

to dance a minuet as well as you do. You now dance it mechanically, and well, without thinking of it.

I am surprised that you found but one letter from *mé* at Manheim; for you ought to have found four or five; there are as many lying for you at your banker's at Berlin, which I wish you had, because I always endeavoured to put something into them, which, I hope, may be of use to you.

When we meet at Spa, next July, we must have a great many serious conversations; in which I will pour out all my experience of the world, and which, I hope, you will trust to, more than to your own young notions of men and things. You will, in time, discover most of them to have been erroneous; and, if you follow them long, you will perceive your error too late; but, if you will be led by a guide, who, you are sure, does not mean to mislead you, you will unite two things, seldom united in the same person; the vivacity and spirit of youth, with the caution and experience of age.

-Last Saturday, Sir Thomas Robinson who had been the King's Minister at Vienna, was declared Secretary of State for the southern department, Lord Holdérness having taken the northern. Sir Thomas accepted it unwillingly, and, as I hear, with a promise that he shall not keep it long. Both his health and spirits are bad, two very disqualifying circum-

* Created Lord Grantham in the year 1761, and since Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of Spain.

stances for that employment; yours, I hope, will enable you, some time or other, to go through with it. In all events, aim at it; and, if you fail or fall, let it at least be said of you, *Magnis tamen excidit ausis*. Adieu!

L E T T E R CCCXIII.

London, April the 5th, 1754.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED, yesterday, your letter of the 20th March, from Manheim, with the enclosed for Mr. Eliot; it was a very proper one, and I have forwarded it to him by Mr. Harte, who sets out for Cornwall to-morrow morning.

I am very glad that you use yourself to translations; and I do not care of what, provided you study the correctness and elegance of your style. The Life of Sextus Quintus is the best book, of the innumerable books written by Gregorio Leti, whom the Italians, very justly, call *Leti cata libri*. But I would rather that you chose some pieces of oratory for your translations, whether antient or modern, Latin or French; which would give you a more oratorical train of thoughts, and turn of expression. In your letter to me, you make use of two words, which, though true and correct English, are, however,

ever, from long disuse, become inelegant, and seem now to be stiff, formal, and in some degree scriptural: the first is the word *namely*, which you introduce thus, *You inform me of a very agreeable piece of news, namely, that my election is secured.* Instead of *namely*, I would always use, *which is*, or *that is*, that my election is secured. The other word is, *Mine own inclinations*: this is certainly correct, before a subsequent word that begins with a vowel; but it is too correct, and is now disused as too formal, notwithstanding the *hiatus* occasioned by *my own*. Every language has its peculiarities; they are established by usage, and, whether right or wrong, they must be complied with. I could instance many very absurd ones in different languages; but so authorised by the *jus et norma loquendi*, that they must be submitted to. *Namely*, and *to wit*, are very good words in themselves, and contribute to clearness, more than the relatives which we now substitute in their room; but, however, they cannot be used, except in a sermon, or some very grave and formal compositions. It is with language as with manners; they are both established by the usage of people of fashion; it must be imitated, it must be complied with. Singularity is only pardonable in old age and retirement; I may now be as singular as I please, but you may not. We will, when we meet, discuss these and many other points, provided you will give me attention and credit; without both which it is to no purpose to advise either you or any body else.

I want to know your determination, where you intend to (if I may use that expression) *while* away your time, till the last week in June, when we are to meet at Spa; I continue rather in the opinion which I mentioned to you formerly, in favour of the Hague; but however I have not the least objection to Dresden, or to any other place that you may like better.* If you prefer the Dutch scheme, you take Treves and Coblentz in your way, as also Duffeldorp: all which places I think you have not yet seen.* At Mannheim you may certainly get good letters of recommendation to the Courts of the two Electors of Treves and Cologne, whom you are yet unacquainted with; and I should wish you to know them all. For, as I have often told you, *olim hæc meminisse juvabit*. There is an utility in having seen what other people have seen; and there is a justifiable pride in having seen what others have not seen. In the former case, you are equal to others; in the latter, superior. As your stay abroad will not now be very long, pray, while it lasts, see every thing and every body you can; and see them well, with care and attention. It is not to be conceived of what advantage it is to any body to have seen more things, people, and countries, than other people in general have: it gives them a credit, makes them referred to, and they become the objects of the attention of the company. They are not out in any part of polite conversation; they are acquainted with all the places, customs, courts, and families, that are likely to be mentioned; they are, as Monsieur

fieur de Maupertuis justly observes, *de tous les pais, comme les sçavans font de tous les tems*. You have, fortunately, both those advantages; the only remaining point is *de sçavoir les faire valoir*; for without that, one may as well not have them. Remember that very true maxim of La Bruyere's, *Qu'on ne vaut dans ce monde que ce qu'on veut valoir*. The knowledge of the world will teach you to what degree you ought to shew *ce que vous valez*. One must by no means, on one hand, be indifferent about it; as on the other, one must not display it with affectation, and in an overbearing manner: but, of the two, it is better to shew too much than too little. Adieu.

L E T T E R CCCXIV.

Bath, November the 27th, 1754.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HEARTILY congratulate you upon the loss of your political maidenhead, of which I have received from others a very good account. I hear that you were stopped for some time in your career; but recovered breath, and finished it very well. I am not surpris'd, nor indeed concerned, at your accident; for I remember the dreadful feeling of that situation

in myself; and as it must require a most uncommon share of impudence to be unconcerned upon such an occasion, I am not sure that I am not rather glad you stopped. You must therefore now think of hardening yourself by degrees, by using yourself insensibly to the sound of your own voice, and to the act (trifling as it seems) of rising up and sitting down again. Nothing will contribute so much to this as committee work of elections at night, and of private bills in the morning. There, asking short questions, moving for witnesses to be called in, and all that kind of small ware, will soon fit you to set up for yourself. I am told that you are much mortified at your accident; but without reason; pray, let it rather be a spur than a curb to you. Persevere, and, depend upon it, it will do well at last. When I say persevere, I do not mean that you should speak every day, nor in every debate. Moreover, I would not advise you to speak again upon public matters for some time, perhaps a month or two; but I mean, never lose view of that great object; pursue it with discretion, but pursue it always. *Pé- lotez en attendant partie.* You know I have always told you, that speaking in public was but a knack, which those who apply to most, will succeed in best. Two old Members, very good judges, have sent me compliments upon this occasion; and have assured me, that they plainly find *it will do*: though they perceived, from that natural confusion you were in, that you neither said all, nor perhaps what you intended. Upon the whole, you have set out very well,

well, and have sufficient encouragement to go on. Attend therefore assiduously, and observe carefully all that passes in the House; for it is only knowledge and experience that can make a debater. But if you still want comfort, Mrs.—, I hope, will administer it to you; for in my opinion she may, if she will, be very comfortable; and with women, as with speaking in parliament, perseverance will most certainly prevail, sooner or later.

What little I have played for here, I have won; but that is very far from the considerable sum which you heard of. I play every evening from seven till ten, at a crown whist party, merely to save my eyes from reading or writing for three hours by candle-light. I propose being in town the week after next, and hope to carry back with me much more health than I brought down here. Good night.

Mr. Stanhope being returned to England, and seeing his Father almost every day, is the occasion of an interruption of two years in their correspondence.

L E T T E R CCCXV.

Bath, November the 15th, 1756,

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED yours yesterday morning, together with the Prussian papers, which I have read with great attention. If Courts could blush, those of Vienna and Dresden ought, to have their falsehoods so publicly and so undeniably exposed. The former will, I presume, next year, employ an hundred thousand men, to answer the accusation; and if the Empress of the Two Russias is pleased to argue in the same cogent manner, their logic will be too strong for all the King of Prussia's rhetoric. I well remember the treaty so often referred to in those pieces, between the two Empresses, in 1746. The King was strongly pressed by the Empress Queen to accede to it. Waffenaer communicated it to me for that purpose. I asked him if there were no secret articles; suspecting that there were some, because the ostensible treaty was a mere harmless, defensive one. He assured me there were none. Upon which I told him, that as the King had already defensive alliances with those two Empresses, I did not see of what use his accession to this treaty, *if merely a defensive one*, could be, either to himself or the other contracting parties; but that, however, if it was only desired as an indication of the King's good-will, I would
give

give him an act, by which his majesty should accede to that treaty, as far, but no farther, as at present he stood engaged to the respective Empreſſes, by the defensive alliances ſubſiſting with each. This offer by no means ſatiſfied him; which was a plain proof of the ſecret articles now brought to light, and into which the Court of Vienna hoped to draw us. I told Waſſenaer ſo, and after that I heard no more of his invitation.

I am ſtill bewildered in the changes at Court, of which I find that all the particulars are not yet fixed. Who would have thought, a year ago, that Mr. Fox, the Chancellor, and the Duke of Newcaſtle, ſhould all three have quitted together; nor can I yet account for it; explain it to me, if you can. I cannot ſee, neither, what the Duke of Devonſhire and Fox, whom I looked upon as intimately united, can have quarrelled about, with relation to the Treafury; inform me, if you know. I never doubted of the prudent verſatility of your Vicar of Bray; but I am ſurpriſed at Obrien Windham's going out of the Treafury, where I ſhould have thought that the intereſt of his brother-in-law, George Grenville, would have kept him.

