of gratitude they have Made vpon vs, which Wee haue beene and Shall ever be readie to manifest vpon all Oportunities Offeres (and doe hereby Tender to your Lordship our most hearty and Sincere Acknowledgments for the Same) Humbly beseeching your continuance of them to be vs. Of which Wee have noe cause to doubt, being soe reall Acquainted with that Cander and Generosity that Declared it self in all your Actions; In confidence whereof Wee rest Satisfied your Honor will not giue credence to any Suggestions that may Lessen our Loyalty to his Majestie or Credit with your Lordship (both which Wee value equall to the most desireable Enjoyments) and will Give the real Testimonies thereof by our ready obeying his Majesties Commands even in our concernes of Greatest Importance. And this Wee humbly Entreat your Lordship to Beleive of vs who are

Your good Lordships

Most Obedient and Very humble Servants

{folio 67 verso}

These

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth Lord Lieutenant of Norffolk & Norwich at his house neare St James Palace in Westminster

Humble Present

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 68 Recto

May the 26th 1632

Mr L'Estrange

I am somewhat surprised that any warrant should bee issued out for the distraining Mr Du Val goods about the contest betwixt Captaine Guibon and him, I desire itt may nott bee executed if any such bee (if noe amicable composure nor the law) can decide this matter Ile rather pay the money my owne self, and I hope this will compose the matter, if hee will nott take itt att Thornham & Denham, Mr Du Val has openly shewed himself my friend, and itt is hard if I cannott gaine him this point, in which I beseech you lett mee haue the satisfaction, too to haue itt beleevd that I neuer spoke any words to Mr Du Valls preiudice, for I haue experience he is allwayes ready to oblidge where he can, besides this thing was before the time of my commission, Sir I hope I shall heare noe more of this matter I am

Your affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

{folio 69 verso}

These

For Edward L'Estrange Esquire att horstead neare Norwich

May the 26: 82

Mr Du Vall, & Capt Guybon

29 May 1682

Sir

Having most seriously weighed all *the* particulars of *your* letter of *the* 26 instant subscribed by many of my good friendes,, I returne you first my thanks and then my answer, I agree with you that *the* surrender of *your* charter vpon his Majesty is a matter of weight & importance, and ought nott to bee don to gratifye *the* priuate caballs of any party, sepe-rate from *your* body, though their meanings bee neuer soe loyall to *the* crowne nor their affections soe great to *the* gouernement, butt *that* to make itt *the* more accep-table itt ought to bee by a free consent of *the* whole, I am soe far from countenancing animosities amongst you that I will lay all *the* heko, and softness my aduice can propose, or my industry effect, to make a ~~xxxx~~ {^good} vnderstanding, amongst personns right in *the* direct point butt differing in circumstances, I would rather bee a traytor to my owne self then to you, and doe protest on *the* word and honor of a gentleman that because in this matter something of confidence must ly vpon mee, I shall make my {^itt} nearest concerne to rase a better monument of *the* Kings enlarging fauor and bounty out of *the* weake leggs of this Charter *which* cannot support itt self, if a force coms vpon, *which* as I foresee, I would preuent, well knowing *the* difference of rendring att discretion, from mercy, vpon all I begg of you, to surprize *the* King in this matter, while *the* opportunity, creates you a iust title and aduantage to all amendments & inlargement *the* prerogative may wish may wish reason pressed by my sollicitation afford you

{folio 70 verso}

I would nott loose your fauor, I will en-deauor to increase by *the* occasion this act aet of *yours* will putt into my hands, I doe suppose you will nott imagine, I think my owne talent of wisdom soe strong as to venture vpon what I say with {^out} some lights from stronger iudge-ments, and without, a full proescience, of *the* consequences, *which* I know may bee to late repented if *the* lustre {^__eerences} of soe generous a submissions-bee dimmed, with any darke, or delaying scruples, I pray consider into whose hands you putt *your* selves, into *your* kings, into a Kings generous in {^his} owne nature into a Kings whome *your* testimonys of loyalle & duty haue obliged to looke for an occasion to shew you how well you are in his esteeme; & to giue som particular evidence & mark of his fauor that you may owne

from him ~~in~~ {^as an} addition to those of his Ancestors, if itt were with you as itt is in painting where the originall in better then the copy the alteration, would bee for your loss, and yett and old patched peece mended by a better master recouers itt's old falts, and receiues a new lustre, and old peece of Evidence for soe Noble a citty, I confess is hard to bee trusted, butt when itt cannott trust to ittself, itt had better worke itt's owne cure by a gentle, then a ruff working medicine which with som pallates are difficultly swallowed vnder that notion, though though itt bee for the ease of the whole body; Sir I haue beene longer then becomes mee, butt if my arguments are weake I hope your faith will be strong, I therefore vpon the whole you {^besheeching you} will som speed, & noe precipitation: trusty Charter in the Kings hands, and such private

{folio 71 recto}

instructions in mine, that I pray the better know how to shere my endeauors to mproove thy great occasion for the best advantages I hartelye wish your citty in the promotion of which to my vtmost power I shall bee ost glad to shew how much I am to the citty in generall to your self as cheif magistrate particular

Sir

Your most affectionate ffriend & humble servant

Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 72 Recto

Norwich 5^d Junij 1682./

My Noble Lord/

I giue you my very humble Thankes for your great Goodness to this City, & particular Regards to my Selfe, expressed in your lettre sent by Mr Cecil. And doe beseech your Lordship not to thinke ~~that~~ that the suspending Answer therto for twoe or three Posts (in A matter of so great Consequence to this Place) is too long a Tyme; or any disregard to your Lordship. For in this time of Festiuity, seueral persons of the Bodie, are entertayning themselues with the pleasantnesse of the Season, and the Conuersation of thier Freinds in the Countrie. I am asured your Lordship beleiuēs I doe Concurrē with you in what doth Realy tend to his Majesties Seruice, the Happinesse, Peace & prosperity of this truely Loial, and Hitherto Flourishing Citie. My Lord I must begg your Leauē to Subscribe my Selfe what I am

Your good Lordships

Most Obedient, Faithfull and very humble servant

Hugh Bokenham Maior

{folio 73 Recto}

Theise/

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth Lord Lieutenant of Norfolke and Norwich at his House neare in Westminster/

Humble Present/

Norwich June 5: 1682

My Lord

on saturday the Mayor Communicated your Letter to his Bre-theren, diverse of them urgde him to Call an Assembly which he absolutely Refusde And because he found that seuerall of those who subscribed the former letter did not show inclinations to Comply with your Lordshippes Advice, he chose four to Returne An Answer which are Richers Crowe Westhorpe the Sheriffe (though he be none of the ~~xxxx~~ Court) & Alderman Gardiner who told me this day he was sorry to be joynde with such Company but it was the Mayors doing & he Could not Helpe it: (Bendish & Freeman Refusde to be of this Committee:) by them this Part you will haue an answer, but the contents are not knowne though they may be guessede from the Characters & Humours of the persons who were Pitchde upon purposely to Conceale all proceedings from your Lordshippes friends & to oppose the Kings intrest as much as they Can: by this your Lordshippe may judge of the Mayors inclination & by what Advisers he is managde..

The Honest Persons are Mightily satisfied with the encouragement you were please to giue them by Mr Cecill & will Readily submit to your Lordshippes methods hoping that in due time their desires may be accomplishd, by a new charter to Remove the Kings & your Lordshippes Enemyes which is the onely way to secure the Government ~~xxxxx~~ for the future from such Heats & disturbances this is the plainest Account we can at present giue your Lordshipp & upon any further occasion shall be Ready according to your Lordshippes measure to approve our selves

Your Lordshippes most

Humble & obedient servant

J: Houghton

W: Cecil:

{folio 75 verso}

To the Right Honourable

the Earle of Yarmouth

present

Norwich, June the 12th 1682

My Lord

This is humbly to request your Honor to pardon my Rudenesse in my returneing from London without takeing my leave of your Honor or acquainting you with my departure, which thing I would not have done if I had forced to prepare homeward so fast as I could, and I was forced to I make it 3 daies Journey from London to Norwich, and I did not come off my Chamber for a Month after I gott home which had beene the cause I have not acquainted your Honor with the Result of our Petition before now; Therefore now I humbly presume to informe your Honor with the Result of our Petition before now; Therefore now I humbly presume to informe your Honor that we stand in great need of your Honors assistance In bringing our obstinate enemy to a Compliance, ffor whereas we were left to the Law by his Majestie and his most Honourable Privy Council I doe presume to acquaint your Honor That we have neither Law not Justice which is able to bring him the said Deane to a Compliance ffor where as our Maior and Sheriffs and Court of Aldermen, are ordered to punish him the said Deane for his disobedience, They have omitted and neglected their Charge and their duty in doing Justice upon this Offendor (notwithstanding I have severall times informed them That I am bound both in Charge and duty to informe the Kings Majestie and his most Honourable Privy Council with their neglect, but they giving but little Credit to my words Some of them doe question whether they are to doe justice or no, notwithstanding the Offendor have declared to Mr Maior and our Sheriffs That he will not Comply with no, neither will he obey our by. lawes, if it cost him his whole estate And he further declared That no man in England shall force him to a Compliance He the said Michael Deane alsoe declared in the hearing of our Maior and Sheriffs That whereas he have disturbed us in the execution of our office, he will do so still, and in their hearing he did protest That he would sue us got making search in his house, notwithstanding we are sworne to doe the same so oft as we have Complaints And he the said Dean is also sworne to maintaine the Rights and Priviledges of this City and in his Trade and science And to maintaine and uphold all By-lawes made and to be made Confirmed by Common Council, but he have made a Solemn vow unto himself That he will breake the same, whatever it cost him And in order therevnto he hath made such a distraccjon in our Trade his perswading of some and his diswading of others from their obedience and Compliance with our By-lawes That we are no longer able to hold our Body together in good order Except some expedient can be found to punnish him the said Michael Dean for his disobedience, which we shall never accomplish except we obtaine a greater Assistance then our Court Maiority is able to afford us, ffor although out Maior and Justices have promised us from time to time that they

would punish this offendor for his disobedience, but there is nothing done in order therevnto, but whether it be because of some defect in our City Charter or because they doe not believe the Result of our Petition I humbly leave it to your Honour to Judge, I further declaring to your Honour That some of our Magistrates have questioned my order, and other have questioned whether I was at White Hall or no. And all the Assistance which they have promised from time to time it is come to this point, Our Court doe order no to sue this offendor in our Chamberlains name, Which thing we dare not undertake because our Charter will not beare us out in so doeing, ffor I know our Charter is broke upon which our By-lawes doe depend, Therefore it is not safe for us to act by virtue of our By-lawes, except our Charter would beare us out in so doing Yet notwithstanding if our Magistrates would have stood betwixt us and our harms, we would have sued by virtue of our By-lawes, but that they will not doe Neither will we undertake it, because we have not acted the least Sillable against this Offendor without order of Court for soe doing. And it is my opinion That if our City Charter will not beare our Magistrates out in punishing of this offendor for his disobedience to the Governement of this his Majesties City, It is not safe for us to depend or rest our selues upon a broken reed, ffor it is in every offenders mouth which wee meet withal , they presently crying out, where is your Charter, we value you not a farthing, for you have no Charter, and we will obey you your by-lawes when you gott a new Charter And this I have declared in my Letter to the Right Honourable the Earle of Conway, and I will answer the same whenever I shalbe commanded so to doe, I not doubting but the Kings most Excellent Majestie and the Right Honourable Lords of his Majesties Privy Council will give credit to my Report Although I have not my order in writing from our Court to Communicate the same to the high Court in the Nation, Moreover I doe informe your Honour That if I be forced to travell upon my barefoot from Norwich to London I doe resolute I will have Justice done me, So that there shalbe Credit given to my report at my returne, If all the ffriends I have in the world can procure the same for me Therefore my Lord I humbly craveing a line or two from your Honour to direct and advise me what is to be done in these matters, I rest and for ever shall Remaine

Your Honours Most obliged Servant to Command while death

John Hargrave

[other hand - in St Andrewes Parish In Norwich]

Norwich June 19th 82

Right Honourable and our very good

Lord:/

Your kind and generous letter was this daye received and read in a grand Assembly; It had such a general Influence that there wanted nothing towards the service of the Kings Intrest, and the Compliance with your Lordships advice but the having the liberty of a general vote Which the Mayor Positively denying, his negative vote In that case stopt our proceedings; Although his single obstina_ have at this time frustrated us in that which wee heartily desired yet wee shal always the ready to testifeye our Loyalty to the King and humbly beseech your Lordship to move his Majesty to _____ our Charter and grant us such a new one as shal seem best to his Princely Wisdom:

Wm Salter sheriffe	ffrac: Weston	Robt Dymes
Jeremy Vynne	Robt Osborne	Tho: Gostlin
William Lyehoys	Livewell Sherwood:	Nicho: Bickerdike
Tho Greene Speaker	Daniell Robins	John: ffreeman
Philip Stebbings	James Margery	John Norgate
Aquila Cruso	John Tompson	Lau: Goodwin
Richard Randall	William Johnson	John Lowe
John Hall	Richd ffreman	Tho: fostell
Char: Gosnald	John: yallop/	Pete Coppin
Tho: Clayton	William Elain	
John Chapman	Jno Melchior	
Will Dallison	William Johnson	
John Rose	Thomas Toney:	
	Thomas: fferman:	
	John Hayward	

{folio 81 recto}

To the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 82 Recto

Norwich 9^o Junij 82

Right Honourable and my most Noble Lord

My duty Obligeth me to giue you an account of the receipt of the Letter of the 17th Instant, with one enclosed to the Maior Justices Sheriffs and Aldermen & Comon-council of the City, which was opened & Reade in full Asembly this morning, but so greate wer the ffeates that no businesse of the Daie proceeded, but the Asemblie was dissolued. My Lord it would haue greiu'd your Hart to haue heard & seane the Woefull disorders that wer amongst vs (to the Greate Dishoner of ^{his} Majestys Gouerment (there being a Petition brought in against the Surrender of our Charters subscribed by betweene 8 & 900 handes (Freemen & pretended Free-men) which it's probable your Lordship wll haue an account of by this Post from other Hands ~~by the Post~~. My noble Lord I doe with the Greatest Submission Imaginable to your Great Prudence, beseeching your Lordship to exercise your vtmost Endeauors to Heale our Breaches, which (in my weake apprehension) can produce no good to either partie, but rather render them both Rediculous to such as haue no Kindenesse to the King or Church; and if your Lordship doth not Interpose & stopp the Cariere of some Mettalsome persons by A Prescription of that Soueraigne Medicine Festina lente; we are without Hopes of a Cure. Mr Maior & his Betheren present their most humble seruices & pray your Lordship not to giue too much Credence to some persons that may probably giue partial Interimations and that your Lordship would giue leaue you a post or twoe may be expected for a better satisfaction (this 2 or 3 daies being full of businesse for the Inauguration of our New Maior). They acknowled your good Lordships greate Fauor of your most Kinde lettre this daie. and I doe begg your pardon for this two long trouble giuen you by

Your Lordships

Most Obedient & humblest seruator

Tho: Corie

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 83 Recto

To the Right worshipfull Mr Maioꝛ & to the Sheriffs Cittizens & _____ in Common
Councell Assembled within the Citty of Norwich

The humble Petition of the freemen & Cittizens of the said Citty humble Sheweth

That your petitioners at their Admission to their respectiue freedoms beeing
Expressly Sworne to Maintaine & Sustaine with their body & goods the franchizes &
Liberties of this Citty, wee Cannot without breath of our Oathes be any Longer
Silent after soe many instances of the Endeavours & Actings of some of our fellow
Cittizens to deliver vp & distroy those franchizes and Liberties, with all of them by
like Oath, and some of them according to their trust are bound to Mayntaine, are
bound to Mayntaine, Your petitioners therefore takeing this opportunitie Doe
declare their vtter dislike of all such Endeavours & askings & humbly pray the
Assistance of this worshipfull Assembly for the Maintenance of the Auncient
franchises and Liberties of this Citty & the Either by one now most gracious
Seuereigne or by his Royall Auncestors May Not be deliuered or Surrendred vp, &
herein your Petitioners will not onely in persuance to their oath Stand by you with
their body & goods, But shall foreuer pray &c.

Copy of the Petition

{folio 84 verso}

For the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmoth Lord Lieutenant of Norffolk and
Norwich at his house in the Pall mal in Westminster

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 89 Recto

June: 29th: 82

My Lord

The uncertayn tempers of our people have found mee almost to contradict my selfe In the last letters; the Mayor talks stil at large very fayr and sayes hee doubts not {^but} to effect the buisness with ease but onely desires some time to get as many brethren ofs side as hee can but the prevayling influence of presents; and the running assurances of If men that are fully resolved to make the utmost advnatage of this theyr last opportunity of doing mischief, makes mee think theres little to bee experted. I need not Trouble your Lordship with any farther account Mr Brome ~~being~~ benig able to satisfye {^you}. In any thing relating to this, onely let mee goue this assurance that in this or any other case I shal bee ready to ob-serve your Lordships methods an prove my self:

Your Lordships Hearty and Obligd servant W Cecil

Let mee beg the tender of my humble service to the Countess and my Lord Paston: and give your Lord ship the service of Captayn Helwes and al other your friends:

{folio 90 verso}

These

To the right Hono{^u}rable Robert Earle of Yarmouth

London:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 91 Recto

June *the* 29: 1682

Sir

I cannot but wonder at *the* demuers Which will make such a distinction betweene his *Majesties* true friends, & his pretended owrs, As no other testimonie will rectifie but what I have bin free in hinting of & haue received very, civill insig-nificatreturned, *Sir* your may be {^as} confident of my service to you, in perticular, as *the* Citty in generall, may be if they put it {^not} past my power, and let not any man thinke *the* kings command will Ever appeare but in *the* way of Law, nor Lett mee bee thought soe officious as to write what I have done, but to stand in a gap which will open it selfe, Lett me tell you *the* king Expects what may still oblidge him to owne *that* citty with the remonstances of his princely grace & favor however I hope better things before I tell his Maiesty that twoo Majors haue refused to call an assembly the old acquaintance & frendship I have Euer had with you & for you makes me take this freedom with you who am

Your assured friend & servant

{folio 91 verso}

Copy of my letter to Mr Corie Ju_ *the* 25th 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 92 Recto

Norwich June the 30th 1682

Right Honourable

According to what your Honour might expect by {^what} wee wrote in our Last, wee presume humbly to offer our farther Sentiments Concerneing our present mayor whom we Just now Came from, he Still talke of his affection to his majesty by Can not find in what particular his devotion Lay, tho: wee severely vrged his worshipp to Call an assembly to answer your Lordshipps expectation, but Could prior meanes prevayle soe that wee have Just reason to Conclude (& vpon better groundes than before) that your Lordshipp must expect nothin more from him than your Lordshipp found from the Late mayors, therefore wee doe in all submissions present our humble supplications to your honour to take such measures as may not onely vindicate your owne, but the Reputation of all his majestyes Humble petitioners, whose sense (your Lordshipp may be assured) is not onely theires but of many more of the same society that neer yett appeared it any subscription & we doe the Rather offer our sence thus freely because wee see an absolute Necessity of it, perceiveing the wretched Construction is made of your Candid & kind advice which can never prevaile vpon obstinate asserters of that Intrest the faction in generall soe violently espouse wee are wearie with vs going, that A voluntary surrender wilbe serviceable to his majestyes Intrest and our owne, their Answer in that Case being that if A Quo warrante Come (which they beleive never will) they will not oppose it, but that's because they know they want power, which is humbly Asserted by

Right Honourable

Your Lordshipps Dutiful and obedient servants

Philip Stebbing

Lau: Goodwin

William Johnson

Thomas Greene

William Dallyon

Peter Coppin

{folio 93 verso}

Theise

ffor the Right Honourabe

The Earle of yarmouth

At's house in the Pall Mall

London

I conceive the Earle of Yarmouthe as present Recorder of Norwich by the newe charter is not to take the olde Recorders oathe of office but instead thereof an other Short one according to a certaine forme therein expressed to this or the like effect

You shall well and faithfully execute the office of Recorder of the city of Norwich in and by all things toucheing and concerninge the same

But because I did noe peruse the originall charter it selfe but onely a translaicion of it therefore lett that be inspected that the sayde oathe may exactly agree with it

But yet I conceive his successes are by the said charter to take the olde Recorders oathe & not this Short newe one

I thinke this new oathe which the Earle is to take doeth not restrayne him from officiateinge by his dyuty allthough the words (I Se __ deputate) are not in the oathe -- I doe not faile that high Sheriffes Sue are to acte (I Se we deputate) and yet they doe there whole office by there undersheriffes

Sno Mingay

3o July 1683o

My Lord

Norwich Sessions begining Tuesday the 11th of this Instant July, I desire Your Lordship would be pleased to let mee receive Your Commands against that time:

I dined at Norwich the Lasy Saturday where I understand that there is still great heats in the Hall about the delivering up of their Charter, and I fear at the Last they must have a Quo Warranto come downe for it is then I beleeeve they will be willing to part with it:

Sir Nicholas L'Estrange, & Sir Christopher Calthorpe, dined with mee Lately and desire to haue their Services presented to Your Honour; I asked Sir Christo=pher if he had made a visit to the Lord Townshend since his coming to Raynham, and and he replyed that he had not yet done it, neither should he, untill the Lord Townshend had followed the Kings Advise, in beng reconciled to Your Lordship, & then he should not refuse to doe him any civill Office:

I was yesterday credibly Informed that there has bin hot words lately betwixt the Lord Townshend, & Captain Rookewood who declare that he would Stick to Sir John Hobarts Interest the next Election, (after the Lord Townshend had declared against him,) insomuch that the Lord Townshend replyed if he did, he should never desire to see him more at Raynham:

I am this night to meet Mr Rawlins, & Mr Peckover at Yarmouth, the 4 new ffoot Companies being to Muster there to Morrow: the Muster Masters haue discharged their Office, much to the Satisfaction of the County, and will end end their Circuit with the exercising of Norwich Militia the next weeke:

{folio 96 verso}

My Lord I most humbly begg the favour of Your Lordship to signe these two Inclosed Orders, the one for my Quarters Sallary, the other for my halfe Years expence for my riding Charges Yet, which if Your Honour please to make fifteen pounds as Your Lordship has done formerly, will be an extraordinary kindness at this time, I being to clear Accompts with Collonell Harbord who has dealt very hardly by mee, for although I make it appear that the charge of my Remove, and Loss the last great Droughty Summer Amounts to above 40 £, yet he will not consider mee one farthing, but expects the whole Rent, which if Your Lordship please to favour mee on this Request, I shall pay him all the Sessions week and have done with him for ever:

The tendure of my owne & Wifes most humble Duty, and Service, to Your Honour,
the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth, and the Rest of Your Right
Honourable Relations, concludes mee

My Lord

Your Honours

Most Obliged & Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Horstead July *the* 3d 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 98 Recto

July the 6th 1682

Mr L Estrange

I receiued yours of July the 3^d as to the sessions of Norwich, I know of noe particular business I haue butt to desire you to keep mee in my good friends memorie, and present my service to them whome I hope in som short time to wayte on, and vntill I bee soe happy pray somtimes refresh my memorie with som country newse, send mee vp a commission for {^mr} Miles Barsspole Esq to bee comett to my son Pastons troope, and pray make enquiry whether *Captain* L Weld haue nott had his pay as the other feild {^officers} bee-cause I heare hee reproached vs with that, if hee has nott I desire you will ~~gett~~ *Sir* Christopher Calthorp & *Sir* W Cooke & *Sir* Neuille Catlyne or such as are on the place to signe a warrant ffor his pay, because Ile trouble him noe further with arbitrary proceedings, I and my son haue signed the two notes, you must date them, I take itt ill you should stint mee fror the second note, I am sorrie for som passages in your letter, which I shake my head att, and my hart too, lett me know how the whitehors club goes on now *Sir* John H is com downe, and lay your aduice in priuate to help on the surrender of Norwich Charter for all the caution of the wise: I am your true ffriend & servant

Yarmouth

{folio 99 verso}

For my Honord Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Horstead neare

Norwich

July the 6th 82

Mr Baisepoles Comission

Captain Lt Weld

Norwich Charter

July the 11th 1682

Mr L Estrange

I pray remember my service to my cousin Ayde and lett him know heere has beene with nee the widdowe of Mr Haby, with Mr Marriott the Duke of Norfolkes sollicitor, & the Duke himslef has desired mee to write to my Cousin Ayde, that hee will withdraw his triall this Assises, the widdowe protesting she has nott wherewithall, to retayne, cowncell or defend her self, butt that hee will, referr the matter to the arbitration of two personns one of his chusing, {^&} another of mine, and what they shall determine she must stand to, now I thinke Tho: Corrie may bee one for her, for I thinke itt nott soe proper to putt itt vpon you beeing his neighbor, butt pray lett mee haue your answer by the first post you can that I may acquaintt her what she must trust to, her care I heere inclose, drawne vp by Mr Marriott, I am vnwilling to meddle in thee matters butt The Dukes commands to mee I must obey, and what fauor can bee shewne in the point, will bee kindly taken; pray send mee vp a commission for John Du Vall Esquire to bee Captaine Leiftenant off my sonns troope, in Mr Welds place butt say nothing of itt till Weld has receiued his full pay as I writt in my last, this commission, and Barspoles Ile pay you for my self, for Ile giue them them free, My humble service to all my friends, lett mee haue an accompt of all proceedings, I am

Your truly affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

{folio 101 verso}

For my Honored Friend

Edward L'Estrange Esquire

att Horstead neare

Norwich

July the 11th 82

Captain Aid & Mrs Haby

Mr Du Valls Comission

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 102 Recto

Dublin 15th July 1682

[34 C . 2.]

Madam

What you write in relacion to Sir Edward is noe more then what your Ladiship, and most of his freinds haue expected these many yeares last past, your brother Gilbert I haue seen in the Court twice or thrice, but noe where else, nor haue I had any conference with him, I suppose by the Lease wherein you would not haue him names, you mean that Shruell, and here it will be in my power to order who Shall be named for Lessees, nor for what terme, you manage your affaire but Ill, if you permitt your husband to signe any writings or bonds; in this his time of Sicknes, of which you know not the contents, and the procureing of them at vnseasonable houres, as your brother hath gott this, at fiue of the Clock in the morning, tenders it Still more Suspicious, But Since Such Stratagemes are practised, I would advise you to accept of A Lease of Tobbervaddy, and all the Lands about it, as alsoe for the plate to take a Deed of Gift, This I would not haue you take with any Sinister Intention but It will vndoubtedly make your condicion in case you Survive your much easier then otehrwise, a dn will be a grain to throw in, to keep the Seales equall, as for mr Lyndons haueing an annuety from your husband as his Councell at Law, I know nothing of it, and Soe by Consequence, cannot Saywhether it be before your Deed of Joynture ornpt, but certainly you must haue been vey carelesse in your own concerne, or they extream close, and cauteles in decerveing you, if after haueing been his wife soe many yeares, you are now to Inquire into these mattersm your concerne with Sir Oliver St George is of Such a nature and the errand Soe vngratefull that it is on noe score, fitt for me to Intermedle in it, and I am apt to beleiue, you will hardly doe any thing in that matter by faire meanes, I hope your Sister Mildmay will assist you with her advice, and be comfort vnto you in this your day of tryall, and when any Suteable occasion offers, you Shall not want all the legall assistance that can be giuen you by

Your affectionate Cousin and Servant

John Keatinge

{folio 103 verso}

To the Lady Jane Ormsby at Tobbervaddy to be left at the Postoffice at Roscomon

[other hand - my Lord Chife Justice July the 15th 1682]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 104 Recto

July the 20th 1682

Mr L'Estrange

The inclosed is a letter from Mr Marriot Mrs Habys sollicitor to mee, in answer to my cousin Aydes to mee, which I shewed him, I find the woman is woman very pore and I beleeve can scarce rayse fiue pounds to saue her from the Gaole, yett Marriott often if Cousin Ayde would accopt twenty pounds to pay itt ready downe, which will saue the inference of itt to Mr Mingay who hee chuseth for her, and pray speake to Mr Mingay to bee her referse I had written to my Cousiin Ayde my self, this post, butt hauing thoughtof comming downe to the Assises myselfe desire you to begg his pardon for mee, att this time and lett mee heare from you by the next returne I am

Your verie affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth

I hate to intermeddle in these affaires butt to serve my Lord Duke who I find appeaseth the matter:

{folio 105 verso}

For my Honored friend Edward L Estrange Esquire att horstead neare Norwich

[other hand - Leave this at mr william Guybons Mill___ in the Market Stead in Norwich

July the 20th: 82 Mr Marriet & Mr Haby

My Lord

The disputed which haue bin some time depending in this City Concerning the Yielding up of the Charter, seems to be Left solely to your Lordshippes Arbitrement, for all those that are Loyall of the Contending Partyes are soe well satisfied of your Lordshipes integrity to the King's service, that they may safely Rely upon your Lorships advice & directions, And therefore your Presence heer is Extreemly desirde which this not doubted but will Compose all differences by Laying the Charter at his Majestys feet, without his appearance in any Commanding way; for your influence heer is soe powerfull, that nothing but the private Endeavours off some few disaffected persons can Contradict any thing proposde by your Lordshippe: if all Persons who haue the Honour to serve his Majestye in your Lordships station had as intirely the affections of the King and Kingdome would be very easily settled & Preserved which is Certainly the wish of all good men & particularly of

Your Lordshippes most Humbled & obedient servants

J Houghton

William Cecil:

{folio 109 verso}

To

The Right Honorable

The Earle of Yarmouth

At his House in the Pell Mall

London

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 110 Recto

August the 3^d: 1682

Sir

Depending on your loyalty to his Majesty, and in that your loue to your owne citty, I haue acquainted his Majesty that I would come downe my self, nott doubting that any petition, from such as are ill affected to the gouernement, will euer produce any other effects on the Magistracy, then ther owne punishment, and {^yett} hinder the calling of a lawfull Assembly, that his Majesty may see Norwich is the same they haue professed to bee, and that they may find his Majestys grace and fauor, to those aduantages, which are wished & shall bee persued by

Sir

Your Very humble servant

Yarmouth

{folio 110 verso}

Copy of my letter to the Mayor of Norwich August 3d: 1682:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 111 Recto

August *the 7th* 1682

[34 C. 2.]

Your Royall Highness who are a prince that neuer forgetts *your* servants, may bee pleased to remember that som yeares since I putt *the* business of *the* officers {^into *your* hands} with Mr Churchills opinion {^to Justifye itt} of ~~*the* legallitye of *the* business:~~ att att *the* same time I had *your* Royall Highness assurance for the tenth {^past} *the* law allowing common discouerers much more,

I haue beene now farre to shroud my self vnder Colonel Werdens couer, as doubting *the* fauor of My Lord Hyde, (whome I neuer disoblidged) and doe begg of *your* Royall Highness that in my iust pretences I may haue his assistance vnder any obligation to serve him *that* you shall answer for: itt will bee an hard trophye for any man to bee vnder that layes himself out for *the* crownes service & *yours* and delays haue putt mee on *the* last period: though *the* service of *the* King calls mee now downe Vpon a great expence in my owne difficulties, by *your* commands I putt the papers then into my Lord Hydes owne hands as you may see by those my wife shewes you from {^ *which* are the true coppies} him who will with all submission is

Your R Highness

Obedient servant

yarmouth:

{folio 111 verso}

Copy of my letter to *the* Duke August *the 7th* 1682: /

Westminster 22 Aug: 82.

Madam

I received your Honours Lettres of the 21th, this afternoon, & wayted at the Secretaryes a great part of this day & till 7 at night, to have gotten a Lettre from him to my Lord, of he had had leisure to write, but some extraordinary busines hath kept him very busy & private all this day, possibly it might be occasioned by Mr Chudleighs suddain coming out of Holland, or an Express, this afternoon out of France, brought to him by my Lord Preston's Secretary, but I think there is no doubt or question to be made of Mr Secretaryes reall Affeccion & Honour for my Lord.

Touching my Lords noble Reception in Norffolk & Norwich, the Accounts I had, compared with all others that I have seen, seem to be as true as any, & such will certainly do my Lord most right, I am sure no man living, in my Station, studies or endeavors my Lords lastin Honour & Advantage more than my self.

As to the busines with Geodenough, I haue not been idle, both before I was at Windsor & since, & I hope it's safe enough for this time, But, Madam, this is but skinning of sores which will break out again afterward, if not otherwise presented.

For the 4 particulars which I took in a paper to be satisfied in at the Custom:house, they stand thus, As to Sir Jo: Clayton'd Judgement, Satisfaccion is acknowledged. Mr Dickinson's Re-ceipt for his with part, taken. The Quietus for 1680, is con-current with that of 1681, for those Accompts go together,

{folio 112 verso}

& are prepar'd & lye before the Auditor to be finished, But as to Mr Geo: Clayton's securityes taken in the names of Edwards & Pearson, he sayes he has none of them.

I was at the Pall Mall to have given your Honour an account of all these things before I went to Windsor, but your Honour was then at Turnham Green, And I have wret to my Lord Shrier, & to Mr Fraser twice (which is the same) since they went, & imparted all that I could learn here.

Mr Harbord is in Somersetshire, & wilbe euer ready to serve my Lord in what he has proposed, when proper & feirable, or in any other matter he is able, & will expect recipocall kind-neses from my Lord & your Honour.

I hope I shall yet leave this week from the Lords of *the* Treas^{ry} to go down into the Country, & wayt upon my Lord at Oxnead, in the mean time shall not fayle to do the best service I can here, & ever remayn

Madam

Your Honours most humble & faithfull servant

John Fisher

{folio 113 verso}

These present

To the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth

At Windsor

Oxned August *the* 23: 1682

My Deare Hart

I had nott time the last post to answer the particulars of your letter, butt you must needs think they pleased me very well, to find you had that very great testimoniall of ciuility, which you mention from all, you did as much as could bee don for the time, I wish L may be as good as his word & that +may nott turne the streame N was very ciuill & I hope hee will breake forth, so tide the current that vayles the light, I am shure things cannott stand long in soe doubtfull a posture, butt either itt must bee wors or better, yesterday I had heere a very noble dinner and a great deale of good company, I beleeeue wee satt downe in the great Parlor att the Spanish tables aboue thirtie persons, and one Lady which was my Lady Drury, heere was Sir Francis Jerningham & his Brother Blunt, Sir Roger Potts, M Roger Potts, Mr Windham, & one Sir John Cropley my Lady Ashes Nephew, Sir Henry Bedingfeld & my Cousin Carryll, Tho Wood and diuers more too long for mee to name, before dinner my friend B and I had a long discours about 10 which I cannott write by letter, and Sir Roger Potts was the man that should haue spoken to mee about itt, butt I know nott the reason bee went away & sayd nothing if hee had, I was praepared for his answer yett I find there endeauors on foot, butt 10 is soe high that hee expects rather I should seek him (which I am nott soe low as to dispose my self to) the friend you named to mee in your last letter to acquaint about 6:17:N: who you may sett downe 32: told mee hee had written lately a most effectuall letter ab^out mee to a friend of N of which hee expected an answer on Saturday last, in the most oblidging tearmes and pressing arguments, you can imagine,

{folio 114 verso}

I fully discoursed 6: 17: and that will most certainly & carefully bee effectually represented and itt shall bee knowne to whome they are behol-ding to for *that* vnderstanding, heere is Captaine Doughty wish mee who tells mee for certaine that business will ^{bee} in all manner of wages, *which* I shall menage as wisely as I can, as for 26 I noe manner of reason butt I shall effect itt, and I haue sent yesterday to *the* mayor and shall know more particulars though I am thoroughly informed of all *the* strength of *the* opposers, & those that are for mee *which* must needes pra'vaile, you may bee sure I neglect nott one moment, in any aduantage, butt I desire nott to close *the* points too soone, Mr Stebbing will bee chosen Alderman this day in *the* roome of Wissiter who is dead, I can assure you that Sir

John Holland who was putt vpont to bee the man betwixt 10 & 20 refused to meddle in the matter, soe has 32, I am very glad to find Mrs Nelly is soe courtly to you, pray if this finds you att Windsor present my service to her and to Mrs Knight who you doe nott tell mee if she bee att Windsor or noe, Pray present my service to all my friends, and if I should name all those that send you theirs my letter would swell strangely, your son Paston who is very cheerefull and merry heere, presents his duty, wee haue a blasing starr heere butt Tho Wood bids itt blase on & bee damn'd for hee will nott rise out of his chaire to see tt, Pray remember mee to Betty & the two young men, you say nothing of 5 lately mee thinkes from Monday to thursday, is a great while nott to heare from you, and if the matter of Saterdays bee of noe speedy concerne, itt is better by the ordinary way

{folio 115 recto}

I haue nott yett sent your letter to my Lady Adams, itt shall goe to day, and I thinke young Sir Henry Bedingfeld is gon to meet Sir Robert Howard and his son, who are to bee with him vntill Michaelmas,

My Deare Hart I pray god giue you courage Kindnedd in your approaches, success, and all fellicities of this world and of the next, for as long as I am

I am

Yours

Yarmouth

The Election this day att Norwich was carried for my sonns landlord Mr Stebbing Mr Briggs his son was sett vp against him butt his interest beeing too weak they polled for one Beuerley butt Mr Stebbing carried itt by 100 voyces this shews how other matters in the citty, will goe for the other had butt 44 voyces, itt is thought our beeing heere was noe disaduantage to Mr Stebbings

{folio 115 verso}

August The 23 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 116 Recto

Norwich September the 6th 1682

My Deare Hart

Yesterday was *the* greatest day of company I haue had att one time att Oxnett, *Sir* Christopher Cal-thorpe, *Sir* Neuille Catyline *Sir* Nicholas L Estrange *Sir* William Rant *Mr* Deane *Mr* Briggs *Mr* Slebins and twenty or thirtie more I cannott now name for I am enuironed with as many att *Mr* Shrieves att Norwich where I am nobly treated this day and am now drinking *your* health, *Mr* Mayor promiseth mee to bee an honest man and on Monday forthnight in *the* Assembly, 32 did nott com *Sir* Robert Howard came to dine with him hee writt mee a letter hee is and will alwayes bee serving you, *Mrs* Cooper has spoken to mee, & honest *Mr* Bulwer doth that *which* sullen Hurton muttered to doe, I will say noe more till fridays post & then I shall write att length for I am faire to steale theis moment to tell you *your* sons Duty & all *the* companys service and *that* I am Eternally I am Eternally Yours

Yarmouth

I had nott my owne seale/

{folio 117 verso}

For The Right Honourable The Countess of Yarmouth att her howse in *the* Pall Mall neare *St* Jameses

London

Spt The - 6 - 1682

September: 11th: 82

Maye it please your Honour:

By my Lords command lme to give you the present state of things in this City In order to the Complying with my Lords proposals wee had this daye a Common assembly met where the delivery of the Charter was debated; and some differences arose about the method where it should bee performed, which with the absence of a great many of the body {^they} being at Shirbidg fayr enclined the Mayor to adjourn the dispute til thursday sorse seavennight which is a quarter Assembly, when the City wil bee ful. Your Honour need not doubt the success of that daye, for besides that general influence my Lord had upon al Loyal men in this City his perticular care In this manging this buisness hath infinitely obliged al, our City seems now onely to covet the reconciling theyr own differences that they maye unanimously gratifye his Lordship, Madam if the good event of this case

{continued down left-hand margin of page}

Maye bee serviceable to the King and grateful to your Honour It wil bee very pleasing to him whoe is

Your

Honours Humble

Servant William Cecil:

{folio 119 recto}

These

To the right Honou-rable the Countess of Yarmouth

{folio 119 verso}

Madam I shal onely add this assurance that our Charter wil bee given up according to my Lords desire for his Majestyes service:

British Library Additional Ms 27448
Folio 120 Recto

Oxnead September 13 1682

honorable Sir

In the midst of my study to serve his Majesty, comes down one Mr Cradock a mercer in Pater Noster Row, and has take on him to represent the effects of the inclosed to som of the aldermen here (ehen the Charter is sur-rendred) which I am morally secured will very speedily be done. I shall certainly offer nothing in the purge of the place, but what shall be for his Majestys advantage. And my Lord Hide is a person of that honour that I shall be willing it shall run the Test through his lordship & your hands; Tis true I ever desir to make my self as considerable as I can, but its allways to lay out that Consideration for the crown & I beleeve I shall make it out upon oath that this Mr Cradock has spoken as ill words of the King & Duk as he has done of my Lord Shaftsberry; Sir I beg of you to shew his Majesty & my Lord Hide this Letter, & the enclosed paper, which tho I never can deserve I shall ever Endeavour to do with my life and all that: dear to

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

Yarmouth

Coppy:

To Sir Lyrnell Jenkins

principall secretary

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 122 Recto

A Copy of a letter ~~xxxxx~~ To the Right Honourable: / Viscount Hide ___
dated the 13th Sept: 1682

Right Honourable

Since my Coming to Norwich I am very well assured That Mr John Craddock of london mercer when he was lately In this Citty did Concerne of himself and tamper with some Aldermen and others to obstruct the voluntary Surrender of this cittyes Charter to his Majestie, Alsoe my lord I ffind itt rumoured here that Mr Craddocke has vndertajen to represent the state of the Controuersyhere about the Charter, to your honor, as If he were able to Ingage your Lordshipp to use your Interest with the king on the behalf of the Mayor of this Citty, whoe haue all along hindered a vote In Common Councill ffor the voluntary surrender of this Citty or Charter to his Majestie , with designe of Mr Craddocks I am my lord the more Confirmed In ffrom the Inclosed relation which I tooke this day In wrighting ffrom the month of one Mr Thomas Gostling of this Citty and is newly Come ffrom London hither: And Therefore my lord as I am person highly oblieged to your honour ffor your Great ffauours to metruely to serve your honour to my power, I Thought It most ffaythfull to acquaint your honour with these matters, And to Assure your honour upon my Allegiance: that here is noe designe or desire to tirne or leaue out any one Alderman ffrom his place that is loyall. Or any but such whoe haue Constantly studiously and with Industry Crosd and opposed all things to their power that might support and strenghthen the Kings Interest , and promote all things that might promote ffactions persons designes and Interest In ths Citty, And doe Assure your honour that neyther the Right Honourable The Earle of Yarmoth or the loyall Aldermen Sherrifs And Common Councill men of this Citty haue proposed or Acted anything In the busynes of the Charter butt what is Absolutely Necessary to support the true Interest of his Majestie In this Citty, All which will ffully and Clearly appeare to his Majestie and to your honour. I doubt not, In a very Short time whatsouer Mr Craddocke or any other person may haue sayd to the Contrary

My lord I am

Your honors most obleiged

And Most ffaythfull servant

John ffassett

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 123 Recto

Right Honourable

And my very good lord

Being hindered by some busynes ffrom Coming this morning to Oxnett

I haue Inclosed sent *your honour* by m^r Crasoe a Coppy of *the* relation ffrom M^r Thomas Gostling *esquire* and also of *your* letter I sent to my lord Hide I haue nothing to add at present, but *what* I ffeare will not be uery pleasing newes to *your honour* *which* is *that the* Mayor haue spoken to M^r Cecill to giue him Cecill to giue him *the* sacrament to morrow ther is all *the* means used to obstruct It *that* may be butt I ffeare will all proue Ineffectuall to hinder My Noble lord I shall leaue *what* remayne till munday when I hope to be at Oxnett in *the* ffore Noone

Right Honorable

your honours most humble ffaythfull

And obedient seruant

John ffassett

Norwich 16th of Sept: 1682

{folio 124 verso}

To the Right Honorable

Robert Earle of Yarmoth

At Oxnett Hall

these

Humbly Present

Whitehall 16. Sept. 82

my Lord

I had the Honour this morning to read {^to his Majesty} yor Lordships letter if the 13th that you were pleas'd to favour me with, as also the Informacion inclos'd in it: I also acquainted Him with what my Lady the Countesse of yarmouth {^had sayd and writt} relating to the same matte. His Majestie hath commanded to lett yor Lordship know that Mr Cradock hath had no Commission from Him to oppose the Surrender of the norwich Charter: nor does his Majestie remember that he was spoke to by Mr Cradock or any other in his behalf, nor that he knew any thing of his goeing down to Norwich. His Majestie therefore advises yor Lordship to goe on with yor zeal and Discretion in that City and County. It cannott be avoyded but that in such a Change as the ~~XXXXXX~~ renewing of the Charter of Norwich would be, some men must be displeas'd in their Interests or Relations. But his Majestie

{folio 126 recto}

is satisfied that you have nothing in yor view but the publique Good, and (*which* is all one) the service of the Crown I have orders to send for Mr Cradock, and object to him the matters in yor Lordships Letter, and to give his Majestie an accompt of ~~xxx~~ he shall Answer. I am commanded further to tell yor Lordship that it is matter of great Wonder to His Majestie how Alderman Aldridge should take upon him to know his Majestie's will as to the surrender of norwich charter. He looks upon the Presumption of saying so, if that Alderman sayd it, as Impertinent and undutifull But yor Lordship proceeding, as you doe, in all things, legally and affectionately in carrying on his Majesties Service you have no Cause to heed hwhat malice or Envy opposes *against* yow.

I am

My Lord

yor Lordships

most humble and most obedient servant

L.Jenkins

September the 18th 1682:

My Deare Hart

By my last you found mee much dis-turbed as I presume you iudge I had reason, beeing in my vncertaine hopes of effecting the great matter I came vpon: the common cowncell haue beene most firme to mee soe that noe business of the citty could eyer haue passed till this were don, butt that might yett haue beene delayed till Easter att the same rate, butt this morning coms in honest Mr Cecill who with Captaine {^Houghton} haue been the maine instruments in this business, and after seuerall tesings of the mayor, hee has brought mee his priuate and solemne promise that without further delayes or interfaring perswasions the business shal bee don on thursday next, which is great newse to mee that within this quarter of an howre, was in very great doubt that the mayor in whome all the thing consists would haue left mee, butt now itt is past all doubt hee hauing passed such solemne engagements as noe Christian can breake: I am well pleased with the accompt Jasper giues mee of his sea voyage pray tell him soe & that I will write my thanks to Sir Tho: meares * my Lord Brouncker by the next post now wee are certaine of the Charter, my son Paston with som gentlemen goes towards Lynn on wedensday, hee dines att Beck hall, and goes on that night to Sir Francis Guibbons soe to Mr Holts & soe to Lynn intending to bee back on Saturday night hee has my coach and six horses, and all the Equippage wee can make him, Mr Fisher his wife & daughter,

{folio 127 verso}

came hether on Saturday night, hee brought mee a most ciuill letter from Sir JOhn Holland who doth nott I perceiue approve my Lord Townshends way of proceedings, itt is thought by 32 that my sonns going to Lynn will bee a great eyesore to so: you putt mee in a great feare for pore Brunskell, who I hope god will spare for our sakes as well as his owne, butt that brickle body will nott last long, I beeleeue the kings nott comming to Newmarkett is from the disorder about the Sheriffs att London, what you write mee concerning 5 31 to N is strange & of 6: butt I hope you will keep all ciuill euerie where Pray remember mee very kindly to 7 32 thinks itt would doe very well if 7 were N friend butt I know nott what to say you vnderstand best, and now I am fluttering on the paper for I expect your letters by beckles post, every moment, ----- and iust in the moment coms in yours, Remember to lett the King know what I tell you that I had the Mayors promise, before Mr Secretays letter came, (which I shall {^make} good vse of) notwithstanding, the letter is as well as I could haue expected, itt to bee and beeing itt is calculated for mee to shew the mayor itt is as full of all particulars to my purpose as if I had calculated itt my self, I assure you I did nott expect one half

soe full nor soe soe you may tell Mr Secretary the that I doe defect my answer till I write somewhat to the purpose, I haue beene applyed to my self in the behalfe of Smyth by letters from that honest brother who itt true is an honest man, butt I beleue the contriuance of a debt of 300**lb** betwixt them is a sham, butt I refused to meddle in itt and I thinke you haue don

{folio 128 recto}

in dooing what you did to 11 who must needs take itt kindly from vs all, and 32 shall bee sure to doe you all the service to you shewed mee my Lord Clarendons letter in which were there words my humble service to my Lord Yarmouth whose entertainemnt I shall neuer forgett were itt my power to make my acknowledgmnts for itt, and for my Lady were I in the tract of visiting there is none I would wayte on oftner, soe hee imagines itt to bee som cloud hangs on himself, or your owne fancy, butt itt nott materiall, vpon all surveighs of the Secretarys letter wee iudge itt mighty well, The Mayor sent mee word this morning that if in case there should bee any faylure in the Assembly hee would from time to time call others till the thing were don according to my desire, my Son Paston presents his duty to you mr Frayser his service, Mr Fisher his wife and daughter the same, my service to my Daughter Paston to Charles and the little ones to my dearest daughter Betty, to Jasper & Tho: my duty to daughter Betty, to Jasper & Tho: my duty to your Mother my service to 7 who I feare will neither doe himself noe any body els as good, Judge Attkins has sent mee word hee will dine heere on friday next and I hope to haue the vote pass on thursday, for I againe & againe assure you itt must doe I haue nott spoke of the Dukes giuing the fine to the pore, because Verdon is in full hopes to haue itt as I writt before, though I thinke the Duke doth himself more right in disposing itt the other way soe I bee nott thought to prompt itt:, I haue taken my manna againe this day & am very temperate and should bee pretty butt for these vapors which are soe

{folio 128 verso}

constant day & night in disquietting & discompo-sing mee, I wonder 12 should they long nee spared when euery body is in towne, pray lett L bee kept vp by 6 to carve mee out my owne share in 4 and in 3 if they com to any thing theres enough to gratifye 30 who will nott bee an vnfitt instrument, for I guess by the man that came to you att court, that 8 & + haue noe kindness one for the other, I haue sent you vp John Taylors letter againe to vse as you please, and now my deare believe mee when I tell you theres nothing in this world so deare to mee as you are & euer shall whilst hee has breath that is

Yours

Yarmouth:

My service to Mrs Frayser till I make as much of her husband as I can remember
mee to Mrs Miko:

[other hand - Paston's son]

pray be pleasd to present my service to my wife and lett her know I receiud her
last letter *which* I will answer *the* next post

deare Madam

the news that I receiud from Norwich this day has very much reuiud me for we did
beging to dount the Maior the Letter from Mr Secretary comes in very good time
and will noe doubt pinn *the* basket and hinder all further obiections I am *your*
mosy dutifull son

Paston

[hand of J Fraser]

I take the liberty Madam By my noble Lords generous indulgence to Return your
ladyship my most humble thanks for your *ladiships* kind Re-mebrance of me in your
letter to his *lordship* accounting it my highest Ambition to do any thing that may
deserve those marks of honout kindness & friendship, I have so frequently met
with fro my lord, I from the gentry of this noble County upon his *lordships* account
I have very successfully accomlisht this week every thing concurring to the happy
affecting that affair, of *which* by next Post your *ladship* may have a more ample
account, from Madam

your ladiships most humble & obedient servant

J. Fraser

To al whome these presents shall come the Maior Sheriffs Cittizens & Coialty of thr City of Norwich in the Guildhall of the said Citty in Common Cownsell Assembled send Greeting Knowe yee that the said Maior Sheriffs Cittizens & Coialty vpon good Y due Consideracion there vnto moveing Have Surrendered & yeilded vp And by these presents doe Surrender & yield vp vnto our Souereigne Lord the Kings most Excellent Majestie All Charters, Letters pattents Powers priviledges Liberties & Immunities whatsoeuer at any time or times heretofore graunted to or held or Enjoyed by the said Maior Sheriffs Cittizens & Coialty or there or any of their predecessors by any wayes or meanes or by what Name or Names soever In witnesse whereof the said Maior Sheriffs Citizens & Coialty haue herevnto assigned their Common Seale this 21th day of Septeber 1687.

And in the 34th year of his Majesties Reigne.

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 131 Recto

[?1682]

Septemb: 22th: 82

Maye it please your Honour

On the 21th wee had a quarter Assembly held according to the usual custom where these following votes past 1st that the Charter should bee surrendred; 2^d that the surrender should bee under the Common Seale; which was the same that was drawn by *Sir Lionel Jenkins*; 3^d: That the last Charterwith the Surrender should bee Comitted to the Custody of the Clavers whoe {^been al writings} 4th: That a Committee bee Chosen out of the Court and Commons 4 out of eyther to Consider such things as are proper to beg of the King to bee inserted in theyr new Charter if hee please to grant one, which Committee being then chosen by each house were Aldermen Bendish Briggs: Freeman: Garner: Commons Chapman Birbadike Low, Albinson: these are appoynted to present the Charter surrender and theyr proposals to my Lord on or before Michaelmass day next, bu this his playr My Lords intrest can oblige al Loyal men heer to whatever hee tells them concerns the Kings intrest: Madam

I am

Your Honours most obedient servant

William Cecil:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 132 Recto

September the 22th 1682

My Deare Sowle

As I am now writing I hope Kirle is with you, heere is att dinner with mee, Baron Attkinns, Sir william Adams the Mayor of Norwich Alderman Gardiner who has shewne himself very right, and Alderman Stebbings and seuerall more soe that I haue nott time to say much, for you know all the substance allready. On Munday I shall haue time to enlarge on all thinges, I would nott omitt this post however to Kiss your hands, Mr Cecill writes you a letter howeuer and you may hint to the Secretary that the surrender is nott onely according to his draught but fuller, pray Present my humble service to my daughter Paston, to charles & the little ones to deare Betty, to Jasper & Thom, my son Paston I heare had great preeparations made for him att Lynn of which in my next, I am sorrie to write soe short a letter to you, butt the post calls, and I can onely giue you an Huzza to your health now in the Mayor of Norwich hands and Captaine Haughton and all the rest, I am these two or three dayes better then I was, god send mee to meet you with ioy, I am yours till death

Yarmouth

The fanaticks meake the Charter went of with bells and bonefires:

{folio 133 verso}

September The 22 1682

September the 25th 1682

My Deare Hart

I receiued your letter this morning, and alsoe that of Mr Secretaryes, which was very full you must excuse mee from writing any long letter at this day heere came in Sir Thomas Browne and stayd with mee iust now, besides, I haue nothing to say till thursday bee ouer which is the day the surrender is to bee deliuered into my hands for the Kings vse, the fauour of N you may much ascribe to 32 whose peece of a letter I heere inclose, I am glad Bettie was att court, butt she writes to mee butt melancholy concer:ning her reception, pray tell her Ile write to her by the next post, when I haue the charter I shall giue you a resolution of my time of comming butt I doe beleeeve itt will bee when the King returnes from Newmarkett, for other ceremonies and considerations will require time, my son talkes of comming away on friday next and indeed there is noe further use of him after what hee has don, and hee pretends great ouations for his family att London, as hee will write to you bu the next post, _____ you abroad his day, butt leaues his duty to you with mee, and the description of his magnificent reception att Lynn to Mr Frayser who was an eye wittness, of all, you write mee word you hope to send mee good newse from London butt I dreame nott

{folio 134 verso}

nott of any such thing, I feare j will neuer re-couer hee has beene ill soe long and the deuill is in 12 neuer to com back I doe nott vnderstand my self the clawse in 32 letter, butt 32 is allwayes dooing vs good, my service to my Daughter Paston to the little ones to Deare Betty and to Jaspar & Thom whome I thanke for his letters,

my receipt booke Rawlins has locked vp att London I know you will play all games for the best aduantage soe will I god send vs with speed & ioy to meet I am yours
Eternallye

Yarmouth:

Sept the 28 1682

My Lord

His Majestie leaves it wholly to yor Lordships Discretion and to that of he Cittizens of Norwich to make the surrender of their Charters at such time and place as may be most convenient for them. one thing may not be amisse to advertise your Lordship of that the Town of Nottingham {^lately} made a surrender which prov'd afterward to be insufficient for want of a Clause passing their Lands, by way of Grant, to the King to the End His Majestie might regrant the same to them again this was not perceiv'd till the other day: and now that the Blott is {^hitt} the Town is putt to the Trouble of goeing through all the offices and to passe the sealls again. I do now Enclose to yor Lordshipp the last forme of surrender that all

{folio 135 verso}

the Kings Counsell learned agreed to in Order to sett the Nottingham men right again your Lordship may please to compare it with that I sent you: and if the first be not full to your purpose, as I am affrayd it is not, you may please to gett another surrender pass'd again under the City - seal, for 'tis good to be sure in such things. I am

My Lord

yor Lordships

most humble and most obedient servant

L. Jenkins

October the 2^d: 1682

My Deare Hart

Yesterday in the afternoone, my Son Paston & I parted att 3 of the clock hee went to Norwich with Mr Frayser in my coach to giue the Bishopp a farewell and his other friends of which hee has many & will bee in towne on wedensday soone after this letter for now hee will nott Stop at Newmarkett the King beeing nott there, yours are com to my hands this morning , by which I find his Majesty cannott bee soe well served in London as hee is in Norwich in which My Son Paston has shewne himself a good subiect & a good son, Remember mee to him and tell him I dropped som teares before He was gotten out of the parlor, desire him hee'l, windowe mee a letter of his voyage to towne, pray lett the inclosed bee delivered to Secretary Jenkins, though you haue had the substance by the last post, I am glad 7 is com of the Chagrine point, though if I would, I could nott haue saued their charter, butt I am glad itt's gon for my honor & reputation, 6 intreage I cannott comprehend, butt 6 shews somewhat in that 31 takes soe much notice of you, I am very glad that L & M are soe Kind to you, and I hope N will looke to himself now or neuer Mr Newton that came lately from Sir Cecill wich his Brother in law tells {^me} My Lord Osmond coms to Newmarkett with the King and then goes for Ireland, vpon my word this Whigghish poll is

{folio 137 verso}

of euill consequence, and I doe verily beelieve the poll will bee {^the} same againe this day as itt was for the Whiggs seldome loose their ground, Sir Thomas Meddowes will doe braue thinges att yarmouth butt hee is ioyned with a partner that shews himself allready, hauing eaten Windhams veni-son has infected him, so _____ England a iustice of peace there in Spight of Sir Thomas by which Sir Thomas sayth the Charter is forfeited, and hee hauing itt in his possession will deliuer itt vp: I doe thinke they may bee heere on tuesday and then I shull know more as allsoe by Cap: Doughty when hee coms, for my coming itt shull bee when you please though I would fayne leaue a pill for yarmouth to Chews and leave somewhat of i progress in our matters of 3-4: I doe all a pose mortall {^can} to make L & N consider & support mee butt I faynt vnder longer expectations, my Lady Pettus is extreamly ill, Sir John is very respectiue to mee, pray in your next write 3 words in a paper that you desire mee from your self to send to see how she doth, my Lady Adams is in a fearfull fright for feare I should take Sir William Adams commission from him, and has sent for Peckover ouer, for I haue {^beene} Stanch

to Sir William to lett him know I disrelish his proceedings and will nott endure them longer if hee mends nott for hee was att Norwich to sollicit voyces against the surrender of my owne making shall bea_d mee, Ile beare vp the Kings honor till I sinke vnder the burthen, you neuer giue mee any accompt of my letters to my Lord Brounker, or Sir Tho Meeres

{folio 138 recto}

neither haue you written to Mrs Cooper as I desired you, I am extreemely temperate butt neuer thoroughly well these vapors are my constant companions day and night, I take manna once a week, I suppose you mistake 32 letter for itt specifys that hee had then found out a way to M as you desired formerly to represent your sence of the ciuiliitys you receiued there, which hee knew nott how to doe when I first proposed itt to him, the rest relates to N: which when I see him which perhaps I may on wedensday Ile better vnderstand,

I haue nothing more to write or say butt to desire you to present my service to all in generall, and to pray for our happy & speedy meeting, you know how menage all with 7 for whome I haue beene as fearce in the cuntry as euer I was att the court and soe lett them know, and tell them itt is my character to stick to my friends though our circum-stances differ, my service to 6 I wonder she shewed you nott my letter, which els I would haue sent open, god bless you & send vs an happy meeting

Yours

Yarmouth

seale vp Secretary Jenkinns letter & send itt, these to my son & mr Frayser came this morning after they were gon

mr Frayser because hee will make itt his business to make + our friend:

which you may vse as you see cause:

{folio 138 verso}

October The 2 1682

[hand of Vicountess Yarmouth - My Sons Parting]

October the 2d 1682

Honourable Sir

I am infinitely obliged to the returne you made mee the 23 of September with the accompt-^{^signification} of his Majestyes most gracious acceptance of the accompt I gaue him & you of the surrender of the Norwich Charter then onely voted to bee resigned to mee & my Son by Michelmas day, which to make good their word they did att my owne howse by a select number on the 28th instant ^{^past}, and att ^{^that} veriebtme I was surprised by yours of the 26th to find that the draught (which you had formerly giuen mee) was innefectuall, I was fayne to vse my best policy and in the middst of the Entertainment I gaue them nott to lett one word of this bee knowne howver I sent a trusty friend that minute to Norwich to prepare my friends to gett an Assembly the next day, and my Son Paston went home with those att my howse and lay at Norwich that night in the morning The worthy ^{^mayor} who has beene most loyall to the King & iust to mee, called an assembly and the new draught beeing presented, itt was passed the 29 in the morning, and the first surrender redeliuered by my Son Paston, of which by the same post I gaue my wife an accompt, as allsoe of one clawse which they desire may bee inserted in the next ^{^charter} viz that the king haue the approbation of all the choyse of the Magistracy in that citty (which I thought might looke a little harsh to haue beene ^{^forced} inn,) and yett of great consequence to the King to haue itt soe, I haue the Charter and surrender in my possession,

{folio 139 verso}

and shall present them to his Majesty, som of the corporation beeing appointed to com with itt att his Majestys returne from Newmarket for itt necessary for som other affaires of his majestys that I stay a little heere, to try what influence I can haue vpon Yarmouth, which has a company of undutyfull parsonns that must bee remooved, of which you shall haue a further accompt when the matter is ripe, my Son Paston came towards London this day and if the King bee att Newmarkett will giue his majesty this accompt there I besheech you Sir to beleeeve I am ^{^denoted} all duty to the King and to your self

Sir

Your most obedient servant

Yarmouth

I haue inclosed *the* copy of *the* Norwich surrender: --

{folio 140 recto}

Copy of my letter to Sir Leoline Jenkinns October *the* 2d: 1682:

Whitehall 4 Oct. 82.

My Lord

I have the Honour of one from yor Lordship of the 2^d current the Good news it brought me had been imparted to me on Monday night by my Lady the Countesse of yarmouth tho' I was to unfortunat as not to be able to lay it before the King afore he left this Place. I shall not fayle to doe it, as soon as I can, in the best manner.

I think you resolve, my Lord, what is most for the Kings service, and the satisfaction of the City of Norwisch to deferr the actall surrendring of the charter till the King returnes to London . for at the very time of {^presenting} the surrender it will be seasonable that a Petition be presented to his Majestie for a new

{folio 141 verso}

Charter so and so qualified this hath been the constant Practise.

if the Citizens have any new Grace to demand; as for example, a change of some markt dayes that are now not so convenient as they would be upon other dayes or the adding of new faire dayes {^&c} this must be by advice of Councell couch'd in the Petition.

So must the names not onely of the Person that is to be Mayor for this year according to the new charter but also the name of every Individuall that is to be Alderman or of {^the} Common Councell be sett down expressly in the Petition with a Prayer they may be inserted into the Charter it self:

This will take up some time to doe it accurately tho' the nameing of these Persons will be left wholly

{folio 142 recto}

When this Petition is drawn up, his Majestie will refer it to Mr Attorney, if he certifie that the things petitioned for may be granted then the charter will be engross'd pursuant to the heads of the Petition & will be carried on to the seals without delay or obstruction.

I have taken the Boldnesse to trouble you my Lord, with the _____ that this affaire is like to have of Corse that you may be satisfied it is not an affaire to proper (as

you are pleasd to observe) for new-markett; and that it will necessary to have an honest carefull understanding ^{^Person} to prosecute this affaure here in London.

In the Interim *the* old charter stands good till the surrender be enroll'd. I am

My Lord yor *Lordships* most humble and most obedient servant.

L . Jenkins

Madam

This day I kept Court for the King for the Manor of Bidston & doe heare the Gentry are making a purse to carry on their inte-rest against the Kinge, And therefore intreat of your Honour to assist mee in this perticulars (i) That in case any comes to beg their estates of the Kinge, That his Majesty will bee graciously pleasd to say to them that those that will compound for their estates at such a yeares vallew may haue their estates & letters pattents as they can or may agree with the Lords Comissioners of his Majestyes Treasury excepting the Manor of Bidston which Mr Steele held from the late Earle of Derby/: Of which Manor ~~get~~ yett his Majesty to owne mee his Steward This is all at present I humbly beg of the Honour with my humble Service present to both my Lord and your self I remayne

Your Honours most humble and faithfull servant

J: Taylor

Chester. October 5

82/

I earnestly intreat the fauour of your Honour that I may bee so happy as to receiue one line from your Honour & directed it to bee left at Mr Cudworths howse at the signe of the Lambe in the East gate street in Chester & it will come safe to my hands./

The adverse party makes it their brags that the Kinge Knowes nothing of our proceedings & disownes them: I earnestly beg the Kinge may fully know what wee haue done & the great advancement it will bee to hime & crushing of his enemyes.

{folio 143 verso}

These for the Right Honourable the Countes of Yarmouth in the Pell Mall neere St Jamses

London

ddd

For London

Lessen=hall 10th October 1682

Madam

I had ere now answered your Ladishipps, which brought the voluntary depositions giuen before Captain Caulfeild, and his Letter but that I haue been severely Afflicted with an old Lameness which hath kept me much in bed, I formerly writt to you that I had giuen Sir Oliver St George the trouble of A letter in your Concern which it seems he shewed vnto mr Gilbert Ormsby which produced the Enclosed letter, which I can not forbear sending you, tho I know you will not be able to read it without A passion, but such usage as this is what you must expect, for colour cannot be giuen to what hath already been done without callumniating of you with matters of this kind.

In the condicjon that Sir Edward is in vntill the King shall other-wise dispose thereof the government of the house and family the demesnes and the stock, Together with all his other personall Estate is in your Regiment and Conduct; the Doores of the house are to open and shutt at your will and pleasure, and therefore it seemes strange unto me, that you complain of being A second time abused in your owne house, for soe it is Dureing your husbands life, and for 40 dayes after, And therefore you must send to those who make it their buisnesse to abuse you there, to forbear comeing to the house, Except the come on A visit to your husband, but not to Lodge there, and you may dureing the visit Lock your self up, and see none of them, But besure madam you make it your buisnesse to assist and comfort your husband, in this his time of Affliction, and sad distemper; I suppose his brothers will use what means they can to haue what personall Estate sir Edward is posest of, taken upon Executions, but for what is within the house, you may secure by keeping your Door's shutt, but I would not haue you to understand this, as an advice to prevent the payment of your husbands Just Debts when you are satisfied that they are soe, for all the personall Estate of what kind or nature soever is ~~xxx~~ liable unto, & must Answere, his real debts as far as it will goe, I must needs recommend unto you, patience, & an even Temper, and however his brother's or Aunts shall revile you, besure you return them noe ill Language, I must confess this is hard Doctrine to a woman soe Criminated, as you are by the Enclosed, but

{folio 144 verso}

Besure it will turn to Advantage; And now I must tell you that I will most assuredly whenever your concern shall come into question, which can well be dureing your husbands life I will not be wanting to giue you all Just honest & friendly Assistance, and therefore you are to forbear Afflicting your self before the evill day come, This is what I haue at present saue that I am

Your Affectionate Kinsman and humble servant

John Keating

[FB - 10 Octr 1682

34 C 2.]

{folio 145 verso}

My Lord Cheife Justice Keating

October 10th 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 146 Recto

Octob: 20th 82

Maye it please your Honour:

My Lord Yarmouth being resolved to leave this County on Monday seauennight the Mayor with the Committee appointed to attend the Charter and some other loyal Citizens which wil bee added to them {^according to my Lord ____} wil set out on {^the} Wedensday ~~xxx~~ after I shal wayt on my Lord and then shal have an opportunity of telling your honour what now wil bee too large to insert how al our City seeme to enuy one another in nothing more then whoe shal bee forwardest in paying theyr respects to my Lord, that next the Kings nothing can bee so neer and deer to them as haue intrest and honour; Madam the perticular of this shal bee plainly made out by your Honours Most Humble Servant

William Cecil

{continued down left-hand margin}

My humble service to my Lord Paston and his Lady and al the rest of your honourable family:

October the 27th 1682

I haue as well in the Last as in the former Observed all Your Comands, and Methods: The Citty of Norwich shewed mee Yesterday their petition, & Address, to His Maestye, wherein I haue gotten this prayer Inserted under their Common Seale, that His Majesty in their new Charter Will be pleased, to reserve to himselfe for the future the Approbation of all Magistrates to be Elected into that Corporation at any time the power to Remove any at His pleasure, that shall be Elected: I could not thinke it prudent or Safe, to Insert the Names of the Corporation, into the body of this Instrument which is a Record in the Citty, but His Majesty, will haue a List presented at the time of the Surrender, which He may Modell to His Owne pleasure:

I come from hence on Munday next, and the Mayor, & some of the Aldermen, and Common Councill Deputed to attend His Majesty with Mee, will follow the Latter end of the Weeke, or the beginning of the Weeke after

The Loyall party of my friends in the Towne of Yarmouth haue made an Address to His Majesty which they Will soon present: they also haue given mee in and assigned seuerall breaches in their Charter for which they will pray a Quo Warranto, for there is a most notorious opposite faction, & men of Comon Wealth principles, that must be purged as t be purged as You will see the necessity when I present their Actions:

Sir one maine point to maintaine the Kings Interest in the high tide it Runns in here is the choice of the High Sheriff to which purpose I doe humbly recoment John Green of Bradenham Esquire who is in the booke already, and onely Wants His Majestyes Marke: If my Word may be taken he is one every Way qualified for that Service, and I hope my Word, I passed the Last Year for the present High Sheriff, has not deceived. His Majesty

{folio 147 verso}

I could Wish in all Charters the King may reserue to himselfe, the same power of changing Magistrate, as I haue gotten the Citty of Norwich to petition for, that the envy may be at their owne doore: it is Impossible to imagine the cunning Artifice of bad men, to haue Interrupted mee, in the Execution of, this Affair, but I slight those Malitious Tricks, which I haue disappointed.

