

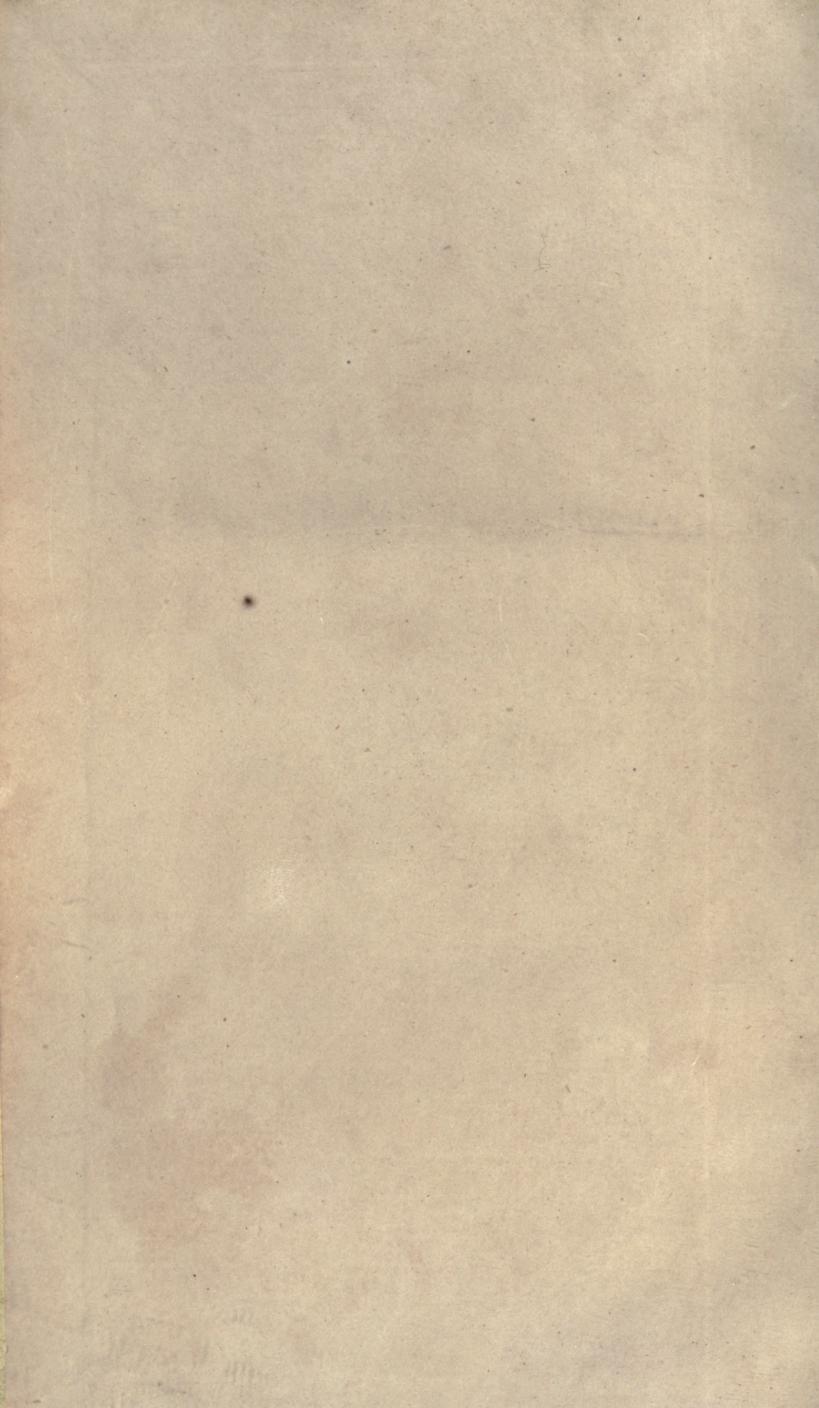


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STRADLING CORRESPONDENCE.

LONDON :
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STRADLING CORRESPONDENCE:

A SERIES OF LETTERS

WRITTEN IN THE
REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH;

WITH NOTICES OF THE
FAMILY OF STRADLING OF ST. DONAT'S CASTLE, CO. GLAMORGAN.

EDITED BY
THE REV. JOHN MONTGOMERY TRAHERNE,
M. A. F. R. S. F. S. A.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, ORME, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS;
AND WILLIAM BIRD, CARDIFF.

1840.



STRAHLING CORRESPONDENCE

A SERIES OF LETTERS

WRITTEN BY

JAMES OF GURKIN BISHOP

EDITED BY THE REV. JOHN MONTGOMERY TRASK

LONDON

THE REV. JOHN MONTGOMERY TRASK

M.A. F.R.S. F.R.A.S.

LONDON

LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, & CO. LTD.



TO
JOHN FREDERIC, EARL CAWDOR, F.R.S

AND A

FAMILY TRUSTEE OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM,

THIS PUBLICATION

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE EDITOR.

2

JOHN FERGUSON EARL CANTON 185

THE ONLY TRIBUTE OF THE BRITISH NATION

IN REPLY TO THE

THE EDITOR

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Manuscript from which the following Correspondence is printed, forms a thin quarto volume. It is a transcript from the original letters; and, from the character of the handwriting, appears to be of the Elizabethan era.

The Editor has so far deviated from the original MS. as to print consecutively the letters by the same writers, thereby obviating the confusion of dates and names. He has endeavoured to elucidate the publication by a few notes.

He takes this opportunity of acknowledging his obligations to Charles George Young, Esq. F.S.A. and York Herald, the owner of the MS. for permission to edit the same, and for his useful co-operation; to the Rev. John Webb, F.S.A. and the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A. for some explanatory notices; and to Earl Cawdor, for the inspection of that valuable collection of Welsh Descents, in his Lordship's possession, known by the name of "the Golden Grove Book," as also for the loan of the rare volume of Sir John Stradling's "Epigrammata."

The letters must speak for themselves. They contain much interesting matter, and much that to many readers may appear unimportant. However, the Editor thought it expedient to print the whole; and he trusts that his endeavour to rescue from oblivion documents relative to the history of the Stradlings in "the golden days of good Queen Bess," may be generally acceptable.

Coedriglan, Cardiff,

July 1, 1840.

HISTORICAL NOTICES
OF
THE STRADLING FAMILY,
FROM THE REIGN OF EDWARD THE SIXTH TO THAT OF
CHARLES THE FIRST.

SIR THOMAS STRADLING, KNIGHT.

THOMAS STRADLING was knighted February 17, 3rd Edward VI. He was Muster-master to the Queen's army, and a Commissioner for the Marches. He represented East Grinstead in Sussex in 1553, and Arundel in 1554. He was on a commission for the suppression of heretics with Sir Thomas Pope in 1558. His will bears date 19th December 1566, and was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in May 1571, shortly after the death of the testator. He gives to his second son David his great chain of Angel gold, weighing three score and five ounces. In the codicil he enumerates articles of silver plate, weighing in the whole between seven and eight hundred ounces. Then follow bequests of milch-cows or steers to various poor persons in Llantwit and the neighbouring parishes.

SIR EDWARD STRADLING, KNIGHT.

EDWARD STRADLING, eldest son of Sir Thomas Stradling, Knight, by Catherine daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight, was educated at Oxford; afterwards travelled, and spent some time at Rome. Knighted in 1575. "He became a very useful man in his county; and was at the charge of such Herculean works for the public good, that no man in his time went beyond him. But, above all, he is to be remembered for his singular knowledge in the British language and antiquities."—Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* by Bliss, vol. ii. p. 50. Dr. John Davys (commonly called John David Rhys), who dedicated to him the "*Institutiones Linguae Cambricæ*," 1592, speaks of the large sums expended at St. Donat's, on the sea-wall, &c. and adds, "*Quid quantum virorum fortium satellitium, quàm generosos alas equos, memorem? Quid qualia memorem armamenta, quot belli tormentis armisque referta, domi habeas, quibus Principem patriamque tuearis: ut quos tibi comparem paucos, quos tibi præferam paucissimos, reperiam.*" Sir Edward died in his eightieth year, May 15, 1609, and was buried on the following day. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 19th of October following. He desires to be

buried in the chapel of St. Mary, built by his father, adjoining to the parish church of St. Donat's, betwixt his great-grandfather and grandmother on the north side, and his father on the south side. To his loving cousin, Sir John Stradling, he gives his "signet, or ring of gold," which he used "to seal withal;" and that of silver with his whole arms and crest; and his armour, and all manner of double bases, single bases, muskets, calivers, pistols, &c. pikes, steel saddles, jacks, bows and arrows, and other provision and furniture touching and for the wars;" and all his "library of books and writings," except fifty copies of Dr. John David Rhys' Welsh Grammar;¹ and his Roman and ancient coins. He leaves 600*l.* to the children of his cousin Lamorock Stradling, to be taken and had in his "iron chest" where his "ready money doth remain." To his "yeomen servants, coat clothes of broad black cloth; and the rest to have, as well boys as men, black clothes of frieze that shall be good,"—"the women servants to have gowns of the same." His "body to be carried within twenty-four hours" after his "decease, without pomp or great preparation." "No common dole to be dealt" for him; "but 23*l.* to be doled" for him shortly after amongst the poor people within such

¹ Vide p. 315.

parishes only where he had "lands," "except Llangynor" where he was nursed: twenty-six parishes in Glamorganshire are enumerated, and five in Somersetshire. He gives to Sir John Stradling his "interest in a bond for six thousand pounds from the late Earl of Pembroke and the Lord Lisle, concerning my lady¹ his wife's jointure, not doubting but that he will see himself and his heirs discharged of the trust put in me."

To the poor prisoners in Cardiff gaol, and the poor people of the almshouse there, two bolls and six bushels of wheat. He recommends that his widow should continue to reside in the castle, and gives to her and to Sir J. Stradling the use of his stock, furniture, implements, &c. The will contains many small bequests to various persons. He appoints his beloved wife, Dame Agnes Stradling,² executrix, and John Lord Lumley executor. His wife Agnes, daughter of Sir Edward Gage of Firle in Sussex, was born in 1547, married in 1566, and was buried at St. Donat's Feb. 1, 1624.

¹ Barbara Lady Lisle. Vide p. 10, and note in Addenda, as to the suit brought against Sir Edward in 1584.

² In 1610 she erected a handsome monument in St. Donat's church to her husband's memory. One hundred pounds were devised by Sir Edward's will for this purpose.

SIR JOHN STRADLING,
KNIGHT AND BARONET.

JOHN STRADLING, son of Francis and grandson of Harry Stradling, who was great-uncle to the last-named Sir Edward, was born in 1583; commoner of Brasenose College 1579, æt. sixteen. In 1583 he graduated at Magdalen Hall, "a miracle for his forwardness in learning, and pregnancy of parts." He travelled on the Continent. He was the friend of Camden, Sir John Harrington, Dr. Th. Leyson, &c. In 1607 he published a volume of Epigrams, principally addressed to his relatives and friends in Glamorganshire. Various historical notices of interest may be gleaned from them and the accompanying notes.

His poem, entitled "Beati pacifici," a pedantic production, perused in manuscript by James the First, was printed in 1623.

His Divine Poems, in seven several classes, published in 1625, is a rare book. The following is a stanza of a quaint poetical dedication to Theophilus, Bishop of Llandaff:

Loe! here a childe of mine, in sacred font
Alreadie dipt, repairs for confirmation
To you, my Lord; reflect your eye upon 't—
I'm suretie for his Christian education.

The Lord Bishop's answer :

I viewed your child, and I dare swear 'tis yours,
 So plaine, so pithy, and so like the sire, &c. &c.
 I poz'd him in our vulgar catechisme,
 And thus confirme him : He is void of schisme.

Your true loving friend,

THEO. LANDAVEN.

Sir John was created a Baronet 22nd May 1611. In 1625 he was elected Knight of the Shire for Glamorgan. He died on the 11th Sept. 1637, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Gage, Esq. of Sussex, seven children. His eldest son, Sir Edward Stradling, Bart. married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Mansel, Bart. of Margam. He was elected Knight of the Shire in 1640. He died in 1644. The following extracts from Lady Stradling's letters are copied from the originals in the possession of C. R. M. Talbot, Esq. M.P.

Extract from a letter, dated St. Donat's Castle, Oct. 1, 1642, from Dame Mary Stradling to "her dear sister," the Lady Elizabeth Mansel, the widow of her brother Sir Lewis Mansel, Bart. and daughter of Henry Earl of Manchester. Lady Elizabeth married secondly Sir Edward Sebright, of Besford in Worcestershire, Knight and Baronet.

“ M^r Stradling wished me to tell y^r La. that he is y^r most humble and obligid servant, and giveth your La. many thanks for the musketts, with the apurtenances, which he received from y^u.” She promises that “ M^r Stradlinge will repay some money as soon as possibly these times are blowene over.”

Extract from a letter of Lady Stradling to Lady Elizabeth Sebright, dated St. Donat's, 26th Nov. 1645. She refers to a sum of “ one hundred pounds;” and adds, “ I have sent y^u six musketts and some matches. As for weathers, heer are a great many fatt, but I cannot as yet get such a settlement as to sell any of them; butt I hope before the end of Christmas I shall, for God knoweth I should be glader that they might serve y^r turn than any bodies in the world; but I do yeat buy both my mutton, beef, and bread corne, and otes, w^{ch} (in private to y^r Lla. only) doth almost undoe me, considering my great family and resorte.¹

¹ When Sir Timothy Tyrrell, the governor, was obliged to evacuate Cardiff Castle, his father-in-law, Archbishop Usher, took refuge in St. Donat's Castle, and remained there near a twelve-month; quitting it, according to his biographer Dr. Parr, in 1646. “ In the library he made many choice collections of the British or Welsh Antiquities.” St. Donat's afforded an asylum to the friends of Charles the First at this period. Vide Life of Archbishop Usher, p. 60.

“ I beg your Lla. pardon that I doe nott now send y^u y^{ur} musketts ; for, since the writing of my letter unto y^u, I understand that they went amongst others w^{ch} I sent unto Jack¹ for Cardif. They will be back heer on Satterday next, and by God’s leave I will send y^m unto y^u by Monday or Tuesday next att the furthest.”

Abstract of a letter from the same to the same, dated Dec. 1, 1645, as to 100*l.* belonging to Lady E. Sebright, “ sent with other matters into North Wales.” “ I have not heard from thence since Christmas last, tho’ I have endeavoured it by several messengers of mine that gone part of the way ; but the temper of the souldiers of both sides have caused them to returne withoutt finishing their journey.”

¹ Her second son, Major-General John Stradling, in the service of King Charles the First.—Vide Pedigree.

PEDIGREE OF STRADLING
OF ST. DONAT'S,
GLAMORGANSHIRE.

PEDIGREE OF STRADLING, ANCIENTLY LE ESTERLING,

OF ST. DONAT'S, IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.

ARMS. Paly of six Argent and Azure, on a bend Gules three cinquefoils Or.

CHEST. A stag lodged Argent, wreathed around the neck and attired Or.

Sir William Le Esterling, Knt. to whom the castle and manor of St. Donat's=Hawise. was given at the winning of the lordship of Glamorgan by Robert Fitzhamon and his 12 knights, circa 1090, v. Caradoc of Lancarvan. . . .

Sir Peter Stradling, Knt. eighth in descent from=Julian, daughter and heir to Thomas Hawey of Sir William, temp. Edw. I. — *Hutchins's* Cwm Hawey, co. Somerset, and Compton *Dorset*, vol. iv. p. 42. Hawey, co. Dorset.

Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. did homage=Eleanor, daughter and heir to Gilbert Strongbow (a younger brother to for Compton Hawey 1314 to the Richard Earl of Pembroke) by the daughter and heir of Richard Abbot of Sherborne. Garnon, and had by her two manors in Oxfordshire.

↳ a

a

Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. attested the charter of Hugh le Despencer to Wenllian, daughter to Sir Roger Margam Abbey 1339; M.P. for Somersetshire 1344, and with his colleague had 12*l.* allowance for thirty days' expenses in coming to the parliament, staying, and returning; did homage for Compton Hawey 1363; Vice comes for Glamorgan 1367.—*Vide Margam MSS. in the possession of C. R. Mansel Talbot, Esq.*

Sir William Stradling, Knt. He went a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and = Isabel, daughter and heir received the order of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, temp. Rich. II.—*Vide Caradoc of Lancarvan.*

<p>Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. went to Jerusalem temp. Hen. VI. Ob. 1453. — <i>Hutchins's Dorset</i>, vol. iv. p. 42.</p>	<p>Sir John Stradling, Rector of Glyngton, co. Wilts, exchanged, in 1448, for the Archdeaconry of Llandaff; Seneschal of Havod y Porth; for Margam 1425; Seneschal of Kenfig 1460; Rector of Chipping Tawton, co. Devon, 1454; Rector of Merthyr-mawr.</p>	<p>William Stradling, from whom are descended the Stradlings of Ruthyn.</p>
c	c	d

b



Sir Harry Stradling,* Knt. went to Jerusalem, and died at Jerusalem, sister to Cyprus on his return. Aged 30 at his father's death. Taken prisoner in the Bristol Channel by Colyn Dolphyn, a pirate, as he was passing to his house in Somersetshire from St. Donat's. " His ransom stood him in 2000 marks."

c



Sir Edmund Stradling.

d



Wenllian ~~~~~ Anthony
Widville
Earl
Rivers.

Thomas=Jenet, daughter to Thomas Mathew of Radyr, com. Glamorgan. Married secondly, Sir Rice ap Thomas. Ob. 1485. at. 24.

Elizabeth, married Jane, married Miles ap Harry, from whom Fleming, was descended of Monk-Mrs. Blanche ton, in Parry. — *Vide* co.Glam. *Letters*.

John Stradling, whose daughter Anne became Lady Davers; of whom the Davers, Hungersfords, Tynes, &c.

Edmund Stradling; whose dau. Jane (by Catherine dau. & heir of John Trenouth) mar. William Carnsew of Cornwall. — *Vide Letters*.

Margaret, married Sir Robert Poyntz; whence the families of Poyntz of Iron Acton and Alderley, co. Glouc.

e



Sir Edward Stradling, Knt. Ob. May 8th, 1535.

Harry = daughter and heir of Thomas Jubbe, learned in the law.

Jane=Sir William Griffith, of Pentryn, North Wales. †

e



f



e

Sir Thomas Stradling, Sheriff of Glamorgan. Ob. 1573.

= Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage of Coity, Glamorganshire, and of Margaret St. John of Bletso.

Robert Stradling, married a daughter of Watkin Loughor, and had issue.

Edward Stradling, married a dau. of Robert Raglan of Llantwit, and had issue Lamrock.—*Vide Letters.*

John Stradling, a Priest. Parson of Neath, 1560.

Jane, married Alex. Popham of Somersetshire, and had issue. Catherine, married Sir T. Palmer of Parham in Sussex, and had issue.

Francis Stradling, of St. Geo. by Bristol, "yet living." Sir E. Stradling's ac. Ob. 1589.

Sir Edward Stradling, to whom = Agnes, dau. to the letters are addressed, Com-Sir E. Gage of Fyfe, co. Sussex, printed in *Caradock of Lancarvan*, edition of 1584, p. 137. Sheriff 1573, 1581, and 1593. Ob. s. p. 15 May 1609.

David Stradling. Elizabeth. Jane.

Damasyn, companion to the Duchess of Feria. —*Vide Letters.*

Joice. Wenlian married — Giles, Esq.—*Vide Letters.*

Sir John Stradling, succeeded Sir Edward his cousin. Sheriff for Glamorgan 1607 and 1620. Knighted 1608; ct. a Bart. 1611. *Vide Ped. II.*

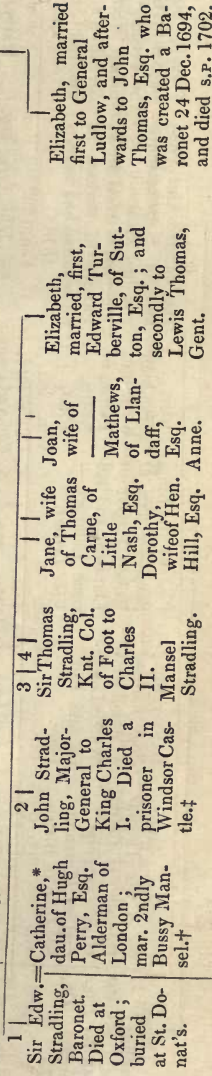
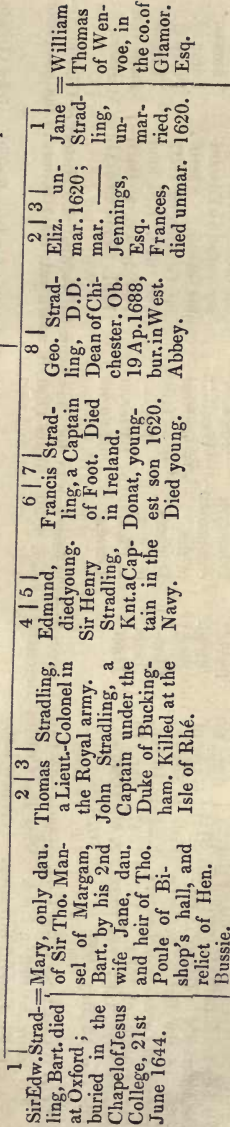
Harry. Thomas. Edmund. Percival. Thomas. Joan and Grace.

* "Whose book is yet to be seen with a letter his man brought from him to the Lady his wife."—Meyrick's History of Glamorganshire, written in 1584. *Vide* also Collins' Baronetage, vol. i. p. 30, edition 1720, in which year the MS. was in the possession of Sir Edward Stradling. It is now lost.

+ Sir William Griffith had issue Edward Griffith, who married Jane daughter to Sir John Puleston. Sir Rice Griffith. John Griffith. as also eight Daughters: 1, Grace, married Will. Stanley of Hooton; 2, Catherine, to Sir Richard Bulkley of Beaumans; 3, Anne, to Hugh Lewys of Anglesey; 4, Jane, to Thomas Mostyn; 5, Ellen, to Hugh Conway; 6, Dorothy to William Williams of Cychwillan, co. Carnarvon; 7, Margaret, first to Piers Mutton, — secondly to S. Thelwal, of Place Newood; 8, Elizabeth, to William Phillips of Picton co. Pemb.

PEDIGREE No. II.

Sir John Stradling of St. Donat's Knt. Created a Bart. 22nd May 1611; died = Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Gage of Firlle, Esq. 9th; buried at St. Donat's the 11th Sept. 1637.



Sir Edward Stradling=Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Hungerford, of Farley Castle, co. Wilts. Esq.

Sir William=Catherine. Walter, Knt.

George Bowen, of Kettlehill, in the county of Glamorgan, Esq.

Sir Edward Stradling, Bart.=Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edw. Mansel, Bart. sister to Tho. Lord Mansel; married at Margam, 5th June 1694; died in Feb. 1738.

1, Wm. bur. 19 Aug. 1676;
 3, Hungerford, bur. 15 Feb. 1682;
 5, Edmund; and Rachael:
 all died young before their father.

6 | Thomas Stradling. Died at sea.
 Charles Bowen, s.p. Hugh Bowen.

Edward Stradling, eldest son. Born in 1699; died 3rd and buried 4th October 1726 without issue. Member for Cardiff, co. Glamorgan.

Sir Thomas Stradling, Bart. youngest, and only surviving son. Born and baptised at St. Donat's 5th June 1710. Died unmarried at Montpelier in France, 27th September 1738. Will dated 4th March 1735. Administration, with the Will annexed, granted 15 December 1738, to the Honourable Christopher Mansel, and Bussy Mansel, Esquires, the Cousin-Germans, and next of kin.

* This lady is twice called Anne in a curious MS. statement by the Rev. Thomas Bassett, touching his sufferings in the civil wars, 1647, 1649-50. [Communicated by Mrs. E. Bassett of Swansea.]
 † Parish Register of Briton Ferry. Bussy Mansel, bur. 25th May 1669.
 ‡ Vide Lady Mary Fox's History of Windsor Castle.

CORRESPONDENCE

OF

SIR EDWARD STRADLING.

I.

To the right worshipfull my very loving frind
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

S^r, A iiii weekes synce I receavid a lre from you,
w^{ch} lre, as yt shoulde seme by the date therof,
was longe tyme wrytten before my receyt therof.
I have, according to yo^r request in the same, ac-
complished yo^r desyre, and have to that effecte
written a lre unto my daughter the Dowchesse,¹
the w^{ch} I have hereinlosed presently sent you;
prayinge yo to see the same saffly sent unto her,

¹ Jane, Countess and afterwards Duchess of Feria, was the second daughter of Sir William Dormer, Knight, by Mary, daughter of Sir William Sidney, Knight. She was maid of honour to Queen Mary, and married the Count of Feria, who was afterwards created Duke of Feria in Spain.—Collins' Peerage by Brydges, vol. vii. pp. 68, 69.

In the Burghley Papers, vol. ii. p. 128, is a letter from Lord Burghley to the Duchess, written in 1571, respecting the projected match of Queen Elizabeth with the Duke of Anjou.

as shortly as you may. And yf in case you cannot send yt by some assured messenger yo^r selfe, in suche wyse as yt may assuredly come to her hands; then woulde I wyshe you to returne the same unto me agayne, to thende I maye (yf I can possible) get the same sent my selfe. And thus as one willing to pleasure you in a greater matter, as occasion shall serve, wth my righte hartly comendaçons, I leave unto you my frindly farewell. From my house Ethrope,¹ the xith of February 1574.

Yo^r very loving frend,

WYLLYAM DORMER.

II.

[Probably addressed to Sir Edward Stradling.]

. . . . hartly comendaçons unto you and to yo^r good ladye yo^r bedfellowe, doe comytt you unto God, who p^rserve you in prosperous health. From Crofte, the viiith of September.

Yo^r loving grandmother,

JOYS GAMAGE.²

¹ In Buckinghamshire.

² Daughter of Sir Richard Croft, sister of Sir James Croft, and second wife of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knt. Her will in the Prerogative Office bears date 22nd Feb. 1586, and was proved 30th April 1588. She describes herself as the widow of Sir Thomas Gamage, and secondly, of Griffith Leyson of Carmarthen, Doctor of Civil Law. Probably she left no issue, as she devises her property to the Croft family, and appoints Herbert Croft executor.

III.

[Probably addressed to Sir Edward Stradling.]

. shall tender heer favor,
 that you doe not suffer anie to have recourse unto
 heer¹ touchinge mariadge tell yow know farder of
 heer Ma: pleasur, and that you doe take great
 care, as heer Ma: knoweth by your wisdome and
 goode discrecion you cane, and wherof heer Ma:
 nothings doubteth but you will yous all means to
 perform heer pleasure. My good cosyne, I doe
 my self recomend me most hartely unto you; and
 as you knowe we are both as nere kine unto M^{rs}
 Gamedge as anye, soe we ought to have as great
 care of heer well doinge as anie ought to have;
 and I doe not doubt but you have so, and for my
 parte she shall finde me a moste faythfull frende
 and kinseman, not doubtinge butt my cossin wilbe
 advised by us who tendreth so much heer well
 doinge. Good cosyn, recomende me unto heer
 most hartely, and lett heer knowe that M^r Watkin

¹ Barbara Gamage, only child of John Gamage by Gwenlleian, widow of Watkin Thomas, subsequently married Sir Robert Sydney, the second son of Sir Henry Sydney, K. G. and younger brother of Sir Philip. Sir Robert was born in 1563, and died in 1626. Elizabeth and James the First employed him on several important services. The latter Sovereign created him Baron Sydney of Penshurst, Viscount Lisle, and Earl of Leicester. He was also a Knight of the Garter. Barbara, Countess of Leicester, was buried at Penshurst, May 26, 1621. Vide Sydney State Papers, vol. i. p. 120.

Thomas¹ can tell heer I have byne a very deer frende unto heer, and have stayede my cosyn Gamedge from dowinge divers thinges to heer great hinderaunce; and although he maed divers convayaunce to have put the landes and lyvinge from heer to his bastardes, I kept him in such awe and feare as he durste never goo forwarde wthall. It is very well knowen, yf I would have reped swittnes by him, I might have donne; but knowinge my cossyn Barbara to be right and lafull ayre, and none but heer self, moved me by nature to have care of heer. And so I did, to the uttermost of my power: and will doe in anie thinge shall lye in me to dowe. I recomende my harty love unto heer, prainge [her] not to be hastie in y^t wich cannot be called bake againe, but to yous the advise of heer best and deerest frendes. My good cosin, I will take my leave of you and my goode cosyn yo^r wife, recomendinge heer Ma: pleasur unto your wise disresion. In hast, from the Court at Otlandes the xxith of September. [1584.]

Yo^r loving kynsmā and assured frind,

C. HOWARDE.²

¹ Perhaps son of Watkin Thomas, the first husband of Barbara Gamage's mother.

² Charles Howard, second Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of England, created Earl of Nottingham 1599. He was the eldest son and heir of William, first Baron Howard of Effingham (a younger son of Thomas second Duke of Norfolk) by his second wife Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, of Coity,

IV.

To my cosyn S^r Edward Stradlinge geve this.

COSSYN Stradlinge, I marvyll not a littell that beinge so longe since the deathe of my cossyn Gamedge,¹ and yow havinge my cosyn his doughter in yo^r custodye, that you could not fynde some mense by your letter to gyve me knowledge therof. I thinke you dyd forget what I was unto heer, and that non of us that be of heer kyne as neere as yo^r selfe had care of heer well dowynge, or have any suche interest in the seyng and desyeringe of heer well bestowinge as you seem to have, or else yo^r dellinges wold have been otherwise then it hathe byne. I had knowledge by M^r Watkyn Thomas, w^{ch} I thanke him for, and of some other good frend; but it semis you desyered I shuld be a mer stranger unto it. Apon the understandinge of it makinge heer Ma^{tie} aquaynted, I did wryght unto yow heer Ma: pleasure, which I dowbt not but you will have speciall regarde of. The strangnes of your dellinge towards me in this cause hath moved some other good frend of mynde to aquaynt me wth yo^r

Knight. He died in 1624, aged 87. His glorious services as a naval commander form a prominent feature in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

¹ John Gamage, Esq. died on the 8th of September 1584; his daughter and heir Barbara being of the age of 22 years and upwards.—Vide original Inquisition in the Rolls Chapel, dated Cardiff, 10th Dec. 27 Eliz.

manner of dellinge wth my cosyn, w^{ch} I dowe nothinge at all allowe of, and so shall you well knowe when I shall have oportunitie. Your sekyng to matche heer wth on of your owne nephewes, whiche albeit you weer in natur to dowe anny thinge you might for yo^r on kyne, yeet I maed acounte I was not so far of allyed from you as that [you] should thinke I should have mislykin of yt, yf it had been any waye feete for heer. Yo^r takinge possession of the chyfe howse¹ wth the evidences. A fit thinge my thinkes for yow to have had some other gentleman or frend of heers to have been wth you at it, and most feetest of all, my cosyn heer selfe to have beene there to take possession of heer owne, consitheringe it was not in that howse heer father dyed in, and shee beinge of thos yers she is of. Well cause I have greatly to thinke unkyndnes in yow in forgettyng me all this whyll in this cause; and for the rest of yo^r dowinges, be cause there are but reportes, whiche I wishe wth all my hart maye not be trewe, I will suspend my judgement till I heere more. In the meene tyme I pray you forgett not what I am, and so I shalbe verry glad to thinke what you are unto me. And so I leve yow for this tyme. From the Courte, the xxvith of Sep. [1584.]

Yo^r lovinge cosyn and frend, yf you
geve not cause to the contrarye,

C. HOWARD.

¹ Coity Castle.

V.

To my welbeloved nephewe S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
 Knighte, geve this.

NEPHEWE Stradlinge, I have received a letter from you dated the xvith of June, you dyd writte unto me howe yo^r syster had used you in her delays of cominge home to you, and howe you would have me to sende yow certeine worde whether she mente at this tyme to come home to you or not. I sente for her uppon the sighte of yo^r letter, and delte very frendly wth her, and declared unto her y^t yt greved me, she beinge soe nere a kynne unto [me], to see her goe from service to service: she beinge soe yll used, as she declared unto me, in the place where she was. I tolde her there was nothinge more mete for her, and for her reputa^õn, then to come home to you, and to be bestowed by yo^r advise. She showed her selfe to me very willinge and glad of yt; and yf she doe yt not, she shewes hir selfe to disemple very much wth mee. Since I began my letter unto you, I have spoken wth my neice yo^r syster, who comes home nowe at this present, who like a good lovinge syster puttes hir selfe holie [to] be governed by you. Therefore I doe most hartely desyre yow to shewe yo^r selfe a good lovinge brother unto hir, and specially in this matter that

she drawes her selfe unto; that is, that she is contented to marie. And it is pyttye but that hir frends shoulde be willinge to it, for that there was none of all hir systers yet that did yelde hir selfe to be rewled by there frends, butt hir selfe. My good nephewe, I must make yow understande what hath bynne declared unto me, bothe by my brother Gwyne and by dyvers others. There is a gentleman whose name is Glinne, of Sropshire, a suter unto yo^r syster: as I understand, he is of a good howse, for he is cosen jermyne unto S^r James A Crofte, the Queenes Ma^{tes} Councptrowler; his levin is certainly knowen to be a c^{li}. a yeare, and besyds the c^{li}. a yere, there was xl^{li}. a yere w^{ch} his father layed to morgage to Alderman Haward,¹ or sold, and woddess upon it worthe v c^{li}; it was layde out for ii c^{li}, and I am credible enfurmed that he may have his lande againe, soe y^t he maye have his mony. Therefore, my good nephewe, consider all thinges, and shewe yo^r selfe a good and lovinge brother, and in specially to hir, for that yow had noe more comitted unto yo^r chardge but she. And suerly I am glade as any aunte can be, that she yelds hir selfe thus muche unto yow in all thinges, and in all to be governed by you; and that makes me soe earnestlye to

¹ Sir Rowland Hayward, Knt. an Alderman of London, and Lord Mayor in 1570. He was of an ancient Shropshire family. He died Dec. 5, 1592.—Lodge's Illustrations, vol. ii. p. 244.

writte to yow in her behalfe, not doubtinge but that she shall fynde a greate deale of good at yo^r hands, and the sooner for my sake. Soe I ende, wth my frendlye and lovinge comendaçõs unto yow, and to my good neice my ladye yo^r wife, wth gevinge of her greate thanks for the good bringinge uppe of my neice Gamadge, and you also for yo^r greate care of her. And so I cõmitte you all unto the custodie of the almightie and everlevinge God. From Westm̄, this laste of June, Anno 1577.

Yo^r moste lovinge aunte,

MARGRETT HOWARDE.¹

POST SCRIPT.—This gentleman meanes betweene this and Michaelmas to come unto you, and then yow shall knowe all thinges certeinelye of him all his estate; but, good nephewe, on[c]e agayne I pray yow for my sake, forslo not a good hap when it comes.

VI.

To my very lovinge frend and cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, geve these.

Good S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, I understand by Thomas Watkyn Thomas that you think I have conceived some mislike of you for the bestowinge of my kinswoman Barbara Gamedge wth S^r

¹ Mother of Charles second Lord Howard of Effingham. Vide Letter III. p. 4.

Robert Sydney. As I have no cause to dislike of her well doinge and preferment, soe have I no reason to conceive hardlye of yow for makinge suche a matche. And as I have bene ever bounde by nature and good will to love and favoure yow and yo^r howse: soe shall you fynde me still both readye and willinge to stande you in what steade I may, as any occasion may be offered. I am enformed likewise that yow have in yo^r handes a bonnd¹ wherin my Lo: of Pembroke and S^r Robert Sydney stand bound for performaunce of certaine conditions and covenantes, w^{ch} bonnde I understande is sought by meanes to be drawne out of yo^r handes; and least you might therein be over ruled by some of greater countenance, I have thought good, for the care I have for the maintenance of that howse, to praye yow to send the same bonnde unto me, in whose handes it shall remayne in as safe and carefull sorte for the benefitt of her and her kynred as yf it weare in yo^r handes, and peradventure in more safetie: for assure yo^r self there wilbe devises wrought to pcure it from yow: soe, yf I have it, the benefitt that may any waye come thereby to her or yow shall as dewely fall upon yow, as the true intent of the same bonnde dothe import. Thus, wth my most hartie comendaçons, I leave yow and yo^r good lady to the grace of the Almightye. From

¹ This bond is noticed in Sir Edward Stradling's will. Vide Preface.

the Courte at Grenewiche, this last of Februarye
1586. Yo^r assured lovinge kynsman

and verry frend,

C. HOWARD.

VII.