Having found myſelf rather worſe, theſe two or three laſt days, I was obliged to take ſome *ipſecacuan* laſt night; and, what you will think odd, for a vomit; I brought it all up again in about an hour, to my great ſatiſfaction and emolument, which is ſeldom the caſe in reſtitutions.

You

You did well to go to the Duke of Newcastle, who, I suppose, will have no more levees; however, go from time to time, and leave your name at his door, for you have obligations to him. Adieu.

L E T T E R CCCXVI.

Bath, December the 14th, 1756.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

WHAT can I say to you from this place, where *every day is still but as the first*, though by no means so agreeably passed, as Anthony describes his to have been? The same nothings succeed one another every day with me, as regularly and uniformly as the hours of the day. You will think this tiresome; and so it is: but how can I help it? Cut off from society by my deafness, and dispirited by my ill health, where could I be better? You will say, perhaps, where could you be worse? Only in prison, or the galleys, I confess. However, I see a period to my stay here; and I have fixed, in my own mind, a time for my return to London; not invited there by either politics or pleasures (to both which I am equally a stranger), but merely to be at home; which, after all, according to the vulgar saying, is home, be it never so homely.

The

The political settlement, as it is called; is, I find, by no means settled: Mr. Fox, who took this place in his way to his brother's, where he intended to pass a month, was stopped short by an express, which he received from his connection, to come to town immediately; and accordingly he set out from hence very early, two days ago. I had a very long conversation with him, in which he was, seemingly at least, very frank and communicative: but still I own myself in the dark. In those matters, as in most others, half knowledge (and mine is at most that) is more apt to lead one into error, than to carry one to truth; and our own vanity contributes to the seduction. Our conjectures pass upon us for truths; we will know what we do not know, and often, what we cannot know: so mortifying to our pride is the bare suspicion of ignorance!

It has been reported here, that the Empress of Russia is dying; this would be a fortunate event indeed for the King of Prussia, and necessarily produce the neutrality and inaction, at least, of that great Power; which would be a heavy weight taken out of the opposite scale to the King of Prussia. The *Augustissima* must, in that case, do all herself; for, though France will no doubt promise largely, it will, I believe, perform but scantily; as it desires no better, than that the different powers of Germany should tear one another to pieces.

I hope you frequent all the Courts: a man should make his face familiar there. Long habit produces
favour

favour intensibly : and acquaintance often does more than friendship, in that climate, where *les beaux sentimens* are not the natural growth.

Adieu ! I am going to the ball, to save my eyes from reading, and my mind from thinking.

L E T T E R CCCXVII.

Bath, January the 12th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I WAITED quietly, to see when either your leisure, or your inclinations, would allow you to honour me with a letter ; and at last I received one this morning, very near a fortnight after you went from hence. You will say, that you had no news to write me ; and that probably may be true ; but, without news, one has always something to say to those with whom one desires to have any thing to do.

Your observation is very just with regard to the King of Prussia, whom the most august House of Austria would most unquestionably have poisoned a century or two ago. But now that *Terras Astræa reliquit*, Kings and Princes die of natural deaths ; even war is pusillanimously carried on in this degenerate

nerate age; quarter is given; towns are taken, and the people spared: even in a storm, a woman can hardly hope for the benefit of a rape. Whereas (such was the humanity of former days) prisoners were killed by thousands in cold blood, and the generous victors spared neither man, woman, nor child. Heroic actions of this kind were performed at the taking of Magdebourg. The King of Prussia is certainly now in a situation that must soon decide his fate, and make him Cæsar or nothing. Notwithstanding the march of the Russians, his greatest danger, in my opinion, lies westward. I have no great notion of Apraxin's abilities, and I believe many a Prussian Colonel would out-general him. But Brown, Piccolomini, Lucchese, and many other veteran officers in the Austrian troops, are respectable enemies.

Mr. Pitt seems to me to have almost as many enemies to encounter as his Prussian Majesty. The late Ministry, and the Duke's party, will, I presume, unite against him and his tory friends; and then quarrel among themselves again. His best, if not his only chance of supporting himself would be, if he had credit enough in the city, to hinder the advancing of the money to any Administration but his own; and I have met with some people here who think that he has.

I have put off my journey from hence for a week, but no longer. I find I still gain some strength and
some

some flesh here ; and therefore I will not cut, while the run is for me.

By a letter which I received this morning from Lady Allen, I observe that you are extremely well with her ; and it is well for you to be so, for she is an excellent and warm puff.

A propos (an expression which is commonly used to introduce whatever is unrelative to it), you should apply to some of Lord Holdernesse's people, for the perusal of Mr. Cope's letters. It will not be refused you ; and the sooner you have them the better. I do not mean them as models for your manner of writing ; but as outlines of the matter you are to write upon.

If you have not read Hume's Essays, read them : they are four very small volumes ; I have just finished, and am extremely pleased with them. He thinks impartially, deep, often new : and, in my mind, commonly just. Adieu.

LETTER

L E T T E R CCCXVIII.

Blackheath, September the 17th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

LORD Holderneffe has been so kind as to communicate to me all the letters which he has received from you hitherto, dated the 15th, 19th, 23d, and 26th August; and also a draught of that which he wrote to you the 9th instant. I am very well pleased with all your letters; and, what is better, I can tell you that the King is so too; and he said, but three days ago, to Monsieur Münchausen, *He (meaning you) sets out very well, and I like his letters; provided that, like most of my English Ministers abroad, he does not grow idle hereafter.* So that here is both praise to flatter, and a hint to warn you. What Lord Holderneffe recommends to you, being by the King's order, intimates also a degree of approbation; for the *blackier ink, and the larger character*, show, that his Majesty, whose eyes are grown weaker, intends to read all your letters himself. Therefore, pray do not neglect to get the blackest ink you can; and to make your secretary enlarge his hand, though *d'ailleurs* it is a very good one.

Had I been to wish an advantageous situation for you, and a good *début* in it, I could not have wished you either, better than both have hitherto proved. The rest will depend entirely upon yourself; and I
OWN,

L E T T E R CCCXIX.

Blackheath, September the 23d, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED but the day before yesterday your letter of the 3d, from the head-quarters at Selfingen; and, by the way, it is but the second that I have received from you since your arrival at Hamburgh. Whatever was the cause of your going to the army, I approve of the effect; for I would have you, as much as possible, see every thing that is to be seen. That is the true useful knowledge, which informs and improves us when we are young, and amuses us and others when we are old: *Olim hæc meminisse juvabit*. I could wish that you would (but I know you will not) enter into a book a short note only of whatever you see or hear, that is very remarkable; I do not mean a German *album*, stuffed with people's names, and Latin sentences; but I mean such a book as, if you do not keep now, thirty years hence you would give a great deal of money to have kept. *A propos de bottes*, for I am told he always wears his; was his Royal Highness very gracious to you, or not? I have my doubts about it. The neutrality, which he has concluded with Maréchal de Richelieu, will prevent that bloody battle which you expected; but what the King of Prussia will say to it, is another point. He was our only ally; at present, probably
we

we have not one in the world. If the King of Prussia can get at Monsieur de Soubize's, and the Imperial army, before other troops have joined them, I think he will beat them; but what then? He has three hundred thousand men to encounter afterwards. He must submit; but he may say with truth, *Si Pergama dextrâ defendi possent*—The late action between the Prussians and Russians has only thinned the human species, without giving either party a victory; which is plain by each party's claiming it. Upon my word, our species will pay very dear for the quarrels and ambition of a few, and those by no means the most valuable part of it. If the many were wiser than they are, the few must be quieter, and would perhaps be juster and better than they are.

Hamburgh, I find, swarms with *Grafs*, *Gräffins*, *Fürsts*, and *Fürstins*, *Hochheits* and *Durchblaugticheits*. I am glad of it, for you must necessarily be in the midst of them; and I am still more glad, that, being in the midst of them, you must necessarily be under some constraint of ceremony; a thing which you do not love, but which is, however, very useful.

I desired you in my last, and I repeat it again in this, to give me an account of your private and domestic life. How do you pass your evenings? Have they, at Hamburgh, what are called at Paris *des Maisons*, where one goes without ceremony, sups or not, as one pleases? Are you adopted in any society? Have you any rational brother Ministers, and which? What sort of things are your operas? In the tender, I doubt they do not excel; for *mein lieber schatz*,

and the other tenderneſſes of the Teutonic language, would, in my mind, ſound but indifferently, ſet to ſoft muſic; for the *bravura* parts, I have a very great opinion of them; and *das, der donner dich erſchläge* muſt, no doubt, make a tremendously fine piece of *recitativo*, when uttered by an angry hero, to the rumble of a whole orchestra, including drums, trumpets, and French-horns. Tell me your whole allotment of the day, in which I hope four hours, at leaſt, are ſacred to writing: the others cannot be better employed than in *liberal* pleaſures. In ſhort, give me a full account of yourſelf, in your un-minifterial character, your *incognito*, without your *fiocchi*. I love to ſee thoſe, in whom I intereſt myſelf, in their undreſs, rather than in *gala*; I know them better ſo. I recommend to you, *etiam atque etiam*, method and order in every thing you undertake. Do you obſerve it in your accounts? If you do not, you will be a beggar, though you were to receive the appointments of a Spaniſh Embaſſador extraordinary, which are a thouſand piſtoles a month; and in your miniſterial buſineſs, if you have not regular and ſtated hours for ſuch and ſuch parts of it, you will be in the hurry and confuſion of the Duke of N——, doing every thing by halves, and nothing well, nor ſoon. I ſuppoſe you have been feaſted through the *Corps diplomatique* at Hamburgh, excepting Monſieur Champeaux; with whom, however, I hope you live *poliment et galamment*, at all third places.