Sir I come from hence to soone for any returne from You, but if you please to Honour mee with Your Commands, at my house in the pall Mall I shall be there on

thurssay, where I shall be very glad to know His Majesties pleasure, as to that
maine point of the Sheriff: I shall when I give my Selfe the Honour to Kiss Your
Hands let You know how much I am

Honourable Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

Yarmouth

I humbly begg of you to lay my Duty at His Majesties ffeet

My Lord Cheife Baron is acquainted with the name of John Green of Bradenham
Esquire for High Sheriff for Norfolke:

{folio 148 verso}

A Copy of my Letter to Sir Leoline Jenkins October the 27th 1682

October the 27th 1682

My Deare Hart

I receiued your letter of nine sheets and I wish they had beene nineteene, soe well was I pleased with the description you made, of the ciuility you receiued att court, vpon my word 32 is a good friend euery where, I pray when you haue perused the inclosed send itt to Sir Leoline Jenkins, yesterday dined heere the worthy mayor of Norwich, Bendish Freeman, too common councill men & Tho: Corie, after dinner they shewed mee their petition and address to his Majesty fairely & well drawne out in parchment, with the common seale of the corporation affixed to itt on my iudgement itt most exelently don and in itt the prayere I mention in Sir Leoline Jenkinns letter which I take to bee at great peece of service don to his Majesty as a man of my weake contriuance could act, I desired butt Mur Mayor & the gentlemen to call a common counsell to add som persons and immediatly they assented to for itt this day or to morrowe, they followe mee on thursday if they can dispatch all their matters soe soone if nott on Monday seuenight, butt I haue pressed them for thursday, butt thats all one to mee the longer these thinges are acting, when the maine in secure the longer they hold in flower for the Yarmouth affaire the secretaryes letter will shew you how itt stands which I thinke very well, The fine remark you sent mee downe in Langley Curtise Jarett wee presently smelt out Dr Hylierd was heere and in the man poynte out by Hobart, & Hyrne, for the business of Smyth, and for words that now Hyrne himself is bound ouer to answer soe wee haue penne another thing which Mr L Estrange sends vp this day to his vnckle which shall bee putt into another Gasett, besides perhapps Mr L Estrange may feage away Curtis in his observator, Mr Frayser: has sent mee my Lord Clarendons letter with a full accompt from my Lord Hyde of radocks business is very full, and in

{folio 149 verso}

in his last letter all the expressions of kindness & how hee watchich an opportunity and will find itt att Mrs Nellys or My Lord Arlingtons garden to tell the King all the history of Norfolk which if represented as hee sayth hee will make good, I have a vast deale of company this day to take their leaves of mee Sir will Adams son & twenty other Gentle men who now drinke your health while I close vp my last letter I shall write from hence, Chadwell is allsoe heere writing as 32 directs, you may if you please send this letter which I receiued by Captaine Doughty from Yarmouth this day to hir Secretarie, as you please, the Gentry the

Citty *the* Corporations haue beene most oblidging to mee as ever they were to any Lord Leiftenant in England, I engage for noe body butt if I haue nott a care from visiting those to another faction that are now mine I see *the* in con_____ however nothing concludes or Excludes butt att London, my duty to *your* mother, my service to my Daughter & son Paston to Betty Charles Jas & Thomas I expect *your* last letter to morrowe, Mrs Cooper sends you *the* list of all thinges sent by *the* carts with *the* key of *the* State trunk by *the* Post *the* thinges will bee att London, on wedens-day morning, I haue writt to Dawson & Loades I haue writt to Dawson & Loades butt I dread my one family an insolent Butler John : __ my *the* looke, make what way *that* policy can, I haue this day writt to *the* Bishop by Dr Jarnam who has beene to mee another Dr Harcose God bless and comfort thee my Deare, and send ioyfully to *the* according to *the* contents of my last letter *yours*

Yarmouth

my paper will nott hold *the* names of those *that* need for ___ services: advice:

{folio 150 verso}

oct The 27 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 154 Recto

Your Majesty may well magine how great a surprise the returne of my friend gaue mee, since small-markes of your Majestyes fauor are large enough to extend my gratitude soe great an one as this too bigg for my hart, to prompt mee in what to say, may your Majesty liue crownd with the blessings of heauen & earth and I doe that minute and all my family {^wish} ___ vp wee lay nott our liues our honor & all att your Majesties feet with all the acknowledgements & Ferur that any commands of your {^majesty}, or occasion of itt self shall present to

Your Majestyes most dutyfull & most humbly thankefull subiect

Yarmouth

Norwich

Upon Thursday Night {page damaged} letter was found directed, To all whom itt may concerne, And the Contents were that the Citty {^Yarmouth & L yme} should bee fired that Night or the next, with Caution to take heed of the great Rede house Haby Sir Robert Yalopp and one mr Corie. This made soe great a disturbance as the Major & most of the Aldermen sate vpp all Nighy & a treble watch was warned of the Housekeepers themselves to serve in person Ouer 500 people were vpp all Night, This raiseing soe great a Jealousy among the people, My Lord Leuetenant, (for the appeaseing them & secureing the Citty) raised the trayned Bands, & the deputy Leiu-tenants have ordered Halfe a Company to bee vpon the guard euery Night, which with a double watch has quietted the Rumor & the Citty thinke themselves very safe & secure. /

My Lord sent orders to Yarough to raise a Company of their Regiment every day to bee vpon Guard 24 houres & then relieved by another, & theis gives them great satisfaction. /

The like order is for Lynn & to kepe guard with halfe a Compnay 24 houres & then to bee releived by the other. & soe then the next Company to come vpon duty. /

{margin - Norff}

orders issued to the 4 Colonellsof foote for the County to make their private Muster before the 6th of November to bring halfe a pound of powder & a pound of Bullett & to bee afterwards att an houres warneing fixt with their Armes & Amunition. /

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 159 Recto

New years day

Right Honourable:

All your letters have thus far come safe I've one keep close to the posthouse every time and if you fear above tis necessary to have one there; I'm fully satisfied in the honour of the family and shall effectually promote methods of union which you shall knowe within 2 posts how it works theres nothing at the bottom but Phil-Stepping had promised more then was reasonable hee should make good Fasset has proved him= by his letters absolutely false and this Creatures have said that they would address by him to my Lord Hide for redress I've dis_ _uurst the Bishop whoe wil never bee wanting in any service and tis his thoughts Fasset ought no further to bee trusted I'll faythfully manage al the other designs and wil never

{folio 158 verso}

desist in proving my self Your honours most Humble servant

W Cecil

The Major presents his Humble service to The Earle my Lord your Honour and the rest of your honourable Family with Mr Brooms and Mr Burnhams whoe wil al effectually serve you which shall appeare in a smal time, as a parting respect let mee assure you your intrest shall agaynst all opposition bee certainly fixt I am and ever will bee Your

Most Faithful Servant

W Cecil:

You'll find after al noyse Captayn Houghton a worthy man and weel never part in our intrest: to serve the family:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 160 Recto

Noble Sir

who cann hinder feares and Jeasolies itt was stranger yow and I sholde be suspected, then the Blow, I dare sweare wee knew no more of the Least of itt then we know the Lor of the Horse the Grande signior Rode on yesterday: but these are miserable suspitious times God amende them: although att our Last meetinge yow fell in a place of repose, I know where somebody fell, but no more of that till I see yow: I heare Bury Buisenes is quelld to purpose, foolish risinges hath sudden falls; I beleeue yow will heare the particulers of itt, from euery hande: ittts {^time} indeed to put counties into a posture of defence; for if the Rabble rise who is secure from Plunder lett his affections be eyther way, if his house be well furnished itt will be faulse enough to prike a hole in his coate: Sir on Thursday next ther is a meetinge to that purpose wher I am summoned to be: your Booke I will most carefully peruse and retourne aswell for this as manie other espetiall faouours receued from yow by him that Honors yow as:

Sir

your most Humble seruante

W Paston

Oxnett 16 may

my wife and selfe retourne our seruice to your selfe and Noble family: /

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 161 Recto

William Gorlin Gent. Ptt:

Robert̄ Earle of Yarmouth Dft

To the Right Honourable Heneage Earle of Nottingham Lord High Chancellor̄ of
England

The humble Peticion of *the* Ptt:

Sheweth

That your Peticioner̄ hath *Exhibited* his bill into *the* Court of Chancery against the
Right Honourable Robert̄ Earle of Yarmouth to be releived for *the* matters therein
contained, now forasmuch as your Peticioner̄ cannot compell *the* said Defendant to
appear and answer *the* said bill by serving him *with* a Subpoena being the ordinary
Process of the Court untill your Lordship hath first directed your Letter to him
desiring him soe to doe as is usuall to Persons of his Quality

Your Peticioner̄ therefore humbly prays your Lordships Letter directed to him *the*
said Earle of Yarmouth desiring him to appear in this Court immediately after *the*
Receipt here of to ansuer Your Peticioners̄ said Bill

And your Peticioner̄ shall &c.

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 165 Recto

December 12th 1682

[FB - 34 C 2.]

My Lord

Itt appears by a Peticion a Cobby whereof is herewith sent that William Goslin Gent. hath exhibited his Bill in the Court of Chancery against your Lordship and desires your appearance thereto immediately after the Receipt hereof Wherefore I doe att his Request by this Letter according to *the* manner used to persons of your Quality desire your *Lordshipp* to give order to those you doe employ in such matters, for your *Lordshipp*s appearance thereto accordingly to answer the same

I am your Lordshipps

very humble servant

Nottingham

{folio 166 verso}

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth

[other hand - Mr Elias Baker Clerke in Court

_____]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 167

December 16th 82

Right Honourable:

Ive no great news this post; the Citizens whoe were lately at London with the Major are willing to wave writing theyr perticular thanks, that you reseiving {^them} from the body It maye appeare to your Lordship how really sensible this City is of the obligations youve layed on them; Al persons are very quiet onely some unknown _____ have in this waye ventured to laste at some men of which Ive enclosed a Copy; Cradock is knighted heer in every publick letter and this last in an arbitrary waye altred his Christen name to Sir William, heres varyous reports as men are diversly affected some table of a through purge of our bench, others of a very mild one; I doubt not but your Lordships mea-sures wil bee most proper to fix this City; my Lord Bishop presents his Service to your Lordship the Countess and Lord Paston which with the tender of my won is al at present from your

Honours most oblidgeed servant

W Cecil

Captayne ands Lady present theyre humble service:

{folio 167 verso}

These:

To the right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth

Right Honourable:

Those extraordinary favours which I received from you, — that lag time I continued in your Family; as they are beyond my taking any satisfaction for them, I do not most strictly press an acknowledgment; Ingratitude is surely the worst of moral crimes; and could I think it possible for me ever to be forgetful in this case; I should readily conclude myself the worst of men; where the greatest pleasure is doing good; and the height of satisfaction obliging others; there surely all must pay a respect but such must be particularly indebted who have received the advantage; That this is your temper I blush to tell you since my expressions of it are so far beneath the original and since I am equally satisfied yours better pleased in being kind to others than receiving their weak returns; I crave leave therefore to digress and acquaint you; That after the Major and Court had waited on the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Arrundel, they distinctly visited the Major which the Duke did last; the Earl gave an account to him and the Duke how that now he had a particular opportunity of having the Kings ^{ear}, that his late favours had mightily enabled ^{him} to serve his Friends which in ^a peculiar manner he esteemed them to be and desired them if at any time they wanted his assistance to make use of him, he also told them he had ordered one part of his house to be speedily fixed and furnished and designed frequently to see them; the Duke ran on in his visit much at the same rate; extolling his sons present greatness with the Prince and told them he had at present resolved to shew it in a kindness to Thetford where he would set up a plate rare annually and did not doubt but the King would honour it with his Company which would make that a flourishing Corporation this I had from the Major and write it you in obedience to your Commands tis further reported but I have no other ground to believe it that they have received several addresses about Aldermens and other places; I find the Major very just and true to the interest of your Family; and you may be assured there shall not be any other promoted here without a timely discovery: Madam: I am:

Your

Humble Servant

W: Cecil:

{folio 168 verso}

These To the right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 169 Recto

Norwich 23^o December 1682/

Right Honourable and our Singular Good Lord

Being Sensible of our too Long Omission of Retornes of Gratitude For your Lordships most Ample Fauors and Kindnesse to Mr Maior and the rest of the Gent that Attended his Gracious Majesty vpon the Surrendrie of our Charter; not onlie by your most Bounteous & Generous Treates But with your Lordships Council and Prudent Aduice, Influencing that whole Affaire) whereby wee haue no Small Hopes shortly to Reape and Enjoie the Fruites of Wee most Humblie pray your good Lordships pardon for Our Faileings, and vpon your Serious Consideration of ^{^his} Sacred Majesties most Gracious & Princely Expressions (at the time of Rendition of Our Charter) that He Desired not the least Diminuation of anie the Graunts of his Progenitors to vs (save in what Desired as to Elections) but rather an Adition of New, together with A Confirmation of our Immemorial Prescriptions & Customes vpon this Foote, and your Lordships E^{^n}larg'd Heart for the Promotinge the Welfare and Prosperity of this Auncient & Loial Citie wee valur our Selues vpon A Sure Funde Beseeching all Possible & Safe expedition in the whole Matter; and your Acceptance of the Hearty Votes for the Prosperity & Felicity of your Lordship & most noble Relations and Family, of those whoe are with Great Truthe

Your Good Lordships

Most Obleig'd Obedient and Faithfull Servants

John ___ Maior

B Church

Tho: Davy

Robert Freman

Francis Gardiner

Nicholas Helwye

Leonard Osborne

Jeremy Hyrne

Marke Cockey

William Parmentoe

{folio 170 verso}

Theise

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth Lord Lieutenant of *Norffolk* and
Norwich, at his House in the Pall Mall nere St James Palace in Westminster/

Most Humblie Present/

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 171 Recto

December 25: 1682

Norwich:

My Lord

this day *the* Mayor & Court Writes to your Lordshippe to Returne thanks for *the* great many favours & Kindnesse your Honour haue shewne this City & to Beg of my Lord Paston to doe them the Honour to bear *the* title of their Recorder: this was proposed by *the* Mayor himselfe (who behaues himselfe Extreamly well) Brigs could not forbear opposing, as he does upon all occasions to shew his friendship to Rainham; *the* new Honour there, was scarce of nine days continuance for a wonder: the discourse being now wholly Laid aside, & *the* white Horse seems now in Mourning for *the* Loses of Lord Chancellour *that* true friend to Blickling, from *that* Clubbe we haue had *the* Alarum of a Parliament & Sir Peter Sir Kempe & Vyn haue Rode all *that* Part of *the* County to prepare *the* Godly Party, & from *the* same Place it haue bin as Confidently reported (And impudence in Lying they never Want) that upon Lord Townsends Refusall Lord Latimer was to be your successor in the Lieutenancy of Norfolk: I beg *the* favour of my most Humble service to *the* Countesse of Yarmouth & that upon all occasions you will freely command him who Really is

Your Lordships most Humble & obedient servant

j: Houghton:

{folio 172 verso}

these

To the Honorable the Earle of Yarmouth

At his House in *the* Pell Mall

London:

December 27th: 82/3

Right Honourable:

According to your Commands I wayted on my Lord Bishop and gave him respects expresst to your Family hee received them with al the satisfaction imaginable; and with joye declaryd that hee had a very fayr amount from above of my Lords intrest with the King and Duke; I left with him the draught of your case, in which hee wishes you a speedy success; that steady favour which hath been shewen by my Lord and your Family to the true Church of England men must for ever oblige theyr prayers and services in your case; Not with standing the D: of N: compliments hee was heer a very great wimmen, and declared that Toryes were soe high and ran into the same extreams which they formerly accused the Whiggs of, which account was not unplea-sant to mee hoping from thence that hee thought the Church as establisht was like to flourish; my last account of the tempers of some men was exactly true but they having stil been so far further wise as to declare that they would theis post send up a sharp complaynt agaynst mee with as many hands as they could to attest the truth of it, which though I value not one farthing, I hope my Lord wil doe mee that justice after surli repeated affronts to let mee knowe what they saye; I thinke it needless after the evidence Ive given of my sincerity to counterhanf such scanda-lous libels; Ive heer enclosed the order of Court wherein Mr Major heartily designed my Lords his respects with the letters signed by 10: 9 __ hands which there beeing but 10 In Court at the drawing of the order wee thought sufficient without putting them by their other measures of satisfying my Lord: though

{continued down left-hand margin of page}

Weeve been so just (though Stebbing declared hee had 15 reasons {^in an hour} why my Lord should not bee Recorder) to advise them to waue theyre arguments and desre the same thing in theyr own methods: Of my Lord likes this in the Majors method Ime sure heel bee mightily pleased to knowe it In the least intimation from himself or your honour, Ile vouch for his steady service upon the same ground that I ran my own which shal near bee shaken by Faction on one hand, nor mistaken persons on

{folio 173 verso}

the other whoe to saye truely are onely angry because they hear the newes of Mr
Brome and Mr Burnham. which gives mee occasion of begging this further last
request that the Major and they maye bee inceded for theyr likes or else tis
probable theyl meet with ~~xxx~~ frequent and insufferable trouble

Madam I am and ever wil bee Your

Most hearty and Humble Servant

W Cecil:

The Major Captayn Houghton Ald: Gardiner, and my self being together begg the
tender of our humble services to The Earl and al your Honourable Family:

{folio 174 verso}

To:

The right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth

My Lord/

I heard by Captain: Gouch mr Bradford had Some Answer to my Letters which I wrote to your Lordshipp Butt haue not Seen itt I question Nott Butt your Lordshipp has had for Sir Thomas Meadow | An Account of mr Baliff Symonds Granting Lycenses And none Appointed to Sett with him but mr George England which was Order'd Immediatly upon the Notice to Appease att Counsell Board & of his Calling two Assemblies One Last Fryday which for want of Common Counsell men Ended in a Speech Hee made to ~~xxxx~~ them thatt were present Thatt he Would Stand firme by em to Maintaine their Priuiledge &c: the Other Assembly this Weeke which for Want of Common Counsell Men Came to Naught too: Onely mr Bayliffe Symonds had a paper Signed by his Party Of his Loyalty &c. the bod yett they Seeme fearfull too: I heare mr Baly Symonds wilbee in London on tuesday Night the Rest on Both Sides On Wednesday: And for All my Correspondence with them which I hope your Lordshipp is Satisfy'd in before this: I thought fitt to hint thatt if thatt Party Comes Downe Againe with flourishing Callo__rs_ / {2-3 words deleted} which vnlese your Lordship Stands Slowly by Sir Thomas & the Right party tis fear'd they they they will

{folio 175 verso}

Sir Thomas & All honest Men had As good bee in Algeere As bee heere Therefore I hope Authority; Intrest & Right too, will Gett the Vpper hand and Saving ___ off Which Certainly are nott Better or more Gratefull then the Taskmasters & Caterpillars of Egipt And may the Ends of All ~~Relions~~ & Rebellions & Dissembling Phanaticks bee Like theirs I haue Said my Say And Begging pardon for Blotts and hast I Craue Leauē to Subscribe my Selfe

your Lordshipp

Most humble and Devoted Servant

Robert Doughty

yarmouth

Dec: 29:th 1682:

{folio 176 verso}

These

ffor the Right Honouable Robert Earle of yarmouth att his Lodgings in the Pall Mall

In

London

Nowich. In the Chamber of the Court of Majoralty

Primo die January 1682/3

By the Comittee Appointed by Common Council to Consider of what should be Incerterd in the New Charter which his Majestie shall Please to Grant to this City Present Robert Bendishe Esquire Mr Sheriffw Stebbing Alderman William Helwys Mr John Atkinson Mr John Chapman Mr John Melchior Mr William Elvyn

Whereas Wee are Informed by Mr Atkinson that your Lordship should say that if your Lordship were at the request of the Bodie of this City Propounded to his Majestie to be Named Recorder of this City that your Lordship would Anept thereof

An Answer wherevnto Wee Humblie {^Offer} to your Lordship these Reasons

1st That the Election of A Recorder here hath for time beyond the memory of Man been ~~Elected~~ by the Comon Council of this City. And will be Office be Executed by A Deputy. The former Recorders haveing been (most of them persons of Great Learning in the Law, And Accepted that place as A most probable Steppand Degree to their performt to places of eminent Indicature, nit haveing any Prospect to the Salary (which in truth is very inconsiderable) not exceeding Tenn pounds per Annum

2ly That the Alteration of the Methods of our prudent Predecessors will gratifie the \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ Diaffected to the Governem~~t~~ and Disobleige the freinds to it and Discorage any learned person to Embrace the Office of Steward to serue vnder A Deputy Recorder.

3ly That it is Humbly Conceiued ~~that~~ the maine Reason that hath \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ Prevayled to nominate persons of Eminence and Nobility to be Recorders in some Corporacions hath been in factious Townes (Amongst which Wee hope wee shall not be Reckoned)

And being further Informed by the same person that ther hath been Applicacions made for the Incertering the names of Severall persons in the

Charter to hold and Execute Offices not hitherto names in any of the Charters of his Majestie or his Predecessors granted to this City, but were Vested in the Court of Aldermen or Common Council, or both ___ the Govenor of the Great Hospitall the vpper Chamberlayn and severall other Officers

And as to the Governor of the Hospitall it is Apparent by the Charters of ffoundacon of Henry the Eight And of the Confirmacion of Edward the Sixth (together with the Manadg of the Revnued thereof) that {^it} is lodges and settled in the Court of Aldermen they being thought by the ffounders to be the best Judges who were fittest to Execute the said place And as to the Chamberlein and all other Officers they haue allwayes been in the Election of the Court aforesaid or the Common Council, or both _ _ _ _ _

{folio 177 verso}

That if Wee be Deprived of or Restrained in the soe long Enjoyed Right of Elections to Offices of that nature It is Humbly Conceived it may Discourage other Corporacions to followe or good Example in the surrender of their Charters, which was by vs Designed for the safety of his Majesties Government and the benefitt of this City And will Justifie and confirme the Arguments of the Opposers , of the surrender of our Charter, that wee are periured in the giving vp our Auntient priviledges and ffranchises which was their great Objction to the Delivery thereof

It is thought not Agreeable to our Priviledges to Name in the Charter A Reversioner to the Towne clerks place

It is Humbly Desired these our Conceptions here in may obtaine A Benigne and favorable Construction it being not in our Intentions to Derogate from what shall tend to the safety of his Majesties Government the Honour of our Lord Lieutenant and your Lordship the benefit of the City and the Satisfaction and content of his Gracious Majesties Loyal and obedient Subjects ~~and Citizens~~ of this his Auncient City of Norwich

This with All Regards to your Lordship with our most Humble and Hearty Services Wee Subscribe our selves

Your Lordships

Most faithfull and very Obedient Servants

Robert Bendishe

Philip Stebbing

William Helwys

Jno Atkinson

John Chapan

Jno Melchior

William Elwin

Mr Alderman Salter gaue his full Assent Substance of these reasons but could not
Subscribe his hand in respect he was necessitated to be out of Towne this day

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 179 Recto

January *the* 4th 1682:

Mr L Estrange

I desire you to present my humble service to all *the* gentlemen you shall meet att *the* Sessions, that are my friends, and I doe desire: that they will issue out their warrant, for rassing *the* sngle weekes pay, all els will fall in naturally as occasion requires, I haue signed *your* two notes att *the* present , and you may whisper Mr Briggs in *the* care, that hee will find noe unkindness from this family, however hee may esteeme vs

I am ill of *the* gout a long time, and therefore you must nott expect a long letter from mee al my family are well I thanke God and wee {^are} all *your* friends, I haue nott seene L Colonel Harbord since I came vp, neither will I speake to him on *the* theame you mention, for I shall doe noe good in itt, god send vs a good meeting in Norfolke I am *Your* friend & servant

Yarmouth

my service to mrs Lstrange

write mee word *the* newse of *the* Sessions:

{folio 180 verso}

These

For Edward L'EstrangeEsquire att Horstead neare Norwich

[other hand - Jan: 4: 82]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 181 Recto

Norwich 8. Jan 1682/3
May it please your Honour

Seeing your favourable acceptance of the tender of my humble duty was all I had reason to hope, I could not but be overjoy'd to find your Honor's good opinion of mee so far above my ~~xxx~~ expectations, & Desert. And cannot but esteeme my self infinitely obliged by your Honors condescending to vouchsafe me so many Considerations about our present Circumstances, & all exactly agreeing with them as far as I am able to discern & I account my self very happy that my own differ in nothing from them. I allway's thought twas impossible long to impose upon your Honor's or my god Lords most piercing Judgement, & therefore doubted not but the sinister Instructions of these that masked their Designes for places of ~~xxx~~ profit or Preferment, under the captivating disguizes of Loyalty & my Lords service, would be timely discovered & contemned. The City agreed in two Assembly's (___ came up) that the charter should be {^secured} ~~xxxx~~ in my Lords hands, & he & my good Lord Paston prayd to intercede with his Majesty for a ___ & the whole care of all to be left with their Honor's. Afterwards a New Committee was superadded to the Old, to wait upon my Lord at the delivery of *the* Charter, which being done, & hauing been with Councel, no more was left for us to do. & the leauing Sollicitors behind us was a thing (in my opinion) So rude, that I could not be induced to approue it, and whilst I was in London would not Suffer Mr F. (Tho' I know him to be a loyal & have a kindness for him) to be admitted for one, because besides the ill manners of it, I knew there was no need of any, & besides his quality was too mean & his parts unsuitable to appear in the Character of a Sollicitor for *the* City of Norwich upon what I then said he was rejected, tho' after my coming away the R___ of the Committee hors'd him in & yet the Committee upon their passing ___ their Trust to my Lord & the Earle were dissolv'd, & had no power of acting further for this Reason my hand neuer appear'd under any _____ Projects because if any new Instructions could have been sent (which I question) or had been necessary, they ought to have come {^out} of an Assembly, & not out of Coffee houses & Taverne Caballs (where according to thier usual ill manners they boast of their telling my Lord Such & Such things to his head) which tho' a thousand hands were to them, were no more than private & factious Suggestions (& not the Desires of the City) & to be thrown by as arbitrary, & unwarrantable, if not censured by the privy Council. & Atkinson was a Fool in that he did not

{folio 182 verso}

~~he did not~~ look upon them as such, his rude behaviour herein, & Sawcy censure___ the Courts handing a letter of thanks to my Lord Lieutenant, & our desires of my Lords being Recorder I chok'd him with Sufficently the night before the Receipt of Your Honor's. The Wisemen of Gotham would now be contented & acquiesce (a very great favour) in my Lords being Recorder, provided the Town Clerks place, or its Reversion (which I understand is design'd for N.B. a very honest & ingenious man) the chamberlains Hospitall___ were but left to them to ~~x~~ oblige their friends

with. and no less can be due to {them} for affronting the Major's so audaciously in open Assembly's, & delaying an advised Surrender of our Charter above three months, that it might be delivered up their own way, & the more uncontrolledly turn out whom they pleased, & file up their places with the Creatures & fautor's of Some more ambiteous then wise. & by this mean's at all times nose the Government here at their pleasure. And they were come to that height herein as (in their Discourses) to dispose of not onely the inferior places of the Milita___, but of the Colonell. and who ever offred any checks to their Madness was presently nicknames a whigg, putting me priuately into this number tho tis well known I was borne loyal, & that my friends & fortune were sacrificed in the defence of K.Ch. the blessed. I saw all along what they aimed at. & took no Small pleasure in laughing at them, as did thousands more, & now they are So mad that my Lord should name any for these places (tho' tis indeed his Majesty (as your Honor well notes) that doth it) that nought but Hydra Remonstrances, & 10 or 15 unanswerable Reasons are hourly to be drawn up to my Lord against it, or (if his Honor refuseth) Appeales to the King & Council will Serve their turne with a new Suit for their old Charter again, & Petitions to be heard at the Council board. Thus will it ever be when outward activity is moved by secrete and hypocritical Springs. All things considered, for ought I can See (yet I pretend not to be able to advise) it may be best for his Majestys Service & both my Lords Interests (for as much as his Majesty reserves the turning on at pleasure) to lett the old body remain with little or no alteration, _____ the Concurant, out of which our Wise Committee in London (for twas not in their power to turn out their Masters that sent them thither on their own errand there maintenid them) ~~they~~ presumed to turn many Substantial & steady men & to put in their places, meer ja= Broeders of all which next his Majesty, the Earle is best able to Judge but what I have been bold to Suggest would I date say giue the Towne best Satisfaction. I perceive that nobody will own the Receipt of any Letters from any of your Noble Family but Mr Major Captain Haughton, Mr Cecil, & I, except Mr Copping (who is well satisfyd) & Peter Bokenham, in whom my good Lord Paston

{folio 183 recto}

reposeth a great deal of Trust, I wish he may as truly answer it, but by all persons 'tis looked upon as _____ his Honor to write to so mean a City Servant on Such occasion, for the fellow shows it in all Tap houses. & is noted for perfidy. Thus Madam your Honor's goodness has drawn me to farr too intrench upon your patience. but I prisumed the more freely, for that it is well known I have no other Interest herein, than what ariseth from unfeigned Desires of heartily Serving your{^Honor} & all your Noble family as becomes him in all humble duty to do, who is, my Lords, My Lord Paston's &c

(Right Honourable)

Your Honours most obedient servant

Francis Gardiner

my great oversight in writing on two sheets of paper not taken notice of till too late to amend & All other {^fauer} I most humbly entreat your Honor to pardon. my duty to my Lord Lieutenant (who I hope is recover'd of his gout) my Lord Paston Mr Robert Mr Jaspers & Mr Thomas Paston.

{folio 184 verso}

These

To the right honourable the Countess of Yarmouth in the Pall Mall in Westminster
Humbly present

Jan: 10th: 82/3

Right Honourable:

Though I've not much to acquaint you with I thought it my duty to give you some little account of the fare of affayrs; the buisness desifned at the Sessions I believe wil bee effected at that rate to shew theyr hearty respect to my Lord though perh-aps not in that method was disigned I can never but bee glad of proving my readiness to serve you; and shal bee as private where you order it as is expected, but I find al honest people honour your family at so great a rate that tis dangerous (_ating your honour) to have any peculiar marke of it; Mr Davy's letter is very pleasing to the generality of the town and theres nothing now dis-courst by The Major Ald: Freeman Ald: Gardiner and others but that my Lordsould Friends wil never forsake him, let the others talke which now is not above 3 at the head of them of appeals to the King and righting theyr libertyes the Englishh of which {^is} theyr power of disposing places they must bee quiet or else wil bee very little Gossling is Stebb: trunke hotly to conveigh als follyes through the town whoe hath vented such things by his instigation as are not consistent with modesty to express; if there

{continued down left-hand margin}

were any occasion theyr easily proviable upon him; I perceive ~~perceive~~ Captayn Ayd would bee mightily pleased ins friend Tho: Tubby under Chamberlayn and Richard Randal hospital keeper of the boyes hospital but this I onely mention; Mrs Major returns

{folio 185 verso}

his humble thanks for the favour of your honours letter and assures you by mee that what hee hath been defective in his letters heel certainly make good when hee hath an opportunity of serving your family; if my Lord at this juncture bee inclined to shew a favour to any person formerly suspected Ald: Corbey deserves it whoe hath pro-posed to my Lord and declares hee wil paye his future regards

I am your honours

Most Humble Servant

W Cecil:

Captayne Houghton Mr Major Ald: Freeman Ald: Gardner Mr Brome and my selfe
begg the tender of our humble services to the Earle your Honour Lord Paston Lady
Paston and the rest if your honourable family:

My Lord

Here Inclosed I send Your Lordship a Letter from the Deputy Lieutenants *that* met at Norwich this Sessions, wherein Your Honour will haue an Account of *the* State of the Lieutenacy in this County, and of their proceedings this Sessions, and a Declaration at *the* end *which* I hope will not be unacceptable to Your Lordship: the Occasion of it was this, I understanding *that* some *persons* in *the* City of Norwich being Crosst in their expectations, had given out *that* they would petition His Majesty *that* Your Honour had disposed of Seuerall places, formerly in *the* power of *the* Majestrates of *that* City to dispose of, ___ and would be a great entrenchment upon their Charters *which* his Majesty had promosed to confirme to them; I thought it my Duty to prevent their designed so farr as I was able, and to this end on Wednesday-night I waited upon *the* Deputy Lieutenants at their Respective Lodgings, and discoursed *the* business *with* them, Informing them *that* whereas there were reports malici-ously speread about *the* City, in Derogation of Your Lordships Government, it could not but be kindly taken, if they gaue some hint in a Letter to Your Lordship of their great Satisfaction in *the* Menagement of Affaire in this County by Your Honours prudent Conduct, and accordngly. I Received Orders from them to draw up this Enclosed Letter *which* Was unanimously Signed by them, and I hope *the* Testimony of Such Honourable & Worthy *persons* (although but few) will be taken before *the* Informations, of a Company of hot headed ffellows who knows not what they would haue: Capt^{ain} Aid has taken much paines *with* Capt^{ain} & some others to bring them from their heats, and hopes to be Succesfull, I doe assure Your Honour he is very much concerned at any thing may haue the least Reflection upon Your Lordships Honour: I find great Complains against Mr Cecill for endeavouring to get his Brother in Law (a broken Weaver) to be made Master of *the* Hospitall, *the* Revenues being better then 1400£ *per Annum* and he a person no wayes fit to undertake *that* Imployment and great Comendations given of Mr Rawly *the* present Master who has cleared 1000£ Debt, since he entred upon it: they are both Strangers to mee, and if *the* Information I give Your Honour may be any wayes Serviceable to Your

{folio 187 verso}

Lordship, it answers my Design, *which* is only to serue Your Honour ffaithfully:

I acquainted Capt^{ain} Briggs *with* what Your Lordship was pleased to Comand mee, who was extreamply Satisfyed *with* it, and desires mee to present his hearty Service and thanks to Your Honour, *with the* Assurance, *that* he will be Ready upon all occasions so farre as he can, to serue Your Lordship and Right Honourable ffamily

to the utmost of his power, and will neuer doe, as some high flyers haue, lately done, if crost in their expectations, to fly in Your Lordships face;

My Lord, Major Wards officers Receiving the Sacrament upon Xst mass day Last, and bringing their Affidavit to the Court of Sessions, they would not be accepted, because the Act requires it should be done upon the Lords day; he desires that Your Lordship would giue mee power to alter the Dates of the Comissions, that so they may be prepared against the next Sessions:

There is 2040£ remaining in Mr Briggs hands of the Single Weeks Assesment, and 200£ of the months Assesment I begg leaue to present my owne and Wifes most humble Duty and Service to Your Honour, the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth, and the Rest of Your Right Honourable Relations, hoping what I haue done will be as kindly taken, as it was Designed by

My Lord

Your Honours

Most Obliged & Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Horstead Jan: the 12th 1682

15th January 1682/3

Right Honourable

I am bold humbly to request your Lordship to reinspect a Letter from the Committee wrot to my Lord Paston together with a petition to your selfe & him dated the first of this instant & to take notis of one passage (not then hinted) declared to vs by the clerk Lord Cheif Justice Saunders viz that such customs as were practised beyond the memory of Man Wer ha_____ to the places where practised & could not be resigned to the Kinge / amongst which the Choyce of Juse or officers in our goverment is one, and never was incerted in our Charter. If your Lordship shal think fitt (owards the abatent of the madness of a distracted Citty by feares & Suspitions) to advise our mr Mayor to Call a Common Counsell & then to putt a faire voate for the Lord Paston to bee nominated by the King for our Recorder it giving in the right channel, wil give greate Satisfaction

If any other Measures, then what were agreed of, By vs of the Committee (by your honours allowance) at london, and then given to the Kings Council: should (by the Suquestions of Some evle men) who aim more at _____ advantage then the publique benefit of the Citty) I humblt conceive, it may prove of very badd consequence, in sondry respects: _____tially by giveing ocation to Malevolent/ men against the king {^his} govermentt to make cheape, & vndervalleew the word and gracious promise, of our soureigne/ Lord the king at our rendring our Charter into his handes

{folio 191 verso}

Now truly my Lord, I ame soe hyly tender of your honour/ & esteeme amongst all good Men that I kept in appeale shalt bee made, but to your Lordships , oune selfe, to make a judgment of our loyall, honest well meaneing conceptions, which being put into the ballance, of your Wise and due conscideration, I shall not dispond but _____ faire hop_ to bee Esteemed

Your lordships most faithfull humble & obedient Servant

Robert Bendish

{folio 192 verso}

To the Right honourabl
Robert Earle of Yarmouth
at his house in the Pall Mall
in Westminster

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 193 Recto

My Lord

Nott beeing able to wayte on your Lordshipp in person, I doe presume to pre-sent to your Lordshipp my Petition, with the case of the Greenwax, which the service to the crowne, and my owne reputation, calls Vpon mee to assert, I humbly begg of your Lordshipp that your fauor may ~~vshew~~ {^countenans} the meritts of itt, as farr as you find itt iust and that noe misapprehension of mee, or any insinuation to my preiudice my make you looke amiss, Vpon the thing itt self for noe man can haue a truer zeale for the crowne, nor a greater desire then my self to make itt appeare that I am

My Lord your Lordshipp's most obedient humble servant

Yarmouth

For My Lord Rochester

January the 16: 1682:

{folio 193 verso}

For the Earle of Rochester

Jan the 17 1682

Norwich 20 January 1682/3

Wee whose Names are herevnto Subscribed being the Major part of the Comittee Appointed to consider of matters relateing to our New Charter Presume to Send this Bearer our City Sollicitor Mr George Stebbing to Attend your Lordship and the Lord Paston an to make Tender of our sincere and hearty Acknowledgments of Duty and Services to your Lordships. And likewise to Acquaint your Lordships with the many Disquiets which Encrease amongst vs vpon the Occasion of the Reports that those Officers which are not essentially necessary to the constituteing of the Body of the City should be Incerted in the Charter, wheras the same were Alwaies Chosen by the Body and not Incerted as Charter Officers, And forasmuch as Wee plainely see that if those Officers be Incerted ~~xxx xxxxx it to~~ {^it will} be not onely Injurious to our Auncient Rights butt disserviceable to those Loyall Ends for which Wee Surrendred: Therefore Wee Doe humbly Pray your Lordship to further our just and Loyall Endeavours that our Charter may returne to vs with those Advantages which All honest Citizens and loyall Subjects might justly hope for And Wee shall ~~xxxx xxxx xxxx~~ as in Duty Wee are bound Remaine

Your Lordships most Humble and obedient Servants

Robert Bendish

Philip Stebbings

William Helwys

William Salter

Jno Atkinson

John Chapman

Will _____

{folio 195 verso}

These
To the Right Honourable Robert
Earle of Yarmouth

Present

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 196 Recto

January the 23d 1682

Honourable Sir

In the Affaire of the Charters of Norwich which is wel neare the period, I find som persones who thought fitt to entrust all in my hands vnsatisfied, in that the small officers should nott bee left to their disposall, I suppose you thinke I was fayre to vse my best artifice in the menage of this, and to encourage som who were most instrumentall with the promise that I would vse my Endeauors with his Majesty thes might bee gratified, in the remouers that must necessarily follow, butt som self interested persons haue gon about to disturb the methods they all agreed to, and I am informed, (though I canott well beleeeve itt) {^intend} a position or somewhat of that nature, which I begg if itt coms may receiue noe counenance till I bee heard my business beeing to make this an Exemplary peice of ser-vice to the crowne which som would fayre haue hindred in the End, and would now trouble in the consummation, I am with all acknowledge-ments imaginable oblidged to the great fauor_____ haue receiued from you, and hope to giue his Majesty a good accompt of Yarmouth in som short time I humbly kiss your hands as

Your most obedient humble servant

Yarmouth

{folio 196 verso}

Coppy of my letter to Sir Leoline Jenkins

January the 23d 1682

My Lord

I hope mine of the 12th, and 22th Instant; came safe to your Lordships hands, by Which Your Honour will haue an Account, of the business dispatcht by the Deputy Lieutenants, it Norwich Sessions; as also some=7=things relating, to the present Affaires of that Citty: Captain Aide, & my Selfe, haue made Seuerall Journeys to Norwich, & doe hope that Wee haue preuayled, with Captain Elwis, & Mr Salter, to Act with that Respect & Dutym as becomes them, and they doe assure us they haue with much Vigour, opposed all propositions, that might in the least reflect upon Your Lordships Honour; and doe heartily Wish, that Your Lordship would be pleased, to let the choice of all Inferiour Officers, and the disposing of Suvh places of trust, to remaine in the Sole Power of the Magistrates, and not to be disposed of in their new Charter, being contrary to the Grants in their Old Charters: As for Mr Stebbings and some others, who haue formerly made great professions, of zeale for the service of Your Honour, and Right Honourable Family, it now plainly appears, that they had some provate designe of their owne to carry on, and being disappointed, are become Your Lordships worst Enemies; for what ever they may pretend, their Insolences, and unworthy Expressions, haue bin a great meanes to Incense the Commons, & to possess them with a beliefe, that Your Honour did intend to Abbridge them of their priviledges, and has given an Oppertunity to that party who never had a kindness for Your Honour, nor my Lord Paston, to endeavour to Lessen my Lord;s Interest in Norwich, which I hope they will never be able to effect:

I met Sir Neville Catelyn at Norwich the Last Saturday (who intends for London the next Weeke) and desired mee to present his Service to Your Lordship, and to acquaint You that Captain Rogle is Dead; and if Your Honour thinks fit, he recommends Mr Francis Windham (who married the Widdow of Captain Berney, formerly Captaine

{folio 197 verso}

of Diss Hundred) to Succeed him, he being a Very honest, and truely Loyall Young Gentleman: Captain Aide, his Lady myselfe and Wife, begg leaue to tendure, Our Duty and Service to Your Honour, the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth, my Lord Paston, and the rest of Your Right Honourable relations, whome I pray God to bless, with health, and Happiness, and that the Wicked, and Malicious Designes of Your Enemies, may fall upon their owne Heads:

if Your Lordship please to Honour mee with a Line it will be a great Satisfaction, to

My Lord

Your Honours

most Obliged

& Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Horstead Jan: *the* 29th 1682/3

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 199 Recto

Norwich 2^o die ffebruarÿ 1682/3

Sir

Wee Received yours, expressing your Great tendernesse to our Noble Lord Lieutenant and Lord Pastons Honour Assureing you that what ever hath been done ny vs was Designed for noe other End than what you now Aime at (namely the Preservacion of his Majesties Interest and their Lordships Honour and the Rights of the City And although in particular our Reasons were formerly given against his Lordships being Recorder, Yet if either of their Lordships Thinke it convenient to Write to Mr Maior to Call an Assembly their Lordships shall well see our diligence shall not be wanting to Promote their Honour in the Matter of Recorder That being the onely Regular Method that can justly Intitle him to it with such Honour as may Stopp the Monthe of All Game Sayers Soe Desireing you to Attend their Lordships with oure most most Humble Duty & Service to them which with our kind respects to your self & Mr ffassett is All from

Sir

your Affectionate friends

Robert Bendish

Philip Stebbing

William Helwys

William Atkinson

John Chapman

R_____

<large damp patch on letter has faded the ink making many of the words illegible>

Feb: 12th 82/3

Right Honourable:

I must humbly begg your pardon for being tardy in acknowledging your great favours expresst towards mee in your last letter; Ive this satisfaction within my selfe, that as they are much beyond what Ive deserved; so I can never bee wanting in the return of a hearty service to your family; I hope your grand affayr wil at last have a happy issue or at least that the King wil graciously bee pleased in some other _____ to shewe how hee valewes my Lords integrity and Loyalty, Mr Major desires my Lords better judgment, whether I wil be proper in this _____ to _____proceeds to buisiness; or _____ them rid by the Charters _____ things maye bee better settl_____ being the pra'ogative of the Charter _____ in this and al _____ ready hee is to _____ to my Lord: I _____ by Captayn Houghton _____ due notion of _____ thus far been _____ summ-oned by the inferiour members which is the sole right of the head, and hee being satisfied the Committee is purely dissolved

Madam: I am Your Honours most Humble Servant

W Cecil:

{continued down left-hand margin}

Mr Major Mr Freeman Mr Gardiner Mr Brome Mr Burnham and my selfe begg the tender of our humble services to the Earle Your Honour my Lord Paston and Lady, and al therest of your honourable Family . I must begg leave of your honour to remind you that at ___ parting you were pleased with the Earle to assure mee my letters should not bee shown to any but the Family which makes mee justly feare that some haue been stopt of Mr Gardiner and I have received an account of

(folio 203 verso)

several _____ were writ by people heer,

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 205 Recto

Madam

I am diswaded from troubling my Lord Halifax: ffor it will show too great jealousy of the king to lett it enter into our thoughts that soe great injustice will be done vs to grant that to others we hath been denied to vs; and as to printing the Case againe I am desired to acquiesse vntill after next derme, and to sitt as quiett as wee cann vntill the Storme be blowne ouer and then to Come vpon his Majesty with fresh addresses and get leaue to print our justification and present one to his Majesty and his Royall highness. I haue all things ready to putt in exemcion But cannot resolue any thing vntill I heare your Ladiships result ~~of the~~ vpon the Advice giuen to mee I sent my Brother to see how my Lord doth and receiue your Honours Comands and to morrow Ile waite on your Ladiship

Your Ladiships
Most obedient servant
P Brunskell

13th ffebr 1682

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 207 Recto

Norwich 16^o February 82/3

Maie it please your good Lordshipp

By yesterdaies post I received a Letter from Mr George Stebbing {nine words scrubbed out on page} dated the 13th of this instant, wherin he saith ther will be 120*li* at least (more then what Mr Atkinson left in Mr Uttings hands when he left London which must be returned vp to defraie the charge of the seuerall Officers at the sealeing our Charter, (which will within a Few daies passe all the seales) {^as he saith} This I thought requisite to acquaint your Lordshipp with, for that I heard nothings hereof from your Honor or my Lord Paston ~~leaving~~ and shall vpon the least Intimation from either of your Lordshipps vse my best endeauors for obteyning the Monie & retorneing of it to London, haueing by this post ordered a lettre to be sent to Mr Vtting by Mr Atkinson to Know the summ of monie now in his hande. It is Humblie Conceiued to be necessarie to haue a Dedimus potestatem sent hither to 3 or 4 Gent in or neare this City to inable them to swe{page damaged} ushc persons who shall be named in the Charter, viz. the Maior First to be sworne the rest. so with my most humble thanks for all your Lordshipps Fauors to this City & particularly to my selfe I remaine

Your Lordshipps
Most Obliged & very Humble servant
John Lowe Maior

I pray my humble Services to my Noble Ladie the Countesse of Yarmoth, my Lord Paston & the rest of your Lordshipps Noble Family.

{folio 208 verso}

Theise

To the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmoth Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and City of Norwich at his House in the Pall mall in Westminster

Humblie present

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 209 Recto

Norwich feb: 25: 1682

My Lord

Yesterday being *the* quarter Assembly Mr Mayor summoned them as usually great Consultations were Held before hand & speeches prepared by Mr Bendish Stebbings & *that* Gang *the* Recorders Place was *the* first thing they proposed & some of them went soe farre as to declare *that* Mr Norris was not soe averse to holding *that* office as some persons had Represented, the Next thing was to Returne thanks ~~xx~~ to George Stebbing & fasset for their great services & to Raise 150ll to send up to them; but all these projects were spoiled for there was but seuen Aldermen Appear vizt: Mr Mayor Church Wisse Bendish Captain Helwys Salter Stebbing they are very angry at this disappointment & Lay *the* Blame vpon me & I suppose Large Complaints come to your Lordship this Next Post; but Let them say *what* they will, all your Honors' steady friends were sensible of their ill designs & tooke this safe way to prevent their noisye Clamours; of *the* commons but 34: appeared soe *that* you may perceiue that notwithstanding their Braggs their interest is not soe great as they would haue it thought. & I Know they had Engaged all they could possibly to appear: they tooke notes of *the* absent I suppose to send up: This Gentleman Mr Ward was there present & will more perticularly Enforme your Lordship of all Passages & how other things are at present heer, I did oblige him to Wait upon your Honor & deliver this Letter himselfe My Lord he is a very Worthy deserving person & though perhaps some of them haue Represented him otherwise to you because he haue not bin a followed follower of their Hair braind' mad Extravagancies yet I dare vouch fot his Honesty & Loyaltie & can Assure your Honour *that* his interest & understanding is farre more considerable than any of those *that* haue made this noise & Hustle in *the* City

My Lord

Your most Humble
obedient servant

J: Houghton:

{folio 210 verso}

These
To *the* Honorable *the* Lord Paston
Att *the* Earle of Yarmouths' in the Pall Mall
London

present

My Lord

I really thought after your Lordshipp had promised his Grace the duke of Monmouth at Hampton Court ^{^that} wee should haue been dispatched and a 3^d parte accordingly: But meeting with an Excuse from m^r Attorney & solicitor generall their absolute refusall to act in this affaire: which semes to mee as if they thought themselves letter then the Judges who haue made orders Complied with & approved of the proposedly and your Lordshipp is satisfyed there is a concealed revenue: that I for my own part haue spent vpwards of 5000*l* and your Lordshipp sees the opinions of 2 able Lawyers that what wee desire is Loyall prudent & just: and if your Lordshipp did ~~xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx~~ any wayes doubt of their opinions I ____ haue the opinion of 5000*l* Lawyers if need were to the same purpose Wee haue hitherto pursued the direccions & Comands of the treasury & wee ahue spent more moneys to ____: Therefore I may I hope with out offense say It is hard to be rejected after all that: Therefore humbly desires your Lordshipps advise Whether wee should steere which way to remove these Letts: I would ere this haue applyed my selfe to haue had his Majestys most gracious bounty repeated to mee

But I did ^{^esteem} (& truly I beleive your Lordshipp resents) m^r Attorney and solisitors replys as evasiue {& not ____ to your Lordshipps and hopes soe honorable just and wise a Treasury: will not permitt his Majestys revenue to sleep ^{^permitt} good services to goe vnrewarded and Lett instead thereof permitt the discoverors to exhaust their own fortunes & estates & discourage all discoverys of like valuse I humbly begg your Lordshipps advice & rest

If the worke ____ his Lordshipp to giue his advise: desire a favorable report from the board: on that their Lordshipps Comand m^r Sollicitors opinion in writing

Madam

I am sorry my letter writt in haste should be so slowe a coming as I find by yours of the 30th, which I had the honor to receave by the hand of the hand fauorite of Norfolk, who I must bragg was our guesse, though to his Lordships sufferance in all kinds, I had mine in beeing depriued of the felicity of hearing his stories, beeing iust deaf as I was when you were in the country; two or three days after I heard again, and haue not bin so deaf till now, which in one more {^considerable} might be imputed to witchcraft, but I submitt to mortifications. Now in earnest Madam, I think my Lord came downe in the criticall time, and I wish from my harte that you and the kings grantchild with the ffather and mother (who I begg may find my humble servis) had bin all here to gather that you might haue seen with a generall disposition of kindness there was in the people to my Lord. I think you should do well to haue it told att courte as newse what a Louefitt the country is fallen into to my Lord of Yarmouth, but this not to come imediately from your self, but rather to seem coole in it. What passed at Yarmouth I shall not need to repeat the Canons were lowd enough to reach to London. Many thanks for the concern you had of my sonne and husband; In what

place soeuer they are, all the seruis

{folio 212 verso}

they are able of doeing is, but to whisper to all persons what worth, what will my Lord of will my Lord of Yarmouth is master of, with the sweetness and candide nature; truth and constancie to his friends, then preswade them to compare him to others, where they find the contrary uery transparent. My Lord hath not had the fortune to be knowne enough, but those that that his true Character, lett them refuse to loue him that can.

On Fryday Sir Phillip Woodhouse and Sir Jacob Astley with other gentlemen came on purpose to waite upon him. The Dean also with much respect who bro^ught a present of oysters; I expected diuers of a lower form who was desirous to come, but were kept of by a false Alarum that we were full by my Lord Townsend beeing here, and it seems he sayd some such thing to Mr Rawlins that he would haue mett here, had not the goute hindred him, and that goute was one reason I took to perswade my Lord to send, for I must confess Madam it was my fault if any, my Lords sending thether, but I am confident he will be no looser by it, but put the two Sir Johns to new consults. To goe himself had bin below him, but this sending

whilst he wore the lawrell on his browe is but ^{^to} triumph in a ciuill way. I could giue you more ~~møre~~ substantiall reasons, if fitt for paper but I hope you will belieue none Studys more my Lords and *your* Ladyshipps

{folio 213 recto}

Reputation then

Madan Your Ladyships humble seruant and kinswoman

M Bedingfield

My husband presents his humble seruis to *your* Ladyship

My Lord

This Earle of Manchester soone after his fathers death, gave deputation of the Swannery in Norffolk to one mr Fincham, On Satrday last, This mr Fincham (who is an honest worthy Gentleman & hath a great Honour for your Lordshipp) dyed att our Clubb, I acquainted him with your Lordshippes Deputation, & how your Lordshipp had disposed of severall things walkes, Hee answered, That hee would freely submitt all to your Lordshippes pleasure, & assigned (if occasion bee) to whomeuer your Lordshipp should nominate wee had a great deale of Discorse, butt treated with all friendship imaginable, For wee did not thinke itt for eyther of our Lords honors that there should appeare any manner of Clashing in this Concerne, Att the Assizes (as hee tells mee) (to Sir Henry Bedingfield & mr Tasburghs knowledge) hee endeavored to waite vpon your Lordshipp & to tender you the Choices of what parte of Norffolk your Lordship should thinke fitt, butt you were buisy with your Deputy Leivetenants & hee a Stranger, Soe that attempt failed.

My Lord, Hee had appointed on Monday next to goe downe the South {^Norwich} River before hee had any notice of your Lordshippes Deputation, Therefore in regard John Woodden could not goe, & that the tyme would bee lost wee agreed that hee or his Deputy should goe this Course & marke all the Swanns butt take vpp none, Sir Robert Yalopp told mee hee saw the Deputation to mr ffincham & takes itt to bee good for his life, butt mr Fincham complaynes of great Infringements vpon the Kings Game, & in particular, of one John Swann, who being imployed as an Officer sold the wholle Game of one walke to Sir John Hobart for 10: or 15*li*. This Swann (I heare) is one, Sir William Doyley is well acquainted with, Therefore your Lordshipp may please to speake with him about itt.

Sir Robert Yalopp privately told mee, That if your Lordshipp would please to dispose a walke towards Lynn or Marshland to this mr Fincham, (who lives att Outwell nere wisbitch) Itt would bee gratefull to him, I did assure mr Fincham that your Lordshipp did not knowe any thing of his Deputation, And that I was confident, if you had, That you would not have made Application to any other person without his privity & Consent, I must begg your Lordshippes pardon, that I have soe farr intermedled with your Lordshippes Concerne without your Comission, butt I was prompted to itt in regard itt came suddenly vpon mee & I thought your Lordshippes honor & Interest concerned to have things carried with all amicable Compliance.

{folio 214 verso}

My Lord, The Militia (I thinke) is not well enough settled as yett for a Generall Muster, butt if your Lordshipp please to comand the severall Comanders of horse & foote, That they compleate their Charge of horse & ffoote Armes, & that they appoint priveite Masters, assoone as conveniently they can, I thinke itt well very well fitt them for a generall Muster in the Spring. If your Lordshipp approves of this wee shall drawe vpp orders to this effect, & to save trouble (if your Lordshipp pleases) putt your hand to them. My Lord. If the Excise falls for Norffolk happens to fall to your Lordshipp's Lott, Itt must bee managed by fitter persons then those I yett heare make Application to your Lordshipp for itt, Therefore I desire your Lordshipp would promise noe body, Afterwards doe as your Lordshipp finds best.

My Sonne had an order from Dr Hughes about a weeke since for for sale of the Coale att Munsley. butt his head is soe disturbed with Scandalam Magnatum, as hee can settle to nothing. However hee shall waite vpon goe to him againe this weeke./

Norwich & yarmouth ~~Xxxx~~ coll__ may haue __ (if your Lordship please) to muster at their owne Conveniencyes, I am

your Lordshippes most devoted Seruant

Robert Doughty

{different hand}

The City & County of Norwich is not mentioned in your Deputation, which must be added, The Rivers from yarmouth to Lynne which parte Norffolk, from Suffolk Cambridgeshire & the Parishe of Ely, beinge now a deuided Game, is little worth, ____ Riuers on both Sides now in your Lordships Deputation, this would be considerable, & the ____ Game encreased, __ then if your Lordship please to let m_r ffincham haue the Walke next Wesbitch, It __ worth __ ____ the sooner your Lordship mooue in this, the better I beleeueth they are all now in m_r ffinchams deputation

John Woodden could not goe downe Norwich River in regard ~~XX~~ Buckhunting was not done./

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 217 Recto

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty

The humble Peticion of the Countess Dowager Yarmouth

That the late Earle of Yarmouth Peticioned for a hearing vpon the Case relating to the Greenwax ffines & Offices vpon assurance That your Majesty would have suffered it at large to be read & debated and hindred the Judges Attorney Generall & Officers interested to favor themselves to argue against the Proposals being acknowledged fitt remedys to free your Majestys Estate and prerofative and your Subjects from the innovated practices and Corrupcions of the Law: But your Majesty reflecting vpon the length of the Case as migatory or too long to be debated and permitted the Judges & Attorney Generall to argue as they did Encouraged them and discouraged the discoveror to maintaine his Proposals. And as the Opponents doe not stick to call my Lord a Projector for Countenancing it

The petitioner humbly beggs of your Majesty to appoint three or more Lords of your Majestys most honorable Privy Councillors as the Bishop of Canterbury Lord Privy Seale Lord President or others who doe not sell nor take money vpon Admicions to Offices to Report their Judgments & Opinions to your Majesty vpon the Paper annex: Or That your Majesty will be graciously pleased That a Proclamacion with a State of the Abuses _____ may be issued out to the Justices of Peace to sumon substantiall Jurys of Knights and Gentlemen to inquire at their next quarter Sessions in the respective countys Whether the Abuses be true and to retorne their Inquests And what they desire in Order to a reformatcion Also that such a Select number of Lords may supervise & see the Proclamacion and Abuses farely drawne. Then your Majesty will see clearely whether the Judges & Officers or the discoveror and such as Countenance hi Labour for your Majesty and Subjects interests

And the Peticioner shall ever pray &c

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 233 Recto

Norwich 18^o Aprilis 1683

Right Honourable & my very Good Lord

This daie Mr Maior acquainted the Court of Maioralty that he had received a Letter from your Lordship wherein you wer pleased to intimate that the City should indeauor to finde out a fitt person to be your Deputy Recorder here they haue made some Inquiry hereabout all readie & as yet can procure none I am comanded to signifie to your Lordship. that the Charter runns thus (that ther shall be a person Learned in the Lawes of this Realme Recorder of this City, & after are these wordes, et viterius Creamus et Constituimus per delectum et pertidilem Consanguin cum nostram Guilielmum Paston ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Cometum Jernemui__ esse Recordatoram pradioti Ciuitatis &c. but nor any Mention of your makeing a Deputy. If your Lordship shall thinke fitt to aduise herabout at London & to nominate a person to execute that Office for you, and if possible one that may Reside in this City it will be very agreeable to the Generalty of the Citie, for our Steward is misnamed in the Charter & scruples very much to act therupon for that reason so as your Lordship may see in what condition wee are, for wee cannot keepe a session without a Recorder or Steward, nor haue we had any this 12 monthes, & there are about 60^{ty} Quakers & others now in the Gaole of this City, & all process sleepe. your Lordship is humblie desired to take into your selfe & your selfe & your true Friends & seruants here what satisfaction may be in this Affaire you possible may can; which will most certainly tend to your greate Honor. Mr Maior & the Court present thier Seruices to your Lordship and I humbly begg your pardon for this Freedome with you. Beinge

Your good Lordships

Most humble & very Obedient Obliged seruant.

Tho: Corie

{folio 234 verso}

Theise

Right Honourable William Earle

{page cut off}moth at his House in

Pal-mal nere St Jeames

Palace

in Westminster

present

Madam; A Fall, which I had soon after I receiv'd your former Letter, Lam'd me, & disabled me from stirring any whether; till the King was ready to remove to Windsor; which was so busy a time with him, that I could not find a fitt opportunity to move him in your concern; nor can I forget, when I shall. I fear it may belong first; & then too, it is a Motion very improper for me to make, being a Matter which concerns the Kings Revenue; & so more decent to be mov'd by one of the Comissioners of the Treasury, or at least by some temporal Lord, or Secretary of State. I would be very ready to serve your Honor in what becomes me: But I would not willingly give the King Occasion to think, that I have lost, or forgotten my Way, while I intermeddle in a Case so remote, & improper to the Business, I am entusted with by Sim. And thus beseeching God to comfort you in your Sorrows, & to bless you with the spiritual Improvement of all your temporal Afflictions, I intreat you to take this my Answer in good part, as from

Madam,

Your affectionate Friend, & humble servant

W: Cant./.

Lambh. 11.Apr. 19th

1683

[FB - 39 Ch. 2.

Wm Sancroft.]

{folio 236 verso}

For the right Honourable, the Contess Dowager of Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 237 Recto

Yarmouth Aprill 30th 1683

Madam

It was my earnest desire to have answer'd yours at large by *the* Honourable Captain Paston, but his extraordinary Industry & care *which* has so farr as I can understand, been very remarkeable, has not yet been so happy as to give him *the* freedome of a returne to London tho I thinke has not nide follows broke from him after their en=gagements in his service his designe had ere this been near if not altogether accomplish't, But now I must beg your Honours pardon for my delay & defer *with* my further sentiments are to a more assur'd convenience, hw happy should I imagine my selfe could my Letters any way contribute to your satisfaction, but Madam your pious & Humble priniples evidence themselves so in yours, *that* I know not *what* can be needfull from me, nothing shews the true grandeur of a Christian Spirit so much as *the* patient bearing Afflictions, nor can any ordinarily be tryed by greater *than* yours & yet seeme you to breath out the very expresssion of *that* Miracle of patience Job, The Lord as none knows better *than* your selfe how nobly your Dear Deceasd Lord endeavour'd to deserve well of his Prince & Country or how like a Christian he re=sign'd his soul at last, so tis impossible for any to give better arguments for your submission to the rod of God, then you can give your selfe from those Considerations, Doubt not Madam but as all Honest Loyal persons judged it their interest to have enjoy'd longer the late noble Earle of Yarmouth among them & pray'd for *that* enjoyment, so they will continue their prayers to Almighty God for the happynes & prosperity of Your ffamily such persons are above the sordid flatteryes of *the* world & may count some *what* else worthy of their respects besides *what* the vulgar esteems *the* rising Sun for my part I make no question but his Majesty will yet find out those Honours for the Heirs of so diserving a ffather as may satisfy the

{folio 237 verso}

world *that* he understands & can reward a ffaithfulll ffriend & servant I am glad this Towne Militia as lately reform'd has receiv'd its confirmation from the present Lord Lieutenant, & hope it will allay *that* heat *which* the factious party exprest for making him Lord high steward, since their hopes of renew'd Commissions are now at an end, & certainly they will be asham'd of *that* ingratitude which prompted them to desert their owne Lord for a stranger, a short time will cleare *the* doubt,

& care will be taken *that* the factious party may not in all things have their minds,
But of these things enough at present, May God Almighty support & according to
your pious prayers sanctify his afflicting hand to you He is the widdows Husband,
the best Assistant & *the* truest friend, & whilst you Madam lift up your devout soul
onely to him Honour Love & contentment will be your undeniable portion, & tho
your expectations in somethings may haue fayld, the most rugged storms haue a
sudden end & much more easily may light or seeming clouds be dispersed & tho
your losse in an excellent Lord be extreame a numerous & hopefull Issue is a
blessing, an inheritance & gift *that* comes from God, whose goodnes is more
admirable in Continueing them to you, so many living Copyes of the dear Originall,
then his severity in removing *that* bilov'd Yoke fellow his mercy had before
provided for you, may every one of them even transcend their Honour'd fathers
Virtues, *that* the successe of your prayers for them may repress your present
griefs, that you may be long happy in them & they in You & both in *the* favour of
the Almighty shall ever be the earnest petition of

Madam

Your Honours

Most Humble & most obedient

Servant

L. Milbourne

{f.238 verso}

For *the Right* Honourable the Countesse Dowager of Yarmouth at her House in *the*
Pall Mall

Westminster

This

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 243 Recto

William Gostlin *Petitioner*
William Earle of Yarmouth
Rebecca Countesse Dowager
of Yarmouth Executors of Robert
Earle of Yarmouth deceased, *Defendants*

To the Right honorable Sir Francis
North *Knight* Lord Keeper of
the Great Seale of England

The humble *Peticion* of the *Petitioner*

Sheweth That *the Petitioner* haveing in Michas Terme last exhibited his Bill into the High Court of Chancery against the said Earle *deceased* and others *Defendants* for matters therein conteyned unto which Bill the said Earle in his life time appeared and put in a Plea which is undetermined and in as much as the said Earle soone after dyed *the the Petitioner* now haveing exhibited his Bill of Reviver against the said Debts his *Executors the Petitioner* cannot compell the said *Defendants* to Answer the said Bill by serving them with *subpoenas* being the ordinary provesse of the said Court untill *the Lordshipp* hath first directed your Letter to them desireing them soe to doe as is usuall to persons of their Quality,

Your Petitioner, therefore humbly prays *the Lordshipp's* Letter directed to them the said *William* Earle of Yarmouth and Rebecca Countesse Dowager to appeare in this Court imediately after receipt thereof to Answer *the Petitioners* said Bill of Reviver,

And *the Petitioners* shall pray

23 May: 83

F North G S

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 245 Recto

Most Honoured Lady

After my most humble service presented to you, these are humbly to beg your pardon if you doe not approve of what I have advicedly written, and approv'd of by Ingenious Gentlemen of great Ranke and quality, Madam I understanding the Lord was pleased to deprive you of that earthly happiness in taking away *the*: noble Earle so much by all bemoaned, I tooke my pen imediatly and writ with a zealous affection what is here inclosed. Most noble Lady I could not be admitted to you, by reasson of your servaunts, to deliver the inclosed as a testimony of free service due to my Lord deceased./

I formerly liv'd with Mr Anthony Bassett an Apothecary in the strand when my Lords title was Sir Robert Paston and liv'd in a great queen street./

If you please to bestow any thing on me I shall ever acknowledge and subscribe my selfe *your* Ladyships most humble and obedient servaunt

pray Madam if you doe not like what I have writt, be pleas'd to send it back by the bearer.

William Craigmyll

March 29 1683

{folio 245 verso}

For the Right Honourable the Countesse of Yarmouth att Her House in the Pall Mall

These

Humbly Present

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 247 Recto

London July 2^d 1683

My Lord

These are to acquaint yor honor *that* on ffryday being 22th June last I was sent for by my Lord Priuy seale, about the buisnesse *your* Lordshipp knowes of, and had the buisnesse Concerning the Plott hindred *the* buisnesse would haue Certeynly beene under Consideracion if nott finally determined before this tyme, there hath risen (as I am informed) some words betwixt y Lords Rochester & Priuy Seale *the* letter refusing the seale for *the* fully discharging *the* Manadgers for *the* six yeares last past, a Saturdye being 23rd ~~instant~~ June my Lord Privy Seale went *with* full instructions to acquaint the King Conuerning his refusall of *the* seale, butt that day the Plott Came under Examination *which* hath delayed any further pro=~~r~~gresse in that affayre, butt I am Certayne will bee the next thing that Comes on, itt is reported *the* King doth nott goe noe more for Windsor this summer, I am in hopes yor Lordshipp will bee the more Earnest in setling affayres in *the* Countrey to bee *present* att the settlement of this affayre, I am att *the* latter end of this weeke bound for the Bath butt shall nott Continew long theis, hauing promised to Come upp att *the* first sumons, soe hoping to find yor honor att London in some reasonable tyme, for I would nott willingly haue yor Lordshipp owte of Towne when *the* buisnesse

{continued down left-hand margin}

is in agitation this *with* or humble services presented is all att *present* ffrom

{folio 248 verso}

My Lord

Your Lordshippes most humble and most obedient servant

Wm James____

{different hand}

Sir

I thank you for *the* favor of your first when the ~~patents~~ deputation comes down the endeauor to accomodate Mr Sais I am much surprisd in your last to leaue *sir* John Clayton has made any propossitions to Coll Oglethorpe on my behalf *what* ever they are. I know nothing of them at first when this matter was proposd to you {^at newmarkett} I desird him to _____coll to know *what* my Lady Portsmouth would do in *the* thing, ~~scince that time~~ but never to make *the* least proposition scince *that* time I understood he had acted for me and relation of myne I ~~have~~ ~~de~~_____ {^would not} troubled him noe more in it therefore *what* propositions he makes is not for me I suppose I hauing lately done him some kindnesse to take him of he may of his own head __ since again but I desire *the* favor you to proceed in it and in forme Mr Oglethorpe *that* any proposition *that* comes from any other hand then your own is not by my order in pardoning this mistake I am not soe fond of *the* __

{folio 248 recto}

These

ffor *the* right Honourable William Earle of Yarmoth

present

Ag^t The 30: [FB - 1683 35 C 2.]

Sir

I haue made my humble adreeses To your majesty, by The Queen; her Majesty promissing me To moue your Majesty; in our Woodfarme concerns: That you would graciously be pleased To grant My Son Yarmouth; The honor To be Trusted with The managment, of The Farme: (Since it Tis not Your Pleasur To grant a Leass): we having Emproued The Farme from 4000: To 19000 a yeare, May be a good Reason besids many mor (if Your Majesty will Think) for my Son To haue {^The} Fauour of The Managing Part; and it being a Sepraited Farme: from any of The other of Your Majestys Customs: and it Consists of neare to Seuerall Comodetyes That pays Dutys: That it was Euer managed a part: and must always be so still: and Thos method, and ways we haue Tak on To manag: and Emproue The Farme by: are now called for by The Commissioner of your majestys custome: from our agents: To manag by Thos Ruls This Farme: Still by: I humbly beg and besech your majesty To Take it into your considerasion That you can make no mor of The Farme: by Taking it out of our hands: and puting it inot your comissioner, and if there a Creus, no profit: To Your majesty, by Changing of hands; Then it Tis onely; a Fauour; and whether we; or The Comissioner of The Customs Shall be Trusted. by your majesty To manag This Farme, and now if They and we are put into The Balance: I hope your majesty Kindnes To Your old Friends: Will waigh downe The Seale

{folio 251 verso}

I haue presumed To inclose My Lord Spech in Parlement, That The Dead; and Liuing My lay befor your majesty: What I hope may moue You Sir, To be gracious To This Famely: and I am Sure That You due in our cass, will in:Corage and Sture up: many of Your Subiect: To due great Seruis, when Thay Se you So gracious To us: I haue great hopes from your goodnes), when I call To mind; how graciously You were pleased To Speak in our cass To Lord Danby when he was Lord Treasur and put a stoop at That Time: from hauing The Reuersion giuen a way from us: Judging it a hard cass; and since Your majesty was was King. and it can into your hands, by The demis of your Brother, Your majesty has ben so gracious as to continue it. To mak is Liue comfortably: and your faouours are continued, in giuing my Son Yarmouth The honor of The whit Staf, and Looking Kindly upon me: and My Famely: and Saying also at The Treasury Bord: you would be Kind To The Famely: your majesty will haue now at michalmas 20000: a yeare come into your hands out of which I

hope your majesty will be most graciously pleased To consider me and my Famely I haue uery great need of Yout Fauour: for I haue

{folio 252 recto}

contracted debts of My own: Since I was a widow: becaus my Estat in Land: The Tenants cannot pay: Corn is so Low Prised in The contrys: and I want Suport for My qualety: My Lord Debts are not yet all Payd: altho we his Exsexetors: haue {^done} all That Lys in us :) my 2 younger Sons, are unprouided for: and haue nothing: but what fortunes There wifes Brought: Them): My Son Yarmouth; had, upon his marag: of madam Howard 3000 a yeare: The King gaue him as a barging upon marag: and her Son had The holl Estat Setled upon him: I need Say nothing hope To moue Your majestys Bounty and continued FauoursTo him; Since his marag: and 4 Children: and his being in your Majestys Seruis: and being a True Loyall dutyfull Subjet: all These Reasons will moue your majestys goodnes: and mercy and Justnes: To Take nothing from him: That The Lait King gaue him: in marag with his naturall Daughter: Sir your Majesty will haue 20000) a year now at m__ld: by this Farme and I beg your Fauour To me and mine: and you will neuer haue The Leas for giuing The Father Less and widow at The years End: becaus I am Sure god will mak it up To your majesty: in his Fauours & blessings on you and yours -- and now I {^am}

{folio 252 verso}

with beging your majestys Pardon for This Long Leter: but if I writ any Thing I must writ all This becaus my lass Requires it: I beg what you will due for me: and mine: upon my humble Request heare; you will graciously be pleased To declaire: as soun as may be: fir wee haue come neare: and I must now order my afair acording: as your Pleasur is Towards me: for I cannot Subsist but by Your Fauour; and I desire not To be hapy, if you due not Please To mak meso; god almighty blese your Majesty: and make your hart Kind To

Sir

Your Majestys

most Dutyfull and obedient

Subjct

Re: Yarmouth

Dowager

I further beg your majesty will consider: we haue neuer Lesoned The Reuengs of
The crowne: but: by many ways: by our Seruisis: increased them and set up The
Rits and Prerogitiue: many ways-

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 253 Recto

I haue considered the words spoken of the Earle of Yarmouth viz the Earle of Yarmouth doth conuerse with a Trimming whiggish Caball, and is a fir man to heade the faction, and I am of opinion that these words being spoken of a Peece of the Realme are Actionable principally for saying he is fit to heade a faction the former part being an aggrauation.

As to the other point I doe not soe much doubt the validity of the Kings additionall Grant which I desire to see, as the originall charter which by its constitution requires a Recorder to be learned in the Law and after I haue considered the last grant with the Charter I will ~~x~~ giue my Lord my thoughts of it.

JHolt

Sept 15. 83

[FB - 35 Ch. 2.]

My lord

Both your lordships letters came to this place whilst I was from home (as I have beene more a month) in the Isle of Ely & Lincolne Shire & have been but out day returned where I take my penn to answe^re your two Questions. Ist In my opinion these words spokken of your lordship (The Earle of Yarmouth converses with a whiggish Caball & is a fitt men to head a faccion) are Scandalous taken all together but especially the latter words against a noble man will bee scandalous & dishonourable within the statute which will not beare an accion in the cass of a common person But forasmuch as they doe not alledge positively that you doe head any faccion but onely that you are a fitt man for it there may bee some doubt of the words Therefore you may threaten at present & __ us consider at the tearms as now to have a tryall next Assises. The words must bee proved to a _____ without any variances from the very letters in which they are layd in the Accion In the 2^d place. I conceive the King may by a charter a part impowre a recorder to make a deputy for some ministeriall things but if hee bee a judge by his lace & intrusted with judiciall matters of right & law I conceive - I conceive this question relate_ to ___ recordership of Norwich concerning which I wish your _____ vouch safed mee to have counco^{^e}lled you before you were passed the charter - It had beene better you had had _____ placeing & nominating the Recorder then troubled your self with the officer I know the experiences thereof & how

{continued down left-hand margin}

ungratefull corporacions & numbers of people use to bee & how soone they forgett a benefaccion - I wish your lordship find the Norwich euen better condicioned then I have known others corporacions to bee which with my humble duty to your lordship is all from (My lord)

your lordships most faythfull servant

W Thursby

Abington by Northampton

25. 7ber. 1683.

{folio 256 verso}

These

For *the* right honourable the Earle of yarouth

pp

leave this at *the* Countesse of yarmouths house in *the* pell=mell to be sent as
above directed

London:

26 sept . 1683

May it please your lordship

I haue with all the judgment I can considered the question and I see nothing can hinder your lordship from taking a man skilled in the law to the Bench with you, and owning what he sayeth or doeth as said and don by your selfe. I think this a good expedient to stop the mouth of their petition yet your lordship hauing made soe publick a motion for the keeping of sessions methinkes that should do it without the other but if the Major do send and joyne with your lordship to warne a sessions I conceiue that a safe and faire method to proceed by, but why without the Major's joyning after your publick motion your lordship should further concerne yourselfe about the sessions I see noe reason: I must owne it my sence at the thing that your honor giue timely notice to the lord Keeper of what you haue don towards the keeping of the sessions and when the fault lys, desiring his lordships advise; Good my Lord send for Mr Work-house and consult him. if your lordship write to my lord keeper pray my lord slip in my name and tell his lordship ^{^know} how gratefull I am and lett mee beg your lordships thanks to him on my behalfe.