To my very loving frend S^r Edw. Stradling,
Knight, Sherief of her Ma^{tes} Countey of Glamorgan.

AFTER right harty comendaçons. There is, by order of this Courte, proces adressed unto you for thapprehēçon of certen psons therin mencōed, whose contemptes are suche, that it standeth wth the honour of this house and my credit to use what wayes and meanes we can best devise for the speedy attachingē of them. And althoughe I dare presume, you will of duety shewe yo^r good will to execute the same, yet I am to desire yow to be the more earnest for the accomplishment of the tenor of the sayd proces the rather for my sake; in the doinge wherof you occasion me to requite the same wth like frendly good turne as may be servinge. And thus, nothing doubting of yo^r diligence to be shewed herin, I byd you hartely well to fare. From the Castle of Ludlowe, this xiiith of September 1574.

Yo^r very loving frend,

H. SYDNEY.¹

¹ Henry Sydney went to New College, Oxford, in 1543. Subsequently he was employed in the service of Edward the Sixth and

VIII.

To the right worshipfull my very loving frend
S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, Sherif of the
County of Glamorgan.

AFTER right harty comendaçons, I have received
yo^r tres of the xxiiiith of September, the last of
the same at the handes of this bearer my servante
Capitaine Lloyd; and by the same doe perceive yo^r
harty good will towards me in thaccomplishm^t
of my request, and otherwise, for w^{ch} I hartely
thanke you, and allso for yo^r curtesy and frendly
usinge of my sayd servaunte: Desiringe yow to
geve unto him what creditte you can in psecutinge
of this service; and also to yeld yo^r endevor that
the money for suche armor and furniture wth
other necessaries as you wth the rest shall agree to
receave att my handes may be wth all expediçon
sent hither, and the armor for the same shalbe
delivered furthwth as in my generall tre I have
expressed: And even so byd you right hartely
well to fare. From the Castle of Ludlowe, the
seconde of October 1574.

Yo^r very loving frend,

H. SYDNEY.

Queen Mary. In the second year of Elizabeth's reign he was
appointed Lord President of the Marches of Wales. He was made
K. G. four years afterwards, for his exertions in several embassies.
In 1568 he was constituted Deputy of Ireland. He died at Lud-
low in 1586, aged 57. Wood's Athenæ Oxonienses by Bliss,
vol. i. pp. 518, 519.

IX.

To the right wor: my very loving frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, Sherief of the Countey of Glamorgan.

AFTER right hartly comendaçons. Wher upon first motion of my going into Ireland, an army of men was appointed to gooe over wth me, for whom, at the requestes of the Justices and other wthin the counties where they are leavied, I have p^rvided a masse of armor, because I wold have them well furnished for that service, w^{ch} armo^r and furniture I have in readines, and payd for the same a great somme of money, and yf it shold nowe be turned uppon me, and not taken awaye accordingly my expectaçon, I shall therby become a greate loser; I am therefore to desyre yow to conferr wth the rest of the comissioners, and to certifye me, what pcells and kinds of armo^r and furniture yow do agree uppon to receave at my handes upon my sayd p^rvicion, and for the same to do what yow maye to hasten the mony to be payd, as in my sayd tres to yow and them I have appointed: and I will not fayle, accordinge to my p^rmise, to cause the armo^r and furniture to be deliverid at suche tyme and place as yow and they shall thinke convenient: And even so byd yow

right hartely well to fare. From the Courte, this
sixth of October 1574.

Yo^r verye loving frind,

H. SYDNEY.

X.

To the right worshipfull and my verye lovinge
frendes S^r Edwarde Maunsell¹ and S^r Edwarde
Stradlinge, Knightes.

AFTER my verie hartye comendaçons, Whereas
her Ma^{tes} ðres and proces is addressed to yow and
others Justices of the Peace in the Countie of
Glamorgan, for the aydinge and assistinge of the
reverend father the Bishopp of Landaffe's² substi-
tutes for the lawfull induction of one John Evans,
Clerke, M^r of Arte, to the benefice of Coitie;³
althoughe I suppose that upon the receite of the
sayd ðres yow will accordinglye doe yo^r endevoures
as you be required and directed by the sayd ðres,
yet for that I am desirouse that the cause should

¹ Sir Edward Mansel, eldest son of Sir Rice Mansel of Oxwich Castle and Margam, in Glamorganshire, was knighted in 1572. He died August 5th, 1585, æt. 54. He married Lady Jane Somerset, daughter of Henry Earl of Worcester. She died in 1597, aged 67. The etymology of Mansel appears to be established in the "Roman de Rou," translated by Taylor, p. 109, where Angevins and Mansels refer to natives of Anjou and Mans.

² William Blethyn, Bishop of Llandaff 1575 to 1590.

³ Coity is a parish in Glamorganshire, near the town of Bridgend. There are considerable remains of the ancient castle, the inheritance of Barbara Gamage.

take his dewe effect wthout further ptract' of tyme or delaye to the ptie : I have thought it not amisse, by my privat lres, to praye you that the xxviith daye of this present Marche, w^{ch} shalbe Paulme Sondaye next, abowt the howres of ix or x of the clocke in the morninge, you will not fayle to be at the pishe churche of Coitie, ther to asyst by yo^r presences the full execution of her Ma^{tes} proesses. And even so, hopinge that yow will herein satisfye my request, I byd yow hartely farewell. From Ludlowe Castell, the xvith of Marche 1579.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend,

H. SYDNEY.

XI.

To the right worshipfull and my verye lovinge frendes S^r Edwarde Stradlinge and S^r Wiffim Herbert,¹ Knights, and to eyther of them.

AFTER my verye hartie comendaçons. Whereas there hath ben of late some brawles² and conten-

¹ Sir William Herbert, grandson of Sir George Herbert of Swansea, and eldest son of Matthew Herbert, by Mary daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight, died in 1596. There is a monument erected to his memory in the Church of St. John, Cardiff, with figures of Sir William and his brother Sir John Herbert. The inscription, nearly illegible, commemorates their public services.

² It should seem from the Penrice Papers, that the state of society in Glamorganshire was very unsettled at this period. We may adduce as an instance, a serious affray in June 1576, between the Bassetts of Beaupré and the Turbervilles of Penlline, who fought in the street of Cowbridge with swords. Legal proceedings took place in the Star Chamber, but nothing is said of the result. In

tions betwixt the surnamed Thomases and the Johnes, and woundes receaved on either syde, and greate harme done; and by reason thereof, by meanes of ther kinred, w^{ch} is great on both sydes, ther is verie liklie to fawle out ptakinge,¹ and more harme growe then were to be wished, and therefore needfull in dew tyme to be prevented: for appeasinge whereof I mynded my self to have taken some travell and to have harde and ended the matter, and for that purpose stayed the Thomases and sent for Johns: whoe by reason he came not as I expected, I would not detayne the Thomases any longer, but dismissed them. And since the Thomases are gone, the Johnes are come, and the principall of them, whom the matter most concerneth on that syde, excuseth him self that he hard not that he was sent for before nowe, for that he was in Glocester shire wth my Lady Arnolde, soe that his frendes, not knowinge where he was, could not geve him knowledge of myne intentcon. Whereof to the intent the matter maye take some good ende, the ptyes satisfied, and the peace henceforth observed; wherefore I require

In 1557, Sir George Herbert of Swansea marched his retainers into Gower, and attacked the Castle of Oxwich, in the absence of its owner, Sir Rice Mansel. During the fight, an aged relative, Mrs. Ann Mausel, of Llandewi, was struck on the head by a stone, and killed. An inquest was held, but there is no trace of punishment having been awarded.

¹ *i. e.* Combination.

you to have speciall care, I desyre yow to call both the ptyes before yow, and to treat wth them to make them frends. And to examine the cause, who gave the first occasion, and to deale soe by your wisdomes and discessions as the matter may take some good ende for the preventinge of the mischife and inconvenience that otherwise by tract' of tyme may growe to the disturbanç of the peace and disquiet of the countye. Which yf by yo^r good endevoours yow can not doe, certifie me in whom the defaulte resteth, that then I may take further order as the case shall require. And even so I byd yow hartely farewell. From Brecknoke, the xviith of August 1580.

Yo^r lovinge frind,

H. SYDNEY.

POSTSCRIPT.—I praye you certifie me what you have done, by the firste daye of October next.

XII.

To the right worshipfull and my verye lovinge frendes S^r Edward Stradlinge and S^r William Herbert of Swansey, Knightes, and M^r Thomas Lewis of the Van, Esquier.¹

AFTER my very hartye comendaçons. Wheras the Q: Ma^{tes} tres of commission are from henc di-

¹ Thomas Lewis, Esq. of the Van, Glamorganshire, sheriff for that county in 1569, married first, Margaret, sister of Sir

rected unto yow one the behalfe of certein merchantes of Bristoll my good frendes, and, namelye, Johne Barker, who serveth me of divers necessaries and p̄viçions for the use of this howse, to praye and require yow to take some travell and care for restituçon to be made unto them of their goodes, w^{ch} by shipwarke and casualitie upon that cost are fallen into the handes of divers meane and base people: And albeit I am geven to understande by the sayd Barker, that he hath founde greate friendship and courtesie from yo^r selffes, w^{ch} he acknowledgeth and thankfullie remembreth; yet neverthelesse yf he be not eftsones furthered by yo^r frendly meanes, he and his p̄tiners are verie like to receive greate detriment and losse; w^{ch} verie loth I would be they should doe (if conveniently the same might be remedyed): I hartely therefore praye yow that, like as frendlye and carefullye yow have delt in the cause hitherto, for the w^{ch} I effectuallye thanke yow, so yow will continewe that cowrse of favorable dealinge towards the sayd merchantes, that the rather by yo^r goode endeavours and travell they may recover ther

Thomas Gamage, Knight; secondly, Catherine, daughter of Sir George Matthew, Knight. His descendant, Thomas Lewis, left an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married Other, third Earl of Plymouth. His lordship died in 1732. The Honourable Robert Henry Clive, who married the Lady Harriet Windsor, sister of Other Archer, sixth Earl of Plymouth, is the present proprietor of the Van estates.

goodes, whiche are dispersed in those base people's hands, (as conscience and neighbourlie dealinge wold,) wth as littell difficultye as may be: wherein yow shall deserve both comendaçons and thankes: And even so recomendinge the cause unto yow, and the ptyes as my lovers and frendes, I byd yow farewell. From the Q: Castell at Ludlowe, the xxith of Marche 1581.

Yo^r assured lovinge frende,

H. SYDNEY.

XIII.

To the right worshipfull his very loving frende
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, at S^t Donattes.

I HAVE received yo^r Ire of the xvith of this monethe the xxvth of the same, touchinge the contraversie dependinge betwine John Robertes and Lamrocke Stradlinge; wherein you must hold mee excused, for that I beinge heere absent from the Corte in the Marches, and but one alone, wthout anie of the counsell there, can not of my self give anie resolute aunswere therin: howbeit what lyethe in me to doe I have done. I have written to my cossen Henry Towneshend, one of the counsell there, to consider thereof; and, savinge the hono^r of that house and jurisdicçon of that courte,

to graunte unto yo^r request in all respectes. And even thus at this tyme, wth my most hartly comendaçons, I byd you right hartely farewell. From my house at Pensherst, the xxth of February 1584.

Yo^r assured frend and lovinge allye,

H. SYDNEY.

XIV.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, and my la: his wife, his most lovinge allies.

I THANKE you more hartely for yo^r great love and frendshippe showed unto my sonne, Robert Sydney, in this matter of his mariadge, then I am able to expresse wth my pen, beseechinge you most hartelie of the connten^ance [continuance?] of yo^r well approved good will; assuringe yow that albeit I dare not presume to offer anie just requitall therefore, yet doe I bind me by this presents my ðres evermore duringe my life to be thankefull to yow for it, and to save yow and either of [you] harmesse for anie thinge that yow have done, or will doe in the same matter, not offendinge the lawes further then the same are transgressed alreadye. I comitt you to the guidinge of o^r moste gracious God: Whoe evermore blisse yow and my good

daughter whome yow have adopted to me. From
Wilton, the xxixth of September 1584.

Yo^r verie assured loveinge frend
and faythefull allie,

H. SYDNEY.

XV.

To the right worshipfull his verie loveinge frend
and allie, S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

WHEREAS the Queenes Ma^{tie} is resolved upon a
Parlamente to be holden this next monethe, to
w^{ch} ende her Highnes' writtes shalbe directed unto
yow of that shiere for the callinge of yow ther-
unto; and forasmuche as there is one to be
chosen whoe maye be the Knight¹ for that yo^r
sheire; theis shalbe most hartelye to beseeche
yow, that sithe it hath pleased God of his gra-
cious goodness to matche my sonne Robert Syd-
ney wth an inheretrix of that countrie, (for w^{ch}
I am, and will ever acknowledge my self muche
beholdinge to yow, and my good la: and cossen
yo^r wife,) yow would in continuinge yo^r good will
and favoure towards him, helpe to prefer him
unto that place by procuringe the voices of soe
manie free holders as yow can p^ovaile wth. And I
doe assuer yow in his behalf, what soever his

¹ Sir Robert Sydney was elected Knight of the Shire for Glamor-
ganshire in 1585.

libertie shalbe, that he will be as willinge to pforme anie office for the comoditye of that countrye as shalbe requisite; havinge soe good a patrimonie therin as he hathe. And soe againe beeseechinge yo^r favo^r, and promisinge my self redie bothe to requite this and other yo^r kindneses as I maye, wth most hartye comendaçons to my la: and cossen youre wife, I comitt yow to the Almightye. From Wilton, the xxth of October 1584.

Yo^r most assured lovinge cossen,

H. SYDNEY.

XVI.

To the R. worshipfull S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knichte.

SIR EDWARDE, Her Majestye hath nowe thrise caused letters to be written unto you, that you suffer not my kinsewoman to be boughte and solde in Wales, without her Ma^{ties} pryvetye, and the consent or advise of my L. Chamberlayne and my selfe, her father's cosen germayns: consideringe she hath not anie niror kyn nor better; her father and my selfe came of twoe systers, S^r Phillipp Champnowne daughters: I doubte not but, all othe^r pswasion sett apte, you will satisfie her Highnes; and withall do us that curtesie as

to acquaint us with her matchinge. Yf you desire anie matche for her of youre owne kynn, yf you acquaynt us withall, you shall fynde us readye to yeilde to anie reason. I hope, S^r, you will deale heerein moste advisedlie: and heerin you shall ever fynde us redye to requite you in all thinges to our power. And soe with my verie hartye comendaçons I end. In haste. From the Courte, the xxvith of September 1584.

Your moste willinge frend,

W. RALEGH.¹

XVII.

To my very good cozen S^r Edward Stradlinge.

MY very good cosen, I cannot but thinke my selfe very muche behouldinge unto yow for the greate favor both yow and my la: yo^r wife have shewed my nephewe Sidney, by whose free consente and furderance that matche was soe well made uppe, w^{ch} I hope shalbe verie happie to them both. The frendshippe whereof as all his frendes heare take as grete courtesye done unto

¹ Sir Walter Raleigh, born in 1552, was the fourth son of Walter Raleigh, who married Catherine daughter of Sir Philip Champenoun of Modbury, Devon, relict of Otho Gilbert of Compton, the father by her of Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the celebrated navigator. In 1568 he was sent to Oriel College, Oxford. After an eventful life, he fell by the hands of the executioner, Oct. 29, 1618. He was an ornament to his country, and to the age in which he lived.

them selves, so will we be as redie to make yow the best requitall any waye wee can, when opportunitye shall serve, wherein we may ; amonge w^{ch} assure yo^r selfe yow shall fynde me moste willinge. So wth my very hartye comendaçons to yo^r selfe and yo^r good ladye as unknowen, I byd yow hartely farewell. From the Courte att Otelandes, this xxviiith of September 1584.

Yo^r very good cozen,

ANNE WARWYCK.¹

XVIII.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frende
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my very hartye comendaçons. I my self, by reason of some sicknes, beinge absent from the Corte, have sent yo^r letter to the Clerke of the Counsell to communicate unto their LL: from whom you are forthwth to expect aunswere. I doubt not but their LL: will take in very good

¹ Anne, Countess of Warwick, was the eldest of the three daughters of Francis second Earl of Bedford. She became the third wife of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, K.G. and was left a widow without children in 1589. She was "a lady of excellent character, and of most refined parts and education, and one of Elizabeth's few female favourites." She died Feb. 9, 1603-4. —Vide Lodge's Illustrations, vol. iii. p. 220. She was related to the Stradlings, through her great aunt, Margaret St. John, who married Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight.

parte yo^r service donne herein, and signifie their very hartly thanks for the same. And soe I comytt yow to God. From my house at Barnelmes, the xth of Februarye 1583.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend,

FRA: WALSINGHAM.¹

XIX.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frende
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, I have receaved yo^r tre wth one enclosed written unto you frō an Englishe prisoner in Spaine, and will not fayle, as opportunitie serveth, to acquainte hir Ma^{tie} wth the contentes therof, as also wth yo^r dutifull carefullnes shewed in this behalf. And although the matter it self is in my opinion not to be feared, yet I praye you, as the like occasions of advertism^{tes} shall fall out, to continue yo^r good endev^{rs} and readines in certefienge the same hither. And so I comitt yow hartely to thalmightye. From the Courte at Nonsuche, the xxxth of July 1584.

Yo^r very lovinge frend,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

¹ Sir F. Walsingham was of an ancient Norfolk family. By his wife Ursula, daughter of Henry St. Barbe, Esq. of Somersetshire, he

XX.

To his very lovinge frynde Sr Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, in the countye of Glamorgan, geve this wth speede.

AFTER my hartly comendaçons. Whearas my very good frend Mr Doctor Aubrey¹ is for his recreaçon to make his repaier into Brecknoke shiere, there to visite and make merye wth his frendes ; for the accomplishment whereof he shall stande in neede especiallye of veneson, and therefore hath requested me to writte unto you to furnishe him of some. These are therefore to praye yow, the rather at my request, to bestowe on him one buck, w^{ch} I will accept as thankefullye as bestowed on my self, and not faile to requite this courtesie as occasion shall serve. And soe I byd you hartely farewell. From the Courte at Nonesuche, this xxxth of Julie 1584.