Lord Loudon is much blamed here for his *retraite au dix milles*, for it is ſaid that he had above that
number,

number, and might consequently have acted offensively, instead of retreating; especially as his retreat was contrary to the unanimous opinion (as it is now said) of the council of war. In our Ministry, I suppose, things go pretty quietly; for the D. of N. has not plagued me this two months. When his Royal Highness comes over, which I take it for granted he will do very soon, the great push will, I presume, be made at his Grace and Mr. Pitt; but without effect if they agree, as it is visibly their interest to do; and in that case, their Parliamentary strength will support them against all attacks. You may remember, I said at first, that the popularity would soon be on the side of those who opposed the popular Militia Bill; and now it appears so with a vengeance, in almost every county in England, by the tumults and insurrections of the people, who swear that they will not be enlisted. That silly scheme must therefore be dropped, as quietly as may be.* Now I have told you all that I know, and almost all that I think. I wish you a good supper and a good-night.

L E T T E R CCCXX.

Blackheath, September the 30th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE so little to do, that I am surpris'd how I can find time to write to you so often. Do not stare at the seeming paradox : for it is an undoubted truth, That the less one has to do, the less time one finds to do it in. One yawns, one procrastinates ; one can do it when one will, and therefore one seldom does it at all ; whereas those who have a great deal of business must (to use a vulgar expression) buckle to it ; and then they always find time enough to do it in. I hope your own experience has, by this time, convinced you of this truth.

I received your last, of the 8th. It is now quite over with a very great man, who will be still a very great man, though a very unfortunate one. He has qualities of the mind that put him above the reach of these misfortunes : and if reduced, as perhaps he may, to the *marche* of Brandenburg, he will always find in himself the comfort, and with all the world the credit, of a philosopher, a legislator, a patron and a professor of arts and sciences. He will only lose the fame of a conqueror ; a cruel fame, that arises from the destruction of the human species. Could it be any satisfaction to him to know, I could
tell

tell him, that he is at this time the most popular man in this kingdom ; the whole nation being enraged at that neutrality which hastens and completes his ruin. Between you and me, the King was not less enraged at it himself, when he saw the terms of it ; and it affected his health more than all that had happened before. Indeed it seems to me a voluntary concession of the very worst that could have happened in the worst event. We now begin to think that our great and secret expedition is intended for Martinico and St. Domingo ; if that be true, and we succeed in the attempt, we shall recover, and the French lose, one of the most valuable branches of commerce, I mean sugar. The French now supply all the foreign markets in Europe with that commodity ; we only supply ourselves with it. This would make us some amends for our ill luck, or ill conduct, in North-America ; where Lord Loudon, with twelve thousand men, thought himself no match for the French with but seven ; and Admiral Holbourne, with seventeen ships of the line, declined attacking the French, because they had eighteen, and a greater weight of metal, according to the new sea-phrase, which was unknown to Blake. I hear that letters have been sent to both, with very severe reprimands. I am told, and I believe it is true, that we are negotiating with the Corsican, I will not say rebels, but assertors of their natural rights ; to receive them, and whatever form of government they think fit to establish, under our protection, upon condition of their delivering up to us Port Ajaccio ; which may

be made so strong and so good a one, as to be a full equivalent for the loss of Port Mahon. This is, in my mind, a very good scheme; for though the Corsicans are a parcel of cruel and perfidious rascals, they will in this case be tied down to us by their own interest and their own danger; a solid security with knaves, though none with fools. His Royal Highness the Duke is hourly expected here: his arrival will make some bustle; for I believe it is certain, that he is resolved to make a push at the Duke of N. Pitt, and Co; but it will be ineffectual, if they continue to agree, as, to my *certain knowledge*, they do at present. This Parliament is theirs; *cætera quis nescit?*

Now I have told you all I know, or have heard, of public matters, let us talk of private ones, that more nearly and immediately concern us. Admit me to your fire-side, in your little room; and as you would converse with me there, write to me for the future from thence. Are you completely *nippé* yet? Have you formed what the world calls connections; that is, a certain number of acquaintances, whom, from accident or choice, you frequent more than others? Have you either fine or well-bred women there? *Y a-t-il quelque bon ton?* All fat and fair, I presume; too proud and too cold to make advances, but, at the same time, too well bred and too warm to reject them, when made by *un bonnête homme avec des manières*.

Mr.

Mr. * * is to be married, in about a month, to Miss * *. I am very glad of it; for, as he will never be a man of the world, but will always lead a domestic and retired life, she seems to have been made on purpose for him. Her natural turn is as grave and domestic as his; and she seems to have been kept by her aunts *à la glace*, instead of being raised in a hot-bed, as most young ladies are of late. If, three weeks hence, you write him a short compliment of congratulation upon the occasion, he, his mother, and *tutti quanti*, would be extremely pleased with it. Those attentions are always kindly taken, and cost one nothing but pen, ink, and paper. I consider them as draughts upon good-breeding, where the exchange is always greatly in favour of the drawer. *A propos* of exchange; I hope you have, with the help of your Secretary, made yourself correctly master of all that sort of knowledge—Course of Exchange, *Agio*, *Banco*, *Reichs-Thalers*, down to *Marien Groschen*. It is very little trouble to learn it; it is often of great use to know it. Good-night, and God bless you!

LETTER

L E T T E R CCCXXI.

Blackheath, October the 10th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IT is not without some difficulty that I snatch this moment of leisure from my extreme idleness, to inform you of the present lamentable and astonishing ~~state~~ of affairs here, which you would know but imperfectly from the public papers, and but partially from your private correspondents. *Or jus* then—Our invincible Armada, which cost at least half a million, failed, as you know, some weeks ago; the object kept an inviolable secret: conjectures various, and expectations great. Brest was perhaps to be taken; but Martinico and St. Domingo, at least. When lo! the important island of Aix was taken without the least resistance, seven hundred men made prisoners, and some pieces of cannon carried off. From thence we sailed towards Rochefort, which it seems was our main object; and consequently one should have supposed that we had pilots on board who knew all the soundings and landing-places there and thereabouts: but no; for General M——t asked the Admiral if he could land him and the troops near Rochefort? The Admiral said, With great ease. To which the General replied; But can you take us on board again? To which the Admiral answered, *That*, like all naval operations,

operations, will depend upon the wind. If so, said the General, I'll e'en go home again. A Council of War was immediately called, where it was unanimously resolved, that it was *adviseable* to return; accordingly they are returned. As the expectations of the whole nation had been raised to the highest pitch, the universal disappointment and indignation have risen in proportion; and I question whether the ferment of men's minds was ever greater. Suspicions, you may be sure, are various and endless; but the most prevailing one is, that the tail ~~of the~~ Hanover neutrality, like that of a comet, extended itself to Rochefort. What encourages this suspicion is, that a French man of war went unmolested through our whole fleet, as it lay near Rochefort. Haddock's whole story is revived; Michel's representations are combined with other circumstances; and the whole together makes up a mass of discontent, resentment, and even fury, greater than perhaps was ever known in this country before. These are the facts, draw your own conclusions from them: for my part, I am lost in astonishment and conjectures, and do not know where to fix. My experience has shown me, that many things which seem extremely probable, are not true; and many, which seem highly improbable, are true; so that I will conclude this article, as Josephus does almost every article of his history, with saying, *but of this every man will believe as he thinks proper*. What a disgraceful year will this be in the annals of this country! May its good genius, if ever it appears again.

again, tear out those sheets, thus stained and blotted by our ignominy!

Our domestic affairs are, as far as I know any thing of them, in the same situation as when I wrote to you last; but they will begin to be in motion upon the approach of the session, and upon the return of the Duke, whose arrival is most impatiently expected by the mob of London, though not to strow flowers in his way.

I leave this place next Saturday, and London the ~~Saturday~~ following, to be the next day at Bath. Adieu.

L E T T E R CCCXXII.

London, October the 17th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOUR last, of the 30th past, was a very good letter: and I will believe half of what you assure me, that you returned to the Landgrave's civilities. I cannot possibly go farther than half, knowing that you are not lavish of your words, especially in that species of eloquence called the adulatory. Do not use too much discretion, in profiting of the Landgrave's naturalization of you; but go pretty often and feed with him. Chuse the company of
your

your superiors, whenever you can have it; that is the right and true pride. The mistaken and silly pride is, to *primer* among inferiors.

Hear, O Israel! and wonder. On Sunday morning last, the Duke gave up his commission of Captain General, and his regiment of guards. You will ask me why? I cannot tell you; but I will tell you the causes assigned; which, perhaps, are none of them the true ones. It is said that the King reproached him with having exceeded his powers in making the Hanover Convention; which his ~~R. H.~~ absolutely denied, and threw up thereupon. This is certain, that he appeared at the drawing-room at Kensington, last Sunday, after having quitted, and went straight to Windsor; where, his people say, that he intends to reside quietly, and amuse himself as a private man. But I conjecture that matters will soon be made up again, and that he will resume his employments. You will easily imagine what speculations this event has occasioned in the public; I shall neither trouble you nor myself with relating them; nor would this sheet of paper, or even a quire more, contain them. Some refine enough, to suspect that it is a concerted quarrel, to justify *somebody to somebody*, with regard to the Convention; but I do not believe it.