My lord I must needs interceed with earnestnesse for that poor Ras-call Tenison pray hartily lett mee haue order from your lordship to gett him discharged: he can neuer suffer enough but if he hath suffered to make himself sensible of his fault as I veryly beleiue hee be pleased good my lord to think it enough. My most humble service to my lady and to my lord Paston with Mr Jasper I am

your lordships

most obsequious servant

Jo Hildeyard

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 259 verso

October 30th 1683

My Lord

These to be to acquaint your Honor that the bearer here at ___homes Cotes Esquire is Landlord to Peeter gill who haue Mr _____ bill of 40^l vpon me when at 20^l is payd and the _____ 20^l which is due upon the said bill peeter gill haue a signed ouer to his LandLord Mr Cotes for Rent due to him which 20^l I haue promised shall be payd to Mr Cotes or order by your Lordshipe with in six days after sight of your Lordshipe if not it will be much to the pregeduce of Peeter gill and of him who is

your Lordshipe Mooste dutyffull youre seruant Till dearth

Rich Killy

My Lord

I for gat to acquaint your honor that Mr Cotes haue the bill

{folio 260 recto}

These

ffor The Right Honorable william Earle of yarmouth at the Countice Dowager yarmouthes house in the peell Meell Humbley

present

London

22^o Nouembers 1683

Mr Attorney generall beinge attended by Mr Ward a Clerke in the Crowne office to know his resolucⁱon concerninge the fyleinge an Informacⁱon against William Hellwas Esquire Mayor of The Cittie of Norwich and others Justices of the peace here for nott keeping their Sessions according to the Statute and for nott takeinge the oathes according to the Statute of the 25th of the Kinge, mr Attorney sayd that he had discoursed the Lord keepers concerning that matter, and that his Lordshipe tould mr Attorney, that he had wrote an Exprese to the Mayor of Norwich requireinge him to keep the Sessions, and that the Lord Keeper desired mr Attorney to for beare the persecucⁱon ~~xxx xxx xxx~~ and yf the Mayor & Justices of Norwich would nott keep their Sessions, the Informacⁱon should be presented, And fot this Cause mr Attorney refused to consent that the Informacⁱon should be presented ~~xxx xxx xxx~~

Att whic^h tyme I was present

wittnes my hand

Jo: Nicholls

{different hand}

His I see signed

_____ Nicholls

_____ Hen: Crome

Madam

I discovered to Sir Robert Cleyton & the Recorder how the Exchequer officers cheated the Citty by Composicions of fines & forfeitures in their Charter. Its purely the Kings prerogative to pardon and Compound for his Majesty in powers the Barons to Compound by A domant privy Seale. And Because Sir Robert Cleyton and m^r Recorder pressed the invalidity of their Grant if the Barons should Compound and that it was necessary to forestall all Composicions: I am afraid they cannott in point of Law enjoyne it: and that they haue noe way But to depute some body to way ly the officers of the Exchequer and receiue the Composicⁱon moneys for the Citty vs which they are now & will otherwise ever be deceiud of: I haue sent methods for Sir Robert Clayton to peryse: and they cleare this cheat putt vpon the Citty by the Kings officers: I haue explained all things that m^r Attorney Generall pretended was difficult if Sir Robert Cleyton approve thereof: I would haue your Ladyship haue them back from Sir Robert or I will make your Honer another Coppy to shew to the Attorney Generall before Wee press him for his report: pray Good Madam press Sir Robert Cleyton to grant vs some good share in this discouery of all the money which I shall

{continued down left-hand margin}

bring in vpon Composicⁱon moneys: for sir Robert convesed he could never haue imagined it: had not I explained it to him

{folio 269 verso}

Your Ladyships Most humble servant

P Brunskell

Madam

Mr Hewcombe the printer hath sent mee the Case and will not printe it Because if disobligeth the Judges and they are his benefactores Hee would not have my Brother appeare in it for he is of opinion they will doe mee some mischeife vpon a suspicⁱon: But your Ladyship cannot be hurt if any other doe it: If your Ladyship resolve on it: Some of the private printers in London will doe it any stationer can gett in done: I writt to my Lord Rochester: But his Lordship seems to scruple the doing it: I am troubled at it Because I know its the greatest peice of policy in the world to write after the manner I advised for then it will be demonstrated to the king that my Lord Hyde for some for some private _____ will not doe his Majesty business: Howeur I submitt it and I begg of your Ladyship to spurr on my Lord peterborow to _____ my Lord Hallfax what his Lordship and my Lord Radnor haue resolved; also to gett an Appointment for mee to informe his Majesty where our business sticks and vpon a setld discourse therof with any one of his Majestys Councill before his Majesty will knock all oposicⁱon dead: I am ready vpon minutes warning to waite on your Ladyship in the interim I cannott see that my attendance will availe any thing: But I will doe any thing that your Ladyship adviseth to be done by

Your Ladyship most obedient servant

P Brunskell

Thursday 10 al most

Madam

This evening an old acquaintance of myne who was very instrumentall in My Lord danbys being Bayld sent mee word That his Lordship was a whole houer with the King and another with the duke That mrs Gwym was rallying as She vsd with his Majesty at mr Chiffaches and his majesty smartly reproved her and when she asked when his Majesty would call a parliament His Majesty asking her who putt her vpon the inquiry She replied my Lord Rochester: If these things be done Its necessary to giue my Lord danby a Case with the pel_____ & Letters and between his Lordship and my Lord Hallifax Your Ladyshipp will gather how to Steere {^And} If ~~whether~~ and their advises agree {^not} & which to follow I am Confident now's our tyme to be vpp and doing: But wee must ask waryly and trust noe farther then wee haue apparent demonstrated to beleiue wee shall be faithfully dealt withall: If your Honor have any materyall things to Lett mee ~~know~~ know I can sound thereby what measures to take & how to inquire among my friends: for I am diligently & honestly busyed & I hope in God The end will succesfully Crown my honest endeavor

Your Ladyships most humble and obedient Servant

P Brunskell

14th february 1683/4

{folio 274 verso}

ffor the Right Honourable the Countess Dowager Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 275 Recto

{Hand of Rebecca Paston}

The Judgis haue a offisir in court: To kep a check, for Thaire Fees: and To Reserue
The mony upon Euary prosedings, befor any Thing be don, for The Party:

Mr Brunskell desire The king may haue The Same {^ athority}: for his Fines and
a'mersements: payable upon Euary prosedings:

Whitehall. 20. Feb. 1683/4

My Lord

The Bearer Mr Stebbing late Sheriffe of Norwich adressed himselfe last week by humble Petition to His Majesty in the words herewith enclosed; His Petition was read before His Majesty in the presence of his Royall Highnesse, and those other Lords that use to attend Him upon Speciall Services in this Office My Lord Keeper did give a very ample Testimony of the Loyalty of this Citizen, and of his firme adherence upon all occasions to the King's interest and gave His Majesty a prospect of the danger of utter ruine that he and his wife and Children are in, if your Lordship should prosecute him to ann Issue of the action, you have brought against him. His Majesty being well informed not onely by my Lord Keeper, but by other Lords _____ faithfull this alderman hath _____ to His Majesty and how usefull _____ to my Lord your father _____ in order to bring the _____

{folio 277 verso}

to surrender their Charter (wherin that noble Earle shew'd all the application and zeal possible,) hath comm^manded me to let you know that it is His gracious Sense, and recomm^menda-tion, that your Lordship should dismisse and for-give this Alderman, for that His Majesty will Suffer sensibly if that advantage be given to His adversaries, that they Should be able to point out some of His Majestie's owne friends that are worried and ruined one by another afar all the Demonstrations of their Duty and Loyalty to Him. Mr Stebbing (when He was the Honour of accesse to your Lordship) will I am perswaded use those submissions towards you as will give your Lordship full satisfaction (excepting that he must alwayes deny that _____ he speake the words that are sworn _____) and he will also behave him-selfe for the future, as if you had given _____ and fortune to himselfe & _____ This I have in command

{folio 278 recto}

To write to your Lordship, and have nothing to add besides the assurance of my being.

{different hand}

My Lord

your Lordships

most humble and most obedient Servant,

L Jenkins

May it please your Lordship

On Thursday last at our Comon counell then held we gayned an Ordinance for disfranchising about 100 whigs therein named vnlesse they prove their baptism by certificate from the Register or by affidavit within 28 daies (which we beleive very few of them will be able to doe) This when first proposed was opposed only by two Aldermen But when the names were read, & perceived to be all of the Whiggish side it received more debate, but being put to the question not above ten voted against it, This ordnance will we doubt not make the Loyall side much the strongest

My Lord your Lordships lettre to Sir Thomas Medowe (he tells vs) doe's not mention the the Quo warranto is sent for, But we notwithstanding hope that your Lordship ha's wrote for it & that it will shortly come to your hands, We are resolved to vse our interest (& doubt not but with Successe) to resign this Corporacion to his Majestys Service & doe beg your Lordships speedy assistance therein which will for ever oblige

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble servants

George Worth }
Bailiffs

T, Godfrey

{folio 280 verso}

These

To the Right honourable William Earl of Yarmouth at

Oxnead

present

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 281 Recto

May it please your Lordship

Our fears that Some of our members were Seduced by the adverse party, made vs give your Lordship the trouble of Sending for a Quo warranto, which we now are convinced we did not need; for this day at our great Comon councill we over came the imaginary difficulty with great odds, and obteyned the inclosed Order for the Surrendring our Charters, which we pray your Lordship will make the best vse of for his Majesties Service and our advantage, But our poverty and the great charges of our pier and harbour, which (our act for maintaining our pier being near expired) farr exceeds our revenew, obliges vs to obey of your Lordship that the best method may be made vse of for preventing charges, Wherefore (if it may fully answer his Majesties Service and not otherwise) we should be glad of an instrument for Surendring Such part of our franchises, as his Majesty pleases to demand, as was tendred to London, But that we Submit wholly to his Majesty.

As to the Ship and the people pretendedly designed for Bremen, we have taken Such care as that we doubt not to prevent their imbarcking here, and if any of them fall into our hands, Shall deal with them according to their demerits; We tender your Lordship our humble Service and wishing you health and prosperity remaine

Your Lordships most humble Servants

George _____ } Bailiffs
J. Godfrey }
Thomas Medowe :/
Thomas Gooch :/
Abraham Castell
Thomas Bradford
Jeffry Ward
Robert Huntington
John : Castell
Gabriell Ward

Yarmouth March 21 1683/4

{folio 282 verso}

These
To the Right honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at
Oxnead

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 283 recto

Temple 8th April: 84

My Lord

I vnderstand that the Charter of Yaremouth is now designed to be surrendred It now consiststs with your Lordshipps Interest to make your owne Termes, & have an advantage to make them more considerable to you I beg your Lordshipps Pardon for this advertisements conserning their new Charter which they now expect & your Lordshipp hath now an opportunitie to improve the advantage before the passing of the new Charter If I may be servicsable to your Lordshipp in this particular I shall be ready as I have alwaies approved my selfe.

My Lord

Your Lordshipps most humble servante

Thomas Primatt

{folio 284 verso}

To the Right Honourable William
Earle of Yarmouth att
His Seate att
Oxnead neare
Norwich

Whitehall 5 Aprill /84/

My Lord

I have in Command from His Majesty, after the reading of Your letter to him in the presence of severall Lords attending on him, to desire Your Lordship to let the Bailiffs and the rest of His Loyall Subjects of Great Yarmouth know, that he accepts very graciously of the Resolution in Common Councill upon the 21th of the last Month.

His Majesty taking notice of the duty and Affection wherewith the Major Party of the Common Councill proceeded in Order to a Surrender, hath commanded me to send Your

{folio 285 verso}

Lordship two severall Formes or Precedents of a Surrender. That of Norwich You are already {^acquainted} with, and it is a Surrender of the whole Corporation That of Bristoll is a Surrender of the Governing part only. This last may be an answer to the malicious Surmises that are spread abroad, as if the King had a designe upon the lands & other Estate of the Corporation. His Majesty is willing to descend to the doeing of all that is in His power in. Order to the cureing of soe senseless a Jealousy; but the way to lessen the Charges will be by an humble motion to His Majesty after that the Surrender is made that the new Charter

{folio 286 recto}

may pass all the Offices & Seales at half Fees, or such other proportion as His Majesty shall think fit, but Your Lordship may please to take notice that that reckoning is commonly enflamed by the Attendants upon the Surrender and the Sollicitors of the new Charter; more then by the Offices You will please to take care that in the Instrument of Surrender none of You the Commissioners enabled by the Common Councill to make it, be named by Your names. Let it be the Act of the Body Corporate in and {page damaged}

{folio 286 verso}

the name by which they plead and are impleaded. The Order of Common Councill is Commission sufficient to Your Lordship & others that are to deliver the Surrender to His Majesty. I am

My Lord

your Lordships

most humble and

most obedient Servant

L. Jenkins

[FB? - ? Sec. of State]

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 287 Recto

Norwich April 25: 1684

My Lord

the Businesse was this day Carryed but with great pains & Industrye for old Briggs who I went to in your name told me flatly he was directly against it, but since your Lordship was soe earnest in it he would not oppose, but absent, & would be soe far from meddling that he would Leave his owne son at Liberty & soe he did, for I thin Carryed his son Nick: Cocke & Warde to the taverne & Engaged them all to vote Right which they did, and after all it was Carryed in the Commons whether the Question should be put or not by two voices onely but when it came to the Generall vote there it was Carryed by aboue two to one; Sheriffe Warkehouse & Captain Sheldrake haue bin very carefull & steady in this Matter. as soon as it was las___ the Assembly voted that Mr Stebbing should come up with it which Could not be fairly opposed, he haue bin very zealous to get this accomplished I am sure to the utmost of his Lower & many of his old friends did oppose him very obstinately & Could by noe means be brought off not soe much as to absent & declared they had Rather he should perish then they would Ever Consent I doe not doubt but your Lordship will shew him some favour which I know your Honour & Goodnesse & Clemencye will prompt in particular; as well as to Endeavour the Generall Leace of the City; Mr Cecill ~~xxxxxx~~ presents his service to your Honour & ~~xx~~ will write by the Love at Large soe I am

Your Lordships mosy faithfull & Humble servant

the votes amongst the Commons were for a vote 22: against a vote 20: for the lossing 40 against it 19:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 289 Recto

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie

The Humble Petition of the Countesse Dowager Yarmouth.

Sheweth. that your Majestie was graciously pleased to grant one moyety of your Ancient duty of Herriotts and Releifes to the present Earle of Lindsey for Collecting and paying the other oyety to your Majestie being very Chargeable and troublesome to Collect: Because the Estates whereout ot ariseth. Lye farr distant and remote one from another: That his Lordship hath resigned his Interest therein to the Petitioner. And your Majestie euer graciously declared it was your Pleasure to make the Peticoners condition easy.

To the end Therefore That your Majesties Revenue may be advances when your Royal bounty is distributed; The Peticoner humbly beggs the like Grant to her mucatis mucandis was Passing to the said Earle of Lindsey by your Majesties warrant or Signe Manuall annexed .

And the Petitioner shall euer Pray &.c.

{different hand}

Att the Court att Whitehall

May 1th 1684 [FB - 36 C2]

His Majesty being graciously disposed to gratify the honourable petitioner in her request is pleased to refuse the consideracion thereof to the right honourable the Lord Commissioners of the Treasury, to report what his Majesty may fitly doe in it, whereupon his Majesty will declare his further plea

Sunderland

{different hand}

Whitehall Treasury Chambers 9^o May 1684

The Lords Commissioners of his Majestys Treasury are pleased to reform this Peticon and warrant _____ to Mr Atturny Generall who is desired to consider the same And to Report his opinion to their Lordships what is fitt to bee don therein

Hen: Guy:

{folio 290 recto}

{different hand}

I haue considered of this petition and of the warrant annext And doe conceiue a grant upon such warrant will bee good in law for such Heriots and reliefs that belong to the king which are not in lease, those arising ot of any of the Manners belonging to the Crowne which are in lease being contented in such leases, I doe conceiue that the trouble in Collecting and Recouering of those dutyes will bee soe great that A moyety may bee but a just recompence the other moyety to bee Accepted for yearely upon oath

R Sowyer

13 May 1684

{folio 288 verso}

these

To the Right Honorable the Earle of Yarmouth

present

St philip & Jacob: 84

Madam

I shall not venter to speak of the great Closs my Noble Lord hath latly Mett with all, but till your honour that of his Lordshipp had come to Yarmouth he had been received with very great respects from two Counties at Earsham I was surprizd with 40 or 50 most Gentlemen on horsback most of them were with his Lordshipps Coach to Bungey wheare that night I Lodged, the Master of the house would haue nothing to pay but haue put that Reckoning vpon Mr Bayliffe Godfrey that was, which I refused & paid him his Bills which makes his Lordshipp & Grynners fall short of clearing the Scores to Yarmouth, I received Ten but the Man of Litlebury had two for his postillion horse, & I desired Mr Brand to goe from Bury before to Yarmouth to ex-cse his Lordshipp he cal'd at Sir Neville Catelynes vpon Thursday Morning wheare he Mett Dr Hildeyard & severall Gentlemen & clergymen preparing to waite vpon the charter at Hadsco- Dam. wheare about two of the clock I came, & there was the New Major Captain Ward & severall new Aldermen. they defer'd the charter because my Lordship after was theare I opened the Case & gaue his Lordshipp the charter to giue the Major desireing him the rest

{folio 291 verso}

{^remember} they received theare new Charter from the young Lord. who I did not doubt but would be a great person able to serve theare Corporation, theare was betweene 3 400 horsemen. 6 Coached went to Yarmouth Sir Henery Bacon Sir Thomas & Major Allen his son mr Anguish, Captain Basporle Mr Veses & most of the Gentlemen of the Isleband Alderman Freeman & others from Norwich with Mr page, & his son, purposely to wait vpon my Lord. neare & in the Towne three times 46 gunns were dischargd, all the Towne in Aclamations the Bells ringing Musicque, & such a Noise I never heard or saw theare before: my Lord Paston went into the Coach, & carried the charter till it was sent for & Staid in the hall till he had an oportunity to take his leave of the Major & then with Mr Cruso Mr Mico & his Tutuir went out of Towne with Mr Call to Maultby, at which place he received the sad Newes, it was not thought fit to let him know it sooner, I staid at the earnest desire of Mr Major & others till the charter was read & the new Aldermen & Common Councillmen were Sworne, & then Supd with them at the Mayers at a great Entertanement & Saw the Bonfires which top 5li a price then wee went to

Bayliffe Godfreys wheare was Danceing & *the* Lyn Musique. I am earnestly desird to dine this day with *the* Major but because I promisd to call at Maultby with *the* Coach to waite vpon my Lord Paston I shall goe away this forenoone. Berny is reprievd till this day Sennet, *the* reason is *said* to be because he had soe sudden a Tryall. Major de Grey & Sir John Rous devide 17 or 1800li a yeare betweene them & my good Lady Knyvett getts Nothing. I hope *your* honour will excuse me to his Lordshipp if I haue not time to write to him:

Your honours most obedient humble *Servant*

Matt Peckover

Coulston june 30th 1684

Maddam

I humbly returne my thanks to your Ladyshipp for the honour of your kinde & obligeing lettre: wherein you are pleasd to mention a thanks much about what I deserue for sending your Ladyshipp your deare Lords picture, was but hat injustise could not be denyed to soe nere a relation, & in my circumstance, I should expect the like from another, without thinking ~~thinkeing~~ my selfe {^obliged} to make any such returne as your Ladyshipp has done in your Noble present, & hope youl beleue I had noe such expectation, or end for what I did: it contents mee much that your Ladyshipp is soe pleasd with my offering, & being sensible (by my owne sad condition) that such a memoriall is ~~must~~ be always gratefull, for I can as justly lament my losse, as any bodye, & can easily beleue what your Ladyshipp says of your afflictions, I pray God wee may both submit to his hand in all things for these are tryalls of

{folio 293 verso}

the Rightest nature to those that haue sence, indeed I am wholly of opinion & speake with knowlde in my owne particular, that a better wife then mine was not in the World, & I canot thinke lesse of your deare Lords goodnes, who abounded with such excellent parts, & Nature. I will not hold your Ladyshipp any longer with these descorses, which I haue reason to thinke may be troublesome, but will conclude with my humble repeated thanks, for your lettre, & present, adding my praiers for your true consolation, & that God in his goodnes will bestow on your Ladyshipp his spiritall, & temporall blessing which are heartily wishd you by

Maddam

Your Ladyshipps faithfull & most obedient humble ___ servant

Miles Stapyleton

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 296 recto

Madame

The Present Hurry of my Indispensable _____, keeps me an Absolute Slave: and without one moment that I can Call my Own.

My Horses are butt out till next Wednesday: but However, I shall take the ffirst opportunity of Sending to mr Brunskield: and if possible, This Week too though it should be at Midnight.

I have no Place for *that* most Necessary offices of Justice, Duty, & Good manners: I should otherwise, more Particularly Acknowledg the Sense I have of the Honour I do at this Present, and have ever upon all Occasions, Received from *your* Noble Family: and Peculearly, with what Veneration all your virtues, and generous Qualityes are Considered

By Madame

your Ladyshipps

most humble and obedient *Servant*

Robert L'Estrange

February 11. 1684/5

Machlin february 24 1684

Mr Reeves

I have Receivd *your* kind letter and thank you for all ^{^your} kindness but I am mightily ashamed you have had soe much trouble with ~~my~~ the beasts; ~~Ed~~ ^{^Sir} I am Almost distracted to hear the mair is dead; if it wer my own it would not move me the least, and what to say to my brother Yarmouth I cannot Imagine, I am soe afraid he will be apt to think some ill thing of me; Dear Mr Reeves because I would preserve my credit unspotted I beseech you make ^{^it} *your* buisnes to acquaint my brother Yarmouth of it and lett him know that I

{continued down left-hand margin}

could not doe more in that affair to serve him then I did how-ever the event has proved unlucky yett I am sure therupted noe trouble or pain to serve him, and if you will write to him be-fore you send over the storehorse whither he will have another

{folio 298 verso}

^{^mare} bought to send over with him or how he will have the affair orderd, and desire his speedy answeare and in the mean ^{^while} because Mr Hanbury Complains of the stable pray lett the horse be sent to the Hague under Mr Hanburys eye; Lett my brother ^{^know} what an honest Gentlemen Mr Hanbury is and his skill in horseflesh and make my excuse as well as you can Dear Mr Reaves I wish you a good Journy into England, {deleted} *sir* if you have bought those things I desired you be pleased to take care they be safe convey to Oxnead and lett me know what all comes to and I will order *your* money *Sir*

Your Affectionate humble Servant

Thomas Paston

{folio 299 verso}

A Monsieur

Monsieur Reeves:

Marchant Angloise

a Sa maison sur ~~Ma~~ la

Rivage des heren a

Rotterdam

After my hearty Commendations, Whereas his Majestie is Informed that you George Robinson doe manage that part of the Duty upon Sea Coules exported Which was demised to Horation Lord Townsend, And that you William Jackson & Thomas Broderick doe manage the dutyes upon Smales pottashes and Barrillia Imported and Exported which were demised to the Earle of Kinnoule since deceased, And that you Joseph Dawson William Waterson and Henry Loades do manage the Duty upon sale Imported under a Lease to Sir Roger {^Thomas} Strickland and that you the said Joseph Dawson William Waterson and Henry Loades doe mannage the dutyes upon ____ Wood. Glass stone Earthen Ware &c. Imported, which were demised to the late Lord Yarmouth since deceased, And that you Richard Griffin {^doe Manage} the duty upon Lamperns Exported which was demised to Mr Woodyeare and Mr Chandler and that you Mr Waterson doe mannage the Duty upon Coach horses under a Lease Which was granted to or for the late King's Coachmen. Now these are to signify to you that it is his Majesties express Will and Pleasure that you and every of you doe forbear to pay any of the moneyes in your handes which you have Collected or Receivd for the said late Majestie or anny of the moneyes. which you shall hereafter severally collect or Receive for or upon Accompt of the said Dutyes or anny of them unto the said Patentees or Farmers or to anny person or persons that doe severally and respectively keep in your hands all such moneyes - so Received or to be received untill you Receive his Majesties directions for the payment thereof Whereof you are not to fayle as you will answer the Contrary dated att the Treacy Chambers in Whitehall this 18 March 1684/5

Rochester

To my very Loving Friends mr Geo: Robinson Mr William Jackson mr Broderick mr Joseph Dawson Mr William Waterson. mr Henry Loades & Mr Richard Griffin

{folio 301 verso}

Copy of the Lord Treasurers Order for no payment of Any Monies Collectors on the Petty ffarmers untill farther Direction

April 6. 85

Right Honourable

I had not been thus long before I had returned your Honour my most humble thanks for your great piety expressed to the Church & your undeserved favour designed to and in your soe freely & unexpectedly promising an augmentation to Paston Vicarage when you were last at Oxnead & in your returning the whole great tythes to the Church in that order, of the 8th of the last month, but that an obedience to your command I dared not write till I could meet with a safe hand, which I could not do till now: but now I hope I have since which of March 8th, I understand by Mr Sturton, that your honour is very desirous of settling all the great tythes of Paston upon the Church by Law & that Speedily to. Upon his acquainting me with this, I thought I could not but in gratitude let your honour know the true state of the business, which I suppose at present your honour does not fully apprehend. Your honour have let the great tythes of Paston by leas to your Tenant Bacon together with all the seaven years beginning at Michelmas ^{^last} for an hundred & fifty pound a year all together. Not for soe much for the tythes by themselves, & for soe much for the land by itself, but tythes & land for an hundred & fifty pound a year undistinguished. Now being your honour cannot part the tythes & land without making voyd the leas, & being they that have ^{^had} the Farm, have had the tythes too, it will be very hard for your honour to find a Tenant unless great tythes & land go together still. So that your honour, if your pious resolution continue may give 30. or 40^l, a year, or what you pleas to the Church of Paston (the great tythes of Paston haveing been reputed thirty of forty pound an year) dureing your own life, but longer you cannot assured now bind your Posterity to any thing of this kind. Which gift

{folio 302 verso}

of your honours, be it more of less, (for I mention 30, or 40^l a year, because I understand your honour makes it a piece of conscience to have the whole great tythes, or the value of them returned to the Church) you may continue for your own life, which is the longest you can do it, without making any settlement by Law which was to be done by a Lawyer & so will the more endanger (contrary to your earnest desire) the making the thing public Your own rent is payd ^{^half} yearly at Midsummer & Christmas, & your honour may order the money you shall pleas to give in lieu of the great tythes, to be payd half yearly at those or any other times, but the first payment cannot well begin before Midsummer next. Thus

much I could not but acquaint your honour with, & think when your Honour considers how things stand, you will have no trouble of conscience upon you. Nothing more being possible for you to do, than what I have now mentioned. But I begg leave to add, that your honours singular piety is such, that I could not content my self without publicly & Solemnly ex-pressing my thancks to my uttermost upon all occasions to all men, did not you command the con-trary. NOr would my deepest private acknowledgement satisfy me, which I now humbly return you, but that a perfect compliance with your command ought (& shall too, exactly) tho with never so much uneasy-ness to my Self, be for ever yielded by me. But tho I am obliged to Suppress the great force of ~~my~~ gratitude, & keep it from the knowledge of men, yet I shall never ceas to importune God to recompense your great & pious charity, & to remit that to Slack performance here of, if he has been

{folio 303 recto}

displeased thereby, as you out of your admireable tenderness of Gods rights enjoyn me. If it were possible I should add as much to in the care of your parish, as you {^ have} done to my maintenance. The books & papers I received from your honour were very acceptable to

Right Honourable

Your most humble & most obliged servant

R Harey

{folio 303 verso}

These present

to the Right Honourable

Rebecca Countess

Dowager of Yarmouth

Right Honourable,

Comparing the letter and order which Mr Rawlins brought with the letter I since recieved, it sees to me your Honor thinks the Tythes are payable at lady and Michaelmas as farm rents commonly are but that is nothing so: for tythes are only due at harvest vnles they be sold or leas'd, as they now are, and then they are due at such times as are agreed vpon. Those tythes beinf leas'd with the farm for seuan years from Michaelmas 1684 the times of payment are the same which the Tenant had by the former lease, which are Midsummer and Christmas; so that till the next Midsummer there is nothing due for the year now runninge from Michaelmas last, By which is euident here is no cause for your ladyship to complain of delays or Demurs; for truly I am as willing to aduance the business as any can be: but no Tenant can be com-peld to pay before the rent be due. As for drawing vp any thinge in form of law for Mr Haruey's security, I take it to be to no purpose in this case, for no body is able tp hinder it or make it void but your Honor: and it is not imaginable you will make void what you dedicate to God with so Great desire. If such a Deed was needfull, then must I acquaint some third person with the busines, who has still to draw the Deed: but in this case I shall not communicate it to my own son: for when I am enioyn'd a Secret, I trust no man, I haue had much discourse with Mr Haruey concerning the Deed, but he declines it altogether. Mr Baispools busines Giues me very Great trouble, to think how hard it is to raise such a summe of mony amongst all the tenants in a short time though lady day be past, I haue sundry motiues to see him paid, but the ten pound is none of them, for I am resolu'd not to take a peny at this time. The chief motiue to me is the Abominable noise this busines would make in that part of the country, if it should be known that the farm rents of Basingham and Gresham are in Morgage; as needs it must be known, if Mr Baispool should send to the Tenants for those rents, their being no man so mad as to pay a stranger, till they see his Authority. Besides, the whole lady rent of those two Mannors, if it might be all paid, which I'm sure it will not be, does not reach the summer for which those rents are Motgag'd by ^{^neer} thirty pound, so that the Morgage must continue till Michaelmas rents come due, if I should not vndertake it; this is another Motiue. Then, those are some in those parts that pretend a Great kindnes to this Family, who, I am sure would be Glad at heart to see this Noble Family reduced to such hard Terms as to Morgage the rents. I shall be very sory their secret malice should be so Gratified. For preuention whereof I procur'd a hundred pound for Mr Baispool, which was paid him last friday: and for the rest he has an Assignment vpon four ^{^Paston} people that are in Arrear, so he dd. me out the morgage with a full discharge on the back of it. Here's an vn lucky accident happened in paston by the death of our Claydon who

died some years sinc and by his last Will diuided his estate amongst his kindred, *which* estate, owes to *the* Mannor of Paston three comb and two pecks of rent barly yeerly, and two shillings in money, besides 10d 1/2 to the Mannor of Edingthorp, *which* rent berley and money was constantly paid me for the time I dealt for that estate, as it was to Dick Kilbey for diuers yeers: but now the estate being diuided, and we not able to set out the land, he that is beleeu'd to haue the land *that* should pay this rent, refuses paiment, pretending he knows not whether he has the land or not: so that here's a necessity of a Suit in Chancery, or the rent is lost for sure. I blame Mr Kilbey for neglecting to send to recouer it as soon as it was denied: I haue seuerall times desir'd to know how many yeers they are in Arrear with him, but hitherto he delayes to tell me. How-euer, I thought fit to lose no time, in regard I am a materiall witnes, and being Grown old and feeble, it was not fit to vse any delay: but the kings death happening at such a time, stopt the proceeding, till *the* next Term, els I had Giuen *your* Honor notice of it sooner. We are here mighty glad for Mr Pastons good success: they that oppos'd him thought they had a powerfull party: but it seems they took not their measures right. 'Tis no matter let thet best friends they haue make the best they can of it, 'twas but a peeuish, malicious, pelting trick, I should sooner haue suspected a thousand in the town of Norwich, then Mr Blofield: but none knowes the heart of a man but he that made it.

Madam,

your Honors most obedient Seruant

J Hurton

oxnead Aprill 8. 85

{folio 305 verso}

These present

To the right honourable the

Countess Dowager of

Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 306 Recto

Madame

Your Ladyships Will shall ever have with Mee the Force of a Command; And in This Particular, I shall Punctually Proceed according to Direction, And forthwith render an Account to Your Honourable selfe of the Event according to my Duty: And Reckon my Endeavours fully Appay'd in becoming any ways Usefull to so Excellent a Person

Do soon as I shall have Sounded the Passage, I shall be Better able to take my Measures in what manner to Proceed; And lay my thoughts, Madame, with All Simplicity, & Respect before you.

I have a matter under my hand at present, which I must Dispatch before I can Wait upon the King, It being upon a Suspect that immediatly Relates to his Majesties Service; And which Presses likewise upon the Point of Hast: But I shall Order All my Thoughts, & Motions in such manner as may Demonstrate the zeale & Ambition I have to Gain the Title of Madame

Your Ladyships most Faithfully Obedient Servant

Roger L'Estrange

May . 16. 1685.

1. J. 2.

[FB? - ?1660-1685]

I understand that at a meeting at Norwich *the* latter End of *the* last sessions week at which was *present* his Grace the Duke of Norfolk: & many of *the* Justices of the peace & other Gentlemen & Emminent freeholders to the number of neare vpon fifty who meet purposly to Confer & Advise who they should think most fitt to *recomm*end to the freeholders of this County (who alone haue their Rights of Election) to be chosen to serve as Knights of *the* Shire for this County in *the* next ensuing *parliament* that they there unanimously without *the* least oppositi-on, giuen by any one person, fixt vpon Two worthy persons, which they resoued to *Recomm*end to there ffree-holders to be chosen. *Sir* Jacob Astley & *Sir* William Cook. who are not only persons well affected to the present Gouernment but such as of whoos faithfullness and diligence in *the* Counteys service in parliament we are from Experience well assumed, & who are well known to be good husbands not only of their own but likewise of this Countrys purse vpon all occasions, whoos Interest which prevents soe ch vpo all men, Continues Intirely the same & will still Infallibly keep them soe, And which haue very much prevailed with me to promote *the* Election of those Two worthey persons out of that tender regard that I haue to my Country in these soe hard and necessitous

{folio 308 verso}

times in the present Election, which is worthey the Observations & due Consideration of all those in whom ___ Rights of *the* ffreeholders in this County: And which I doe by these recomend to you & bu you to all the ffreeholders

and doe desire both you & them to Joyne with me as I shall with you & them to Contribute all I & they can towards *the* Carryeing of the Election for those Two worthey persons *Sir* Jacob Astley & *Sir* William Cook wher in I doe assure you that I neither haue nor can haue any other end then what I have heere Exprest I *Recomm*end my Selfe very kindly & to you & Continue as I have euer been

Your_ very assured & Ready ffriend

{different hand}

John Holland

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 309 Recto

London March the 23^o: 85

May it please your Lordship

I had done this duty before, as our busines moved but that mr James told mee that hee tooke that Care Since hee was with his Majestie Collonel porter could not finde oppertunity to haue him to the Treasuerer the Second tyme till fryday night last (by his Majestie order) who receiued his business very angerly and quite Contrary to what hee InClyned to the first tyme, though mr James, with Collonel porter faithfully stood to the matter, which his Majestie will haue an account of this day who did this to Toaste his Tresuerer. hee is soe Conserved that hee {^hath} sent for all that are left aliue Conserved in this bleate to bee with his this day to fore state the markitt if possible but I finde noe fear of that because his Majestie will hear it and mr James {^wants} noe Encouragement to goe ~~thxxxgh~~ on my Brother Humble desires your Honor to accept of his most faithfull Service. I am with him Every {^day} for advice, and as often as Convenient Mr James with mee hee was forced to keep home all Last with an old fitt. which is now gon. hee, and the Collonel Smiles hartily at the great mans anger. They Say wee are to haue Lords Comissioners. this business I finde will not sleep. I pray my Lord pardon the defects of this letter because it was writ in hast by

My Honored Lord

Your Lordships

Most obliged Humble

Servant

Rich: Croshawe

{folio 310 verso}

These

ffor the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmoth

British Library Additional MS 27448

Folio 311 Recto

July The: 7

Sir

I understand your majesty is pleased To Take The Seuerall Pety Farms of The Customes in To your own management, and That your Majesty has declared you will be pleased To gratify Those That haue Them: amongst which number I haue som Pretence: it was my good Fortune once To haue serued Your Majesty: and you haue ben so gracious To me, as To make me hope for your Fauour upon any ocasion; I now humbly begg at This Time your Majesty will be pleased To think of me: for I Stand uery much in need of your Fauour; and I humbly desire you will Show it me: in Such a measur: as may Suport my quality): which will be a uery

{folio 311 verso}

be

{folio 312 recto}

be a uery great obligation To

Sir

Your Majesty's

most Dutyfull and obedient

Subjit

Re: Yarmouth:

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 313 Recto

[after 1685]

To the Kings most Excellent Majestie

The humble Petition of William Earle of Yarmouth

Sheweth

That your petioners Father haveing through his late Majesties great favour and goodnesse obtained a Grant of a ffarme of some Stragling Partes of the Customes, the which by the great industry and applicacion of your Petitioners ffather and the persons by him imployed hath been Considerably improved and brought to what it now is, whereby your petitioners Father, himselfe and Children have had Considerable Support and aid, towards the clearing of the many Debts contracted by that ffamily in the times of Rebellion and alsoe Since in his late and your gracious Majesties Service;

And that the Said Farme is now near expiration, But the Said Debts not yett wholly paid, Nor Such provission made for the benefitt of the Children, as was intended and hoped for.

Therefore your Petitioner doth most humbly Pray that for the accomplishment of the Said purposes your Sacred Majestie would be Graciously pleased, to grant unto your petitioner a further tearme of the ffarme aforesaid Or make Such other Provisson for the benefitt of your Petitioner in the Payment of his said Debts and raising Portions for his Children as in your great Princely Wisdome Shall Seem Meet

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 316 Recto

October *the* 15th 86

My Lord

Theise are to giue *your* honnor to vnder-stand the Condicion of the Troope we drew out Last Wednesday to Killing worth heath to meet the rest of the Regiment; were the Major tooke a Veiw of all the troops *with* an Account of how many mounted in Euary troope in *the* feild; Our appearance was but 24 both the first time & this Last: Coppin had Taken phissick as he *pre*tended Garway horse Lamé & he mounted mr Brown Wards horse Bradford mounted his owne ____ strained and Hastead horse slipt in the shoulder my Lord Scarsdale is Expected very suddenly downe to a horse race & the major sayes he will be heare: pray my Lord Let ,e Beg the favor of you to get me Leaué to com to London against the terme for I am a fraid it will be a great deale out of my way My humble Duty to *your* Lordship & service to my Leiftenant

{continued down left-hand margin}

I am *your* Lordships obedient servant

Tho: Bullocke

{folio 315 verso}

Tho: Bullocke

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 317 Recto

2 _ 1686

May it please *your* ladiship

I am soe busy in the country that I can not meet with any that goe for London, yet is remembreing my obligations and duty to *your* ladiship I can not desern writing, tho by the common post owning the Receipt of *your* ladiships *lettre* by ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Mr Peckover, and that I haue strictly observed the motions of the persons *your* letter mentions, find them uery frequent in their caballs and close, more a great deale since the Earle of Danby cae downe, but what they moue or designe I can not learne, but this I am told and am apt to belieue that they in all discourses in _____ *against* po-pery, and vnder that disguise make great court to the people. I am much pleased with *your* ladiship that the onely way to keep our selues safe is to keep ourselues quiet and indeed why should wee exasperate the King. lett it be exa-ined and it will appear that none are clamorous now but such as haue al-ways beene soe and euer will be what euer is uppermost whilst them selues are below. what can wee expect or desire, all things considered more then wee haue. I confesse for my owne part. I hope the King will neuer part with his army *which* I look upon our security as much as his Weer not that ever us wee should soone see the game hunted over againe Madam pray present. my lord and all his family, brisk & ayry Captain Thomas whose prosperity I wish most hartily, with my dyuers service and accept the same from my wife and from

Your most obedient servant

& chaplayne

Jo Hiljard

To morrow fortnight {^is the} day.

{folio 318 verso}

This

To the right honourable the countesse Dowager Yarmouth at her house in St
James's square

London

present

Right Honourable,

I am heartily sorry to giue *your* honor the trouble of this very vnhappy accident *that* hapned last week at Sparham. I haue said in a former letter *that* I was to meet with one *that* was to buy *the* Crop an hire *the* farm, *which* accordingly I did, and made an Agreement with *the* Tenant *that* {^he} should presently be put in writing, but was hindred by a story that had, it seems, a ground of truth: it was that luory had confess'd a Judgment of all his Goods to One Turner of Dearham, and that it would reach *the* Crop: and Vnless he might haue that, he would not meddle with *the* farm, so that all I could doe at that time was to Get his promise, and fiue shillings in hand, that if Mr Bulwer could shape out a way how he might quietly reap and enioy *the* crop, then *the* bargain should hold, els he was to haue his 5s again, and all was to be void. on friday last we met at Mr Bulwers, who propounded this way, that *your ladyship* should make him a bill of sale and a couenant that he should enioy the crop quietly. very earnest he was to be discharg'd of his bargain and offered me 20s I told him I could by no means discharge him but had rather giuen 5li he had not medled at all for then we could not haue wanted a Tenant, whereas now euery body would be afraid to deal for that farm he had refus'd, after he had agreed for it. The Judgment is a very vn lucky thing, but I hope it shall not reach vs, for Mr Bulwer show'd me the Statute, that 'tis of no force till it be put into *the* Sheriffs hand: and Mr Baispoel assures me he knows not of it, and will be ready to doe *your ladyship* the best seruice he can, in case it be brought to him, *which* he cannot certainly tell, till he has examined his books, *which* were left at Norwich in respect *your* Assizes were at hand, If it had pleas'd God to send moderate rain I beleiue the crop would haue doubled the price. 'Tis hardly credible to them that haue not seen it, that the corn in many places is so strangely sh__k away. Indeed I was not able to doe more if it had been my own: I'm sure if we had not sold it, tho charge first and last would haue consum'd all. I haue seen enough of that formerly. I told the Tenant he must not fail to pay *the* 40li when *your* Honor send back the bill sale seald and *the* bond likewise. As soon I can finger *the* money I shall endeauour to get a bill for it. Since I was concern'd in the estate, I neer had Greater hopes to settle *that* farm well, had not this vnhappy business so foully disordered vs, that we must be at a loss for a Tenant after a yeer from Michealmas next or be put vpon the necessity of a quarrell, for he's resolu'd to hold it no longer, nor would meddle with it all if he could by any means avoid it.

Madam,

your Honors most obedient seruant

J Hurton

oxnead July 20th 87

I was in hope to god *the* 40*l*i present and to send *the* bill of sale and *the* bond at another tie; but *the* Tenant and an Vncle of his was with me since, and told me flatly he would not pay a peny nor meddle with *the* crop till he had *your ladyships* security; so I was fain to get Mr Bulwer to draw *the* bill of sale and *the* bond yesterday: him they pitch't vpon, the Tenant be a Client of his.

{folio 320 verso}

These present

To the right Honorable the Countes

Dowager of yarmouth at her

house in St James's square

London

{Hand of Rebecca Paston}

1681

About Tuxerys Farme at Sharham

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 321 verso

Memorand that whereas his most excellent maiesty James the Second by the grace of God of England Scotland france and Ireland king defender of the faith __ By his privy seale hath granted vnto vs the Right honorable william Earle of yarmouth Exectors of the last will and testament of Robert late Earle of Yarmouth now deceased a terme or Interest in thet wood farme being parcell of his maiestyes Customs as by the said privy seale may appeare NOW this present writeing witnesseth that we the said Countess Dowager and Earle of Yarmouth do hereby nominate direct and appoynt henry loades William Waterson and Joseph Dawson *General* men ___ receiuers of the Customs and profitts of the woodfarme to pay vnto m^r Andrew Lawes the sum of one hundred pounds in manner following (that is to say) ffifty pounds part thereof at or vpon the fiue twentieth day of march next, And fifty pounds more residue of the said Sum of one huundred pounds at or vpon the four and twentieth day of June next ensuring the date of these presents Witness our hands and seales this sixteenth day of August in the third year of the Reigne of our

{folio 322 recto}

Soveraigne Lord James the Second of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland king defender of the ffaith

____ 1687

Re: Yarmouth

Yarmouth

Sealed and deliuered in the presence of

marcus Hoogan

Tho Bulwer

[FB - 16 Aug. 1687. 3.J.2]

{folio 321 recto}

Mr Andrew Hawes his assignement ----- 100l

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 323 Recto

November [F.B. 3. J. 2.]

My Lord

Itt appeares by a Peticion a cobby whereof is herewith sent that John Dodsworth and his wife have exhibited their Bill on Complaints into the Court of Chancery against your Lordshipp and desires your appearance there to the 28th day of November instant wherefore I do att their request according to the manner vsed to persons of your Quality desire your Lordshipp to give Order to those you imploy in such matters for your appearance to the said Bill accordingly I am

My Lord

Your Lordshipp's very humble Servant

[different hand]

Jeffrys C

To the Right honourable

William Earle of Yarmouth

{folio 324 verso}

To the Right honourable William Earle of Yarmouth: /

December 3^d 1687

[FB- 3. J. 2.]

Honour'd Sir

I receiued yours of the 19th of November which coming to mee by the way of Norwich laye longer by the way then it Should haue donn our generall postage beeing by Beckles & that is the reason of so late a return as to the efforte in my neightbourhood tho neare mee I am a stranger to it it had generally the reputation of ____ 200^l a yeare but since the receipt of yours I haue been more particular in my enquiry and from one of the parishe I haue this ffollowing account

The Head house	- 40 - 00 - 00
The mill	- 35 - 00 - 00
Simonds Terme	- 24 - 00 - 00
valer Terme	- 30 - 00 - 00
Burroughs Terme	- 24 - 00 - 00
Miles Terme	- 13 - 00 - 00
m ^r chambers	- 02 - 00 - 00
St Andrews Term	- 24 - 00 - 00

besides there is a smale mannor called the mannor of Neuills which for name sake I would haue bought if I had ever been a purchaserbut whither the proffitts of this bee not leased into the head house is what I cannot learn The Mill I am told will need repaires soon of which I am noe judge the lands are all leas'd as I am inform'd, tis bare of timber but vnless it bee the mill I doe not heare but the houses are in indifferent repaire, I presume my Lord will send some agent to inspect it before hee concludes for it and not depend vpon this hasty account which you now receiued from

Sir_ your faithful humble servant

Neville Catelyn

Service most humbly to my very good Lord & please to acquaint him that if his Lordship after this intends any further purchase in Norffolk_ There is an estate neare mee late my famous Lady williamsons who built churches *that_* will bee sould for little more then the house cost *the_* building

{folio 326 verso}

To The Honourable Robert Paston *Esquire* att his house in Dukes Street neare St_ James square

London

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 327 Recto

Desember The 8 1687

Mr Loades Mr Dawson

Mr Watterson

Pay unto: Mr Shails Horten pounds for My use: and plaie it To The Woodfarme
acompt

Reyarmouth

Dowager

{different hand}

Decemeber 9 (87

Received the full contents of *the* _____ bill being fourteen pounds ____

Jos: shaylis

{folio 328 verso}

My Ladyes order to pay mr Shales 14l

9. Dec. 87

No 24)

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 331 Recto

At the Court at Whitehall the 9th of March 1687 Present

The Kings most Excellent Majesty

His Royall Highness Prince	Earle of Middleton
George of Denmark	Earle of Melfort
Lord Chancellor	Earle of Castlemaine
Lord President	Lord <u>Viscount</u> Preston
Lord Privy Seale	Lord Dartmouth
Marquis of Powis	Lord Godolphin
Earle of Huntingdon	Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer
Earle of Peterborough	<u>Sir</u> Nicholas Butler
Earle of Craven	<u>Mr</u> Octre

This day the Oath injoined to be taken by the Lords Lieutenants of the respective Counties of this Kingdom, by an act of Parliament made in the 14th yeare of his late Majestys Reigne, Entitled an Act for Ordering the Forces in the Severall Counties of this Kingdom, was administred at this Boord unto the Right Honourable William Earle of Yarmouth his Majestys Lieutenant for the County of Wilts joined in Commission with Right honourable Earle of Pembroke.

{different hand}

Phil Musgrave

Yarmouth 14th March 1687/8

May it please your Lordship

I have in severall lettres from Mr Miles & Mr Sheirman had intimation of the greivance of which Mr Sheirman complayns is your Lordship, & have acquaynted Mr Mayor there with {^who promises his endeavors to redress itt} as also with your desires that the Corporacion may take a lease of the Dolphins at a certeyn rent, in which lease Mr Elwin says that your Lordship will include the new key (the Corporacion keeping leaving it in repayr) & will ___ that your soul shall not be need to lay ballast upon to the preiudice of our Ballast office, Vpon these tenures I do not perceive but all of us are ready to take a lease, & I hope will give your Lordship 20li per annum rent, but I shall not presume to propose such a lease in Common councill upon Mr Elwins report , & therefore do beg that your Lordship will vouchsafe to give me order particularly per next what to propose to the Corporacion, which I shall not fail to do in the best manner I can to serve your Lordship, at our next common Councill which I beleive will be on Monday or Tuesday next, if a new Regulacion prevents it not, which our leading men here report is ordered & past the privy Councill & will be here on Saturday, but I beleive that report to be without ground because your Lordships lettre which I haue the honor to receive {^last post} speaks nothing of it, My Lord I most humbly thank your Lordship for all favors & more especjally for your Lordships endeavours to preserve me in my imployments, which oblige me for ever to be

(May it please your Lordship)

Your Lordships faithfull & most humble servant

T, Godfrey

{folio 334 verso}

These

For the Right honourable William Earl of yarmouth Treasurer of his Majestys
houshold present at

Whitehall

Wirkeworth 18o 1687

Deare Sir

I am informed by Mr Slacke that you did kindly remember your selfe to mee for which I returne you many thanks & and glad to heare of your good health I pray god continue it, I am doubtfull my good Lord & Mr it not well being I *received* noe letter from his Honor last weeke I should be uery sory to heare of any indisposition in him good Sir be pleased to lett me Knowe by first ___ my Lord & Mr Pairpaynt doe concurr about the small trespass which in truth is not worth takeing notice of, it is a great aduan-tage to All mr Paitpoynts tennants to haue the ___goe on, tenn times more then any damage hee cann Sustain mr Morris did faithfully promis to use the utmost endeauor to draw his Master to comply as I haue informed my Lord but I much doubt him for I haue found him uery deceit-full, hee hath informed mee {^& others} you was an in{^s}trument to hinder his master from agreeing but I tould him hee lay under a great mistake & if hee had informed his master soe hee was uery unworthy, I informed him you spoke not{^h}ing but what was absolute{^ly} necessary for you told him that his demands weare unreasonable hee dem-anding a 7th part which every one that heares thinke hee is much unworthy for neuer any part was dem-anded upon such accompt though the land was neuer soe rich but pay for trespass, which you afforded to doe & if that would not satisfie but hee would prouoke his master too shew my Lord. you to tould him you wo{^u}ld Joyne Issue by consent which was uery fair, wee goe on as well as possible can be expected in such foule worke hope to perfit it in a short time & though wee finde it runn in the water stoppt in the front of our worke but hope to let the water off tomorrow & then wee shall haue winde enough for present is scarce the timber is decayed soe that wee are forst to timber as wee goe on I doubt wee cannot finish it this weeke but I hope in one wee be more in will be perfited

{continued down left hand margin}

soe that wee shall not need any repaire more for some yeares for wee haue clensed & Secured it by timber from the tayle of the Sough quite up to the place where wee are at worke wee haue but twenty yard {^to} goe before wee haue finished & then wee shall goe for the great stone in Tindley uerrie wee goe at

great charges for present, I haue & shall *this* weeke dispose of more money then I haue of my Lords in my hand but my Lord hath promised a speedy suply the Colector for excise sitts at this towne on monday next after Christmass day which if it please my Lord to

{folio 336 verso}

order money to be paid at this towne it will saue charges, This {^with} Honour a Merry Christmass & your selfe likewise I pray giue my true respects & Seruice to Mr Barry & Mr Brand & be pleased to accept the like to your selfe soe rest . /

Your euer Loueing freind and Seruant to Command: Rich: Heape

I wish with all my heart that my Lord could compass the lotte Cope for it brings in great proffit & noe wages payd to any Seruant bt one./ bit what they miners pay

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 338 Recto

The humble peticion of Deanes &c 1687

To the Right Honorable the Countess Dowager & William Earle of Yarmouth

The humble peticion of the Deans & Norwaymen tradeing to the Port of London

Humbly Sheweth

That for many yeares last past yor Petitioners have paid to yor Honors yearely considerable summs of money (and do hope the same may be continued) And whereas yor Petitioners are intended to Bold themselves A Chappell or place for the Worship of God in or about the City of London, by the assistance & Bounty of severall well disposed Christians.

Your Petitioners

Doe therefore humbly pray yor Honors out of yor wonted clemency to bestow & give to yor Petitioners such A bounty towards building their said Chappell as yor Honor shall think meet.

And as bound they shall pray &c/

Vincente Beckman

Mart: Loynchan

S Montago

Jurgen M _____

Johan Fasting

Marchus Nielson

___ pierson

Marels Freigo

Knud Green

Solger _____

Hans samson

Daniel Diderick Muller

A letter from *the* Bishop of Worcester to *the* Clergy of this Diocess in behalf of *the* French Protestants. Martis 30o 1688o.

My Reverend Worthy Brethren

His Majesty haveing out of his signally, transcendent, reiterated compassion renewed his Letters Pattents ffor *the* Supports of *the* deplorable necessity's, of *the* distressed French Protestants, and also injoynd *the* special inspection, *the* paternal care of the Bishops in their distinct Dioceses to promote *the* pious prosperous pursuits of *the* said Letters patents, I apprehend it a duty indispensably incumbent on me to recommend this guard, charitable concern to your pathological considerations, for *the* imploring your more then ordinary active assistance to excite, to amplify, to expedite *the* liberal contributions of your Several Parishes.

The first gradation (for exciting) being *the* task of *the* pulpit by your fervent zeal to meet the bowells, by your perswasive eloquence to charm *the* affections of your auditors, that the temper of their hearts may be discerned by *the* regular pulse of their hands to commiserate, and to relieve.

Your publick exercise in the Church will be much improved for *the* efficacy of it, by *the* condescention of your addresses to private houses, & conferences with particular personages (where it may without overtiresome molestation be effected) wherein your own humility, will insensibly, and irresistibly attract the charity of others.

The lowest, the servilest station is no supersedeas. ffor the inlarging of *the* bounty of those of higher ranks, I shall not dilate *the* recital of *the* number of the sufferers (being vast ___litudes) nor

{folio 340 verso}

their lustre; many of them being eminent for their qualityes, their fortunes reduced from plenty in their own native Countrey, to penury in a forreign, from *the* Splendor of dignities promotions, to the Ecclipser, *the* umbrage of indigened & contempt, lan-guishing in confluences of pressures in varietyes, extremityes of calamityes, without *the* last charge of any criminal grain, being not malefactors, but confessors.

This age doth not exhibite a more duffuse, disconsolate object of Charity.

Such extended aggravated misseryes ought to cajole, to conjure (if possible) adaqueate, commensurate Supports, not only to discard *the* prophane ~~xxxxx~~ sumptuous expences of luxury, of debauchery, of gayety of Cloathes, to divert *the* polluted streams of riot, & distemper of pride & arrogance, to a purer channel by serene alms~~xx~~.

Even the decency's suitable to mens degrees and revennues at other times, ought to be abated towards the succours of such unparalled, untainted exigencyes.

But I forbear to muster up Topicks to Dis{page damaged} whose eminent abilities need them not; but {page damaged} furnish them with more pregnant more p{page damaged} and powerfull arguments.

It were to expose my self to the obloquy fix {page damaged} Phormio, for reading a Martiall lecture to Har{page damaged}

{folio 341 recto}

Yet I shall implore your candid construction in being your monitor, your suitor, that your own charity may be a clear conspicuous pattern (not sullyed, obscured by a tenacious avarices) to be the more effectually transcribed, imitated by others.

The practice of charity by *the* Clergy is more ope-rative, taken a quicker, a deeper impression, then the doctrine in the Layty; to whom no Rhetorick is to prevalent as example.

The Devine Tribunal will require a stricter reckoning from us of those talents we are intrusted with, then from others: our accounts will be in-flamed not only by omissions but diminuations in our Supplies. Even the meanest Curates can plead no intire exemption.

It is *the* Macedonian honor accorded by *the* Apostle that their deep poverty abounded to the riches of their Leberality, not only to their power; but beyond their power.

I shall adde only one experimentally requisite caution not to protract your diligence in solliciting the contributions of your Parishioners, nor yet in transmitting them unto *the* Arch Deacon, but to observe *the* punctilio's of time precisely prescrib'd by our Sovereigne.

A Speedy is double Charity. Which the God of mercyes will abundantly compensate by

{folio 341 verso}

a Sacred contradiction of Arithmetick, yet of per-fection of grace and glory, to multiply our riches by Substraction whose payment will amount to an hundred fold in this world, and in the next to everlasting life. To whose gracious influence and protection I recom-mend you

Resting

Your very Affectionate Diocesan and ffaithfll Servant

Worcester

[FB - 30 March 1688. 4. J. 2.]

I earnestly desire your special admonition to your Church wardens that their utmost care be not wanting that they be not imposed upon by false, counterfeit coyne, that the pretence of Charity be not managed to be the disguise for a Solemn cheat. /

A Prayer made A: D: 1689 by Dr Thomas then Bishop of Worcester &c.

Graunt O Lord, *that* I may walk circumspectly, not as a fool, but as a wise man; redeeming *the* time, because *the* dayes not are evill: *that* in all *the* emergencies, *the* difficulties of *the* time, I may rightly iscern uprightly determine, & persue, what is gracious, acceptable in the Sight; *that* no allurements of wealth, of humour, of ease, of pleasure {page damaged}, of vain repute with vain men , of liberty, of life it self; tho{page damaged}no terrors of poverty, of disgrace, of pain, of anguish, of impr{page damaged}-sonment, of death it self, may sway me to ____ from the straightest paths of ____, & holiness; may corrupt me to renoun{page damaged} any Evangelical doctrine, to violate any divine precept.

Amen.

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 342 Recto

After our very hearty Commendations to your Lordships. It having pleased almighty God about Ten of the Clock this morning to bless His Majesty and His Royall Consort the Queen with the Birth of a hopeful Son and His Majesties Kingdoms and Dominions with a Prince; Wee Do by His Majesties Command hereby Signify the Same to Your Lordships desiring that it be likewise forthwith communicated to You to Your Deputy Lieutenants, the Justices of Peace and the Several Corporations within Your Lieutenancy to the end they may all join at Such time as His Majesty Shall please to appoint by His Royall Proclam=tion for tht Purpose aswell in Solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty God for So inestimable a Blessing as in Such other expressions of publick Rejoycing as are Sutable and accustomed on So great an occasion. And So Wee bid Your Lordships very heartily Farewell.

From the Councill Chamber in Whitehall the Tenth of June 1688./

Your Lordships veru Loving Friends

Jeffreys C

Sunderland L

Lewis Castlemaine

Dover

Balke

Middleton

Crauen

Dartmouth

John Nicholas

Earle of Pembroke & Earle of Yarmouth Lords Lieutenants of Wilts

[FB - 10 June 1688

4 J. 2.]

{folio 343 verso}

To Our very good Lords

Thomas Earle of Pembroke & Montgomery,

and William Earle of Yarmouth,

Lords Lieutenants of the of the County of Wilts

or to either of them./

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 344 Recto

June 13th 1688

4 J. 2.

Gentlemen

According to an order of Councill to me directed, this is to acquaint you that it hath pleased Almighty = God on Sunday morning lust about ten of the clock to bless his Majesty and his Royall Consort the Queen with the birth of a hopefull sonn and his Majestys ~~Dominions~~ Kingdoms and Dominions with a Prince and farther to let you know that you are to prepare to joyn at such time as his Majesty shall appoint by his Royall Proclamation for that purpose as = well in solemne Thanksiuing to Almighty God for soe inestimable blessing as in such other expression of a Publique rejoycings as are suitable and accustomed on soe ~~Xxx~~ Great an occasion

I am./

Your humble sarvant

Yarmouth

Wirksworth 15^o June 1688

Sir

I receiued your Honors of the 12^o Instant last night & am very glad that your Lordshipp hath made a good agreement with Mr Pierpoynt for now wee shall goe on witout any interuption, Sir wee ~~xxx~~ {^never} went on soe well ~~xx~~ as now wee doe for the shale is much softer as I writ in my last & I hope they will driue soe farr in a week as in my last ~~hem~~ which did express 6 yards in a weeke, I haue ordered them to worke but 4 houres Shifts which I finde is as long as they workemen cann worke briskley & they driue near upon in them 4 hours as much as they did in 6 howers now the are but 12 hours of there worke to rest & before were 18 howers by this meanes eury weeke they worke 34 shifts & before but 24 soe that they finde it much better for their aduantage allthough they com oftener on & I am sure they will hasten there worke 4 or 5 foot eury weeke i had much a doe to bring them to it, they boyes & drawers continue 12 houres, My Lord wee {^haue} been at more Charge then wee should haue beene by reason of Mr Pierpoynt for wee were forst to watch diligently I doe not Knowe of any money that I could haue saued for I haue put eury thing to the best aduantage & for saueing of money, that posible I could, but workes of this nature require great charge I am certaine noe sough of this nature hath beene carried on soe farr as wee haue driuen at smaller charge for the greatest part of our charge hath been to sludg the sough & driue to procure wind & better landing for the geare I am uery glad that Mr Brand is to com ouer I shall shew him what wee haue don & how wee haue gon on which I hope will giue your Honor good satisfaction at his returne, I shall assist the best I cann in the directing the Gentleman that is to draw the mapp; Mr Burrage & Crees are to haue 11^b all but one shilling giuen in earnest on the 24^o June; Mr Jo: Wigley is to haue the first day of August fiftie and fiue pounds I gaue but fiue pounds in hand

{folio 346 verso}

the Bargane was for 60^l, Sir John Heath hath a 3^d part in the gang formerly made a bargane with mr Verm___den for some yeares to haue 80^l per Annum dureing that time but as I am informed vermuden hath paid nothing in that time nor since that Bargane but hath disposed of the ore & hath not rendered any accompt to Sir John Heath; I could wish heartly that your had the part for it getts well but I would not aduise the Lordshipp to haue it except it may be quiet without sute: I shall the next weeke informe your Honor how much the haue gott this last quarter of a yeare but Mr Jo: Slack cann best informe your Lordshipp how the concerne is for

hee was long ago concerned about that 3^d part, hee is not at Home else I should
haue discoursed him in if not else but am /

Your Lordships most faithfull and obedient seruant to Command

Richard Heape

Sir I humbly request to know whether the 20^l be paid & when for Crumpton saith
hee hath not heard of it being paid. /

{folio 347 verso}

These

For the Right Honourable

William Earle of Yarmouth

Att. White Hall. /

London/

My Lord

I had the honour yesterday of a letter from your Lordshipp intimating the happiness god hath blest His Majestie, and this Nation with all; Wee had before expresst our ioy for it; and again repeated it, vpon your Lordshipps letter; and shall with all Demonstrations of gladness reiterate it, as often as there shall bee Publick Com:ands, or Private opportunities for it. And if any thing bee untended by your Lordshipps letter (so particu:larly directed to mee on this occasion) or if any Thing more bee expected from mee, then is the Duty of a Loyall Subiect, and a Priuate Gentleman, I pray your Lordshipp to acquaint mee. for your Lordshipp well knows, I haue no ~~Capacity~~ {^Character} in this County, to serue his Maiesty, more then as a Priuate Gentleman. which I thought fitt to intimate, least more might by your Lordshipp, bee on this ~~occasion~~ {^account} expected from mee.

My Lord I am

your Lordshipps most humble seruant

Jo: Collins

Chale. June. 16.88 /

{folio 350 verso}

These

ffor the right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at his Lodgings in White-Hall

London

Post paid

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 351 Recto

Our Will and Pleasure is, That you forthwith give Order for the Swearing and Admitting a Anthony Segar into the Place of Second Groome Porter of Our Gate in Ordinary: the same being voyd by the death of Patricke Jack. And to settle upon him the Wages, Boardwages, Fees, Proffitts, Perquesites, Priviledges and Advantages to the said place belonging. And for soe doing this Shalbe your Warrant. Given at Our Court att Windsor Castle this 25th day of August 1685. In the Fourth Yeare of Our Reigne.

To Our Right Trusty and Right Welbeloved Cousen, William Earle of Yarmouth Treasurer of Our Household. And to Our Right Trusty and Welbeloved Henry Lord Waldegrave Comptroller of the same.

{folio 352 verso}

Anthony Segar

Groome Porter of the Gate.