Yo^r very lovinge frend,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

had issue two daughters: one of whom, Mary, married Sir Philip Sydney; secondly, Robert Earl of Essex; and thirdly, Richard de Burgh, Earl of Clanrickard. Sir Francis was one of the ablest of Elizabeth's ministers. He died April 6, 1590, aged 54.

¹ Dr. William Aubrey was a native of Brecknockshire. He held various offices, and finally that of one of the Masters of Requests in

XXI.

To the right worshipfull my lovinge frends S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, and the Ladie Stradlinge his wiefe.

AFTER my hartie comendaçons. Albeit by late lres from my LLs: of the Councell to the Sheriffe of Glamorgan shire, S^r William Harbert, and others, her Ma^{tie} apointed that the daughter of M^r Gamage, deceased, beinge in yo^r house and keepinge, should be deliverid to remaine wth sōme of them; yet since the writtinge of thes lres, hir Ma^{tie} for good causes hath thought yt verye requisite that the sayd younge gentlewomā bee by yow forthwth brought up hither to the Courte, and to bee here delivered into the custodie of the L: Chamberlaine.¹ Whereof hir Ma^{tie} hath commaunded mee to give yow knowledg, to the end that in case you have deliverid this gentlewoman to the sayd sheriffe, or anye other of those gentlemen to whom my LLs writt, you doe receive

ordinary to Queen Elizabeth. He died in 1595, and was buried in old St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Vide Dugdale's St. Paul's, edit. 1658, p. 97. Dr. Aubrey was the ancestor of the Aubreys of Llantrithyd in Glamorganshire, of whom Sir Thomas Digby Aubrey, Bart. is the present representative.

¹ Henry Lord Hunsdon, nephew of Queen Anne Boleyn, created Baron Hunsdon, 1559, K.G. died 1596.

her back from them; to w^{ch} purpose I have nowe by another Ire to the sheriffe and rest signified hir Ma^{tes} pleasure, that no staye bee in them for the redeliverie of hir to you. And moreover, hir Ma^{tie} hath willed mee in hir name to require you to have speciall care that this younge gentlewoman, after shee be redeliverid into your handes to be brought upp as aforesayd, be not suffred to have anye suche accesse to hir as wherby shee maye contract or entangle hir self for mariage wth anye man. And for that some reports be geven owt that she hath alreadie entangled hir self, hir Ma^{tie} would have you, by the best meanes you can, enforce youre self whether this be true or noe. And yf it be soe, than in what sorte it is done, that upon yo^r repaire hither you may make report thereof, and consideration bee had here whether the gentlewoman have lawfully and orderly caryed hir selfe in that behalf. And so I comend yow hartely to God. From the Courte, the xxth of September 1584.

Yo^r lovinge frend,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

XXII.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend,
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, Wheras I wrotte in my other lres that her Ma^{tes} pleasure was that you should take an especiall care that the gentlewoman, younge M^{rs} Gamadge, should not any waye intangle her selfe by promise for mariadge, but should be safely conveyd up hether to the L: Chamberlayn : beinge nowe secretly geven to understande that for the good will yow beare unto the Earle of Pembroke, you meane to further what yow may younge M^r Robert Sydney, I can not but incorage yow to proceed therin, for that I knowe her Ma^{tie} will noe waye miselike therof: besyds the L: Chamberlaine, M^r Rawley, and the rest of the younge gentlewoman's kynsfolkes, doe greatly desyre yt. For my particuler, in the respect of the good will I beare to the younge gentleman amongst the rest of his frends, I doe thinke my self greatly beholdinge to you for your friendship shewed unto him therin, w^{ch} I shall be gladd any waye to requite. And soe in hast I comitt yow to Gode. At the Courte, the xxith of September 1584.

Yo^r assured frend,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

XXIII.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, What so ever blusteringe woords are geven owt against you by younge M^r Croftes¹ and his frends there; you may be assured that you shall not lacke frends to defend you, and to stande betwine you and anye blame that may be layde uppon you. The only advauntage they meane to take against you, yf they might prove it, is, that you received direction to bringe the younge gentlewoman upp before the mariadge: but for y^t the messinger affirmeth that he came to your howse two howres after the mariadge sollempnised, there is no fault layde upon you by her Ma^{tie}; the mariadge beinge generallye well liked of, savinge by suche here as are partyes in the cawse. And so wth most hartly thanks, both unto yow and my la: your wief, for yo^r frendlie dealinge in this cawse, w^{ch} I will be glad wth any thankefullnes to acknowledge duringe my lief, I comitt yow to God. At the Courte, the xxviith of September 1584.

Yo^r assured frend,

FRA. WALSHINGHAM.

¹ Herbert, the grandson of Sir James Croft, was one of the

XXIV.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, I have receyved yo^r tre, and wthall have
seene the horse w^{ch} you have sent to S^r Phillipe
Sydney,¹ who I knowe will thankfully accept the
same at yo^r hands. As for myne owne parte, I
can not but thanke you in his behalf, praeinge
you to make accompt that wherin either he or I
may stande you in steed, you shalbe assured of
any curtesye and pleasure we can shewe you: and
so I byd you hartely farewell. From my house
in London, the xith of Januarye 1585.

Yo^r very lovinge frende,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

XXV.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, You shall perceave by the generall tres
from my LL: of the Counsell in how good parte

competitors for the hand of Barbara Gamage. He became after-
wards Sir Herbert Croft.

¹ Sir Philip was the eldest son of Sir Henry Sydney, K.G. and

they take y^t diligence used in the apprehension of Lewes, that by the negligence of yo^r servantes was escaped. And for myne owne parte, I am allso glade, in respect of the old acquaintaunce that hath beene betweene us, and will be ready uppon any occasion to advance yo^r credit to the best of my power; whereof I praye yow to make accompt: and soe byd yow hartely farewell. From the Courte at Grenewiche, the xth of Maye 1585.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend,

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

XXVI.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradling,
Knight.

S^r, Wheras W^m Saunders, one of the messengers of her Ma^{tes} chamber, was at the suite of a Frenche marchant sent wth a warrant from my LLs: of the Counsell to a place in Glamorgan shiere, called Lantwitt, to bringe Adam Nichols and Thomas ap Thomas before Gabriell Hawley

was born at Penshurst in Sussex, 1554. He died, in 1586, of a wound received in the battle of Zutphen in Guelderland, aged 32; "having attained, in that short period, more fame, admiration, and esteem than any man of the sixteenth century."—Chalmers' Gen. Biog. Diet.

and Edwarde Popham, Esquiers, Justices of peace in the countie of Somersett; wherein the sayd Saunders was employed two severall tymes at his owne charges, wthout receyving anye thinge, as is alleged, either from the Frenchman or the parties that were sent for; who nowe, as I understand, have secretly agreed with the sayde Frenchman, and soe refuse to satisfie the messenger accordinge as in the like cases is and ought to be don by others: These are to praye you to call the sayd Thomas ap Thomas and Adam Nicholls before you, and to take order wth them both, beinge (as I am informed) men of sufficient habilitie, that they answere and paye so much unto the messenger as he ought by order to have of them, as well for his fees as his ridinge charges; for that otherwise the poore man is likely to be greatly adammaged by the jorney. And in case they shall, not wthstandinge yo^r motion, still deny to content the messenger accordinge to reason, then that yow take bonde of them to appeare here before my LLs: of the Counsaill to aunswere the matter as appertayneth. And so I bidde you hartely fare well. From the Courte at Grenewich, the xvjth of Marche 1586.

Yo^r very lovinge frend.

FRA. WALSINGHAM.

XXVII.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, I have receavid yo^r letter at what tyme beinge through my sicknes¹ absent from the Courte, w^{ch} hath broughte me to so great weakenes as I shall not be able in longe tyme to repaire thither ; I cannot, as I desire, sollicit yo^r request to be dispensed wthall for not repairinge to yo^r house in Wales : and to comitt the same to the trust of others, I knowe it will rather breed unto yowe harme then good, otherwise I would have beene glad to pleasure you therin the best that might lye in my power. And therefore myne advice is that it wilbe yo^r best course to seeke by some good meanes to reconcile yo^r self to my Lord of Pembroke's favour and frendshippe. And soe I comitt yow to God. From my house in London, the xxixth of November 1587.

Yo^r very lovinge frend,

FRA. WALSHINGHAM.

¹ Vide Lodge's Illustrations of History, vol. ii. 354-5, where Walsingham's illness is particularly noticed in an anonymous letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury, dated 11 October 1587.

XXVIII.

[Probably addressed to Sir Edward Stradling.]

. . . . aboute some necessarie causes that I have treated of, and havinge not so muche spare tyme as I can repayre to you before my goinge to the Courte, my earnest desyre is that hit will please you to come to Croft,¹ where you shall fynd me the whole weeke after the feast of S^t Michaell; and, soe doinge, I shall thinke my self much behouldinge to you, and be readie to requite your courtesie. And so I comitt you to God. At Carmarthen, the xxiith of September 1582.

Yo^r lovinge frend,

JAMES CROFT.²

XXIX.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frend,
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, Sherieff of
the countey of Glamorgan.

AFTER my very harty comendaçons. Wheras hit hath pleased the Queenes Ma^{tie} to make choise

¹ In Herefordshire.

² James Croft, son of Richard Croft, by Katherine, daughter of Sir Richard Herbert of Montgomery, Knight, was born about the

of you to be Sherieff of the countie of Glamorgan, and understandinge therby the baliwicke of Llantreissan¹ is in yo^r gift, I am therefore verye hartely to desyre you to bestowe the same uppon my servaunt, George Woodnet, and to accept of his sufficient deputie therin; for the w^{ch} I am not onely to become thankfull, but also readie to pleasure you in any think I maye. Thus hopinge of yo^r favo^r herin, as yow shall bynd [me] to requite you, I comitt you to God. At the Courte, the of December 1582.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend,

JAMES CROFT.

XXX.

To the right worshipfull my very good frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my harty comendaçons. Where [as] you sente a prisoner by yo^r servantes to be deliverid to

year 1520. In 1541, he was Knight of the Shire for the county of Hereford. He was knighted in 1547. In 1551 he was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland. Sir James Croft was a member of the Council of the North in Queen Mary's reign. Elizabeth made him a Privy Councillor in 1570, and in the same year Comptroller of her household. She entrusted to him the management of several important affairs. Sir James represented Herefordshire in six parliaments of Elizabeth. He died in 1591, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Vide Retrospective Review, New Series, vol. i. p. 469 to 491.

¹ Llantrissant, a town in Glamorganshire.

my Lords of the Councell, it happened (as you have hard) that the prisoner is causallye escaped, w^{ch} my lordes doe impute [to] a mischaunce that mighte have happened amongst wise men ; and so have I harde and knowen diverse licke escaps of psons of greate accompte, and all borne wthall, when all hath byn donne w^{ch} in discretion semed to be necessary, though the doinges beinge straightlier handled mighte have wrought more securitie. Therefore, I praye you, consider of yo^r servantes' cases, who I doubtte not have hearetofore searved you lovinglie and dutifully, and heareafter will serve you more consideratly. And so I pray you lett thes fewe lynes, wth my earnest request, move you to be theire good master. And soe, wth my comendaçons to my good ladie yo^r wife, I comitte you to God. At y^e Courte, this xth of Marche 1583.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend,

JAMES CROFT.

POSTSCRIPT. — You shall heare more from me shortly ; but my staye hath byn for good purpos.

XXXI.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frends,
 S^r Edwarde Mansel & S^r Edward Stradling,
 Knightes.

AFTER my hartie comendaçõs. Wheras the
 Queenes Ma^{tie} hath graunted unto me under hir
 Highnes' letters pattentes all concealed lands wthin
 Englande and Wales, w^{ch} my deputies, executors,
 or assignes can fynd out wthin foure yeres nexte
 after the date of the sayd graunte; these shalbe
 to signifie unto you that I have appointed Thomas
 Walbye¹ to be my deputie wthin the countye of
 Glamorgan; and, for fyndyng out of suche
 concealmentes comission is graunted to diverse
 there, amongst the w^{ch} I doe repose a speciall
 trust in yow bothe, hartelie prainge you to take
 some payne in the execution of the sayd comis-
 sion, as I shalbe readie to requite every of yow
 wth any thinge that may lye in my power. And I
 byd you hartelie farewell. From the Courte, this
 xxiiii^{tie} of Julie.

Yo^r assured,
 JAMES CROFT.

¹ Probably of the family of Walbeoffe in Brecknockshire. Vide
 Jones's Brecknockshire, vol. ii. p. 583.

XXXII.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

AFTER my hartie comendaçons. Contynuinge still in that opinion w^{ch} I was in at yo^r late beinge at Croft, and my sister Gamage¹ sendinge for Harbert Croft whom she hath not seene since he was very younge; I thought good to take occasion that the yonge man might have a sight of M^{ris} ² Gamadge in goinge or cominge thorowe the contry, and have written to M^r Gamage to desyre him that the parties maye have an interviewe; and for better handlinge of the cawse, I do take advise of my cozin Harbert³ of S^t Julyans, who either in p^{son} or by letters myndeth to have conference wth you herein. S^r William Harbert of Swansey likethe of the motion, and my Lorde Hawarde⁴ is privye to my intente, wthout whose likinge I would in noe wise deale. And yf the matter be well handled, I hope God shall prosper our doinges. Referringe all to yo^r good consideraçon,

¹ Joyce Croft married Sir Thomas Gamage, Knt.: vide portion of a letter from her, p. 2.

² The term Mistress was in those days synonymous with Miss.

³ Sir William Herbert, of St. Julyans, near Newport, Monmouthshire, whose daughter Anne married Sir Edward Herbert, afterwards the eccentric Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

⁴ Charles, Lord Howard of Effingham.

remembringe the conferrence that I had wth you at Croft; and I comyt you to God. At y^e Courte, the xvth of December 1583.

Yo^r lovinge frinde,

JAMES CROFT.

XXXIII.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge frynde
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my very hartie comendaçons. I do not thinke my self a litle behouldinge unto yow for yo^r kindnes shewed to my sonne,¹ the bearer hereof, at his last beinge wth you; for the w^{ch}, I assuer you, you shall fynde that I will not be unthankfull either to you or anye of yours when occasion shalbe offred. I have hitherto rested in expectaçon of my cozin Gamage his cominge upp; but seeinge he is not yet come, neither for anie thinge I heare hath anie intent to come, I thought good (my sonne havinge occasion to travaile that waye) to make bould once againe to trouble you wth suche a guest, hopinge that, as occasion shall serve, you will contynewe yo^r good mynde towards him in furtheringe his cawse. I must entreate you to thanke my good ladie yo^r wief for him, to whom

¹ Grandson.

(as he enformeth me) he is verely muche bounde for her favo^r towards him. Thus, accomptinge my selfe as greatly indepted unto yow, I comytt you to God. From the Courte at Otelands, the iii^{de} of September 1584.

Yo^r verely lovinge frinde,

JAMES CROFT.

XXXIV.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

S^r EDWARDE, You knowe that when I first moyoned a mariadge betwine Harbart Croft and M^{ris} Gamage, I asked yo^r good will, and wthout yo^r prevetie and consent I did nothings: the circumstance I will omitt, and only put you in remembrance that yo^r hande writtinge is extant, and likewise yo^r weyve's, geavinge consent and furtherance. And nowe fyndinge that M^r Gamage is dead, yo^r wiefe hathe taken the gentlewomā forceblye from Herbert Croft, and as a prisoner dothe soe detayne her as he cannot have accesse unto her: w^{ch} injurye, consideringe how the case standeth betwixt them, is verely strange. Whereof when [you] shall advise yo^rself, I hope yow will doe that w^{ch} shalbe for yo^r worshipp and creditt in the face

of the world. And, so doinge, I shall thinke my self behouldinge to yow, yeldinge suche frindshipp and courtesies as suche worshipfull and honest dealinges deserveth: otherwise I must seeke courses I would be loth to dooe to anye of yo^r reputac̃on. And so I comitt yow to God. At y^e Courte, the xviith of September 1584.

Yo^r lovinge frind,

JAMES CROFT.

XXXV.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r, In steed of yo^r favorable curtesyes shewed me, I returne you a few lynes as a meanes to yeld you harty thanks for them. Howe farr I thinke my selfe indepted to you, my readines to deserve those favors, yf any occasion be offred, shall serve me for a testimonye; being desirous to showe my selfe thankfull in deedes rather then words. I wishe you noe troble to neede me, but I wold gladly gayne occasion to manifest my good will. I have let my lorde my M^r understand howe muche you have made me bounde unto yow, in hope that he will performe that requytall in actyon w^{ch} I use in woordes. My grandfather comendes him to yow, and thinkes him selfe not alitle beholding to yow.

Thus, restinge at yo^r comaundement, I take my leave. From the Courte, this xxvith of Februarye 1583.

Yo^r kinsman bownd in good will,

HERB. CROFTE.¹

XXXVI.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r, I understand that S^r James Whytney hath byn in yo^r country to gayne that² w^{ch} I woold fayne have, but what successe he hath had I knowe not : wherefore I am most earnestlye to pray yow to take the paynes to wrytte unto me thereof; for the

¹ Herbert, eldest son of Edward Croft, and grandson of Sir James Croft, born about 1571, (according to Cole's Escheats, British Museum,) though it should seem that his birth must have taken place before that period. He represented the county of Hereford in 1592, 1601, 1603, 1614, and was knighted at Theobalds' in 1603. In the Cottonian MSS. are two letters from Sir Herbert; one of which, written in 1617, is printed in the Memoirs of the Croft Family, already referred to, p. 492. It is curious, as giving an account of James the First's behaviour toward such members of parliament as dared to express their real sentiments in that assembly. Soon after this period, Sir Herbert embraced the Roman Catholic faith, became a monk of the Benedictine order at Douay, and died there 10th April 1622. By his wife, Mary, heiress of Anthony Bourne of Holt Castle, Worcestershire, he had nine children. His descendant, Sir Archer Croft, Bart. is the present representative of this ancient family.

² The hand of Barbara Gamage.

w^{ch} curtesye, as I am already for a great many, soe shall I for this thinke my selfe excessively bounde to you. I hope I shall, ere yt be longe, see you, being bould to troble you : those to whome I fynde my selfe behoulding I knōwe not howe I may, but I woulde be right glad to fynd any occasion to deserve some parte of yo^r curtesyes. Thus, hoping that yow will contynew yo^r favour towards me in this matter, I comytt yow to God. From the Courte, this fyfth of July 1584.