His R. H.'s people load the Hanover Ministers, and more particularly our friend Munchausen here, with the whole blame; but with what degree of truth I know not. This only is certain, that the whole negotiation of that affair was broached, and
carried

carried on, by the Hanover Ministers, and Monsieur Steinberg at Vienna, absolutely unknown to the English Ministers till it was executed. This affair combined (for people will combine it) with the astonishing return of our great armament, not only *re infestâ*, but even *intentatâ*, makes such a jumble, of reflections, conjectures, and refinements, that one is weary of hearing them. Our Tacituses and Machiavels go deep, suspect the worst, and perhaps, as they often do, overshoot the mark. For my own ~~part~~, I fairly confess that I am bewildered, and have not certain *passulata* enough, not only to found any opinion, but even to form conjectures upon; and this is the language which I think you should hold to all who speak to you, as to be sure all will, upon that subject. Plead, as you truly may, your own ignorance; and say, that it is impossible to judge of those nice points, at such a distance, and without knowing all circumstances, which you cannot be supposed to do. And as to the Duke's resignation; you should, in my opinion, ~~say~~ that perhaps there might be a little too much vivacity in the case; but that, upon the whole, you make no doubt of the thing's being soon set right again; as, in truth, I dare say it will. Upon these delicate occasions you must practise the ministerial shrugs and *perfflage*; for silent gesticulations, which you would be most inclined to, would not be sufficient: something must be said; but that something, when analysed, must amount to nothing. As for instance, *Il est vrai qu'en s'y perd, mais que voulez vous que je*
vous

vous dise, —il y a bien du pour et du contre, un petit Résident ne voit gueres le fond du sac. —il faut attendre.—Those sort of expletives are of infinite use; and nine people in ten think they mean something. But to the Landgrave of Hesse, I think you would do well to say, in seeming confidence, that you have good reason to believe, that the principal objection of his Majesty to the Convention was, that his Highness's interests, and the affair of his troops, were not sufficiently considered in it. To the Prussian Minister assert boldly, that you know *de science certaine*, that the principal object of his Majesty's and his British Ministry's attention is not only to perform all their present engagements with his Master, but to take new and stronger ones for his support; for this is true—at least at present.

You did very well in inviting Comte Bothmar to dine with you. You see how minutely I am informed of your proceedings, though not from yourself. Adieu.

I go to Bath next Saturday; but direct your letters, as usual, to London.

L E T T E R CCCXXIII.

Bath, October the 26th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I ARRIVED here safe, but far from sound, ~~last~~ Sunday. I have consequently drank these waters but three days, and yet I find myself something ~~better~~ for them. The night before I left London, I was for some hours at Newcastle-house; where the letters which came in that morning lay upon the table; and his Grace singled out yours, with great approbation; and at the same time assured me of his Majesty's approbation too. To these two approbations, I truly add my own, which, *sans vanité*, may perhaps be near as good as the other two. In that letter you venture *vos petits raisonnemens* very properly, and then as properly make an excuse for doing so. Go on so with diligence, and you will be, what I began to despair of your ever being, *somebody*. I am persuaded, if you would own the truth, that you feel yourself now much better satisfied with yourself, than you were while you did nothing.

Application to business, attended with approbation and success, flatters and animates the mind; which, in idleness and inaction, stagnates and putrefies. I could wish, that every rational man would,
every

every night when he goes to bed, ask himself this question, *What have I done to-day?* Have I done any thing that can be of use to myself or others? Have I employed my time, or have I squandered it? Have I lived out the day, or have I dozed it away in sloth and laziness? A thinking Being must be pleased or confounded, according as he can answer himself these questions. I observe that you are in the secret of what is intended, and what Munchausen is gone to Stade to prepare; a bold and dangerous experiment, in my mind; and which may probably end in a second volume to the History of the Palatinate, in the last century. His Serene Highness of Brunswick has, in my mind, played a prudent and a saving game; and I am apt to believe, that the other Serene Highness, at Hamburgh, is more likely to follow his example, than to embark in the great scheme.

I see no signs of the Duke's resuming his employments; but, on the contrary, I am assured, that his Majesty is coolly determined to do as well as he can without him. The Duke of Devonshire and Fox have worked hard to make up matters in the closet, but to no purpose. People's self-love is very apt to make them think themselves more necessary than they are: and I shrewdly suspect, that his Royal Highness has been the dupe of that sentiment, and was taken at his word when he least expected it: like my predecessor, Lord Harrington; who, when he went into the closet to resign the seals,

had them not about him ; so sure he thought himself of being pressed to keep them.

The whole talk of London, of this place, and of every place in the whole kingdom, is of our great, expensive, and yet fruitless, expedition : I have seen an Officer who was there, a very sensible and observing man, who told me, that, had we attempted Rochefort the day after we took the island of Aix, our success had been infallible ; but that, after we had fauntered (God knows why) eight or ten days in ~~the island~~, he thinks the attempt would have been impracticable ; because the French had in that time got together all the troops in that neighbourhood, to a very considerable number. In short, there must have been some secret in that whole affair, which has not yet transpired ; and I cannot help suspecting that it came from Stade. *We* had not been successful there ; perhaps *we* were not desirous, that an expedition, in which *we* had neither been concerned nor consulted, should prove so : M——t was *our* creature ; and a word to the wise will sometimes go a great way. M——t is to have a public trial, from which the Public expects great discoveries—Not I.

Do you visit Soltikow, the Russian Minister, whose house, I am told, is the great scene of pleasures at Hamburgh ? His mistress, I take it for granted, is by this time dead, and he wears some other body's shackles. Her death comes, with regard to the King of Prussia, *comme la moutarde après diner*. I am curious to see what tyrant will succeed her,

her, not by Divine, but by Military, right; for, barbarous as they are now, and still more barbarous as they have been formerly, they have had very little regard to the more barbarous notion of divine, indefeasible, hereditary right.

The Prætorian bands, that is, the guards, I presume, have been engaged in the interests of the Imperial Prince; but still I think that little John of Archangel will be heard of upon this occasion, unless prevented by a quieting draught of Hemlock or Nightshade; for I suppose they are not arrived at the politer and genteeler poisons of *Acqua Tufana**, sugar-plums, &c.

Lord Halifax has accepted his old employment, with the honorary addition of the Cabinet Council. And so we heartily wish you a good night.

LETTER CCCXXIV.

Bath, November the 4th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THE sons of Britain, like those of Noah, must cover their parents' shame as well as they can; for to retrieve its honour is now too late. One would

* *Acqua Tufana*, a Neapolitan slow poison, resembling clear water, and invented by a woman at Naples, of the name of *Tufana*.

really think that our Ministers and Generals were all as drunk as the Patriarch was. However, in your situation, you must not be Cham; but spread your cloak over our disgrace, as far as it will go. M——t calls aloud for a public trial; and in that, and that only, the Public agrees with him. There will certainly be one: but of what kind is not yet fixed. Some are for a Parliamentary inquiry, others for a Martial one: neither will, in my opinion, discover the true secret; for a secret there most unquestionably is. Why we staid six whole days in the island of Aix, mortal cannot imagine; which time the French employed, as it was obvious they would, in assembling all their troops in the neighbourhood of Rochefort, and making our attempt then really impracticable. The day after we had taken the island of Aix, your friend, Colonel Wolfe, publicly offered to do the business with five hundred men and three ships only. In all these complicated political machines, there are so many wheels within wheels, that it is always difficult, and sometimes impossible, to guess which of them gives direction to the whole. Mr. Pitt is convinced that the principal wheel, or, if you will, *the spoke in his wheel*, came from Stade. This is certain, at least, that M——t was the man of confidence with that person. Whatever be the truth of the case, there is, to be sure, hitherto an *Hiatus valde deflendus*.

The meeting of the Parliament will certainly be very numerous, were it only from curiosity: but the majority on the side of the Court will, I dare say, be

be a great one. The people of the late Captain General, however inclined to oppose, will be obliged to concur. Their commissions, which they have no desire to lose, will make them tractable; for those Gentlemen, though all men of honour, are of Sofia's mind; *que le vrai Amphitrion est celui ou l'on aine*. The Tories, and the City, have engaged to support Pitt; the Whigs, the Duke of Newcastle; the independent, and the impartial, as you well know, are not worth mentioning. It is said that the Duke intends to bring the affair of his convention into Parliament, for his own justification: I can hardly believe it; as I cannot conceive that transactions so merely Electoral can be proper objects of inquiry or deliberation for a British Parliament; and therefore, should such a motion be made, I presume it will be immediately quashed. By the commission lately given to Sir John Ligonier, of General and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's forces in Great Britain, the door seems to be not only shut, but bolted, against his Royal Highness's return; and I have *good reason* to be convinced, that that breach is irreparable. The reports of changes in the Ministry, I am pretty sure, are idle and groundless. The Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pitt really agree very well; not, I presume, from any sentimental tenderness for each other, but from a sense that it is their mutual interest; and, as the late Captain General's party is now out of the question, I do not see what should produce the least change.

The visit, lately made to Berlin, was, I dare say, neither a friendly nor an inoffensive one. The Au-

strians always leave behind them pretty lasting monuments of their visits, or rather visitations; not so much, I believe, from their thirst of glory, as from their hunger of prey.