If it shall please your Honour

I haueing the h{page damaged}

— seeing your Lordship yester day, I had {page damaged}
perticuler buisness with you, but mr Rog{page damaged}
being with you I had noe opertunitie, t{page damaged}
your honour with it which makes me _{page damaged}
trouble, it is conserneing mr Robert Pa{page damaged}
Last time I was with sir Nicholas Buttle{page damaged}
moue his buisness to him and hee was {page damaged}
much pleased with it, and said now i{page damaged}
be the time for all those that are in Co{page damaged}
in the harth & Excise that are Roman{page damaged}
tournes out, soe there will be vaconsise{page damaged}
I shall saye noe more vntill I hau{page damaged}
honours order, pray be pleased to lett{page damaged}
heare by the barrer

I am your honours mo{page damaged}

humble seruant

Mar: Barber

Deceember the 8th 1688

Febr: 2^d 88/9

Gentlemen

I thought my appearing for *your* liberties heretofore at my election might have deserved an answer at least to a civill letter as well as a timely advice to you on it, if any thing of a choice should lye before you, and as it did happen that the Princes letter was deliuered to you of the old Corporation so I beleive you were not engaged to any body before I sent you what advice , which might have been some motive to you to have chosen mee as well as my other, you knowing it could not displease the Duke of Norfolk I having served him at that time to my own disservice, for you may be sensible had I stuck to the new charter then there had been not the least room for a dispute. And as there is now an oppertunity of makeing some kind of return for my intended service for the liberties of the Town so I hope my appearing to early and with hazard of my person and estate for the service of my country according to the Prince of oranges de-claration will give mee an equall share if not a preference to any stranger that shall appear as Can-didate for *your* voices. I doe not write this to detract from any body, for I have the Dukes leave to make my interest as good as I can with you. I desire this may be communicated amongst you, and the favour you shall doe mee shall meet with all the suitable returns of gratitude. I would have come down to you but I have not been well. *your* judgements are too good to be directed, and *your* meritts are to great in showing *your* selves honest men, that I should be proud of being one of the representatives of so worthy a people. I beleive the Gentlemen of the Country *your* neighbours would speak in my behalfe if there were time for it, but I hope I shall need none but *your* own kind sentiments of mee which shall always be improved by the wayes and means you *your* selves shall prescribe, and beleive mee to be with all sincerity

Sir faithfull frind and servant

H. Heveningham

[FB - 2 February 1688/9

1 W 2 M]

{folio 355 verso}

These

For mr Wormly Hotherset

at Thetford

Norfolk

6 May at the coch

Most

Euer Honored Lord to Aquint you that I haue bin ^{^so} very ^{^ill} that for this fore days I haue scarce eat or dranke and being so full of bisnes and my wife difarance had maid me in that condistion that I bought my Cosen to be in A Redines and if I had died I had Taken care to A Last your Honnar the mone I had on your Honer My wife and I Are Agreed to part and Are parted and I haue A Lowed her 30*li* A yeare out of her 40*li* and for the 10*li* Ayeare I haue well secuered to me for I had Rather greene yarbs with peece then A stald oxe with strife and I haue Last my man maid and A very neare kinsman of my wifes to ouer see them I haye goot vp all the Cheeting wrightings vp that shee maid to Another so that my hart is more at ese now to Aquint your Lordshipe that I am somthing better and I doe Resolue that nothing but death shall hinder me and god willing I shall goe thoro stich with my bisnes poore m*r* berben hath bin much conserved for my Illnes U haue goot my Lord mars sortificat his hand and sell for all Ingland ouer and I not knowing Ambroses ^{^sor}nam I haue poot his name Ambrous Smith heare in Closed in A Leetter come from Scotland one saturday Last at 8 A clock the ors from Apelbe in wesmore Land of my wifes Kemsman cane to my hands and I haue sent the ors in A Litter Tube with other nesesyars that was oमितed in the Last which no triall can be maid without these things sent I Receued the mony ordred there was due to balance the Last bill 9*li* ~~5*s*~~ 6*d* ^{^7*li* 7*s* 4*d*} and I had 6*li* 9*s* of m*r* brand but I poot n this so vnderneath what sent now which I haue ordred to be sent to the carers to day I was vp this morning vp at 2 Aclock to see them safe parked vp to be sent Away I haue sent you A Lompe of Straynge ore that I had of the gentellman in blackfrier that I formarly told you of and as I find mins and minaralls I shall be shoure to giue your Lordshipe an A__rue and Accownt and sent them to you And ~~the~~ take care to find the placis and name wheare I ~~haue~~ shall find them I will send them vp to m*r* Brand and desier m*r* brand to send them to your Lord shipe I desier your Honer to Excuse me in not wrighting to you so honar^{^abell} as I should doe so with Euer Best Respects to your Lordship ashuring you that I shall be diligant and carfull and faithfull and shall take all the care And payns and in as short time as can be and Take euery days bisnes downe in my booke and whear I haue bin and what I haue don and your Lordship for your farder satisfaction shall heare from me all though I cannot from you so for the present I take Leaye and Rest your Lordsshipe Sarvant I hop A profitable and so I Rest till death vs depart

Abraham Swift

due vp one the Last bill the 25th of Aprill 1689 ----- 00^l - 18^s - 4^d

sent now 18^l of ~~xxx~~ salt peeter at 6^d ____ ----- 00 - 09 - 9

I payd for the ___rer for A box of ore that came from your mine ----- 00 - 04 - 6

I haue sent quick silver 3^l 8^{at} 4^s 2^d it cost it is in A littell glase {^bottell} 00 - 14 - 7

3 blue poots ----- 00 - 03 - 0

5 boottells for the distillings of quicksilver which was forgootn {^when the p__ was sent} 00 - 00 - 5

1 boledise fitt for the Smooth bullet to vse for goldsand cost ----- 00 - 01 - 0

the Tube now sent cost ----- 00 - 01 - 6

the glase boottell cost that the quick siluer is in ----- 00 - 00 - 2

for the the porter to cariert to the Inn ----- 00 - 00 - 8

02 = 13 = 4

A Littell Brase wier sive ---- cost ----- 00 - 05 - 6

2 - 18 - 4

{folio 357 verso}

I desier your Lordshipe to brake vp the the Tube and see the mineralls

These For the Right Honourable the Earle of yarmouth at Oxnead neare Norwich in Norfolk

11th may 1689 at worksworth at 4 A clock in the morning this Rit

Honnered

Sor to Aquint you that blesed be god {^ I came} heare safe and in good hea{^}th yester-day morning A bought 7 A clock so meet with mr heape and forthwith went to your Lordshipes mine and I did vnstrip my selfe and poote on one of the mineers Clothes and so went downe in to the mine and ___ being some 20 fadam deepe whence I went downe and I went vnder the yearth some 15 score yards I went to the farder end of the worke and see sefarall small Leading vens but your Lordsship order is so strict to goe on ~~strict~~ stright forward that the haue meet with Soch A hard fflinte Rock that it will cost 5^l A fadam to goe by your order and it doeth so flase with ffier that Light in the miners lls & no vse to blind them I Taking my Littell siluer Compos downe with me and observing which Away the went was R___ Right South and if the showld goe A littell sowth est the would the sowner come at the spare and so to the ore and so Torn like A boe to geet A bought the hard kock which will cost some 20^s A fadam but if you doe not condrary-dict your order it is and endlis worke and Leaue it to the miners I doe verly beleue that your Lordshipe hath the best miners in the Contry to my vnder standing by theare working the haue gon some 10 score yards in theare new worke and Cleared 5 score in the old workes which maks 15 score yards and the Are with in 30 yards of the year ore as it gosed and as for the time an men the haue don A great deall of very hard and Rocke worke for the time and men I goot Amischance in the mine with A Slipe and brooke my head A littell but I would not for 20 proken heads but that I haue seen what I haue seen which is to Teadous to exprese but in A Lether porse I haue seen you A peere of your ore goot at the farder end of your Lordships works and likewise A littell peere of the hard Rocke which is neare 50 fadam deepe the keep them drayn Leuell And A littell Liver of water Coms forth and when finished no question but it will be profitabell but I doe be leefe it mat be ~~xxx~~ 9 months before it may be finished I beleue you haue A vere carfull Agant heare and onest man or else I Rong my Judgment hear is places ___ has bin placis when the ware finished hath yelded 7 and 800^l A weeke be sids all Charges I haue bin at seferll smelting mills and seen all theare ways of melting the money that your Lordshipe sent me to bare my Charges heare which was 3^l 5^s for my Share I layd it near out in what I sent your Lordshipe word the 6th Instant of this may so that I haue but some 8^d Last and Aquinted mr heape with it hee Leet me haue 10^s so to day I goe ~~and see~~ to see 2 Coper mins heare one is som 2 mills of and Another some 7 mills of if I can geet horses and after wards to stafard shire to Leeke and so

to Liuer poole and so after wards to fallow your Lordships dirctions but is costes
Some extrordnary mony to giue the miners and melters and keepe And spendin
some money one them which is nesseary and for a littell mony I will not Starve A
good case allthough out of our Alownce which I know your Lordsship vnderstands
and wil consider it I hope to see Ambros to day else wee can goe no farder all
heare very quiet so fare euey oportunitie your Lordshipe becuse wee stay not Long
in A place my plater came safe downe vp one monday next I thinke to goe hence
haueing done heare what I came A bought is ambros coms every conuenence I shall
giue youer Lordshipe and accownt of our proseedings so I take Leue and Your
Lordships ffaith full searvant till death vs depart

Abraham Swift

mr **keekene** presents his duty to your Lordshipe

{continued down left-hand margin}

by Riding A bad stombling horse one the Roode geet to settell my bode to A sadell I
goot A fall and piched one my heat and had Like to A broken my neck which for 2
days was in great payne

{folio 359 verso}

These for the Right Honourbl

The Earle of yarmouth

at Oxnead neare

Norwich in

Norfolke

28 May 1689 at beswick in ComburLand came heare one Saturday Last

Most worthy

Lord to Aquint your Honner since my Last dated the 19 of this Instant from prescot in Lankeshier neare Liver powl the coper mine theare Roported was not True ~~as at~~ and as for the gold mine in the yearl of darbes parke the Stuard would not giue Leaue without his Lords order but that Littell that I goot of yearth I tryed it and nothing in it but I fownd the mother of the gold A Simtham of the gold from thence wee went to wesmorland to doston and see all the mins theare which Are Lead mins very goos very Rich and very ese and in A great compos my Bingman of my wifes is the Lord of the Maner and hee hath 30 mills in Compas but hee is A yong fflash and is A capten of Solders of horse and minds nothing of his mins but his Soldring this 30 mills in compus is not worth Aboue 250^l A yeare besids the death of A tenants may bring in Some 50^l A yeares more as it falls out hee hath 60 years to come and I doe be Leaue will Sell it in A short time his Stuard maid very much of me being ~~Les~~ Related to his master and Aquinted me of all the mins in westmarland Likwise sent for one harmy Rayne who hath Some 6 tun of hard ore that Siluer the ouer is one mr Joblen which this mr harmary Rayne ~~xx~~ to goe to see it who had comisen to sell it but at Last hee would not goe except I would by it at the place and pay for it and it is 50 mills from the sea but hee hath promised me to send some 6^t of the ore up to London sampell of all the hard ors that is goot in westmorland so I Last Adirections to be sent to mr Brands and so to be sent to your Lordshipe which will be with your Lordshipe before wee can come to your Lordshipe I ~~xx~~ haue sefarll ors and doe not know as yet to send them I haue Taken nootis of all places and the nams and the oners nams and wheare the liue when I shall be so hape as to see you I shall unfold all unto your Honner in the mean time is to Long to wright and not convenat yesterday I was at newland caled gods giuest at the old mine of coper wheare the vayne was ~~by~~ 6 foot wide but it was 60 fadam deepe but the vayns came vp to the toope and mixed with much lorn and all the hill Are most coper mins mixed with lorn and very deepe and hard to be goot and no woods nor men to worke heare is A fue Lead mins which I haue seen and good in westmarland 500^l will doe more good to great proset them 10000^l heare with in mills of newcastell is a Siluer mine all Siluer when I see you more of th__ by word of Mowth I shall haue some of that sent vp and so it will be sent to your Lordshipe ~~we~~ I maid home to ~~our~~ Chesweeck to Take the opertunety to wright to your Lordship by this Post to Aquint your Honner wheare wee Are and what done since my Last Leeter from Lanckishire which I hope your Lord ship hath Received it this

After nown I doe Intend to goe to great Skedow goll and See what is theare and by the {^next} Leet{^ers} shall giue your Honner an account as it is my duty so to doe and from hence to moro to Carlile so then to the ~~hy Lands~~ {^galawy so} to the mine theare to veue that place then to the Lead hills at mu Laday hope and so to make A contract with her if I make A contract with her for Anny ors it shall be A profitabell on to your Lordshipe or non heare is but 2 old men that Rought in the copper mins heare one is 80 years old and the other is 90 years old which did In form vs of all and directed us and sent the same with vs theare is many come heare for to Looke for copper mins but non libs them the peepell heare very Sivell and willing to sho vs Any thing to incoridg vs the contry heare is pore and bare and very mowntenes and no bread to be goot but barle bread and peese bred and thin otte caks that is beeter Ambrous thought that theare was not soch A bad contrey in England torn ouer {^to} the other side

{folio 360 verso}

I showld be ouer Joyed to heare from your Lordshipe but to A quint your Lordshipe that wee Are at extrordnary charges to giue Away to those that shows vs the mins and the miners many A6d and many A 1s and many 2d Away besid Spendin of many A 6d and 1s before we can see or know or Learn that which wee doe and know and to mayntayne our horses with A Lowance and A halfe or else the can never hold it out the sadells be all so very bad and horts the horses So much that the Are euery day or 2 A mending I be Leue that the Sadells hath cost vs neare 20__all Reed in all tring for the horsess good and ese this mony will not hold out to doe the bisnes and to com to noridg I doe be Leue it will be A 3 monts time and what time Scot land would take vp wee cannot tell so if your Lordshipe will be pleased to order vs 20l to be payd in Edenbrough if you order mr brand to haue mony in his hands if U can geet A bill heare to pay Receue it on London to Receue it I shall with your Lords ships order if you please to direct your Lordsshipe {^Leeter} to me to me I ame _____Ingraver to the mint in Edenbrough in Scotland I shall Receued it by that time this Leeter coms to London and from London to your Lordship and from your Lordship to London and from London to Scotland I hope to be in Edenbrough Expecting your Lordship Leetter I cannot heare ffrom my sear vents at home nor cannot tell how to wright to them to send me A Leetter to Edenbrough pray my Lord send to mr Brand to be shure what Leeters or boxes or bags of ors coms to his hands from vs be forth with sent for and sent to your Lordship that all things may be in A Redenis Against I come to Try them one Satarday Last with in 6 mills of this place my horse and my selfe had bin like to A bin both Lost {^in a bagg} I sprayned the Inside of my hipe to saue my selfe and plat that I cowld not Torn my selfe in my beed but now prete well but yet in payn but ~~but~~ if I cowld spare time to Rest but I would faine Indeuer to shorten my time but to doe my bisnes of what I came A bought which shall be parformed by me if god blese me with my life and health and Lims and I hope to bring your Honner A good and A profetabell

ac{^c}ownt of our Jorny if it please god I doe but In Joy the sight of your Honor to
Aquint your Lordshipe the oyle of barley hath not over Come any of vs and wins
hears is non neather is ~~the~~ heare and women that can or shall hinder our time or
case vs to Spend 2d of not wee ware Examened but once as yet wee Last our
pistells at worksworth by your Lords ships order and it is well wee did all things
very peasabell and quiat all the Rood wee came so satisfiing your Honner all I can
at presenet the post going and so in hast I Rest your Lordsship True and faithfull
sarvant till death vs depart

Abraham Swift

If I had thought the Jorny would be so Tead vs and so Long and so bad ways and my
time and Trade Lost at home I would not for A 100 gunes A vnder A taken it but if I
had A gread for Less then I haue I would A bin as good as my word I pray god
Inabell me to goe thoro it with my life health and Lims and shall not Repeat it I
haue had 3 mischances by Accedences mr beebnes and Ambrous desiers to be
Remembred to your Honner

{folio 361 recto}

For the Right Honourable

The Earle of Yarmouth

to be left at Mr Brands

Coffe Houss at the sine of the

Raine Bow in St Martins Lane neare Chearing Cross

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 362 Recto

30th May 1689 at Carlile and to day I goe heare to ~~xxxx~~ galaway

Honoured

Lord to Aquint your Lordshipe that yesterday I wright to your Lordshipe to your Lordshipe at Lardg from keswick Expecting the post would call but hee did not since then wee went vp to the tope of great Skedow hill and one the very tope the yearth was as black as A cole and all Loose stone slate and nothing but moose grou one the stons and I trusted the bootom ~~and~~ A good heith and I heare is nothing but solforous stone in vays mixed with A Littell Small ___ {^of coper} no bigger then rge bredth of A stray mixed with lorn I haue spoke with A man of 90 years old that wrought at the old coper works ~~xxx~~ which seait that hee never heard of Any gold goot in Combar Land so yester day in the after nowne wee came heare all on the Reayne we ware weet to the Skinn heare is A great ~~deale~~ many Solder both horse and ffoot and wee ware ~~Examined~~ Strictly examened but my Lord mares Sertificat pased vs one whisentide monday at prescot neare {^neare Liuer powle} was a very great Snow for towe days and Lay vpon the houses forr 50 mills to gether and at in wesmotland and Comberland the Snow Lyeth yet one the Mowntens uery deepe I hope that wee shall pase ~~in to~~ through the hy Lands and Scotland safe from the Lead hills I Shall giue your Lord shipe of the mine in galoway if Anopartunity I can sent but how euer from Edenbrough I blese god wee are all well and the horses but the{^_} backs be so mouch {^sore} for by the means of bad sadells at forst being vnesei for them I wright to your Lordship the Resons or else wee most make hast home and Leaue some bisnes vndon but what is don will be good profitabl news if you Aproufe of it more when I have the hapnes ~~the hapnes~~ to see your Lord Shipe my Lord if you please to send vs A Leeter to one Mr Jams Clarke the Ingraver of the mint in Edenbrough in Scot Land I shall for bare wrighting Any more in this Leeter because I wright at Large Yesterday which is sent this post which I hope your Lordshipe will receue to gether and so I take Leaue and Rest as euer shall as to be your faithfull Sarvent and freend to the vttmost of my knowligd till death vs depart

Abraham Swift

Right Honourable,

The particular of *your* Honors Joynture was brought to me on Saturday by the care of Mr Briggs who receiu'd it that day. I haue examin'd it throughout ouer and ouer, and if it be right, (as I know no cause to doubt) *your lordship* has suffered much wrong, for the Mannor of Matlask is not in *your* Farmall. Vnder that head is comprized all the Farm-rents and rents of Assize that haue been alwaies paid for the lands that lie in the Towns of Matlask, Town Berningham, Northward Berningham, Winter Berningham, little Berningham, plumstead, Hempsted by Baconsthorp, Baconsthorp, Wickmer, Thurparton and Alborough. I shall here name the Farm-tenants with the seuerall respectiue farm-rent they paid half yearly at lady and Michaelmas in 1687. Since then I haue had nothing ti doe in that Mannor.

	li	s	d
Landholders late Mrs Berney)_____	00.	16.	3
Mr Edmond Britiff)_____	02.	03.	1 1/2
Joseph Gay)_____	01.	06.	3
Robert Gay)_____	01.	12.	6
John Miller)_____	00.	15.	0
William pall <i>Junior</i>)_____	00.	11.	9
John Pall)_____	00.	15.	0
Widow pall)_____	01.	03.	4 1/2
John Clansom)_____	01.	03.	4 1/2
Thomas Spurson)_____	01.	10.	0
Richard Whitaire)_____	01.	00.	0
Mr peter Wilson)_____	03.	02.	2
Thomas Wilson)_____	17.	10.	0
Landholders late Robert Mack payable	00.	01	8

at Michealmas only) _____

33. 14. 5 1/2

These are all the Farm-rents that belong to this Mannor. The rents of Assize are collected but once a year; they com to 7*li* 1*s* 9 3/4*d* Then there's office money *which* comes to 20*s* yeerly, alwaies paid at the court *which* is commonly holden in october. As for the profits of Court they are so contingent that I am to seek to set a due estimate on them. The late court I kept there, was in october 1687: then the profits came to 13*li* 14*s* but this can be no rate to ___ by. I account the true yeerly Value of this Mannor 79*li* 9*s* 0 1/4*d* beside the profits of court.

By this particular it appears that *the* Mannor of Cromer is also part of *your* Honors Joynture. But there's no farm-rents. The rents of Assize were 2*li* 6*s* 7 1/2*d* a yeer, but many of them neuer paid in my time, nor long before as I doe beleeeue: it being alledg'd *that* the lands are swallowed vp by the sea. Besides these two Mannors, I doe not find any part of the estate mentioned in the particular *which* *your* *ladiship* has not already: so that if I should maje a new Farmall, I can make no other then what *your* Honor has already: not that I am unwilling to doe any thing for *your* *ladiship* that lies in my power, but I would not doe it to no purpose. If this *which* I here send be not satisfactory, I shall cause my son to make a new Farmall with the Addition of the Farm-rents of Matlask *which* are aboue. My sight is growen so weak and the trouble in my head so great, that I haue not made a Farmall this seuen yeer. I am heartily sory this great mistake was not discovered at the first: the rather, for that so great a loss befalls a most noble lady to whom I am more oblid'd then to the whole world beside.

Madam

your Honors most obedient seruant

J Hurton

october 7. 89.

{folio 364 verso}

These present

To the right Honourable the Countess

Dowager of yarmouth at her house in Downing street

neer Whitehall

London

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 365 Recto

Wirksworth 11^o ffebruary 1689/90

Most Honoured Sir

this day I haue receiued two pair of booked which will be very seruisablee, our concernes alter not as yett, the raine continues vey strait, & very litle oare, & very hard {^as} it was formerly soe, but when wee were driven through the twich or hardness, wee found the oare & let loose a great quantitie of water, I hope when wee are through this to finde better incuridgent then ever wee {^had} we still goe on the direct poynt & haue driven this weeke 2 foot, in the vper drift 6 foot I haue not been well else should haue gon aboute the Copper concerne, but hope to goe this weeke, this day Mr Morris Agent to Mr pairpoynt doth informe that hee hath beene with his Master & that hee is to haue a sixteenth parte of what oare is gott by verte of the sough and not the Charges or cost in gett-ing allowed, Said I my Lord hath purchased seuerall parts of severall mines U supose you doe not expect part of those, he said yes, I tould him the Honour had parts in seuerall places that did not extend to a Sixtenth part & then where would hee expect to haue it hee could giue litle answer to mee, I humbly desire I may haue a Coppie of the agreement & then shall acct accordingly, I doubt not but Morris lyeth under a Mistake, Sir this weeke wee shall finish our Coo to put our oare in thats gott, & dress it up fitt for sale, but it giues a very small rate Lead it not much aboute 8^l per ____ wee are here makeing what intrest can be, for such parliament men that may suport the Church of England since the other is des-olved, Sir wee want money I am sory I am forst to informe wee want money I am sory I am forst to informe your Lordshipp of it, I

{folio 365 verso}

I haue taken all the care I cann posibly to reduce the charge to as litle as may be, as shall giue the Honor an account of by the perticular charge in my next not else but humbly subscribe my selfe.

Your Lordships Most true and ffaithfull Seruant

Richard Heape

I shall sell the oare when drest, I desire to know whether I must lett Mr Morris take
a 16 part I hope the Charges must be defrayd as *the* Lordship wrote

{folio 366 verso}

These

For the Right Honourable

William Earle of Yarmouth

at Oxnead nere Norwich in

Norfolke

Leaue this to be sent as aboue

at the post office in London

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 367

Aprill. 30th:

Deare Brother

Since my Last articles are prefered against our Kinsman for high Mis=dememeanors,
the desire only to make him incapible of being in the ad=ministration in the Kings
absence the Duke of Shresbury is in his place and the 5 in the Administration are
the Bishop of Canterbury the D. Sherew=bury the Lord Keeper Priuy Seale and
my Lord Goddalphin this day an Aact of Grace was sent to the Commons whic
excepts only those committed by the Commons this Session all whom are to the by
it vntill the next supresion with our humble services in

{continued down left-hand margin}

in haste I conclude

Your Lordships Most affection{page damaged}

Brother Robert P{page damaged}

{folio 368 verso}

These

For the Right Honourable

The Earle of Yarmouth

at Oxnead

near Norwich

Norfolke

Apr. 5. 90.

Sir

Mr Harley the Minister of Happis-burgh {^& Walscot} desires you that you would pleas _____ to get the Great scale for him for the ~~xxxxxx~~ Vicarage of Happis-burgh, which he says Mr Kipping (who lately had it) owns to the Voyd by his takeing Erp-ingham without a Qualification & Despensation. And that you would pleas to get a promise for my Lord Bishop of Norwich of W_____ for Mr Harley which is a Curacy in my Lord Bishops Gift, or advise with my Lord Bishop who els is to be applyed to for Walcost, & to secure that too for him. What mony it costs you you shall be re-payd Mr Harley says, immediatly. He is willing he says to save the payns & charge of a journey. I could do no less at Mr Harle's importunity, than make known this his request to you, & you may pleas to let him know by the Messenger, which brings you this, what you will be pleased to do them.

As to my Lady D. Business, If your mind holds of get-

{continued down left-hand margin}

ting discharged of it, Ile levee upon Some discours I had with him yesterday, (if my Lady D: did but say positively he should under-take it again, he would undertake it
Sir Your humble servant

R Harvy

{folio 369 verso}

To the Reverend Dr Hiliard

My Lord

my Lady Dowager sending to haue an Accoant of your Lordshippes answere I waited on her Ladyshippes Letter with the effect of your Lorshippes Letter, To which her Ladyshipp said shee thought it hard, and acquainted mee that shee was leaueing her house and had many bille to pay, & desires your Lordshipp would make her some speedy retourne of mony only for the board o the young Ladyes & Children for the tyme they boarded there, I did presume to ask her Ladyshipp how much was the demand, & hr Ladyshipp was pleased to answere, that your Lordshipp knew what it was, Let it bee what your Lordshipp thought fit, but at this Juncture a speedy supply would bee acceptable, as to any {^thing} relating to them besides board her Ladyshipp said shee did not intend to trouble your Lordshipp with it, I did say I heard your Lordshipp had offered payment, but her Ladyshipp has either absolutely refused it or at least delayed the acceptance, but my Lady said that was a mistake && ws very earnest that I should this once giue your Lordshipp the trouble of this message, to which I beleiue her ladyshipp lookes for an answere with great expectacion, I beseech your Lordshipp to pardon this trouble alsoe from

your Lordshippes most faithfull & most humble *servant*

Ge. Workhouse./

22 May =90./

{folio 371 verso}

To the right honoruble the Earle of Yarmouth att Oxnead

These present

Norff

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 375 Recto

London the 9th Aprill 1695

My Lord

There is in the hands, of a friend of mine, a Seal in steel, Done by the best hand,
of your Lordships Coate of armes, quartered with Such families, as your
predecessors Maryed into. I had the curiositie to take of an impression, which I
here inclose/ I'me informd by the learn'd it cost many Guines, tho am apt to
believe I can procure it for three - if it may be Seruisable or Satisfactorie to you: If
not I'me extramly pleasd it has giuen your Lordship a testimony of my Duty:/ that
I'me ready to Court all occasions to approue my Selfe

My Lord

Yours to honour and Serue You

Phi Gr \ddot{y} me

If parson Brett Visets your Lordship / Caue/

he is now in Norfolke/

Sir J: ff: Send you his Service

{folio 357 verso}

To the Earle of Yarmouth

Present

London 25 July 1695

Honoured Deare, Cosin,

Sir I Receaved *yours* of *the* 10 Instant, for *which* I Returne my humble thanks, I haue beene of late bussy, to haue Managed a trade abroad for some Marchants my friends, *that* might haue proued aduantageouse to them & me, if it had taken Effect but by *what* since hapned I se little aparence at present, *that* I feare beleue I shall goe for flanders till spring, if then Except it be to serve you, seing you are pleased to giue *your* selfe *the* troble to treat With my Lord of Yarmouth about my affaires, of *the* suc^cesse of *which* depends the Welfaire of my famaly, you may beleue how Much I am obleged, I pray Sir lett it be forwarded as spedely as Can be for in this Refined age, there is Noe trading but with Monies, but incase of delay though I hope better *that* you Will please to Vse *your* Arrears, haueing Meet Many disapointments, I am Even apprehensiu of Wanting Necessarys, though I trust in God all Will be as you desire, Just as I Was Concluding this is Come *then* of *the* 21 Instant *that* Inded surprised me, for I made my selfe sure of such a Returne from my Lord as Would haue Plentifully supplied all my Necessities, and to Carry one a trade and Now there is Noe longer Ceremony to be Vsed, I shall this day Writ to my Lord as you are pleased to advise, but I pray lett the Writers be brought Vppe if not here already, to se to

{folio 377 recto}

Vse such Meanes as shall be though Requisite, for I haue beene soe often deceaved by fine Words & promises, *that* I Resolue to try *what* is to be done, I haue had such seuer losses & Crosses, *that* I Must Either haue Monies or I am Vterly Vndone, and *that* I Will Not be, if their Can be Means found to prevent it, I stayed abroad as long as I Well Could my Credict being spoiled by othes disapointments, *that* I Now Juge it More for my Interest to be here for *the* present, & if *what* I am about succed Which Cannot be Carried ^{on} but With Monies, tis Vncertaine if Ever I shall goe bake to Reside/but Whersoever I am I shall Euen Owne my selfe

Your Most obliged kinsman

& humble seruant

John Waldegrave

sir

I begge of you to {^lett me} leaue further how it goes, & to Contine to sollicite y
Lord, for it Would be much to my Lords Content *that* my Lord might be pleased & I
haue *what* I want/ Just Nowa holland Male is ariued but letters Not deliured but by
{^what} I Can learne tis feared Namary Will proue Much harder to take them first
Imagined, tis *said* their hath beene a fright Vpon *the* Coast of Irland betwixt an
India Man & a P_____ of 36 guns & *that the* first Was blowne Uppe but a Great
part of *the* goods saued

{folio 377 verso}

These

For sir henry Bedingfeild

Barronet,

at Oxborough-hall

To be left at stocke, in Lin, Road,

Norfolke

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 378 Recto

October the 6th 1696

Sir

In August Last, I Received A Letter from the Queene Dowagers Councill, at Somersett house, to Show to Diuers Gentlmen Lords of Ma_____ in this County of norffolk for Rents & ffines due & in arreare to her Majesty as parcell of her honour of Cleue in this County, amongst {^whome} was Sir Henry Hobart Barronet for these 2 M_____ below _____, with amongst others I Shew to him, & he told me, he had nothing to doe yow yo Pay them they being Sold by Sir John his father {^bake it} to my Lords of Yarmouth, Soe the Contents hereof, is that his honour may be made acquainted therewith And if any of my Lords Servants by his honour appointed come to the Court at Attlebridge (not Attleborough) upon friday the 23th Instant at the Bull, he may See not only the aforesaid Letter, but with & for what my Lord is _____, which I haue Inserted for his honour to See before, I am

Sir his honours most humble Servant:

Tho: Adamson

A__ xij__ PP The Mannor of hevningham Rent _____ to the honor of Clare - - - - -
300li =05ss = 10d

A__ xij__ PP The Mannor of Calts in Heveningham Rent pound 00 =03=04

There is 2 Alienacion Shires due to the Queene besides: which way be Seene what due at this Co ____

{folio 378 verso}

These

To the Tennant Sterwards of my Lord Vycount Yarmmouth at Hevnigham which Come to be sent to his hand or his Steward

My Lord

I have Recieved your lordships two last letters, and also *the* bill of 30 £ ____ has paid me *thesame* and took out of it 10 shillings for himself and according to your lordships Order I have payd to mr Cook 23£ I wil gett all *the* bookes whom your lordship did note and some other fitt for purpose. *the* sale begins *the* 4 of this Month. I have Caleined *the* body once and am feltring of it now and am doing *the* last 200 of φ and *the* _____ most of wich both I shal Make an End in a fortnight or there abouthes and because *the* Caput most of wich both I shal Make and End in a fortnight or there abouthes and because *the* furnaces wont lett me do all things therefore I must doe one before an other, and as soon as I have finished one of these operations I wil begin to fulminate another 100 of Nitre _____ have Recieved *the* 3 parcels of lead from Mr Cook. I wil gete them Tested Every one by them selves. vnder a Mussel; and part the Silver & Send Your Lordship an account of it, I am glad that The box did Safly arrive for I Thought it to be lost a person of my acquaintane tould me that *the* flemming who has *the* Secret of amalgamating *the* Copper and Silver and augmenting it, has done *the* same to some effect, and Your lordship if I not mistake has *the* secret of doing it, *the* make a great noise if it here. I wil gett *the* leads. Tested on monday next and give Your lordship an account of it who am

Your lordships Most Humble and Most obedient Servant De Heyden

London 1 Octob. 1698/.

{folio 382 verso}

These

For The Right Honourable The Earle of Yarmouth att Oxnead Hall neare Norwich
Norfolk

[other hand - for oxnet]

My Lord

I have att last gott the Remaining questions answered by *the* German as your Lordship desired I would have bin several Times disappointed of meeting him. first he is for a shlow heat in dissolving of silver also that *the* heate be onely so hott as to sett *the* aqua fortis att work. & then such gentle heat, when *the* ∇ is working, must be continued and such soft and gentle parting he affirms to be the best & surest, ___ He admires *the* distilling of the aqua ∇ from the silver better then *the* precipitation of it with Copper. for he not onely saves *the* Copper and ___silver & Aqua fortis, but also *the* Time . wich is lost in precipitating *the* selver. & then the copper again out of *the* blew water & *the* Evaporating of *the* precipitated water & adding it to fresch materials again in order for a new distillation, al these Troubles are saved in doing the Distillation and such silver being boyled in this fizer then that precipitated with ___ The particulars of such distillation he did not tell me but promised to tel me att another Time whom as soon as I gett I wil send them to your lordship. 3. The general and approved vse of cleansing. ∇ is by. precipitating it with Silver and this he likes better then Rectifying for it not onely saves Time bt also the Spenses of Rectiffying. 4 as for adding of Copper to Silver in Order to better parting he does nott allow of but fancys it not good. for all the Refiners in Germany are vsed to part the Silver. to that I perceive this to be out of his ____. 5 the very seldom part with Spirit of Nitre and he is of opinion Like of ∇ that the same must be weak and not Strong 6 *the* blew parting Water he does not know nor never knew any vsed. of such a Colour or Composition. 7 The flux sometimes /: when *the* silver is not very clean:/ the same with a little Nitre to cleanse it but the quantity of Nitre must be very Little or Use it prays vpon The Silver also. These are al *the* questions Your lordship was pleased to order me to inquire. I have Recieved Your lordships Letter my mettul I haue Tested but The Tin wich I reduced out of _____ and added to it did Rise vpon *the* Test. and for want of Convenience I lost above 2 ounces of Silver so that the Experiment that way is spoyled. as soon as I can I wil part *the* same and send Your Lordship a True account of it as for the hints I promised your lordship I have done Something in them Since I came from your lordship but *the* Trouble and grief I have hath in my family and stil have has hindred me from doing so much as Else I would have done. but wil make so much haste with it as Liys in My power That I may gett it ready against your lordships comming To town. I pray your lordship wil not forgett to Lett me have. Some thing for a supply. so that it may doe me some good. The furnace

{folio 383 verso}

whom I made was first 3 rowes of bricks in wich was *the* ashole vpon wich 3 rowes of bricks also Lay *the* grate. then vpon *the* grate was one row of bricks more and vpon that row of bricks a ten inch Tyle. and vpon that Tile *the* fire hole *the* grate must be about 16 inches or thereabouts from *the* pott. and The widenes must be according to The widenes of *the* pott *the* fleaws bignes. and demensions your Lordship knowes. Ould John Having vnderstood from the Cook. that your Lordship Desseignes to Discharge hi Desued me to Lett your lordship know that he is willing to Save your lordship with al his power in any thing your lordship desires but that after. Your lordships Discharge it wil be impossible to subsist for him here in town but wil be forced to goe Somewhere Else for Work. for haveing no mony nor credit he must beforced to go but if your lordship wil be pleased to keep him as he was. he wil serve your lordship in what your lordship is pleased to Commend him. I am

Your Lordships Most Humble & most obedient Servant. Dettyden

London. October 26 1699/

{folio 384 verso}

These

For The Right Honourable The Earle of Yarmouth att Oxnead neare Norwich

Norfolk

White hall *the* 12 of December 99

My Lord

I hope *your* Lordship will excuse my troubleing of you, and Grant my request, which I dare say, *you* will not think unreasonable, *your* Lordship knows my House in the Pall Mall, is only for a terme of years, which being neare expiered, I am adviced to ~~rene~~ renew my leace, with my Lord Mandid, who has twenty nine years affter mine, and then it falls to *the* King, so what I design is when I haue agreed with him, to beg it of *the* King, which I am told will Easely be done, I must give my Lord manord two hundered and fifty pound, now if *your* Lordship will not, help me to part of this, I cannot do it,

{folio 386 recto}

and that will be a great preiudice to me, and I fflatter my Selfe, that *your* Lordship will not only in this, but in any other thing help me, that you can, tho I would not vanture to aske this, if my Brother did not owe me so much, but to haue that mony keep from me, and I in strats, is a little hard, *your* Lordship knows my Brother is welling to pay all, or give Seceurity, but that *you* were unwilling to do it, for *the* fife hundered pound ~~I can't~~ *you* gaue Seceurity for, I cant find any body will lend me any thing upon it, and if I do, I owe stell so much, upon my Brothers a Count, and own, that it must all go to pay it, so that there will be non out of that, to renew my leace, my Brother told me a good while ago, that he would do it, if he Could, therfor I beg *your* Lordships answee, that I may know what to depend upon, I shall not want *the* mony this half year, I beg

{folio 385 verso}

leae to give my humble Service to my Lady yarmouth and that *your* Lordship will beleive me to be, with great truth my Lord

Your Lordhsips

Most Dutyfull Daughter and Most humble Servant

Stuart Howard

British Library Additional MS 27448
Folio 387 Recto

Norwich 31 January 99

May it please *your* Lordship

I this day spoke with one that has been Vndersheriff of Norfolk And hee informs me That the Lease from the Queene is but part of the Hundreds And that there are ___ Hundreds *part* of which Sir Henry held from the Dutchy of Lancaster & pays 28l ___ And Rent besides the ___ to the Queene And he further informs me That the Hundred of Smythdon wil be _____ by me that has a former Grant That the whole Hundreds are now worth 40__ Aid

And that the Leases of these Hundreds were formerly sold to the Family of the Hobarts by Colonel Walpools great vncler for 700l That after hee had sold it he declared if the purchase would have given them Leases back to him hee would not accept it For it occasioned him so many suits and contests that it was a burthen to him

And that Colonel Walpoole can informe you of the truth of this

And that hee would not advise any *person* for whom I had respect to meddle in it

My freinds name that informs me ~~knows~~ is Mr Rolph but desires his name may not be _____

I am

My Lord

Your Lordships most _____ servant

John Chappell

{folio 388 verso}

These

For the Right Honourabl the Earle of Yarmouth at Oxnett

Monday night 8 a Clock . /

My Lord

I went directly from your Lordship to Mr Shaw's house, & was told there, he was at Whitehall, whether I went immediatly (calling first at the Rhomer & not finding him) and at the Treay Chamber, I understood my Lord was within with the _____ private, and the Commissioners of the Custom's (whom Mr Loades & I met) newly gon from him, so I stayed till his Lordship came forth, who came to me, & told me he had advised with the Commissioners, & they adiudg'd all Patents of this nature to be voyd with his late M_____ death, but as to my Lord Townshend, he said he would advise with his Majesty to night or to morrow morning, & did not think it convenient for him to sue out a new Patent, but that the profitts of his farm should, for the remaying 3 yeaes; be managed & collected by the Kings Officers, & discomptd to my Lord, without preiudice or loss to him, but commanded me to attend him to morrow in the Evening, when he should be able more perfectly to inform me, what to write to my Lord Townshend herein. It was not proper for me to aske my Lord Treasurer his Resolucion concerning your Lordships farm, but by what his Lordship exprest touching the other, your Lordship may iudge how yours will go, & as your Lordship shall please to direct me by this Bearer, I wilbe ready to meet your Lordship at my Lord Trear's dore, or elsewhere, at such hour as your Lordship shall appoint to morrow morning. After my Lord was gon, I stay'd a while to speak with Mr Shaw, & found clearly by him, that nothing in that kind your Lordship intended, is to be thought on, towards my Lord, & therefore I have now no more to offer to your Lordship but my humblest service & rest

My Lord

Your Lordships most faithfull Servant

John Fisher

{folio 394 verso}

For the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth

Humbly these

Additional Manuscript 36988

my Verey _____ Duety Remembred yt may please your _____ to Be Advertysed
that I have not only Reteyned your doctor ffuller & mr Johnsons to be of your
Councell according to your Comaundement butt also have been with your _____
and have perused the Regyster ffor sir ffraunces Lovoll(s) wyll *which* as yett ys not
com vnto hys offyce nor *proved*. / And as _____ the house of Buttley *that* wyll take A
Longer _____ then I could haue at *that* tyme/ *neverthelesse* I entered by goddes
grace not to ffayle to Resort to hy _____ Ageyn befor I *departe* to forge out the
partyculers therof for my *purpose* *which* he hath *promysed* I shall do w _____ hys
good wyll:/ ther ys as yett no mater moved or Commensed Ageynst yow in the
Arches./ Butt yf yt shall happon hereafter eny to be putt in ther/ the forsed Doctor
ffuller & mr Johnson *promesed* me to by suche dylygent watch *that* you shall in no
wyse suffer eny J _____ in *that* Courte/ And your Sussex who was Releyued by your
william Paston befor my Comyng to London made the lyke *promesse* ./ Also I haue
Serched the offyce of the Clerk of *the* Crowne in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ {^yo _____
benche} wher I ffound a Recorde *that* william Taylor of wyntertone at *the* last
terme Sued oute A Latytath for the Pease Ageynst Anthony Brampton Retornable
~~the~~ a x _____ {^ mr} hillary of the terme *which* as yett neyther ys Retorned/ you eny
Newe _____ p _____ :/ h _____ beye I enterid to Resort Ageyne thoder before I ~~xxxxx~~
Returne homward Lesse *that* he _____ in the meane tyme/ And yf yt be s _____
ought After my _____ A _____ / fflegy hath *promysed* to Loke to yt & stop yt yf he _____/
And also I haue spoken with Trusshwell your Attorney in the sohquer with whom as
yett I could haue no Leysor to do eny thyng / butt vpon Co _____ he hath
promesed to do yt Lyeth in _____ in *euery* _____ to Accomplyssh your desyre/ And
As for newes I heare of ffewe Butt *that* _____ myles _____ vpon ffryday _____ Last past
was condempned & _____ to dye ffor ffelony/ and *that* it *proclamacon* was
publysshed vpon Saterdag concernynge {^the _____ of} wynes _____ Gascoyne wyne at
vj cvjs viiid the Tonne/ and ffrenche wyne at ffyve *markes* the tonne :/

[FB - Sir Miles Partridge lodge for felony
Price of Wines
Gascoyne 106s, 8d the tonne
French 5 Marks the tonne]

{folio 2 verso}
To the right Worshopfull and my _____ good master/ Sir William Paston
knight at Paston
in Norff

Portrande Themylthorpes *lettre* ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

My deuty remembred, These maye be to put your worshyppe in Remembrance for to send me the booke of Bastewyrke and Reppes, for nowe that harvest with vs ys ended I wold travyll on to mr Clyppysbye, and so treade on your Landes ther before mychelmes further to knowe your pleasure as concernynge the Lettyng of your Landes in ffylbye this yere to come for your ffarms wyll not paye anye more then they hath done heretofore by any meanes at all, so that for as moch as I ____ they shall rayther lye voyde then be occupyed, I have done as moch , I do assure your wurshyppe, as in me lyethe to rayse the same, for the which thyngs I haue purchased of the ____ to wurshyppe moche hatred & mallyce/ ____ to procede as I have begonne amonge them, I wyll yelde you yerely for eny ____ that I shall occupye of yours in arrable Lande ijs viijd for your bruerye X as hathe bene here before ____ with the same lands ~~that I wold~~ so that your wurshyppe wyll make a lease therof for XJ yeres yet I wold not have your worshyppe to dyseast thys my offer to the rest of your ffarms, because he shall not be thought of I shuld be the Auctour of raysyng the same / Thus beyng desyerous to knowe your pleasure in all the premyss, I besyche the lyvying god long to preserve you & yours with moche encrease of your worshyppe/ ffrom ffylbye this xijth of September 1564

Your poore serv^{^a}nte and daylye oratour, Robbe ____ clerk

[FB - 12 Septr 1564. Arable lands raised rent per acre 2s 8d per annum. In other letter of 1564 Vinegar is 20s pr hogshead but wine is 8d pr Gun]

[Folio 3 verso]

To thet Ryght worshopful his _____ Mr William Paston esquere yeve these

Yt maye please yor_ worshipp to vnderstande that I was at Norwiche on mundaye was a senntye to haue sent yow worde what I had done with the berbrowers at Trowse according to my promise and deliuerid a Letter to be sent vnto yow at Blowettes but as thaye said that Godferey was sodenley gonne that it was not sente Sir_ synes that tyme I receyuid yor_ letter with *commandiment* therin to cawse one of the said berebrowers of Trowse to laye in iij barrelles of beare the whiche according to yor_ said *commandyment* is Anne Newman the brewer who is the porest man will find yow after this mann folowing for xx combes mawlte xvj of hoggesheades of beare for yor_ owne table / and for e__y combe of mawlte one hoggishead of yomans beare for yor_ howsawlde and yf yow wyle deliuer hym ij tonne of hoggeshead he will fynde the rest of vesselles to be deliuerd in barrelles or haue barrelles at yor_ worshypes plesure got he saith that the beare for yor_ owe table is best to be tumed in hoggesheades for the better keping therof / Debney the other brewer will not saue you so good chepp the bande of the *barrelles* {^barreles} as iij fferkynes and euery fferking howldeth ix gallanes so the hogshead being a barrell {page damaged} a halfe howldeeth liij gallans so yow maye measure yor_ {page damaged} hogshead yf yt howldyth after this rate or no Thys ff {page damaged}

Norwige in hast this present Tewsdaie the xiiijth of October Anno 1564

Yor_ Serunt William Gurney

[FB - 20 Combs of Malt will make 16 hogsheads of Beer for your own table

1 Comb - & hogshead for your household beer

1 Hogshead = 1 1/2 barrell = 1 barrel = 4 Ferkins. 1 Ferkin = 9 Gallons

1 Hogshead = 54 Gallons.]

{Folio 4 verso}

To the Right Worshipfull and his singuler good ___ master William Paston esquier at Paston yeve these with sped

[FB - 3 May (1565)
News from Scotland]

My Dewty remembred that pleaseth your worshipp to be aduertised that I haue receyued your letter dated the xxith daye of the Last monethe the contentes whereof I haue accordingly _____plished to suche effecte as I vnderstond by my Cosyn Thomas Dengayne yow wold haue the same as to haue yt _____ in parchement : which is verye slender: but I suppose your pleasure shalbe hereafter to haue other estatutes bounde to the same, so nowe not to bestowe shuch cost as then you maye verye well do. The price of these said estatutes: is xis. And so hadd I much ado to gett them ~~xxxx~~ the price is great , Sir for _____ occurrauntes in these plies they be very fewe that I here of: but such I suppose as your worshipp is partaker of also due that is that ij ambassadors are come out of scotlande: as some thinke to crave the quenes highnes good will & assent that thearle of Lynnes his sonne may marrie with the quene of scottes who as yt is credablie spoken is verye faire _____ with the said yonge Lorde. some ageaine do report that he is married vnto his acrodie, and his father s chefe & protector of the realme of scotlande /. his wife is here & charged to kepe his chambre verie straytly. / I praye god yt make not some broyle ~~xxxx~~{^between} vs/ & the scottes thearle of leicester: hurte his legge with a fall of his folecloth nagge, but I here saye he shall do verie well thankes be to god I here reportid that the Dukes grace wilbe with you in Norffolk within this fortnyt & lesse : I suppose thr next weke / the Ladie Markus was solemlye & honorablie enterted at plowes {^on} Satterdaye Last; which a fayre hears there weare a great noubre of pore people for Ali_oys: but I did not vnderstand of any was gyven / Mr Nowell Deane of powelse hath made an Answer to Mr Dorman his booke the which is nowe in printinge but Mr Inse his answeere will not come out as _____ here before mychelmas or there about / after matters here be none worthie of relacions: But that all your ffrindes doth well thanked Be god who alwayes preserve your worshipp in health and sende you happie successe in all your cawses . writton the forth{^third} of maye by thande of yours to commaund Dueringe Liefte
Jo: Brampton

Postcript

I gayne this brings greate charge for the safe carrage & good vsage of your saide booke because yt is but bounde in parchement Sythens the writting of this in lettre my mr Receivid a lettre from you making reports of his lettres Sent vnto you by Edmond his seruant this present daye & yester daye my Lord of Norff his grace with a great noubre of the nobilite haue passed there time in the ~~xxx~~{^cocke} pitt where as I here my lordes grace haue spedd verie well & worie if _____ by report. but suer I think verye _____ lesse my lord of sussex my lord of northumberland my Lord of shrewesbery my Lord of Darby my Lord of strange with others were there

[FB - Cock-pit]

{folio 6 verso}

To the right worshipfull Willyam Paston Esquire at Norwyche _____ these

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 7 Recto

ffrom London the 23 of August 1566

Wyth my humble commendations your worshippe shall vnderstande that your letters cam to my masters handes the 21th of Auguste / which when he hadde redde he deliuered them vnto me o be kepte. And within one hower/ bycause he was arminge towardes a longe iowrnie he willed me to wryte this mytche vnto yow. viz that the particulers were verye obscure and penned to the advantage of the seller / bycause the meddowe pasture and arable were not expressed aparte, besyde the tenure of the lande is not declared ne yet of whom yt is holden, which he saythe is mytche materiall to the purpose it is ment. Yf yt be all arable sauing a twentye ac_ as yow gesse he saythe the price excedeth all that he hathe hardde, onles there were som other advantages them eyther he or yow wryte , Yf that be his determinate price he counselethe yow to travle for him no further therein, marye yf mr_ paston vse the frenche manner wherein our neighbours of london ar nor to seeke which is to aske wytche and yet to com to reason in thende, he will not refuse further talke therein when his ffrende commithe to your fayer for thother matter which will be aboute the xth or xijth of september last of all he willed me to desyre yow rather to helpe forwarde by all mees the talke that is nowe to be hadde with mr_ bownest for the other lande which he likethe verye well / bycause yt is not improued and is well pastured and wodded bothe / which he saythe ar singuler commodities, besyde the pronnage which will be good for the colledge / Yf that take no effecte he wolde not haue yow hastye for he hathe hadde the offer of other thinges moore to be liked then suayllwell, therefore assure your selfe to be spedde or longe. Thus yow sir he likethe the our and not thother /yet I thincke mr_ Castell who commethe to the fayer and yow maye parswade him reasonableye where yow both shall lyke. Thus in haste I leaue further to troble yow.

Yours to commawnde
Robert turner.

yow shall receyue by hobson the caryer an _ oranges and xx lemandes from your coostn mr_ Dormer

[FB - Hobson the {^famous} Cambridge Carrier died 1630]

{folio 7 verso}

To the right worshipfull mr_ leedes mr_ of the colledge commonlye called Clare hall in Cambridge

[1570]

Sir my most b_____ dutie promysed, that maye like you to be advertised that I haue sent you lettres herebefore, the one to satisfie you of your expectiō in your owne affaires/ the other to cause you to stave the payment of your {^_____} _____ the quenes majestie/ And nowe as towching my further procedinges in your affaires & busynes you shall vnderstand that mr Munsonne whome I had retayned of your _____ vpon Informaciō given to him that the same woodhowse whome you _____ was he that maried with my L. Keys daughter/ wold not in no wise deale in the matter agenst {^him} saying my Lord Key was hes verie good _____ ~~and so he wold not deale agenst you him~~, & gaue me the mony I retayned him with so I went to Mr _____ wraue whome I retayned because yt was for the queue but he much _____ I wold deale with him or the _____ & where _____ who should haue all fauors that might be had _____ I wold not meddle on ney ther-rtie of them I went to _____ soliciter who I retayned of your consell and he said to one if you were playntife he wold be with you, and so if they were playntife he wold be ap_____ you for he said he must be for the quene towching the R_____, and for the better I think he will speake by _____, neyther voice any other excepte mr thorneton or mr gardie saide yt wilbe verie hard to get any counsell more that be good & _____ they be so fearfull of my lord Key_ mr {^Robert} marrwood _____ was _____ before my comyng vp mr Recorder & mr bell which be all the starr chamber men/ suer nothing greveth me so much as I can not for your money get you such consell as I wold or as I think mete to prove your turne, & those that be meane dare not,so the case standeth _____

{f.8 verso}

with you I feare in manner your owne consell that nowe be will verne hardlie be gotten to the barr to speake effectually in the matter except you be present your self, for I se them faynt hearted yett I deale franklie with them / as your pleasure is I should do / mr gardie & I am s_____ where to fynde some excellent yong man to Joyne with him for I feare much, mr thorneton will not come there, as when nede shalbe, I praye god he be do Sir
I here not of ~~xxx~~ {^any} of your wilteshere men with there Rentes nor fearmes neyther yet hath philipp_ grove sent vp but I suppose I shall here of him on frydaye next Sir J said you hereinclosed a lettre from mr Os_____/ Sir all your thinges in aldermanbury doth well thankes be to god and for my Ladie mallerie I mynd to put her in sute_____ she will paye no money; she hath earnestlie entretid for a tyme for that she hath not yet _____ any parte of her husbandes goodes, therfor yt maye please you to stave till the next terme/ Sir this daye I haue gotten _____ Seruant wraue his hande & mr francis gardis ~~xx~~ your bill of complaynt but mr thorneton will not deale any further therin without he be assigned by the _____ / so mr gardner is your only refuge in this case, and he hath put out mr william heydon out of your bill because he is his father _____ man and maye not with his honestie be agenst his sone / but he saith that all ~~the~~ his doinges shall p_____al well in question al of he wae in / And so I will {^put in your bill} & out proces tō as shorsse shortlie as I possiblie can & as secretlie, for there are _____ all weachers Sir yt is said that

newes came to the _____ this present daye that my L scropes hath gyven a great ouerthrowe in the west borders of scotland & burnt & or xij of the lord _____ & other lordes

{f.9 recto}

townes in scotland taken v__horsmen but__ / at the Erle of T__ssey haue done as yet are here ___ I will send you done the proces by mr Whalby sone of I can so sone get them out for he coms from london on fridaye next/ if not I rest bring them in thende of the terme/ _____ besechng allmightie god to send your worship with my singuler good _____ long & fortunat lyffe from _____ this xxviiij of April./
Your most _____ Seruant
John Brampton

[FB - Lord Scroope's success in Scotland 28 April (1570)]

{folio 9 verso}

To the right worshypfull his singuler good mr Clement paston esquier at oxned _____ these

John Bramptons lettre for the Ryott in the starre Chamber p__farred first by Sir henry woodhowse

[FB- 12 May (1570) reative to a bill in the Star Chamber for a Riot]

Right worshipfull my most bounden dutie remembred Yt maye lik yow to be Advertised, that sythens the departure of my Cosyn Jermy I haue bene nolesse careful to search out the doniges of your Aduersarie, then diligent to procecute your owne, And o___syns the terme your Aduersary Mr woodhowse hath Exhibited a bill in his vnclcs name ageanst yow into the starr chamber, and therein made Dyuers manifest vntruthes, (I will not saye lyes) the ff__ of which bill is that Sir John Clere was seised of the manner of wynterton, And so seised had & always gretlie _____ such wreckes as were cast vp within the {^____ of the} same manner which is {^not} trewe, but never had any cast vp vpon the said pece of gronde called flodgates. neyther do they so alledge in there bill / And they saie the said Sir John Clere being so seised of the said manner with thappereances, graunted the same to Sir Thomas woodhowse nowe complayner with all comodities & profites / And he being so seised, a ~~wreck of the sea for~~ {^_____} belonging _ a shipp being lost in the sea with certeine barrel of pitche & tarr were cast vp by rage of the sea vpon a pece of gronde lying within the precincte of the said manner callyd wynterton, parcell of which gronde Clement Paston & John paston pretended title vnto/ And that Sir Thomas woodhowse apoynted to safe Kepe the said good, And sayth further that hering the said Clement paston with a Riotous company with him to the number of fortye were vnlawfully assembled together for the better ordering & safe Keping of the said Stuff & for quyeting of the said Ryotous persons, your said subiect sent ane henry woodhouse his nephewe & some of his seruant to set the said goodes awaye quietlie Sayth further that you with John Brampton georg Rogers henry warnes Robert Tompson & dyuers others disordered persons to the m____ of _____ the third daye of aprill last past with force & Armes assembled to _____ (_____ and vpon parcell of the gronde of your subiectes with long pikestaves pytcheforkes cropers tenne fote long long daggers swordes & bucklers/ and dyuers other vnlawfull weapons seuered into _____ dysperced vnder the Clisfes about the sea shores and so being assem-bled by the comandement of you and your brother with force set vpon Mr woodhowse men/ and toke from them two hundreth clapholtes tenne barrells of pitch& tarre after the said henry woodhowse cam thether/ And that he offered the said _____ to be layed vp into a howse there to be saflye kept tyll the matter were _____/ notwithstanding

{f.10 verso}

by your comandement & mr John pastons very obstinatlie adfised so to do, but sundry ways aswell by _____ in sheche as otherwise in Dealing the said Clement & others Riotours gave many attemptes & vnlawfull enterprises to sturr the said henry woodhowse to breake the queen peace / And you & your seruantes should saye that thay wold carry the same goodes away or els they wold bye-be beaten downe for yt / And seing our _____ inclinacion where vnto yow were bent, charged vs yow to kepe the peace, and sayth further that you an other tyme cam with _____ or _____ persons vpon the gronde of the said manner and did violentlie offer to strick the Servantes of the said henry {^Sir} Thomas woodhowse / & seing his _____

goinge awaye you tried to your company with a lowde voyce swering great othes saying vnto them vpon them cutt there throtes cut there throtes/that your seruantes should haue cut the throtes of his horsse that were in ___ carte And so we should forthwith offer to strike at the horsse, but you seing your discovered pers-company so bent to mischefe you lyftid vp your voice heigher chaunging your former towne of cutt there throtes Cutt their throtes & cried cutt there Ropes and the same wordes were no soner spoken, but yt not were immediatlie done by his {^your} lewde seruantes And you being on horsback offerd to ride ouer your Servantes/ and with your owne hande you pulled the collers of from the horsse / this is the whole effecte of mr woodhowse bill the copie you in no wise be knowen that you knowe of his is bill, but make that you be ingnorant of all his doinges though he be prevne to _____ / there are subpenas out for you for one georg Rogers henry warnes & Roberthe Thomson And for no more of there sortie persons that they alledge in there bill Sir for the matter for the Allens you maye I think haue them not sute if you will & dryue them to begyne there sute ageaine, Els you maye trye yt at the next assises; but I suppose one parte of ___ assure willbe tried with you & thother ageanst you, for the goodes taken awaye suer must nede be found ageanst you but for your entre that wilbe fonde with you as my brother Kempe can tell you / I was at hollyngbury morly with my Lord but cold not speak with him self so master Sir John did my _____ And for the lease he will

{f.11 recto}

haue a copie of that was drawne with a copie of the Articles & then he will shewe yt his counsell And so sende yt vp the next Terme to be ingrossed, I shalbe fayne to make out an newe copie of the indenture & Articles for Mr gaudie is gone & hath them which I least with him at the request of mr newman ___ for the recognisaunce he is contented to let yt be as you think good for the some for you shalbe bounde in in like boundes so ___ or ___ as you think good he-my theres that you haue not only fellid th_____ which his lordship gave you in ___ at brixton but you haue also cut downe ij walnut tres which grew there, a thing which my lord thinkes much of, Also mr St John told me that my Lord think for vnkyndnes in you for mr Townsende Londe which my Lord had had iij ___ better chepe if you had not bene ageane he take yt vnkyndlie that you brake promyse with him for your metall, this great vnkyndnes is thought got many causes, which your worship must purg by the losse of your gelding, as for the wood in brixton ___ he sayth at skete hath yt, for yeres & if you can agree with heym he is contented you shall make the best you can of yt otherwise he will not lose xx_ a yere with skete ___ paye him yerely during the termes This I humble comytt you to god from hollingbury ___ this xiith of maye
Your most humble Seruant
John Brampton

[FB - (1570)]

{Folio 11 verso}

To the right worshipp his singular good mr Clement paston Esquere

A lettre reporting a bill exhibited vnto the Starre chamber by Sr Tho: woodhows against mr John & clement Paston supposing a Ryott to be comytted by them at fflodgates / 1570/

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 12 Recto

[FB - 14 May 1570]

After my right Hartie Comendacj^ons it maie like yow to vnderstande that
meanyng the good and helpe of twoo of my Servauntes that shall by the grace of
god be maried this next _____ a Sondaie at St ffaithes haue accordinge to the
wonted ___Neighbourlie order of freindes in like case for advauncement of their
servauntes wretten to sondrie my very ffrendes and ___ ___ in whiche nombre
accomptinge yow. I haue wretten the ___ my earneste Lettres. Right hartelie
praienge yow. if you maye convenyentlie to be at the Mariage or otherwise in
token of your god will. Sende what shall please yow who shall in like case or eny
other wherin I maye pleasure yow fynde me as al tymes redye fare yow well from
St ffaithes this xiiiith daie of May / 1570 /

Yours to my vttermost Ric. Southwell

[other hand]

With my verye hartye comendacj^on to my goode cousyn your_ wyssh I yealde my
hartye thanks for that yt pleased yow so courteously to remytt John Soomer his
offence and therwith_ to receyue him into your_ sarvice whrein I trust diligence and
goode desert shall _____ your_ perfitt goode opinion of him whose earnest repented
folyes with_ promes herafter to be in all pointes_ of good behavou_ caused me the
rather to intreat yow that may and shall vnfaynedly comand me at your_ pleasur_
ffare yow hartely well

[FB- Invitation of Friends at Servants Wedding for their benefit & advantage - a
good, charitable Custom]

{f.12 verso}

To the _____ and my very _____ Cosen W_____ yeue

[FB - Grene's Letter to Mr Dunning wishing him to compromise all differences between him & Sir William Paston]

Jentill Mr Dunnyng _____ I was solitarye and had secrett conferens with my self I callyd to my remembrance the oncharitable & ongodly controuersies of lyffe that haue benne betwixt Sir William pastone & me has poore neighbors thes many yeres paste by reasone of sundrye controuersies and wordlye offences, wherof I desier quyetnes nowe in {^my} olde yeres that I maye lyve redy eny hower to dye from the myserys of the world, And consideringe with my self my poore astate and that it becom~~my~~the euery inferior persone for thende of causes in contrauersie with all humylite to seeke to his superiore by by some discrete mediator withowt resspecte of any original cause / your longe abodde at paston commynge to my mynde and sir william paston his good opynion in you aswell for your goode connsaild in bodelye cures as in inwarde affectes and mocions of myade, I thought with my self. the worke beinge so charitable and your dissposicion so good, That althoughe I my selfe will stire you vpp to be a mean to his wurshipp for the performaunce of so good and charitable an acte as this might be sythe my onlye suyte is that right might be renderyd wronges repressed and _____ mayntswyde, wherinto I doo bileve firmlye his wurshipp will agree the rather in that __ towchithe _____ of the office of a magistrate Wherof he himself is one __ And forasmoche as noo weightye cause that I remembre depende to be dissydyd bitwixt his wurshipp & me, But that is groundyde vpon an olde disspleasure onnistlye conceyvyde by sinistre informacion; onles it be for some suche matter by hym favoryde that towchlike suche as be towarde hyme If it be his wurshippes pleasure the same also shall comme to ende I shall not refuse But that aswell those matters as all other wherin it is thought I haue not delt vprightlye shalbe harde by too indifferent lernyd menn of the spirituall or temperall lawes bifor whome the said causes are most aptlye to be delte in, Or otherwise the case drawn downen and agreed vpon by the parties maie be showed to suche as be lernyd in either of the said lawes, and whatsoever shalbe sett downen for ther best opynion and Judgement in the lawe either of vs maye staunde to abyed and performe whicch to doo I shall for my parte most willinglye consent, Or otherwise vpon order of those matters bitwixt his wurshipp & me I maye haue his lawfull fauour in the rest to haue my tryall by lawe to wyne or loose according to the equite of my cause, And in the accomplisshinge of this good and godlye mocyon the god of peax shall strenghten you {^To whom I hartely _____ to} graunt vs peax of conscious concorde and agreement that we maye lyve in _____ and glorifye hym whom I beseche to send you a longe liffe /I salute you withe my hartie commendacions and wishe you as to my self _____

September / 1585 by the leysurles hande of

Your well assuryd to his small power

Thomas Grene

Even as I haue to you onely ___tyd this matter vpon a singular confidens So I prairie
you lett the saue be kept secret to your selfe as to your good discrecion maie seme
best

{folio 15 verso}

To my very ff_____ mr dunnyng at paston hall geve this

Grenes *lett*re written vnto Duninge *the 2d* of *September*

1585

After my verie hardie commendacions/ Accordinge to the agreement at our last beyng at Attilbrigge, I haue sent you herin noted the names of thos persons which the Clerke of the peace signified vnto me, to haue lycences now inforce, to buye Corne within this Shiere / But for that it is a number farre inferior to thos that doe exercise that kynde of trade, I haue therfore taken order within my lymyt, that the chief Constables shall gather knowledge of all thos persons that doe buye Corne to sell agayne, And geve me notyce of their names in Wrightinge vndelayedlye; for that enterid they shalbe dealt withall generallye, Accordinge to the Counsell direccion which course, or any the lyke, that may satisfie her majesty's expectacion, and be for the intended benefyte of the Countrie, I wyshe to be observed within your lymyte/ And thus I hartelye commytte you to god/ ffrom baconsthorpe this xijth of June./ 1586./

Your verie louinge frend

William Heydon

william gyrlynge merchant
michael Tyvet merchant } of Lyme.
George Gybson. merchant.

Thomas Boston

George Crane. taylor } of yarmoth
william younges. merchant/

Bennet browne of malbye

william Catten of Attilbrigge yermouth

nichlis Lynnt of Brapton gen___

Rychard gryme of Enffield g___

Thomas Crossman of Tybenham y___

Robert Browne } of Kenyngall
} }
Robert Lytton. y.

william Sudbery of pulham magdalen.

Robert walker } of wytton
} }
nichlis marcant

John Crotche of woodnorton y__.

Reginold Cotton of Bridghton y__.

Rychard wright of Brisingham y__.

Robert Lyllye of Estharlynge. y__.

Beatryce bettes & John Stamford. of Thetford.

Thomas Bardon of westlexham . y_____.

{folio 17 verso}

To the right worshipfull Sir william Paston and Sir Thomas woodhowse knights and
the worshipfull william Ble__sset and John Holdyche Esquire

Sir. w. h. lettres. ____

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 18 Recto

My manifold distresses are such , and the Toiles wher with I haue pestred yowe to fore so manye and greate, as make me blush to presse yowe anie further / Yet the necessitie of my cause considered, I am most earnestlie to crave *your* favour so farre as to signe theis lettres (or others to like effect as shall best like yowe), to be sent to my Tenantes, of entent that my rentes and fearmes maie {^be} said according to the purport of the Articles which hearwith I send & comitt to your viewe & consideracion. I need not further trowble yowe with discourse ; seinge the articles explaine our Agrement & I redie to performe. And so nothinge doubtinge of your Curtesies nor grave consideracion of there most ho: lies, as having liberallie tasted therof before /: I comend to yowe my good will & comitt my cause to your gentle comiseracion
the ffeaste of September 1590
this

Your loving and distressed frend

{Folio 19 verso}

To the right Worshipfull Edward Cleere and Sir William Paston knightes his singler good frendes be theis with speed dd

[other hand - I haue seene these lettres & performid that subscription to the fermors & Tenants to moue them to ____ without their preiudice that my cosin sothwell _____
F. Clere

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 21 recto

[FB- Chest of Viols £/10 9's]

Good Sister / the gentlemen who oweth the chest of Viols will not sell them vnder
Xli he saith they are are good as can bee & the chest cost him xvjs if it please you
to send the men hither to see them & if he like them & then the prise perhaps we
may gett them cheaper. So with my wifes & my most kid affection remembred
vnto you, I rest

Your_ assued louinge Brother

John Heveningham

Kettringham this 30th
of October. 1622.

{Folio 22 verso}

To my woorthely beloued Sister the Lady Paston geue these

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 25 recto

My Good will the Lord blese the for ever. I heer that Sr John Hev: is goinge to Sr John Wayntworths vpon vrgent busines I pray the doe not thow goe thether for many Cawses. but com hom yo me the next fayer day I sent tom Harts-ton hopinge with in a day ore two it will be fayer wether and wrap vp your selfe as warme as may be: I shal veryly expect the next fayer day. I pray the remember me to they Cosine Hevenigham very kindly and allso to all thy Cosins:

Tom Hartston will tell the of the fayer shipe which is rune on grownd with in Mr John Smiths Liberty. Sayd to be as great as the dans ship which cam vp longe Sinc ther is not on liuinge thinge in her of man or beasr Suer thinke it is a riffled ship of the kinge of denmarks because it haue a witt Lion badge as the other danish ship had. Sum thinke she is a dunkerk but god know what she is: Com and _____ the thus the Lord bles preserue and keep the body and Sowll:

thy most Louinge

mother Kathrine Paston

{Folio f.26 verso}

To my beloued Sonn william Paston these at

Ketringham

Speed

My good Child the {Lord} blesse the ever more in all thy goings outt and thy
Cominges in. euen in all thy ways works and words, for his mercy sake: I was very
glad to heer by your first letter that you wer so saffly arrived at your wished port.
but more glade to reade thy Louinge pro-mises to parforme my desires : which I
hope in god shall allways redownd to thy Cheeffest good bothe for this, and the
Liffe to come. and remember that now is the cheeffest time to gayne the truest
good bothe for sowll and body: your, ~~xxxx~~ Cunditt of Comfort tells you: that: “the
seeds which now in youth you sowe”: “Springe vp and sprout increase and grow”.
Wherefore Labor to sowe: {^for} your grownd is as the tilled earthe, if you sowe
good seed. you shall reape a pleantifull and comfortable Crope: but if it shold lie
still with out good seed: it doth naturally bringe forthe noysom weeds: /

I could wish that you wold settell your self to certin howers tasks. Euery day you
rise x: and those howld your self too with out any wearines: the Vse of it wold
make it bothe easy and pleasant. to you: / but it maybe at the first it will seem
Laborious to you: but you must remember . that the sonns of Adam wear borne to
digge and delue: euen in the sweat of our browes: / Likewis wisdom is not fownd
but is as hidden treasuer. which must be digged for. affter much scerch to finde it
out: /

this I thought good to put the in minde of. veryly beleuinge thou willt doe this for
my sake but more Cheefly for thyn owne: that I may receiv the from that plase
adorned bothe with devine and humayne Learninge. to my sowlls comfort for
nothinge in this Liffecan be so cordial to me. as. shallbe thy vertuous and Ciuill
behavior and now

{f.27 verso}

I thank the for thy kinde token sent me in your first letter: and also I haue
received two others {^letters} Last by Johnsons. by whom I did not wright,
because this mesenger will be with you sooner then he: / in all which of thy most
louinge letters I haue thy faythefull promises redubled. wherfor I haue no dought of
the performanc of them seinge they be allwas in thy minde:

your father comende him to the and doe acseptet kindly kindly of this other from
me till a better com: your brother is very well, and haue sent you a letter of his
own indittinge as you may se. but mr brew__ was his Clarke: he tells you all the
newes is sturinge: I will conclude as I begane with my harty prayers to the
allmighty for all true happiness to be multtplied to the bothe now and ever farwell
my sweet will: for this time: /

by thy Louinge mother

Katherine Paston

remember my good respect to your worthy Master

Linnicars' watter worke and his glasinge worke dothe very well as maybe:

[FB - folio 28 recto]

Katherine Paston wife of Sr Edmund Paston kt. & Dr of Sr Thos. Kniuet kt. was mother of Wm Paston. She died on 10 March 1628 & was buried at Paston where a most curious monument is erected to her memory. It was made by that famous Statuary Mr Nicholas Stone & cost 340 £

Samuel Walsall DD master of Corpus Christi College from 1618 to 1626.

William Roberts Tutor to Mr Wm Paston was admitted in 1617 & took his Degree of B.D: 1631.

Mr William Paston was admitted in 1624 & took his Degree of BA. 1626.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 29 recto

[FB - Good Advice]

[June. ii. 1624]

My good Will:

I doe much desire to heer how you doe, I hope you haue receiued my late letters written to Mr Roberts and you:/ take heed to your selfe good child, that I may heer a good report of your Ciuill and kinde behaiour. towards all. but cheeffly haue an e^spetiall care to fear and serve god: lett it be the first and last thinge you thinke of. and then be sure the blesinge of the allmighty will preserue you in all your ways. for he never fayled those who trusted in him and duely served him:/ and next beware of violent tennisinge or leaping or any other thinge which shold hinder your healthe: take heed of frute of all sorts if you eate any. eate very moderatly for to much ocation ofte tims much sicknes: I sent in my last letter, that Mr Roberts wold doe so much as by you a tamill gowne to wear this summer I hope it is done:/ I doe much longe to heer of you and god grant I may heer com-fortable news :/ your kinde ante bell remembers her loue to you and send you a boxe of Juse of Lickorous. it will stay the ruhum. when tobaca will not :./ I hop to heer you still hate the very smell of tobaca: I send you a pece of gowld for a token. and if thow does well and be ruled by thy tutore in all things for thy good: then thow shalt be sur to want nothings that I can doe for the: and so the Lords blesinge be foe euer more vpon thy sowle and body farwell good will:

thy most Louinge mother
Katherine Paston

Commend me very kindly to the Mr: and to good Mr Roberts. Wright to me as oft as thow canst and so agayne farwell:

friday the 11th of June 1624 :/

{Folio 30 verso}

To my very wellbeloued sonne *William* Paston these I pray at his lodging in Corpus Christy Colledge :
Cambridge

good will: the mercy <page damaged> blesinge of our heauenly god be euer more vpon the, I am not a littell glad and comforted *with* this most louinge linnes, by which I see that thow hast a desire to heer offten frome me, and thy offten wrightinge to me makes me see, that thow hast a good minde to speake offten with me, and thy good desire to see me onc a day: cane all these things springinge from {^thy dutyfull loue to me: shall make me bethinke me still, which way I may doe thee most good. yea. and all the good I cane: goe on my good chilld in thy well doinge, (and allways remember) it is a greater prayse to keep prayse: then to get prayse :/ Continew thy great respect to that most worthy Mr: who I heer is so exedinge louinge and kinde to the, for the which I will not be vngratfull to him: And likewise it dothe mee good to heer that thow doest bothe Carfully obserue and louingly respecte thy good tutor honest Mr Roberts: who I know will be as glad of thy well doinge as any frinde can bee:/ I confes I coolde haue bine content, and I shold haue pleased my self for the present much better, to haue kepte the allwas at hom *with* me: but how coolde that haue bine for thy good in time to come): no, I beleue veryly it might haue bine to bothe our disparagments: but now I hope to receue the to me furnished *with* grasces, as a Bee comes loden to her hiue:/ euen *with* the best abroad:/ I hope before this you haue *receiued* my letter by Johnsons the Cambridge Carrier *with* 5.li 10s sent to good Mr Rob: for a supply till I send more to the comencment. good child let not a poor hungry siser want a reward from the. But lett the poorest and least be frinded, reape a kindness from the. lett such not want bread or beer in a moderat maner. but be a healp to the healples in ther most need. and the lord will blese the if thow beest kinde to the poor and neddy ons :/ remember me very kindly to the worthy Master and likewise commend me to good m^r Roberts I will wright to him the next weeke, I pray the thanke {continued down left-hand margin of page} him for his often wrightinge. he can not wright too offt so longe as thow arte so good a boy and be so well gouerned. in my next letter. I will begine to inquier of a fittinge time for your cominge hom. but I and thow mcut leaue it to the Master his good pleasur . what time he shall thinke fitt: but more of this hereafter :/ thy father tooke thy wrightinge to him in good parte: and is very glad that thow arte a good chilld: farwell my good chilld and god for his mercy sake send the his grase *with* a longe healthy and hapy life and so farwell: agayne and agayne:/ thy most louinge Mother euer
Katherine Paston

friday: 25. of June 1624/

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 32 recto

Most honored and Deare mother, The Lorde Be Thanked I haue had my health exedingly well since I came hether. Bu-I am fainte to play The Sirgion, with my Tutors finger which was a pittfull one, But now I haue Brought itt to a fine passe, and is euer well. Deare mother I will euer haue your precepts in my minde, puttinge Them allwaies in practice, and I hope iff I obey them, I sh~~a~~ shall still Keepe your accustomed Loue which, next to The grace of god, I esteeme aboue anie Thinge. The Kinge is expected here one Candlemas day or The day after. we heare no newes att all This weeke. euery Saturday your Ladiship shall haue A Letter from me or my Tutor, if They doe {^not} miscarry By The carrier.

This 26 day I haue not hearde from your La:d: ~~xxx-xxx~~ ruffes, standing commons, (in pottage) amounteth to a penny a a weeke. The master is very Thankfull To you ffor your greate {^gift} Remembringe his hartiest sseruice To your Ladiship so with my humblest dutie, To yorr sellfe, and my ffather, Beeseching god To showre downe his Blessings one you: and all your housholde. I rest

your Dutifull and obedi{^e}nt sonne.

Will: Paston:

Good mother Remem-ber my Best Loue To my Brother: to cousin: Abigaill. and mrs Willson. Mr Brende:

{Folio 33 recto}

[FB - William Paston was admitted a Fellow Commoner of Corpus Christi College in 1624 & in 1626 took his Batchelor of or Arts Degree with great Credit to himself & College.

His Travels were not confined to Europe, but extended into Asia, Africa, where he made so may judicious observations & treasured up such a fund of Knowledge as rendered his fame great both at home & abroad.

He was created a Baronet in 1641 & was a Sufferer in the Royal Cause & faviourer of the Restoration.

He died in 1662.

By his 1st wife Catherine Daru of Robert Earl of Lindsay

{Folio 33 verso}

To my most Deare and honores Mother The Right worshipfull The Lady Paston att paston Hall _____ Speede

Coll: Corp: xti:
Jan 26 day

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 34 recto

Most Deare and honored

Mother, you must giue me Leauē To Epitomise my Letter into A short Compendium for m^r Dikes hast will not suffer me To Doe Anie otherwise. good mother my Tutor and I were att the courte at newe market yesterday wher we saw The prince The Duke and mane other noble men, But not ~~By Reason~~ The Kinge By Reson he was not well. Gods name be praised we are are all verie well onely Tom: Har: contineweth after The olde sorte hauinge no vse of his hande. He is still in the Towne. mr Dike is The Lord Lepingtons Chaplen.