Yo^r kinsman at cōmaund in what I maye,

HERB. CROFT.

XXXVII.

To the right worshipfull and his very lovinge
cosen S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worshippfull, My harty comendaçons used unto you and to my good ladye youre bed-fellowe. I doe thinke my selfe very muche beholden to you bothe, for youre good willes towards mee, and will be as glade to requite the same yf occasion mought serve ; in the meane tyme, thinke my selfe to be youres in that I can doe. I understand you have expected my cominge unto you twiese or thriese, to your charges ; I am sorie for yt, the breache was not longe of mee ;¹ I thought

¹ Not my fault.

to have seene you fortentight paste, but my cosen Gamedge his busines and leasure, as he signified unto me by his lre, would not serve to performe my promise; and wheather my cosen hath altered his determinaçon, and meanes to detracte tyme, and therby in eande to shifte me of, or whether yt be bona fide he alleged his buisines greate both in hande and before the Counsell in the M³ches aboutes the xxiith of this moneth, [he] hath willed me to deffer tyme untell the springe. I would I knewe the trouthe; I am very doubtfull, and soe doe rest untill I heare from him againe: there was noe wante of good will in me; there ys noe man voyde of enimyes, speciallye in theis causes. Thus I comend you to the tuyçon of thallmighty. Whyttneye, the fowerth of November.

By yo^r assured cosen,

JAMES WHITNEY.¹

¹ Sir James Whitney, of Whitney, Herefordshire, was Sheriff for that county in 1574 and 1586. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1587. He appears to have possessed considerable estates in the counties of Hereford, Radnor, Gloucester, and Warwick. He died without issue, making his brother Eustace his heir. This letter must have been written before 1584, the period of Barbara Gamage's marriage.

XXXVIII.

To the right worshipfull and my very lovinge
frende S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r EDWARDE STRADLINGE, Havinge occasion to
come, at this present, thus neere yower howse as
Cowbridge,¹ whether although I have benne more
then two yeres past determyned to come, y^t nowe
my departure att this present beinge for some
occasion very sooden, I have thought good to sig-
nifye you that I woulde too morrowe, yf it were
nott to your disease, some tymes betwine two and
fower of the clock in thafternoone, mett wth you
att S^t Bryds neere Ogmoore, because some parte
of my busynes lyeth there aboutes, from whence I
should returne in my waye homeward to morrowe
night: and yf it shall not be for your ease to come
soe farre, then, yf I may understand by this
bearer that you will be att whome att two of the
clock in thafternoone to morrowe, I will come by
yo^r house as I goe. And thus wishinge my right
harty comendacions to you and my lady, I co-
mitt you to Godes defence and keepinge. From
Cowbridge, this present Saterdag the xviith of Au-
gust.

Yo^r very lovinge frind,

JAMES MOUNTJOYE.²

¹ In Glamorganshire.

² James Blount, Lord Mountjoy, died in 1593.—Banks' Extinct
Baronage, vol. iii. p. 538.

XXXIX.

To the right worshipfull and my very loving
frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knighte.

Good S^r Edwarde Stradling, with my most
harty comendaçons unto you and to my lady.
Having the occasyon of this bearer, as I cannott
but geve unto you both my most harty thankes
for the courtesyes you shewed me at my late be-
inge in your contrey, so must I also desyre to
make both my excuse and M^r Winslade's to my
lady, for that the great conferrens that M^r Win-
slad and I have had towchinge Mountejoy and
Joyesland¹ hath made us both somewhat beyond
good maners to bringe her horse thus farre as
Newporte. S^r, yf yow might conveniently, in a
letter suerly sealed, convey the coppye of the booke
you promised me to M^r William Carn's howse,
I have left order that one Butler, a man of myne
dwellinge in Ratcliffe Streate,² wher M^r Carne's
howse allso ys, shall see the same most safely con-
veyed to me. And I trust, before hytt be longe, I
shall eyther send you some of thes newe cronikles,

¹ Joyes' Land is noticed in the Comptus Roll of Henry Earl of Pembroke for 1599, in the Editor's possession. It was situate within the Lordship of Ogmores, Glamorganshire, of which Lord Pembroke was lessee under the Duchy of Lancaster.

² Bristol.

or other booke that shall also like you. And thus I most hartely bed you farewell. From Newporte,¹ this last of August 1577.

Yo^r very loving frind,

JAMES MOUNTJOYE.

XL.

To the right worshipfull my lovinge cozyn S^r
Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

WORSHIPFULL and my good coosen, I had thought longe since to have written thankes unto you and yo^r good ladye for my greate cheare at my late beinge theare wth you. But I deferred the same untill I might have convenient messenger : w^{ch} fyndinge nowe at this presente, I cannot but geve yow all hartie thankes, promisinge you that yf any yo^r occasions drawe you into these partes, not to have the like good cheare, but to be noe lesse welcom[̄]; and besyde, yow shall have me readye in all good will to pleasure you in whate I maye. And soe wth most hartye comendaçons to your selfe and my good ladye, I comitt you bothe to God. From Carewe, the xxith of November 1577.

Yo^r assured and very loving cosen,

J. PERROT.²

¹ Monmouthshire.

² Sir John Perrot of Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire. He is supposed to have been a natural son of Henry the Eighth, by Mary,

XLI.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge cozen
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be delivered.

RIGHT worshipfull and my good cozen, After I have sente you and yo^r good ladye all hartye salutations, wth thanks for my greate entertaynment when I was at yo^r house, wishinge that yow would once make some jorney to these parties that we might be merie heere. And in that I am geven to understande that cattell is very good cheape in that countrey, as it is generallie in everye place, I have thought good to putt you in some paynes there, as I would be readie to doe anie thinge for you heere, to appointe yo^r bailieff, or some trustie oñ longinge to you, to helpe this bearer hereof to buye me twenty milche kyne; the w^{ch} yo^r servauntes travell shalbe considered. I would wishe that yo^r man made a booke what the prices of the kyne shuld be, and in some letter that you send me a note thereof. Money this bearer hathe to make

wife to Thomas Perrot of Haroldstone, Pembrokeshire. He was Deputy of Ireland; but was eventually disgraced, and died in the Tower, 1592. Sir John was distantly related to the Stradlings.—Vide Lhuyd's Caradoc of Lancarvan, p. 139, first edition.

payment therefore: and as I putt yow to paines herin, soe will I not thinke it any troble for me to doe ought for you in this countrey that in me shall lye. And soe I byd you and yo^r good ladye hartely farewell. From Carewe, this xvth of September, anno 1578.

Yo^r verye loving cosen,

J. PERROT.

XLII.

To the R. wo^r his verie lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knighte.

AFTER my hartie comendaçons unto you. Whereas the Quenes Ma^{tie}, of her gracious favo^r, hath heretofore graunted a patent of the gaylorshipp of that countie to David Morgan, a gentleman of good parentage, and servaunte to M^r D. Lewis, o^r verie good frende, w^{ch} he hath ever since enjoyed; I have thought good hereby to request you to shewe him yo^r lawfull favo^r in the exercise of his said office, either by himself or his deputie; and yow shall by sufficient suerties be saved harmeles, accordinge to the wordes of his said patent. And what favo^r I shall here he dothe repe by these my tres I shall rest thankfull for

it, and wilbe redie to requite it as you shall have occasion to use me. And so I bidd yow well to fare. From the Courte, the xiith of December 1582.

Yo^r assured loving cosen,

THO. PERROT.¹

XLIII.

To the right worshipfull and my singuler good cossens Sr Edward Stradlinge, Knight, wth my good ladye and cossen his wiefe.

I CÔMEND me unto yow most harty (my assured good cossynes) wth full trust that yow are in good healthe, w^{ch} I wishe to yow both as to my self; and to yow, my good cossen, that felicitie and comfortable newes unto me from yow that at lengthe yow are made a glad mother of a jolye boye, w^{ch} gladly shoulde drawe me to Glamorgan at one instante, to be bothe a cossine assured and a joyfull gossippe, w^{ch} God graunte. In the meane

¹ Sir Thomas Perrot, son of Sir John Perrot, married in 1583 Dorothy, eldest sister to the Earl of Essex. In 1592 Elizabeth restored to him the estates forfeited by his father. He did not long survive, for his widow married the Earl of Northumberland in 1594. Nichols, in his *Progresses of Queen Elizabeth*, vol. ii. pp. 319, 320, thus speaks of Sir Thomas at the Tilt-yard devices, in 1581. "Sir T. Perrot and Master Cooke were both in like armour, beset with apples and fruit, the one signifying Adam, and the other Eve, who had hair hung all down his helmet."

tyme I comende unto you this bearer, Wittim Griffith, w^{ch} hath made choyse of all others to be youre servaunte; for w^{ch} purpose he hathe p^cured his frendes, suche as I doe like well of, to make earnest meanes unto me for thees my letters: and therefore I hartely pray yow twayne to accepte him into yo^r service, and to consent in continuinge yo^r favo^r towards him in [such] sorte [as] he shall deserve, and somewhat the more favorable at my request. My wief comendeth herself unto yow bothe. And soe I comitt you to God wth all prosperous hapines. From my house at London, the xxvith daye of May 1577.

Yo^r assured lovinge cossen,
and frend,

T. BUCKEHURST.¹

XLIV.

To the right worshipfull my very good cosyn & frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

My very good cosen, wth my right harty co-

¹ Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst, K. G. was related to the Gage family through Elizabeth, daughter of John Parker, of Ratton, Sussex, by Joan, daughter of Sir Richard Sackville, of Buckhurst, who died in 1523. Elizabeth Parker married Sir Edward Gage. Vide Gage's Hengrave, 236. Lord Buckhurst obtained his title in 1567. In 1599 he was appointed Lord Treasurer. He was created Earl of Dorset in 1603, and died in 1608.

mendaçons to my good ladye and your selfe, to whome both my wiefe and I doe most hartely wishe well. I understande that on John Hawkes a carpenter, dwellinge in Lewis¹ towne nere me, hath taken upon him a brydge² to make not farr from you; and forasmuche as the man is well knowen to me to be a very good workeman, and suche a on as in my opinion will undoutedly bothe honestly and skilfully performe that w^{ch} he taketh in hande; therefore I doe the rather willingly recomende the man unto you. And soe wishinge that we might ons [more] see you & my lady amonge your frends and allies here in Sussex, where we should be infinitely glad to have yow, I ende. This xth of Marche 1582. From Lewys.

Yo^r assured lovinge frend and

cosyn in all that I can,

T. BUCKEHURST.

XLV.

To the right worshipfull my very good cosyn
S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, be these delivered.

My very good cosen, I can but wishe most hartely well to yow and my cosyn yo^r wiefe; and

¹ Sussex.

² Probably the bridge at Cardiff, mentioned in page 70.

as, in all occasions wherin I might pleasure you, I shall for ever be founde most redye to stande you in all the steede I can, soe am I likewise as bould wth you in all occasions of anye of myne. And nowe, at this present, understandinge that you are Sherife of Glamorgan shere, where one M^r Anthony Morley remayneth, I am on the behalf of John Vynill, this bearer, my servant, to praye you that he may have his proces served upon him: he is a poore man, but very honest, and all that ever he hath lieth in the handes of the sayd M^r Morley, kept from him of a longe tyme; soe as, wthout yo^r helpe to have his proces served, he shalbe utterly undoon, beinge come out of Sussex into thos partes of Wales onely to seeke remedy in this his injurye offred. And soe, not doutinge but in this case of justice you will helpe him, and the rather for my sake, I wishe you most hartely well From London, this xviith of October 1583.

Yo^r assured lovinge

Frend & cosyn,

T. BUCKEHURST.

XLVI.

To the right worshipfull my very lovinge cosin
S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

MY very good cosin, I doe right hartely thanke you for yo^r great courtesie showed to this bearer, Wiltim Jones, for my sake; I would I had occasion to requite the same to any frendes of yours here in these partes, w^{ch} you shall allwayes fynde me most readye to doe. And soe, wth my very hartye comendaçons unto you, I wishe to you as to my self. From the Courte, this last of October 1588.

Yo^r very lovinge cosin

& frend assured,

T. BUCKEHURST.

XLVII.

To my very lovinge frend S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

AFTER my hartye comendaçons unto yow. Wheras I perceave by my cosin, M^r Wiltim Brydges, who loste a soare tassell gentell in Lente laste; and beinge geven to understande that the same ys happned into yo^r handes, and taken upp

eyther by yo^r self or some of yo^r men; the rather at this my request yow will deliver the same unto this bearer, whom my sayd cosin hathe sente of purpose for the same, upon such marks as he shall declare unto yow that his sayd haucke hathe. Herin yow shall pleasure my frende, and use mee in the like to requyte youre curtesy. And so I comytt you to the tuytion of the Higheste. From Ragland Castle,¹ the xxiiith of July 1578.

 XLVIII.

To my very lovinge frind S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
 Knighte, geve this.

AFTER my very hartie comendaçons. Where my good frende, Henry Sekeforde, Esquiere, one of her Ma^{tes} prevye chamber, did aboute Crismas last wrighte his letters to S^r Edwarde Mansell concerninge a supposed fact comitted at sea, agenste the Frenchmen, by some ill disposed psons that used the same M^r Sekefordes name in those affayres, and brought the wyne to Bristoe and other partes of Wales, as I am geven to un[der]stande, to be sowlde: the w^{ch} letter I am advertysed remaneth in yo^r handes, althoughe the

¹ This letter was probably written by William Earl of Worcester, K. G. who died in 1589.

Frenchmen that psecuted the matter there agenste him have, by what sinister meanes I knowe nott, obteyned a coppie of the same, that makethe them the bowlder to vex my good frende here in courte. I am therefore very hartely to praye you, at this my requeste, to sende me up the same letter under M^r Sekefordes hande by some messenger wth convenient expediçon, w^{ch} either you have in your keepinge, or maye at yo^r pleasure obteine for me, wherby I shall the better deliver the same to my Lorde of Lecester, who is partie towched in the matter. And yf yow have nott the principall letter, I praye signifye me what is become of it. And for that I nether would have my Lorde of Lecester¹ towched therin, nor any strange matter urged upon M^r Sekeford, makethe me the rather to crave the letter to come unto my handes; wherin you shall nether be pjudised for deliveringe the letter, nor fynde me unwillinge to remember yo^r forwaⁿes to satisfie this my desyre. Soe for this tyme I byd yow hartely farewell. From my lodginge in Warrwicke Lane, this ixth of Maii 1579.

Yo^r loving frinde,

W. WORCESTER.

¹ Robert Dudley, Earl of Lecester, K. G. died in 1588.

XLIX.

To my lovinge cosen S. Ed: S: K: Highe Sherif
of y^e com̄ of Glamorgan.

AFTER my hartye comendaçons. I received yo^r letter ; and where yow wrote that the laste proces I sent unto you came to late, I have att this present hereinclosed sente other twoe, which I hope shall come in good tyme. And shall desire you to shewe me soe muche frendship as that they maye bee searved effectuallye, wherby I maye come by my owne soe longe detracted. And thus, not doubtinge of youre frendlie dealinge herein, I stande readye to requite, and soe take my leave.
Ragland Castle, the xxvth of Februarye 1582.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. WORCESTER.

L.

To my assured good cozen S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knighte, Highe Sherieff of the county of
Glamorgan.

AFTER my hartye comendaçons. Wheras I sente unto yow certen proces to attache Phillipp Bowen and his suerties, they have made humble

sute unto mee to forebeare the execution therof untell the next tearme, wth promis to see mee satisfied, as this bearer, my servante Cowche, whoe can farther att large declare unto you my mynde : otherwise, if I shalbe forced heereafter to use yo^r frendshipp therin, as I have heretofore founde you ready to pleasure mee, soe shall I desyre you the continuance thereof, yf occasion soe require, w^{ch} I wilbe ready to requite to any frende of yo^{rs} at all tymes. Thus I comytt yow to God. From my Castle of Raglande, the xvith of Aprill 1583.

Yo^r assured cosen,

W. WORCESTER.

LI.

To my very lovinge cosin S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, Highe Sheriefe of the county of Glamorgan.

AFTER my very hartly comendaçons. Wheras heretofore I requested youre furtheraunce for the servinge of certen proces uppon Bowen and his suertyes, wherein I have founde yow very ready & willinge to pleasure mee: nowe, for that hee hath not kept promise wth mee, I am by his owne desarte forced to praye you to see these two processes to be duly executed upon him and his sayd suertyes,

as my trust ys in yow; and, thus doinge, yow shall pleasure mee, w^{ch} I will not bee unmindefull to requite at all tymes. . And soe I comitt yow to God. From my Castle of Raglande, the last of Maye 1583.

Yo^r loving cosen,

W. WORCESTER.

LII.

To my lovinge cosin S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight, Sheriffe of the countie of Glamorgan.

AFTER my harty comendaçõs. I have sente yow hereinclosed certen processes, w^{ch} I have heretofore trobled you wth: I pray you shewe me soe much frendshipp, that it may be suerly servid; and I shalbe ready at all tymes to requite it. And soe I byd you hartely farewell. From my Castle of Raglande, this xiiith of July 1583.

Yo^r assured cosen,

W. WORCESTER.

LIII.

To my very lovinge cossen S^r Edward Stradling,
 Knighte, Highe Sheriff of the county of Glamorgan.

AFTER my hartie comendaçons. Whereas yow have severall writtes at my sute againste Phillipp Bowen and his suertes; these are to geve yow thanks for yo^r good indevor in the executinge of the same. And for that, uppon speciall sute made for him, I am contented to suspende my sayde sute against him for this tyme; and shall desire you to sende the same writtes unto mee by the bearer hereof, and to proceed noe farther therin. And soe, beinge ready to requite yo^r courtesye, I comitt you to God. Raglande Castle, the xxviith of August 1583.

Yo^r assured cossen,

W. WORCESTER.

LIV.

To my very lovinge cossen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
 Knighte, Sheriffe of the county of Glamorgan.