This winter, I take for granted, must produce a peace of some kind or another; a bad one for us, no doubt, and yet perhaps better than we should get the year after. I suppose the King of Prussia is negotiating with France, and endeavouring by those means to get out of the scrape, with the loss only of Silesia, and perhaps Halberstadt, by way of indemnification to Saxony; and, considering all circumstances, he would be well off upon those terms. But then how is Sweden to be satisfied? Will the Russians restore Memel? Will France have been at all this expence *gratis*? Must there be no acquisition for them in Flanders? I dare say they have stipulated something of that sort for themselves, by the additional and secret treaty, which I know they made, last May, with the Queen of Hungary. Must we give up whatever the French please to desire in America, besides the cession of Minorca in perpetuity? I fear we must, or else raise twelve millions more next year, to as little purpose as we did this, and have consequently a worse peace afterwards. I turn my eyes away, as much as I can, from this miserable prospect; but, as a citizen and member of society, it recurs to my imagination notwithstanding all my endeavours to banish it from my thoughts. I can do myself or my country no good: but I feel the wretched situation of both: the state of the latter makes me better bear that

that of the former ; and, when I am called away from my station here, I shall think it rather (as Cicero says of Crassus) *Mors donata quam vita crepta*.

I have often desired, but in vain, the favour of being admitted into your private apartment at Hamburg, and of being informed of your private life there. Your mornings, I hope and believe, are employed in business ; but give me an account of the remainder of the day, which I suppose is, and ought to be, appropriated to amusements and pleasures. In what houses are you domestic ? Who are so in yours ? In short, let me in, and do not be denied to me.

Here I am, as usual, seeing few people, and hearing fewer ; drinking the waters regularly to a minute, and am something the better for them. I read a great deal, and vary occasionally my dead company. I converse with great folios in the morning, while my head is clearest, and my attention strongest : I take up less severe quartos after dinner : and at night I chuse the mixed company and amusing chit-chat of octavos and duodecimos. *Je tire parti de tout ce que je puis* ; that is my philosophy ; and I mitigate, as much as I can, my physical ills, by diverting my attention to other objects.

Here is a report that Admiral Holbourne's fleet is destroyed, in a manner, by storm : I hope it is not true, in the full extent of the report ; but I believe it has suffered. This would fill up the measure of our misfortunes. Adieu.

L E T T E R CCCXXV.

Bath, November the 20th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I WRITE to you now because I love to write to you; and hope that my letters are welcome to you; for otherwise I have very little to inform you of. The King of Prussia's late victory you are better informed of than we are here. It has given infinite joy to the unthinking public, who are not aware that it comes too late in the year, and too late in the war, to be attended with any very great consequences. There are six or seven thousand of the human species less than there were a month ago, and that seems to me to be all. However, I am glad of it, upon account of the pleasure and the glory which it gives the King of Prussia, to whom I wish well as a Man, more than as a King. And surely he is so great a man, that, had he lived seventeen or eighteen hundred years ago, and his life been transmitted to us in a language that we could not very well understand, I mean either Greek or Latin, we should have talked of him as we do now of your Alexanders, your Cæsars, and others, with whom, I believe, we have but a very slight acquaintance. *Au reste*, I do not see that his affairs are much mended by this victory. The same combination of the great Powers of Europe against him still subsists, and must at last prevail. I believe the French
army

army will melt away, as is usual, in Germany ; but his army is extremely diminished by battles, fatigues, and desertion ; and he will find great difficulties in recruiting it, from his own already exhausted dominions. He must therefore, and to be sure will, negotiate privately with the French, and get better terms that way than he could any other.

The report of the three General Officers, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord George Sackville, and General Waldegrave, was laid before the King last Saturday, after their having sat four days upon M——t's affair: nobody yet knows what it is ; but it is generally believed, that M——t will be brought to a Court-martial. That you may not mistake this matter, as *most* people here do, I must explain to you, that this examination, before the three above-mentioned General Officers, was by no means a trial ; but only a previous inquiry into his conduct, to see whether there was, or was not, cause to bring him to a regular trial before a Court-martial. The case is exactly parallel to that of a grand jury ; who, upon a previous and general examination, find, or do not find, a bill, to bring the matter before the petty jury ; where the fact is finally tried. For my own part, my opinion is fixed upon that affair : I am convinced that the expedition was to be defeated ; and nothing that can appear before a Court-martial can make me alter that opinion. I have been too long acquainted with human nature, to have great regard for human testimony : and a very great degree of probability, sup-
ported

ported by various concurrent circumstances, conspiring in one point, will have much greater weight with me than human testimony upon oath, or even upon honour; both which I have frequently seen considerably warped by private views.

•The Parliament, which now stands prorogued to the first of next month, it is thought, will be put off for some time longer, till we know in what light to lay before it the state of our alliance with Prussia, since the conclusion of the Hanover neutrality; which, if it did not quite break it, made at least a great flaw in it.

The birth-day was neither fine nor crowded; and no wonder, since the King was that day seventy-five. The old Court and the young one are much better together, since the Duke's retirement; and the King has presented the Prince of Wales with a service of plate.

I am still *unwell*, though I drink these waters very regularly. I will stay here at least six weeks longer, where I am much quieter than I should be allowed to be in town. When things are in such a miserable situation as they are at present, I desire neither to be concerned nor consulted, still less quoted. Adieu!

LETTER

L E T T E R CCCXXVI.

Bath, November the 26th, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED, by the last mail, your short account of the King of Prussia's victory; which victory, contrary to custom, turns out more complete than it was at first reported to be. This appears by an intercepted letter from Monsieur de St. Germain to Monsieur d'Affry, at the Hague; in which he tells him, *Cette armée est entièrement fondue*, and lays the blame, very strongly, upon Monsieur de Soubize. But, be it greater, or be it less, I am glad of it, because the King of Prussia (whom I honour and almost adore) I am sure is. Though *d'ailleurs*, between you and me, *ou est-ce que cela mène?* To nothing, while that formidable union, of the three great Powers of Europe, subsists against him. Could that be any way broken, something might be done; without which, nothing can. I take it for granted, that the King of Prussia will do all he can to detach France. Why should not we, on our part, try to detach Russia? At least, in our present distress, *omnia tentanda*; and sometimes a lucky and unexpected hit turns up. This thought came into my head this morning; and I give it to you, not as a very probable scheme, but as a possible one, and consequently worth trying—The year

of the Russian subsidies (nominally paid by the Court of Vienna, but really by France) is near expired. The former probably cannot, and perhaps the latter will not, renew them. The court of Petersburg is beggarly, profuse, greedy, and by no means scrupulous. Why should not we step in there, and out-bid them? if we could, we buy a great army at once; which would give an entire new turn to the affairs of that part of the world, at least. And if we bid handsomely, I do not believe the *bonne foi* of that Court would stand in the way. Both our Court and our Parliament would, I am very sure, give a very great sum, and very cheerfully, for this purpose. In the next place, Why should not you wriggle yourself, if possible, into so great a scheme? You are, no doubt, much acquainted with the Russian Resident Soltikow; Why should not you sound him, as intirely from yourself, upon this subject? You may ask, What, does your Court intend to go on next year in the pay of France, to destroy the liberties of all Europe, and throw universal monarchy into the hands of that already great and always ambitious power? I know you think, or at least call yourselves, the allies of the Empress Queen; but is it not plain that she will be, in the first place, and you in the next, the dupes of France? At this very time you are doing the work of France and Sweden; and that for some miserable subsidies, much inferior to those which I am sure you might have, in a better cause, and more consistent with the true interest of Russia. Though not empowered, I know

know the manner of thinking of my own Court so well, upon this subject, that I will venture to promise you much better terms than those you have now, without the least apprehensions of being disavowed. Should he listen to this, and what more may occur to you to say upon this subject, and ask you, *En écrirai-je à ma Cour ?* Answer him, *Ecrivez, écrivez, Monsieur, hardiment. Je prendrai tout cela sur moi.* Should this happen, as perhaps, and as I heartily wish it may, then write an exact relation of it to your own Court. Tell them, that you thought the measure of such great importance, that you could not help taking this little step towards bringing it about ; but that you mentioned it only as from yourself, and that you have not in the least committed them by it. If Solikow lends himself in any degree to this, insinuate, that in the present situation of affairs, and particularly of the King's Electoral dominions, you are very sure that his Majesty would have *une reconnaissance sans bornes* for all those, by whose means so desirable a revival of an old and long friendship should be brought about. You will perhaps tell me, that without doubt Mr. Keith's instructions are to the same effect : but I will answer you, that you can, *if you please*, do it better than Mr. Keith ; and, in the next place, that, be all that as it will, it must be very advantageous to you at home, to show that you have at least a contriving head, and an alertness in business.

I had a letter, by the last post, from the Duke of Newcastle ; in which he congratulates me, in his

own name, and in Lord Hardwick's, upon the approbation which your dispatches give, not only to them two, but to *others*. This success, so early, should encourage your diligence, and rouse your ambition, if you have any; you may go a great way, if you desire it, having so much time before you.

I send you here enclosed the copy of the Report of the three General Officers, appointed to examine previously into the conduct of General M——t; it is ill-written, and ill-spelled; but no matter; you will decypher it. You will observe, by the tenour of it, that it points strongly to a Court-martial; which, no doubt, will soon be held upon him. I presume there will be no shooting in the final sentence; but I do suppose that there will be breaking, &c.