Good mother I Remember my humles Dutie To my father your selfe mu loue To my Brother my Chozen Ab: m^rs wilson praying To god almitie To protecte you now and euer and Reste

if Ther be no orenes att Norwich
if your La: will sende in your
next letter we will sende
some By Jonson:

your filially obediente sonne

William Paston

Cambridge
C C C xxii feb

[FB - 1624.5]

[Lent Living]

My good Will:/ the mercy of the Lord be evermore with the and blese preserve and keep the; I {^am} exedingly glad to heer of the continueanc of thy good healthe, hopinge so longe as thow beest every way moderate in thy recre-atons and carfull and temperate in thy diett) it will still increase, I hope thow dost not eate of those possetly curdy drinke which howsoever pleasinge to the pallett it maybe for atime, yett I am parswaded are most vnhollosom and very Clogginge to the stomak and apte to brede surffits by reson thay doe not redyly disgest but many tims doe corrupt in the stomake but if need be to haue such thinges. you know how cleer thay wear made at hom for the and so lett them be still, I haue sent the as thow desirest, soe edeble Comodity for this Lent. to eate in your chamber your good tutor and you together: a Cake and Cheese a fewe pudinges and links: a turkey pie pasty: a pot of Quinces and sune marmelate wishinge all maye Come saffe hom to the, and Asure thy self thow shalt not want any good that I cane doe for the but to my vtermost will seeke to procure thy best welfare, espetially seinge thow doste bende thy minde to doe all thos thinges which maye be pleasinge to those which haue the charge and over sight of the, Remember my best respecte to the most worthy Doctor and thanke hime I pray the for his kinde wrightinge to me: and good Child haue a great Care still to keep his directions. for I se by his letter to me, thay be admirable good ons for the: I send your 9__ rent, 40_ due at our Lady next your tamel gowne and damask sute, for that I know not what warme wether it maye be at easter. but be as sparinge of the wearinge of it as maye be:/ I am very sorry for poor tome Harston, I wish hee wear heer with me at home for sure it is very chargeable and besids I doupte he can not haue every thinge fittinge so well as heer he might :/ farwell sweet harte and I pray the haue a great care to serve god first and last every day. and forgett not to be thankfull to him for thy

{continued down left-hand margin of page}

good healthe and all other his infinit mercys to the shewed; for the Lord dothe accept of a thankfull harte, when kinge David inquired what shold he paye the Lord for all the benifits which he had bestowed, althowgh he ought and inioye a kingedome, yett could he not bethinke him of any better present, then thankfullnes, and to take vp the cupe of saluation and Call vpon the name of the Lord:/ and so I pray vnfaynedly thow mayst doe, farwell sweet will againe and agayne:/

by thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{Folio 37 verso}

Good will: Mrs Smithe haue sent the, the vpermost Cake and Commends her to the: likewis honest goodman payne haue sent the on of the Cheses in the bottom of the trunck, I wish thow woldest send thy Cosines mun and Rob: Bell heyther, half my great Cake: or Mr Smithes which thow willt; and a few links and pudinges half a dosine of each, and Comend me to them bothe very Kindly, let mun cary them to them:

To my most deerly beloued sonne William Paston at Corp: Cristy Colledge
Cambridge

I send inclosed the key of the truncke send the trunkke back with all the linnin an if you haue any Ruffe bands to littell or to black send me them in it

the bagge with the mony I wold haue you to deliuer to mr Roberts therin is your 40_: and 30_ for poor tom hartston and 20_ for younge Colby his quartre / I wish thow mayst Like well of these Comodyties: every one heer salute the and wish the all helthe, many of thy fathers seruants wold gladly haue bine the mesenger at this time to haue seen the. farwell agayne and agayne my good childd

My good child, the mercy of the Lorde blese preseeue and keep the in all thy ways words and workes for evermore, to the glory of his owne nam and to thy good bothe in this and Liffe to com:/ I am much ioyed to heer of the continuanc of thy healthe and well doinge I pray god so ti blese the, as thow mayest parsever in it to thy endinge day:/ Tho. Hartston will needs be the bearer of these commodities I send the, I was fearfull because of his arme but he is confident to goe through with it well:/ I sende the now thy Newe sute a girdell, 2 shirts: 2 ruff bands: as for a beaver hate, if you could fitt your selfe with a spetiall good on I wold be very well content that thoe sholdest haue on agaynst Easter: I send 50_: to bye on if it coms to a littell more I will allow it: I sende the 40_: for thy quartrs expenc. 20_: to collby 10_: to Hary Hatston and giue him that sute that thow didest ride vp in :/ the rest of the mony is for m^r Robert yo dispose for thy vse and that is due to himselfe. moreover I sende the {^and thy tutor} a turkey pasty and the the other is a pateridge peie. a {^littel} Cake and a littell cheese for Robin the grate Cake the Cheese and the pudings for thy tutor and thy self and lett thy Cosine Robine Bell be partaker allso of the rest sumtims with the: I doe wish them so good as might be devised for the: I did forbear to send sooner in lent becawse I thought shrouetid was nor yett scarsly for ____: be moderat in atinge peie crus. though it will make the wise : I had rayther thow sholdst be wise without to much of it:/ thy father remembers his loue to the: so dothe thy cosine Abygayll her kinde wellwishings: willson allso prayed me to remember her seruise thus thou arte greeted of many of the rest:/farwell to the my sweet harte

{continued down left-hand margin}

the God of all mercy protect and prosper the: comend me to all I know ther:
farwell agayne and agayne: by ty most Louinge mother

Katherine Paston

honest good man Payne wold needs remember the with a fate goose /

thow shalt haue thy mony of thy tutor. I thowght it best to put it all together./

I am afrayd thy brother haue gotten an ague he is but ill to day :/

{folio 39 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston these at his Lodginge in Corp: Christie
Colldge Cambridge :

[different hand - The po fift letter Thosu Hart,

[FB - Thomas Paston was the 2d youngest son of Sir Edmund, Lady Paston. he was
baptised 24 September 1614. Afterwards married Frances Dr of Sir William
Cornwaleys _____

[FB - Sir Thomas Holland's death]

My good child the Lord blese the ever I am very glad that thou camest so saff to thy Jornies end wher I pray god to sende the all healthe bothe for sowll and body ther can be no plase which may afforde better means for bothe then that is: - espetially haueinge such carfull governours over the: and surly I will never thinke but you will be kindly tractable to ther aduis in all things which maye concerne thy cheeffest good, and in so doinge: thou canst not devis, to giue me greater content : and I will, god his good blesinge requit it to the: I pray the forgett not those grownds of the Sacrament which thou hast, but gett them very perfitt that thou mayest be a worthy receiuer at the Lords table: this next Ester and lett it, be thy cheeffest studie :/ thy most worthy vnkell Holland is departed this liffe and is gone to live amonst the most blesed, I am fully Asured: I haue lost a great frinde of him: the Lord restore to vs this great lose: if it be his holy will: we are every day, by on ore other put in minde of our owne fraylty: by the deathe of others we may read our own destyny: __ the brittell mettell wherof we be made glase is not more I beseech the Lorde we may be very mindfull of our departinge that so we may liue we may not be a frayd to depart this liffe: /

thy father remembers his best loue to the and he did take thy token very kindly. thy brother remembers his best loue allso to his good brother ther is no meall sinc you went but her drinke to the: I thanke the for my token too :/ I will not be vnmindfull of the loue: farwell sweet harte the Lord blese preserue and keep the for ever more:

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{continued down left-hand margin}

good will:haue a great {^care} of your selfe for it dothe mightyly concerne you and me: be not to violent at tennisinge. and if you be whote. beware you cooll not to sudinly. drinke no wine this yeer or a very littell. for it is most dangerous and the more for that thay be sweet and new:/ and in many {^it} heats ther bloud to the deathe of them

British Library Additional Manuscript 36988
Folio 41 Recto

my good childe the lorde blesse the ever: I ma sure thou wiltt begine to thinke
Longe to heer frome me:/ and I shall be no les glade to heer from the: I hope thou
hast a continuall thought of that great beniffitt which thou arte to reseaiue this
next Easter. I pray the meditate of all those thinges which maye inlighten thine
vnderstandinge in the knowledge of the right receiueinge of that blesed
sacrament. for so it is to the worthy receiuer:/ I beseche the lorde to giue the his
grace and heauenly blesenge: and to ackscepte the; for his sweetest nam sake. / I
could not but pute the in minde a littell and will only a littell: seinge thou haste
such excelent means to direct that in that plase a mongst such good frindes which
dothe respecte. thy wellfare in the cheeffest kinde: only thou must make vse of
that means for it dothe mightly concerne the so to doe: I am full of hope that
thou wiltt haue a greater Care now then ever. seeinge thou arte now to parforme
a greater worke then ever: or much rayther I shold saye thou arte to receiue a
greater blesinge then ever yett thou hast receiued: although thou hast hade
bestowed vpon the {^ from the Lord} many singular beniffits. yett non comparable
to this:/ the Lorde make the and me thankfull for them all:/

I thanke god thy father is well: and thy brother haue loste his Ague this 8 or 10
days. so that I hope in god the worst is past:/ all heer salutes the thy Cosine John
Holland and thy Cosine mun Holland: wear bothe heer to see vs but could not stay
about an hower: thay remember them to the and soe doe I: and I pray the
remember me to good Mr Roberts and so for this time I bode the most hartily
farwell this present friday night:/

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{Folio 42 verso}

The seauenth letter, Cowell

To my most beloued Sonne william Paston these *deliver* att Corpus Christie
Colledge

Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 43 Recto

My Good will:/ the Lord Jesus evermore blese preserve and keep the, in all thy thoughts words works and ways, that thow mayst haue the feare of him before the eyes of thy sowll, that whatsoever thow goest abowte a thought of him may be ever in thy harte, then will he Lead the in the pathes of true knowledge; thow shalt be sure of it:/ Truly ther is nothings in thie Liffe, which dothe afforde vnto me that Comforte and Content, as to heer of thy good and welfare every way: Nayther Could ther be, to my thinkinge) any thing befall me in this wold which wold be so grevous to me, as that thing which shold ill be falle the: Eyther, by outward or inwarde defects of body or minde but my trust is, that God which hathe Created Redemed and hetherto in good healthe hathe preser-vede the, Will of hs infinite mercy directe the and Continually Guide the in his holy fear, which he grant for his mercy sake; /

I se by thy last letter thow dost desire much to se me, but the truthe is, I can' not yett sett dowe the Certin day when it shalbe nor Can'not tll munday affter easter munday be past, for then will therbe a metinge of all good frinds, so I hop to be at sum Certinty and then if I haue a fitt mesinger I will send the word: /

Tom Hartston is glad to be the mesinger of this my Letter, and I am very glad he is
{f. 43 verso}

so well recovered as he is I hope in god the worst is past with his Arme

thow hast so bowntifully furnished me with guillt paper as I shall not wante to wright to the many a day :/

No Newes heer but of our New knight of the Sheer: which ~~xxx~~ {^are} Chosen this Easter Munday: you shall know when I know who thay be: /

Now we heer ther was much a doe at Last Sir Edward Cooke, and sir Anthony Drury haue Caried it: from sir Robert Gawdy. and sir Charlls Grose thay had the Poll: and he that had Least had 1110. and he that had most had 1610: sum say sir John Corbet stood for it. and he had 4 skor 18: and no more, he had bine as good haue had no body:

farwell for this time

my good child the Lord blese the now and ever

thy most Louinge mother Katherine Paston

{f.44 recto}

[FB - 1625. 1 C 1. Easter Monday 18 April]

{f.44 verso}

To my deerest sonne

William Paston

these at Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 45 Recto

My good William: Christ Jesus blese the euer, for his mercy sake;: I did receiue thy louinge letter and was very glad to heer that the wether ther was so temperat, for I did fear it wold haue bine other=wis: I blese my good God for the good healthe which he hathe sente to the, which, I besech him to continew the to his good pleasur:/ for so longe as thow hast thy healthe, I howld the better ther a thowsand times then at home, vntill thy mind be furnished with those liberall siences, which that Nurcery affordethe to the studious and best minds. now is the time wherefore bend thy selfe to gayne the the best knowledge: and indevor to shvne the least evell so neer as maybe: for if a man be indowed with many good giffts and haue a minde to harbore but on beloued vice, it is like Coliquin-tida: spoylinge a wholl Pott of Pottage: I hope thow dost ruminat over all thy Psalms and Chapters and textes of scrip-ture, which longe sinc thou didest learne by harte. I wold be sory, thow sholdest forget thy Cordait of Comfort: thes things lett not slip out of thy mind for thay will be to the in time to come, bothe Comforters and Cownselers: the God of infinite mercy so blese and scanctify thy harte and sowll, that there mayst liue to the honor of his name, and to the comfort of thy self and all frindes who

{folio 45 verso}

Wisheth the well; ---- I thanke god thy father is exedinge well, and thy brother haue lost his ague this seuenight and more, but I dare not remoue him out of his chamber, he is very cheerly but very Pall: he rembers his best loue to the and doe offeten speake of the: I send the sume Clockt bands, the very best watsons shop will afford, but I thinke thay will make the looke out but neekedly: the next weeke by the carier, I hop to send the a stuff sute, send me word how thow doest for clothes: and seinge I goe not to London this summer thow mayst wear thy damaske sute for I wold not haue it growe to littell for the :/ but wear it fayerly: I send you now your Crimson sattin sute: to wear in whot wether:/ and a littell comodity I bought at John of allsorts :/ giuen the many thanks for my fine payer of wrightinge tables thow sentest me: farwell sweel harte the blesinge of my heauenly father be ever more vpon the:

thy most louinge Mother
Katherine Paston

May the 6: day 1625

Mr Rant of Norwalsum died this morning of a burninge ague as Mr Thomson tells vs :/ :/

{folio 46 verso}

To my deerest sonne William Paston these at Corp: Crist: Colledge

Caam; /

[other hand - payd]
British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 47 recto

[FB - account of Dress]

My good william: I pray our mercifull god to blese and guide the, in all thy ways words and works, to the glory of his own nam, thy sowlls euerlastinge comfort and my Joy :/ it is true that I haue receiued .5. if thy letters and bothe thow and I haue wronge if thow hast not receiued 4. of min /. besids this, on by my Cosine Cook on by mr Parker. On by Johnsons the Carier, on by Cowell the Carier. this last munday or tusday: I hope you hast had them all befor this ;/

I doe send the a new sute of sattine to weare this comencment as allso a payer of silke stokins poynts garters and shoe strings and a siluer girdell, - sutable to weare with those things that are siluered good boy haue a great care to wear thy Clothes neat and Clean it is a great Comendation to se a yonge man sprucs and neat. without spots and durtines vpon his clothes: I must confes I haue not heard to the contrary, but that thow hast bine a good and well gouerned childe and ther-fore thou shally finde me requitfull of thy loue and care to please; / and I will soon procure thy content and send for the hom a littel whill for a recreation fitt: hopeinge thow wilt haue as longing a desire to se Cambridge again as you hadst before, ~~now~~ for that is the plase that I trust shall doe the good more ways then on. if thow continew still to be a good childe as by the blesinge of my god I trust thow wilt: I doe not send my beuer Hate as I thought to haue don. which I wold, but that I looke to se the heer (if god lett nott) with in this 3 weeks wherfor make vse of your best beauer, and when thow comest home I will see ~~xxx~~ if any of myn will fitt of which I make sum doupt. /

farwell my sweet william to thy owne selfe Christ ~~Jhesu~~ Jesus blese the euer more :/

[FB - June]

{Continued down left-hand margin}

Commend my best respect to the most worthy Mr of your Colledge I am very glad of his kindness to the with all my harte / god blese the euer more amen
Thy most louinge mother
Kathrine Paston

{Folio 48 verso}

To my deerly beloued sonne william Paston these at Corpus Christy Colledge at his Chamber ther
Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 49 Recto

[FB - Sickness
a scarlet suit for Cambridge]

My good child the mercy of Jesus Christ be for evermore with the. I could not but wright these few lines to the. by which thow mayst know I doe not forget the. I send this mesinger to heer of the I pray god I may heer that thow beest well. and I pray the haue a care of thy self every way bothe for health and Complement: I wish that tom ayde might make you a handsom winter sute that might be meet for Cambridge to wear with your gown that is ther I thinke a scarlet on: els your gowne will be to good for your sute and that gown doe grow so short that after this winter ther will be all well at Cambridg tills is on the mendinge hand it seems he had a spotted ~~Agae~~: ther haue died at wallsom but thre this two days and thay be childeren; the howse at trunch is saffly garded it is sayd pur gall died not of the siknes. the howsholld ther, is all well as yet: thy father is down agayne with his legge and very ill it is: farwell my good child. vntill munday and I pray the remember me to all good frinds wher so ever thow beest the lord for ever blese preserve and keep the now and ever [page damaged] thy most louinge mother

Kathrine Paston

{continued on left-hand margin}

winnett was maried this mihellmas day to you Know who :/ :/ :/

{Folio 50 verso}

To my beloued sonne willjam Paston these at &c. whersoever he be:
dd
Norwich

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 51 Recto

My Sweete william: the mercy and blesinge of the Almighty be ever more vpon
the: I shold not parform my promis and purpose if I shold not wright a littell to the:
for if god let me, not I will not fayll the onc a weeke to salute the. till I see the:
~~xxx~~whicj I shall be reson of sume ocations doe sooner then I did intend if the Lord
Please :/ this daye beinge Friday we had comfortable news from yarmowthe. that
the kinge haue bine pleased to send 8 braue ships to hward the seae men. ther ar
gon bye this day a very great fleet. of iseland men. and two ships of the kings gone
with them :/ the northsea men are shortly to sett oute ans 4 of the kings ships
shall goe with them . and {^other} 2 great ships well appointed to sckoor the
seaes. our men begins to be cheerly a gayne and packe to Yarmouth dayly: farwell
my good childe the lorde in mercy presearue the. comend me to thy Cosin Robin
bell : in grat hast I rest

Thy most louinge mother
Katherine Paston

friday last of March 1626 :/

[FB in margin - Ship news]

{Folio 52 verso}

To my dearest sonne William Paston these at his lodginge at corp. Christie
Colledge
Cambridge

[other hand - The eight letter Cowell: Aphrill

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 53 Recto

My good child the lord in mercy blese the ever I doe still salute the from paston
but my next will be from Pagraue. whether we all goe, on tusday if the lord
parmite : thy fathers illness of his legge haue bine the Cawse of our stay for he was
faynt to take Phisike for it: but yet it is bigge so that he can not endure on his
boote. but I hop by tusday it will be better:/ and now for the new horse you coyed
for: I fear he is sam surfitted Jade: for before thay cam at thetford with him: thay
had much a doe to make him goe. he fell so sike. and into a scooringe extremly so
thay thought he wold never haue gone further but yet with much a doe thay
brought him to Tunsted and leafft him with bat: browne who will doe his best to
recouer him: and I parswad me if {^ he} can nt healpe him: no farier can: I send
yesterday to se him and he bigine to mend. but if he com hom I will take order for
his goinge to basingham wok: rest may do him much good. and now my good
william: I pray the mak good vse of thy being ether. and haue a spetiall care of thy
self every way. bothe for thy minde: and bodily healthe. that thow mayest return
agayne compleat every way this is the time. acordinge to that prescept in the
morning sowe thy seed: and in the E evninge let not thy hand be idle: farwell good
child. I pray the remember me very kindly to m_r Roberts: and thy owne selfe :/ in
great hast this friday befor
Hollwmas 1626:

thy most louinge mother
Ka: Paston

[FB - Octr. 1626.]

{Folio 54 verso}

To my Deerest sone william Paston these at Corp: Christy Coledge Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 55 Recto

My good childd I doe now salute the from Pagraue whether we be all com, saffe and well; thankes en to god: only thy father is much trubled with his poor legge but I hop to gett it well soon: heer is no hope of thy cominge hether to vs for want of lodginge: the howses be very Raughty and Cowld: but I thanke god we can supply that with good fiers of which we are very glad: for we haue that of free cost: but we want Roome for our company. for we are faynt to send 4. of our company to naybors. that are half a mylle ofe: which is a great in convenienc :/ I pray god send healthe at wallsom and at trunch. wher thay die still out of purgalls howse. and it is mutered on: that it is at mundles: for 2 died out of on howse on soon after the other, the lord in mercy be mercyfull to them and vs all :/but if it please god to send healthe abowte our hom. we will all be at paston thys Christmase but if the sikenes shold continew, then we must be constrayned to tary heer longer: when I know more you shall:/ I am sory for the burgayne was drinkn betwen Robine {^Bell} and Rowland for the nagge. for my sister bell did take it very ill, that her sonn showld goe so much by the Lose :/ I know not whose falte it was; but I know to howme it was imputed :/ she sent hom Rowlands horse and sent for Robins. so I sent him to thorp: so Rowlands poor horse and your more then poor bargoyne for sorill: goethe to gether; and I haue taken order thay shall be garded: I haue taken order thay shall goe bothe to basingham wode. so soon as thay be able to travill so fare a Jorny :/

I pray the remember me very kindly to the good docter and I pray the thanke him for his kindnes to the allso I prae remember me very kindly to thy good tutor and last of all to thy Owne selfe:/ I pray the blesinge and mercy of god be ever more with the and vs all: and so farwell my good childd: this present Hallowmas day:

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

I can not yett learne by what means to send to Cambridge from this plase we are within a mill of Swafam. and if you know any com thether you may wright :

[FB - 1 Nov. 1626]

{Folio 56 verso}

To my deerest sonne willjam Paston at Cambridge Corp: Christy Colledge

My good child the lord Jhesus blesse the and keep the in all his ways. that thay may be thy ways. I pray and humbly besech the lord that he will giue the that grase, that thow aboue all things mayest haue a desire and delight to seeke and finde euen all thy liffe longe; what is best Pleasinge to his majestie: and doe that: and let me out the in minde of his great and tender loue shewed to the in time of thy last Ague: and of thy vnfayned promoses to him. if he wold be pleased to remove it from the: he did heer and hade mercy. I pray the forgett not thow to be thankfull. every day for so great a kindnes: and then I am Asured he will for ever preserue the from all evell for so he haue promised to doe to all them that seeke him in feare :/ and I likewis pray to god, so to guide the: that thow mayest not adicte thy selfe to that vayn garbe: which is most in fation amongst yoithe in these times. which to my thinkinge is such for the most part :) as promisethe no hope of grase in them for the present. much lese a blesinge for the world to come: /

I am very glad to heer that thow arte so pleasinge to the master of your howse as hee is pleased to afford the so much favor. I hop thow willt continew so respectinge to him as is fitt thow showld. I pray the comend me to thy good tutor: and thow shallt Excuse my not writinge yett I shall be glad to heer from him as ocaation serue and so shall hee from me: I was out of hope to haue written to {^the} this weeke: but that this honest name one of the farmors of sporll. promised me to se it deliuered with his owne hande to the. it may be thow mightist inquier out som foot post that coms to linne. by saffham. and so thow sholdest heer weeely from me and I from the I haue not heard from hom sinc I cam from thenc nayther haue I had on of thy letters this fortnig[ht]

{continued down left-hand margin}

but on munday I expect Callison with two of thy letters which shall be most wellcom to me. I thank god we be all very well in this plase and thy fathers legge now finely recouerd affyer so longe an illnes as I haue seldom known him to haue it/ farwell my good childd for this time writtine in hast this 13 of Novem: 1626

by thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{Folio 58 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston of Corpus Christy Colledge at his lodginge these I pray ye: *delivered* at Cambridge

[FB - Henry Butts DD Master of Corpus Christi College from 2 Sept. 1626 to 1632.]

My good child the mercy of Christ Jhesus be ever more vpon the :/ I haue much lounged to heer of my foot post. by whom I did send my letter to the with a lease of pateridges: his nam was nipps. if he did not giue the child a wronge nam: but I feare he is nipt in the Crowne that he is not yett returned. he haue fayled of his promis to me. for he sayd he wold bringe a letter from the as wedensday the 22 but he is not come this thursday {^30} at noon I was very glad to send to the by this good opperunyty of mr Rawlins his lacky goinge to Norwich, hopeinge he will deliuer these my letters to the Cambridge Carier. and then shallt thou haue on agayne sooner then I coold haue sent by any other means I am glad that thou sholdest heer of me as offt as posible I can: and I am glad to heer of the too. and shold be glad to se the too :/ I haue fownd a deall of owld ruinous howses an all things exedingly rune to decays: and out of all the Corners. I haue fownd out a room with a chimney which I am finefieinge vp for the. for to help vs to keep Christmas in :/ for we Can not now remove before that time: we doe now begine to be nestled heer: an are loathe to stur to goe so fare a Jorny in such short days) as to paston :/ I pray god to scease his heauie hand that we may all be glad to goe hom agayne after that time: I blese god we be all very well in health and thy father most exelent well even every way: god howl[d] him so for ever

{continued down left-hand margin}

now I haue receiued a packet with letters from Cambridge: by the hand of yong mr Stallon: but I haue no time to answer them now / I pray the remember me to the good doctore I thanke him for his so kinde wrightinge and for his great loue and favor showd to the :/ I am glad as you say yjay owld father nipps did not nip away the pateridges from the:/ but yett he is not com : farwell to thy own selfe my good william: written as fast as I can driue: by thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{folio 60 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston of Copr: Christy Colledge thes at Cambridge

[FB - The Plague raged in London in 1625 - I suppose this year twas in Norfolk]

[other hand - XXIX No: 1626 Peeter]

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 61 Recto

My good william: Chrst Jhesuse blese the ever I haue now fullfilled thy longinge desire and haue sente for the. I had purposed to haue sent the next munday for the. but now thow shallst com sumwhat before all things be as so wel fitted as I wold have had them. but thow shallt take them as thay be: /

I pray the haue a great Care to keep thy self very warm: and put sumwhat abowt thy neck for you arte very much subict to payne in thy throat. and if need be, wear a Cape ther cane come no harem of keepinge warme: I shall be dubly comforted to receiue the with good healthe: I wold haue in=vited thy Cosine Robine bell to haue com this way. but want of lodginge is the only impedimemtn. comend me to him I pray the: I pray god send the a good and prosperous Jorny: farwell my good chlld the mercy of god be ever withe the: / now I will say no more hopeinge to se the on wedensdy the rest when we meet: in hast

by thy most louinge mother:

Katherine Paston

Pagraye the 4 of Desember: 1626: /

{Folio 62 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston of Corp Christie Coledge
Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 63 recto

My good child the lord blese the ever :/ I haue a great desire to heer how you doe with your cowld. I hope you will haue so good a care as that it shall not increase vpon the. which I might well perceiue it did heer :/

I haue not herd directly from {^paston} ~~hæm~~ sinc your goinge a way from pagraue. but at a seconde hand I heard it. that Jo: Gowld shold report that an other died in Coks howse on thursday last but I being at linne on munday last on of our compnay spake with Gowllt. ther :/ who sayd hee cam from paston on friday last. and then ther wear not any more dead. then was befor your goinge from here:/ but he heard owld Coke had gotten cowld and was not very well. so what is true I know not it is strange that two so neer nayghbours shold differ so fare in ther reports :/

I shall be very glad if the market man you tell me ofe, may prove a certine mesinger betwen vs. I doe giue the ventur first if this shold miscary I wold seeke a new one :/

I pray the commend me most kindly to good m^r Roberts I will some other time wright to him. but at this time I am good weary of my late Jorny from line: wher I taried not full 23 howers. but I was never wearier of any louder Jorny then of this / farwell my good chilld commend me to thy cosine Robine. and thy owne selfe whome wish too as my owne sowll in hast

thy most louinge Mother Katherine Paston

Pagraue this Ash wedensday 1626/7

[FB - ____ Feby]

{Folio 64 verso}

To my beloued sonne william Paston these att Corp: Christy Colledge these Cambridge

[other hand - payd: 4d]

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 65 Recto

My good childd I shall be most glad at all times to be even with the, though thou wilt not giue me leave to goe beyonde the in kindnes, I doe like this striffe if I maye so call it) excelently well. for in this kinde the more we striue the better we agree. by this time I hope thou hast receiued as many letters from me as thou hast written: and I am glade of theme as thou arte of mine, I will not fayll the but vpon some vrgent lett: and then I know thou wilt exquse me :/ in my last I hade forgot to thanke the for thy newes. I ma sory it was too good to be trwe: it made many Joyefull in redinge of it: I will not be out of hope, but at least some of this ill newes maye be as much mistaken as the other was :/ I pray god be mercyfull vnto our kinge and state for many rumours fliethe abroad of much intended mischiff a gaynst bothe, but the lord can prevent ther desingns :/ it is too trewe that the dunkerkes haue robed and riffled heer a=bowtes: but the deputye Leffetenantes haue giuen order for watch night and daye a longe thes Costs with horse and foote. it begune in our towne and so to the rest in order. and then to ours agayne: if thay come thaye are not like to receiue a kinde wellcoom. but as good as they be worthye of :/ thy father remember his loue to the and take thy wrightinge to him very kindly thy brother remember his louingest loue to the and is very glade of the fine kniffe thou didest send him: the which he will weare on high dayes :/ I thanke god he is now very well agayne :/ I had thought to haue written to mr Roberts this time. but this sudene Jorneye of this mesinger affordethe me not so much time I pray the remember me very kindly to him and exquse me for this time I will not fayll hime the next opertunyty. though I shold haue no time to wright to the but only so much as to wright but to on he shall haue it next

{continued down left-hand margin}

Farwell my good william: the lord in mercy blese the body and sowll for his sweetest name sake: I pray the remember the to the most worthy good docter: and so I rest allways:

thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

{folio 66 verso}

To my deerest sonne william Paston of Corps: Christie Colledge

Cambridge

[other hand - The first letter John Borows]

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 67 Recto

[FB - Dunkirkers at Bacton 1627]

My good william: I pray god blese and directe the ever:/ I have bine much crosed in my intentions other wis I had sente on on purpos to haue broug[ht] you such things as now I am faynt to sende by the peddor. and am not Certine whether he will doe this kindnes for me to overlode his horse *with* a bigger burden then ordinary :/ but will pute that in a venture; and will content him for his payns. I send the {^the} peye, *which* hop is yett good. and *mis* Rawline sende you and your Cosine Robine Cheese pudinges and links :/ I pray god I may euer heer if your well beinge and doinge. for itt dothe metigate all other trubles: I thanke god thy father is finely well agayne. and so am I. but sumwhat to tender as yett to indur the Ayer. *mr* Birch did vs much Comforte. he went hom in my Cotch. and mun made shiffte to breake on of the Cotch wheels and haue layne for an Hue payer. ever since wedensdy was sevenight and it will be tusday next. before he can {^be} furnisht agayne. Jo Borows haue bine very ill but *mr* Stallon puts him in good Comforte of recouery. I sent thy brother to norwich in the Cotch when I sent for *mr* Birch. *thinkin*g he shold not haue taried aboue .4. or .5. days but so haue I bine disapoynted by on or other means. that now I am determined ther to stay hime. vntill it please god I may bringe him to paston:/ whether we hope to goe if god send healthe in that plase soon affter Easter. it is veryly hoped that the sikenes is stayed at koks:

I am sure you haue longe agoe heard of the rute the dunkerks made at bacton. to *mr* Tomsons great lose {^and} of the bothe musket and Canon shot. thay sent amonge the peeoplle what time koke and his sone Came dowe to the seae side. and made the Company rune faster away then the dunkerks bullets I haue stayed your sorill heer to doe vs some ___ in our remoue {page damaged} it shall please god: my {page damaged} you shold not {page damaged} _kye marks: gelld_{page damaged}

{continued down left-hand margin}

much better. I wold you coold hitt of a good handsome geldinge agayne. and then loue to keep him. I wold like it a thowsand times better then this kinde of fation which of late you be delighted in :/ my thinke it is next Cosine to horse Coorsinge which is no way comendable in on of your sorte. I pray god giue you a good

Judgement. and his holy ~~xxxx~~ spirte of God to direct you in all Good Cawses bothe
for this life and the world to com/

I pray Comend me to thy good tutore and Cosine Robine: and the lord in mercy
blese the ever

thy father remember his loue to the and so doe I:/

by thy most louinge mother _____

{folio 68 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston of Corp: Christie Colledge in
Cambridge

1d - 4d

the linnen Clothe which Coms with the things I send. lett Rowland bringe it with
him when you next com hom

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 69 Recto

[May 3. 1627.]

My good child the lorde in mercy bleasse the bothe now and ever. I haue receiued thy kinde and louinge lines full of dutifull respect towards me. and I trust god will giue the his grase that thou shalt. not only intende to doe well: but also haue power to parforme thy good intencions. which I vnfaynedly prey for. I desire but thy patience whill I tell the of any thinge that shall be for thy good :/ and howsoever it semes harsh for the prescent to heer of reproffe yett knowinge my loue and duty towards you: I can not, nay I maye not; but counsell the in every waye that may further the wellfare bothe of thy body and mynde. and so shallbe thou truly finde that I couete nothinge of thyne : but they selfe and beste good for thy sowll and bodys helthe / the News heer is a Good deall better for the fleet. then was that which was stiringe at thy goinge away. ther are neer 200 sayll of Northe sea and castille men com saffe to yarmouth ther was a littell lose 3 or 4 shipes , by on dunkirke. and ghat is all which is now talket ofe :/ sinc which time ther haue not bine a dunkerke seen in our Coastes but heer ar two hollande men of ware braue ships exelent well provided of great ordinanc and as it is sayd. 300. men a peec in them. these scoore our seae . and wear a good whill taken for dunkirks. but thay are true frindes to our coastes. this is the laste news as newe as this day :/

I pray the remember me very kindly to thy good tutore tahnke hime for his frosty Allmynaks: I wil wright to hime ere longe if god lett me not: and so for this time farwell my good william:

by thy truly louinge mother

Katherine Paston

this 3. of maye

1627

[FB - Ship News]

{folio 70 verso}

To my most deer sonne william Paston these at Corp: Christie Colledge in
Cambridge

[other hand - first Cowell may 8 1627]

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 71 recto

[FB - Mr Paston leaving Cambridge]

My good child the mercy of god be ever with you: and defende you from all evell. I haue now sente for you home, I pray god blesse you in euery good coorse, if you will be of a patient minde. and giue care to instruction you shall know, that your company shall eyer be most acceptable to me for I must deall playnly with you for your good. I know youthe seekethe to soon affter libertye. you shall not wante that which is enowgh of it allways provided sumwhat that dothe concerne your owne good be done :/ I send thies soon that you maye bethinke you oft sendinge home your trunks and other things by norwich Carts when thay be at baberham. you may leaue your chamber hanged if your tutor will acsept of them lett him haue them likewis your bedsted and curtins the chayer and stools {^to it} you maye if you will leaue them to him, if he will haue or regard them. but the featherbed bowlsted and the rest you may bringe with you or send them home I meane: for I know he had a bed befor you came but thinke not so good a bedsted: I hope you are cleer from oweinge any thinge to any body. I know not how your 20*li* howld out. bringe all your linnine sheets and other things fowll and cleane: remember me to the good docter and forgett {^not} to thanke himefrom me for all his kindnes to the: farwell my good childd . the lord in

{continued down left-hand margin}

mercy send the a prosperous Jorny hom: and well to be heer: and so farwell onc agayne in all haste :/ thy most louinge mother

Katherine Paston

friday

the rest you shall heer by tom Harston, if I thinke of any more but as yett I remember not :/

{folio 72 verso}

To my most deer sonne william paston these at Corp: Christie Colledge

Cambridge

British Library Additional MS 36988

Folio 73 recto

[FB - 1635

Orders about Exercising the Troop of Horse]

Whereas I have received a warrant from the right honourable the lord Matravers, one of the lords Lieutenants for this Countie requireinge mee forthwith to call the Troope of Curaisseers vnder my Command before mee, and to muster view & exercise the & to see all defects, in the Riders, Armes, Horses & furniture be supplied and make compleat that I may present them before his Lordshipp whoe will view them and see them exercised, & take knowledge of all such that neglect this service, or appeare not in such compleatnes as is required, that _____ a course may be forthwith taken to bring them to conformities {^ By venture of _____ warrant} These are to charge & require you and either of you in his majesties name, that for _____ after the Receipt hereof you repaire to the Mansion houses of all such that are here vnder named & resident in that Hundred, charged the service of Curaisseers (or to the Tenants or farmers thereof) and to give them knowledge that they faile not to shew before mee at {blank space} on {blank space} the {blank space} daie of this instant August {^by time of the clock in the forenoone} August such letting Rider, compleat Armes, both offensive & defensive and every part therof, & such sufficient horse & {^compleat} furniture as is required and that you faile not to take there {^seuerall} _____ for the findeing of this service & to returne vnto mee in writteing vnder your handes that I {^may} present it to his Lordshipp according to Command and that you also returne mee the true (or reputed) valewation of the Anuall estates or meanes of all such persons or Lands charged this service within that Hundred thay I may also render it to his lordshipp And to the end that Horsses for service, may be the better acquainted withall thinges belonging to service, I require you to give knowledge to all such armes of Horsses prevndernamed, that they cause their Groomes to putt on Armes and the dresse their Horsses in it, and when the Horse is eateing of his provender the Groome to discharge his pistole first with fire in the pan, and then by chargeing the pistoll with powder, the better to _____ the Horsses to the sight of Armor & to the noise of powder and that you also give knowledge that their Horses & furniture {^be} in such a Readines, with a sacke for their necessaryes {^ and all other _____ provisions} as fitt to repaire to aplace of Rendezvous vpon an howres warning; And that you also give strict & exact warninge that they faile

~~not also to a~~ Riders & Horsses, compleatly Armed, & furnished attend mee at Ne
Maudlin faire placemeere Norwich on wensdaie the 23 daie of september next by
eight of the clocke in *the* morninge, at the furthest, to the end that of may
present them before his *lordshipp* Requireing you on either of you to be present at
both daies & places of Muster, to Render agood accounte of your service here in
from my howse at Oxnead this {blank space} daie of August 1635

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 74 Recto

[FB- 1636 7 February

The Judges opinion concerning Ship Money] <ship money appears to be in a different hand>

Maye if please *your* most excellent Majestie

Wee have (accordinge to *your* Majesty's command) severally every man by himselfe & all of vs together taken into serious consideracion the case & Questions signed by *your* Majestie & inclosed in *your* royall Lettre. And wee are of opinion That when the good & safetie of the Kingdome in generall is concerned & the whole Kingdomw in danger. *Your* Majestie maye by Writt vnder the great seale of England command all the Subiects of this *your* Kingdome att their charge to provide & furnishe such number of Shippes with men victual & municon & for such tyme as *your* Majestie shall thinke fitt for the defence and safegard of them from such danger and peril. And that *your* {Majestie} maye compell the doinge thereof, in case of refusall or re-fractarnies./

And wee are alsoe of opinion That in such case, *your* Majestie is the sole Judge both of the danger, & when & howe the same is to be prevented & avoided./

7^o Februar 1636./

John Brampton	John Finche	Humphry Davenport
John Denham	Ric: Hutton	Will: Jones.
Geo. Cruke	Tho: Trevor	Geo: Vernon.
Robt Berkley	Fra: Crawley	Ric Weston

{f.75 verso}

The Warrant for the Paymentt of the Ship Money to Sir William Russell

The Coppie of the Judges opinion concerning the Shipp Buisniss

[FB - motions of the King's & Parliament's Army

October 1642]

I wish my seet with you for a weeke and yett I shall nott att this tyme answear your desires to Com down for I would gladly see an issue of these armyes which Cannot subsist long, without ruyne to the kingdome; bevides ___ my stay ~~xxx~~ I shalbe able to doe you better service ~~xxx xxx xxx~~ {^ with my pen} here, then with my Company there;

on tuesday letters came for my lord warton that he had made a soldier-like retreat for hiddermaster excusing his not fighting with p: Rupert in regard of the inequality of his numbers, and {^it} is Commonly & Confidently reported by others, that for hast or feare he lost some waggons, & 3 or 5 peece of ordinaunce behind him;

Thisse Came last night from worcester & that County 3200 weight of plate.

The Earle of Warwicke is Come, & is made General of essex & midlesex;

Northumberland ~~xxx~~ hast accepted of the Admiralty and is made Generall of kent sussex & surry;

Pembroke is made Generall of sixe westerne Counties & goes down to morrow to suppress sir Ralph Hopton, who by report hath between 6000 & 7000 foote, 500 horse & 12 peices of ordinaunce

There came a post this day att Noone , with letters that the 100000_ sent his excellence was Com safe to worcester, it was _____ which p: Rupert aymdde att, but his intelligence or his lucke was not good

There is an order made that whosoeuer will not giue to the parliament shalbe imprisonned, which yett must not safe his good, for being ~~destroyed~~ destroyed;

7 Commissions are gone into Cumberland & westmorland to ___ or papish {^or} protestants alike; I defend nothing; but there are some that thinke; the king may as well vse papish, as parliament vse Brownists & Anabaptists;

{folio 76 verso}

Cumberland & westmorland are entring or haue intred, into alike _____ of agreement, as yorkesheir hath done,

The scotts {^are} sending Commissioners hither & desire to know of the house what
convoy they shall send along with them, for their saffety, and the house hath left
itt to them, to send what they please;

The _____ of Angloisme is Come to the haughe with kind letters for the king of his
france, to his sison of England, to winter with him att Paris;

There was a Committee to be appointed this day upon a speciall _____ & Harry
Martyn moved that it might rather be war of Commission for in that every man was
alike but in a Committe there was difference of lords & Commons, which he did
hope, would not be long;

sans ceremony I am euer

your fidelissime

—

19 8bris 1642

Sub nocte

It is generally reported that the king is at Meryden, with 4 myll of Couentry and
that P: Rupert follows the king with the horse 4 myll behind him; if the king sitt
down it is thought his excellence will rise and that Margin, hertford is to follow
him with those forces which he hath

20 8bris 1642

ho: 9: in aurora

{f.77 verso}

To his euer Honorid frind Sir wm Paston Baronett att Norwich in Norfolke

—

[other hand] Send your Anser by Goodmound Wee be at the vpper halfe moone

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 80 recto

Deere Sir:

I am newly Com: out of the Country, and was encountered with the most
~~xxxxxxxx~~ {^horrid ill} news of your not beinge well, Then which nothinge
Coude Arrive more vnwelcome to mee But your Servant Assures mee of your
Amendment, which Gladds my hearte I cannot tell what news to Imparte to you, I
have not yeat bene where I could Learne more Then the presse affoorde, only The
news of the French beseiging Dunkirke The Spainiard slighted the out worke of
Mardike and 2000 are putt into the Inner fort, Blockhouse, and 3000 into Dunkirke,
Donne John Lyeth a distance of but is not so numerouse as to fight, But Lyeth
waytinge Advantages: I heare his Highnes Intends the meetinge of the Parliament
~~xx~~ in November, and the Judges now retorned from their Circuite are Consulted
with about Calminge the other house. Our Queenstreete news is ill, my Lady Rivers
{^is} in a very ill Condition of health partly with her breast and other pains, my
Lady Anne Brudenell hath had 18 of her domestike Servants Sick in the Country of
this new disease and Sir Charls Sidly hath Lost 2 footemen of it: I must Conclude
with some good younge Thimelby is to marry my Lorde Peters Sister:
This is all knowne to Sir
Your most Obliged humble Servant
Will: Persall

24. of 7bre

{continued down left-hand margin}

My most humble Service to my Incomparable good Lady Paston, and to mrs
wiseman and I kisse *the* fayer hande of Pritty Miss:

[FB - Account of the French , Spanyards 1658]

{folio 81 verso}

These
To Sir William Paston knight & Barronett humbly present

My deere Master:

your most welcome Letter came to me in the Country above a hundred miles from London; whither I was forced by very Importune Intreaty of freind's to goe a woinge with a younge galant of your Neighbour Country to a neice of my wife whether wee shall Speede or no I knowe not, But wee are all in Flames and formalities which I hate above any thinge These Courtshippe and Addressee, formall Coriage, and fine words, and after Inioyment nothinge but familiar Tyranny If the Manne proove not right: But this digression I must ask your pardon for, and give me Leave to render you the History of one Queen streete family, and the reason of the Bill in the doore which I fownde at my Comminge vp; They hadd Intelligence that the Constables were to Come and presente the names of all Church Absenters, and popishly Affected so they Consulted in my Absenters, and resolved to sett your Bill on the doore and give it out my Lady Rivers was in the Country, Sir Fran: Petre in Common Gardeine out of the Parish Sir will: Persall gone to live at his house in your Country none but Servants Left; when every day half a dozen Coaches Came to visitt vs, and the Buskette of meate as full as ever, and 2 or 3 brewers still Carringe in Ale & Beere and all for Tom Browne who yoore manne is already halfe damm'd with tellinge of Lyes to all that Come to Inquire of vs as well freinde as others; But they have given vs in as Tom Browne reported That wee are all gone: Excepte my Lady Mary who is but fifteene and so not Capable to take the Oath, and yeat I hear They have taken our names againe, But wee not much regare it, wee arr Armed for it: now the worst of our news is my Lady Rivers her beinge so ill Seriously you would pittie her if ~~xx~~ you did but see the Torment of paine shee ~~xxx~~ endures with her breast by a paine which runns betweene the Groyne and her bagge Continually, and the Docters are quite Ignorante of the Cause: or whether it proceede from the breaste or other places: honest Sir Francis Petre is your humble Servante and drinke your health as I did Since I saw you as farr as Lankaster

{folio 82 verso}

where I had the victory of a Tryall for 500*li* ___ for your obleiged Servant my Nephew Calverte: Now to Sende you news from these Northerne parts where I am were to Light a Candle to helpe the Sunne to shine you havinge all the news from the South: I only in vacatione Converse with my Loadstone and pointe North and South The East and west of greate Affayres I Studdy not nor Canne ever finde out their Longitude not why my Lorde Lambert should Leave Paradise to delight himselfe in his Eden at wimbleton; I retorne God willinge to Queenstreete the 10th of October, when you shall not fayle to heare further from

your most Obleiged Servante

Will: Persall

3d of October

Sir

It troubles me, that the first occasion of kissing your hands from this side the water, should be all of sadness, I hope both by others, & my selfe you haue bin acquainted with your sons sicknes, that the news of his condition-ing not be altogether strange to you, at my arrival here I found him sick of the smal Pox, which was this day seven night, & since that time was never sensible, which I vnderstood by fre-quent returns from him, Though I never durst venture to see him my selfe; but it has now pleased God to put an end to all his sufferings, having ended this life yesterday at one of the Clock {^afternoon} all the allay that I can give you for this great sor-row is that he dyed a good Christian and with exceeding patience and for his attendance in his sicknesse, I can Justify that there was nothing wanting, that you could haue added to him had he bin in your owne house, this night he was buryed, in the most decent manner of this place, being atended by the English of quality here in towne, and interrred in a Place called Le Cimetiere des hugenots, where many of our nobility haue bin layd: it is a great content to me that it has please God to give me this opertunity of doing this himane office for him for to morrow I advance towards Lyons, with five gentlemen who came from England with me, whom I haue recarded here thus long to be more servicable to Mr Paston: There is one thing which he recomended to me and his last petition to you, that is to entreat you to pay all his debts , of which I took the best care I could in his life time {^to} examine, and the account I sent by the last Post to Sir Robert there is only the addition of his sicknes which I haue here enclosed which in all I find amounts not to aboue 130li pounds sterling, those which I recon more Just are

{f.84 verso}

all but the Tennis Court, where there ought to be some lawful abatements , the rest vpon examination I find to be very justly ___ the particular bills I could haue sent but that, they would haue soe much imbarassed the post, but I haue left them all here with a worthy frind of mine Mr Walker who , if no occasion call him hence will carefully over see the payment of them, if uou think good to returne the mony, the best way will be to procure a letter of credit for about that somm, and employ some honest frind here to see the whole dis-charged, that so you may not be Lyable to pay more then the debt comes to, because there may be some abatements made I haue examined what goods Mr Paston left, which I find not worthy the mentioning, & indeed not amounting to the worth of a pistol, the best were two flageolers, which I haue this day sent to England to Sir Robert the rest I disposed of to those of the house where he lay : if there be any service where ere I go that may testify my duty and affection to your family or your selfe most of all command

Sir

Your sorrowfull servant

JClayton

My humble service to my Lady if you think *that* Mr Walker can do you any service here in my absence *comm*and him from me, and direct *your* letter Dans le rue des Coeur Volant alla ville du Brisac or to Mr la fontaine who will deliver it to him he is now Governor to Sir Edward Halles his son

[FB - 1662]

Margin - May: 18

Sir

I am troubled (to see a mourning Hat come for my brother William Paston poore Gentleman) very extremely for I never did heare that he was the Least sick, therefore that the first news I have sent me concerning him should be that he is dead without any foreknowledge of the cause which something might have moderated my angry passions surprised on a suddaine, with a most Lamentable and delecting storie, that I became a true object of sorrow, and griefe for a Long time: and I (truly Sir) melted into teares at the lose of my Deare Brother, I could doe noe less, when he out of his tenderness to me, did let drop from his eyes true signes of his loue to me at his departure from London and I did not forget to doe the like when I did heare of this sad and unexpected news. my soule is full of anxietie for him, but I hope god who tooke him away hath sent him into a place happy without end, I confess Sir, the lose of him a greater to you, then if god had appointed that time to take me out of this world, and soe have left my brother yet among the Living: but what pleaserth god must be. you have sent me mourning Sir but your taylor did forget to make itt compleat I am sorrie itt is nor for I am sure my heart mourning is and shall continue many yeares: there is wanting a hat-band, a black band, gloves, stockings, a hat

{Folio 86 verso}

A black halfe-shirte which allwayes Gentlemen mourners do (in this place) were truly Sir if I could haue gotten these things in this towne, I would though (by soe doeing) I had gone beyond my allowance, because itt the last outward commemoration to my deare brother: he was of an admirable good nature, Louing to all he knew, a very nice young man, meditating upon the shortness, and uncertaintie of thy life as you will see Sir; when you loke upon the inclosed paper, which; words were the clause of his last letter to me, before he went over, therefore Sir; if you will not give me to come up, I humbly beg your assistance for those things, which; he told me, he left behind him at Mr Bakers house, I have the hole letter Sir; but I was unwilling to send itt for feare of a miscarriage; thus praying for your health and continuation of Life I rest,

Your most dutifull and obedient sonne

John Paston

Pray Sir present my humble duty to my mother

{Folio 87 verso}

These present

To his ever honoured father Sir William Paston
Barronett in
Queene=street
London

___ wm waterson

[Mar. 1668]

_____ The gouerment That cane be out: My Lord kep-per s a good mane and a Just and Thought he will not in This Thing be Kind To us, we must not for-git what he hath done, I ___ him I _____ Scince)

had by Mr burton aquanted him with The hole Stait of your affairs he would be So generous as not To Lett you Sufor for that, but all I cane Say was To noe purpos, he is Resolued not To medell with in your conserns, So I Shall Troubl him noe more for I beleue he will doe you noe good, The king would haue giuen him, Some Crowne Lands, and an ho___, but he hath Refusid bothe, pray my deare benot discouraged but Trust Still in god Thought all for Sak us; I haue bine much Troublid but now I bless god I am Recouerid againe; and I will if god bless me goe on briskly againe The Duk of Buckingham will be your frind, and I hope god will direct us To Such way as yett if it pleas him he may blese, My Lady casell maine had Ten Thousand pound The other day, I am glad To hear The King hath mony To giue away: She is wth Child againe, Sir william couentry is in the Tower, and hary Tauill with him, how Should haue goe To The gathous by orders from The Counsill and many find waire mad To preuail with The King To Send him To The Tower, My Lord and Lady mardaunt are coming ther, my Lord of peterborough hath cut of The intail of his Estait and intends To mary his daughter To my Lord Tolington The generals Sone My Lord mordaunt hath Sent ouer a great may ___ ____, and The king heard of it and asked if my

{f.89 verso}

Lord _____ mak a cak hous of _____lary: Thay haue both, Lost Them Self in The worhl I hear nobody Spake on good word of Them, my Lady harbut is ~~xxx~~now att Thear hous I haue Sene her twis or Thris She doth So Lik, Them and _____ declairs Thair folys more Then She doth. I hope done, doth wright To you, he and his wif and his wisman waire hear Last week, and I told him you desire The Fauor from him, he uss To doe you in Leting you hear Euiry week; he begs your pardon for what is past anf doth promis he will mend for The time To come: all your Sons are well, will, dined with me a Sunday _____; I Sent To Ra___ how Robine doth, to Jasper and Tonie are now att musports att fulham for The Small pox if att mr Crumblums againe, I will Send you cloth for John woodine This week I hope you haue Receud all your cloths, and Lik Them, what Do Euer is a mis pray pardon for Truly I am So much Consarned for your greater affairs as I cane doe nothing as I Should pray my dear oblidge me So much as To dispatch my mothers wrightings, and when you haue Sealed her Security I wish you would doe So generously as To

Seall my Brother georg on; for his debt you know he s ingaged for you he bid, it would be great afflixiion To me To haue him ____ by us, and in doeing This hansomly of your on a cord, will They oblidg him all way To be Sarmisabl To you: doe in this releaf you pleas I haue not Payd any Thing To him, nor doth he aske it of me, but I know he doth Rely upon your worthy dealings with him:

{f.90 recto}

and you know his Relasions in The world which will mak apear Talk if any Thing Should fall of in-sonuenianc upon him, by our means: truly my dear I Think iff you would To mr charlton an mr Eaton and goding doe the Saime it would be much for your honer and The more you clo_ it, The beter I wish Euary body wai__ S____ This way; for That would make you So many more intrusts in The world; and it may preuent The Taking of it away, for nobody will uentur ____ That when Thay know So many peple can So be payd out of it; but doe in This what you will, I onely hint This Things To you; my mother and Brother and _____ are uery Kind To me present you with Thear humbl Saruis; I wish you would wright a kind Leter To my Brother for I am uery much oblidgid To him for his Company and his Coch Euary Whear; Mr Burton is uery much out frind To his power and is uery Sorry he can doe noe mor, Mr Cheek I haue Sene Som four or fiue tims he asketh uery kindly after you he knoweth nothing of your bisnis More Then what I formerly gaue you a Compt of I haue not told Mr henshaw nor any creatur but Mr Burton, and he told his Lord, and now Sir Thomas, ~~xxx~~ how must if he doth any Thing for you know how Thing Stand with you)

My Blesing to my Daughter, I must not forgit To Tell you a Romanc Story which conserneth her , on Saterday when I came from my

{f.90 verso}

Wery, and Sick, I went To Bed, and Thear came on To Spak with me hows naim was mr wayrd, and he sent ____ I did not know him So I gatt my Brother To goe downe to him, and his bisnes To me was, he heard I had a Daughter and he did now know agentelman That had fiue thousand pounds ayear, and mony in his purs, which was much in ____ with him, and if I would giue him fiften hundred pounds he would make The mach; and he Should not medell with on farding of her porsion, but giue it all To her Self To doe what She would with it, So my Brother Told him he Should haue The mony if he ded doe as he had Sayd; he pray my Brother To come To him a munday and he would consult with his coussell how he might haue it secured; my Brother went To him, on Munday and found him in agood Lodgine and all Thing uery hansom about him, and The Land Lady in hows hows he was, told my Brother he was a hamsher gentellman; and had layd thear _____ So My

Brother Told him he came as he had promised and The gentellmn told him he had
bine with his counsell and was Told nothing Could Secure him but in Chancery you
might be Releuid and So when he had done his bisnes; you might chus whether you
would pay him but if fiue hundred pounds in Redy mony might be put in Som frinds
hands That when he did this thing he might be Shur of it; Then he would Tell the
gentellmans naim; how was a hantom man, of a good famely; and Too good houses
well Furnished on in London The other in The Contry; and a person not ~~xxxxxx~~
{^knowne} in The world, my Brother Told him if he would Exsept of, your bond, he
might; Els he would Truble him self noe mor a bout it, I hope This will be a good
omen to ___ Though nothing More Come of This; My deare I hope you will pardon
This Long Episels but you say you are alone and Malancholy and I hope this will
deuart you I pray god kep you and send us a hapy meting, ___ The Joy

___ Paston

Deare Patrone/

In the first place I must thanke you for my cropper which was magnifigue your boy james brought it me on Sunday morning, I will not loose it in seuen houres , but keep it seune yeares if God lend me so long life, and leaue it t my daughters husband for a legacy, and so it may come to some of yours againe. your aduenture about Garrats green is admirable, which I hope you will improue to the vtmost, which I doe Augurate may not only giue an advantage of great condition to your frends curiosity but also of some valuable treasure to your selfe therfore Deare Sir Pursue it, and command your workmen to vse all possible caution, and tendernesse in theyr prosecution, there are scarce in 3 ages such noble discourage dispensed to any man, and therefore prat let not this nor brampton ____ want those indeauours are iustly due to them. I doe hope these reuelations may bee the ____ carriers of some extraordinary fortune will betide you. when you haue the happines to see your _____, you will easily {^find} by my connotations and references to the parallel places that wee haue been hitherto vnder a great mistake, not distinguishing between his Mag^{net} and his Agua Pontica which is the sea of the Sol Caelertis, by ventur of his Chabybs of Mag^{nesia}, what the meaning of his Chalybs which is beyond all others that is found in ventre Aristis will bee very plainly discovered to you by the reference to the 16^t page. I doe not much wonder you find A drop or Pot__ so hard to run __ deliquins after a strong fire giuen them, I haue often found it to my confusion, and your frind de Paris could neuer discover the waye of making a Magnet of Peter which ____ much desired and therfore made vis of tar^{-tar}. Any salt that will draw Ayre I suppose if well enough, but you did not take the right course with Adrop , for if you had only drawn of the water he had attracted, and not forced him to an Aqua fort, he would haue been Attractive Aqaine , which is worth your trying; you may find by this scribe that the gout hath put my hand out of order, therfor I will for this time conclude with what news wee haue, and send you a better Epetony of de Paris when I haue better leisure. The E of Rochester vppon more sober aduise is gone into france, but tis reported did first solely aske pardon of Harry Killigrew (who it seemes had an Ascendant of to week on him) for the affront he offered his father. Sir J_____ is gone to see the great ____ of the infernall shades, and was buried last night, Le febre is suddenly dead of an Apoplexy, into the office of the Kings surueyour Dr Wren is already admitted, and t'is beleueed Dr Williams, will bee successour to the other. wee haue againe a fresh alarum of the King of Spains death by a letter from Jack rowell grounded on a report brought into Dart^{-mouth} by a ship from Bilboa, who brought news Don John was Crowned King, but tis thought wee haue had fresher news from Madrid then they and that the King is not dead yet, but not likely to liue many monthes, the King of france gaue Order to his Embassadour the Marquis de villars to see the spanish King , but he could not bee admitted, then his

instructions were to to get the best intelligences he could of his health and to send his aduertisement by

{folio 91 verso}

seuerall expresses that they might not bee intercepted by the Spanish ministers, hs Most Christian Minesty, has also Commanded all officers and Gouvernours in south france to repayre to theyr seuerall ports that they may bee in a readines to receiue his Orders, and tis beleued as soon as the King of spaine is dead his Army will bee ready to March into that Country, not on his pretense who has both solely ab___ed, and vnder his hand and seale renounced that inheritance but the Daulphin his son is to clayme his right who was not then borne and the King will only serue us a volanteer vnder him.

The Dukes closet at whithall was broke open last weeke, and because a rich George which lay on the table, two gold watches, a paire of siluer candle stickes were vntouched it was thought, it was only a designe to rifle his papers which gaue a great Alarme here, but vppon the dukles returne he found no papers missing but 700 guinnys besid many gold Medals of great value taken out of an Iron chest they had wrenched open, the Actours not yet discoverd. Sir William Couentry and his nephew on theyr submission are released out of the Tower, but discharged of being priuy Counsellor and Com___ of the Treasury. The Lord Keeper grows so infirme that he desires to resigne his office, tis said Bishop wilkins shall succeed him but I think on no other ground but that he is a great fauorite, this Day John Crook the bookseller after 4 monthes sicknes of the dropsy were buried a _____ for all good fellows Garret has to _darution payd me my 200ll, but I did not nor ___ not ___ take it to reflect on the trifle is between you and I. I would to God it were as much in my pores as I haue often wished it to free you from all incumbrances, I should doe it, with Joy and cheerfulness. Hodge vaughan and Godolphin the paige are gone from the King and Duke to bring word how the Queen mother does who they say is very ill, and has been let bloud 3 times

[FB - 25 Marh 1669

Mr Henshaw

Chemistry

Anecdotes of the Earl of Rochester &c

Spanish news

Duke of Yorkis Closet broken open

{folio 92 verso}

For the Honourable Sir Robert Paston at Oxnead neare Norwiche this /

[Robert Paston's hand -

Mr Henshaws Letter March the 25 - 1669

May the 5th 69

Deare Patrone/

It being now neer eleuen at night when my boy came home with the letter, and I being to goe early tomorrow to London where I shall haue no conuenience to write I feare I shall not haue to much time to conuerse with you as I desires I am very sorry to finde by your last, that your passion is so much raised and your mind so disturbed by what you haue lately receiued from Parsons Green ; I am wholly a stranger to what was transacted between Sir W. Doyly and the Lady Clayton, nor durst I aduenture to haue any discourse with any of them about it, because I did not find that I the permission from you to doe it. But I must not conseale from you what information I haue by accident receiued from a Stran-ger concerning their affaire. he tould me that they vppon some occasion consulting a great Lawyer (I think he said it was the Attorney Generall) he tould them that by law (though the _____ were lost) the Lady Clayton might recouer the whole 1500ll of you and the interest if she could take her oath that she was not priuy to the loosing of them and that she kept them with the same care as if they had been her owne. This I verily beleeeue to bee absolutely true according the common law. and doe remember that that About 15 or 16 yeares since I had a diamond ring pawned to me for 15lb I had the misfortune to haue it stolen from me, which when the Mortgager _____ he then offered to redeem his ring, which he was please to valew at 35ll a suite was ta-gen against me, but at last it being a meer law case, wee both agreed to refer it ti two laywers , who both decided it in my faouur, producing my Lord Cookes and seuerall other Judges determination of that very case, and so instead of making good the surplussage of the valew they tould the Mortgager that if would sue him he would bee obliged to pay me the 15lb and interest notwithstanding his ring was lost. I was tould by another that whatsoever Sir W says to you, he had acknowledged before your Lady and seurall others, that the L Clayton might recouer the 1500ll of you and interests and that you were bound to acknowledge it her kindnes that she did not pretend to it. the same party farther said that the L Clayton hauing which a rash oath of yours complied to abate 300ll, of the former debt which was most of it mony lent or disbursed to supply seuerall pres-sing occasions of yours, that all the aduantage she did designe to make vppon this new _____ giuen her of the proceminence of her title was only to hedge in that 300 ll vppon accounts of interest which she conceiues you had too vigorously cut her of from. whether this bee true or no you best know, I protest

before God I had it from none spoken but I thought it my duty to tell you what I heard, and the rather because

{f.93 verso}

if these circumstances bee true, in my small iudgements you haue no reason to resent it so ill as you seeme to doe. howeuer Deere Sir whether I mistake, or am misinformed pray doe no not you mistake my freedom with you for partiality, for I doe assure you both you and your interests are much dearer to me then any of theirs can bee all I ___ at is the saluing your honour and iustices which I know you cannot faile in where you are rightly informed: I had some discourse this day Sir W Doily about securing the goods who tould me he had proposed a way to you by making them ours and letting them remaine in the house, I tould him that was but what wee had thought on long since, but on farther conference with Lawyers, wee found that if they remained still in the house that could not secure them from being swept away by an Execution, and though there might bee some ground for those that had the pretended interests to sue, yet if they should haue the good fortune ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to ouercome the others, it was but to put things to the hazard of an aftergame, and they could recouer no more then what the things were apprized at by such as they should imploy before the things were carried awat, and then says Sir William whats cost his father and him at least 4000ll . will hardly bee appri=~~=~~zed at 400ll. but says he Sir Robert being so pertinaciously resolued ~~xxx~~ to haue any remoued, what other way was left to serue him with but this? but if this bee the hazard you are to run as certainly it is, though you may doe with your owne what you please, yet your owne prudence can best informe you that it were better to dis=~~=~~furnish your closet Good a few rooms of your richest furniture and to haue them se=~~=~~cure against the worst of chanches, then by leauing them there in parade, tempt the insolenes of those, which when they were remoued would perchance not venture to disturbe your quiet with the rest. for his ingaging the sheriffe he made no mention of it to me, if it should bee indeauoured I know the bribe must be very greate; and when things come to an issue the sheriffe will not dare to deferre execution but while perhaps he may giue you notice to doe that which may bee don with more security and a great deale lesse change before that time. If I can possibly I will speake with Sir W to morrow about the Lady Claytons biss=~~=~~nes and giue you and impartiall account of what I find. for the Lady Paston though the Symptomes of her distemper were iust as I write them, yet you haue very rightly prognosticated the successe, for by taking of Barnet waters she is now freed from them all and was this day in a hopefull way of re=~~=~~couery only vnder a great a=~~=~~great weaknes which will certifie a long time to recouer, for certainly she os of a very infirme habit of

{f.94 recto}

body which age is not very likely to improve.

After all these Melancholy dispensations let vs see if Chymistry will afforde vs any better consolation. I doe clearly Agree with you that the operation on Les _____ by fire is the most probable and hopefull of all ways. yet I would not haue de Paris (whom you will this week receiue) neglected now you haue proceeded so fairly, the only thing can assure vs of any truth in it will that the Coagulation of the water Aeria__ of which you haue now a sufficient quantitie for all trialls. I thanke you for the accounts you giue me of your late Experiments in which you haue taken a great deale of care and paines, and though things doe not succeed yet acording to Expectation I hop wee cannot long misse on so good a Subiect, though as I writ you I doe suspect by Rumelius's indications of his proceedings he did worke on some kind of Loame or Marle, yet I beleue our Saturne is euery iot as good the only thing wee haue hitherto failed in is the vnion of the fixt and volatile which can neuer bee don till both principles bee made very pure, and especially the fixed by very strong fire bee {^free} from all volatile parts and impure Sulpheor for till then he is not thirsty enough to imbibe the female part, if you can meet with any of this fixed part it will bee well worthy you care and attention. Here is little news sauing the hopes of the Queene to {page damaged} with child she hauing missed those two months together. it is begun {page damaged} beleueed that the Chanclor_ may haue leaue to returne next parliament {page damaged} the Lady Mordant does much interest her self in his concerne and does hold Cabells with no small ones about {^it} I wish her actiue humour may doe Lord John no preiudice, I haue not yet seen him, and therfor will deferre my french realations till can doe it more Authentically. Mon chere Monsieur faites moy Chonnsur de croire que ie suis sans reserue

Le tout a vous.

[FB - 5 May 1669

Mr Henshaw's Letter concerning family affairs - Case of Jewels in pawn

Chemistry

Hopes of the Queen's being with child &c]

{f.94 verso}

For the Honourable Sir Robert Paston at Oxnead neare Norwich this/

[Robert Paston's hand?- mr Henshaw May the 6 - 1669./]

British Library Additional MS 36988

Folio 95 Recto

[FB - Mr Henshaw's Letter Foreign News &c]

July 31_ 39.

Deare Patrons/

If I were Hypochondriacque, or vsed to haue my braines often visited with black fumes from the spleen, I could easily fancy you were suddenly taken with an Autumnall fits of sicknes, or inuaded, and bound hand foot by the inuincible Lady Podugra, or her handmaid Chiragra, or as Best that you had taken a Bougerman ouer nights, or a iourny in the Morning to some kind hearted neighbour's to bring home Potato's. But hauing no other then sanguine good wishes, for you in my heart, I can entertaine no other then cheerfull Phansies of your condition in my imagination, and therefore doe not trouble my self to guesse at the reason why I had neuer a letter from you this weeke, though I am sorry to misse of the vsuall Auisos from a vnleas Court, longing to heare some good news of venus, or Diana, nor should I feare Actaeons fate though shee were sine veste. I am at present vnder great inconuenience here, not being yet furnished with a footboy, my coachman fix'd to his bed this week with a terrible Ague, and the best of my Coach mares lyes a dying in the Stable. but I shall haue by it the aduantage to try the energie of the febrifugum on my man; after I had giuen him a vomit of <symbol > {^ vitae} which wrought well, before the next fit I gaue him in a glasse of white wine one spoonfull of your spirit, which shewed no manner of effect, vnlesse it were perchance to make his fit the more burning, this day I haue giuen him two spoon-fulls two houres before his fit and couered him warme to see if I could dispose him to sweate. for to mee the spirit seemes not only much Paler but also weaker then our for mee spirit vsed to bee on the toungue, therefore though you commend your M_____ neuer so much, this in my opinion is ___ to disadvantage it; your volatile salts goes of a hot iron very well (though not so quick near as the first salts) and leaues very little signe, but no stoole behind it; the fixed salt (as I guesed by the Colour) is full of oyle which smokes on a red hot Iron, but the salt which remaines when calcined is is very white, therfor when you farther prepare this salt it were best to calcine him in a retort first to saue what oyle or volatill salt comes from him

The Kg went down to dayes since to Shirnesse and returned to day, a good part of the new work there is fallen down by reason {^the} foundation was so rotten, they must bee forced to large good stone of rubbish vnder it before they ___ build the wall.

Last week Mr John Louelasse the Lord Louelasse's son riding home from Oxford afte a good large dose of the vniversity Helicon, fell of his horse and broke his neck, he was taken vp dead to euery ones thinking; but a lucky handed fellow in the Company laying him down again on the ground and setting both his feet against his shoulders pulled his head so strongly that his neck bone came in again and he returned to motion and sense, being now in a hopefull way of recouery

{f.95 verso}

The Kg they say now goes no progresses this yeare but only hunts for a weeke at Bagshot, if that proue true it will spoile my iourny for worcesters shire this yeare

There goes a report about, that Candy was taken after *the* Arriuall of *the* French Fleet and before *the* Landing of theyr Army, *which* though I hope is not true, is not improbable by *your* relation of *the* Condition of *the* town in thursdays Gazette: if it proue so, it giues a s___ Crisis of *the* King of France's Fortune, and will reflect *with* dishonour on *the* Conductours of that fleete and Army. on tje other side if *the* life of *the* Grand Signor himself as well as the visieng the souldiers as well as the Burghers of Constant {^_____} and Adrian {^_____} being so incensed that so many liues haue been lost without taking *the* Town, that *the* Grand Signor is retired to La-rissa (*the* town {^in} Macedonia where Achilles was borne, who is called by virgill Larisseus Achilles) for these 7 or 8 monthes as much for his own safety as to take care of theyr Army in Candy.

Mr Walker is not yet come to town, *which* I am glad of because I may bee first instructed what Salary it is fit to propose to him for I would not haue *you* content *with* an ordinary tuition and inspection from him, but I would for *the* Education of *your* son (on *the* successe wherof depends not only his own happines but much of *the* whole families too) haue him make it {^in} a manner his whole busines to attend and con-uerse *with* him. if *you* should ask my iudgement in *the* Case what were sufficient for him I protest I am lesse experienced in it then *your*selfe, only this much I would aduise that it should neither bee measured by *your* Generosity nor Mr Walkers deserts but proportioned to what *your* present condition can well spare, and make him some better award hereafter according as he shallmerit or succeed in his undertaking. and yet his frequent conuerse *with* *your* son will retrench consi-derably of his idle expences a yeare.

Pray tell Sir John I cannot yet haue any news of our Parma cheese *which* giues me occation to gratify {^you} *with* a great secret if *you* doe not know it, that Caseio Imperiale, *which* is some of such old Parm: Cheese as Dickinson sent *you*, sliced thin and malted on a plat, is peraduenture one of *the* best Ragoust's that euer *you* tasted.

My good wishes of Mirth and felicity attend *the* meeting of so many of my excellent freinds of both sexes
Dum fata sinunt viuere loeti.

{f.96 recto}

your spirit this day hath put back *the* fellows fit for 4 houres already so that I hope he will miss it this day.

{f.96 verso}

For the Honourable Sir Robert Paston at Oxnead near Norwich this

[hand of Sir Robert Paston]

Mr Henshaw July *the* 31: 1669.

[FB - Court pay bad a several Articles of News - Mr Henshaws Letter]

Aug: 28. 69.

Mon tres chere Monſieur

The scene of this Epistle is westminster, and I am in a great hurry of busin^ess if an indeauour to get 100 markes may deserue so solemne a name. the truth is in 7 years and an half thay I habe serued the King, I haue neuer seen his face in any thing but flesh and bloud as Captain Bessus said; last yeare there was an assignement on hearth mony for one years wage, and because the farmers tould me they had so much in arreare to them That it would hardly bee paid in theyr time, twas so slack in my sollicitation that I did not call vppon Downings clarkes aboue 20 times con-cerning {^it}, which made so little impression that I had no warrant passed, and though that is not yet payed, not will not bee this 12 monthes, the want of Passing thon-ly a generall Order excludes me, now there is a years salary paying to euey seruant by an assignment on the Customhouse. I cannot yet learne whether it bee one of my vsuall misfortunes, or my ill information concerning expadition mony. The Lords Commissioners are a weeke since adiourned and there is onely the Generall and Sir John Dencomb in town; the last goes away to Derry on Monday, so that I have but this punctillio of time, to indeauour to retriue it or eles to bee shut out for euer; so that I hope you will excuse my hast in telling me news though I will not wholly absolue my my self from my weekly respect. In the first place I am very well pleased that you find such encouragement by your practise, that you hope well of our subiect and processe; perhaps the Stomaches strathernis may show you something extra-ordinary, the Hypostasis your white fume water let fall there, which it would not doe in heate, sediments of that colour you haue yet seene ~~will~~ in distillation.

The shortnes of my paper last week made me forget to tell you that will russell was married to the great heir the Lord Vaughans widdowe, who as it is generally computed will bee worth him 8000*li*. the Lord Anglesey and the Lord Ashleys son are plying their busi-nesses at your Cousin of Rutlands, and tis thought they haue each of them by this time got a tartar. Sir Will: Backhouse died on Monday last, and I doe not yet heare whether he had so much since, or Morality to take any care of his ~~XXXXX~~ engagements in this world, before he went to case vp his accounts in the next.

Our good freind too Sir Ed Filmer is gone to see what Mushroms the Elysian fields will yeeld; to took his flight thither from finner, and therfor out of respect and ciuility to the place would dye in the religion of the Country, Catholick Romain, it being not fit that one who had alway liued like a gentlemen, should bee carrid

{folio 97 verso}

sans ceremonid, to bee Earthed in a church yard at Charenton.

Pargetor the Goldsmith has bin detected to haue b__glit clippings of Coyned silver and to haue held correspondence with those kind of Rogies, he has put in bayle of 30000li to answer at the sessions, and his estate is alredy begd at aduerture.

The King begins his progresse on Munday but goes no father then winchester and Southhampton the chief designes being to hunt in the New Forest. Hee will defeat the Earl of Penbrook. Lord Ashly to whose houses he inuited him selfe when he intended to goe as farre as Plimouth, which dispensation he has quitted for this yeare being tould that by the E of Lauderdale that he that he need not ride post after a town that will not run away from him; and that it is neither safe not decorrous for so great a prince to appeare in so remote a part of his Kingdome with only half a score dusty fellowes.

The Queen and dutches in the meane time will goe to Hampton Court, to giue opper-tunity to the housekeeper to cleans and sweeten white hall.

There is lately come ouer a french minister to courte, a great Calculator_ and if his own testimony may bee credited the most accurate Chronologe that euer was one that by strangth of Cabala can tell of what colour and fashon the queen of sheba's stockings and roses were of

For Mr Walker because I am in hast let his own letter speake for him. if you doe in=end to make vie of him, inclose in your next letter to him, and I will tak care to send it.

I much reioyce to heare your affaires at yarmouth are so properous, God giue you successe in that and all your other affaires that wee may haue a cheerfull meeting at the terme

Mon chere Monsieur Je suis oe toute mon ame

Le Tout a vous

{folio 98 verso}

[other hand - Mr Henshaw Aug: 28: 1669]

For the Honourable

Sir Robert Paston

at Oxnead

neare

Norwich

this

[1672]

[FB - 9_ 1678 Sir Robert Paston
wishes for the title of Lord Paston &c.]