AFTER my verie hartie comendaçons. Whereas there ys due unto mee as a Lorde Marcher, wthin

my Lordshipps Marchers and Lordshipps Royall, the moitie of diverse yssues wthin the countye and hundrethe counties, w^{ch} I knowe is very well knowne unto you; I have thought good to request you that youre undersheriffe, or some other by you appointed, maye yelde and accompte unto this bearer, Phillip Bowen, to my use, accordinge to my warrante geven unto him; wherein as I hope to fynde you very frendly and ready to yelde mee my righte, soe shall I bee alwayes readye to pleasure you as I maye. And thus, comittinge you to the tuiçon of the Almightye, I take my leave. Raglande Castle, the xxviiith of October 1583.

Yo^r lovin cosen,

W. WORCESTER.

LV.

To my verie loving frend S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

GOOD S^r Edward, Beinge geven to understand of yo^r curtesye in bestowinge yo^r gifte of a benefyce upon a chaplayne of myne, for the which I am to yeild you moste hartie thanks; notwthstanding, beinge at this p^sentt advertised of some sinister practyse made towchinge the same, I am

therefore most hartely to desire yow, the rather for my sake, to contynew yo^r good favor therin, wherby he maye reape the benefytt thereof according to yo^r good meaninge, wherin I shall not only be thankfull unto you, but requite yo^r curtesye in anie thinge I maye. And soe, with my verie harty comendaçons, I comitt you to the tuicõn of the Allmightie. From my howse in London, the of Aprell 1593.

Yo^r vearye loving frind,

E. WORCESTER.¹

LVI

To my very loving cosen and frend Edwarde Stradlinge, Esquier.

GOOD cosen Stradlinge, For as muche as the Queenes M^{tie} intendethe to be att my howse at Ramesburie,² the ixth of September next, att w^{ch} tyme I am desirous to have the companye of my frendes and kinsemen there; wherfore, yf you amongste other will take so muche paynes as to come and be merie wth me then, after her Grace's departure thenç we will hounte. And I trust the

¹ Edward, Earl of Worcester, K. G. son of William, Earl of Worcester, succeeded to the title in 1589, and died in 1628.

² In Wilts.

next yeare, by Godes furthéraunce, to be merie wth you in Glamorgan shire; and shall in the meane tyme for yo^r courtesye thinke my selfe muche behouldinge unto you. And so, wth my hartye comendaçons, I comitt you to God, whoe sende you well to doe. In haste, att Downeton, this ixth of Auguste 1572.

Yo^r assured cosen & frind,

H. PEMBROKE.¹

LVII.

To my right assured frende and lovinge cosen
Edward Stradlinge, Esquier, at S^t Donattes,
geve theis.

COUSEN Stradlinge, After my hartye comendaçons.
Where I did by my letters requeste you to take

¹ Henry, Earl of Pembroke, K. G. succeeded his father in 1569. He sat on the trial of the Duke of Norfolk, and on that of Mary Queen of Scots. In 1586 he was made President of the Council in the Marches of Wales. He laid out a considerable sum of money in the repairs of Cardiff Castle; and died at Wilton, January 19, 1600-1. His third wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Sydney, is immortalized in Ben Jonson's epitaph. — Collins' Peerage, by Brydges, vol. iii. p. 122-3.

The Marquis of Bute is the present possessor of Cardiff Castle and the Glamorganshire estates, in right of his descent from Lady Charlotte Herbert, who married Thomas, Lord Mountjoy of England, and Viscount Windsor of Ireland. She was the only child of Philip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, who died in 1683.

the paynes to have come to Remesburie when the Queenes Ma^{tie} thought to have made her p̄gres thether; and afterward receavinge other advertisement of her alteraçon, and p̄ceavinge youre good readines of cominge thether, I willed myne officers to advertise you of her Grace's alteraçon, wth thanks for yo^r gentell readines, w^{ch} I doe thankfullie accepte; I doe p̄ceave that, either by negligens or haste, myne officers dyd not so p̄fectlye advertize you hereof, as my meaninge was they should. I doe praye you hartely to thinke that I doe imbrace yo^r willingnes as well in that as in all other frendshippe towards me; w^{ch} I will not forgett, neyther at any tyme be unthankfull yf occasion serve: and soe knoweth thalmightie, whoe send you aswell to doe as my selffe. Wilton, in haste, this vith of October 1572.

Yo^r assured frend & loving cosen,

H. PEMBROCKE.

LVIII.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling,
Knight, geve thies.

Good cosen, Understandinge of some disagree-
ments and troubles latelye renewed betwene my
cosen Karne and you, and that ther is on bothe
syds greate pte-takinge,¹ to the grieff of your

¹ Vide page 16, note 1.

frends, and rejoysinge yo^r enemies, I have, as one that wishethe well unto eyther pte, dealte wth my cosen Karne for quietnes sake, as of my selfe, not to followe any matter by sute of lawe, or complainte unto the Counsell, untill suche tyme as I maie heare from you ; hopinge that as he is conformable to any resonable end that I shall make, so you will not be ageinst that w^{ch} is soe requisite and necessarye amongst neighboures and frendes. And for my owne parte, rather then you should contynew in this boylinge hatred, I will purposlie, ife otherwise it can not be brought to passe, make a jorney into the countrey to sett yow att unitie, yf my cōminge may doe good ; and that presentlye will I determyne, upon suche aunswere as I shall heare from you. And soe, wth my right hartie comendaçons, I byd you harte-lye farewell. Wilton, this second of November 1575. Yo^r assured loving cosen & frind,

H. PEMBROKE.¹

¹ "In 1574 the Earl, and Countess his wife, accompanied with her brother the Lord Talbott, and his lady, and divers other honourable and worshipful personages, were honourably received into Wales by the most part of the gentlemen of Glamorgan and Monmouth shires, and with like entertainment brought to the Castle of Cardiff ; where, keeping a very honourable and sumptuous house to all comers, they continued for the space of days, riding abroad, and visiting their friends, and viewing the country."—Nichols' Progresses of Elizabeth, vol. i. p. 408 ; from an unpublished MS. —The Countess died in 1575.

LIX.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, geve theis.

MY very good cosen, In that yow were dealte wthall by divers gentlemen of this countrie, and my officers, to refraine yo^r repaire to Cardif till my cominge; I am nowe to request yow to take the paynes to be here some tymes to morroe, and that you will bringe the fewer companie, and those of the most conformabliest myndes to quietenes, and to leave behind you suche as have bene hurte in the former frayes, for avoydinge suche farther inconvenience as might ensue. To the like effect I have written to the others, not doubting butt that I shall have cause to thinke this my purposed journey well bestowed, when I shall so end thies troubles as maye be for the quiet of the whole countrie, and severally to yo^r contentes. And soe, wth my most hartiest comendacõs, I byd yow farewell. Cardiffe, this xxvith of November 1575.

Yo^r assured lovinge cosen,

H. PEMBROCKE.

POSTSCRIPT.—I thanke you, good cosen, for yo^r venison; desiring my hartye comendacõs to my cosen, yo^r wiefe, may be remembered.

LX.

To my very lovinge cosen Sr Edwarde Stradlinge,
 Knighte, geave thes.

WITH my moste harty recomendacõs. Havinge receavid yo^r letter of the xiiiith of this instante, and perseyvinge by the contentes therof the troubles, contrarye to my good meaninge and travell taken, that are like to ensue wthout foresight had, I have for preventinge thereof taken this course, first to writte to my cosen Bassett in forme of the copie of the Ire herin enclosed, w^{ch} yf it take not the effecte as I doe expecte, then I will assiste you all I maye before my Lords of the Counsell in the Starre Chamber; where I doubte not, yf you and yo^{rs} have geven no cause of newe offence sythens I was at Cardiff, but that ye shalbe favorably harde, to the discreditt of yo^r enemyes. And so restinge further herin to prosead, as by my sayd cosen Bassettes aunswere & other pseedinges I shalbe forsyd, I end. At Wilton, the xvth daye of June 1576.

Yo^r lovinge cosen & frend,

H. PEMBROCKE.

AFTER my harty comendacõs. Wher I am geven to understande that wthout any juste cause

newly geven, ye goe aboute to unryppe all the contraversyes and varyances ag[r]eyd by me at my laste beinge at Cardiffe, and have for those matters causyd psses to be searvyd uppon sundrye of my cosen Stradling's frends and servaunts, I wolde ye should knowe I take yt unkyndlye, consyderinge my travell, and that ye respecte not yo^r promyse that ye and yo^{rs} wolde be to him and his a faythefull frende, as he and his shold be unto you and yo^{rs}. Suerly, yf ye retracte not yo^r sute in the pmisses, I shall, as I have just cause, bee a dealer therin to the discoverye of yo^r unquietnes, and the preventinge of suche trobulsome devyses as by the same ys p^ttendyd, to the vexinge of the countrey. And soe, respectinge [expecting ?] yo^r present resolut aunsweare, I ende. Att. Wilton, the xvth daye of June, anno 1576.

 LXI.

To my very lovinge cosens S^r Edwarde Stradling,
 S^r Wiffm Herbert, Knightes, and William
 Mathewe, Esquiere, and to everye of them.

AFTER o^r right hartye comendacõns. I have written a letter to the justices of the peace of the countye of Glamorgan, in answer of a letter sent unto me from my cosen, S^r Edward Manxell, and

a greate number of the justices, gentlemen, and freeholders of that countye, touchinge the reparinge of the decayed bridg¹ neare Cardiffe; w^{ch} brydge, forasmuche as yt lyeth wthowt the libertyes of Cardiff towne, thinhabitantes of the same towne, as I thinke, are not otherwise to be chardged for the reparinge of the same then after the ordinarye rate of the whole shier, except of their owne benevolence they wilbe contente to strayne them selves further, as by statute made for repayringe of decayed brydges, anno xxii^{do} Henrici viii^{vi}, playlye appeareth. Wherefore these are to praye you to geve yo^r favorable furtheraunce in that behalf. Soe, wishinge unto you as to my self, I ende. Wilton, this xviiith of M^{ch} 1578.

Yo^r loving cosen,

H. PEMBROKE.

¹ In the Sydney Papers, vol. i. p. 274, is a letter from the Sheriff and Justices of Glamorganshire to Sir H. Sydney, Lord President of Wales, dated July 8, 1580, and signed by Nicholas Herbert, Edward Mansell, Leyson Pryce, Edward Stradlynge, and others, informing him that, at a county meeting recently held at Cowbridge, it had been "agreed on all sides that a stone bridge should be built at the common charge."

LXII.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

AFTER my harty comendaçõs. I understande by myne officers, Thomas Wiseman and Robart Grove, of yo^r frendlye sendinge them venison to Cardiffe, for w^{ch} I hartely thanke yow. And that allso they have sythens written unto yow to bestowe one me some deare towards the storange of my new parke,¹ w^{ch} I pray you to accomplishe; and I will not onelye requite yo^r courtesye, butt they shalbe readye to pleasure yow againe (the grounde beinge stored) when yow shall have occasion to use them. And soe I bydd yow hartelye farewell. Sarū, this xxiith of November 1578.

Yo^r loving cosen,

H. PEMBROKE.

LXIII.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling,
Knight.

I THANKE yow, my good cozin, for rejoycinge wth me for the blessing² that God hathe bestowed

¹ At Wilton.

² William, eldest son of Henry Earl of Pembroke, by Mary daughter of Sir Henry Sydney, was born at Wilton, April 8, 1580.

uppon me ; hartelye wysshinge yow the like sonne, knowinge it woulde be unto yow, and my cozin yo^r bedfellowe, a greate joye and comforte, as this is to my wyf and me. And soe, wth my wive's and my righte hartly comendacõns to you bothe, I ende. At Wilton, the xxixth of Aprill 1580.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

H. PEMBROKE.

LXIV.

To my verie lovinge cosen S^r Ed: Stradlinge,
Knichte.

MY good cosen, I am verie hartelie to desire you, yf this yeere¹ yow shall be appointed Sherif of the countie of Glamorgan, to bestowe the bayliwicke of Llantrissent upon this bearer, my servant, Edwarde Williams, whoe will (as I am informed) geve yow sufficient assuraunce by good suertyes for his honest discharge of y^t service. His wife was nurse unto my sonne, which maketh me more willinglie to write, and more earnestlie to desire youre frendshippe for him. And thus, assuringe you I shall moste hartelie thanke you for the pleasure you shall doe him at this my requeste,

¹ Sir Edward Stradling was Sheriff for Glamorganshire in 1581.

comendinge my selfe moste hartelie unto you, I bidde you farewell. Wilton, this xvith of November.

Yo^r very lovinge cosen,

 H. PEMBROKE.

LXV.

To my very lovinge cosyn S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
 Knyghte, geve these wth speede.

COSYN STRADLINGE, After our harty comendaçons. These are to desyre yow wth all the speed you can possibely to send hether to me a hundrethe of the best calivers¹ you have for the contrey, wth there furneture, and wth as many of the trayned men as you can, to use the same peeces in the service of her Ma^{te}. Thus, hopinge that you wth all speed will sett forwarde the same, we ende in haste. Cardiffe Castle, this xiiith of May 1582.²

Yo^r lovinge cosen,
 H. PEMBROKE.
 W. HARBERT.
 THOMAS LEWYS.
 ANTHONYE MAUNXELL.
 NYCHOLAS HARBERT.

¹ A hand-gun. "The name is a corruption of Calibre; the name being given in the early part of Elizabeth's reign to these pieces, the bores of which were of one standard size." — Skelton's Armour, plate cxv.

² Queen Elizabeth laboured under considerable anxiety at this

POSTSCRIPT.—Cosen, you are a comissioner for marine causes; wherefore, good cosen, lett us have youre companye heare to morroe by five of y^e clocke in the morninge, wth a dosen archers and some spare bowes and arrowes, if you maye.

LXVI.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

My good lovinge cosen, Wher I have harde a sharpe complaynte of some misdemeanor against Thomas Bassett and John Bassett, sōnes of Richard Bassett,¹ Esquiere, whoe beinge accompanied wth Edward Bassett, William Bassett,² and Thomas Xp̄ior Bassett, and others, about ix or x p̄sons, have offred suche enorme dealinges to one Robart Spencer, and one Edwarde Johns, as they stand in feare of their lives, and doe therefore crave the peace against the sayd partyes, their complices and servantes, I thought good to referr the due examinaçon hereof to yow and my

period. Her negotiations with France, Spain, the Netherlands, and Scotland, were of a complicated character.

¹ Richard, sixth son of Jenkin Bassett of Beaupre.

² William Bassett and Thomas Christopher Bassett were sons of Christopher Bassett of St. Athan, Glamorganshire, a younger brother of William Bassett of Beaupre.

cosen Will^am Bassett;¹ whoe, beinge bothe in comission of the peace, and neare to all the partyes, maye more conveniently try owt y^e truth; knowinge that you will administer suche indifferent justice as I may be saved harmeles, the inordinate behavio^r of y^e offendo^rs repressed, and the complayn^antes quiett soe fully p^cured, as they shall have no farder cawse of just greiffe heare-after. And soe, wth my right harty comenda^çons, I leave yow to the p^tection of Allmightie God. Cardiffe, the xixth of June 1582.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and
assured frende,

H. PEMBROKE.

LXVII.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knighte.

RIGHTE welbeloved cozen, I am mocionid to writte unto yow for the examina^çon of a cause

¹ William Bassett, Esq. of Beaupre, Glamorganshire, eldest son of William, and grandson of Jenkin Bassett, married Catherine, daughter of Sir Rice Mansel, Knt. He died in 1586, and was buried in Combe Monkton church, near Bath. There is a quaint epitaph on his monument from the pen of the learned Doctor Thomas Leyson, who married his daughter Mary. Mr. Bassett was Knight of the Shire in the Parliaments of 1563 and 1571.

betwene one Jevan Lten of Tyryarl, and a daughter of Thomas ap Jevan ap Meredyth, one of my tenants of my sayd Lp: for that the sayd Lten is deply chardged to have soe misused the daughter of the sayd Thomas as shée is greate wth childe: wherin the father seekethe that the sayd Lten might marye his daughter, for satisfienge his duetie towards the world and God; and wolde geve them fower kyen and xl. sheepe in mariadge, beinge more then he ys well worthe. If by yo^r meanes the partye may be brought to mary her, or otherwise to susteyne punishment, and to keep^e y^e childe, wth some recompence to her father accordinge to the lawes of the realme, yf yow fynde him faultye, the ould poore man will reken him self bounde to praye for yow, and be readye to doe any service that he cann. And soe, as my selfe, I recomend yow to Almightye God. Cardiffe, the xxth of June 1582.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frend,

H. PEMBROKE,

LXVIII.

To my very lovinge cozen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

MY very good cosen, After my harty comendaçons. Thease are to requeste yow that yow will geve yo^r electione, wth such frendes as you can procure, unto my brother Robart Sydney, that by yo^r meanes, wth the residue of my frendes and freeholders there, he maye be chosen Knight of the Shire of Glamorgan, for the w^{ch} he shall demaunde noe chardges of the countrie att all; and of yo^r frendshipp herin I assure my selfe. And soe I leave yow. Wilton, y^e xviiith of Octobe 1584.

Yo^r very lovinge cosen,

H. PEMBROKE.

 LXIX.

To his righte worshipfull cosen S^r Edwarde
Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER harty comendaçons. Wheras there was heretofore an office¹ founde upon the deathe of yo^r late father for landes w^{ch} he held in Penllyne, wherin, as yo^r selfe cannot deny, I receavid open wronge; and therupon an agreement made in that

¹ An inquisition.

behalf, and yow bounde for the traᵛsinge of y^e sayd office ; theis be to signefie that the not traᵛsinge of the sayd office is nowe objected ageinst me, to the p̄judice of my inheritaunce, and the principall thinge moost stode upon : wherefore I hartely praye yow to testifie soo muche in the premisses, and deliᵛ the verye trewe state of the matter wth indifferencye concerninge the sayd office and traverse, as in equitye and conscience yow be bounde. And soe, nothings doubtinge of yo^r good dealinge in this behalf, doo byd yow hartely farewell. Sarū, this xxiith of February 1585.

Yo^r lovinge frend and cosyn,

H. PEMBROCKE.

LXX.

To S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knyght, and Wylyyam Mathewe,¹ Esquier.