I have had some severe returns of my old complaints, last week, and am still unwell; I cannot help it.

A friend of yours arrived here three days ago; she seems to me to be a serviceable strong-bodied bay mare, with black mane and tail; you easily guess whom I mean. She is come with mamma, and without *il caro sposo*.

Adieu! my head will not let me go on longer.

L E T T E R CCCXXVII.

Bath, December the 31st, 1757.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE this moment received your letter of the 18th, with the enclosed papers. I cannot help observing, that, till then, you never acknowledged the receipt of any one of my letters.

I can easily conceive that party spirit, among your brother Ministers at Hamburgh, runs as high as you represent it, because I can easily believe the errors of the human mind; but at the same time I must observe, that such a spirit is the spirit of little minds, and subaltern Ministers, who think to atone by zeal, for their want of merit and importance. The political differences of the several Courts should never influence the personal behaviour of their several Ministers towards one another. There is a certain *procédé noble et galant*, which should always be observed among the Ministers of Powers even at war with each other, which will always turn out to the advantage of the ablest; who will in those conversations find or make opportunities of throwing out, or of receiving, useful hints. When I was last at the Hague, we were at war with both France and Spain; so that I could neither visit, nor be visited by, the Ministers of those two Crowns: but we met every day, or dined at third places, where we embraced as personal friends,

friends, and trifled, at the same time, upon our being political enemies; and by this sort of *badinage*, I discovered some things which I wanted to know. There is not a more prudent maxim, than to live with one's enemies as if they may one day become one's friends: as it commonly happens, sooner or later, in the vicissitudes of political affairs.

To your question, which is a rational and prudent one, Whether I was authorized to give you the hints concerning Russia by any people in power here, I will tell you that I was not: but, as I had pressed them to try what might be done with Russia, and got Mr. Keith to be dispatched thither some months sooner than otherwise, I dare say, he would, with the proper instructions for that purpose, I wished that, by the hints I gave you, you might have got the start of him, and the merit, at least, of having *entamé* that matter with Soltikow. What you have to do with him now, when you meet with him at any third place, or at his own house (where you are at liberty to go, while Russia has a Minister in London, and we a Minister at Petersburg), is, in my opinion, to say to him, in an easy chearful manner, *He bien, Monsieur, je me flatte que nous serons bien-tôt amis publics, aussi bien qu'amis personnels.* To which he will probably ask, Why, or how? You will reply, Because you know that Mr. Keith is gone to his Court with instructions, which you think must necessarily be agreeable there. And throw out to him, that nothing but a change of their present system can save Livonia to Russia; for, that he cannot suppose, that,
when

when the Swedes shall have recovered Pomerania, they will long leave Russia in quiet possession of Livonia. If he is so much a Frenchman as you say, he will make some weak answers to this; but, as you will have the better of the argument on your side, you may remind him of the old and almost uninterrupted connection between France and Sweden, the inveterate enemy of Russia: Many other arguments will naturally occur to you in such a conversation, if you have it. In this case, there is a piece of ministerial art, which is sometimes of use; and that is, to sow jealousies among one's enemies, by a seeming preference shewn to some one of them. Monsieur Hecht's *rêveries* are *rêveries* indeed. How should his master have made the *golden arrangements*, which he talks of, and which are to be forged into shackles for General Fermor? The Prussian finances are not in a condition now to make such expensive arrangements. But I think you may tell Monsieur Hecht, in confidence, that you hope the instructions with which you know that Mr. Keith is gone to Petersburg, may have some effect upon the measures of that Court.

I would advise you to live with that same Monsieur Hecht in all the confidence, familiarity, and connection, which prudence will allow. I mean it with regard to the King of Prussia himself, by whom I could wish you to be known and esteemed as much as possible. It may be of use to you some day or other. If man, courage, conduct, constancy, can get the better of all the difficulties which the King of Prussia

has to struggle with, he will rise superior to them. But still, while this alliance subsists against him, I dread *les gros Escadrons*. His last victory, of the 5th, was certainly the compleatest that has been heard of these many years. I heartily wish the Prince of Brunswick just such a one over Monsieur de Richelieu's army; and that he may take my old acquaintance the Maréchal, and send him over here to polish and perfume us. °

I heartily wish you, in the plain home-spun style, a great number of happy new years, well-employed in forming both your mind and your manners, to be useful and agreeable to yourself, your country, and your friends! That these wishes are sincere, your Secretary's brother will, by the time of your receiving this, have remitted you a proof, from Yours.

L E T T E R CCCXXVIII.

London, February the 8th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED by the same post your two letters of the 13th and 17th past; and yesterday that of the 27th, with the Russian manifesto enclosed; in which her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias has been pleased to give every reason, except the true one, for the march of her troops against the King of Prussia.

Prussia. The true one, I take to be, that she has just received a very great sum of money from France, or the Empress Queen, or both, for that purpose. *Point d'argent point de Russe* is now become a maxim. Whatever may be the motive of their march, the effects must be bad; and, according to my speculations, those troops will replace the French in Hanover and Lower Saxony; and the French will go and join the Austrian army. You ask me, if I still despond? Not so much as I did after the battle of Colen: the battles of Rosbach and Lissa were drams to me, and gave me some momentary spirits: but, though I do not absolutely despair, I own I greatly distrust. I readily allow the King of Prussia to be *nec pluribus impar*; but still, when the *plures* amount to a certain degree of plurality, courage and abilities must yield at last. Michel here assures me, that he does not mind the Russians; but, as I have it from the gentleman's own mouth, I do not believe him. We shall very soon send a squadron to the Baltic, to entertain the Swedes; which I believe will put an end to their operations in Pomerania; so that I have no great apprehensions from that quarter; but Russia, I confess, sticks in my stomach.

Every thing goes smoothly in Parliament; the King of Prussia has united all our parties in his support; and the Tories have declared, that they will give Mr. Pitt unlimited credit for this session: there has not been one single division yet upon public points, and I believe will not. Our American expedition is preparing to go soon; the disposition

of that affair seems to me a little extraordinary. Abercrombie is to be the sedentary, and not the acting Commander; Amherst, Lord Howe, and Wolfe, are to be the acting, and I hope the active Officers. I wish they may agree. Amherst, who is the oldest officer, is under the influence of the same great person who influenced Mordaunt, so much to the honour and advantage of this country. This is most certain, that we have force enough in America to eat up the French alive in Canada, Quebec, and Louisbourg, if we have but skill and spirit enough to exert it properly; but of that I am modest enough to doubt.

When you come to the egotism, which I have long desired you to come to with me, you need make no excuses for it. The egotism is as proper and as satisfactory to one's friends, as it is impertinent and misplaced with strangers. I desire to see you in your every-day's clothes, by your fire-side, in your pleasures; in short, in your private life; but I have not yet been able to obtain this. Whenever you condescend to do it, as you promise, stick to truth; for I am not so uninformed of Hamburgh as perhaps you may think.

As for myself, I am very *unwell*, and very weary of being so; and with little hopes, at my age, of ever being otherwise. I often wish for the end of the wretched remnant of my life; and that wish is a rational one; but then the innate principle of self-preservation, wisely implanted in our natures for obvious purposes, opposes that wish, and makes us
endeavour

endeavour to spin out our thread as long as we can, however decayed and rotten it may be ; and, in defiance of common sense, we seek on for that chemic gold which *beggars us when old*.

Whatever your amusements, or pleasures, may be at Hamburgh, I dare say you taste them more sensibly than ever you did in your life, now that you have business enough to whet your appetite to them. Business, one half of the day, is the best preparation for the pleasures of the other half. I hope, and believe, that it will be with you as it was with an apothecary whom I knew at Twickenham. A considerable estate fell to him by an unexpected accident ; upon which he thought it decent to leave off his business ; accordingly he generously gave up his shop and his stock to his head man, set up his coach, and resolved to live like a gentleman : but, in less than a month, the man, used to business, found, that living like a gentleman was dying of *ennui* ; upon which he bought his shop and stock, resumed his trade ; and lived very happily, after he had something to do. Adieu.

L E T T E R CCCXXIX.

London, February the 24th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I RECEIVED yesterday your letter of the 2d instant, with the inclosed; which I return you, that there may be no claim in your papers. I had heard before of Burriſh's death, and had taken ſome ſteps thereupon; but I very ſoon dropped that affair, for ninety-nine good reaſons; the firſt of which was, that nobody is to go in his room, and that, had he lived, he was to have been recalled from Munich. But another reaſon, more flattering for you, was, that you could not be ſpared from Hamburgh. Upon the whole, I am not ſorry for it, as the place where you are now is the great *entrepôt* of buſineſs; and, when it ceaſes to be ſo, you will neceſſarily go to ſome of the Courts in the neighbourhood (Berlin, I hope and believe), which will be a much more deſirable ſituation than to ſuſt at Munich, where we can never have any buſineſs beyond a ſubſidy. Do but go on, and exert yourſelf where you are; and better things will ſoon follow.