Sir

Being vncertain how soon I shall leaue the Towne, and whether I may before that time find *the* at sufficient leisure to acquaint me *with your* commands for *the* Country, or to assist me *with your* counsell here; I haue chosen this way to communicate to *you* some thought that at the present doe hold me and the minds of my friends in a little suspense. The King has been graciously ^{^pleased} to looke *with* so much fauour vpon some poor indeauour of mine to doe him seruice (*which* God knows as they were actuated by a iust sence of my own duty and a profound respect and reuerence to his person so I had not in *the* least *the* recompence of a reward before my eyes) yet I say his Majesty was pleased so farre as to owne ~~xxxx~~ them as to professe to my self and others, that he would not onely make a considerable addition to my fortune but would likewise place a marke of honour on me as a marke of his kindness to me: And indeed Sir I must acknowledge *with* all possible gratitude, that *the* king has performed *the* first so farre beyond my desert, and so to *the* height of what I could aske, that he has sealed my mouth for ^{^euer} begging anything of him hereafter. But I know not how it came about that *the* world got wind of yhis Expression of ^{^from} *the* King, and were sometime in expectation of it, *which* has been lately reuiued by a rumour carried about concerning *the* promotion of certain lords, among ^{^whom} fame has aduentured to insert my name when I thought not of it: In contemplation wherof I find, first that if I should wholly misse of this, the world would not only take me lower in theyr own valuation, but would also iudge that I am much fallen in *the* Kings Esteem; and *that* he sees cause not to think so well od me now, as he has don: Then on *the* other side I see no reason but I may hope *the* king does intend ^{^me} some such thing; hauing obserued where he is inclined to fauour, his great Soule does not tie him to take *the* measures of his bountie, from *the* merits of *the* person but in proportion to his owne diffusiue goodness. of what name or Countrie *the* king designes it me, does not become me to inquire; but ^{^to receiue} *with* a thankfull prostration to ~~reouer~~ what soeuer he shall allot me. - yet if it should so fall out that *the* king were yet ~~xx~~re-solued where to place it, How happy should I bee, if by *your* intercession that noble Lady ~~would again take into her thoughts~~ whose fauour made me lately so succes full; would again take me into ^{^her} thoughts, and ones more imploy her powerfull Ora-tory in my behalf, to procure that honour for Paston *the* Antient seat and Estate of our family. My obligations ^{^to her} are so great, that it is impossible for me to bee more gratefully and humbly her seruant then I am already; though I shall then bee capable to serue her *with* more luster and reputation in *the* world. Sir The great Ex-perience I haue had of *your* friendship has giuen me so perfect a knowledge of the accuracy of *your* iudgement and *the* felicity of *your* conduct that I cast this affaire wholly into *your* hands to doe in what *you* think fit. So taking leaue I remaine

[FB - The King takes notice of Sir Robert Paston (1672)]

My Deare Hart

This day from the howse I {went >} to whitehall to my Lord of Bathes to dinner who with his Ladie and manie ciuile inquiries after you receiued me most kindlie I stayed there till the King came from Sommersett howse and then went up into the presence where the King was in a verie great croud, as soone as he saw me he came to me from the companie and tooke me into a corner of the roome and told me Sir Robert Paston your kindnesses to me and more especiallie att this time ile neuer forget and if my faour and respect may ever manifest itt {^self to} yow {you >} are sure of a friend, of me, I humbly thanked his Maiestie for his grace, and out of modes-tie retired into the croud from thence my Lord Bathe went with {^me} to the Queene from whome after hauing kissed her hand I had a complement the treasurer hauing told her I was the man, Saterdag I am preparing for might & maine and that night you may expect somthing of nouells from me, though I hope to tell you itt my self, for I desire you will forthwith issue out orders for the too grey mares to be taken up into the stable

{f.100 verso}

And Robins little black horse forge boy the sorrill mare for Rawlins and Billies little horse by by payment Ile tell you when they shall com, I shall Endeuuor to get this business through first and then Ile be bold to trie his Maiestie for somewhat els which weil discourse in Norfolke, pray let tturton send me up what Lings last fine was, which as I take itt was 45**lb** for one panell & 40 for another & striking of 5 pound remained 80 they would face me downe itt was nott soe much Sir John if your mother approues has gotten Bellindses consent to marrie Madam Sanderson att court made me large professions of her deuotion to you & me and I thinke the woman meanes well
The court Ladies are verie indiferen as to realitie me thinks
I haue this night sent you by the post if he will carrie itt a point of my Aunt Berties choise and seuerall Ladies that I met tatt Eatons approbation he ask twentie six pounds, she sayth itt is too deare I hope itt will please lett the multiplicitie of my owne business in which for want of mr Bulwer I am faine

{continued up right-hand margin}

to be my owne sollicitor excuse the hast that makes me conclude my self for ever to be my service to your Mother that your most humble servant my loue to the Young ones.
Robert Paston

December the 8

{f.101 verso}

These Present

To my Honored friend The Ladie Paston
att Oxnett in Norfolk

Trunck
Robertu Paston

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 102 Recto

[FB - Money given to L C desires her Picture]

London March the 10

My Dearest Hart

I hope my last gaue you some satisfaction concerning my affaire, this must acquaint you with the second part of the historie, as soone as I had receiued my warrant, my business was to gett the monie for my L.C. which Mr Porter brought me in a bag the next day and I beeing belowe in Mrs Bettie Fraysers chamber Sir Alexander carried them up when she was in bed and licke Jupiter presented Danae with a golden showre, my Ladie receiued them with all com-pliments of my well breeding and severall other good words of mee, Sir Alexander told her that I had a request that since I could not see her soe often as I would that I begged she would goue me her picture for my Wide and I to contemplate att home where her memorie was fixed, she replied she had a great honor for my Ladie & had the other day hearing she was att assons greene made a par-ticular visitt ~~hearing she was xxxx~~ and intending to haue waighted on her, for her picture she sayd she was sorrie she had nott soe good ani one as she wished butt would verie shortlie giue mee the best she had, and be readie to serve me on all occasions Sir Alexander begged I might kiss her hands before

{f.102 verso}

I went out of towne to which she sayd I should doe her an honor in't, Pore Bettie Frayser is under a sad mortification for the King hauing promised her a bedchamber place her motherin law soe misrepresen-ted her to the Queene That the Queene told the King vnless he imposed it she had rather receeiu a poy-sened Dagger this made the King say he would haue nothing further t doe with her servants, has Rutt the Doctor & his wife att variance and Bettie is forbid her Mothers howse & the Doctor has neuer layne with his wife since, The king offered to pay her wages which is 500ll a yeare, but att present alls lost

The Storie of Marlingford I licke well pray send me further word of itt that while I am among the lawyers I may haue ther opinion of itt you will doe well to make Harton produce the cordence & the lease and there they must proue the release which fatall stroke I feare though knowe nothing was shacken by my Father, butt perhapps he could nott doe itt Ile push all the interest to recouer itt if you speake with Buller, pray lett me heare by the next this night I am for Parsons greene beeing first to dine with Mr Porter to whose gouernement you committed me where I feare wee shall bee forced my loue to all and to your self the true affections of my Deare

the true affections of my Deare

Yours eternallie

Robert Paston:

[change of hand - Charles Porter?]

Madam

Att last though through many sad changes Sir Robert hath surmounted all
difficultyes and Gotten the kings sweet hand, accompanied with many fauorable
expressions

{f.103 recto}

which intitile him to any further Boon he shall ask, I wish your ladishipp much joy
and long life to enjoy the aduantage of the Graunt; I pray Madam doe not beleieue I
will forfeit your good opinion if my Skill in Gouernment, what euer Sir Robert sayth
there is no danger of a ffox tis true - here is a gent; that now & then does take a
Doze, but this day he shall not. I shall make all possible hast to pass the Great
Seale that I may retorne my Charge to your own Gouernment where he (I am sure)
most passionately longs to be, I am not without hope of waytenge vpon him or
comeing soon after him to haue the honoru to kiss your handes. I am

Madam

Your most humble Seruantu

Ch Porter

{folio 103 verso}

These Present To My Honored Friend The Ladie Paston at Oxnead in Norfolke

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 104 Recto

[1674]

I am extraordinary glad that the town of Yarmouth has ha's bin Soe kind to Your Lordshipe; as to chase your Lordshipe ^{^their steward} I hope your ^{^ Lordship} will liue to injoy it 3 times as long, as my Lord Clarendon did, My Brother did write to me by your Lordshipe a very kinde ^{^letter} for which I haue return'd him my thank's in this letter which I will pray your Lordshipe for to giue him: My Lord Plimouth presents his seruice to your Lordshipe and my Mother, he is the most altered that euer any one was, for ^{^he is} the curtiosest and ciuill, and does all his exercieses soe readily

{Folio 104 verso}

That Mr Cheek write to the King 3 or 4 days a goe; and did giue a very good carec-ter of him, to the King: I am every day more in loue with France then other, we are very merry hear, we meete att some yetilliuemans house or other euery night and dance and Masquecurrade till 12 or 1 of the clock the ^{^women} heare are much better humored then ours are in England, and I can finde now shuch language Masters as they are, (if the language ^{^ be} learnt by hearing of them talk) for their tongues does not lye still halfe an houre.

{f.105 recto}

int he ~~wo~~ whole day: Mr Cheek presents his Service to your Lordshipe and I more only desire that your Lordshipe will allways haue a good opinion if him who is: ~~your~~
Le

Your Lordships Most
Dutyfull and Obedient
Son Ro: Paston

[FB - 2d Son of Ld Visct Yarmouth]

[FB - Character of Lord Plimouth & of the French women]

Madam

I had iust now the honnour ro receiue your Ladiship's letter, which was of all things most welcome vnto me. - Ile assure your Ladiship I was strangely transported with the visitt I made at Oxnett, which was at that time lik to a terrestrial Paradise the gardians so sweet so full of flowers, an so pleasant, the hous so cleane and appeared so magnificent, yet graceo with haueing those fine children in it, whosoeuer looketh uppon ____ will think my Lord and you the happiest parents in the world: and in {^what} parts soeuer they were mett, they would be known to be yours by their hansomnes. one ciuility: indeed Miss and my Cosen Thomas are both prettier then I can exspress, nor did I euer in my life find any thing in poetry or painting half so fine as what I saw that day at your Ladiship's house where I wish you and my Lord settled in peace: but I doubt you'le make it so late that the beautie of the Summer will be oyer first. for news out of Norfolk I can send you none, but that I sup=^rpose you haue heard perticularly, the price Sir Ro=^rbert kemp payed for his honnour was aboue fif=^rteen hundred pound. Sir Neuill who went without it, six or Seuen. their continuous and unseparable frindship between our great neighbours and yours

{folio 160 verso}

Mrs Michell is in the heigh of her progress at the two sir John's houses. some say's but tis not be=leeued that Seamer the Speaker sueth sir J. in the behalf of a grand child of my Lady Craffs. but I tier your Ladiship qute out before I make the pro=^rtestation to liue and die.

Your Ladiships most faithfull and affectionate Seruant

Margaret Bedingfield

My husband beggs my Lord and you might find his humble Seruice hier. your Ladiship writt nothing how your little Grand child thriue's.

Sir Joseph Coleton is newly dead - I must not forgett to be iust but to giue euary body their due. Mrs _____ Cooper and Mr Goff. dose their parte (I think) very well

Beck hall: July 25th

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 107 Recto

March 1675/6

My most honoured Lord,

When Places of Trust and Honour are deservedly bestowed upon Persons of Integrity, wee not onely extoll the Goodness of our Prince, but at the same time venerate also and mag-nifie his Justice. And so far is the exeltation of Meritt from creating envie, or exposing the Dignitarie to the affronte of Little Enemies, that it administers matter of Publick Rejoicing and Generall Satisfaction. What hearty exultations and high expressions of Contentment are to be seen and heard abroad it is next to impossible for mee yet to know, the Joy having not had time enough to dilate and display it selfe. But as Taffe upon this day weares a Leeke upon his Hatt in honour of his David, so may I reasonably presume that the Loyall and Ho-nest Soules if Norfolk (and trully while I am writing this, Mr Blofield with his Friends are come in to acquaint mee with so much) doe even now express a Gladness proportionate to theire Love and estimation of you. My neare Relation to you and dependance on you require from mee a higher measure of triumphing, and therefore am I come upon the first arrival of such Joyfull News to congratulate your Honour, and our Countess Happiness. what Good may wee not now expect, what Prosperity not promise to our selves, under the Government of so wise and Diligent, so Just and Loyall a Lord-Lievetenant? But perhaps, my Lord the tediousness of my Letter may too much stay you in your Jour-ney, because the Necessity of Affaires doe require your Sudden Presence. I shall therefore at present give you no far-ther trouble, although I could heartily wish I know the Certaine time of your Coming downe, that by communi-cating it to your numerous Friends, wee might All in a full Bodie receive you {^with} that Respect which becomes your Greatness.

My Lord,
Your Honours most humble Servant and most devoted Chaplaine
Edm. Wharton.

I humbly tender my duty to my most Ho-noured Lady.

{Folio 108 verso}

These present

To the right Honourable the Lord Vicount Yarmouth at the Golden Ball in Suffolk street.
London.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 109 Recto

[FB - Viscount Yarmouth Lord Lieutenant in the room of Lord Townshend State of
the County - Peoples Opinions &c
March 1685/6]

Madam

What entertainment *the* excellent good news of your Lords promotion has found here, I am too much *your* Ladships faithfull servant to relate, for I *pretend* not to make a description of a thing almost infinites vniversall joy and acclamations as too beg for any Character, and *with* reacts are full of admiration and gratitude they make like demonstrations thereof than *the* loudest Rhetoric. People *that* are restored to their liberty, first wonder in becomeing silence, and soules struck and affected at *that* rate, are soe _____ in contemplation, and worthy consideration, *that* for a time they for lease to make a _____ to *the* rentes, but enjoy _____ in nobler *comm*unications:

Wee are all (Madam) as it were in an extasy, like men lately in *the* darke, newly exposed to *the* brightest ray's of *the* Sunn; wee {^knowe} not well where wee are, yet wee are asured our Case is mightily better'd: wee are put in possession of Gorton but hate yet but a General (tho inspiring) view thereof; your Lords longed for *pres*ense will *im*mediately make vs particularly sensible; and know-one-another and {^then} praie God, *that* our Lord Leivetenant is as good as he is Great, and his Excellent temper is as _____, and obliging, as it is Noble, and just.

Providence has *pre*_____ my good Lord Yamouth to a great purpose; There can be noe such reputation, as that of Rescuing his Country; and the King cannot place Honor better, than on *the* person *that* will doe it effectually: All eys, and expectations are upon him, and wee now promise to our own selues all worthy and excellent thibgs; and as a cond____ reward for his good and publique service, *the* perpetuating ill _____ and advancing your Ladye and his most ancient, and Honourable, and as with as noble family will be as necessary, as it is racy: Madam wee have now soe grate a share in *the* Lord of Yarmouth, *that* renders us almost condifident he will very soon Honor and comfort us with his *Pre*sense, and I humbly conceive it is very necessary; _____ affections, and true love and Honor beate high, they ought to be grati-fied: Viuion is *the* complement of *that* most noble passion, and when it is enjoyed what wee let in at our eys, rejoyces and imflames our Hearts: Absence _____, coates, and disorders our sentiments, and to be disapointed an houre is mor paine, than many day's of pleasure can compensate.

The chari-table man gives his Almes *pre*sently, and he gives twice more more than he *that* gives as much after a pa____: my Lord, I am sure glorry as well as delights in workes of {^my Honor and} Charity, and has ever done *you* most reasonably; {^and} To releive a whole Country will be an Act of Kindness of *the* highest Instance. I *pres*ue my Lord will come thoroly furnished with a new *Comm*ission for Justices of *the* peace, *that* such as shall be thought fit and worthy to be added, may by all sworn in Easter Week: I understand, That Major Doughty has left with my Lord an account of some persons *that* are very deserving, and may be consider'd upon *the* change, and ther is great reason *that* such should be encouraged, and promoted; Els *the* dangerous, and of late too much obstaining, Presbiterian and Phanatic Interest may put *the* County to _____, and hazard again,

and I most humbly moove, That my Lord may not too much treat his in comparable good nature with any, tho of the {^most} plausible and _____

{folio 109 verso}

of those principles; for I know, they are neither to be ____, or obliged: Madam I fear I am too bold, but if your Ladiship could see within, my pardon would not long be granting; for by all thats good and sacred, I love, and Honor my Lord, and your whole family soe truly and heartily, that Ile most willingly ____ my life, and fortunes at any time to {^serve} your Honors acceptably or worthily ~~xxxxxx~~: Therefore I doe not in the least doubt, That as {^I} beare an agreeable part in the inexpressible joy wee are all here transported with, soe, tho I ____ my self the most unworthy, I shall hate a small share of my Lords kindness, respects and regards; which shall ever be thankfully valued as the greatest ob-ligations, that can be confessed upon

Madam

Your Ladiships most obedient, and faithfull servant.

____: Hughes.

Norwich

March the 1st 65/6

And now (Madam) pardon me I beseech you Ladiship, id I acquaint you with the behavior, and some of the sentiments, and little discontents of the other partie: Tis said amongst them That Popery is to be introduced, and my Lord Townshend upon that account was laid _____. Some of his great confidents say; That they are glad, he is _____ for the Honor at first was too little for his spirit, and parts, and not worthy his acceptance. Another said, one mr Hobart; That it was reasonable the King should displace the Lord T. consider{d}ing he had a brother to prefere. An Alderman in great Hast declared, That tho the Lord T. for the present is Eclipsed, yet he will be considerable again with the Rising Sunn, I am afraid meaning dangerously: All the Phanatics, except the Pres-biterians or well pleased, very much celebrating my Lords good Nature.

Sir John and Sir John, as tis said resolve to lay down all their Comm-issions: but all sure Church of England men, rejoyce, and heartily give God thanks.

Madam with major Doughties approbation I most humbly mention there fore, which are worthy to be added to those formerly named. Edward Osbourn, Glever Denny, Robert Herne, William Perse, Thomas Hoogan: And I have just cause to petition, that my greatest enemy. Dr Pepper, who certainly is one of the falsest men living, and was only the cause of the Lord T.s indignation against me, which may be my ____ may hate not the reputation of caution-ing in Comm____. Majot Doughty is a person whose worth, and intergri-ty renders him beloved of all, whose activeness and sagacity have contri-buted much to our recovery, whose judgement and experience _____, if not exceeds the best is beyond comparison the fitter claim to be upon the ____ of all meadow's

{folio 110 verso}

These

To *the* Right Honourable _____ Vicounte's Yarmouth at *the* Golden Ball in Suffolk
Street
London

present

[1676]

Madam

Amonge the crowd of frinds that Salutes my Lord Leuftennent of Norfolk. I beg
room to wish your Lordship ioÿ and I hope in God it will proue so to our good King
and to all those that loues him, but I must tell your Ladiship there are many of
those that fear's my Lord may be drawn into the Snares if his enimies by following
the councill of sir John Holland; but we assure them you are well acquainted with
all the Sir John's both theire outsides and insides. your neighbour brought out to
the Assijses this great velluett Saddle cloath fring'd with some remnants of the old
Grandmother's, but in earnest wee are informed they assisted the Sherif with all
the brauerÿ they could. lÿes I neuer heard fewer abroad in my life : at first they
whisper'd that this change was becaus my Lord Yarmouth ingaged to destroy all
dissenters. but this begins to vanish, some of the heads beinf informed how much
they are mistaken in the mans my Lords nature being full of sweetnes and
gentleness. from Haliarn I heare that the younge ladÿ is breeding and that she is
also building, she dined hier sinc I writ last to your Ladyship but I haue not had the
manners to make al returne as yet nor shall {deleted} this half yeare unless you
command me thethere, for I am, you know {deleted} , body and soule

Madam

Your Ladyships

Humble Servant and faithfull frind: M: Bedingfield

March ye 13th

{Folio 112 recto}

Ffor the Right Honourabl my Lady Yarmouth

Norwich July the 19th 1676

Madame

The towne of Phillipsburg in Germany being soe closely begirt with _____ as my Lord of Yarmouth is att this time with his freinds & seruants, I doe not see how his Lordshipp can possibly make a sally with his pen towards your Ladyshipp by this Post. which makes mee presume to giue your Ladyshipp the trouble of hearing the newes of my Lords noble entry yesterday into this Citty. The whole country knew that our high Sheriffe was obliged to meet & receiue my Lord cheife Baron on the same day & att the same time, but had very little notice of my Lord of yarmouths motion this way; but soone taking the alarum, the Gentry, (at the best ____) I looked into this Citty and vnanimously agreed to march in a distinct body (from that of the High sheriffs) to meet my Lord Lieutenant, and to expresse (as well as the little fore=notice would permit) by their hansome appearance the great zeale & duty which this whole County was willing to pay vnto his Lordshipp. About two miles from towne the high Sheriffe with a small Dwarfe company of gentlemen, and a Sufficient number of Subscribed Liueryes mett the Judges & returned with him into the Citty. I suppose the Sheriffe of all sorts might haue neer vpon 200 horses and (as Some say) about 7 or 8 coaches. The other body which consisted most of gentlemen & Some Clergy=men shewed a double zeale by going about double the miles (if ____ not lesse then fiue miles) to meet my Lord Lieutenant wee were not lesse then a thousand horse, and about forty coaches; an appearance very extraordinary, considering the short notice wee had of his Lordshipps coming; nor was the quality of the Persons lesse considerable: to name them all would giue your Ladishipp too great a trouble; be pleas'd to let mee onely nominate 2 or 3 of the cheife as me Coke my lord Treasurers Sonne in law, Sir Neuil Ctline, Sir Phillipp Woodhowsw etc: Though the heat & dust were vnspeakably tro=blesome, yet nothing could hinder the Country from expressing their duties towards their most beloued & most honoured Lrdd Lieutenant, with whom wee entred this Citty in as much order and splendour as the possibility of time and circumsatnces would permitt.

But Madame I forget to tell your ladishipp how the streets were

{folio 113 verso}

crowded with reioycing Spectators to see his Lordshipp, and how richly euery window was adorned with ladyes and young beautyes; a thousand pritty black eyes (as bigg as sawcers) were shott into his Lordshipps coach, and had not his Lordshipp giuen great euidence of his being pistol=prooffe, hee could not possibly haue escaped murder. The King (God blesse him) would hardly haue resisted Such delicious haile=shott, for to deale truly with your Ladishipp I haue not seene fiercer or more killing beautyes in our Country, then appeared that day att euery window to wellcome his Lordshipp. Yett after all this to preuent your Ladshipps ielousy I assure your ladishipp vpon my faith and honesty, his Lordshipps carriage (though very noble to all) seemed equally condescending to old & young, euery reuerend old lady, as much participating of his Lordshipps smiles as the youngest murderesse; which I cannot impute to any want of generous appetite in his

Lordshipp, but to a certaine fortification about his Lordshipps hart, which being prepossessed by more powerfull charmes in your Ladishipp Person, was incabable of any other inuasion. Madame because truth was neuer vnwellcome to your Ladishipp I flatter myself that you will not be displeased att this trouble, which can add nothing to the fore=mentioned narratiue but that I am with infinite deuotion and most profound humility

Madame

Your Ladishipp most obedient and most humble Seruant

Jo. Jasburgh

{folio 114 verso}

For the right honourable the Ladye Viscountesse of Yarmouth att the golden Ball in Suffolke=street

Humbly present these

London

[FB - Reception at Norwich]

July the 19th 1676

My Deare Hart

Since my last att Thetford I must acquaintt you that my Lord Cheif Baron came next morning thether by Eleuen of the clock where I receued him with Sir William Adams Sir William Doyly the Maior and all the corporation in their formalitys he entered into my coach his owne followed and the rest onely he and he and I on mine, wee made som short stay att Atteborowe where Sir Francis Dickley mett vs with his coach then wee went on, and aboue fiue mile from Norwich mett vs a noble body of horse of the prime gentlemen in the country and som thirty coaches the horse marched on and as wee followed wee gathered to about 40 or more coaches, about two miles from Norwich came the Sheriff who the affections of the gentlemen to mee had quite robbed of all the traies butt the blue boyes and of gentry one Windham & Walpoole appeared with him I deliurd vp my Lord Cheif Baron by his owne coach side and alighted to salute mee soe I lighted too and my Couz Coke and returned his compliment, then wee made a stay to lett them march in att Sir Giles his gates and came into St Stephen s gates and soe through the markt place downe to the towne howse to the Judge, whome frome thence I waited on vp to the castle where hee read his commission in ~~which~~ one of which their was a mistake and I past in by the name of Earle of Yarmouth, (which caused seuerall peo=~~=~~ple on this place to salute mee for the new honor; which caused such priuate inquisitions of my friends to tell them absolute -ly itt was nott butt I had reason to beleue itt would be soe my Lord cheif Baron was rauished with his reception and I doe beleue will doe mee the sight to say neuer yett any iudge was euer receiued licke him, and will sett it out and indeed itt

{folio 115 verso}

could nott bee higher nor more splendid about eleuen of the clock att night came in my Lord marshall, who this morning I carried my cousin Coke to visitt as he was coming to mee bitt went back on our coming to the Dukes place and afterwards dined att our ordinary and was my guest from whence he went to see my Lord Cheif Baron, with whome I was on the bench most part of this afternoone, he s mighty kind to mee and on Saturday goes to Oxned till Monday he has on the bench whence I came to write this made great compliments to you in the high Sheriffs hearing who sate next vs and charged mee to lode my letter with his service to you, I supped with him last night and on friday my Lord marshall & I dine with him, and now whilst I am writing I breake of ab=~~=~~ruptly for my Lord Cheif Baron is iust

now com in to ur Howse he to giue mee a visitt, and soe expecting yours to
morrowe I am

Yours Eternally

Yarmouth

heeres all the world in towne Sir John Hobarte & Sir Robert Kemp whome wee see
nott

{folio 116 verso}

These Present

To my Lady Yarmouth:

July the 21. 1676,

My Deare Hart

My Lord Chief Baron has gotten great fame by his way heere of administring iustice and this day the two great tryalls of the ___ passed where they were both cast in their croopers, my Lord Marshall sayd all that could be for Dr Hewse, the words were soone (Though Turkinton the Loitners was head & the greatest Rouge in nature) yett 4000lb damages were giuen my Lord Townehend I was there all the time, this coms a message from my Lord Townshend that if Hewse & his wife would butt promise to hold their tounes for the future he would remitt all/ Hewse could doe nothing without my Lord marshalls concent & mine, butt the proposall beeing made by maior Doughty I beleeeve itt will end handsomly: then came on Dr Hyliards which would nott beare water, and my Lord Cheif Baron finiding itt makes a proposall which hee tooke an answer to before he gaue directions by the iury: that if great damages were giuen and Hyrne purged of forgery they should bee reitted: soe three hundred pounds giuen Hyrne, which att the barr he frankly re=~~=~~mitted as well as all causes defending for the riott the Dr and he made mutall promises to liue in amity and Hyrne came immediately to my chamber whith the Dr where I told him he had don a thing which from hence forward oblided mee to bee his friend and in great kindness wee all parted; heere neuerwas knowne such an appearance att an Assises since Norwich was a towne, and this morning the gallery att Dr Hawes his was as full of gentelmen as itt could thwack and I haue had as great respects as

{folio 117 verso}

is possible for man to expect, this day my Lord marshall my Lord Howard and so twenty other gentlemen dined with the iudge who began that health himself to morrowe hen goes with mee to Oxned and on monday besines musr be on the bench where I beleeeve the Assises will last till wedensday or thursday, I doe nott thinke my Lord & the Ladyes will haue time to see Oxned this time yesternight att my Lord Howards garden was about fifty coaches the walkes as full as springarden, and in I went and saw dancing on the bowling reene by torch light mr Le Strange is much concerned that I hauing allowed him to wright, should by mistake keep his letter in my pockett till the next post their will bee noe need & I counter subscribes I presume this will full if itt self & the other is nott thought the way pray excuse mee to my son till the next post noe letter came from my Lord Treasurer in hast I am

Your most affectionately for euer

Yarmouth

if their be any faults pardon them I had nott time to read my letter

{folio 118 verso}

These Present To *the* Right Honorable The Lady Viscountess Yarmouth att *the*
golden ball in Suffolke street

London

July the 24th 1676

My Deare Hart

On Saturday my Lord Chief Baron hauing inuited mee to dinner came along with mee in my coach about 3 or 4 of the clock to Oxned where I entertained him with all the respects of the Place with which he is sufficiently satitised Yesterday beeing Sunday he heard a good sermon heere and seuerall gentlemen came to waite of him att dinner, after dinner hee and I went out into the park and I shewed him the spring in the wood hee is extreemely well pleased with his reception and with the place & with your children, this morning he was gon by fowre of the clock on wedensday I goe to waite on him to take my leaue for on thursday he goes away, I heare my Lord marshall goes away to morrowe butt I haue sent Snelling this day to Norwich to inuite him to morrowe to dinner & Sir Edmond Bacon who heas promised mee a visitt and is as extrauagant in his kindness to mee as hee is in his other discourses to others which makes people thinke and nott without reason that his braine somtimes is a little touched butt he has a great deale of witt and to mee is very oblidging, this is a most sweet place and I haue nott observed itt sweeter than att this time nor this day when I happen to bee alone with my children without interrup^{tion} for most people expected mee at Norwich vpon the returne of my Lord Cheif Baron who has gained himself immortall fame in his carriage of all matters more espetially in that of Dr Hyliards and now itt happens that since the tryall the acquittance Mr Hyrne signed is found by the falling out of the two Brothers the Earles, butt however the Dr has purchased his peace and hauing beene fairely vsed att an aduantage ought nott to breake out on a new

{folio 119 verso}

score I saw Sir John Stobart & Sir Robert Kemp on the bench tiwice butt wee looked couldly one upon the other and the salutes were such, Sir Peter Gleane came and made mee a veru ciuill visitt and Sir John Holland sent mee by his son a ciuill letter, my cousin Coke & I were very kind, my Lord Treasurers letter was very full and very kind pray present my humble service to him tell him that I did communicate itt and had itt read in publicque to all the deputy Leiftenants, and itt relished well for mee and was as kindly taken by them, My Lord Cheif Baron when he coms to towne will lett the King & my Lord Treasurer know that those that loue the crowne heere are more numerous by farr the those that observe their owne methods & thinke to serve the King by new wayes which he desires nott to bee served by,

This night I wright to Dawson to speake to Dunster to giue in a report speedily if hee hee still there , for maior Doughty has engaged seuerall to build as soone as the customehowse goes vp, which you must sollicit Brent & the Treasurer in for the time is now almost past, I pray gos that my son & I may haue Norfolke & suffolke vpon reasonable penniworths which my son writes mee word Peregrine Berte is still confident on

Bowers the Coffee man shall rest till I com vp I haue more of the towne of Yarmouth that watch him & well ferrett him; for they ahue putt downe his Coffee howse and now understanding he sells alle and ___ they send this week to leuy his twenty shillings for the first offence according to the Statute , and the next offence is the howse of correction I hope you will speake to my ▽ that wee haue noe trickes playd vs in K yesterday I had by a post which cost mee two shillings a letter from my Cousin Wolston

{folio 120 recto}

Paston which as I suppose came onley as a conuoy to one of my Lord of Barkshires inclosed itt still to tell mee that by a late opportunity he had of addressing he had recommend-ed my former business as Sir George W or other that conuerse there might knowe vpon enquiry, itt were worth the while to gett Sir George Wakeman by the by to ask mr Coleman whe=ther my Lord had troubled himself lately to write about any such matter which he may say hee beleeves has long inten=ded to be don, I leaue itt to your discretion for I hate to make many parlys in one matter

I shall write to my Lord Treasurer when the Assises are don and giue a full accompt of all thinges, the Children present their dutys to you they are very well and Betty growes a braue lusty girle and thinkes she shall neuer see you when I am alone I am as melancholy as can bee butt allwayes my deare Hart

Yours eternally

Yarmouth:

{folio 120 verso}

For your self

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 121 Recto

Dear Sir

I am very Sorry to hear the sad misfortune that befell your Lordship coming
{^from} Kinsington, sir I am very Sensible of it and I thank God for spareing your
Lordships Life; My Lord I take it as a great favour that your Lordshipp will receive a
letter at my hands; I am very glad to hear that every day your Lordship is better
wee give your Lordship humble thanks for the buck you gave beetwen us and wee
will drink My Mother and your Lordships health wishing you both here I hope it will
not bee Long before your Lordship will bee in case to come into this country sir
when you come I hope you will make your settlement here that wee may enioy
yoor good company; pray remember my duty to my Mother and my Grandmother;
and accept the same to your self from Bear

Sir

Yor most dutifull and ever obediant daughter

Elisabeth Paston

[FB - 1676]

{folio 122 recto}

These

For the Right honourable the Lord Vicount Yarmouth at the Golden Ball in Suffolk
street

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 123 Recto

My Lord

I haue accidentlye been preuented returning *your* Lordshipp's thankes for *your* beneuolence *which* was performed with such, exactness as I must euer owne *your* Lordshipp's Nobleness; My Lord after dangers wee ought to reioice I am sure I doe in *that* you Came of soe well out of the hands of such unparalelldrogues I hope you will as wekk ouercom *the* dangerous wound I here *your* Lordshipp has receiued, may you out liue *the* notice of *your* enimies, and *the* diuell take him who designed my Lord Yarmouth mischeife is *the* daylie prayer of

My Lord

Your obedient servant & kindsman

Jonny Bedingfeld junior

I beseech *your* Lordshippe present my humble Duty to my Ladye

Oxborrow

August.23.

[FB- 1676]

British Library Additonal MS 36988
Folio 124 recto

[FB - Sr Wm Mason a Pensioner on the County &c]

January the 6th: 1676

Sir

I receiued yours, and doe desire you to present my humble service to the Deputy Leiftenants and to acquaint them that I am sorrie I cannott attend them att this meeting I doe desire they will take Sir William Masons pension into their consideration who was a follower of the late King from Nottingham to the deliuey of Ponfraict castle besides his beeing neare fourscore yeares {^old} cannott Trouble the country long ; noe more then I earnes Oakes his additions of fiue pounds and {^a} small pension for little Oliuer is all I shall appeare in beeing very tender of the countys charge, more in what I thinke truly charitable & with in the nature of itt {^pretence} for other matters, I desire you to mooue tham att their meeting, and to giue me ane accompt of what they please to deter=r=mine in {^which} you will oblidge Sir

Your affectionate friend & servant

Yarmouth:

{folio 125 verso}

These

For Edward Le'strange Esquire att Alderman Briggses in Norwich

[other hand - jan: 6: 76]

the favour your Ladyship dead me whan I com out of ingland to say you wold Geue
me Loue to wright I was not willing to slepe so good a nopertnaty as sanding by non
of the princess charle_s ther your Ladyship knows thay tolke in ingland as if the
princs was not kind to the princess but I thank them that say so ar uery baes pepall
for in my days I neuer say a man so kind as he is as if you ples to aske this
Gentelman he woll confarm whot I say and for the princess I cant say whot she

{folio 126 verso}

desarues I thank my salfe extramly hapy in saruing of her: ~~xxx~~holond with out her
is not be induerd I woll trobly your Ladyship no mor at this tim but that I am
madam

your humbl Saruant

S. Howard

{folio 127 verso}

FB - Prince, Princess of Orange

Folio 128 recto

[FB - 1679]

Sep. 26, th,

Honor'd Madam

I could not sleepe this past night without returninge my humble thankes and Joy, for the fauour of your Letter_ and what it tells me of my Lord_ I can with truth profes the best news I haue heard som yeares and since *your_ Ladyship_* can countenance and incourage a useles well willer to the ffamily I am for sure to continue that to the End of my Life, for I am now reduc'd by my late retirement_ to so Low a conuerce that I am not furnish't with an acceptable fable for my Lords diuertisement_ , I thinke nothinge is to be related now but under that Notion except the death of *Sir_ kingswell Lucy* whos Loss has don more towards the expected and fear'd _____ if *Lord_ Berkelay* then any or all the vpps and downes of his Life: the Lady now under present condemnation is the widow *Obrion* who has given *Mis_ Churchill* 8000l, for her fine howse in *St_ Jameses square*, and has gone thither seuerall times in the Splendor of new mourninge and Six howses, beefore her *Lord_* has ben deade 3 weekes; and madam though this be matter of fact, I durst not swear its truth, nor tell what is in-Larg'd by som on this Subiect; but on Munday, the kinge goeing for new markt the very *Ayre will Convay* into *Norfolke* all remarks considerable, and many hands I hope all smoothnes in your dependinge affaires, this the sincere wish of

Madam

your humblest and euer affectionat Seruant

Frances Burwell

[FB - the seal is curious

the man fighting?

news]

{folio 129 verso}

To the right Honourable Viccountes *Yarmouth* thes present att oxneade in *Norfolke*

Folio 130 recto

Right Honourable

In obedeince to your Lordships Warrent which I recieuid in the absince of my Captain Sir William Doyly) I haue made dilident enquiry to know what Roman Catholicks were liuing in our diuision but find very few in our seuerall hundreds, and those I haue searched as Mr Thomas Hauers of Thelurston Hall (whoe findeth a horse in our Troope) where I found only the horse Armes compleate with two Swords, in Mr Goslings & the widdow Shurfords howses 2 swords & 3 brush bills, all with Armes I haue left in the pocession of Mr Burton Cheife Constable of the said hundred of is to bee disposed of accordinge to your Lordship further order & these are all I can heare of in our whole diuission I must now beg your Lordships pardon that come not myselfe to waite vpon yow hauing gotten a very Extreame cold with a great paine in my shouldre {^which} I hope will pleade an excuse from your Lordship, to him whoe is

your Most Faithfull & obedient
Seruant William

Eastham the 29th september 79

[FB- Roman Catholick houses searched for armes &c]

{folio 131 verso}

These for the Right Honourable My Lord of yarmouth att oxnead
present

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 132 Recto

Robert Lord Paston Viscount Yarmouth Lord Vice Admirall & Lieutenant of the
County of Norfolk & City & County of Norwich

Greeting

Wheresa his Majesty has been pleased to order the Impressing of certaine seamen
watermen Bargemen & Boatemmen within this county, & whereas the Reght
Honourable his Majesties Comissions of the Admiralty by especiall warrant to me
directed haue willed & required me forthwith to Impress or cause to be impressed
some Marriners Seamen Watermen Bargemen & Boatemmen within the said County
as well within Liberties as without, I doe hereby constitute & appoint yow
presmaster for the County of Norfolk

Willing & requiring yow forthwith to press or cause to be imprest there all such
able Seamen Watermen Bargemen {^or} Boatemmen aboue the age of eighteen
yeares & vnder the Age of Fifty yeares as yow shall finde theare of shall be found
by yow within any of the Precincts there vnto belonging, which said persons by
yow sor impressed you are to deliver to Robert Bendish of Norwich Gent:
Conductor there vnto appointed vnder my hand & seale for to receive yow, & this
your Warrant to continue for 28 dayes from the date hereof & not longer in
persuance of which orders & directions all Maiors Justices of the peace Bayliffes &
all other Officers whatsoever are required & commanded to be Aiding & assisting
as they tender this his Majesties Concerne & service given vnder my hand & seale
at Oxnett this Day of 1678

{folio 132 verso}

Norff

Instructions for the Respective __ press Masters to be obserued by them in
executing their Office in the Impresting of Seamen &ct, for His Majesties Service at
Sea:

1 The press Master is to Receiue, a printed Modell form the Lord Vice admirall by
which he is to {^make} a List of the persons by him Imprest

2 The press Master is to press all seamen, Watermen, Bargemen or Boatmen between the age of 18 and 50, that are of able bodies, and fit for His Majesties service at sea

3 The press Master to be furnished with 12d advance mony to be Giuen to each man Imprest

4 Such Seamen &ct, as shall absent themselues from their habitations, the press Master is to Leau 12d at their houses with notice in writing, when and where they are to appeare which if they shall neglect to doe, they are to be apprehended by the Constable, upon warrantt to him, from a Justice of peace to this purpose, & brought to the Conductor, or Comitted to the Common Goale

5 Each man Imprest, is to be allowed 6d per diem untill he be deliuered to the Conductor:

6 The press Master is to deliuer a List according to the printed Modell, to the Conductor signed by himselfe, mentioning the Number, Names, ages, & places of Residence, of all such as he deliuers to the Conductor, and to Receiue ~~for the~~ A Duplicate of the same from the Conductor, signed by the said Conductor & to Certifie the same to mee

7 If any person Imprest shall not appeare at the time & place of Rendevouz appointed the press Master is forthwith to certifie the same to mee, and acquaint the Constables of the Respective parishes, where the persons were Resident:

8 If any seamen, Boatman, or Bargeman, or Waterman, fitt for the seruice, doe retire themselues, within the County to avoyd the same, the press Masters are to take care that all such suspected persons, may be Impressed, & sent to the Conductor:

9 The press Masters, if they meet with any obstructions, are to certifie the same to mee with all speed, as the cause shall require

{folio 133 recto}

Norffe

A forme of a Tickett to be left at the Houses of such persons as shall with draw themselues to avoid being Imprest

~~Thomas Smith of Buxton~~

You are hereby to take notice, that you (being absent from your house) this day, being the 30th day of Aprill 1678, & by mee Listed for His Majesties seruice at sea, U haue left at your house for you, one shilling as prest mony, and you are {^in His Majesties name} required to meet mee, at the Rendevouz at Aylsham, upon the

sixth day of May next by 8 of the Clock in the morning and from thence to march to Harwich with such Conductor as shall be appointed by the Lord vice Admirall for that purpose: and there to take shipping for His Majesties service and hereof you are not to fayle as you will answer the contrary at your perill

A:B: Pressmaster

C D Constable

{folio 133 verso}

A copy of

The press Masters *Comission* & Instructions as also a forme of a Tickett to be Left at the houses of them that shall absent themselues

Sir

His Majesty haveing thought fitt to desolve the late Parliament and to Issue forth Writts for now Eleccions, Tis Expected that the Writt for chooseing Knights of the Sheire in this County will be Executed on Monday. the Tenth of February next. I hope the Electors in this County will make Choyce of such Persons, as are of unquestionable Loyallty, and that, will be most serviceable to the King, the Church and the Country. How I finde the Inclination of the Country to be most for Sir Christopher Calthorp, and Sir Nevill Catlyne which agrees with my Iudgment and shall have my Concurrence, and I hope all my Freinds will Industriously loyne with me therein. Wherefore I desire you to use your utmost dilligence in this luncture of Affaires to promote their Election for the Service both of the King and People whereby you will Engage them, and

(Sir)

your A Honord Freind

Jan: 31. 1678/79

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 135 Recto

A Copy of the Lord Lieutenant of norffolke his Letter to Docttor Hildeyard which
was sent throught out the County: \ \ \ \

Dr

I under stand that there is a grate intrest makinge ffor the settinge vp of Persons
for Knights of the shire with out acquaintinge me there with which I thinke ought
not to be done with out my Knowledge Bearinge that ofice I doe vnder his majesty
in this County Sir Christopher Calthorpe and Sir neuell Catelin {^beinge} ~~xxxxxx~~
Persons of vndouted Loyalty ans worthm and haueinge declared there Intentions to
stand ffor the County I haue Ingaged my Intrest to Promote there Elections which I
question not will be Carried with great odds against those whoe shall sett vp them
selues with out my Concurrence and I shall vigorously oppose there desinges to
there ~~xxxxxx~~ disrepute, I ~~doe~~ doubt {^not} of such as shall appeare one there
Behalfes you may acquainte any of (your or my ffreinds how Ill I resent shuch
proseedings) and that I will haue it known what office I Bare I am

Your affectionat ffreind and servant

yarmouth

[FB - a Lord Lieutenant's Circular Letter !

1678/9]

[1679]

May it please *your* Honor

when I writt my last *lett*re I know not I could not haue beleuiued that my Redemption was drawne soe nigh (nor doubt I to use that expression for in good faith I saw and all people said I was marked out for destruction In the very anguish of my soule I writt it because my very pa-rsh flew openly in my face that upon my account they could not haue iustice. *which* with the particulars there in mentioned beeing matter of fact will eyther be proued or lett mee {^bee} hanged.

My most honored (for affection sake I had almost sayed my most deare) Lord I am satisfied that I could haue beene destroyed with cheerfull nesse long agoe that this change might haue been In your Honors hands lett the church of god in norfolk florish noe matter what becomes of mee I shall euer liue and prosper in that. But with all humble nesse of mind I offer this as unfal-ible exxpedit to endear the Clergy of the County to your Honour for euer and it is noe more then I uerily beleiue the law grants them To exempt all the Clergy for their spirituall promo-tions bearing armes. I beg'd of Mr Gough to intimate this and now haueing mentioned it I haue {^it} to your Honor who will I am sure neuer deny the charge what law and Justice can cast nay what fauour and bounty can make theirs; The great alacrity that appeared in many faces upon the changes begins to be clouded and I will not blush to say the cause is from *Sir* John Hobart and Mr Herne with others their inciting nat solliciting, people to a discontent in this happy change, such is the spirit of malice thus restlesse and god knowes there is nothing could haue prompted mee to haue writt this to your Honor at this time ~~xxx~~ {^but} because it is True and because I will ever, (maugre all hazard of censure) own my selfe

Your Honors

most obedient most faithfull and nost deuoted servant

J Hildeyard

Sir John Hobart will not soe much as signe a warrant Tuesday last Mrs Neeue granted one into Blicklin for that reason.

{folio 137 verso}

This

To the right Honourable the lord Vicount Yarmouth Lord Lieuetenant of Norf

humbly present

at the Golden Ball in Suffolk street

London

[1679]

My Lord./

Haveunf been informed of some expressions in a letter of myne, which has given offence to the house, I doe most humbly make itt my Request to Your Lordshipp That you wou'd represent me as one that haveing had the honor to sitt there many yeares And that ha's all the honor imaginable Reverence for that Honorable Assembly, And withall to beleive what I assert to your Lordshipp vpon the pawne of all the Credit & Reputation I haue in the world, My Lord After Sir John Hobart had declyned standing, finding the Country disposed by a generall Concurrence to the Election of the twoe present knights, I hapned to write a letter to one whose obligationes to my family made mee thinke noe ill vse would have been made of what I untended as noe force vpon him nor any otherman butt I will not excuse nor goe about justify my mistake through hast & inadvertency, And since I ___ itt resented by the house of C____, am very much concerned att itt, My Lord, I doe acknowledge all Elecciones ought to bee free, And I doe hope this will appeare to bee soe, The meritts of the Cause being heard, Butt if after the Concurrence of the Country & Sir John Hobartes declyneing standing, Any expressiones, for want of due Caution to some private persones appeare from mee, from whence a sence may bee drawne contrary to my Intentiones, and that itt appeares those very expressiones did not influence the persones to whom they were writt, I hope, that Honorable house, by whom I shall endeavour to bee well vnderstood will putt a more favorable interpretation vpon them then myne Enemies wou'd screw out to my disadvantage

My Lord, As I have with noe Artifise disguised the truth doe I doe most humbly begg of your Lordshipp that you will accept my Acknowledgementes for your obligationes, and represent mee to that Honorable house as one who shall ever endeavor to deserve their favor, as I shall particularly Your Lordshipp in the accompt of

My Lord

Your Lordships most oblided and most humble Servant

Yarmouth

Madam

In obedience to My Lord's Commands I am to acquaint Your Honour that yesterday, the High Sheriff of this County with 7 or 8 other Gentlemen dined with his Lordship, and haue resolved to use their utmost endeavours , to prevent the malice of Sir John Hobart who designes to make void the Late Election for this County: as to the Letters Sir John Hobart mentions in his petition, I hope they will appear no other then Libells, for the Originalls will not be in the power of Sir John to produce: the Originall of that to Dr Hidiyard is safe and Mr Scarborough is so honest, as to declare, he neuer for not euer will show his: and I hope Mr Britiff has not parted with the Originall off his, but if he has, I doe not see, any hurt it can doe: but your Honour will haue a further Accompt of this on Munday next; for these Gentlemen that are ffreinds to Sir Christopher and Sir Neville haue appointed to meet at Norwich on Saturday to take care to prevent the malice of their Enemies and to send up such Witnesses as they shall judge fit, to prevent the making void of the Late Election; but in case the Election should be made void, there is sucj Effectuall care taken, that being Sir Christopher, and Sir Neville haue declared that they will stand againe, I hope they will carry it against all opposition: on Munday Last Mr Faulkner was chosen at Norwich for Clerke for the Convocation, and there were 300 Clergy men present of whome there were but fiue, that were for a Hobart, which I hope is a good Omen: I begg Your Honour pardon for this trouble, and doe asure Your Honour that you shall euer find mee,

Madam

Your Honour

As most Obliged

so most Faithful

Servant

Edward L'estrangle

Oxnead March the 26th 1679

{continued down left-hand margin}

Madam be pleased to present my humble service to The Collonell, his Lady, & Mr Robert Paston

Mr Negus having this day declared to My Lord, *that* he does beleue *that* Mr Britiff has not ~~XXX~~ parted *with* the Originall Letter, My Lord has sent to Capt^{ain} Harbert who is well acquainted *with* him, to know *the* truth of it, of *which* Your Honour shall haue an Accompt by the next post: but according to the Copy I haue seen, it can doe no hurt:

Madam

I am sorry to find that the implacable Malice of my Lord's Enemies, turns so high, as to giue him all the dsiturbance that they can upon the Account of the late Election here in Norffolk: I pray God confound their devices, and bring that euill they intend my Lord, upon their owne heads: I am glad to heare that when the business _____, tobr determined at the Barr of the House of Commons, wee are like to haue many good ffriended, and I hope the Account that will be there giuen, of the Legall, and faire proceedings at the Late Eletion, will be so satisfactory to that Honourable House, that the sitting Members will be declared duely and Lawfully chosen: however wee are providing against the worst that can happen: and if Sir John Hobart does effect his designes, by making void this Election {page damaged} he will find, it will be a meanes to render him {page damaged} odious, to the Major part of the Gentry & Clergy {page damaged} this County: The Gentry in Marshland doe unanimo{page damaged} declare they will be for a Calthorpe and Cateline, and in particular worthy Sir Thomas Hare, although he lately Received a Letter from a great person, to bring him ouer to Sir J: Hobart: Dr Hildeyard resolues not to goe up to London, but howeuer will be from home, for some time the better to conceale his Intentions: he has solemnly protested, and engaged, not to Act, or say any thing that may be to the prejudice of my Lord, and to that end desires to receiue his further Instructions from my Lords Councell, the which he will faithfully obserue: I am very glad to understand by Mr Robert Paston, that Sir Christopher Calthorpe, is so hopefull a way of recovery, I pray God restore him to

{f.140 verso}

his health againe, for of he should die, my Lord would loose a ffaithfull ffriend & servant: My Lord is very briske and hearty, I bless God; Doctor Haes is now with him, in order, to the giuing him some directions, upon his going up to London, his Lordship being resolued to set forward to Morrow: whole I pray God preserue, in health and Honour these many years, in despight of all his Enemies: Madam the tendure of my humble Duty and Service to Your Honour, Collonell Paston, and his Lady, concludes mee

Madam

Your Honours

Most Obliged

& ffaithfull

Servant

Edward Lestrange

Oxnead Aprill *the* 6th 1679

{folio 141 recto}

May 29. 1679

What I haue payed to Mr Jopham Sergeant at Armes and to Mr Pight mesenger to the honourable house of commons; and what I haue expended in the iourney

⌘

To Mr Topham in money _____ 030 _____ 00 _____ 00:

In bond to be payd 1st september _____ 015 _____ 00 _____ 00:

To Mr Pight for 30 dayes fees _____ 10 _____ 00 _____ 00:

for lodgings & dyet _____ 02 _____ 10 _____ 00:

In my coming up _____ 01 _____ 15 _____ 06:

In going downe _____ 01 _____ 15 _____ 00:

In all 51 _____ 00 _____ 06:

How I haue rayسد this money

R/ of my lord _____ 20 _____ 00 _____ 00

Borrowed of Mr Neeue to be payed August 15 _____ 15 _____ 00 _____ 00

Borrowed of my cozen Hildeyard _____ 10 _____ 00 _____ 00

brought up to towne _____ 06 _____ 00 _____ 00:

In all 51 _____ 00 _____ 00:

Remayne 31 _____ 00 _____ 06

1679

Fees paid for one in custody of a Messenger of the House of Commons}

Mr Topham remitted eight days fees 08 _____ 00 _____ 00

which eight pounds was over and about the sayd 35 _____ 00 _____ 00:

Jo Hildeyard

The fees to the clerk of parliament when discharged came to 00 _____ 18 _____
_____ 00:

To the speakers secretary _____ 00 _____ 05 _____ 00

So that in all remayned due to mee _____ 32 _____ 03 _____ 06

Jo Hildeyard

{folio 141 verso}

Dr Hughes Comissary of Norfolk

Comissary of Norwich

Officiall of Norwich

Dr Hildeyard prayed the Kings letters for these or any of these places

[FB - June 15 1679

Duke & Duchess of York at Brussels]

Madam ./.

About three weeks since I was honour'd with a kind letter from yor Ladyship, where to I should have then return'd but that sorry {^day} I expected to have been reliev'd by Dr Doughty and so flatter'd my selfe with hopes of waiting upon you suddenly in London. I do very much condole with your Honour the miscarriage of your norfolk Election which I did fear when I observ'd the first _____ of this parliament so generally enclin'd to that faction. I am more concern'd, that your Honour should at length bee depriv'd of what you have so long strenuously endeavour'd for and that the Church should bee any way advantag'd by your detriment, who have ever seen zealous for its Justices. Upon the receipt of your letter I did addresse immediatly to his Highnesse, and presented hi with mt lord's & yor Ladyship's duty and that my lord was resolv'd it

to adhaere

{folio 142 verso}

to his oath of allegiance, which his Highnesse did seem very kindly to resent: and commanded mee to present his service to My lord & your Ladyship, and to assure my Lord, that hee was ever confident of his sincerity and loyalty: and wish'd that all in England were so well principl'd and enclind as my Lord is: adding some other words which are fitter to see spoken, then written to your Honor. I am very sorry that the present face of things in England gives us no incouragement to hope their Highness's speedy return: but tho it bee uneasy to them to reflect upon it, yet their being here is now rendr'd more gratefull by the accession and expectance of some persons at that Court. Lady Betty Felton the the Duchesse reciev'd with great joy and all convenient respect my lord & Lady Peterborough are expected next week. & about a fortnight hence the Duchesse of Modena from Rome God Almighty blesse and prosper my good Lord your Ladyship and your whole family which is as ought to bee, the constant prayer is

Madam

Your Honors most Humble and Obedient Servant

E. Lake ___

Bruxells

June. 19th : 79/

Election Matters

My Lord

In answer to Mr Doughty's Letter of *the* 10th Instant, (*which* I received by a Messenger, sent from Thetford last Saturday, by two of *the* clock in the morning) I went immediately to Thorpland to Sir Christopher Calthorpe to acquaint him with *the* Dissolution of *the* parliament and *that* there was another to meet *the* 7th of October next; and *that* your Lordship did desire, *that* he, and Sir Neville, would stand againe for this County, and meet *that* day at Norwich in Order thereunto: Sir Christopher told mee he desired earnestly to be excused from standing; and did hope Your Lordship would pitch upon some other *person*, whome he will serve with his utmost Interest he being fully resolved to oppose Sir John Hobart, and Mr Windham, with all *the* Interest he can make: The Lady Calthorpe (who is near her lying in, and had *the* day before sent for her Midwife,) did with tears in her eyes, prevaile with Sir Christopher, not to goe to Norwich, and leaue her at this time: and I doe beleeeue her Earnest entreaties did previale with Sir C not to stand any more, by telling him *that* he would ruine himselfe and his family by running in to debt; and bid him consider *that* his Estate was small, that he had debts upon {^{it}} before, and had encreased them much by his charges the two last Elections: after I *perceiued* I could not prevaile with Sir C, I desired him, to tell mee what I should say to those Gentlemen *that* mett at Norwich *that* day, to whome I was then going: he desired mee to present his service, and thanks to them, for *the* honour they had Lately done him and did begg of them, for the present, that they would pitch upon

{folio 143 verso}

some other *Gentleman*, who was truly Loyall to the King & right for the Church of England, as itt is now established, and he woulg Joyne with them to *the* utmost of his Interest, and power: Sir C, could not assure mee *that* he would be at Norwich SS this weeke, for his Lady being so neare her time, he had promised, not to leaue her till she should be deliuered: when I got to Norwich last Saturday, I mett at the Kings head with the High Sheriff, Major Ward, Captain Houghton, Mr Negus, Mr Page, Mr Repps, and 5 or 6 more, but Sir Neville was not with them, for Captain Houghton was but then sending a Messenger to him: they did all unanimously declare, for a Calthorpe and Cateline, and would hear of no Excuse, saying *that* they must choose such as they know to be true to the King, and Church: They were then propounding, to avoid *the* further Expence to Sir C, & Sir N, if they would stand; *that* *the* Gentlemen in every Hundred, should take care to beare the charges of all the meaner ffree houlders *that* desired to haue their expences borne, *which* if they agree upon at their Generall meeting at Norwich SS this weeke, will be a great encouragement for honest Gentlemen to offer their service to their Country: I understand *that* Sir Christopher since I Left him has received a Letter from Your Lordship, so *that* I suppose he will returne Your Honour a full answer, I wish it may be to Your Satisfaction: if Sir C, doe absolutely decline standing, I Leauē it to Your Honour to consider, whether Sir Jacob Astley be not a

fitt person , to make choice of: Sir Thomas Hare I am afraid is to Young otherwise as honest a Gentleman as can be chosen:

{folio 144 recto}

Sir John Hobart, and his ffreinds mett at the White Horse last Saturday; I hear mr Windham declares, that if there be 40 Elections he will stand euey time; it was a great Satisfaction to Our ffreinds at the Kings head, that Sir John Hobart, etct, were not in the Commission of the peace; for it was confidently reported by their party that they were all put in, and seuerall of all of Your Lordshipps ffrinds left out: I shall from the SS giue Your Honour a further Account where I expect to receiue Your Lordshipps further commands, which shall be executed with that fidelity which becomes

My Lord

Your Honours

Most Obliged

& Obedient

Servant

Edward L'estrangle

My Lord

Be pleased to present my owne, & __, humble Duty, & Service to Your Right Honourable Lady, and the Rest of Your Honourable Realtions

Alderman Briggs tould mee last Saturday that he would stand no more for Norwich and did intend to acquaint all his friends with it: Alderman Bendish I thinke will doe well in his stead:

Gressenhall, July 14th 1679

[FB - Election Matters Town of East Doreham's Loss by the Fire 19.0004]

My Lord

I deliuered Your Lordships Letter to the Deputy Lieutenants who desire to haue their humble Services presented to ented to our Honour, and haue agreed to deferr the appointing of Musters untill the Assises, at which time they are in hopes of Seeing Your Lordship in Norffolk: They haue Orderd fiue pounds to be paid to Captain Guybon and fower pounds to Captain Houghton, for their Disbursments in Disarming of your papists: they haue Orderd that the charge of the 2 horses which concerne the Lord ffitz Williams be referred to the Assises when Sir Tho: Garrard shall be present:

The Names of the Deputy Lieutenants at this meeting are Sir Neville Cateline, Major Ward, Collonell Suckling, and Captain Cooke: Mr Windham is In towne, but hauing no Invitation, did {^not} come amongst the Deputy Lietenants: he is very busy in making a party for himselfe, against the next Election; but I doe, understand, that the presbiterian party, doe designe that Sir John Holland should stand with Sir J: Hobart, but if he refuses, then Mr Windham is to serue them: I am loath to waite to Your Lordship that both Sir Christopher, and Sir Neville desire earnestly to be excused from standing, but doe both positively declare, they will stick {^to} Your Lordships Interest, and serue you to the utmost of their power: I had written to Your Honour

{folio 145 verso}

the last night by the page, but was diswaded from it, in hopes of Seeing Sir Christopher here this day: but wee haue neither seen him, nor heard from him as yet, ay which wee much wonder, and doe fear he Sticks to his resolution of not Standing: I doe heartily wish Your Honour had knowne Sir Christophers, and Sir Nevills Resolutions sooner, before your friends had engaged so many upon their Account but now wee must take new measures and therefore desire Your Lordships speedy Advice: Sir Jacob Astley this day, and I doe thinke he may be pre=~~=~~vailed with to stand, although he does declare that no Gentlleman can stand now, against Sir J H & his partner, but under hard circumstances: these hauing bin a great Interest already made for Sir C: & Sir N: by severall, & especially by Sir Jacob himselfe, who indeed has bin very Actiue, Wee Generallu stop further proceedings, expecting Your Lordships Advice, but doe giue out, that both Sir C & Sir N will stand:

It is confidently reported here, by some, who came downe from London in the flying Coach last night, that there is a Stop put to the proclamation, for Dissolving this parliament; and that the King, and Councill. haue altered their Resolutions; this does much amaze us; and Wee thinke long for Our Letters this next post: This day The towne of East Deerham deliuered into the SS__ an Account of their Loss by the late fire, upon Oath; which Amounted to

{folio 146 recto}

The Summe of nineteen thousand pounds; they intend soone to endeavour the procuring of His Majesties Letters pattent for a Brief: I haue Informed them, of the Great sence Your Honour has of their Loss, and that Your Lordship will afford them Your Assistance; for which they are very thankfull; and I hope will be mindfull, of it at an Election:

My Lord, I humbly thanke Your Honour, for kindly accepting of my Weake Endeavours to serve you, and for your care, in considering of my paines, which I doe not thinke so fitt to offer to the Deputy Lieutenants at this time, (although I find them very kind;) by reason of the publick concerne; but shall deferr it to the Assises, ehn I hope to be so happy as to see Your Honour in Norfolke: in the meane time Your Honours Health, and happiness, and the true prosperity fo Your ffamily, shall never want the prayers, of

My Lord

Your Honours

Most Obliged

& Obedient

Servant

Edward L'estrangle

My Lord

Be pleased to present my humble Duty and service to Your Right Honourable Lady, and Honourable Relations

Norwich July the 16th 1679

Madam

The Earle of Yarmouth (who this day dines with the High Sheriffe) and was accompanied with about 40 of the cheife Gentlemen in the County) has laid his comands upon mee to giue Your Honour an Account of his hearty and Cordiall Reception yesterday into this County: His Honour was met at Eaton (14 miles short of Norwich) with 31 Coaches and at least 500 horse, with Seuerall thousands on ffoot: the crowd was so great after he entred Norwich, that the Coaches and Horsemen could hardly pass: the noise of the Bells, Trumpetts, and Shouts of the people are hardly out of Our Ears yet: His Honour had yesterday three Tables ^{^full} of the Cheife of the Gentry, at the Kings head with him, and the Crowd so great in the Chambers that one could hardly pass by another: each person being Jealouse of another least they who got first to the Earle should engross so great a proportion of His Affection, that these would be none left for them that came after:

Truly the Suddaine coming downe of the Earle, and Lord paston, did so Reuiue the Spiritts of their ffreinds, (who had often wished for, but now began to despaire of their Company) that the Sight of them put their ffriends into an Extasy: There was this Assises as Substantiall a Grand Jury chosen out of the best of the Gentry, as has bin known these many years; and when I tould them of the Earle and Lord Pastons designe of coming to town e yesterday, they unanimously consented to begg the fauour of the Judges that they might pay their Respects and Duty to both the Lords yesterday, which was readily granted them, and accor=~~=~~dingly they all went yesterday to bring the Lords into towne; a Cordiall Respect, of so high a nature that I

{folio 147 verso}

neuer heard of the like before:

The Gentlemen haue unanimously agreed to choose Sir C: Calthorpe, and Sir N: Cateline. Knights fir the Shire and haue Resolued to beare their charges; in order to Which Seuerall Gentlemen haue subscribed good Summes already: and more eill come in euery day: this is a worke that honest, true hearted, Sir Phillip Woodhouse, first set on foot, that the Kings Loyall Subjects might not be discouraged from offring their Seruice, at this time, when the ffanaticks thinke their Interest so great, that they ^{^may} safely aduenture to Act berefaced, to the Ruine of Church & State: which God preuent :) and I hope so long as the King ownes and encourages his ffriends will neuer be Effected: Sir John Hobart and Sir Peter Gleane, are resolued to Stand, and are about a Subscription, a Copy of which

I haue procured, and here Inclosed send it to Your Honour: it will plainly appeare by this List how Scant they are of Gentry; when at their great meeting, they are forced to come to Atturnys Sollicitors and Hosiers; before they come to the Number of 22: I can not Send Your Honour an Account of the names of Our Subsibers, this post, for the List is to Large to transcribe now, and will dayly encrease: Sir J: Hobarts ffreinds dd confidently expect to heare this Assises that he was in the Com=~~r~~mission of the peace, and when they found themselues deceiued; they were in a great Rage and passion; but Curst Cows haue Short Hornes: and I hope In God that the same Interest that kept him out of Comission will likewise keep him out of the House of Commons

{folio 148 recto}

Madam I humbly beg your pardon for this trouble, which hauing the Earles Warrantt for, I hope will be the sooner granted to the great Satisfaction of

Madam

Your Honours

Most Obliged

Obedient

& Faithfull

Servant

Edward L'estrage

Norwich August the 18th 1679

[FB - County Election Members Speeches 27 August 1679]

Madam

Upon Munday last were elected at the Castle in Norwich Sir John Hobart, and Sir peter Gleane, for Knights of the Shire for this County: Sir J: H:n had 3357 b=votes, and P: G: 3302: The Lord Paston with a very great Number of the cheife Gentry, and farre greater part of the Clergy, appeared upon the Hill on Munday, in the behalfe of Christopher Calthorpe, and Sir Neuille Cateline, and in probability might haue carried the day (for wee had great hopes about 5 of the clock in the Afternoone) had not Sir Neuille with drawne himselfe the day before the Election, to the generall dissatisfaction, and discouragement of his ffreinds: I can not as yet understand, that Sir Neuell did withdraw for any other reason, but onely that the Rabble did asperse him, with being popishly affected, and that if he should be chosen, Sir J: H: and his party, did resolute to petition against him, and make void his Election: I am sure his friends are so much displeas'd with his timorousness, upon this occasion, that they will hardly euer Serve him againe with their Interest, he hauing at this time deserted them, when the Interest of King, and Church, are at Stake: Sir Neuell had 2549 votes, & Sir Christopher 2517: There were two things that at this time did much Weaken Sir Nevill's and Sir Christopher's Interest: The first, that the Election hapned in harvest, which did hinder very many fro comeing out of Marshland, where their cheife strength lay, (that place being neare 40 miles from Norwich:) The 2^d was, Sir Nevill's not appearing at the day of Election; which did so exasperate a great many, that they either turned their backs, and went home, or wenr ouer to Sir P: Glean Yesterday there were about 70 Gentlemen of the best Quality in this County, who dined with the Lord paston at Norwich, to declare to the world, that they are neither ashamed of their cause, nor party; and that they come of with more Honour, although they haue Lost the day; then the other, who by their clandestine, and indirect means, haue got it:

{folio 149 verso}

To say the truth, the Interest of the phanaticks is inconsiderable in this County; and were it not for a disconted party Joyning with them at this time, they did not deserue the name of a party: The phanaticks since the discovery of the late Popish plot, haue made a great advantage by aspersing those who are faithfull to the King, & Church, by being popishly affected; and when the Rabble haue once receiued such an Opinion of them, no arguments can prevayle to make them beleue the Contrary: but these Slaunders, doe not all worke upon the farre greater part of the Gentry, who stick firme to the Earle of Yarmouth; and are Resolved neuer to quit the Interest of the King, and the Church: Sir J: Hobarts speech after he was chosen was to this purpose; after the returning of his thanks to the Freeholders, he tould them that he earnestly desired their Prayers, and tears, for the enabling hi to discharg this great trust, which they reposed in him, and fell a weeping, (a peece of Hypocrisy learnt of his Old Mr Cromwell) then he promised to serue the King, the Church, and Country, faithfully: (which I should be glad to heare that he performes)

The Substance of Sir Peter Glean's speech was that as he had bin Actually in the Service of the late King so he was ready to spend his blood for the King; and that he would faithfully discharge his trust, by truly Seruing the King, His Mother the Church of England, as it is now established, and his Country: which Speech did so farre displease a great many of that party who did choose him, that if he had declared his mind as freely before the Election, I beleeeue he neuer had bin elected by them: for they stick not to say already, that they fear he will turne pentioner: and it is verily beleeeued; that Sir Peter Glean will carry himselfe like an honest man, and good Subject in the House:

Yesterday was the Election for Sheriff for the Citty of Norwich and Sir John Hobarts party endeavoured to procure the Lord paston to be chosen Sheriff, that so he might not be chosen Burgess, but my Lords ffreinds haueing notice of it, flocked together, and chose Mr Brockden, and Mr Seamans

{folio 150 recto}

It is reported that Mr Windham, and Mr Long, will oppose my Lord Paston at Norwich the next munday, but my Lords Interest is so firme there, that he need not fear but he Shall carry it, for his ffriends are very actiue, and resolute to stick close to him: I pray Madam excuse this trouble from

Your Honours
Most Obliged
ffairfull
& Obedient
Servant

Edward L'estrangle

Oxnead August the 27th 1679

Madam

I had giuen Your Honour an Accompt of the Election at Norwich, upon Munday Last, but that Mr Fisher acquainted mee *that* he had done it, himselfe, by *that* post: howeuer in Obedience to the Earle of Yarmouth's Commands I shall giue Your Honour this Further Accompt: There has bin euer since the Last Election for this County, all Endeavours made use of, for the hindring the Lord Paston from being chosen for the Citty of Norwich, by Sir John Hobarts party: to *that* End they would haue chosen my Lord, Sheriff for Norwich the last weeke, but his ffreinds tooke good care to preuent that: then they intended to haue set up Mr Windham, & Mr Long in opposition to my Lord, and Captain Briggs: but gaue out them selues that there would be no opposition, thinking thereby to haue surprised My Lord, but He, and his ffreinds, being wrll acquainted, with the cunning, and dissimu=laton, of *that* party; stood upon their Guard so well, that their designes were frustrated: There were but two Tents set up in the Market place, one for my Lord, the other for Captaine Briggs, and the Sheriffs, hauing no notice on Sunday night to set up any more, many did beleeeue there would be no opposition, but my Lord was certainly in formed *that* night, *that* the Aduerse party were sending from house, to house, and did from thence conclude *that* some person would oppose him next day: On Munday Morning about 10 of the clock it was then discovered, *that* Mr Paine (lately an Alderman) and Mr Thomas Bacon (the Lawyer) would ride, but it was thought not for themselues, but for Mr Windham, & Mr Long; for their party were heard to declare for them at first; but when Mr paine and Mr Bacon, came into the Markett place, and see their party so strong, they resolued since they were like to haue the trouble, they would haue the Honour, and declared for themselues;

{folio 151 verso}

and accordingly demanded a poll of the Sheriffs, who appointed them the towne Hall: there was one thing that might haue much prejudiced this Election, Viz Captain Briggs his declaring *that* he would not ride himselfe, but was content, *that* another should Ride for him: but when his ffreinds perceiued *that* there was like to be a strong opposition, they broke open his doores, and forced him into the chaire, and had not my Lord, and his ffreinds stuck close to him, he had certainly Lost it: My Lord Paston has 1415 votes Captain Briggs 1217: Mr paine 958: Mr Bacon: 838

It was obserued at the beginning of the poll, *that* Alderman Man, and Dr Collens appeared uery Briske, but about 3 of the clock in the Afternoone, when they perceiued that they were ike to loose the day, they sneaked away, and appeared no more: if the phanatick party had gott the better this Election, there would haue bin no liuing by them, they would haue bin so insolent: I wish our intended Knights

for the Shire, had bin but halfe so Briske as my Lord, and they might haue carryed it: The Country is much Alarumd at the King's Sickness, and doe heartily pray for his Recouery; being now truly sensible of the sad condition, they would be in, if the King should die; which God in Mercy preuent, and preserue his Life for many years:

The Earle of Yarmouth, is (blessed by God) in veru good health, and as surely fixt in the hearts of the Gentry, and Clergy, as euer: Madam The Humble tendure, of my Duty, & Seruice, to Your Honour, shall put a period to the further trouble from

Madam

Your Honours

most Obedient

& Faithfull Servant

Edward L'estrange

Oxnead Sept: the 3d 1679

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 152 Recto

[FB- Reception at Lynn]

Beckhall September the 26: 1679:

My Deare Hart

The shortness of any letter from Lynn you must excuse with all itts defects I had the cupps and gunns the fidders and trumpetts about my eares and king John's cupp att my nose, if his Majesty had beene there nothing could haue beene greater they gaue mee dinner att the towne hall where ~~his maty~~ the Maior and all the formalties receiued mee att the foot of the staires from the trained bands ranked on each side, and a perticular gard for my person, they first carried mee vp onto their court and with all their Solemnityes made mee and my son Robin freemen , then wee went to a dinner which I beleeeve threescore pounds did nott sett on the table, drumms trumpetts gunns and fidders playing all the while, and afterwards into a retiring roome, and about six they led mee another circuit about the towne the Maior and aldermen goeing my coach to the maiors howse, where a noble supper was prouided mee and my friends, and after all the weomen in the towne (and many verie handsom ones) danced till one of the clock att night you will then thinke itt time to goe to bed, on the morning Mrs Linsted inuited all the company to a breakfast which was a great feast where wee eat and fiddled, till untill too of the clock and then had the coach ready att the dore and went for Mr Hostes where wee had sent before to adiouine dinner till foure of the which wee came to the Maior of Lynn , Mr Taylor

{folio 152 verso}

mr Lynsted and another Alderman came with vs and honest Mr High Shreeue, Mr Hosters his Lady receiued mee very kindly and frankely and this morning after breakfast I tooke my leaue of them and came by Raineham to Sir Henry Bedingfelds where I now am and doe send a messenger on purpose to Norwich to deliuer this to the post, and to bring mee yours early in the morning, I haue sent one home to bring mee hether your tuesdays letters this night, what was don att Norwich yesterday in my Yarmouth reference I know nott, to morrowe ~~morning~~ after dinner I goe home where I shall nott stirr out till the day of my iourney which will bee monday seuenight, Sir Thomas Hare lyes yett desperately ill, I sent Doughty from Lynn butt hee was newly fallen into a sleep and Doctor Braddee told Doughty the night before hee dispaired of him butt now thought the worst was past my Lord Townshend is very ill of a vomiting in the gout and will nott bee the

better for my Lynn reception, my duty to your mother my blessing to Betty &
Jasper pray god send mee good tidings in your letters I hope now I haue played my
part I am yours for euer

Yarmouth

<not Robert Paston's hand>

[FB- E of Yarmouth's Letter to the Lord Mayor of London to perswade him not to haue the Duke of York left behind when the King goes into the City-]

March: 7: 1679

My Lord./

Vpon a serious debate with my wise & my selfe, & the reflections of a nights considerations as things now stand; I thinke & partly know it will bee the greatest shocke imaginable to the Kings, to haue any hint either to adiourne his his intended visitt or by an politike consideration, though neuer soe spetiously pre-tended, to propose to him to leaue the Duke behind, which will looke llike a separation & worke ill effects, that from my soule, & as I hope yow beleiue, I loue both your person & interest, I should bee heartily sorry to see, your house ___ off. & I know those that would triumph in this as much as yow can know any that would comment vpon it to would comment vpon it to your disaduantage; since it is the Kings owne invitation, & not yours itt must bee a notorious imposition, not to make him Master of his owne Methods. This will iustifie yow to the Scrupulous who euen in their empty fflateries would abstract an opportunity from yow that none if themselues but would glory in, in your same post & will applaud & envy when it is over. My Lord if the King in his owne family (which hee knowes) has those who because they cannot gouerne, would frustrate others councelles, thinke not but in your station yow haue the same.