THERE were lately deliverid unto me by the LL: of her Ma^{tes} most honorable privey counsell certaine examinaçõs taken by you, and letters written from you concerninge Beere, a pyratt, ridinge wth a prize in the harborough att Pennarth ; w^{ch} dealinge of yours, as in some sorte [it] caused me

¹ Probably William Matthew, Esq. of Radyr, near Llandaff, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir George Herbert of Swansea.

to rejoyes to see justices so carefull for discharge of those duties w^{ch} they are bounde especially to regard, so dyd it occasion me in like maner to greive, because I conceavid the same rather to p^{re}cede from malyce to me, or contempt of me, then from an upright meaninge to redress offences or to punishe offenders. The two later I hartely desyre, and will earnestly endeavour may be in due sorte performed: the two former, as faultes in yo^r selves and abuses to me, I wish maye be (as they ought) reformed. But that this may be in suche maner considered that neither I be deemed suspicious wthout reason, nor you blamed wthout cause, let yt be respected what should move you two only to entermeddle in this accion. Are you alone carefully mynded to respect the good of yo^r cuntry, or alone authorized to chasten suche faultes, or continually accustomed to use such integritie in yo^r offices that neither you may be thought for favour to wyncke att, or for malyce to pry into, offences? Yf I should ymagyne the two form^e, I must eyther blame all others for not doinge what they ought, or thinke they have not what authority they should: their honestie forbides me to conceive thone, and the comendable and carefull indifferency followed in the government of this state enforceth me not to suspect thother. And when I enter into consideraçon of

both your accions, I doe not fynd such singulartye in the upright administration of justice, that I maye justly thinke you eache way faultles; for it is reported that some ryottes, unlawfull assemblyes, many frayes and bloodshedes, yea, padventure blodye accions, have not byne not onely unpunished, but bowlstered by you; w^{ch} yf it be so, as I wishe the tryall prove the contrary, you are not in deed what you seeme in showe. But I am not willinge att this tyme to syfte yo^r doinges curioslye, althought I am by dutye to my countrey and my Queene most bounden not heereafter to overpasse them carelesly. But, that I may not enter in consideraçoens of other causes then yo^r late proseedinges, let the course be regarded w^{ch} you have followed, and the matter considered w^{ch} yow have enformed. Yo^r complaint is to the Llo^s: and others of her Highnes p^rvye counsell, psons, as most carefull of theire owne callinge, and most hable to reforme badd people's misbehavio^rs, soe not willinge that others her Ma^{tes} officers should be unaquaynted to suche thinges w^{ch} pperly concerne their p^ticular offices. The cause complayned of is piracye; the place yt is nowe bolstered, Wales: that one to be punished by the Lord Admirall, this other to be governed by the Lord Presydent. Yf eyther of these had denied or slacked behovefull justice, they [be]

blame worthy for not doinge their dutyes, you worthy comendaçons for complayninge els where: but not to make them privey to this matter, as it doth p̄judice their athoritye, soe it doth manifest yo^r malyce; but this I will passe over, lest, for that it concerneth my self in regarde of my vizadmirallty and p̄cidencye, some like mynded to yo^r selves may interprett the same to be more for maynten^ance of myne aucthority then for just blame of yo^r dealinges. Yow complayne that her Ma^{tes} comission to yow graunted—I knowe none you have—is by the officers of Cardyffe contēpned. Why so? They refused to send certayne p̄sons to such place as yow required, whom you would examyne, and to suffer such watchmen whom you did appoint. I am not only unwillinge to excuse them yf they have offended, but wilbe most willinge they shoulde be punished when it shall be proved; and therefore, yf yow conceive what I shall saye for them be to defend them, you doe me wronge, for I only would have your selves see that you are in myne opinion hardly effected towardses them, because they seeke to defend their libertyes, w^{ch} I must be ready in orderly maner to uphold. You sent yo^r warrantes to the bailieffes to bringe before you John Lewys and others: they answered, yf it will please yow to come to their towne house,

they shold appeare; yf not, they could not fullfyll yo^r comaundement wthout p̄judice to their libertyes. They had more reason, in my conceipt, to geve this answeare then you shewed indifferency to mislike the same, for they dyd not hinder yow from doinge justice, but yow dyd seeke to hurte them for defendinge their charters. You appointed some to watch whom they forbad to watch. They had reason nether to obbaye what you had non authoritye to comaunde, nor to allowe of them for fytt watchmen in the night, of whose unruly blody behavio^rs they had of late certayne experience in the daye; for, but the forbiddinge of yo^r watchmen is a p̄sumption that they ment to geve unlawfull libertye for the victualling of the pyrat, you nether shewe charity to conceave yt nor have reasone to proove yt: for what is it to purposse two padventure lewde fellows, Gascoigne and Will^ams, were aborde and dyd bringe victualles to the pyrates; shall the lewdnes of those two prove the baylieffes dishonest? I see non other reason for that but yo^r owne malyce, w^{ch} makes you to affyrme ytt; when even the confessions you alleadge tend no further but to prove there was victuals brought for the Fleminges, not for the pyrat; but of this I am to saye nothings: yf any have offended, it is reason they should, and suerly they shalbe severally punished. And as I have longe sinc̄ written to

some for apphençon of this pyrat, soe I have inowe geven chardge for examinige each thinge and eache pson conserninge any unlawfull ayde geven unto him. As yow wishe the LL: to consider whome the townesmen's bouldnes doth concerne, to whome it may apperteygne, and what in tyme maye ensue thereof, in w^{ch} darcke speache yow may be thought to have no good meaninge to me, soe I would have you remember the same in yo^r doinges, in the w^{ch} you ought to have honest intençons, and for the w^{ch} you must expect to geve reasonable answeres. At Baynardes Castle, the seconde of Januarye 1586.

H. PEMBROKE.

LXXI.

To his right worshipfull frind S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, at S^t Donattes, yeve these.

Salut' in C^hiro Iesu, &c.

As I am advertysed yo^r psonag' of Sully in Glamorgan sheere ys voyd, the tythes and comodities wherof ys hable to mayntaine a precher: wherefore, according to my dutye, lest an unfitt man for the roome shold attempt toptayne the same, I have thought good to send unto yow this bearer, M^r Veyne, arclion¹ of Brechen, who these many yeres

¹ Archdeacon Andrew Vaen was a prebendary of Llandaff in 1575.—Willis' Llandaff Cathed. 95.

hath taken greate paynes wthin this dioç; whom I dere hazard to comend unto yo^r worshipp, beseechinge the same to respecte his humble sute in this behalf, whom yow are not to fynd unthankfull. And yow shall fynd mee ready to requit yo^r curteysye herin as occasion hereafter may serve, as knoweth thalmighty, who e^v p^serve yo^r worshipp. Matharne, the xxiiith of January 1574.¹

Yo^{rs} in Christ,

W. LANDAVENSIS.

LXXII.

To his right wo^r frend S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, geve these.

AFTER my harty comendaçons, wth the like thanks for your great curtesyes and gentlenes at all tymes, and namely to this poore younge man, beinge a syster's sonne of myne, who lately by yo^r good furtheraunce maryed a wydowe that had çtaine landes, wherupon she is bounde (as I am enformed) to dwell, w^{ch} if she doth not, ys doubted

¹ An error in the MS. William Blethyn was elected Bishop of Llandaff, 13 April 1575, and died 1590. Mathern, near Chepstow, was a palace belonging to the see of Llandaff.

lest yt shold be forfected, where (as I understand) yow are steward to y^e lord of the same. Wherefore these are to desyre yo^r wo^rll good counsell and help to my kynsman, that he, yf yt be possible, by yo^r good meanes may dwell for a tyme wth his father in lawe, who by coven^ant ys to fynd him and his wyffe during their abode wth him in his howse; otherwise yt wilbe not only troublesome unto him about the forfectur, but also chargeable for him, being a young man having but smale experience to keepe howse: wherin beseeching yo^r good advise and assistaunç, I comitt yo^r wo^r to the tuyçon of thalmighty.

At Matharne, the viith of January 1577.

Yo^{rs} in Christ Jesus,

W. LANDAVENSIS.

LXXIII.

To his right worshipfull frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, at S^t Donattes.

AND please yo^r worshipp, I receavid yo^r lre dated the xvith of this Aprill, 1581; and therin enclosed a lre fownde by Edward Rees by the sea syde, w^{ch} was sent by a scholar of Oxon to a sworn brother of his (both beinge as ytt seameth

of the family of love¹), w^{ch} I will wthin these ii dayes deli^v to one that goth t'Oxoñ, that suche order there may be taken as shalle by the magistrates bee thought best, according to her Ma^{tes} p^{re}cedinges in that behalf p^{ro}vided. Geving yo^r worshipp most hartly thanks for yo^r greate care and diligence herein, I comytt the same to Godes p^{ro}tection. Berthyly, the xviith of Aprill 1581.

Yo^r worship's assured in Christ,

W. LANDAVENSIS.

LXXIV.

To his r. wo^r. frend S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

CONCERNINGE, right wo^r, the psonage of S^t Tathans,² I told my mind to the pson of Sully, sithens w^{ch} time I hard nothings from him of yo^r pleasure therin : and nowe that M^r Pophams is become a suter unto yow in M^r Veine's behalfe, beinge archon of Breckon, who is in comission

¹ The name of an Anabaptist sect founded in Holland by Henry Nicholas, a Westphalian, in 1555. Queen Elizabeth issued a severe proclamation against them in 1580. In the third volume of the Harleian Miscellany, p. 568, there is an account of their existence so late as 1641 ; and George Fox, the Quaker, denounced them as "a motley tribe of fanatics, who took oaths, danced, sung, and made merry."

² St. Athan, near Cowbridge.

wth others in all this dioç, who intendeth hereafter to exercise the same if he had a convenient dwelling place, beinge a publique preacher lawfully authorised ; therefore I am, beinge therunto requested, to desire yo^r wo^r to bestowe yo^r p̄ntaçon upon him, who wilbe thankfull for the same all the daies of liffe, and will not onlie sufficientlie discharge yow therin, but also accomlishe the message sent by the pson of Sully. Wherin if yow doe plesure my frend, I shall not forgett to requitt all yo^r good cowrteysies as oportunitie shall serve. And so comittinge yo^r wo^r to the tuiçon of the Almightye. Matharn, 5 Junii 1582.

Yo^r wo^r assured in Christe,

W. LANDAVEN.

LXXV.

Saltem in Xp̄o.

To his right wo^r frynd S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

I AM right glad that yo^r worship hath employed yo^r diligence in her Ma^{tes} service to so good effecte as yt appeareth by yo^r ðre ; wherby I doe not doubtte but that it will redounde to yo^r great comendaçon, besydes the rewarde that yow are to receave at the Lordes handes for yo^r dutifull

obediẽcũ unto her Ma^{tie}, being the higher power ordeined by God to gwyd and governe us, whose preevy counsell shalbe by me advertysed by the first fitt messenger that I may understand of, that travayleth towards London. In the meane tyme I doe not doubte but that that suspected pson shalbe in safe custodye. Yf yow happen to understand of any that you may faithfully trust, yow shall doe very well to certifye some one or other of her Ma^{tes} preevy counsell; for, the sooner they be advertysed, the rather we shall knowe further of their direction and pleasure therein. And thus, congratulatinge wth all her Ma^{tes} faythfull p^fessors of the gospell the apprehençon of suche a pson vehemently suspected to be a very disobedient subjecte to her Highnes, a greate advsary to her pcedinges, I comytt yo^r worshipp to the blessed p^tection of thalmightie. Caerlion, the iiiiith of February 1583.

Yo^r worshippes assured in Christ,

W. LANDAVENSIS.

LXXVI.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight, att S^{ct} Donattes.

I REMEMBER, right wors^h, y^t at the suite of a minister of yo^r countrey I signed a warrant for this bearer's apprehencion on suche suspi^çons as yo^r tres makes mention; but heetherto neither the returne thereof, nor any thing conserninge the same, came to my handes: not wth standinge, fyndinge yo^r wors^h. willinge to entertayne him, and fyndinge him not, as he was suspected, a counterfeit, but by me ordered, haveing bothe his tres dimissories, and (as he enformes me) private tres from Sir William Herbert, of S^{ct} Julians, for his behavio^r, I shalbe not only content to licens him to remayne in youre house, but shall, having hereafter certificat from yow of his good cō^vsa^çon, be willing to pleasure him accordingly. And thus I comytt yo^r wors^h. to thalmighties p^tection. Matharñ, the xviiith of this December, 1588.

Yo^r wo^rç assured in Christ,

W. LANDAVENSIS.

LXXVII.

To the right worshipping S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

ALL healthe wished unto yo^r worshippe. Since I was suiter unto yow for yo^r psonage of Silly, my L. of Landaffe¹ was advertized of di^verse simonicall offeres made unto yo^r worshippe for the same; but assuredly my saide Lorde is fully fixed in this psuasion that yow p^ferr yo^r credite before any worldly comoditie, and the peace of a religious conscience before the p^fse pelfe of this transitory worlde. Yf yo^r goodnes, wthout p^judiç eyther of conscience or credite, will bestowe yo^r benefice upon me, I will p^mise yow a zealoues care of the cure comitted, and allso a thanckfull and servisable harte towardes yo^r worshipfull house while my pilgrimage shall laste here on earthe. Yf yo^r worshipping be disposed to conferr yo^r p^sentaçon upon Griffithe Prosser, the bearer hereof (whose towardnes is cōmended by those that are lerned and godlie), my L. of Landaffe is to crave yo^r ðeres, p^misinge that after his admission he will take paines to augment his tallent, wherby he may be better able to discharge his afunction; and allso yerely allowe out of the

¹ Bishop Blethyn.

benefice some reasonable pention, accordinge to yo^r grave discession, for the reliefe of some p^rcher that shall take paines duringe his absence or disability; and in so doinge I thinke my Lorde will admitt yo^r p^rsentaçon. Thus, wth dutifull comēdaçon unto yo^r worshipp, I cease; comittinge the same to the tuiçon of thallmightie, whoe graunte us peace in Christe. Matharne, 28 M'tii, 1580.

At yo^r wo^r commaundem^t,

AND. VAYNE, Clerke.¹

LXXVIII.

To my very loving cosen M^r Edward Stradling,
these be geven,

My very harty comendaçons being had unto you, gentell cosyn Stradlinge. These shalbe to desyre you to lett me understand by yo^r letter howe ye have speed wth yo^r Bill of Complaint, and also whoe hath shewid you frendshippe therin, because I would geve them thankes accordingly, and also what hope ye have of yo^r proseding therin; and assure yo^r self that what I may doe for the furrherraunce therof I will. I doe heare howe my Lord of Pembrok doth storme att me

¹ Archdeacon of Brecknock, &c. Vide Bishop Blethyn's letters to Sir E. S. pp. 83—89.

for joyninge wth you in this case ; howbeit I care not, for the world shall never say of me that I will sytt still and see myne inheritaunce take harme and saye nothing. Thus, praing to God to send our honest and just complaint good successe, I end ; wishinge unto you as to my self. From Bletstoe, the xxxith of May.

Yo^r loving cosen,
OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.¹

LXXIX.

To the right wor: my loving cosen and frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

Good cosen, my very harty comendaçons being had unto you. Whereas before this I have had my tittle unto the psonage of Penmarke, pcell of myne enheritaunce, as shall well appeare in tyme, and have byne divers tymes delayed and kepte

¹ Oliver St. John, created Baron St. John of Bletshoe, Jan. 13, 1558-9, married Agnes, daughter and heir of Sir Michael Fisher : died 24 April 1582. His aunt, Margaret St. John, married Sir Thomas Gamage of Coity. Lord St. John's ancestor, Sir John St. John, obtained a grant of the castle and manor of Fonmon from Robert Fitz Hamon in 1091. The family subsequently acquired by descent the neighbouring castle of Penmark. Fonmon Castle is now the property of Robert Oliver Jones, Esq. whose ancestor, the celebrated Col. Philip Jones, acquired it by purchase in the days of Oliver Cromwell.

from the tryall of lawe therin only by cavelles and noe good matter, my hope is nowe to come to tryall thereof att this next assises. And for that I have seene the disposition of yo^r countrey before this hath byne muche led by affection rather then equitye of lawe, w^{ch} maketh me to trouble you and others of my frends and kinsmen for the pcuringe of an indifferent and wyse jewrie, the rather for that the matter in respecte of comoditye towtheth M^r Maunseff, yo^r neighbor and countrey man, yet my trust ys you will rather further wth yo^r frendshipp and helpe your neere cosen and frende before another. And soe therefore shall most hartely desyre you to extende yo^r frendly frendshippe and furtheraunce of this my lawfull triall and tytle of inherritaunce wth such good advise and counsell as you may; and my servaunte, this bearer, shall attende on you for the same. Thus, hopinge to find yow a deare cosen and frende, will ende, and be readie alwayes to requitt you in any thing I maye. From my litle howse at Riptoñ,¹ this xvth of September 1574.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

¹ Ripton Abbots, Huntingdonshire.

LXXX.

To the right woor: my very loving cosyn S^r
Edward Stradling, Knight, yeve these.

My very hartly comendaçons beinge had unto you, wth the like thanks for yo^r gentle lre, and for warninge of Henry Lewis' doinges heretofore. These shalbe to desyre yow not to myslike that the sayd Henry may survaye Funmun, wth the hamlettes of Aberthaw and Bretton,¹ accordinge to my comission; because yt is donne for a certeine purpose, w^{ch} I will at lenght declare unto yow the p^vitie therof at our next metinge. But for any further doinges in any other place I have not authourised hym to deale wth as yett, and so will leave any further to trouble you for this tyme; butt shall wishe unto you, and my lady yo^r wief, as to my self. From my howse att Blettsoe, in haste, the xxviiith day of January 1575.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

¹ Perhaps Burton Bridge on the river Thawe, above Aberthaw, Glamorganshire.

LXXXI.

To the right woꝛ: and my verie loving cosen and
frend S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

Good cosen, My very hartie comendaçons beinge had unto you, and to my lady yo^r wife, although as yet unacquainted. Whereas I pceave by a tre, w^{ch} of late I receavid from my sonne, that you have written unto him in the behalf of an Iryshe man, one of my ten^{antes}, who throughe his lewde and disordered behavior hath forfeyed his coppyholde; and for that he is an alyen borne, and besydes no meete man of psonage to goe wth me yf it should please the Queenes Ma^{tie} to call me to any service, beinge suche a one as I dowt woulde rather leane to strangers than to o^r countrey men; and further forasmuche as he is but a co^mon pedler, and therefore discomodicus to me for anny good harryett yf it should please God to call him: Thies be s^ome of the causes w^{ch} move me not to be willinge to have any suche ten^{ant}. Wherefore yf yo^r request shalbe for any other of those countrey men, I will gladly plesure any suche for yo^r sake. Marie, for this fellowe, I trust (considering the causes aforesayd) you will beare wth me yf I denye it unto him. I will make staye for grauntinge of it untill the returne of my bailieffes, al-

though there hathe byne earnest suite made unto me for yt. And thus, wishinge that I might pleasure you, will ende. From my howse att Wakerley, where I yet lye, this first of Aprill 1575. Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

POSTSCRIPT. — I mynde, God willing, yf otherwise I shall not be letted by service of y^e Prince, to come into Wales against the tryall of my Quare Impedit; and then mynde to see both you and others of my kinsmen and frendes.