Surely the inaction of our army at Hanover continues too long. We expected wonders from it ſome time ago, and yet nothing is attempted. The French will ſoon receive reinforcements, and then be too ſtrong for us; whereas they are now moſt certainly

certainly greatly weakened by desertion, sickness, and deaths. Does the King of Prussia send a body of men to our army or not? or has the march of the Russians cut him out work for all his troops? I am affaid it has. If one body of Russians joins the Austrian army in Moravia, and another body the Swedes in Pomerania, he will have his hands very full, too full, I fear. The French say they will have an army of 180,000 men in Germany this year; the Empress Queen will have 150,000; if the Russians have but 40,000, what can resist such a force? The King of Prussia may say, indeed, with more justice than ever any one person could before him, *Mai Medea superest.*

You promised me some egotisms: but I have received none yet. Do you frequent the Landgrave? *Hantez vous les grands de la terre?* What are the connexions of the evening? All this, and a great deal more of this kind, let me know in your next.

The House of Commons is still very unanimous. There was a little popular squib let off this week, in a motion of Sir John Glynne's, seconded by Sir John Philips, for annual Parliaments. It was a very cold scent, and put an end to by a division of 190 to 70.

Good night. Work hard, that you may divert yourself well.

L E T T E R CCCXXX.

London, March the 4th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I SHOULD have been much more surpris'd at the contents of your letter of the 17th past, if I had not happened to have seen Sir C. W. about three or four hours before I received it. I thought he talked in an extraordinary manner; he engag'd that the King of Prussia should be master of Vienna in the month of May; and he told me that you were very much in love with his daughter. Your letter explained all this to me; and the next day, Lord and Lady E—— gave me innumerable instances of his frenzy, with which I shall not trouble you. What inflamed it the more (if it did not intirely occasion it) was a great quantity of cantharides, which, it seems, he had taken at Hamburgh, to recommend himself, I suppose, to Mademoiselle John. He was let blood four times on board the ship, and has been let blood four times more since his arrival here; but still the inflammation continues very high. He is now under the care of his brothers, who do not let him go abroad. They have written to this same Mademoiselle John, to prevent, if they can, her coming to England, and told her the case; which when she hears, she must be as mad as he is, if she takes the journey. By the way, she must be *une Dame aventuriere,*

surriere, to receive a note for 10,000 roubles from a man whom she had known but three days; to take a contract of marriage, knowing he was married already; and to engage herself to follow him to England. I suppose this is not the first adventure of the sort which she has had.

After the news we received yesterday, that the French had evacuated Hanover, all but Hamel, we daily expect much better. We pursue them, we cut them off *en détail*, and at last we destroy their whole army. I wish it may happen; and, moreover, I think it not impossible.

My head is much out of order, and only allows me to wish you a good night.

L E T T E R CCCXXXI.

London, March the 22d, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE now your letter of the 8th lying before me, with the favourable account of our progress in Lower Saxony, and reasonable prospect of more decisive success. I confess I did not expect this, when my friend Münchausen took his leave of me, to go to Stade, and break the neutrality; I thought it at least a dangerous, but rather a desperate undertaking; whereas,

whereas, hitherto, it has proved a very fortunate one. I look upon the French army as *fondue*; and, what with desertion, deaths, and epidemical distempers, I dare say not a third of it will ever return to France. The great object is now, what the Russians can or will do; and whether the King of Prussia can hinder their junction with the Austrians, by beating either, before they join: I will trust him for doing all that can be done.

Sir C. W. is still in confinement, and, I fear, will always be so, for he seems *cum ratione insanire*: the physicians have collected all he has said and done, that indicated an alienation of mind, and have laid it before him in writing; he has answered it in writing too, and justifies himself by the most plausible arguments that can possibly be urged. He tells his brother, and the few who are allowed to see him, that they are such narrow and contracted minds themselves, that they take those for mad, who have a great and generous way of thinking; as for instance, when he determined to send his daughter over to you in a fortnight, to be married without any previous agreement or settlements, it was because he had long known you, and loved you, as a man of sense and honour; and therefore would not treat with you as with an attorney. That as for Mademoiselle John, he knew her merit and her circumstances; and asks, whether it is a sign of madness, to have a due regard for the one, and a just compassion for the other. I will not tire you with enumerating any more instances of the poor man's frenzy;

frenzy ; but conclude this subject with pitying him, and poor human nature, which holds its reason by so precarious a tenure. The lady, who you tell me is set out, *en fera pour la peine et les fraix du voyage*, for her note is worth no more than her contract. By the way, she must be a kind of *aventuriere*, to engage so easily in such an adventure with a man whom she had not known above a week, and whose *début* of 10,000 roubles showed him not to be in his right senses.

You will probably have seen General Yorke, by this time, in his way to Berlin or Breslau, or wherever the King of Prussia may be. As he keeps his commission to the States General, I presume he is not to stay long with his Prussian Majesty : but, however, while he is there, take care to write to him very constantly, and to give all the informations you can. His father, Lord Hardwicke, is your great puff : he commends your office letters exceedingly. I would have the Berlin commission your object, in good time : never lose view of it. Do all you can to recommend yourself to the King of Prussia on your side of the water, and to smooth your way for that commission on this ; by the turn which things have taken of late, it must always be the most important of all foreign commissions from hence.

I have no news to send you, as things here are extremely quiet ; so good night.

L E T T E R CCCXXXII.

London, April the 25th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM now two letters in your debt, which I think is the first time that ever I was so, in the long course of our correspondence. But, besides that my head has been very much out of order of late, writing is by no means that easy thing that it was to me formerly. I find by experience, that the mind and the body are more than married, for they are most intimately united; and when the one suffers, the other sympathises. *Non sum qualis eram*: Neither my memory nor my invention are now what they formerly were. It is in a great measure my own fault: I cannot accuse Nature, for I abused her; and it is reasonable I should suffer for it.

I do not like the return of the oppression upon your lungs; but the rigour of the cold may probably have brought it upon you, and your lungs not in fault. Take care to live very cool, and let your diet be rather low.

We have had a second winter here, more severe than the first, at least it seemed so, from a premature summer that we had, for a fortnight, in March; which brought every thing forwards, only to be destroyed. I have experienced it at Blackheath; where the promise of fruit was a most flattering one,

and all nipped in the bud by frost and snow, in April. 'I shall not have a single peach or apricot.

I have nothing to tell you from hence, concerning public affairs, but what you read as well in the news-papers. This only is extraordinary; that last week, in the House of Commons, above ten millions were granted, and the whole Hanover army taken into British pay, with but one single negative, which was Mr. Viner's.

Mr. Pitt gains ground in the closet, and yet does not lose it in the public. That is new.

Monsieur Kniphausen has dined with me; he is one of the prettiest fellows I have seen; he has, with a great deal of life and fire, *les manieres d'un bonnête homme, et le ton de la parfaitement bonne compagnie*. You like him yourself; try to be like him: it is in your power.

I hear that Mr. Mitchel is to be recalled, notwithstanding the King of Prussia's instances to keep him. But why, is a secret that I cannot penetrate.

You will not fail to offer the Landgrave and the Princess of Hesse (who I find are going home) to be their agent and commissioner at Hamburgh.

I cannot comprehend the present state of Russia, nor the motions of their armies. They change their Generals once a week; sometimes they march with rapidity, and now they lie quiet behind the Vistula. We have a thousand stories here of the interior of that government, none of which I believe. Some say, that the Great Duke will be set aside. Woronzoff is said to be entirely a Frenchman, and that

Monsieur

Monfieur de l'Hôpital governs both him and the Court. Sir C. W. is faid, by his indiscretions, to have caufed the difgrace of Beftuchef, which feems not impoffible. In fhort, every thing of every kind is faid, becaufe, I believe, very little is truly known. *A propos* of Sir C. W.; he is out of confinement, and gone to his houfe in the country for the whole fummer. They fay he is now very cool and well. I have feen his Circe, at her window in Pall-mall; ſhe is painted, powdered, curled, and patched, and looks *l'aventure*. She has been offered, by Sir C. W.—'s friends, 500 l. in full of all demands, but will not accept of it. *La comteſſe veut plaider*, and I fancy *faire autre choſe ſi elle peut*. *Jubeo te bene valere*.

L E T T E R CCCXXXIII.

Blackheath, May the 18th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE your letter of the 9th now before me, and condole with you upon the preſent ſolitude and inaction of Hamburgh. You are now ſhrunk from the dignity and importance of a conſummate Miniſter, to be but, as it were, a common man. But this has, at one time or another, been the caſe of moſt great men; who have not always had equal opportunities

tunities of exerting their talents. The greatest must submit to the capriciousness of fortune; though they can, better than others, improve the favourable moments. For instance, who could have thought, two years ago, that you would have been the Atlas of the Northern Pole? but the good Genius of the North ordered it so; and now that you have set that part of the globe right, you return to *otium cum dignitate*. But to be serious: now that you cannot have much office, business to do, I could tell you what to do, that would employ you, I should think, both usefully and agreeably. I mean, that you should write short memoirs of that busy scene, in which you have been enough concerned, since your arrival at Hamburgh, to be able to put together authentic facts and anecdotes. I do not know whether you will give yourself the trouble to do it or not; but I do know, that if you will, *olim hæc meminisse juvabit*. I would have them short, but correct as to facts and dates.

I have told Alt, in the strongest manner, your lamentations for the loss of the House of Cassel, *et il en fera rapport à son Sérénissime Maître*. When you are quite idle (as probably you may be, some time this summer), why should you not ask leave to make a tour to Cassel for a week? which would certainly be granted you from hence, and which would be looked upon as a *bon procédé* at Cassel.