Pray my Lord putt in good humour, & lett your noble Lady doe soe, that neither suggestions; nor imaginary Phantomes may cloud the freedom of your reception, of such guests as putt themselues vpon yow, whose house in that place of wellcom to persons of all sorts & sises, may not bee eclipsed in that lustre of those of the greatest magnitude. I now know how both there affections stand to yow, & my Lady, & that more then the___, compliments are designed.

{folio 154 recto}

But if from whisper & iealous insinuations any difference in iudgement should receaue its sentence of excommunication from your house, I may as easily diuine the consequences without prophesy. since I know those that thinke themselues forgiuen are not soe. there's noe wise man that would not bee gladd though his purse & humor bee neuer soe swelled to make freinds of those that att last they must submitt too.

My Lord I pretend to noe wisdom, but ti a reall honesty, my loue to the Crowne, the Lawfull Successor, & the Church I shall neuer warpe from, lett my condition bee neuer soe poore, or plentifull. I loue my freinds, & if obligations & ciuilities bee the measures of freindshipp. yow & my Lady know best, whether I haue reason to bee soe to yow both, or noe. in that ___ I take this ffredo, pardon att least my ignorance & oblige my affections, iff not in y aduice in owning mee at least as

My Lord

your Lordshipp's most affectionate Kinseman & humble seruant

yarmouth

my wife presents her seruice to your Lordshipp & my Lady & has rested ill all night. /

{folio 154 verso}

<Robert Paston's hand>

Coppy of my letter to my Lord Maier

March the 7th 1679

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 155 Recto

April the 30

[FB- (1680) lord Sunderland's letter to the Countess of Yarmouth, The King to sup
in the City]

Madame

I have acquainted the King with all that your *Ladiship* was pleased to say to me his Majesty is Very Sorry that what he engaged himselfe in onely out of _____ to the City. Should be the occasion of any dissatisfaction but he can not now put of his supping there to Night. but has Sent to My Lord Mayor to meet him there. and commands the to desire your *Ladiship* to take a little pains to to Set things right and that you will goe there once more. all I said to you yesterday wilt he make good and I know My lord Mayor will be ___ ell Pleased I am with greate respect. your *ladships*: Most ____

Sunderland

{folio 156 verso}

my Lord SunderLands to me

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 157 Recto

[FB - Recommending an address from Norfolk to the King !]

April the 8th 1680

Sir

I thanke you for yours, and for all your significant accompts of affaires, I haue this day writt to Mr Doughty, that severall counties that haue and seuerall that haue nott petitioned, haue and are addressing to the King by protesting against such way of proceeding by thanking him for recalling his Brother, by promising to stand by the Crowne the gouernement and lawfull successor, this would bee pleasing to his Majesty from Norfolke few words and ___ sent from the Session to mee to subscribe and deliuer heere would bee of Effect and much separate the dross from the right mettall in the king's memorie, doe you hint itt to Sir C C & Sir N C and the high Sheriff and worke itt as you thinke fitt with all persons: for the money you haue layd out which is 5ll - 7s send mee a note of twelve pounds for other riding charges and Ile signe itt here and send you itt before the Session to be signed by the deputy Leiftenants this I now impose on you. In riding worke, Ile the King of what was intended towards the Chief constables and aduised that Norfolke may bee the example to other counties I pray

{folio 157 verso}

Let itt bee thoroughly performed for the King thinkes itt {^as} a materiall piece of service write mee a letter the next weeke of any thing you would haue mee hint to the deputy Leiftenants and shall write to them against the 20th day when the Session is

my wife returnes you & your Lady her service mine to my Noble friend Sir Christopher Calthorp. things haue a new face and you will see the King's friends flourish and those that haue nott beene soe nott soe courted as they expected nor their courtship receiued when they would
I am without further compliment

Your truly affectionate friend & servant
Yarnouth;

{folio 158 verso}

For my Honored Friend
Edward L'Estrange Esq
att Gritten hall

franke
yarmouth

Leaue this att Alderman Briggs to bee sent with speed as directed
Norwich

[other hand- Aprill 8: 1680]

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 162 Recto

To the right Honourable William Paston,
and to the Worshipfull Augustine Briggs Esquire,
Citizens Elect for the City of Norwich to serue in the Parliament to be held at
Oxford
the xxith day of March 1680./

{^T}he most Cordiall sense of the truly Loiall ffreemen & Citizens
{^o}f the said City, (Submitted to your prudent Consideracions)
__ and with the Consent of the Common Council of the same City
__ declared vnder their Common Seale./

{^W}ee doe with all gratitude retorne you one most heartie
Thankes, for your great & indefatigable endeavours, in the
Service of his Majestie & your Country (as our Representatives)
in the late Parliamentes, not doubting but you did faithfully
Worthily discharge that trust reposed in you by your Electors
Therefore wee earnestly desire, seeing you are againe
{^c}hosen to serve in the ensueing Parliament, that you would
with all chearfulness & earnestnes endeavour to the vtmost
__ your powers to defend his Majesties person & Government
{^both} in Church & State, as is ~~xxx~~ law Established
And wee doe not only desire your endeavores to defend his Majesties
person & Established government but also his honor & grandeur,
__swell by punishing & Suppressing all Seditious & scandalous
__bellers of his Person & Government, as also by granting
His Majestie Such Sutable Supplies as his vrgent occasions
shall require; which wee hope may be an effectuall meanes to
Secure this Nation from popery & faction./

And Lastly Wee most heartily desire you to become
humble Suitors to his Majestie for the continuance of
his favour towards, & good opinion of his Loyall & obedient
Subjects & Citizens of Norwich, and to assure his most
{^g}racious Majesty that wee for resolve to stand bu his Majestie,
{^a}gainst all oppositions & pretences whatsoever, as by our
{^a}lligiance Wee are obliged./

A Speech made att Oxford March 21th 1687

to

My Lords and Gentlemen

You will expect I say something to you, in order to the giving an account of my affaires, as to what I have done for the good of my Kingdome since the last Parliament and what now remains for you to so for mee; but I profess seriously, I neither know what to say, how to begin, or how to end, or what to acquaint you with.

In the first place I must tell you, that the last Parliaments were very unkind to mee, and my Brother, and yee know, there is but us two in the World; besides my Lord Anglesey tells mee, they were a Pack of saucy, factious Fellowes, that medled with what they had nothing to doe with, Now I would have you avoyd all those things, that wee may unite, and bee happy: For my Lord Hallifax vows, that unless wee doe, neither you, nor I can stand long in the Government; and you may bee sure I'll take care of my selfe. besides my Lord Clarendon sayes, if Popery must come in, wee had as good have the credit of itt, for wee shall fare better for yeilding of our selves. And if I should yett instance in Mr Seymour, Mr Hide, Sir Lionell &c who all affirm that unity must bee by your concurrence to mee, in these matters, you would

{Folio 163 verso}

Scarce beleive mee; nay some of my Subjects have given mee good encouragement, to sett upp a standing Army, and enslave you all, but I was resolved not to doe itt, till I had advised with you, what to doe first, because I expect your assistance to enable mee to goe through with itt, for to speak truth, tho' I have promised an Alliance with Spain, on purpose to break their Measures (I speak from the bottom of my heart) with my Couzin Lewis, yett they will not beleive mee without your consent.

In the next place I may tell you I have been very gracious to my People of late, I've repreived Thirty Priests condemn'd for high Treason, only on the account of their Religion, itt being very unreasonable that any man should dye for his Religion, and any resolv'd against itt dureing my Reigne, as to those who were accused of the Plott formerly, I suffered them to bee executed, though I must needs say in my Conscience, they knew no more of the Plott then I did, but because my factious Citty, and the Phanaticks would have itt so, but now the Arch Bishop of Canterbury

has assured mee, that their whole Religion is a Plott, (and hee knowes more of that then I do) which

{Folio 164 recto}

of a King (which to your knowledge, I ever punctually kept) that your welfare, and happyness shall no longer lye att my doore, and therefore you must look to itt, and bee quick in the dispatching your supplyes.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 165 Recto

[FB - Lady Ann to mary the Prince of Hanover]

May the 12th 1681

Sir /

For all yours I thanke you I recieued one from Sir Christopher Calthorpe which I answered this post and told him I had written to you, to draw vp what commissions he should desire for the officers hee shall chase in his Regiment I suppose you'll putt Sir N LEstrange in mind of 5^{ll} for his fee as deputy Lieutenant if yow haue nott the note of all the officers fees for commissions, I can see send you itt out of Doughtyes papers for I expect those things should bee per-formed otherwise itt lookes licke a slight to me, the Norwich address pleased the King most infinitely how if wee had such an one from the Gentrye & county? ___ through reformation od D Leutenants iusices & constables & Militia men is intended throughout England, therefore send mee vp a list of the iustices and mark som with a dash send mee the ___ of such as are fitt to bee putt in, I intend to putt in execution such instructions as I shall haue to the heighth when I com downe, the Kinges affaires goe well and he sayth heel stick to his friends & feares noe enemies yet will shortly bee heere the Lady Anne his daughter is to marrie the Prince of Hanover

{folio 165 verso}

I send this letter by Fakenham post for I know nott if you are yett remooved to Stanninghall pray lett mee heare if you received itt, I am att the present att my Son Pastons howse at Turnham greene taking the ayre, I am glad you com to bee my neighbor wher I shall endeauor as in all places to doe you all the good offices imaginable for I am

Sir Your assured friend & servant

Yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 36988

Folio 166 recto

July the 5th 1687

Mr L'Estrange

Through ouer much care I haue layd by your letter with the list in itt of the Justices of the peace, past my present finding out soe I desire you by the next post to send mee another, butt U am soe flatted at the thoughts that the designe of a present will fayle that itt trouble mee, I with itt may yett reuive itt self, for the mischeif is that such a thing vnbeknowne to mee, had taken wind even to the Kings owne eare, and as wee haue the creditt to out doe & to haue fore don all the nation in our addresses (which has beene Exemplary to other countyes) soe could wee bee soe lucky as to turne our words into coyne in Gentlemens proportions, wee should bee a lucky county try what may bee, however things begun in dispaire, often succeeded, and his Majesty beginns to shew, Lobbs pound to his enemies and more will followe the great Lord who was brought from the hart of the citty to his ex-amination by two single messengers, and sent to the tower with as slight a gard

[FB- Lord Shaftesbury]

{Folio 166 verso}

noe man taking notice of him, pray present my service to the Colonel & his Lady and lett mee heare from you by the next I intend to gett noe more Justices out for Toun Rook & Anguish they can doe mee noe harme amongst the rest and I shall desire my Lord Cheif Baron to fine or putt such out as will nott _____, I had a letter from Sir Neuille Catyline to whome pray write to againe as allsoe to Sir CC_ I am

Your most truly affectionate frend

Yarmouth

my service to Mrs L'Estrange

my wife is now att Windsor

{Folio 167 verso}

For my worthy Friend

Edward LEstrange *Esquire*

att Stanninghall neare Norwich

[FB - 8 July 1681

College acquitted at the Old Bailey]

My Lord,

It is now halfe Twelve; and yet I cannot but give *your Lordshipp* some account of this days work. The Jury brought in Ignoramus upon Colledge, in the ___ of Four Point Blank Evidences, and a Fifth Among Presumption of *Sir* William Jennings, to the amazement of ___ Court, & Assistants: And *the* Rabble ready *with* an Acclamation upon *the* Event. The Points in Evidences less then a Design to Seize *the* King, & Force him to a Compliance, or serve him as they did *the* Block head his Father; and so to root out That Lewd Family. of Provision of Arms, Declar'd and Confess'd; and upon a Bloudy Nose at Oxford, a Proove of Colleges saying , that e're long, there would be more blous spoilt in England. that they Pretended to set up Monmouth, but only made use of him as a Tool to serve their own Gains *with* The Sessions Dissolv'd; None of *the* rest Baild: And this is the Best Information I could Gain upon this occasion. This Abuse is so Gross, that I find ___ of their own Party Scandliz'd at it.

[Change of hand]

My Lord

It is great pittie that his Majesty has not found Instru-ments, of Interest, and Credit among these people, to keep them within Composse. not but that there are any Considerable and Loyal Gentle men in the City; but not of such Power, and Authority among these Hott headed fellowes. Methinks *your Lordshipp* might find some way to Engage *Sir* R: Cl: who, as I am told might be a very usefull servant to his Majesty upon this _____, if his view but sweetne a _____ For all men allmost Agree that he is right in his

{continued down left-hand margin}

Judgement *your Lordshipp* will forgeve me these presumptions, as preceeding from my Zeale to his Majestyes service. I promis'd to send as *your Lordshipp* _____ best Accompt I could get if this Affayre: and how _____, I have rather venturd to streyn a poynt of Good Manners then to break my promise.

I am my Lord your Honours most obedient servant. RLS

{folio 169 verso}

For the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 170 Recto

[FB- Fitzharris - Colledge - Letter to Cutlove of Beccles]

My Lord

Reading over the confession of ffitz-Harris wherein is this clause, that the Lord Herald told him of a design to seize upon the King's person, and to carry him into the City, and these detain him till he had conde=scended to their desires &, and meeting att Bungay with a letter dated t̄ London and there is an accompt of an in=ndictment against one Mr Coll^edge the protestant ioyne for a design to seize the King att Oxford to bring him to London and there keep him till he had comply'd with them or else to bring him to the block as they did his ffather, in which design some of the Lords and the house of Commons were concerned:

My Lord, upon the consideration at these things I reflected upon a letter sent to one Mr William Cuttlove of Beccles in the County of Suffolk Draper the latter end of November or the beginning of December last, in which letter to Cuttlove were these following words / The house of Commons are full of Courage, for I heard severall of them say, that if the King should dissolve this parliament he should dissolve the government with itt/ perhaps, My Lord, it may not amisse to acquaint the King and Council ^{with} this (which seems to be near akin to the design in Harris's confession, and that of Colledge's in indictment) that __ not only the Author of Cuttlove's letter but also those of the house ^{of} Commons, whom that Author heard say the foresaid words, may be discovered. My Lord, The words in Cuttlove's letter will be positively Sworne by one Mr William Newbray a prectour in Norwich, and by others whom Mr Newbury will inform your honour of, if he shall be rewired. My Lord, if this may tend any way to the publick good I haue my end in itt, and am confident of your Honour's pardon for giueing you this troable. ¶

My Lord

I am

Your Honour's

Most humbly devoted

Chaplaine and Servant

John Doughty

Bungay

July 9th: 1681./

{folio 171 recto}

These /

To the Right Honourable

The Earle of Yarmouth

att his Lodgings in the Pall Mall

in London/

present/

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 172

[FB - The King will be ___ King &c]

July the 23^d 1681

Mr L'Estrange

Itts impossible for mee to com downe these Assises, I waite heer for the address, and I hope I shall haue som gentlemen of the county to accompany mee to the King when itt coms: Sir Tho Meddowes refuseth absolutely the command att Yarmouth; and sent yes=~~r~~terday his impresious wife to mee to tell mee who would haue scoulded with mee, had I nott silenced her by letting know my breeding taught mee nott to dispute with weomen pray acquait the deputy Leiftenants in priuate how the case stands that somthing may bee modellled by them in that affaure, the Bishopps letter putts mee in hopes Sir Neuille Catyline will take that command for Sir Thomas a dog would nott meddle further wife who is such a slaue to the hoppole of woman kind I desire that matters may bee ordered this Assises ouer all the county after harvest att the most convenient time the Deputy Leiftenants shall thinke fitt pray spiritt vp all my friends the King will bee King and the Duke willl shortly bee heere againe, I shall write by the tuesdayes post a short letter to the Deputy Leiftenants & inclose itt to you to the same purpose I now write, the commissions I shull send downe sealed, by the mondays coach or the next as I can gett opportunity, I would haue a duplicate of the muster masters commission, that each may keep one by him, for his authoritie, pray in the orders for the musters lett itt bee specified for euery body to bring in the muster fee & arreares if any bee due, I am yours affectionately

Yarmouth

my service to all my friends

{folio 173 verso}

For my very worthy Friend
Edward L'Estrange Esquire
Leaue this att Alderman Briggs howse
in Norwich

[other hand - July the 23th 81

The Militia in Yarmouth to be new modellled]

My noble Lady

I ue the honor_ of your letter the Last post, & was much concernd, to finde the still of it so sad, I hope your_ Honor_ hath seen cause to be refresht Since. our_ City is triumphant in the Kys Kingoms who was pleasd to owne it last week at Newmarket for his Loial City, to the enuy of some others. I hope this will be some refreshing to your_ Honor_, for it is to be acknowledged that it is so encouraged by the can & influence of our_ noble Lord_ Lieutenant I shal tell your_ Honor_ one instance of good hope of the publick concern, out of Suffolk his Majestie sent a command to Lord_ Chamberlain to put out of Commission the busy Sir Gervas Elvis, & accordingly it was done, a friend of mine being present & when the Lord_ Chamberain presented the Suffolk address. his Majestie said, Your_ friend, Sir Gervas was not there, we heer hope well of the publick from seueral accounts brought to us , & I hope shortly I shal heare it confirmed by Your_ Honor_ Lead. I pray God recover my noble Lords health. For him & your_ Honor_ I pray heartbly & shal alwajes study to be

Your_ Honor_s

Faithful servant_

Ant. Norw.

My wife & daughters present their humble service.

{f.175 recto}

These

ffor the Right Honourable the Countess of Yarmouth

Countess of Yarmouth & Lord Paston's reception in Norfolk & Norwich
Oxnead hall. 12 Dec: 81.

My Lord

How happy are wee in accomplishing the severall Stages of our Journy hither, notwithstanding the unusuall early houres of Travell put my Lady into some discomposure, yet I know your Lordship hath with a full & satisfactory Account thereof from her Honors own hand, But the Extraordinary Reception wee met with in our Passage is a Task too great for my Lady to give your Lordship, the flowing Civilitys of the Gentry & neighbourhood here, hardly affording her Ladyship a spare hour for the necessary dispatch of the important domestick Affaires she came down about, and therefore her Honor has lay'd a Command upon me to give your Lordship some short Description, how kindly wee were here received, And I must begin at the first Entrance into the County at Thetford, where her Honor & my Lord Paston were surprised with a hearty & unexpected welcome from the Burgess of that Town, and though the old mayor was not in the Country, yet the new Elect & most of all the Aldermen & officers of that Corporacion, came to attend upon & pay their Duty to their Honors, who were ___ with great kindnes, and having drank his Majesty & their Lord Lieutenant's health, tooke their leaves & departed abundantly satisfyd, leaving the Bells & Fidlers to fill up the remaynder of their Complement, yet I could not but observe there was a faylure in some of the part of that Corporacion from whom wee could not doubt of their Affecion, which I cannot but impute either to the want of the Mayor's presence, or els they do not heard kindly with one another. But as wee came from thence on Saturday, wee met with a civill message in the open feild from your worthy Kinsman of Quidenham, whose Age & weakness presented his personall Attendance, And at Attleburgh (where wee made but a very little halt) some Gentlemen & Ladyes of the neighbourhood came there to pay their Respects, & others to acquaint her Honor & my Lord, that there was an Intention of divers Gentlemen & Citizens to meet them upon the way, & conduct them through the Citie of Norwich, and the van of them appeared, (with some of your Lordships servants) at the end of the Common next Hetherset, and in the field, when wee wwere past that Town, some Layes & divers of the Clergy & Citizens, but in the bread Lane before wee get to Cringlesford, there appeared a great Body of Horse & Genetry that attended the noble Lord Thomas Howard, where my Lady & Lord first alighted to salute them, and then wee marched on safely (divers horsemen & Coaches dropping in still upon us) and having passed Eaton (at the usuall place where the Judges are met) the worthy Mayor of Norwich on Horse back, and all the Aldermen that were able

{continued down left-hand margin}

To get abroad, & divers others of the Citie & Country stood ready to receive us. Where my Lady & Lord sent out again to salute them, and then then our Body was completed, of not less than 400 Horse, & neer 20 Coaches, all the Coaches in a train behind us, And at the first Entrance in at St Stephen's Gate, wee found the street so throng'd with the Common people, that wee had much ado to pass, and gave us such a Huzza, as would have given some a pain in the head, but it came

with such an Affeccjon, as cured my Lady's, & drown'd all the noise of musick or Bells,

{folio 176 verso}

and no word of thanks could be heard, though my Lord threw money amongst them to stop their mouths, all would not do, for wee were followed quite through the Citie with a continued shout & acclamacion, of A Paston A Paston, till wee got to Magdalen Gate, where the mayor & his Brethren tooke leave, & the Coaches return'd, but my Lord Howard, Sir Henry Bedingfeild & a great number of other Gentlemen & liveries, went a quarter of a mile out of the Citie, where my Lord went out again to return them his Thanks for their extraordinary Civility, which flowed from their own ___ Love & kindnes, being wholly unexpected & uninvited, and was a clear demonstracion aswell of their perfect Loyalty to the King, as true Affeccjon to your Lordship & Family, and as my Lady has return'd them her due Thanks for their great Respect to the Family, so she has also fully acquainted them with the reciprocally kindnes his Majesty has for the County in generall, & Citie in particular, which great Appearance out of Norwich was now much more remarkeable, being of a Saturday, their merket day, when their profit required their attendance in their Shoppes, & at a time too, when the small Pox is very rife amongst them, & ___ at an hour, when very many of them were invited to the funerall of their beloved last mayor's wife. By this time your Lordship cannot but imagin, but my Lady & Lord too had perform'd the most tiresome, though pleasing part of their Journy, & twas fit they should be dismissed to retire quietly & gently home which wee did, in very good time, & now with here in such good order & neatnes, & with so noble an Entertainment, that the fatigue of the Journy was presently forgot. This kindnes of the Gentry & Citizens will not wnd upon the Road ___ hear of their design of making their visitts dayly here, whilst my Lady & Lord continue in this place, and as my Lord Thomas Howard & Sir Henry Bedingfeild appeared with the first of the Gentry upon this way, so they cam hither with some other Gentlemen first yesterday, where they met with the honest Dr Hildeyard with his wife & daughter & some other Clergymen came in to dinner, & this afternoon my Lady is visited from Horstead & Stanninghall too, & I am now called away to go to my greater worke, wherein I shall ever approve my self

My Lord

your Lordships most faithfull servant/
Johnn Fisher

my Lady read your Lordships thursday Lettre, but I think forgot to acquaint your Lordship son in letters./

The family of Thorp market & Gunten are now come in, & my Lady has commanded me to add her return of your Lordships thanks to all the Gentlemen that met us, who asked after your Lordships health with passionate good wishes for the continuance of it:

{folio 177 verso}

These present

To the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at his house
In the Pall Mall.

[Robert Paston's hand]

Mr Fishers letter from Oxnead December the 12 1681 concerning my wifes iourney
into Norff/

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 178 recto

March the 15th 1681/2

Mr L'Estrange

The Commission of the Peace and deli-vered to Mr Wark howse in Saturday night last who brings itt along with him according to the desires of my friends I pray goe particularly to my Lord Cheif Baron & the Other Judge from mee to make my compliment that though I doe nott doubt of his reception by my friends, yett I hope personally to attend him the next Assises, my service allsoe to all my other friends, you will receiue, a black box directed to you att the bell in Thetford, with all the commissions signed that you swnt mee vp, I a surprised to heare The Duke landed att Yarmouth & lay att Norwich, and I nott to haue one single letter, by the last post, from any sowle, butt by a letter I haue from a stranger I to my comfort heare the most part of the gentry of our country haue the same valew & reuerence for him that I haue , I desire you would recommend Musters this Spring to the Deputy Leiftenants, and if wee could bee soe fortunate as to lead the Dance of England in a present to the King I would bee seasonable: I hope ~~xxx~~ Assises may produce som handsom address, & som congratulatory expression to the king for his brothers returne & the hopes of his stay, my service to Mr High Sheriff, this day my Son & Wife sett forwards towards Newmarkett, I hope my son may step ouer to the Assises; I haue noe more att the present but that I am

Your assured frend & servant

Yarmouth

[Folio 179 verso]

These

For my very worthy Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Mrs Brookes att the bell in Thetford

{other hand}

March the 15 : 81

Comissions sent to the Bell at Therford: and Come of the {illegible} Promote an Address and appoint Masters

[FB - 17 March 1681]

The humble Address of the Deputy Lieutenants Justices of the peace, and Grand Jury of Your Majesties County of Norfolke, at the Assizes held for the Said County at Thetford on fryday the 17th of March 1681 in behalfe of themselves and the Body of the Said County.

May it please Your most Excellent Majestie

Wee are so sensible of Our Happiness under the best of Monarchies, & the best of princes, and of Our late Miseries under Anarchy, & phanatick Tyrany that wee thinke it our Duty, an Interest, to Seclare our utmost Abhorrance, of all those Republican plots, & Traiterous Artifices, that ould deprive us of the one, & reduce us to the other:

In particular, wee utterly Detest, that Misterie of Iniquity, the late pernicious Association, Seized amongst the papers of the Earl of Shaftsbury, designed for the Destruction , both of Your Majesties person, & Government: for wee cannot understand, how those perfidious Designers of that Association, should intend to preserve the person of their Prince, & yet in the same paper contrive, the Ruine of the Monarchy: And Wee hope Your Majesties most Eminent Wisdome, will discover some Method, to Obviate the Mischiefs of such partiall Grand Juries, as can violate their Oaths, to procure, Impunity for Treason, and thinke it Merit, to Affront, & oppose the Government:

Great Sir wee doe assure you, that wee will faithfully adhere to Your Majestie, for the Defence of Your most sacred person, the Execution of Your Lawes, the preservation of Our Establisht Religion, & for the continuance of the Glory , & Lineall Succession , of this now flourishing Monarchy: and Wee would not haue your Enemies, to mistake our Addresses, for empty complements, for wee are ready at Your Majesties first Command, to signalize our promises, with the most resolute hazard of Our Lives and Fortunes:

And while wee thus humbly offer to Your Majestie our serious thoughts, of what Our Allegiance, binds us to; wee can not but admire that Great Example of Obedience, Your Royall Brother, and most heartily congratulate, His Safe returne to Your Majestie.

In fine wee owne Our Selues in this County from *the* carefull and Effectuall Management of publick Affairs, by Our most Loyall and throughly well affected Lord Lieutenant, under Your Sacred *Majestie*, most Signally happy:

{folio 180 verso}

Paston	Grand Jury
John Knyvet his son	Chr: Calthorpe
H Richardson	Robt Drury
Nick: L'Estrange	Edmd Wodehouse
Thomas Hare	Wm De Grey
John Pettus	Jo: Fincham
Wm Adams	Ro: Longe Junr
Thomas Gerard	J: Greene
Wm Cooke	Tho: Peirson
Neville Cateline	Robt Cony
Wm Rant	Edwd L'Estrange
Tho: Meadow	Geo: Warde
Tho: Knyvet	Jo: Page
Tho: Wood	Tho: Gooch
Robt Walpole	J Conor
Edwd Ward	Robt London Junr
Francis Guybon	Thomas Caton
Jac: Astley	Augustine Wood:
John Aide	
Robt Houghton	
Leo: Mapes	

Henry Oxburgh

Tho: Saye

Matton Berners

Abraham Castle

Edmd De Grey

Jo: Hildeyard

Hen: Negus

J: Houghton

Robtt Doughty

Robtt London Senr

John Jay

James Hoste

Peter Dymond

J Shadwell

My Lord/

Tis noe Smale agravation to all my afflictions that I am not now able to obey your Lordships commands; Butt hauing putt forth the vttmost of my Strength the last weeke in attending this highnesse landing att ~~xxx~~ Yarmouth ~~xxx~~ I find my Selfe So disordered by that journey it beinf he greatest I haue taken this Six months that I much feare whither I shall bee euer able to goe Such an other on horseback, and not hauing now the command of my own coach it is vtterly impossible for mee to attempt Such a journey {[^]with} the hopes of beeing able to performe it; I hope therefore this invincible _____ will obtaine your Lordships pardon for

my Lord youre most obedient humble Servant

Neville Catelyn

1681

I doe most heartily concure with hand & heart in all that the gentlemen shall please to determine but I feare the successe of attempting a present for I cannot find one gentleman concurring to the motion theire reasons against it to longe for this papre my seruice I beseech your Lordship to my Lady yarmouth

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 182 recto

March the 28th 1682

Mr L'Estrange

My wife and sonn gott safe to London on thursday night, the Norffolk address, was fitt to bee kindly entertained by the king itt was soe full of true loyalty and harty zeale , and the great honor and particular marks of the gentlemens affections {^to mee} has layd such an obligation on mee, as I thought fitt to make them my acknowledgements in the in-closed, which I leaue open for your Pervsall, and then to close and find the best method of deliuerie of itt first so some of the prime, and then if yow thinke fitt to distribute some few coppies from the originall in which bee pleased to take Sir William Cookes & Sir Neuille Catylines aduice to whome you may write and send a copy to them & Sir Christopher Calthorp, and giue mee som accompt for Sir Nicholas L'Estrange his beeing Lieutenant Colonel to Sir Christopher Calthorp, if hee pleaseth to accept itt. you may send mee vp a commission, for Sir William Rants beeing a deputy Leiftenant I must demurr a little butt ame not absolutely against itt, the 3 ___ of the white hors quoram, may now see itt was nott my feares that kept them in: butt for feare my particular concerne, should more appeare, then that of my friends who I am bound to serve, pray lett Rawlins haue timely notice of the masters, that hee may bee there to execute his office, my service to the Colonel & all my friends, I am with all true affection

Your assured friend & servant

Yarmouth:

my service to Mrs L'Estrange, I haue direted my bearer as you deliver:

I wondred to see Mr Walpooles & James ___hands to the address

Pray goe to my Cousin Ayde& present my service to him and desire I may have his accompt of the matter which concernes Norwich which will bee of consequence to his majesty if affected

{folio 183 verso}

March the 28: 82

Address

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 184 recto

[FB- 28 March 1682]

Gentlemen & my Honourable Friends

O could nott looke vpon *your* last address to his Majesty butt with very great satisfaction, to find soe worthy expressions of *your* great and exemplary loyalty, from per-sons of soe much worth, whose hands and harts are ioyned together, in the reallity of *your* professions, butt who can express too much duty, or bee transported with too much zeale in *the* affectionate tenders {^ of *our* lefes & fortunes} to soe great and soe good a King, I humbly acknowledge *that* fauors in my absence & *the* incertainty of intellegene of *the* Duke landing on *our* coast that his Royall Highness on *the* surprise found such a reception as he has beene pleased to owne to *your* honors and *the* countyes reputation

As to what concernes my self on *the* honorable & fauourable mention you haue touched mee with itt is soe extraordinary an obligation I can neuer acknowledge {^itt} enough, hee may serve *the* King well that has instruments of such industrian sinss & integrity as I haue to assist mee, and itt is from *your* worth if I can deriue any title to what you fix vpon mee, I will onely fix this on my self that I honor *your* esteeme, and desire I may bee honoured by serving you in *the* Character of Gentlemen & my honourable friends

friends

Your much oblieged & most humble servant
Yarmouth

[Folio 184 verso]

Coppy of my letter to *the* Deputy Leutenants grand Jury & Justices of Peace in Norffolk vpon there Add___ to his Majesty from Thetford Assises, March *the* 28: 1682

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 185 recto

[FB - a Present desired to the King]

April the 22th 1682

Mr L'Estrange

All yours I haue receiued, and am very well satisfied with the designes for the muster s, I know that seuerall countyes are now att work - as well as corporations, for a present for his Majesty and our county carries the marke of the earliest for all examples of kingly affection, and I know his Majesty has som hopes from that example to sett the wheel of the kingdom in motion, and I could wish Norwich would find one thousand Guineys, to lead the dance of other Corporations, for god sake hint this priuately to my Lord Bishop and to som of my best friends att the Settions and there Gods will bee don; pray present my humble seruice to all the gentlemen, and lett mee heare from you and accompt, before I dispaire, I am

Your most affectionate ffriend

Yarmouth

{folio 186 verso}

These

For my very worthy Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att ~~XXXXX~~ Horstead neare
Norwich

Aprill 22: 82

A present desired to the King

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 187 recto

[FB- Mr Guibon recommended to be knighted]

June the 18th 1682

I think itt a part of my duty ti acquaint your Majesty that Mr Guibon the person my son presents att your Majestys feet in one that in all instances manifests his Loyaltye, and doth nott onely embrace, but seekes all opportunityes soe to doe, hee is a person of an antient family his ancestors hauing allwaies beene knights, hee has an Estate of twelve hundred pounds a yeare, and if your Majesty shall graciously vouch safe him the honor of his predecessors, itt will bee for your owne service & his eternall obligation; Sir

Your Majestyes

Most dutyfully submissiue subiect & servant
Yarmouth

Son Paston

this is verbatim what I haue written to the King which may bee fitt enough for him to see if you please however keep mee this cobby: and Remember mee kindly to your Mother/
my service to my daughter Paston, & to Charles, & the little one:

{f.188 verso}

For The Lord Paston att his howse on Turham greene

Oxnead June the 29th 82/

My Lord

Mr Rawlings & my selfe haue been ever since the 5th of this Month at severall times & places attending the Militia of this County, the first was at Heydon ___ with Sir Jacob Asteley who was very Generous in his Entertainment to his Officers & all Gentlemen that were in the Field both himself & the rest of his officers in-Courageing the paying the Master my wages which I mention to your Lordshipp because Captaine Lt Weld who was theare with My Lord Pastons {^Troup} encouraged the Soulders, not to pay it by telling them it was not due. other expressions and Circumstances I shall referre your Lordshipp to Mr Rawlings when he shall come to waite vpon yow but I can confidently say that by all persons condernd in the Military affaires which I have mett with Mr Weld hath been condemned the remainder of Sir Jacobs Regiment Musterd at Northwalsham wheare was Lt Colonel Harbord with his company whose Lady came in the Evening & carried him home in her Coach to Stanninghall . the next was Colonel Sucklings Regiment at Lingwood heath with Captaine Houghtons Troup of Horse, wheare the Lt Colonel Sir Nevile Catelyne appear'd very Brisk & soe did Captaine Ayd Captaine Mapes who had the Ladies of that Neighbour to view them with much pleasure & delight, the places being Full of boothes & Tents for entertaine-ment, the next was at Reddingham Holmes where the old Colonel Suckling appeared more like a Youth then an old man & in his Tents after a whole daies exerciseing his Company he Nobly Treated all his officers, Sir William Cooke & Captaine Treestone who hath a handsome full company & hath a par-ticular care of them being at that Entertainment wheare if twere possible your Lordship might be warm'd with aclamations & your Health drinking the next Regiment was Colonel Knyvetts part of which {^with} Major Wards Troup of horse were

{Continued down left of page}

at Mulbarton, Greene, ~~wheare was~~ the Major exercisd his troupe & borrowed a house theare to Entertaine the officers after he had skermished with the foot till nine a clock at night, Lt Colonel Wodhouse stayed with him soe long & would haue shared in the entertamemt, he haveing noe conveniency of his owne but the Major would not allow it, theare was the high Sheriffe of Norfolke & severall from Norwich the 4 other companies of this Regiment Musterd at Ecles heath, neare, Quiddenham wheare Captaine {^Ragh is} a Fat & hath been a sickly man was all day with a very good Company & good officer's very active & stirring the high Sheriff was theare with his company, Major de Grey the Younge Entertain'd the officers &c. Sir John Holand inuited Mr Rowling & his fellow to his house but the Major carried almost all the company {^ partey} xxxxxxxxxx Sir William Rant who had been at Ecles with his Troup the high Sheriff & severall others wheare wee had

a very free Entertament *the* old Major droopes much he desir'd me to present his service to *your* Lordshipp.

the next appearance was *Sir Christopher* Calthorpes Regiment at Hempton Greene *with* *Captain* Guybons Troup wheare was *the* most Mischeife by skirmishing *the* horse pressing *the* foot *the* pikes hurt some of them soe as tis reported they died, *the* Captaine was not theare himself his Leivetenant was a new officer, *Sir Christopher* stood close to his Foote, & after *the* exercise was over very Generously entertaind *the* company, *the* other part of *Sir Christophers* Regiment Musterd at Fetwel heath *with* *Sir* Thomas Garretts Troup of horse wheare noe hurt was done, by either horse or foote, *Sir* Thomas was not theare, but severall persons from Lyn who invited us to theire houses wee Lodgd eat & dranke at Mr Lynsteads and were plentifully treated by Captaine Turner severall times & once by *Captain* Robinson who could not appeare *with* his band for *the* Gout, Mr Host was most of *the* time *with* us & after wee had done *our* busines at Lyn invited not onely Mr Rawlings but severall others to *the* most generous full & free entertainment I ever mett *with*, all this for *your* Lordshipps & *the* honor & esteme they haue for yow, not one person hath been yet from Lyn at Raneham, Mr Host tould me he & his wife were theare but received a very cold entertainment wee came from *Sir* Henry Bedingfeld yesterday who was not very well I am sure my head is hot & my hand shake therfore I beseech *your* Lordship forgive this paper. from my Lord

Your Lordshipps most humble & most obedient Servant
Matt Peckover

[FB - E. of Yarmouth's reception at Norwich]

Aug. 10. 1682

May it please your Honour

Had I words to expresse my owne joy in seeing my good Lord Lieutenant in this county, I might hope to giue your Honour an account, correspondent to its greatnesse, with what affection and splendor both of Clergy and Gentry his lordship was this day receiued into Norwich. Wee haue had many others heertofore Great and Numerous, that haue rayed the spleens of the Kings and his lordships enimyes but this appearance exceeded any of the other {^in number} as far as a true - Loyall - church of england -man exceeds a true protestant in worth and Loyalty. It was soe generall and Vnanimous that it might well haue broke the harts of the whitehorse clubb weer they not adamantie and unmalleable their uery lookes betrayed their enuy and disturbance. Some went about the city and grind like dogs whilst others of them snarl'd and shewed their {^teeth} at doors and out of the white horse ___ dores, where the whole Caball weer mett, All of them not soe much ashamed, for their faces are steeled with impudence, as afraid to shew their heads their harts beeing like stones all of a cold sweat within. Had Sir John Hobart put the least degree of modesty, any loue to p____, the least good will to his country hee would neuer more endeauor by juggling together a most shabby rabble to breake this now, (Wee clergy and Gentry respected), united county. In good earnest Madam I neuer seene such an appearance vnless it was to welcome him whom his lordship represents his most sacred Majesty I meane (whom god preserue) There weer neer forty coaches, more then twelue hundred horse, the wayes and streets fill'd with Husa's and acclamations a mile from the Gates to the Markett crosse where the fans from all the windowes and Belconyes with all the hatts below seconded to the Eye ___ loud expresions of joy and satisfaction that the tongues of All Eccho-ed out for a quarter of an hour together till the horse weer drawne together into order and the coaches at their Reerto one end of the mar-kett together the other for his lordships coach to passe quietly into the Kings head, when he was safely lodged there dined with as many as the house could intertaine After dinner his lordship went to his lod-gings at Capt. Houghtons where I lifted {^by god} he is now in health which god continue & increase and restore him safe into your honors army where may hee liue till as full of dayes as he is of goodnesse and loyalty and after his services to the king and country are blessed with sucesse, all the mem-bres of his family with prosperity may his lordship with your honor be crowned with glory and immortllity the hasty prayer of Your Honors most humble servant

JHildeyard

I write over/

{f. 191 verso}

11 Aug: 1682

Madam

This day doth, as euery day will produce new, matter of writing, yesterday the hono rable Earle of Arundell was pleased to present his personall respects to my Lord lieuetenent and desired his lordship to excuse his not appearing on the road to giue his lordship a welcome into the county, *which* was onely preuented by the Earle of Arundell, being lately come to Norwich And this morning the Major and all his ____ Kinn of Norwich, who had personally appeared in the great Cavalcade of yesterday, with the snow in their robes, presented themselues to his lordship and my Lord Paston with great expressions of service and due Respects to their lordships in all things whatsoever this being new matter giues mee a new occasion of protecting my old reseolue of beeing

your Honours most humble& affationate service

Jo Hildeyard

Madam

Though your Ladyship will certainly haue it from much better hands yet that cannot excuse the duty & _____ obligations upon me from giuing your Ladyship an account of my Lords reception into this County which began at Thetford where the Mayor & Aldermen met his Lordship in sheyrs formalityes of sword & macs & gownes _____ indeed his Lordships acceptance & his Condiscention of going out of his Coach to them was more honor then they were able to beare & ought to be kept a-mongst theyre choycest records Theyre ceremony was accompanied with the bells & Towne Music & all the Expressions of satisfaction within the reach of the theyre Capacityes

At Attleborough he was met by his Chaplins and seuerall others But after we passed Windham where stood a great concourse {^of} people in expectation of his Lordship whose faces were full of welcome to him) the Road was thronged with horsemen who came vp to the Coach made theyre obeysances & _____ on to Norwich Before his Lordship came within two miles of the Citty the horsemen Multiplied to more then a thousand besides the Sheriffe & Gentlemen who accompanied him who were very numerous: all his men & 36 Coaches who conducted his Lordship to the Citty where from his first entrance the streets were thronged with people & before he came to the Marketplace the glasse windows taken out the Crosse & all filled with musick wags & trumpets & the windows & Belconeyes with persons of the best quallity & all theyre hartes & mouthes opened with such a generall acclamation of ioy from his Lordships first entrance to his Landing. & such continued shouts as are beyond expression

And truly madam after he came at the Kings {^head} had not the greatnesse of his minde _____ the heighth of his good nature layed him up beyond the Constitution of his body the reception of all these complements made to him & his Lordships returnes would haue ben soo hard for his health but God be prayed his Lordship is well & I am sure Norfolk has not halfe soe much to boast of since theyre first creation as this behaiour of theyres & theyre hap-pinesse vnder his Lordships Gouerment I am fully perswaded Madam that my Lords presence here hath made more converts then the pulpits haue done this 7 yeares & whensoever his Majesty Connot think of a better expedient than a parliament He will finde a New face of things in Norfolk all which is due to my Lord. next to God almighty _____ after this I dare not asume vpon your Ladyships patience further then to ask your pardon for my vnmanerly scribble & beg leaue so write my selfe what I am ready to print with my blood _____

Madam your Ladyships my Lords & your whole families Servant in all daily affection & obedience whilst I liue

Norwich Aug 11 1682

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 194 recto

[FB- 11 Aug. 1682 Lord Lieutenant's Reception]

Madam

Yesterday about 12 of the Clock the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth, Lord Lieutenant of this County and the Honourable the Lord Paston were met at Cringleford, 3 Miles from Norwich, by the High Sheriff with his whole Retinue, the Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace, Grand Jury, and Militia Officers of this Count, with the Major and Aldermen of Norwich, and such Crouds of People that the Lanes were all lined with them, from Cringleford to Norwich; where His Honour made as Splendid an Entry as ever I see in these parts, being accompanied by above 30 Coaches, and near 1200 Horse, with many Thousands of ffoot: the Huzzas, and loud Acclamations of the people, with the Bells, and City Waits, expressing His Lordships most hearty wellcome into Norfolke: and I dare be bold to Affirme, that there never appeared; Hearts more full of Duty & Loyalty, to their King, and Zealous, & Hearty Affections, to their Lord Lieutenant, then there did now, upon this Occasion:

His Honour was pleased to Dine at the Kings Head, where the Earle of Arundell, with about 100 Gentlemen, of the best Ranke & Quallity, accompanied His Lordship, and after Dinner the Croud was so great, of His Lordships ffriends, who came to pay their Duty, and Respects to His Honour, that the House could not containe them, who after a Long time departed very well Satisfyed; with their kind Entertainment, and His Lordship went to His private Lodgings, at Captain Houghtons, to Refresh Himselfe, with some of His Kind Reception into Norfolke: then which there never was a Greater

{f.194 verso}

Madam I humbly begg Your Honours Pardon for this trouble being very desirous upon all Occasions to testify my Selfe

Madam

Your Honours

Most Obedient & Faithfull Servant

Edward L'Estrange

Norwich August the 11th 1602

[FB - Reception at Norwich]

August the 11: 1684

Norwich Friday seuen of the clock in the
afternoone

My Deare Hart

Yesterday about Eleuen of the I was mett with such an appearance as those that haue seene many such occacions say they neuer saw the licke in their liues, The mayer and all the Aldermen, The High Sheriff and all ~~and all~~ is men 2 or 300 gentlemen on horsback, a grear many of the clergie and about fourtie coaches, mett mee three miles distance from the towne; and still wee gathered company, till wee came neare the gates where the hors was putt in order which were aboue a thousand, that I oe beleeeve when I was a furlong from the gates, the front of the troope was beyoand the Kings heas; such shouts and acclamations in the streets as had licke to haue pulld the Whitehors downe, and they had the comfort to see all this, from thence whilst I came to the Kings head, a man might haue walked on the peoples heads, I dined with about threescore gentlemen and as soone as I came there my Lord of Arundell came to mee, and told mee hee intended to haue waighted on mee in that way himself butt his horses were fatigued the day before, nothing can shew more oblidging Kindnes . to my self and my sons there hee has don. This Morning wee went up to the benchem and came downe with the iudges _____ who are infinitely Kind to mee, the last night att my sonns lodging _____ fine w _____ appearance _____ never seene heere, And my Lord Arundell & my son danced all night allmost, and this night they are to haue another at _____ Sallers, this morning The Mayor and all the Aldermen were to wayto on mee againe

{f.195 verso}

and then went to my Lord Arundell, and then to my son who lyes att Mr Stobbings in the markt place, to morrowe wee are all inuited to the Bishops, this afternoone I went & my son to visitt Sir Thomas Browne where was Mrs Peirce and her fine daughters & Mrs Middletons sister Mrs Needham, and Colonel Harbords wife who came downe staires to see mee and Mrs Craddock has beene att my Lodging and 30 or 40 to see the fine _____ and points, itt impossible for mee to

write all the particulars, I suppose you will hear from other hands Mr C
Fraser was astonished and could not believe his own eyes, hee

Madam/

Norwich: Aug: 11: 1682

[Blomefield- Mr Fraser's Account of the Earl of Yarmouth's (2nd Lieutenant of Norfolk) Reception into Norfolk & Norwich

Were my obligations to your ladyship less then they are I could not without the greatest in gratitude omit so fair an occasion of acknowledging how much an account is both my duty & honoar to obey your ladyships Commands, which I cannot more successfull do at present, then by giving you a plain and full Relation of the progress of my Lord' Journey into Norfolk and safe arrivall at Norwich.

The first three days were without any remarkable adventure and yesterday being the fourth his lordship set forth from Al-borrow which is a little Town about twell miles from this place accompany'd by severall Gentleman and some Divines, who came overnight to meet his lordship all along upon the road his lordship returne increased by great numbers of gentlemen & citizens, and befor he came to Eton Bridge about two miles off, his lordship was attended with above 200 horses. At Eton Bridge The High Sherive of Norfolk with most of the gentry of the County, in very good order and Equipage, The Mayor of Norwich, with the alder men and Common Councill men, all on horseback, about fifty coaches, and as many Clergy men waited for his lordships arrivall, and made him their severall and distinct Complement of welcome into Norfolk. The number of horse that came out to meet his lordship could not be less then a thousand & the multitude of foot exceeded three 1000 all along the Road into the City, and throw the city, till his lordship came to the Kings Head in the merkat place where he alighted out of his coach, both sides of the way were so crowded with people that I believe there was hardly any in Norwich that did not appear either in the Streets, windows or Ballconies, and

{f.197 verso}

and the air was so filled with the Repeated acclamations of God bless the King, the Duke of York, Lord Lieutenant and Lord Paston that nothing {^else} could be heard and there was such joy and gladness in all their countenances, that one could have easily disern'd them to be the free and naturall productions of their hearts and minds, without any affectations or dissimulation- And tho it was but little past Nine aclock when his lordship set forth from aulborrow yet it was two in the

afternoon before he arrived at his Lodgings, to frequently was his *lordship* obliged to stop to receive the Congratulatory complements, of the Gentlemen that came out to meet him. I need not trouble your *ladyship* with the additional ceremonies of ringing of Bells sounding of Trumpets: Beating of Drums, & playing of Musick, which were no ways wanting to make the Entry the more magnificent, when upon the whole matter I may confidently say without any Exaggeration, That 'tis not possible for any county or Corporation in England to express upon any occasion, greater loyalty, & higher obedience towards his Majesties & the Royall family, nor more universall, esteem honour and affection for a Lord *Lieutenant* then this County, and City have made appear at this present, & shall do upon all occasions where his Majestys interest, honour and advantage are concern'd. And they in the City that have lived here some scores of years & have seen solemnities of this nature very often have assured me, that as no time has there been a greater appearance, of people, nor more universall acclamation as the Entry of a Lord *Lieutenant* then there was yesterday & I have reason to believe, that there is hardly any County or Corporation in England, where a Lord *Lieutenant* is more heartily beloved and more entirely respected by all sorts of people, then the Earle

{f.198 recto}

of Yarmouth is here, from which auspicious beginnings, I hope, no less glorious & successfull conclusions will follow.

Immediately after my lords arrivall at his lodgings the Earle of Arandell (who arrived here the day before) came to congratulate his *lordship* and both din'd together with the High Sherrive, and severall of the cheif gentry of the County, who were of the Grand Jury. This morning the Mayor ___ aldermen, as also the Common Councill men came to his *lordships* lodgings to pay him their respects after which Ceremony his *lordship* went up to the Castle can satt with the Judges till they ____

As for my part Madam so exceeding great are the honours and Civilities I daily meet with from his *lordship*, and upon his account, from many of the prime Gentry here, that, the sense ^{^i have} of them is ^{^as} far beyond what I can express, as they are beyond the possibility of my making any suitable return but that of acknowledgment for them: And therefor humbly beg your *ladyship*, assistance to return my most humble thanks for them, knowing that no body is so ____ to convey any agreeable account to his *lordship* as your *ladyship* whose person is so infinitely dear to him; which with the profoundest respect is all at present from

Madam

Your *ladyships* most obliged, humble Servant

James Fraser

[Blomefeild - 29 Aug. 1682. Duke of Monmouth Lord Macclesfield - Ld Dalamer &c]

Madam /

Since my coming into the Country with a nother of the Kings Comissioners God bee thanked wee haue had very good Success in all our vndertakings, for in the very face of all the Gentlemen the Kings Commissioners sate to Execute the Comission in Chester where wee thought to haue had the most opposition, All their hearts fayled & at last wee haue obtanid a verdit for the Kinge of twelue honest and able Gentlemen as any in the whole County, for all the Lands mencioned in the Kings Comission & haue made a returne thereof vnder our hands & Seales to the High Court of Chancery: And haue drawne up affidauits & peticions both to the Kinge & Counsell against those that haue spoken against the Kinge & his Comissioners As also {^A} peticⁱon to the Lord Cheife Baron and the rest of the Barons against those that haue distraynd upon or anu wayes disturb'd the Kings Tennants, for which Wee Shall vndoubtedly haue remedy in in both places, to punish those persons that so ignorantly & maliceously Acted against mee without cause. Wee shall haue A writt to Seize & distrayne upon those that will not pay their rents vnto the Kinge speedely; And doe hope when the Sherife Returns up the Kings Money both My Lord & Sir Robert will gett it of the Kinge to helpe vs to mentayne the Kings title against those that shall any wayes endeavour to oppose vs. If Sir Robert Refuseth my Lord must make choyce of some eminent person about ehr Kinge to assist vs in getting the Kings priuey signett to secure the rents that the Kings Tennants will pay in to our hands otherwayes wee shall bee at a great loss to carry on our affayres for want of Money for as I am credibly informed they all joyne to make a purse against vs, and Wee are informed here of the Duke of Monmouths coming to a rase, and Priuate Meetings 2 a weeke by my Lord Macclesfeild Lord Palamer Sir John Bestew Collonel Whitley and the Earle of Derby, where there is prouision made at Mr Majors house of Chester thence to the Earle of Macclesfeild to Collonel Whitleyes & so ~~xxx~~ amongst the rest of the Phenatick party of which and the rest of our pro-ceedings I haue fully acquainted Mr Brent by this Gentleman, It is high time now the Kinge Should looke aboute hime, and besure to gratefy his old freinds that lost their l__s for the service of him and his father, & not

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those that haue bin his entrayed & haue receiu'd all fauours from him, whose malevolent spirits hath converted into a knife to cutt his Majestyes throat if they could of which Mr Sheirman will more perticularly acquainte you & as occasion shall offer itselife I shall acquainte both Your Honour and Mr Brent and

consequently the Kinge and his Royall Highnes may haue seasonable notice of their treacherous and vnwarrentable vndertakings: I intreat *your Honour* to direct *your Letters* for mee to bee left at Mr Cudworths howse at the Signe of the manb in the East gate Street in Chester and they will come safe to the hands of Madam *your Honours* most humble & faithful servant

J Taylor

Chester August 29 / 82

{f. 200 verso}

These for the Right Honourable the Countes of Yarmouth in the Pell all nere St James London

Madam/

I did write one letter sence I sent one by Mr Sheirman but this comes to giue your Honour an accoumpt of the Duke of Monmouths reception at Chester ___ about 6 of the clock {^Saturday} hee came accompaynyed with the Earle of Macclesfeild his Sonn Lord Colechester Lord Dalamer Sonn {^_____} Coll Whitley Mr Booty and a great Company of Cittizens {^with great shouts & haller_____} where his intertai{n}ment at the Plume of Feathers at 5s a peece at the Table where the Duke dare and 2d - 6 at the other table hee was Godfather to Mr Manwarings Daughter now Major of Chester where hee had his breakefast and had a great deale of Rable alwayes showting & throwing up their hats the Recorder Mr Williams alwayes accompayning him to Church when in the Morning Service the Minister one of the Prebends telling him his Duty; of Disobedience & Achitophell Henry the 7 of France & that God would blast all the wicked and mischevous devises against the Kinge, & make the memory of the wicked names strike in the graue with much other with much other expressions I heard him repeate to the Honour of the Duke & the mischeivous contrivers of the Duke {^ of munmoth} or Signes; I have sent his poste to Mr Brent acquainting hime of the feares and jealousyes wee are in by Reason of the Kings letting them grow into So great a head that they will destroy him and all them that take his ~~XXX~~ part as they did his Father, The Fenaticks as declared by them selues {^hath} gatherd a 1000*li* ginnyes for the distressed prince as they call the Duke of Monmouth, haue weekly priuate Meetings, nor Royall person is admitted they haue great banks of Money powder and all Sorts of amunition those that are for the Kinge and his Royall highnes are affrayd to speak, and all this while the Kings Comission for 2 great Countyes of Lord *Leutenant* of Cheshire and Lancashire is in the Earle of Derbys hands, whoe dayly take their parts, and openly drinke the Duke of Monmouths health & pray in Priuate conventicles for his prosperety, & openly cry downe ___ the Toryes, it is im possible heere for mee to in numerate the Rebellious and impudent words and Actions of these audacious persons, I pray God preserve the Kings & his Royall Highnes for was neuer So afrayd of an open & speedy Rebellion, as I am now at this time beeing 5 to one that dare Speake aword for the King ot his Royall Highnes but are accounted Papists & Rebels against the godly party, & must suffer for speaking for the King another day as they are

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dayly threatned, and mee especially for looking after the Kings Right of those that thus openly appeare against the Kinge as Coll Whitley Sp___ Wilson Hurlston Brock and others you know are against the King I dare not here expres their

impudent expressions, I pray Send to Mr Brent and shew him this letter for I haue not so fully and perticularly writ to him of thes transactions as I haue to your Honour & I beg the fauour of the Answer of some speedy Reliefe may bee taken in crushing these malevolent persons & it will very much ReJoyce him whoe is is a true Subject to the Kinge & Honourer of those that Loue the Kinge & remayne Madam your Most humble & _____ servant
_ Taylor

{f.201 verso}

I intreat the fauour of your Honour to send this letter to Mr Brent, for him to peruse and desire hee may giue you a perticular of the Lands I haue giuen him an accoumpt of & the Yearly vallew, I know if your send for him hee will come to waite upon you, & give you full accoumpt of all things: I haue this further to say, that to night came the newes to Chester, that the Duke of Monmouth (by contriuance of the Gentlemen that rid against him the horse rase gaue him ^{^leau} to win the plate of 60li which hee presented to his Goddaughter the Majors ^{^child} whom nee Christened Heneretta, at which newes the people here grew so mad that all the Streets were full of bone fieres, the Church dores were broken open to rigne the Bells, contrary to the Deane & the Ministers Orders & nothing was heard in the Streets but a Munmoth a Monmouth & those that were for the Kinge or spoke for his Royall Highnes had their windowes broken, ~~XXX~~ And for my part I am ^{^openly} threatned to haue my throat cutt, And thus triumphing the Duke of Monmouth rides through all the Country by which meanes of running of horses, hee knowes his Strength through the whole Kingdome, that will run the King & his party out of dores if not speedely preuented; Those Gentlemen that are for the Kinge & his Royall Highnes had a hunting by themselues on Forrest of Dalamer & so by this running & hunting wee are deuided & brought in to ^{^such} Deuisions & Seuerall partyes, That when the trayne of their wickednes takes flame, the Kinge will Know his freinds from his enemyes; I haue noe more to Say but giue your Honour & Mr Brent this timly glimpses of their contriuances & once more Remayne

~~Yr Most~~ Your Honours most humble & faithfull Servant
JT

{f.202 verso}

These for the Right Honourable the Earle of Yarmouth at his howse in the Pell mall nere St Jamses
London

For London

My Lord

September the 17th 1682

I have waited all this time to pick up some Maritine newes, to acquaint your Lordship with and now haueing had the oportu-nty of going to sea which his _____ I shall give your Lordship a full account of Everything that passed, Monday morning about 6 of the clock I tooke beale at white Hall to waite upon his Maiesty down to his yachts, which John King , and about 10 got to Tillbury, where the King Landed to view that fortifications, after some stay the Quene came in her barge, then they presently went over _____ to my Lord Fenrick howse where I meett with Sir Thomas Meares, to whom I was to address my selfe by my Lord Bruncker and Lady Williams Intreest to be presented to the King and duke, my mother write to him to request the favor of him, which I delivered & after he had ___ he tooke me by the hand, and said come Mr Paston a long with me; I will doe your busines Efectually after hee had found an oportunity he told the King here is a son of my Lord yarmouths that has bin at Sea 3 voiages we have a very good carracter of him and hee is a ve^{^r}y hopefull young man, the king asked wher is he, then Sir Thomas presented me, I Kissed his hand and the King said it is very well Mr Paston, but Sir Thomas still repeating the lame woords with so much hartiness as the king & Quene went to diner then Sir Thomas carryed me on to ____ the Cleaveland yachts, where we had a very go^{^o}d diner there being Sir John Chestly, Sir John Varbrow Sir Richard Haddock, Mr Brisbon; who were all vey Kind to me, but perticular Sir John Chestly who told me he would be allwaies as ready to serve me as I should be to aske him, towards 3 of the clock we set saile from Tillbery, for Sherness: with a pritty fresh gale at the NE: & NNE.

{f.203 verso}

the King was Extreemely wel pleased with the workeing & saileing of his new yachts that _____ which in deede wronged all the rest, at 8 of the clock Tuesday morning we got to Sherness where the King and Duke went ashore to see the fortifications Sir Thomas Meares and I went to waite on him and to find an oportunity of being presented to the Duke after the King had seene all, Sir Thomas Littelton Envited him to a treat of cold meate and his Maiesty Eate very hartely, and made so littel Stay as I could not find an oportunity to be presented there, for the King took his barge and went away for Chattam, it proveing Littell wind that he could not saile with his yachts - about jj of the clock we got to Chattam, his Majesty went on board the great Britannia, we still followed to git an oportunity, which Imediately we did, & Sir Thomas with all the hartiness

Image-nable presente me to the Duke and told him how Long I had bin at sea and gaue a very go^od carracter of me, the Duke was pleased to say, I know mr Paston & then asked who I was with Last and some other such Quetions, and said well Mr Paston I shall take care of you, this was done with so much Kindness from Sir Thomas as I can't Express, he brought me to mr Seuell who told me would doe me all the kindness ____ in his power; I am assure your Lordship I was taken notice of and v^sed with a good deale of respect, and the Kindness thing of all was that the king bad me set down at the table with him and I did, Here was my Lord grasson my Lord rennet the Duke of Albermale Lord ossery Lord Berkely with some few other gentilemen that set down with him at Sir John ganders, after the King had dined we went on board, it being calme we got no farther than the hope there his Maiesty sent for his Barge and a bout 2 of the clock in the afternoon wednesday, went up to London now I have given your Lordship a full and true account of our voiage, which I hope will be pleaseing to your Lordship, I desire your Lordship will be pleased to returne Sir Thomas Meeres thanks which will be very well taken he was heere this after noon to give my mother an account of Every thing; now my Lord give me Leaue ti subscribe my selfe your Lordships most obedient son and humble Sarvant Jasper Paston : my most humble service to my Bro: Paston

{f.204 recto}

Theese

For the Right Honourable the

Earle of yarmouth att

Oxnead Hall Neare

Norwhich in Norfolk

May it please your Honor _____

My Lord Paston, Reception at Yarmouth was given your Honor from soe good a penne that I need adde nothing to it onely assure your honour it was soe great from the loyall party that it rayseed in them an emulation of beeing loyall too who had beene otherwise rather then not partake of that common Joy and chearfulnesse which appeared in the faces if the Kings and his lordship's friends and I am confident the number of those that honor the King will be visibly augmented from his lordship's appearing there. Things euen in that towne haue looked with much a better countenance euer since: and euery day will shew better effects of it then o-ther: And I hope some pen more lucky then mine in expressions will giue your honor a more quaint relation of what mine heer presumes to hint. On Wednesday last his lordship was pleased to sett out from oxnead towards Lin, that day dined at Sir Francis Guybon and by Sir Christopher Calthorp and Sir Francis with many other gentlemen from the neighbourhood was conducted to Mr Hoasts at Sondringham when they all supped and lodged that night: Thither came Captaine Turner over night with an obliging compliment from Lin giving an invitation to his Lordship and all the Gentlemen This the next morning was seconded by many principall men in that coporation; two miles from Lin his lordship was mett with a-bout six score horse and seaven coached and soe conducted to the towne, his lordship then taking his horse went thro-row the market seluted with bells, Guns and acclamations in al his passage vntill he came to the great - or towne - hall where stood the Major and his brethren in their Formallityes & by them conducted into a withdrawing home where hauing refreshed themselues with a glass of sack, the Major requested his Lordship Sir Christopher Calthorp and Sir Francis Gaybon to take up their freedome which they did with the usuall ceremonyes in their court of Aldermen and thence was carryed to most sumptuous and splendid dinner, made by the corporation in their publick hall, where there could not be lesse than 200 persons, that weer then treated at the towne charge after dinner his lordship with a walked into the towne, and was pleased with many pretty diuersion prepared for him, and at night entertained by Mr new Elect at a very handsome ball, about nine of the clock with all the gentlemen out of the country and the best of the corporation his lordship was welcomed with at Captaine Turner to a most plentifull supper and there lodges The next morning his lordship with a uery considerable number of friends went to the great church, where prayers weer red, and seconded with the musick of a most noble organ newly sett up there by Captaine Turner; his lordship hauing taken a full uiew of the church and a most delighfull prospect from the steeple, was carryed to the Fort where he was diuerted by all the guns playing one after another, with two rounds one of powder alone and the other of powder and bullett. after that a bull-baiting was prepared in the markt and gaue his lordship

a pleasant delay before he came to Mr Major's house, where for him and his friends was provided a uery great dinner that lasted till fiue a clock or later, and after a uery gratefull diuersion of musick and voices upon the water in Mr Thorowgoods pleasure boate, his lordship gaue visits to seuerall of the cheifest persons in the towne where he was jenerally receiued with all ex-pressions of welcome ~~about~~ after that returned to his lodgings there supped againe and the next morning was refreshed with an excellent breakfast and accompanied a mile out of towne by seuerall horse men tho it proved a uery rainy mor-ning but dining at Sir Christopher Calthorp's blessed be god wee all gott safe home that night to oxnead where I left my lord lieutenant and his lord-ship in uery good health and to morrow intend to make my returne to them againe. There haue beene many lille plotts, played with much cunning, in the behalfe of Raynham, a certaine Sir R. hath beene very troublesome to mee in that point, but they are hether to played of it may be with as much wisdome as contriued with subtlety. Madam It must not bee: noe reason another another should reape the glory, that my lord deserues; and I will doe your honors most cordiall seruant

J Hildeyard

f.206 verso

This To the right honourable the Countesse of Yar-mouth in the Pall mall neer St James's London with Seruice present

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 207 recto

February the 1st 1682

Mr L'Estrange

I have receiued all your letters, for which I giue you many thankes, I pray make my particular complement to all those of the Deputy Leiftenants that did mee the honor to subscribe the letter, lett them know I wish I were as worthy to serve them, as I am allwayes ready to ___ acknowledge their fauors, as for Captain Ruggles vacancye I am well enough contented that Mr Wyndham should itt, butt Mr Bedingfeld who should haue beene my sonns Captains Lieutenant had I nott bene otherwise engaged, must have the first offer which you may priueetely doe, & then as you send mee word, itt shall bee don, for matters in Norwich itt doth butt shew the vnconstant temper of such as by the same rule may returne to a better vnderstanding, that they retreated from itt ___ one day Hosanna the next crucifiye, butt I am nott to bee scared out of those methods, of honesty which I hope shall appeare in the Close of their new Charter, which now drawes neare itt's period, I haue beene con-fined to my Chamber a great while by a violent cough & cold, attending on the gout I hope the approach of the fine weather, will send mee abroad all heere are well and your true friends, & remember their service to you, and I am

Your very affecttionate ffriend & servant

Yarmouth

my service to Mrs L'Estrange

{f.208 verso}

For my Honored Friend Edward L'Estrange Esquire att Horstead neare Norwich

Feb: 1st 62

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 209 recto

My Lord/

The Terror & fright (As well as the Danger) yesterday, was Great the Spire of the Church flameing & Sparkes flyeing thence to the Markett place; which was Occasion'd by Clapp of thunder About 2: or: 3: on the Morning Butt was Extinguishd by 8: of the Clocke the Same Morne the Weather Cock and the Crosse which was Large & Leaded being throwne down Which was Soe heauy As brake the Barre of Iron in itt thatt was ~~XXXXXX~~ 6: or 7: Inches About Burneing the Woodworks & Melting Some Lead About the Spire is all the Damage thatt Hapened Butt the Storme of Wind was Soe fiercer ~~XXXXXX~~ thatt nott Doeing further Mischeif there fell upon the Marshes & Overflow'd them Generally Soe As to Goe Over the Corne & Browne I heare your Lordshipps Tennante has a Great Losse Some Say of A hundred pounds yett Sau'd all his Cattle which Others Could nott doe this much tho all Neues I thought fitt to Mention which with humble Duty is all from

your Lordshipps Most Devoted Servant

Robert Doughty

Yarmouth

feb: 9th 1682:

{Folio 210 verso}

For the Right Honourable Robert Earle of Yarmouth in the Pall Mall

London

My Lord

Since my Last to Your Lordship of the 5th Instant, I haue Receiued Mr Bedingfields Answer, who desires to haue his Service presented to Your Honour with his humble thanks for Your kind proffer, and declares he shall be willing to serue Your Lordship in what lyes in his power, but acknowledges himselfe all together unfit to Execute the Office of Captaine of a Company of ffoot, but if at any time Your Lordship wants a Lieutenant of the Horse, he will be Ready to doe You the best service he can :

I haue sent uo a Blanke Comission to my Son, and I haue Orderd him to wait upon Your Honour with it, which if You please to Signe, and send downe by him , I shall put in the Captaines name which Your Lordship shall approve of; but I could wish Sir Neville Cateline certainly knew, whether Mr Windham whome he Recom-mends, will accept of it, before a Comission be offerd to him, for (as I am Informed,) I doe a Litle doubt it :

I haue (according to Your Lordships Comands,) returned thanks to those Deputy Lieutenants, who signed the kind Letter which was sent to Your Honour, from Norw^{ich} Sessions, and they desire to haue their Services presented to You, with the Assurance that upon al Occassions they shall be ready to testify themselues, Your Lordships most Faithfull Servants :

The Last Tuesday there hapned a Violent Clap of thunder and Lightning, at Yarmouth, in the night, which fired the spire of the great church, and burned downe the Cross upon it, and endangered the Church, but at Last a Desperate ffellow ventured up (although the Wind was very high) and being Supplied with Water, Quenched the Fire; at the same time there hapned a prodigious Flood, which flowing over the Banks, has done much Damage to the Levells about Yarmouth:

{f.211 verso}

I was at Norwich the Last Saturday, where I find them in a Calmer Temper, and in great Expectations of the Coming downe of their new Charter:

I am heartily sorry they haue given Your Honour so great {^Trouble} but Your Lordship will haue this Advantage by it, to be able to distinguish Your Reall, and true Friends, from those who serue Your Lordship no further, then to carry on their owne designes :

My Lord, be pleased to accept of *the* tendure of my owne, and Wifes most humble Duty and Service, and present *the* same, to *the* Right Honourable, the Countess of Yarmouth, and *the* Rest of Your Right Honourable Relations :

My Lord I am

Your Honours

Most Obliged

& Faithfulll

Servant

Edwd L'Estrange

Horstead February *the* 12th 1602/3

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 212 recto

[FB - Mr Pastons reception at the Hague. Captain's Commission]

Hague/ March 2^d 1682

My Lord

Yesterday night I came to the Hague and went Immediately to court to deliver my letters, the Prince was more then ordinary kind to me and talkt all the while he stayd there with me and countenancd me extreamly, the Princes askt me severall questions and as the courtiers tells me, did me greater honors then are usuall in that court, I find every thing succeed according to wish and I believ I shall Return to *your* Lordship a Captain within this eight days, I am this minuit going to dine with the prince, and the transactions your Lordship, shall have in the postscript My Lord now I have givenn you an account of my buisnes , I must remember to giue *your* Lordship all the thanks imaginable for {^all} *your* ~~xxxx~~ favors and particular kindnesses to me my Lord I am sure nothing in nature can make {^me} forgitt them, I should not own my self tyed to gratitude as well ~~by~~ as by duty to be ~~xxx~~ My Lord *your* Lordships most dutyfull son and humble servant

Thomas Paston

{f.212 verso}

My Lord the prince has promised me himself and ___ me word {^besides} by my Lord Odike and Monsuar Bentck that should have it just as I desiered and now I wait for nothing but my Commission which I expect every minuit, Mr _____ the English Envoy is mighty kind to me and between ___ Alderman Blackwell and him I am treated every day I never found such Civilitys in my Life, all the English Especially are strangely obliging and strive which should be forwardest in {^their} expressions to me; My Lord Monpillion takes it the kindlyest from *your* Lordship for directing me to him and has assured me of his kindnes, he is mightyly concernd to hear *your* Lordship is Ill; It would be a great allay to {^all} the Joy I have {^had} in Catching this Commission to find *your* Lordship any {^way} ~~xxx~~ indisposed but I hope in Christ fortune will congratulate my return with the news if *your* Lordship ___ Recovery, till happyness and thousnds of the Choisest blessings in ~~heaven~~ heaven wait upon *your* Lordship

{f.213 verso}

These For the Right honourable The Earl of Yarmouth at his house in the Pall Mall in London

Folio 214r

Madam ./.

You may believe mee, how infinitely I was surpriz'd with the notice of my lord's death, that I can hardly yet recover my selfe to acquaint your honour, that I have no little share in that general griefe, wherewith the whole Court was really affected. I pray God comfort your Ladyship for the time wherein hee has afflicted you; I am sure, I need not suggest my motives to you whereby you may gett leese of your sorrow, when you are so very prudent and discreet as to conceive and administer them to your selfe. It concerns us all to acquiesce in the dispensations of his providence, how grievous soever they bee: I preach this to your Ladyship, but must endeavour my selfe to practice it. ~~XXX-XXXX~~having a sad occasion offer'd mee, viz: the extreme illnesse of my wife who ly's very sick of a fever. That I am in an hourly expectation of a summons to return; otherwise I did resolve to attend my lords Corpse to Oxnead, and wait on the solemnitys of his farewell; but this unexpected newes will prevent mee

{f.214v}

Madam. I had almost forgotten one thing to give your Honour an account of. that Wednesday last, as I was undressing, I reciev'd a letter from Mr Nixon requesting in your name, *that* I would addresse to some person to desire his *Majestys* leave for my Lord's body to bee carried thro Newmarket; but the king and Court were the next day gon to Chiveley, that I could not give your Honour an account of it by Thursdays post *which* goes hence about noon: I have since been carefull to acquaint severall of your friends with your request, who do all advise that the king bee by no means address'd to, for some about him will most certainly turn it into ridicule; But they would have notice ~~XXX~~ given to his Majesty of *the* time, when My lord's remains shall bee brought by. that the Nobility may bee ready with *their* Coaches to attend: I shall bee very diligent in this affair, for I am very sincerely

Madam

Your Honour's most obedient and Humble Servant

Edward Lake.

Newmarket

Mar: 17th 82 ./.