The King of Prussia is probably, by this time, at the gates of Vienna, making the Queen of Hungary really do what Monsieur de Bellisle only threatened;

threatened ; sign a peace upon the ramparts of her capital. If she is obstinate, and will not, she must fly either to Presburg or to Inspruck, and Vienna must fall. But I think he will offer her reasonable conditions enough for herself ; and I suppose that, in that case, Caunitz will be reasonable enough to advise her to accept of them. What turn would the war take then ? Would the French and Russians carry it on without her ? the King of Prussia, and the Prince of Brunswick, would soon sweep them out of Germany. By this time too, I believe, the French are entertained in America with the loss of Cape Breton ; and, in consequence of that, Quebec ; for we have a force there equal to both those undertakings, and Officers there, now, that will execute what Lord L—— never would so much as attempt. His appointments were too considerable to let him do any thing that might possibly put an end to the war. Lord Howe, upon seeing plainly that he was resolved to do nothing, had asked leave to return, as well as Lord Charles Hay.

We have a great expedition preparing, and which will soon be ready to sail from the Isle of Wight ; fifteen thousand good troops, eighty battering cannons, besides mortars, and every other thing in abundance, fit for either battle or siege. Lord Anson desired, and is appointed, to command the fleet employed upon this expedition ; a proof that it is not a trifling one. Conjectures concerning its destination are infinite ; and the most ignorant are, as usual, the boldest conjecturers. If I form any conjectures.

jectures, I keep them to myself, not to be disproved by the event ; but, in truth, I form none : I might have known, but would not. •

Every thing seems to tend to a peace next winter : our success in America, which is hardly doubtful, and the King of Prussia's in Germany, which is as little so, will make France (already sick of the expence of the war) very tractable for a peace. I heartily wish it : for, though people's heads are half turned with the King of Prussia's success, and will be quite turned, if we have any in America, or at sea ; a moderate peace will suit us better than this immoderate war of twelve millions a year.

Domestic affairs go just as they did ; the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pitt jog on like man and wife ; that is, seldom agreeing, often quarrelling ; but by mutual interest, upon the whole, not parting. The latter, I am told, gains ground in the closet ; though he still keeps his strength in the House, and his popularity in the public : or, perhaps, because of that.

Do you hold your resolution of visiting your dominions of Bremen and Lubeck this summer ? If you do, pray take the trouble of informing yourself correctly of the several constitutions and customs of those places, and of the present state of the ~~F~~ederal union of the Hanseatic towns : it will do you no harm, nor cost you much trouble ; and it is so much clear gain on the side of useful knowledge.

I am now settled at Blackheath for the summer; where unseasonable frost and snow, and hot and parching East-winds, have destroyed all my fruit, and almost my fruit-trees. I vegetate myself little better than they do; I crawl about on foot, and on horseback; read a great deal, and write a little: and am very much yours.

L E T T E R CCCXXXIV.

Blackheath, May the 30th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE no letter from you to answer, so this goes to you unprovoked. But *à propos* of letters: you have had great honour done you, in a letter from a fair and Royal hand, no less than that of her Royal Highness the Princess of Cassel; she has written your panegyric to her sister, Princess Amelia, who sent me a compliment upon it. This has likewise done you no harm with the King, who said gracious things upon that occasion. I suppose you had, for her Royal Highness, those attentions, which I wish to God you would have, in due proportions, for every body. You see, by this instance, the effects of them; they are always repaid with interest. I am more confirmed by this in thinking, that, if you can conveniently, you should ask leave to go for a week

week to Cassel, to return your thanks for all favours received.

I cannot expound to myself the conduct of the Russians. There must be a trick in their not marching with more expedition. They have either had a sop from the King of Prussia, or they want an animating dram from France and Austria. The King of Prussia's conduct always explains itself by the events; and, within a very few days, we must certainly hear of some very great stroke from that quarter. I think I never in my life remember a period of time so big with great events as the present. Within two months the fate of the House of Austria will probably be decided: within the same space of time, we shall certainly hear of the taking of Cape Breton, and of our army's proceeding to Quebec: within a few days, we shall know the good or ill success of our great expedition; for it is sailed: and it cannot be long before we shall hear something of the Prince of Brunswick's operations, from whom I also expect good things. If all these things turn out as there is good reason to believe they will, we may once, in our turn, dictate a reasonable peace to France, who now pays seventy *per cent.* insurance upon its trade, and seven *per cent.* for all the money raised for the service of the year.

Comte Bothmar has got the small-pox, and of a bad kind. Kniphausen diverts himself much here; he sees all places and all people, and is ubiquity itself. Mitchel, who was much threatened, stays at

last at Berlin, at the earnest request of the King of Prussia. Lady * * * is safely delivered of a son, to the great joy of that noble family. The expression of a woman's having brought her husband a son, seems to be a proper and cautious one; for it is never said, from whence.

I was going to ask you how you passed your time now at Hamburgh, since it is no longer the seat of strangers and of business; but I will not, because I know it is to no purpose. You have sworn not to tell me.

Sir William Stanhope told me, that you promised to send him some Old Hock from Hamburgh, and so you did—not. If you meet with any superlatively good, and not else, pray send over a *foudre* of it, and write to him. I shall have a share in it. But unless you find some, either at Hamburgh or at Bremen, uncommonly and almost miraculously good, do not send any. *Dixi.* Yours.

LETTER CCCXXXV.

Blackheath, June the 13th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

THE secret is out; St. Malo is the devoted place. Our troops began to land at the Bay of Cancale the 5th, without any opposition. We have no farther accounts yet, but expect some every moment. By the plan of it, which I have seen, it is by no means a weak place; and I fear there will be many hats to be disposed of before it is taken. There are in the port above thirty privateers; about sixteen of their own, and about as many taken from us.

Now for Africa, where we have had great success. The French have been driven out of all their forts and settlements upon the Gum-coast, and upon the river Senegal. They had been many years in possession of them, and by them annoyed our African trade exceedingly; which, by the way, *toute proportion gardée*, is the most lucrative trade we have. The present booty is likewise very considerable, in gold dust, and gum senega; which is a very valuable, by being a very necessary commodity for all our stained and printed linens.

Now for America. The least sanguine people here expect, the latter end of this month, or the beginning of the next, to have the account of the
L 3
taking

taking of Cape Breton, and of all the forts with hard names in North America.

Captain Clive has long since settled Asia to our satisfaction; so that three parts of the world look very favourable for us. Europe I submit to the care of the King of Prussia, and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick; and I think they will give a good account of it. France is out of luck, and out of courage; and will, I hope, be enough out of spirits to submit to a reasonable peace. By reasonable, I mean what all people call reasonable in their own case; an advantageous one for us.

I have set all right with Münchausen; who would not own that he was at all offended, and said, as you do, that his daughter did not stay long enough, nor appear enough at Hamburgh, for you possibly to know that she was there. But people are always ashamed to own the little weaknesses of self-love, which, however, all people feel more or less. The excuse, I saw, pleased.

I will send you your quadrille tables by the first opportunity, consigned to the care of Mr. Mathias here. *Felices faustaque sint!* May you win upon them when you play with men; and when you play with women, either win, or know why you lose.

Miss — marries Mr. —, next week. *Who professes Love, professes Death*, says Waller to a dwarf: in my opinion, the conclusion must instantly choak the little Lady. Admiral * marries Lady * * * ; there the danger, if danger is, will be on the other side. The lady has wanted a man so long, that she

The now compounds for half a one. Half a loaf

I have been worse since my last letter; but am now, I think, recovering; *tant va la cruche à l'eau*; ——— and I have been there very often.

Good night. I am faithfully and truly yours.

LETTER CCCXXXVI.

Blackheath, June the 27th, 1758.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOU either have received already, or will very soon receive, a little case from Amsterdam, directed to you at Hamburg. It is for Princess Amelia, the King of Prussia's sister, and contains some Books, which she desired Sir Charles Hotham to procure her from England, so long ago as when he was at Berlin: he sent for them immediately; but, by I do not know what puzzle, they were recommended to the care of Mr. Selwyn, at Paris, who took such care of them, that he kept them near three years in his warehouse, and has at last sent them to Amsterdam, from whence they are sent to you. If the books are good for any thing, they must be considerably improved, by having seen so much of the world; but, as I believe they are English books, perhaps they may, like English travellers, have seen

nobody; but the several bankers to whom they were consigned; be that as it will, I think you had best deliver them to Monsieur Hecht, the Prussian Minister at Hamburgh, to forward to Her Royal Highness, with a respectful compliment from you, which you will, no doubt, turn in the best manner; and, *selon le bon ton de la parfaitement bonne compagnie.*

You have already seen, in the papers, all the particulars of our St. Malo's expedition, so I say no more of that; only that Mr. Pitt's friends exult in the destruction of three French ships of war, and one hundred and thirty privateers and trading ships; and affirm, that it stopped the march of threescore thousand men, who were going to join the Comte de Clermont's army. On the other hand, Mr. Fox and Company call it breaking windows with guineas; and apply the fable of the Mountain and the Mouse. The next object of our fleet was to be the bombard-
ing of Granville, which is the great *entrepôt* of their Newfoundland fishery, and will be a considerable loss to them in that branch of their trade. These, you will perhaps say, are no great matters, and I say so too; but, at least, they are signs of life, which we had not given for many years before; and will show the French, by our invading them, that we do not fear their invading us. Were those invasions, in fishing-boats from Dunkirk, so terrible as they were awfully represented to be, the French would have had an opportunity of executing them while our fleet, and such a considerable part of our army, were