British Library Additional MS
Folio 215 Recto

Horstead 23 March. 1682/3

Madam

[FB - Mr Fishers Account of the Funeral of Robert Paston Earl of Yarmouth &c]

Though I know (if no misaccident happen) I may wait upon your Honor within a few houres after this can possibly come to hand, & that the usuall Subiect for my pen from these parts, was upon a more delightfull occasion yet sorie Mr Paston was pleased in the morning (before he went to receiue the Bps Benediccion) to leave somewhat upon my hand to informe your Honor of, I am not willing it should grate upon that dolefull string which sounded so melancholy throughout this County for their generall Loss, & so make it an augmentacion of your Honors sorrow but rather giue you some account of the readiness of the Gentrys Appearance upon this solemnity, that demonstrates not only the reall Affeccion they bare to the noble Lord deceased, but what may undoubtedly be expressed from them to his family. I know your Honor has had a perfect Relacion of our passage to Attleburgh, from whence yesterday the Corps was attended by Mr Windham's Coach & himself in't, throughout, & by Sir John Holland's Coach with his sonns, & servants through windham, & then immediatly ___ swelld to a great number, which being completed at Eaton, they put themselves into good order, the horsemen riding in the van, whereof my least Informacion reckon'd them 700, others computed them 3 or 400 more, which nere made up of many Gentry, Citizens & others, with the mayor & Aldermen of Norwich, the mourners that came down with us & about 100 Clergy, & after us about 60 Coaches, that pass'd all through Norwich & to the Catton hill, & there most of them took their Leaves, but very many, especially Gentlemen, went on, & atten-ded the Corps to the Grave, 8 Deputy Lieutenants carrying the Pall, & as many as the Church could hold were hearers of Dr Hildeyard's very ingenious Sermon, & History of a great part of his Lordships life, from a Text, which perhaps might be thought improper, but to those that heard it Rev: 4.4. and the Compa-ny (except some few that stayed) were dismissed with a handsom & unexpected Treat. In short, Madam, the whole was perform'd with great decency, & though I have been oft an Eye-witnes of former Appearances here, yet this exceeded all, in numbers & expressions of some Affecion, which I hope & heartily wish maybe an occasion

{f.215 verso}

reioycing & Comfort to your Honor:

whilst mr Pastons & Sir John & Mr Cleyton went to day to Norwich, Mr Leads & I came to Captain Aydes, from whence wee, & all this family, with Sir John Rous, Mr L'Estrange & divers others present their hum-ble services to your honor & my Lord of Yarmouth, wherewith I remain

Madam

Your Honors most humble & obedient Servant

John Fisher

wee expect to return to morrow & take Quidenham in our way to Thetford, & hope to attend your honor by Munday night/

{folio 216 verso}

To the Right Honorable the Countess of Yarmouth at her house in the Pall mall
London

Right Honourable,

yesterday morning I caried fifty pound to my lord Br_ and told him *your* Honor did desire his ___/ and *the* Mayor would dispose of it to the poor as they thought conuenient. As to the fees to *the* Cathedrall he said he did not know that any more ___ for preaching a sermon but afterward he sent one to bid me speak with Dr_ Smith who was better acquainted with the busines. To him I went forthwith who promised me to take care of it with all possible Respect for my lords Honor. The sermon and seruice ended in the quire, I was inuited by the Mayor to dinner. I told him if he had not inuited me, I had waited on him howeuer by *your Ladiships* command about the disposing of the 50li. He told me he thought it fit to Appoint a Hall where it should be agreed vpon by the Corporation how the money should be disposed of. and that so noble a Gift should be _____ among their other Acts. For the Gates and Clyming in the seuerall parishes *that* my lords Corps passed through, he appointed one of his officers to enquire into the busines who is to Giue me an Account to morrow by the Post. Euery Body speaks exceeding honourably of *your Ladiships* bounty. I also paid Mr_ Thomas Paston twenty pound in Norwich yesterday morning, but I might haue spar'd my pains of carrying it thither, for when I came home toward euening, I found him here. but he went away last night. Dr_ Hildeyards 20li was ready on the 14th of this instant Aprill, but to cary it to his house was not fit, his clark dying of the small pox, *which* I neuer had, not euer was afraid of till the last year. I therefore *delivered* the money to Mrs_ Cooper, and she has sent him word it is in her hand. I demanded of Mr_ Thomas what he had done with *your* Honors letters to Mrs_ Cooper and others: he told me he would Giue *your* honor an account, or I mistak him; for my hearing is much decaied, so is my sight also; daily Monitors of my mortality. Mr_ Bulmer sent to me about his mourning about ten daies since, I doe beleeu he has it ere this. The jnuentory of *the* Goods (Viz, a copie) was sent by the flying coach last wednesday. Mr_ Cecill liues not in Norwich now; yet I spake him yesterday at the parish where he liues, and haue his promise to take care of *the* busines. I think I haue taken notice of euery thing in *your* honors letter: and now, Madam, it is necessary that I haue *your* warrant to pay Mr_ Norris those rents that are Assign'd to him, otherwise I may not meddle with them; for he has a note vnder my hand to pay whatsoever I receiue of those rents to him. I can neuer be less then my word, nor doe I fear *your Ladiship* would desire such a thing of

Madam, *your* honors most obedient seruant

J Hurton

Oxnead. Apr. 23th. 83

{f.218 verso}

These present

To the right honourable the Countess Dowager of Yarmouth at her house in the Pall
Mall

My Lord

Perhaps *your Lordship* has heard of the Queen of France's death, it is thought shee dyed of the plague for shee had a tumour under her left arm, & some spotts, & it is more probable, because shee used commonly to ___ of flesh 6 times a day: Three embassaders one come from france to Congratulate the Kings _____ one from the King. one from chousieur, & one from the Dauphin. The marriage of Lady Anne Jhon was intertended to day is putt off till Friday, because to day was Childermas day, this is the greatest reason I can learn for the deferring. To day the Duke of York presented an Adresse to the King upon his Knees, but it was read by the Common Serjeant, it came from the Artillery Company of whom the Duke is Colonell. I hear that the Lady Russell has declared that the speech was pen d by Dr Burnett, if so no answee need be made, tho there be 100 already

{continued in left-hand margin}

To day the Lord ~~Wiltshire~~ Wiltshire Kist the Kings hand, tho' they are received I hope they will not be trusted. There us sad newes from Germany, but because it is not certain, I will not trouble *your Lordship* with it, but hope it may be false, I am

My Lord

Your Lordships most humble servant

{folio 219 verso}

{text cut off on left} ht Honorable the
{text cut off on left} Yarmouth at
{text cut off on left} near Norwich

{f.220r}

Deare Madam

I reseved from the hands of Sig^r Corigo your Ladyships Letter which I was not able att that time to answer haueing upon me the pains of Labor which after haueing indure fifteen days in extremety God almighty was pleased to release me from that torment by my being delivered of too sons at berth but is in this world tis vain to hope for a Solled Joy without being mixed with Sorow so by the death of one of them the day after its berth has abated the Joy of haueing brought too at one time the other I thank God is uery well & I hope will Liue with me as for my self I am alive by maracle both my children being duple born the first with its bely formost & the Second with its back

{f.220v}

but God will lett me liue at {^least} to see your Ladyship befor I dye {^dear} madam in your Letter I find the Sad Story of my pore fathers broken harte which was a thing I neuer dreamt or could never haue imaged the K: ingratitude amases me beyond all things in this world & to Speake the truth Hee merits not haue so fathfull a subject nor so reall a frind {^but} the old proverb fails not which says many in this world are incapable of knowing the {^Good thay:} InJoy tell after Lost. this maks me see the vainety of folwing courts & maks me thanke God that fortun has condemed me to Lead a priuat life in which perhaps(?) I have sufered Lese disquiet then you madam which haue Liued in a figur much diferen from mine: So perhaps if my dear father had contented him self with the holsome aire of pore oxned without troubleing him with State afairs & folowing the Court that your Ladyship would not now be a widoe

{f.221r}

& by that means depriued if the comfore which you inJoyed in his company & in this Just accasion for your greef the greates testemonye of your kindnes that you can {^now} pay to his memory is to comfote your Self & by that mean procure the presarueing your health to be in his rome both father & mother to his children Left behind to your Ladyships care espesialy my Sister bety who I hope by her obedient maryin to your content may suply for my misfortune & the Lose of my pore Sister mary I should be uery glad to know how my younger brother & my Sister bety are prouided for Sig^r Corigi told me that three days befor his parting from London that my brother wrights me neuer a word of it only he wrights to my husband to procure him the comand of a uenician Shipe I am uery sory we can {^not} Sarue him for the republick as yet make noe prouision for wars by sea & espesially comanded by strangers we are heer much alarumed with the apro{^a}ch of the turks to the walls of uenia which if thay take

{f.221v}

they are uery near the state of the republick & we at uenice that haue Liued so long in quiet Shall be uery much imbroyled with a war so near us

madam I giue your Ladyship a thousand thanks for your great cieuety to those uenecian noble men which is very much to my aduantageat uenice the kindnes showed to noble uenici[ans] by those of my famely

now madam I must tell your Ladyship that I haue in my hands & bisnes of uery great consarn to confer with your Ladyship but of to great consarn to trust to a Lesser unles I war sure that it should be safly deleuered to your hands but perhaps I may perswaid my husband to Let me make a Jorneye to see you very shortly if it be posible to haue the Leau of the inquesitor of the State but if that be not to be had I shall shortly send to Inghland sume trusty person on purpose in the mean time

may all the blesings of heauen & earth atende you I am dear Madam your Ladyships
most obedient daughter

Margarett Alberty

{f.222r}

2d?

as for the bisnes with the king of the 20000 sence your Ladyship has not has the
oportunety to speak with {^him} that I fear it may be hard to haue the mony
although he promises if your Ladyship thinks fete to propose it to S^r Robert Clayton
I think it would be beter & the mony _____ In this I Leauē it to your Ladyship
descresion senc I haue found the sume of mony to comply with my promis to the
master of the bisnes with a garman prince I am now at Liberty to treat for my Self
& what euer I get now is my one Dear Madam I hope now to mak ues of so
considerable a bisnes to the aduantag of my self & famely & senc God almighty has
giuen me so great a blesing perhaps I make a uiset to Inghland in sum few months
time In the mean time I humbly beg of your Ladyship to let me hear from you as
often as you can & when your Ladyships cannot I humble beg of you to order my
sister bety to Let me know of your health which is the only thing desired by madam
your Ladyships most obedent daughter

M Alberty

{f.222v}

the list of the ueneciana fleet

6 galiaqqe

30 galia

40 galioti

4 galia bastardi

7 galys of the Pops

7 galys of Malta

5 of florene

3 of Qont

3 of Corfu

3 of Safalonia

& 30 Ships of war

besides what thay hire euery day all ships & galys that will com into thar sarues

{annotation in later hand - Great Frost / Call of Serjeants}

London the 31^t January :83

Sir

The ffrost Continues with as much violence as ever and of late the Bootheres on the Thames are much encreased for some dayes past they haue begun to erect them below bridge and people passe over frequently from Wappin to Rotherith None of our fforieigne Posts are yet arriued to morrowe we shall be wanting 14 Irish 5 ffrench 5 fflanders and 4 Holland ffrom Plymouth they wrote that on the 24^o instant a fire happened in a Sugar house on the back side of the towne which damnisyed the whole house an others adjoyning but speedy Assistance coming in it was almost to ad__cacjon Extinguisht but with the losse of 300__ deforing the houses &c

{continued down left-hand margin}

as in persona whereas affidauit is made that he is not in Person upon which a rule was made for the sheriffe to shew cause to morrow A micjon was made in behalf of Sir Samuell Barnadiston that whereas an Informatjon is

{folio 225 verso}

Sir : Drake and Sir Colt hauing Spoaken base and foandations words against his Royall H Accjons of scandallum magnatium will bee brought against them both. on monday next the E of Danby will be brought up to the Kings bench by a Rule of Court and I am told will be bayled.

This Morning about 4 of the Clock a fire happened on the bridge of London in a house that is building there but being tymely discovered it did but little harme more than the Spoyling that house

{continued down left-hand margin}

Serjeantes ___ in ffleetstreet where they dyed A mocjon was made against the under Sheriff of Norwich that the Earl of Yarmouth hauing brought an Accjon of foundation Magnatium against one Slebb the said Sheriff had made for Returne to the writt A sape Corpus & languett

{folio 226 recto}

were all purple then followed the Serjeantes one by one hauing nothing on their heades but a Lymien Coife hauing each aferet by his Side who carryed the ___yse belonging to that dignity After them followed about 200 Gentlemen of the long Robe in that order they walked to Westminster to the court of Common Pleas where the Judges of the Kinges bench and the Baronnes of the Exchequer were Sett in Chagres to Receiue them Sir Tho James was first called and conducted from the cost by the two eldest Serjeantes urshered by the warden of the fleete after hauing made 3 Cong___ he ascended to the Barre and

{continued down left-hand margin}

performed Some office of a Serjeant in ffrench then all *the* Judges and *the* old Serjeantes were presented with a ___ with this motto A Deo Rex a Rege Lex *the* rest after Sir C___ Jenner performed *the* Same formality the Ceremony being over they were all back to

{folio 226 verso}

against him and being very Sick desires tyme to plead to it but none was granted but he must pleae by Attorney for till he has pleaded guilty or not guilt they will give no tyme

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 227

[later hand- Blomefeild?- Mr Paston's Reception by the Prince, Princess of Orange]

Hague: March: 12 1687

Madam

Tho I haue not time enough to make yoar *Ladyship* a full Relation of all adventures, yet having as much as will serve to tell your *Ladyship* in short, that wee are all safely arrived at the Hague I could not forbear giving your *Ladyship* this hasty account of matters: The passage was much more agreable then we_ had reason to Expect this season of the year, for wee sett sail Monday night at 8 aclock and arrived Thursday at 9 in the morning at Rotterdam & about 7 at night at the Hague; where after Mr_ Paston had dressed him self in his best, I carry'd him wait on Mr_ Chudleigh the Envoye here, who being my old friend & acquaintance I thought it fittest he should be presented to the prince & princess by his means than by any body else, which he presently did carrying us in his coach to Court. The prince & prin-cess Received him very courtiously, ___ & asked him severall questions about England. The Coart admired his finness there being nothing like him here & star'd upon him with much curiosity. It was very good luck that both were in town for the princess came but three houres befor & the prince the night befor from deering; above a 100 miles from this plase. This morning he was at the prinses levee & waited on Mont. Bentham who did express himself very obligingly to him & assur'd him of his friendly offices. Alderman Backwell is here in Town, & is very kind to him carrying him abroad every where in his coach with to make visits. he has reserved the Compliments of more persons of quality, here at the Hague upon his new Imployment here-which I hope to get expedited befor the Prinse goes to Deerin again which some say will be on Twesday next. he I bad all most forgott to tell yoar *ladyship* that

{f.227v}

The mr_ Paston had not the lest qualm of being sea sick all the time he was at sea there being not any one not any one of the Company that bless'd be God was the least predisposed. all our provisions held out till wee came ashoar tho Mr_ Paston was better provided then all the Company besides by the next post yoar *ladiship* shall {^ have} a fuller account. My next humble service to my lord, to My Lord Paston Lady _etty, not having been forgetfull of any of the healths of the family during our aboa_ on shipboard. I am with all possible Respect

Madam

yoar *ladiship's* most humble
& most obedient
servant

James Fraser

I humbly beg the favour that when your *ladiship* sees *Sir* Richard Deering, that you would be pleased to speak to him about my concerns *with* *Mrs* Nollys for he has undertaken to regulat her affaires & promised to help me to my arrears there. It be pleased to make my excuse to him that I cam away that night for he have me to have stayd till Wednesday. If ~~you~~ he will do me he favoar to writ to me about this business, I will do what I can to comply *with* his desire.

{f.228 verso}

For / The *Right* honorable /The Countess of yarmouth at / London
British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 229 recto

[later hand- July- Aug. 1684]

Madame

Your *Ladyship* is a person of that honour and good nature that I am sure {^you} bere a great sence of my lord *your* sons losse of his Lady: his *Lordship* haueing liued towards her so like a person of greatnes, vertue, and affection that we all of our familie cannot but euer pay to *your* *Ladyship* and to him a perffect dutie and respect; I doe humbly assure *you* Madame I ~~and~~ shall be {^euer} one of those that besides my person^rall obligations for the honours my self hast receiued form *you* vpon the score of my Ladyes obligations: shall to my Lord and to *your* *Ladyship* be alwayes

Madame

{folio 230 recto}

Your *Ladyships* most humble and dutifull seruant

I beceech *your* *Ladyship* to doe me the honour to present my humble seruis to my Lord of yarmouth and to my Lady Elizbet Paston

Mary Killigrew

[Later hand-Blomefeild?- Yarmouth Charter Death of the Countess of Yarmouth]

Yarmouth August 1 -- 84

Madam

I was not without *the* most astonishing grieffe *that* I heard of my Lord Yarmouths returne for London, & *the* fatall cause of it shucke a damp upon every ones Spirit here, & took off much from *that* splendor things would otherwise have appear'd in, The news of my Lords returne onely, stop't *the* Country Gentry from coming in, for tho they Honour my Lord they ow very little respect to the Towne; The sad surprizeing account of my Lady Yarmouths Death we industriously conceald from my Lord Paston, who went to Adscot to meet *the* Coach & Charter & with his owne hands deliver'd it to *the* nominated Major, so much of Solemnity was judg'd necessary, but *that* done, as more agreeable to so lamentable a providence, he withdrew & left *the* Towne, it being thought unfitt *that*, my Ladyes Death being knowne to all. Hee should appear as a partaker of *your* Jollity.

About 400 Horse mett *the* Chamber & attended it to Towne & five Coaches attended my Lords, so *that* things appear'd very well, onely *the* discontented party hung *their* Heads, & who could blame *your* unwillingnes to see so plaine an evidence of their owne downfall, *the* Charter was carryed by *the* Chamberlaine quite round *the* Towne & saluted with about 100 great Guns & with *the* shouts of the Multitude, & being read at *the* publique Hall was ended with redoubled acclamations a gallant Bon=fire was rays'd & *the* Bells rung from *the* time we sett out, till this evening, not ceasing all *the* last night this day *the* whole Body was entertained at *the* new Majors where your Honours & my Lords Health went round in every Roome *with* loud Huzzaes as marks of gratitude for those favours by loud Huzzaes as marks of gratitude for those favours by You bestow'd & *that* pains taken in *the* affairs of *the* Towne, This is *the* short Accompt of *what* has past here on this remarkable occasion, but I doubt peace

{folio 242 verso}

will scarce be *the* end of all, god grant I may be no prophet in *the* case, In relation {^to} my selfe Madam I returne humble thanks for *that* favour you sent me & can passe no other censure upon it, but *that* Law & reason seem so joyn'd in the whole designe *that* none but corrupt & selfe interested persons can oppose it, & Madam as you was pleas'd to intercede with *the* Princesse on my behalfe I must beg your Honours assistance so farre in it *that* I may not be forgotten or rejected at last, but I trespasse too farr I feare *that* grieffe your Honour now labours under cannot beare so encroaching a Boldnes as mine is. God Almighty make up againe this great Breach now made in your noble family it is & ever shall be *the* hearty prayer of Madam

Your Honours most Humble
& most devoted Servant

Luke Melbourne

{f.232 recto}

For *the Right* Honourable *the* Countesse Dowager of Yarmouth at her House in *the*
Pall= Mall near St James's
London

This

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 233 recto

Octo: the 3d 84

My Lord

[later hand- Blomfeild?- Character of the Countess Dowager of Yarmouth at Court]

I had the luck to be upon the place when your mother made both her addresses to Windsor; and if you are ignorant of her reception, know nothing could be more contemptuous, She being held an indiscreet and mischieuous woman: civility, nor manhood will let me recount al that I heard, but only so much as related to your Lordship. to witt, That if you sufferd your self to be governd by her, you would be held, a weak person, and ruine your interest and expectation at Court: if you trusted your estate in her hands. She would begger you: if the breeding of your chidren, She would spoyl their dispo-sitions and undo them: if your health and person, She would destroy you: if your peace and content you would never know a quiet houre. You can best iudge whither these things were sayd ma-liciously, or with reason, I thought it fit that you should know thus {^much}, as a wel willer to your family and

My Lord

Your Lordships
faithfull & humble servant
CP:

{f.234 verso}

To the right Honorable the Earle of Yarmouth at Oxnit neer Norwich
in Norfolke

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 235 recto

Madam

I could not myself haue a fitt opportunity to speak to *the* Duke, butt I haue procur'd *your* fauour from her R H. who has bin graciously pleas'd to tell me *that* it was not from any cause or ground, of disgust towards my Lord *that the* Duke took not any perticular notie of him but meerly from inadvertency, ther beeing att *that* time *when* my Lord was with him, a great Concurse of people; and I doe beleeeue his RH. has a most perticular esteeme of my Lord who merrtis it from all *that* knowes him; madam; I humbly beg *your* pardon *that* I doe not This {^day} waite upon you, I beeing engag'd ___ my waite upon my mistresse, and was Last nght hindred by beeing also engag'd. *with* my true respects I am

Madam *your* Ladyships
most faithfull oblig'd servant
Isabella Waldegraue

jan.2. 84 st. Jeames

Folio 236 recto

For *the* Right Honourable *the* Countesse of Yarmouth

This.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 237 recto

Madam.

The Presse of Otes's Businesse lying wholly upon My Hand, takes up every Moment, of my Time, in some Respect or Other: what *with* Attendances, and Enformations. And this will Certainly hold me for ten dayes. Upon which Periode, I shall force my way, through my other Affayres, to wayte upon *your* service.

All you are pleasd to Honour mee *withall*, of Trust in This matter, is spoken to *the* dead.

It must be a Work of Time, and Study, to make the Acknowledgments that may become a Person under my Obligations, both to _____ My Self, and ffamily And I shall with all Industry, and ____cation, apply my Self to *the* Discharge of That Duty, as may become

Madame
wholly]

[later hand- Otes's business on his hands

Your most ffaithfully Obedient, and Dutyfull *Servant*
Roger L'Estrange

Jan- 30 1684/5

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 238

[later hand- James 2^d proclaimed at Yarmouth]

May it please your Lordship

The joyfull & peaceable proclamacion of our present Sovereign King James the second in & above London rejoyces & satisfyes the minds of all Loyall men here after the great losses our late most gracious Sovereign *which* as we most heartily lament Soe we blesse Almighty God for the happy Succession of our most gracious King the only & vndoubted heir of the Crown of these Realms, whim we have this day (as we judgd it our duty) publicly proclaymd in all the most noted places of this Towne God grant him a long & prosperous reign over vs
We this day in *common* Councill have ordred a congratulatory addresse vpon his Majesty coming to the Crown to be prepared by a *Committee*, intending very early to wait on his Majesty *with* it, In *which* we pray your Lordship (as our high Steward) would honor vs *with* your advice both in reference to the matter, & *the* manner & tyme of presenting it, Wishing your Lordship health & prosperity we Subscribe our Selves

yarmouth ffebruary 9. 1684/5
servants

Your Lordships most humble

Captain Ward & Captain Huntington are both confined home by Sicknesse

Samll ffenn
Tho: Bradford
Mayor
Tho: Gooch:/
Tho Brinsley
Gabiell Ward
John Crow

John New:
Jo: Westerbane

John Burton
Chr_ Dunn

Tho; Medowle
Mitchell Mew,

Abra: Castell
John fferrier
Tho: Woolstone
Willm Harwicke
Richd: Betts
John Bateman
Joseph: Cutting

\1685\

My Lord

When I was with the king yesterday there was a discourse of your Lordship which I will relate faithfully to you the king said, that You were a man Whome he Valued and esteem'd Infynitely: that he never doubted of your true love to him: and that you had done great things for him, in your Country; and that you should Find him ever Kind to you: and severall other things; Which if I should writ all: this paper could not containe it: I being by: did not lett all pass Without conferring What the king

{f.240 verso}

King had said: because I said I was an eye and pure witness of your lordships constant Loyalty and vast Charge you are eternally at to maintaine it: the King spoake very Kindly of my lord Paston:: this news I know will not displease you; and really mylord, this is truth: so god of heaven bless you: I am your Lordships most Faith full humble servant,

M: Knight

Sunday

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 241 recto

from on board *the* Henrietta Yacht in *the* River of *the* Meuse *the* 26. March 5 Aprill
1685

Sir

Since I receivd your first letter of *the* 26th March, I have been in such a continuall hurry *that* I have had little or no time to answer it till now, when I must thank you {^also} for your second letter of *the* first of Aprill, *which* I receivd, just att my coming away, from Capt. Curtise, it is seald with an antique head, having on a helmet whereon is represented an other head, *which* I mention because I would have you recollect whether you seald it with such a kind of seal, for I found it so bunglingly seald, *that* I cannot but suspect it to have been opend & seald up *again* before it was deliverd me, if upon what I tell you, you doe also make *the* same judgement, in such case pray lett me know through what hands it has past before it reachd mine. As to what you write of *Monmouth* I dare answer for it *that* if you can seize & convey him safe to England, it will be a piece of Service *that* you shall be well thankd for; & therefore pray goe about it of you find any hopes or oportunity for it but doe it discreetly without letting any thing of your {f.241 verso}

design appeare to any but such as will be assisting to you in it, & lett it not be known that I have given you any such direction as this, for if it should be discovered that he is sought after, it will make him *the* more cautious & carefull to keep himself conceald & so it will prove much *the* harder for you to take him. pray lett me know from time to time what progresse you make in this matter, & I would be glad to heare for certaine whether *Monmouth* be indeed, or have been so lately as you write, at Leige, for I have some reason to make a little doubt of it. I am now going for England as soon as *the* wind will permitt, where I shall be sure to give His Majesty *that* character of your Loyalty & zeal for His Service *which* you deserve & if in any thing else I may be Serviceable to you, your *comm*ands shall be allways welcome to

Sir

Your assurd friend & humble Servant
T. Chudleigh

You may direct your letter to me att Whitehall & putt it under a cover directed to Edward Carne Esq att *the* Earl of Middleton's Office in Whitehall
London

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 242 recto

Whithall Apr th 1687

Madam this day in my hereing the King was a quainted *that you* doe not designe to
atend him at the coronation which he doth take very Ill, And that *you* do pretend
your selfe Sick and cannot cum , Pray Madam let not *that* be *your* excuse ffor tis
your interest at this time to weight vpon him . and the queene at *that* time
I am Madam *your* humble *Servant*

Muning

{f.242 verso}

ffor the Right honourable the Countice of Yarmouth at her house in St James is
Square

[later hand- Duke of Monmouth's horse &c 28 Augst 1685]

Sir

I Received yours of the 14th Instant and shall most readily doe you and your Bro: any Service; but I cannot possibly be Assisting to you; in detaining the Mony the King has giuen you in my handes; because I seemd bound to pay for the Cloaking of the Regiments; and therefore the Mony that will come into my handes, is to be made use off for the discharging of their Obligations; and the Mony which the King has given to the officers is to be rayed out of the Detention Money; which was to have been imploy'd for paying of the Cloathes: I doubt not but your Collonnells will adjust with you, and pay you what you ought to have; I suppose you have already received the 50_ advanced by me;

the Rendezvous will be in a short time; probably before you can be here, unless you come away forthwith which I would Advise; because there are but few officers with the Regiment; Some Say it will be the Eight some the Tenth of the next Month:

I suppose you have heard of the Kings recommending Mr Connock for Captain of LLOYDS Company the Prince has not as yet signed Commissions for any Officers that {f.244 verso}

Were Recommended by his Majesty; his Reasons he has himself communicated; Soe that; that Matter is between his Majesty and Prince, but if Connock has it not, the Prince has another in his thoughts for it; and tho_ he promised Mr Bernardy a Compa__ yet this he cannot expect; however he need not feare of obtaining one in a short time; and I will promote his Interest; all that I can; but in my Opinion he had much better come over, and be here; where he is more likely to Suc-ceed, then by anything he can doe there;

as for the Duke of Monmouths_Horses; I yet have them but I am this day bid 100_ ____ for Tanckard by the Duke of Lunenbury; who formerly bid the Duke of Monmouth 500: dollers for him; and if my Lord has a mind to him for 600__ he is at his Service; tho_ I believe the Duke will rather give ~~600-dollars~~ more for him then miss of him; he is very much shriven Since I had him, & in very good Order; if my Lord will have him, let me know his resolution speedily before the Duke of ____ send for him; he will be a most admired

{f.245 recto}

Stallion; and besides is every way as good for the Saddle as ever he was; my Lordes Resolucion I desire by the next, that I may in case his Lordshipp will not have him; agree with the Duke:

I have not to add but remaine Sir

Your Most Humble Servantt

B: Skelton

Hague: 28. Augustt 1685

{f.245 verso}

To

Captain J Paston

present
In London

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 246 recto

Jan The 4 1685

Remarks: of what Mrs Langford Tells me: of affairs in Holand

Fergison: In Pacent Wards and all This conuent he tells People: due now Pray: for The marters wife: and hire Children: and Say The Duke of Munmouth: was a Marter for his Religon: and That his Sons are The Rit Ayrs To The Crowne: and That Munmouth Party is uery Great and Many in Amsterdam:

{f.246 verso}

The Prince is a Ridged Presbeterian and hath {^___} uery kind To Munmouth Party, and not The Bishop of London: hath Sent ouer: To be on of The Princes Chaplins: on That was a chapline To my Lord of Esex:
She Tells me now Sir Edward Vielors is Master of The horss To The princess: and he hath 3 Sisters in Holand and Bentygny and These Uilores due gouerne all Things The Prince is dead by Them: and

{f.247 recto}

Mr Shaws Wife who was a Seruant of Ladye Frances Uilors: She doth uphold all Things on the Uilorses Side, with The Lord Rochester and his Wife: Soe all Runs That way and Soe Benting and Rochester is great with on a nother:
The Princes Spirits wain To much Broken by her {^Lady} gouernes: and I Supos all the Uilors: com in To Cary the Asendant ouer here: orionaly: by Seing What Their Mother did:

{f.247 verso}

The Princes and Prince did: Turne away Docter Couell Mrs Langsford: ___ Jon: and Mis Trelany: and a Nother of The Chaplins: lett an howrs Warning: and did not Se Them not Nor hear Them Speak for Them Selfs: and with out giuing Them any Thing. And Mrs Langford Says She cannot Emagone: and Reason ffor it but That: all These 5 persons

{f.248 recto}

2 wear Uiolently Set against The Duke of Munmouth and Spook against his Dancings and all Thos honors; had Tauours The Prince: and Princess did Show him att the Hague:

I due Lament att all These Mistaks in our Royall Family for Thay haue not a good Tast of Their Freinds: are due much discountinace: nor Tak any gard: or warnings are Thay ought of Sheer Enemy Snairs and Traps: but are Taken by Them

{f.248 verso}

Mis Langfords newse
Jan The 4 1685

{f.249 recto}

ogod What Must ___ This be in the End :) ogod preserye Thy Church, and People: and Lett noe deuices of Rome Tak Place: for all This quarell: desensions and

Unquiatnes, are origonaly from Them To Tell The World with discord To Establish
Them Selves Them Selves: and There Religon and To bring in the Queen of Spaine

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 250 recto

London Janury 9th 85

Sir

The Proclamation for prorogreing the Parliament till the 10th of May was Signed yesterday in Councell as was the Breif for *the* poor ffrom Protestants & will pass *the* Seales 30 Comissioners are orderd for *the* manage-ing & distributing the money among whom are Severall Bishops

The Queen hath been Indisposed with a Cold *which* hinders her Comeing to Whitehall

The Venetian Ambassadors have desired the audience of Congee *which* his Majestie will give them publickly with as much Ceremony as is given to Crownd heads

The Heer van Buningham lately Ambassador here from *the* States of Holland hath put himself out of all Employments that belong to *the* City of Amsterdam Save that of the Governour of the East India Company

Mr Skelton- Envoy Extraordinary at *the* Hague hath desired leave to goe for England for a few dayes

{f.250 verso}

In order to *which* a Yaught is ordred from hence to bring him over

The Presecution in ffrance Still Continues many of them Sho with some difficulty make their Escape Most of the Cittyes in Holland have Granted them Great priviledges

the Assembly of the States are takeing in Consideracion their farther Supply From Deale of *the* 7th wee have accountt that there was about 150 Sayle of Ships in the Downs outward bound, & that the night before there was Soe great a Storm of wind that Severall of the Shippes were driven out if the downs & not Since heard of amongst whom was a Dutch East India Ship about 600 Tunns, many others many came to damage but doe not Speak of any Cast away

Our Lettres from Vienna of the 3^d

Just advise that an Express was arrivd there from Cassonia with an account that the turks had received a great defeat near Guita, the Bassa of Great

{written down left-hand margin of page}

~~this day the Proclamacion came forth~~ the Earles in the Comission for the tryall of the Lord Delaware are Shrewsbury Oxford Huntingdon Derby Pembroke Mulgrove Peterbroagh Winchester Sunderland Craven ffeversham Rochester Gainsbrough Plymoth & some of the Lords are Delaware Culpepper Arundell Offtreice Lumly Dartmoth, Godolphin Churchill, his Majestie hasbeen pleased alsoe to give leave for <page damaged> other ___ of *the* Realm to bee p_____ if they _____

{f.251 recto}

Warradine, Tameswere & Guila haveing assembled what forces they could get to Joyn with another army that was prepared by *the* Bassaes of Agria & Hatwan to fall on the Imperialists in their quarters but they haveing timely notice of *the* designe, Generall Mercy & Hensher haveing Joynd Peter Hassy with 3000 Hungarians, they

marched directly towards the turks whom they found drawn up between
Tameswere & Arad, the Imperialists & hungarians with great bravery attacqued the
turks who Stood it for Some time obstr__ but at Length were Routed & re__ to
Arad after whom the Christians followd & Stormd the place which for Some time
was valiantly defended by the turks but the Imperialists put fire to the town in
Severall places entred it by assaull & put all to the Sword in this action 900 were
Killd & 300 made prisoners

Of the Imperialists about 60 Killd & 30 wounded

these Letters add that Generall Caparara hath bought a great Quantity of provision
in Poland & brought it into hungary for the Subsistance of the army
{written down left-hand margin of page}

This day the Proclamacions came forth in Print for Prorogueing the Parliament to
the 10th of May declareing his Majesties pleasure that he Expects not their
attendance on the Said 10th of May, but at that time Intends a farther
proroga^{{^}tion} to a more propper Season of the Year unless Some Extraordny
occassion requires their Sitting whereof Convenient notice will be given by
Proclamacion

Madam

I writ to day to My Lord to giue him an account of My Lord Paston's health, learning and parts, and knowing how dear he is to *your* Ladyship I am confident *your* Ladyship will not take it vnkindly that I Send you a copie of my Lords letter, in which *your* Ladyship will see that he is very well now thank god, &c. you will find also in it two of My Lord Paston's latin verses, and aa latin passage of an Authour called Quintilian, of which verses and passages I shall turn into English aswell as I can att the end of the copie I am going to write here.

My Lord Paston began yesterday morning to go to school and I find him very well now, I made keep his Chamber four days together, because, besides his caught, he complained sometimes of the head-akes, sometimes of a pain in the back, sometimes he seemed to be aguish, so that Mr Newborough and his wife and several others would persuade me that he would certainly haue an ague, but what frightened me more was a pain he was taken with, in his right side on Sunday last at five of the clock in *the* morning he cryed so much that it seemed to be very violent, but hauing felt him and found all his body shaked mightly, I thought there might be as much fear as pain in his case, and the true is, that he hauing heard that a pleuresy was a very dangerous disease and that those that had it were taken with stiches he thought he had a pleuresy, and he was afraid it would kill him, but hauing perswaded him that his stich was caused by nothing else but a litle wind which would be soon dissipated if he could but take a litle rest, he ceased his crying and trembling and litle after fell a sleep, and

{f.252 verso}

when he awoke, he found himself freed of his pain, so that he thinks I am an excellent Doctour, that could soon find the cause of his distemper and the remedy to it.

He hath lost no time for keeping his Chambers four days for he and I haue bin all that time a reading or discoursing of things fit for his instruction. he hath a great fancy for verses I took some out of Ouide and I turned them into prose, but he could turne them so fast an so well into verses again that I was amazed, to encourage him I layd wagers with him that he could not so it in such or such a time and att that sport he got two Shilings of me, of which he is so proud that he challenged me euery minute and boasts of it to euery body and what is more to crown his victory, though he neuer made sense verses before, he tried to make to which I find very tollerable and better than I could haue expected from him and from any body else in his _____ I haue set them here that *your* Lordships May *ju*^dge of it

Lucratus solidos illudam nunc tibi. quaestum qui fecit puers <deleted>ludere
namaque licet

he hath shewn them to his school masters which haue commended him mightly for it, both because he deserues it and because I had spoken to them in priuate, that they might by their praises entertain in him the desire <deleted> being commended, Quintilian loued a child of his temper and inclination, Mihi ille detur

puer, saith he, quem laus excitet, quem gloria junet, qui victus fleat, hic erit alendus ambitu, hunc mordebit objugatis, hunc honor excitabit: In hoc desidiam numquam verbor.

Your Lordships knows that in learning, the beginning if hard, the Midle easy, and the end pleasent, My Lord Paston is past the hard and is come to the easy part, and I may venter to say he {^has} already a taste of the pleasent, Phedrus, Ouide, and martial, are some of the book he learnes and as they are very pleasent and witty authours, so he seem's to take a great delight in them, he begins also to relish book of history and I see he hath an extraordinary good vnderstanding and judgement, for he obserues very well all the most remarquable passages

Your Lordship I hope do not doubt, but I do all that lyes in {f.253 recto}

my power to improue his parts and promote his learning. I not only take care that he may come in time in his chamber to prepare his school business, but I also read all his exercices whether they be a translation of latine into english or of english into Latin, and I see that he may obserue well the rules of his grammar, I make him learne and say to me all his lessons before he goeth to school, that he may be sure to say them well when he comes to his school masters, and _____ I do what I can to render his learning easy, pleasent, and profitable to him, and I take all the possible care that I may not omitt any thing that can conduce to his good and to the great satisfaction your Lordship may very well expect from so hopefull a son as My Lord Paston is. This letter is already too prolix and therefore I shall say no more for the present but only assure your Lordships that I will liue and dye.

your Lordship's &c.

My Lord Pastons verses turned into english
hauing your two shilings got by my victory
they say it is lawfull for me to be merry
If then I laugh at you I hope it is no sin
for I heard often say that they should laugh then win

The passage of Quintilian interpreted.

giue me a boy that can be excited with commendation, and that Loues glory, {^and} who will crye when he hath lost the victory, we ought to flatter his ambition, reprehension will be insufferable to him and honor will excite him: And I am sure he will neuer be Lazy.

your Ladyship may see by my writing that I am a litle in haste I would send this letter to day by the coach and I am afraid I shall not haue done soon enough therefore I hope your Ladyship will excuse that My bad writing and neuer doubt but that I am with a deep respect and euer will be

Madam

Eaton November the 24. 1686 your Ladyship's Most humble, obedient and Dutyfull Seruant

My Lord Paston presents his Duty to your Ladyship
La Croze

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 256 recto

London Nouember the 19 1687

Sir

Postscript to Tusdayes vows (vizt) that the 400000lb is to be raised by an Imposition on _____ Silkes Linnen Brandys Calli__es &c and to take the same tax giuen to his Majestie the last session of Parliament onely continued 5 yeares longer to Comence from the first of July 1690 that the other 300000 be raised by Imposistion on french times at the rate of 4lb _____

Die Mercury

Sir John Guise being called in was permitted by the house to withdraw his petition touching the Election for Gloucester, the house then resolued into a Comittee of the whole house to Consider of heads for a bill to render the Melitia more vsefull & haueing made some progress therein directed that the house might be moue to resolue into a Comittee of the whole house on Saterdag next to proceed farther in this matter which was ordered by the house, A Motion being made that the house doe appoint a day to Consider of his Majesties most Gracious Answer to the address of this house

<deleted> Mr Cook a member Standing up in his place and saying these words wee are Englishmen and wee ought not to be frighted out of our duty by a few high words Mr Cook haueing afterward excused himselfe and being withdrawne ___ Resolued that Mr Cooke for his vnderent and vnduti-full Speech for reflecting on the King and this house be Comitted to the Tower _ adjourned till 9 tomorrow

{f.256 verso}

Ordered by the Lords that the Lieutenants of the Tower doe Carry back Thomas Harte of Stamford to the Said Tower there to remaine in safe Costody . And it is father ordered that the Said Earle duering his Imprisonment Shall haue the vse of Penn Inck and paper and allso the Liberty of friends to come to him in order to his tryall which try all their Lordships haue ordered Shall be in westminster hall on Teusday the first day of December next at 10 in the forenoone

Ordered that the Lords with the white Staues doe attend his Majestie from the house humbly to desire his Majesty in behalfe of the howse that a place may be prepared in westminster Hall whern the house may Sitt for the tryall of the E of Stamford and allsoe humbly to beseech his Majesty to giue order for a Comission for a Lord high Steward for the tryall of the Said Earle of Stamford

This day Sir Dudley North reported from the Comittee appointed to Compute the tax of French ___ that it is the opinion of the Comittee that the Imposition of 4l per ___ will amount to 350000_ p_____ to which the house agreed. Ordered that two Bills be brought in for prohibiting _____ buttons & _____ &c

The house then resolued into a Comitte of the whole house to Consider further of his Majestie Supply Resolued that in the Opinion of the Comittee

{f.257 recto}

That the additionall Imposition of 4_ per annum on French times be giuen his Majesty for 9 yeares and a halfe Comenceing from the first of December 1685 to which the house agreed

Ordered that A Soliciter be desired to prepare a Bill upon the report from the Committee and that a clause of Creditt be Inserted

Ordered that two Comitees the one for ffrench protestants the other for Hackny coaches be receiued and both to Sitt this afternoone

The Commons haueing attended his Majesty with their address his Answer being read to them euery member with his hatt off a generall Lylenie was in the house the Substance <page damaged>

Majestie answer was that he did not depo____ Such A house of Comons & that howeuer they dealt with him he would be just to his word that he had told them in euery one of his Speeches

{f.257 verso}

ffor the Right honourable the Earle of yarmouth

23. Jan. 1687

May it please your Ladiship

I must confesse I haue beene vnder an unhappy melancho-ly for some time from an apprehension, of what seemes to threaten this church and nation assured when ever any publick calamity shall happen I shall haue a double share of it: the phanaticks begin to be uery boistrous and as my last told your honor haue broke out upon mee with many threates and some actions but I haue pluckt up my spirits and beeing conscious to myself of hauing nothing against them but according to those lawes wee weer all sworne to act by I haue sett all they can do at defiance and they are growne cooler and would referre their matters but referring of one may bring an hundred upon mee therefore I am resolved to st__me it out. Their great cry is they will gett mee out of comission and in truth I be-leiue that is all they hope for I writt to my Cosen Henry Hiljard to preuent it but he returns mee answer when he thought to haue effected it my lord Powis found my name amongst the Refusers to giue up the test and that putt it into an impossibility I haue returned to him an honest ac-count of what passed when the questions weer proposed and that I would haue consented to the abolishing of the test and to a sweatning of the pa_all lawes but the question beeing will you assist and contribute your endeauours to the Election of a member in the next parliament that will giue them up: I could answer noe otherise then in the negatiue unlesse I might haue knowne the man for {^should he moue out} I could not trust a phanatick or any that had beene in the late Kings time an Ayder of phanaticks

{f.258 verso}

with my Vote Our hour and your Ladiship can testify from two of my letters that this is noe more then I sayd in them and that in them I sayd they ___ to your ladiship and had I beene convin-ced as much then as I am now of the necessity to my own security it continuing if it might be in the commission I could haue sayd no other wise Onely indeed I might haue more ful-ly explained my self which the maze the words of the question and mannerlinse to the Duke in not beeing tedious prevented I haue desired him to wait upon my lord Yarmouth and Sir Henry Bedingfeild and to state my case fairly to them not doubting but they will assist him and if it can not pre-vent my beeing turned out I am contented tho it seemes very hard upon mee that those who weer my enimes for noe other reason then because with great expense I served the late King should be gratified with my ruine I will not say but disgrace nor can any thing in this world be more uneasy to mee than to be marked with any displeasure from the King whom I hatily love and did actually serue all my days most sig-nally in the case of Smith All that beeing don by care and courage tho Mr Verdon gott the thanks and all the money nay whom I euer will honor and obey with all reasinesse of hart and mind what euer shall be fall mee I can not but bee Loyall truly and hartily soe. Madam I bespeake your pardon that I trouble your ladiship with these storyes but I will ne-ver conceale any thing from your ladiship because I think in my conscience you ___ mee and will what you can promote my god and therefore bear with my _____. And now Madam I protest nothing hath so comforted mee these twenty odd days as

the receipt of this your Ladships letter of Jan. 19. Because it is yours it is well come next to my _____ there is none in world that I honor equall with you but it is the welcome because you will receiue my son into your family One of the greatest ambitions I haue in

{f.259r}

this world for could I place all my children to be hewers of wood or drawers of water in the mearest offices at Oxnead I would bee proud as long as I live and goe to my graue with satisfaction and joy in good faith this is the desire of my hart that I and all mine in all our capacityes may serue you And madam tho I am his most affectionate father yet without any flattery to my selfe or him Hee is a most hopefull solid serious graue and humble young man indeed something too graue for his yeares and most incomparably sober I haue maytayned him these four yeares like a gentleman at Cambridge and there he hath liued soe and never run mee out One farthing but impro-ved by time and studyes I doubt not but to obtayne a fa-culty to gett him Deacons orders tho under yeares, and he may whilst he hath hope full branch of noble Oxnead in his care read prayers in your Ladships of which I should be over joyed or my <deleted> lords family which I shall be much plea-sed with- And without <deleted> disparagement he reades most grave-ly and solemnly . But all this at your Ladships leasure andd oppor-tunity and without any prejudice to any other in the world Hee shall stay your honors owne time Hee comes home about a month hence and shall be at Cawston till your honor tends for him I ask nothing but meate and drink and will most willingly find him all other things what euer <seven lines of the letter deleted> it is uery acceptable newes to mee what you wish of Deare Captayne Thomas and the ioy you all take in his litle

{f.259 verso}

One god grant his next a Boy, and to be like his grandfa-ther in sweatnesse of temper, in greatnesse of mind; and in piety of hart and may your honor liue to see your & his childrens children flourish in all vertues and pros-perityes all your dayes and for their good and your Ladships comfort god ____ your endeauours and make them successfull These are my dayly prayers and the prayers of all that belong to mee

I was the other day with my lady Bedingfeild she talkt uery pationately and affectionately of you, and so doth my lady Potts really Madam every body loves and ad-mires you and none more none can more none shall more then

Your Honors

most highly obliged and hartily devoted servant & chaplayne

Jo Hiljard

All myne and in my house make your honor a return of service

God perfect the Kings intentions of securing our religion in the free practice of it Wee will deny him nothing not our estates no not our all- Test Lawes and what heele ask us is at his seruice

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 260 recto

Madam

I receaued your Ladyships most obliging one and Cannot but think it welll for your Ladyship to Come, and shew to Come, and shew your self at Winsor to her Majesty i was and am as glad as your Ladyship that Her Majesty was pleas'd to receauue you so Graciously and with so much Kindnesse and for the same reasons ad you are pleas'd to alleadge, tis equally pleasing to all those who are their Majestys true and faithfull servants, to see persons of the same principles kindly receaued by them amongst which sort of people i put your Ladyship in the first rank, i shall in the mean endeauour, your Service to my vtmost and with good opportunity shew her Majesty the Loyal enclos'd speech beeing ambitious to shew myself most gratefully

Madam

Your Ladyships
most faithfull oblig'd Servant
Isabella Waldegraue

Windsor Sept. 1 88.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 261 recto

Memorandum

November the 5^o 1688

My Son Yarmouth Told me at Tolows That The wynn he did desire might be carryed on ___ That in 9 month time he hoped The worke would be Finished: and That Then if was Trouable Thy might be worthy ^{^of} To his Children 20000: Lds: he ded Desire som man might ouer Looke the man that was now in

{f.261v}

Memorandum My Son Yarmouths desired me To Take Care is his Printing Patent for it would be of Considerable ualue and he desired me To Speak To his unckell Mountaigne The Lait Lord Cheefe Baron and heare from him what was Done in a Former Tryall : My Son

{f.262r}

he Furder Sayd he would Leau a Letter with me for The King: if he should not Liue to Returne To giue The king: To mind him of his promises for his Children and Family

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 263 recto

May the 11: 1689

My Lord

To the Earl of Yarmouth

I had no newes from Scotland yesterday, Mr Brand sent me word if ther wer aney thing don Extraordinary in the C_____ att aney time I should be shure to know it, the Convention _ is Adjurned to the 21 of this *Instant* but Gentlemen that had Letters from thence say if my Lord Dundies Party ar all disposed and some say he is taken, the Duke of Gordon keeps the Castle still, this day about 4 a Cloak in the Afternoon, the King and Queen, in the Banqueting house, ___ from the Comrs sent from Scotland the offers of the Crown of that Kingdom, wher ther Majesties <deleted> took the oaths, that are to be att that Coronatation, till ther Majesties Convenienc will serve them to go and Receive the Crown, ther is ane Expresse Com this noght from Ireland, and sent to Hampton Court, to the King, I Can not hear aney thing of it as yett, if I Can _____ against next post your Lordship shall know ___ is Concluded that Londonderry holds out) Some Gentelmen that had Letters from Scotland yester-day Confirms it that they had killed a great many befor it and that the duke of Berwick had two Horses killd under him, ther is a declaration of warr against france Com out this day your Lordship shall haue it down with the Acts on munday

Your Lordships obedient & dutyfull servant
Robert Brand

[later annotation- Blomefeild
Crown of Scotland offered to Wm, Mary, &c War with France

Madam

I have received a letter from Dr Hillyard in which he tells me hath took a Chamber for me at Trinity Colege in Cambrige & that he hath my fathers consent for my going next Christmass it is a joyfull piece of news for me & I have writ to the Dr to thank him for it. now two thing remains for me to do, the one is so to apply myself to my studies to be so diligent in my learning that I may be duly fitted for the university & the other is ti behave myself so dutyfully towards my masters & so civilly with every body else that I may leave a good name behind me when I go away, for I am very sensible the world will judge by my behaviour in my young yeares {^_____} be when I am a man, so that if there where extrordinary exceptions against my temper & carriage at school that ill character of me would be sufficient to ruine the good fortune I promise to my self either by the marriage your Ladyship manages for me or by any thing else for I know my birth & quality will be but a vain thing unless it be adorned with virtue & piety. I confess I have not so seriously reflected upon this as I ought to have done, but I am fully resolved to make a very good use of the rest of *the* time I am to stay here

{f.265r}

and so to reconcile myself both with God & man that I may carry away with me the blessings of heaven and the good wishes of all sober people & in so doing deserve your Ladyshipd love, *the* continuation of which I humbly beg for him who will live & dye

Madam

Your Ladyship's Most humble obedient and Dutyfull Grandson Paston

July *the* 22: 89

Mr LaCroze presents his most humble Duty to your Ladyship

[later annotation- Blomefeild?

1689

Lord Paston's letter to his Grandmother Rebecca Countess Dowager of {Yarmouth}
~~Lady Catherine Paston widow of Sir Wm Paston bart~~ on his going to Cambridge -
behaviour &c

{f. 265 verso}

Lord Pastons letter

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 266 recto

Right Honourable

I had *the* bill for fifteen pounds what is accepted & when paid shall giue your
house accompt

The King Lyes this night at windsor : *the* Prince George of Denmark is come to
town: an Army is in a miserable Pl_____ Condition noe prouitions to be had as long
as *the* winde is westwardly: The seig is raised & now blockate : we feare *the* enemy
will fall on *the* Army: I dare not say more: Pardon I besech your ____

September 9_ 90

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 267 recto

London may the 30: 1691

Madam

These are to Lett your Ladyship know, I haue been in the Downs with my Brother in the ffleete Since munday Last which is the Reason I haue not wrot to your Ladyshipe all this time, that I Received the money from mrs Cooper I haue payd mr Rawlins, I haue not payd Phillipe as yett but I haue sent him word I haue his money for hime, assoone as I do I shall take up his board and send it to Robine Storkdale, madam ther Lyes in the D_____ of our ffleet 56 Capitall shipes, viz: 5 first Rates 11 second, 32 third & forth Rates, 31 fier shipes, ther is of the Dutch 35: besaids fier shipes ther is 10 mor of the Dutch Exportd Dayly, all waiting for afaire wind to saile to the Westward, wee hear nothing of the ffrench fleet beong out yett, but ther is nine Great Ships Com from Thoulouse to joyn our ffleet at Brest, and ther is 14 of our shipes to be Leaft to block up dunkirk, ther is but Little newes from Scotland at present, I am Informed by my Lord Melluils secretary that the Marques of Atholl the Earle of Braestlban the Lord Tarbett hath undertaken to bring in all the Highland Clanes for which they ar to haue 12000 for ther Charges nothing hear Els at present of Consequence, which is all with my most humble duty and thanks to your Ladyshipe and Remaine

Your Ladyships most humble and obedient Seruant
Robert Brand

[later annotation- Blomefeild?]
Account of our Fleet in the Downes likewise of the Dutch Fleet

{f.268r}
These ffor the Right Honourable the Countese Dowager of Yarmouth at Cawston
near norwich
Norfolk

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 269 recto

London: May. 5 1692

My Lord

Yesterday severall warrants were issued forth for the apprehension of severall persons, suspected of disaffection to the government; My Lord Leich-child, Lord Scandale, & others went out of the way & could not be found. The Earles of Huntington and Malborrow, are in custody of Serjeants at Arms at their Severall Lodgings. Mr Hastings that was last year in the Towr is now taken up again & one Mr Ridley. Mr Ferguson is also taken & in a messengers hands. This day there came an Easiness from Sir Ralph delavall to the admiralty giving an account of his being within 5 miles of the French coast, near St Malo's & had mett or seen no one French man of warr but some fisher boats, that told him of severall transport ships that were on the coast of Normandy; those he had sent out severall scout-ships to discover the motion of the French fleet, & doubted not to give a good {^answer} of the business he was sent upon

{f.270 verso}

For The Right honorable The Earle of yarmouth at oxnead near norwich

[later annotation- Blomefeild?

Nobles & others suspected of disaffection then into custody- the french threatning to invade us.

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 271 recto

[Later annotation- Blomefeild]
Public News

July *the* 11th 1693

Deare Madam

I gaue your Ladyshipe an account in my last of the receipt of Mr Dawsons and Lords agreement & Bond touching *the* concern of the Woodfarme which I shall be carefull of & follow *your* Ladyships dirrections the news here is of *the* peace to be declard betwixt Savoyarde and France the middle of this month we haue no account of the Streights fleet the winds haue been contrary which is *the* true reason; the merchants are in great ____ here; from Holland they giue an account the fleet is at Lisbone uo on advice of Merchants in London & we in our gazett give the same by advice from Merchants in Amsterdam ____ Queen Mary is removed to Kensington for six weeks & Lord Sydney is come ____ from Irland and the Lord ____ are gone yesterday there was a report that we ____ lost 20 ships coming home richly Laden from Hamborough there is little news from flanders or the Rine ____ we lost severall

{f.271 verso}

in a dispute about a great convoy Anselm the secretary to the sea admiralty had a hearing in Counsell and s____ is in Custody of a messenger Our fleet will go out to sea again in safer days many sea men *that* were sett sick ashore haue absconded themselves I haue no more to add but that I am

Your dutifull and Affectionate son
Yarmouth

My Wife and I and my children present our duty to your Ladyshipe

{f.272 verso}

These For the Right honorable The Conutesse Dowager of Yarmouth at Causton nere Norwich in Norfolk

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 273 recto

[Later hand- Blomefeild
Account of the Armies &c on the Continent]

London *the* 16th November 1693

Sir

The Lord of *the* privy Councell that mett att Edingbury & have ordered some persons to bee released whoe had _____ in prison for noe takeing *the* oathes they giving severity to live peceably vnder *the* Governors & to pay one yeares Revenue ofe their Estates , but *the* _____ of *the* Lords Mackerton <deleted> Osbiston Gradon & others whoe <deleted> were in prison on *the* _____ account were refused v_____ they could ___ply as the Art of parliament directs, They add that *the* Lord Viscount Kilseath is removed from *the* Castell to *the* Talboath, A Generall thanksgiving for *the* preservation of his *Majesties* person & his happy returne is to bee held att Edingburg on *the* 16th & throughout *the* Kingdome on *the* 23^d

Letters from paris of *the* 12th & 16th advise from piedmont is that Marshall Catin at hath asked nothing since *the* laste Battle, & *that the* season of *the* yeare hath beene soe violent all *the* Hills being covered with Snow already *that the* thoughts of beseiging Cong is given over, the heavy Cannon being sent back to pegnerole, & hath sent out severall Detachments to bring in what
{written down left-hand margin}

men of warr are ordered Convoy for the Straights ffleete whoe have received orders to bee gone Imediately
{f.273 verso}

fforage they cann & hee is makeing what Magazines hee came to keepe his Armye this Winter, & ly where hee do___ & in Montferrut to hinder *the* Germans from Quartering there those of Genoa aswell as the other privies of Italy have refused to admitt of *the* passage of any ffrench Troopes through their Territories to keepe Strictly to their newtrallity though M_____ Chanlais endeavoured all hee could to prevaile with them

Letters from Rome say that *the* prisone of Lichstenteen has presented *the* pope with a Letter from his Imperiall *Majestie* wherein hee sayes hee is not averst to a Generall peace on good & reasonable tearmes & desires to heare *the* propositions Letters from Hailbron say *that the* ffrench are laying upp greate Magazines in all *the* Walled Townes in *the* pallatinate & putting into them very strong Garrisons A proclamacion is publyshed in all *the* Spanish Netherlands requireing all *the* COUNTRY people to bring into Brussells Lovaine & other towns all their Corne exept

{continued down left-hand margin}

Adresse bee made his *Majestie* that hee will please to Comand all *the* _____ & Informations that have beene taken before *the* Committee of Councell relateing to the miscarriage of *the* _____ Turkey ffleete said before the House
{f.274r}

soe much as will serve ffamilies for a month their names are to bee Registered in *the* place where they bring in their Corne & they are to bee supplied from those

places from time to time tis said this proclamacion is occasioned by the scarcity that is among *the* ffrench & soe they shall not either supply them, or have any quantity taken away ___ from them by the ffrench for at Courtray Corne is sold att 36 Guilders a sack

Leave was Given for severall Bills to bee brought in *the* house of Commons on twesday which when read I shall give you an Account of ---- Yesterday *the* order of *the* Day was read about *the* Enquireing into *the* miscarriages of our ffleete last Summer And *the* Coppinges of Orders Instruccion & Direccions were read & alsoe a Letter from Sir George Rooke In *which* hee acquainted *the* Speaker *that* hee was soe ill hee could not attend *the* house, The

{written down left-hand margin}

Members of *the* turkey Company were there alsoe And gave in Coppinges of petitions & applicacions about sending of *the* ffleete away all *with* being read before *the* house they Ordered that they should attend on ffryday next And Resolved *that* an Humble

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 275 recto

London _____ 12th 1694

Sir

[Later annotation- Blomefeild?

An Account of the Battle between the French & Spaniards in Catalonia translated from the French Gazette.]

According to my promise ___ our part-ing I here send *your* ___ perticulars of *the* Battle Beetweene *the* ffrench & *the* Spaniards In Catalonia. Tis taken out of *the* Parris Gazzett *which* Came this daye. Pray Comuni-Cate It to his Lordshipp with my Humble Duty, wishing his Lordshipp good health.

The Matter of ffact is _____ though *the* English not very Exact, for *which* I begg his Lordshipp's Excuses, It being taken In hast, & my Translation not very good _____ *the* ffrench Tongue.

On *the* 27th ----- *the* Army passed *the* flurid on A Bridge, *the* Van Guard arriued of Nine att Berg_s on *the* River Ter. The Enemies were for Order of Battle on *the* other Side behind the Retrenchments *which* they had made to *the* Num-ber of about 18000 Men. by reason of A Reinforcment of 4000. from Cartogene. The Troops put themselues In Order of Battle as Soone as they arriued, & both sies began to Skirmish on *the* other Side *the* River Ter. The M-- D-- _____ Caused all his Artillery to advance, *which* had marched all night, and finding It to be Superior to that of *the* Enemyes Obliged them to retreat _____ Loss & to putt themselues under Cover of their Intrench-ments, & behind *the* Hills. Wee passed *the* Day In this Manner In *the* End to A_____ the Enemies In this place & to Conceale from them *the* March *which* ___ M-- D-- Noailes had designed, *the* Next Night he Marched from Berges Towards Toroesto Demongri those Troopes *which* he designed for *the* Van Guard, & were followed by *the* rest of *the* Army
{f.275 verso}

Artillery & Baggage, the River was Six score ffathom broad, *the* Bottom was but a _____ Sand, they were vp to their Saddles In Water about breake of Day *the* Troops *which* were designed to Charge first Defyled along the Walls of Toroello, & *the* Cannon were plac't In Battery betweene *the* Ruines of A Bridge from whence they began to ffire vpon the Enemyes, who haueing Disscouerd *the* March of our Army, began to make A Terrible ffire vpon them, *the* ffight began about four In *the* morning. The Carbineers haueing at their head *the* Seior D Chazeron Lt Generall they Cast themselues Into *the* River Sword In hand, & were followed by *the* Granadeer's *with* their Baggonetts in their Muskitts, & by *the* Dragoones of *the* Queens Regiment of England _____ by *the* Seior St Silverster White these Troopes were In *the* Rear, Some Spanosh Squadrons of Horse Come to diss-charge vpon *the* Carbineers, but at Length retired to their Intrenchments, but the Carbineers followed *them* soe Close, they Entred In *with* them, & droue *them* from *them* The Troops *which* Continued to pass put them-selues in Order of Battle according to *the* Dissposition of *the* ground. Wee made then seuerall Charges on *the* Enemyes Horse, *which* made Much Resistance, to *the* End to giue time to their ffoot to retire, but It was at Length broak & Interely Defeated, Wee pursued them

four ffrench Leagues, & tho they Indeauored four or fiue times to Rally *the* M- D-
Noailes Stoapt *the* Pursuit when the was arriued In A Deffyle where they. Could
march but two & two. The Enemy haue had 5000. Men Killed & wounded, and
3000. Prissoners, & 16. Cullers, *the* Horse haue-ing noe Standards at all, their
Artillery of *which* wee haue yett found only ~~their~~ Carridges. Wee took *the*
Amunition and

{f.276 recto}

Provisions, and more then 1000 Horse & Mules, all their Baggage althoe those of
Duke of De Escolona Vice Roy of Catalonia, with his Papers, *the* Principall
Prissoners is *the* Marq De Grigne Generall of the Horse, the *Commissary* Generall of
the German Troopes, & seuerall Masters of Camp and other Officers, there was not
aboue 200. of *the* Troopes of *the* King Killed & wounded, among *which* are Divers
Officers of Note. The Army at *the* returne from the pursuit Came to *the* Camp In
the feild of Battle, where *the* M- D- Noailes was willing they should refresh
themselues In great Numbers report *the* Loss of *the* Enemy's to be greater then
wee beleaued, and that *the* Duke De. Escolona their Generall will haue a great
Deale of Trouble to reassemble 6000 men
The Army Designes to march to Palamas.

ffor other News I referr I *you* to Howeth Pray Let me haue A Line from you, *which*
will much Oblige

your Louing friend & Servant
T. H.

{f.276 verso}

ffor Mr Watts att the *Right Honourable* *the* Earle of Yarmouths att Oxnead near
Norwich
In Norffolke

June *the* 14th 94

My Lord.

I have the honour of *your* Lordships of the 10:th and have order to returne you many acknowledgements in the behalfe of our friends, for *your* great goodness towards them, other returns at present, thay _____ more be-sides hearts good wisshes, and large _____ to your good health. I am sory I cannot give *your* Lordship a better account of *your* inclosed Tickett, but I hope my ladies fortune will be much better, when it will be better worth her acceptance.

I am equally sensible and concernd *with your* Lordship for Our publick missed _____ which are become by so much the more p_____ to us, by how much thay have succeeded One another for Last that Our Enemies haue scarce had the time to cool their cannon, between the dreadfull roaring of Victories in Our Ears. the losse of the Spaniards is computed at little less than 10000: men at land *which* amounts to a totall defeat besides it of their best men of war at sea, and so usuall Spanish and same English merchants, the ta-king in of palamor succeeded this Victory, and scins that we heare that his fast confederate the D. of Savoy hath lost ten entire Regiments

{f.277v}

and, tis said, hath sent to the Pope to desire his mediation, but this searue to want confirmation

The _r of Radon hath sent into fflanders for supplies but tis feared none can be spared, on the Contrary we are in dreadfull apprehensions what will be the issue of our affairs there, and strange things are already said of us *which* I dare not report. But to add to all our misfortunes, our much boasted, long intended , and lately executed Discent, upon which, next under heauen, we had fixed our seuerest hopes is returned to us in soe miserable a condition, that with our hopes and Our men, we seem to haue lost our hearts and our honour {^too} for now those who most applauded the designs , begin to condemne it as a most rash and foolish enterprise. I shall not ven-*ture* to giue *your* Lordship any other account of it than what is in this following abstract of a letter upon that subject to the Lords of the Admiralty. Our Generall Landed three times, and was as often repulst, the first time he lost 600: men. the 2.d 400: and at the third, which was upon an attack of Comonett

{f.278r }

we had 1800: men cutt to peices, be sides some Generall officers, and aboue 400: from the shipps with a Dutch man of warr of 70 gunns, one fire ship, 6. well boats 12 Sloops, 4 Bomb vessells, and 6. English men of war almost shaterd to peices, The fr: having 400: peices of Cannon planted between the rocks and Cliffs *which* much endamaged our Shipping - Since this we are told that our losse amounts to at least 400 men, Talmoth, Cutt and Danby are wounded, to M_____ the fr: Engenour who was an undertaking man among us hath left his Carcase on his native soil, Richards tis said, saued his life by swim-ming, after the vessell has sunk under him, Heauen grant us such News as may be for the consola-tion of all honest men. I still hope we wait on *your* Lordship this next month, in the mean time I beg leave to subscribe my selfe

My lord
your Lordships
most obedient and most faithfull *humble* seruant

I haue heard nothing from *mr* Raulins

{f.278 verso}

[later annotation- Blomefeild?]

27 May 1694

The Spaniards defeated in Catalonia by the French under the Marquis of Novailles
who on the 8th of June took Palamos by storm

8 June

English under General Talmash landed near Be__ were defeated, Talmash died of
his wounds

British Library Additional MS 36988
Folio 279 recto

London Aprill the 13th 1695

An other Convoy for Cales is getting ready ___ all Expedition
The ___ is not yet deliverd tho' her Recknong _____ 3 weeks agoe
The mobb had Certainly Comitted Provost Tooley in to the flames as they did his 2
fine Rich Damask Beds and the Majestyes Pictures as also the Cole yard provosts
Signs being K_ _____ had he not Escaped a back way
Thursday night the Rabble finished the destruction of Tynsbury prison not with
standing the Horse & stool Guards were posted in diverse planes to prevent them
The same day at night an Extraordinary Counsell was Assembled at Kensing ton
where the Lord Mayor and sheriff attended and Resed order to Raise parte of the
Milicia which is accordingly done & he hoped this will alay the ffury of the Rabble
who _____ the Refugees
mr Crosbee has notice given him to provide for his _____ __ Tuesday next
The Comons have Resolvd to R_____ 60000_ ff_____ vpon some funds for 7 years to
bear the Charge {^Loss} of the new Coynage of this Kingdome but he belivd this
will project will find too Much difficulty to passe in to an Act
{f.279v}
yesterday Dover the Printer stood in the Pyllary for Printing the Cheve Chase
Ballad without Receiving the least affront from the Rabble
Seaven dutch men of warr are Come to _____ to take in _____ provision but
are Return'd again to their station before the matr
Dalie Excecution of the Criminalls was yesterday put off to ask the Mobb take that
opportunity to Reassemble
Our Printed Paper is handed about among the Parliament men Representing the
Eccessive Griveances of the Seamen Sinne the Revolution praying Reliefe
yesterday {^Comons} the Rejected {deleted/illegible} _____ the
_____ & Glass Pill & direct vp _____
The same day, the Peers Read _____ have C Comitted the Bill by Mr Thomas Cook
The danish Envoy after Condoleing the _____ death of the Q and her Audience of
Congee
Two small ffrenche Privateers vnder Danish Colony Coming up the River to
wollwich with some designe are taken
The K went yesterday to Richmond & Returned this day
Thre Regiments Quartered in the Country are _____ this Town

Octob_ the 14th 96

May it pleas your Honour / This I hope is nothing but what your Ladyshipp hath foreseen, Madam I haue Thought with in these few dayes Somewhat Extraordinary, but I Thought my Ceulitys to your Ladyshipp would not have been questioned, Mdm I desire one faver from your Ladyshipp that is to know whoe was my enemy & whi betrayd us for Cursed are the, I hope your Ladyshipwill bee pleased to honour me with A line from your hand for without it I Cannot long Subsist, for though I am banished from your Sight yet your Remembrance Cannot bee Excluded from my affection from you, Madam my Constancy is Such that nether time nor absence nor what ever Affliction fortune can throw upon mee Shall make it alterable, deer Madam I Humbly beg that yiu will be pleased {^to} write {deleted} lines and give it to the barer here of & I Shall bee as _____

of it as If I had it ____ for your Ladyshipp needs not fear Any thing for I will put my life in his hands I am Shure hee will never betray mee doe but give it to him & hee will send it to mee for hee knows when till which time I am Constrained to rest with wiping eyes & little rest Soe takeing my leave I kiss your your Ladyshipps hand & Remaine your ever faithfull Lover if you Soe bee

till in the grave our friends our bodis See

Tho: Darlington

Madam my Lord prove very unkind to mee but I hope your Ladyshipp wont

[later hand]

2? who is Tho Darlington. a crazy man?

f.280 verso

To whence to whom

I dare not tell

The Barer knowes

both partis well

These I humble sent

dd

British Library Additional MS 36988
folio 283 recto

London, the 19. of March. 1697/8.

Your Lordships,

My Humble Servises before:

I come as a Honest Stranger to your Lordships; by the will of God Almighty: For your owen Best, to the Honour of God, etc.

If it please your Lordships, to Hearken mee, I Shall with you speak some few and very true Words, privatly of a great Matter: first, as a true Christian, and Secondly as a true - Experienced, etc.

your Lordships

Most Humble and

most obedient Servant.

C.C. Am. Theos. & Meddr.

{{ff.283 v & 284 r}}

Folio 284 verso

This For The Right Honourable Lord Yarmouthe, etc.

British Library Additional MS 36988
folio 285 recto

Memoriale

Yur Lordships:

I Acquaint your Lordship that God Almighty hath given me the true & Perfect Knowledge of the greatest Secreces in the Nature, and what is true or not in Chymistry, etc.

I have understud ones by occasion, that your Lordships are a great Lover of the Nature, especially in Chymistry, etc.

But I beleeve and fera your Lordship is perswade and mislead of an or the other Ignorant, etc. Because the Particulares are not the right Way, to the true Know/ladge of the Nature and their Mysterys: But a fantasy of the Pseudo chymists, etc.

NB. Then all Particulars are false without any profite, etc. And a Person that is upon the unright Way the Will losse and spend the Noble-time, Labour, char/ges besid the great Troubles, etc. for nothing, etc. NB. It is no more as one by one true way in the Nature: by {deleted} which

{f.285 verso}

[left hand-margin- NB. That art is Very true, but very sel,,dom the artist's.]

is to make profite, etc. And the same way is called Tinctura Physicorum, Lapis - Sophorum, Elixire, Oleum incombusti,,bely, etc. And this is that great Wonder and Powerfull - Secrete, etc. Which God Almighty Keep in His Owen absolute - Power, etc. And He Will it not give over in any mens owen Power, NB. And it is the onely and greatest Matter nex unto God Almighty, in the Nature. Adn that Matter stand in 3. Eternale - Principles: As 1. in ☿ Mercury, 2. in Sulphu,,re Δ , 3. in Sale-Sophorum ∇ . And this 3. thinges, must be Preparatout of one Perfect- Subjectum, etc. And after the Purification, {^ the 3.} must be Joyned together in one thing or Matter againe which is the onely universal= Physick or medicine, 1. to cure all Distempers by the Blessing of God Almighty, etc. And this medicine is White or Redd. 2. to Mutate all Metalls, the their not are \mathcal{D} . and \odot , in \mathcal{D} & \odot , etc. NB. 1. Part upon, 1000. parts, etc. NB. A true Lover

{f.286 recto}

of the Nature, may Reade the Tabula,, Shmaragdina Hermetis Tris-Megisti, And Comes Bernhardy Tervisanus. 4 th. Book, etc.

Your Lordships I Desire, that you must mee Keep secret in this great matter, of which I have spoken whit your Lordship now, etc. Because I will not beknownen in

the same Matter. Then I am onely Knowen of some people in Physicke. NB. my owen Famillie Knows nothing of this, of what I have acquainted {^your Lord-ship,} with it, etc. As onely. that I Prepare my own Medicine.

NB. And not anie Bodie, or men Knowes it, that I your Lordships have ac- quainted {^with} my true and Perfect Knowladge and gift of God Allmighty, in the Nature: And I Love Silentium, etc.

Your Lordships

Most Humble and most obedient - Servant.

C.C Am. Theos.

& Meddr.

{later hand, Blomefield?}

1698 9.

This curious letter shows how men of Fortune __ in the last Century were the Dayes of madmen, Knaves & Fools pretending to Art in Chemistry!