LXXXII.

To the right worshipfull and my very loving cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

MY very hartly comendaçons being had unto you, good cosen. Wheras heretofore, upon earnest request made unto me, I was contented to appointe and nominate M^r Kerne¹ for my highe and chiefe steward of all my lands in Wales, and of late heringe of his determinaçon to travell beyonde the seas, havinge also gotten leave at the Queenes handes for the same, I wrote unto him what discomodity and detry^{mt} might happ unto my tēn^{ntes} for want of assistaunce and advise in his

¹ Commonly spelt Carne.

absence, and soe unburdened him of that chardge ; wherfore, seeinge yow are both soe neare my kinsmen as yow are, and also of so good government, I therefore cannot thinke of any soe meete for that roome of highe steward of all my lands in Wales as you, yf it shall please you to accept thereof ; unto and by whome both my under steward, M^r Smyth, and all other my bailiffes and ten^antes shalbe dirrected in all suche causes as shall appteyne : most hartely prayinge you y^t if you shall fynde or here of any disorder, inconvenience, or discomoditie likely to be in my landes there, you will send both unto my baylliffes and steward to attend uppon you, to be reformed by yo^r direction and order ; and whosoever shall shewe him self disobedient unto yow in the premisses, you shall be assured shall have as smalle curtesy at my handes as lawe will geve. And thus, gevinge unto you most harty thankes for yo^r curteouse enterteynm^t of my sonne at his beinge in yo^r countrey, will leave any further to trouble yow ; but most harttely to pray you to make my harty comendaçons unto my lady yo^r wif, as yet unacquaynted, will ende. From my lodge att Rypton, the xith of June 1575.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

LXXXIII.

To the right wooꝛ my very loving cosyn and frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, these be yeaven.

My very hartly comendaçoens being had unto you, good cosyn. I receavid yo^r letter towching the stewardshipp of my lands in Wales, beinge very sorie that I cannot presently fullfill yo^r request in the displacing of the understewarde as yet, for that he hath byne privye unto all my title and conveyances for my Quare Impedit, lest phaps he might then dooe me sōme displeasure therin; butt, that beinge ended, yow shalbe assured to have all att your comaundement. And further, good cosen, I shall most hartelye desyre you to extend yo^r frendly furtheraunce and assystance unto me in the tryall of this my tyle for the recovery of myne inheritaunce, as my trust is you will; wishinge that I were my self any wayes able to pleasure yow. And thus, good cosen, beinge over bolde of you in theis troublesōme causes, will ende for this tyme; wishinge unto you and my lady longe life, wth yo^r hartes desyre. From my howse att Wakerley, this fourth of September 1575.

Yo^r loving cosen,

OLYVER SEINT JOHN.

LXXXIV.

To the right wooř my very loving cosen and frend S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

My verie good cosen, My very hartly comendaçons beinge had unto you, and to my lady your wyfefe, although as yett unacquaynted. Howebeyt, I trust before Michaelmas, yf God doe geve me health, to see you in Wales, and other of my frendes; for that I thanke God nowe I have gotten out my pcedendo under the great seale, so as all their delatorie devyses and practises will not nowe serve, butt that they must needes stand upon the tryall of y^e countrey, and they that can shewe the best cardes are like to wyinne the game. And for that I am but a stranger in yo^r countrey, and allso the sheriff¹ is my neere kinsmā, as you knowe, so as I am sure the jurie must be empaneled by the coroners of yo^r shire, to whom I am a meere stranger; and therefore I am most earnestlye to desyre yow to helpe yo^r cosen nowe att the pynche, and to deale wth the corrōners for their lawfull favo^r to have an indifferente jurye retorned when the tyme shall come; and also in the meane tyme to labo^r such frendes for me as

¹ Sir W. Herbert.

you maye, for, yf I were sure of indifferencye, I would not care. I pray yow, good cosen, when my bailiefe shall come over hither unto me, that you will send me the names in writtinge of xxiiii substanciall and honest men, suche as you are assured wilbe indifferent, that we may trust to; so as then I may peruse them and seeke to gett them returned, wth yo^r good helpe and others of my frendes. I am in sōme doubt of one of the coroners for beinge over much affected to the Mauncells; howe beyt, I trust by yo^r good helpe and my other kinsmen and frendes. And looke, what reward you shall promise in my behalf unto the coroners for their favor, I will not fayle to pforme the same. Thus may yow see howe bold I am of you, whom I more trust unto then any in that shire. From Bletsoe; and soe will ende, and wishe unto you as to my self. From Bletsoe, this xviiith of Marche 1576.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEINT JOHN.

LXXXV.

To the right woꝛ my very lovinge cosyn and frend S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, My very hartly comendaçons being had unto you, and to my lady yo^r wife, although as yet unacquainted. Whereas before this I have directed my tres unto you, havinge bynne very desirous, yf it might please you to like therof, to bestowe of you the office of stewardshipp and goverment of my ten^antes in that countye, my self beinge soe farre of as that for want of good oversight I doe susteyne many damages; and pceavinge by suche aunswere as I receavid from you that yo^r only staye hitherto hath byne because of the misliking w^{ch} you have of the understewarde, I am therefore contented to referre unto you the appointment of suche an understeward as yow shall thinke good off, hopinge you will assigne suche a one therunto as shalbe bothe wise, learned, and stowt; for that I have before this byne di^vsely abused, aswell throught çeten concealementes and encrochementes made upon my lande, as also throught other disorders w^{ch} have byne wincked at, and not redressed, by such as have exercysed that office before tyme. And fur-

ther I shall desyre you that whosoever you shall assigne for understewarde, he may yearly before Michaelmas cause all the courte rolles to be engrossed in pchement, and to be deliverid unto my bailieffes to bringe them unto me, soe as I may keep them for presidentes alwayes, for yow knowe the nature of coppye holde well ynoughe. And thus, hopinge to come into that countrey soe sōne as I maye sewe fourth my pcedendo for the tryall of my right there in the psonage of Penm̄ke,¹ and also trustinge to fynde yo^r frendshipp and good advise when tyme shall serve, will ende, and wishe unto you as to my self. From Bletso, this xxvth of Aprill 1576.

Yo^r assured loving cosen,

OLYVER SYNT JOHN.

LXXXVI.

To the right wo^r and my very lovinge cosen and frend S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, these be yevē.

MY right harty comendaçons unto you being had. Forasmuche as it is geven me to understande that ther is certayne landes within my mano^r of Penmarke, w^{ch} is conclid from me;

¹ Near Cowbridge, co. Glamorgan.

for the trewe understandinge thereof I have appointed M^r Henry Lewis my comissioner to sur-
vaye my sayd manor, wherby a trewe tryall may
be therof made accordingly. Therefore I thought
good not only to advertyse yow of my meaninge
in the grauntinge of the sayd comission; but also
to desyre you therwth to geve yo^r ayde unto him
in all suche causes as shalbe thought good and
resonable for the execuçon of the same. I dyd
thinke it no mete travell to troble you so muche
a troblesome case as that is; and soe I trust you
will thinke of it, that I doe it only for yo^r ease.
And thus will leave any farder to troble yow, but
wische unto you as to my self. From Blettisho,
the xxith of June 1576.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

LXXXVII.

To the right woõ my very lovinge cosen and
frend S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, at S^t
Donattes, or els where, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge
had unto you. I have receavid yo^r tre by my
sonne, in the behalf of him whoe is nowe reader
of the Temple, for a bucke to be bestowed of him;

whiche shalbe sent unto him at the tyme appointed, God willinge. I am nowe to desyre you to extend yo^r frendly furtheraunce and good will unto this bearer, Will^am Skydmore, who hath a good tyle unto certayne lands a litle besyde Swansey, and hath had divers prosscetes unto the sheriffe, but can gett none of them to be duely served and returned; the w^{ch} he and I hope by yo^r good meanes will nowe at last have the dewe course of lawe, so as his adversarie may aunswere to his complaint. And thus, hopinge to bringe myne owne causes in tryall shortly, and then do mynde, God willinge, to come my self into yo^r countrey, and see you and others of my good frendes, although I have had sondry delayes and shyftes, and this sayd prayer I hope to be the last, will soe nowe ende, and wishe unto yow and my lady yo^r wife as unto my self. From my litle lodge in Ripton pke, this xxvith of July 1576.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEINT JOHN.

LXXXVIII.

To the right wo^r and my very loving cosen and
frend S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these
be yeaven.

GOOD cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge
had unto you, wth like thanks for yo^r frendly
advertysment of the tyme of yo^r great sessions
to be holden at Cardiff. Upon notice wherof I
have accordingly taken order to send this bearer
wth instructions requisit for the procedinge in
my causes to bringe the same to some pfect ripe-
nes for the tryall of my right ; towardes whom I
am to crave yo^r favorable furtheraunce, wherin he
shalbe occasioned to use yo^r frendshipp. And
thus, p^ssuminge of you as of my very good cosen
and deare frend, will leave for this tyme any
further to trouble you. From my house at Blet-
soe, this xxiiith of Februarye 1577.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

LXXXIX.

To my very lovinge cosen and frend S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knighte.

MY right hartly comendaçons unto yow beinge had, wth thankes for yo^r carefullnes in bookinge and callinge me every leete the sutors to the same, w^{ch} heretofore hath byne ill looked unto, and great cause geven for the losse of my sutors, w^{ch} I hope nowe shall [be] by this meanes better looked unto. And as towchinge the newe placinge of the understeward, my trust in you is suche that he is suche a one as can better dischargde the same by learninge, experience, and just dealinge. And accordinge to yo^r request in yo^r letters for the takinge up of the sute dependinge in the Chauncery betwine mee and Margarett Spencer, I am contented you shall ende the same, yf it please you to take the paynes. And as for M^r Maunxell cōminge up to London, it maketh small matter to thende of the cause, for the supced is of noe force, but only a delaye of justice; for my Lord Dyar's¹ opinion, and certen other judges, is, that the judge may lawfully pceed by warrant of the pcedendo wthout danger; for the judges in all their ex-

¹ Sir James Dyer was Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench from 1 Eliz. 1559 to 1582.

perimentes, and as farre as they have reed, never hard the like matter for the hinderaunce of justice. And therefore I will p̄seed by lawe as I maye, as one nott myndinge to leave the matter till I have brought it to ann ende. And thus, still cravinge yo^r frendly furtheraūce and assistaunce as tyme shall serve, and that I may have understandinge what kyn and allyance is betwine Anthony Maūxell¹ and Thomas Lewes the coroner, to be sett downe in writinge, wherby my counsell may take chalinge. And soe, leavinge any farder to troble you at this tyme, will end. From Blettisho, the vth of June 1577.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frend,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XC.

To the right wo^r my very lovinge cosen and frende S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge had unto you. Like as, before this, I have byne sondrye tymes enforced to put you to sōme troble,

¹ Anthony Mansel, second son of Sir Rice Mansel, was born in 1530; and represented the county of Glamorgan in 1553. He married Elizabeth, sole heiress of John Bassett, Esq. of Llantrithyd.

and others of my frendes, by reason of my longe and tedious sute in those ptes, so likewise am I at this present to crave the contynuance of your accustomed frendshipp towards me when tyme shall come for the tryall therof; at w^{ch} tyme, God willinge, I meane to come my self into that countrey, and to see yow and others of my frendes there. In the meane tyme I am to request you to geve unto [the] gentleman who is of my coūsell suche instructions as you shall think requisit for the empanelling of an indifferent jewrie when tyme servethe. Further, good cosen, I pray you geve me some advertisment by your fre whom you would wishe me to make sute for to be p^rferred unto the office of high sherife wthin the coūtye of Glamorgan, that I might make accompt of to be an indifferent frend, not beinge of my kynne. And thus, p^rsuminge of yow as of my very good cosen and deare frende, will leave any further to trouble you, but wishe unto yow as to my self. From Ripton, this xxvth of Septemb^r 1577.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCI.

To the right woꝛ and my very loving cosen S^r
 Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeven.

Good cosen, My very hartly comendaçons being
 had unto you, wth most hartly thankes for yo^r
 frendly remembraunce and good advertisment
 sent unto me conserninge my matters in Wales,
 especially touchinge the election of a newe sherife,
 wherein, God willinge, I mynde to followe yo^r
 advise yf I be nott p^vented before hand. And
 thus, beinge ready to requite yo^r frendly courtesye
 in any thinge I may pleasure yow, will leave for
 this tyme any further to trouble you, but wishe
 unto you as to my self. From my howse att
 Blettsooe, this xvth of October 1577.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCII.

To my lovinge cosen, S^r Edward Stradling,
 Knight.

My right hartly comendaçons unto you beinge
 had. Whereas yow wrote unto me in the behalf
 of yo^r servant for the renewinge of a coppye of
 vii ac^r, i rode of medowe, and ii ac^r of pasture, to

make upp two lives thre, w^{ch} cōpy is no longer good but duringe my la: my motherlawes life, because it is demayne land, and never graunted by cōpye afore; yett, at the request of you by yo^r l^{res}, I was contented to a lesse for iii lives in the same to yo^r servant, to make thestate of y^e three lives good, and required for a fyne but vi^{li} for iii assured estates, and a harriot of the best goodes, w^{ch} yo^r servaunte dyd not like of, but I assure you I will not graunte the like to any other. And as touchinge the lycense for David Walter, I am contented at yo^r request to graunte the same for three yeres; but here was none for him to compounde for the same. M^r Bawdrripp¹ hath gevin his worde to my sonne John before divers at London to abyde the judgment in lawe of his councelor and myne, for his tenure of knight's service; at w^{ch} tyme we will end also for the suite and service of his ten^{antes} to the leete, w^{ch} I have by graunte. I have sent herewth certen articles of instructions for yo^r understewarde and my baliffes in Wales, for the reformaçon of divers abuses there, w^{ch} I am desirous to have reformid. And soe will ende for this

¹ William Bawdrripp of Penmark Place sold his estates to Sir E. Lewis, Knight, in the reign of Elizabeth. The family possessed a considerable property in Glamorganshire. The name is spelt Bagatripp in deeds of the fourteenth century.

tyme. From Blettsoe, the xiith of Novēber
1577.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frend,
OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCIII.

To my very lovinge cosyn S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, these be yeven.

GOOD cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge had unto you, wth like thanks for yo^r frendly advertisment geven unto mee by yo^r letter. I have had some speache wth my bailyffes, who are and wilbe willinge to make reformaçon of suche abuses and disorders as you mislike of; w^{ch} yf they will not pforme, and shewe them selves duetifull unto you, I will take suche order as they shalbe displaced. Further, I have, accordinge to yo^r request, delt as frendly and favorably wth the ptye in whose behalf you dyd writte unto me, as reason would require. And thus, leavinge for this tyme any further to trouble yow, will wishe unto you longe life, wth good health and youre hartes desyre. From Blettsoe, this xxviiith of Maye 1578.

Yo^{rs} assured,
OLYVER SEYNT JHON.

XCIV.

To the right woꝛ and my loving cosen S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knighte.

My right hartly comendaçons unto you being had, advertesinge that I have receavid yo^r l̄res. And as towching yo^r advertisment for Will^am Morgan Kemes, a ten^ant copy holder, w^{ch} desireth to dwell owte of my mano^r, I am contented soe to licens him; upon this condiçon, that he, wth sufficient sue^tye, shall stande bounde to me by obligaçon to make all his howses tenantable, and soe to contynewe them duringe his liffe, and to yeld unto me and my heires two heriottes, horses or geldinges, after his death, or iiiiii^{li} for eyther of the sayd heriottes, at my choyse. Thus I thinke reason, because duringe his liffe he shall spare his aⁿciam^t, and geve nothings to me for his lycens. And as towching James Bawdrripp, I am contented to spare his aⁿcyam^t, because he dwelleth in Oden fee, beinge wthein the resiansye of my leete of Penmarke; upon condiçon that he shall at every courte aunswere as my ten^ante, and at every leete to aunswere as a resyant to the same of Oden fee, as it hathe byne accustomed. And also as towching Cristian Mason, widow, w^{ch} you writte in yo^r l̄re holdyth but one acre londe; yow are therin

wrongly enformed, for she holdeth a teñte in Penmarke Castell, and also a myll. I am contented to spare her añciam^t, and to lycens her to dwell owte of the manor, soe as she will enter into bonde wth suertye to make her repaçons, and to yeld iiiii^{li} for every herryott in suche order as the sayd Morgan Kemys must doe. And as for Cotton's añcyam^t, for this tyme I am contented to spare, soe as he will come to dwell upon his teñte by Maye day next, and so contynew upon the same. And as for Katherin Hawkins' añcyam^t, I am contented to forgeve at this tyme, and also to lycence her for iii yeres to dwell owte of y^e mano^r, so as she will stande bounde to me wth suertye to newe builde her teñte sufficiently wthin that tyme; and alsoe to aunswere me iiiii^{li} for her herriott yf she dye wthin the sayd iii yeres, and doe not dwell upon the same teñt soe newe builded. Good cosen, I fynde by the making of the strets of my courts, as also by the small pfittes that riseth upon the same, and upon divers other intelligences, that yo^r understeward is a man very unhable to serve in that place, both in respect of learninge, or good experience, or stownesse of countenance to governe suche a greate number of rude and frowarde people as appeareth before him at every courte and leete, w^{ch} dothe require great goverment and skill in learninge to

bringe my tenantes to good order ; desiringe yow therefore to appointe some skillfull man able to governe, wherby I may be the better servid, and my ten^antes better to knowe and lerne their^e duetyes. And so leavinge any farder to trouble yow, wishinge to you and my lady as to my self. Blettsoe, the xxith of November 1578.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frend,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCV.

To my very loving cosen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knighte.

GOOD cosen Stradling, My very harty comendaçons beinge had unto you. I have receavid yo^r letter by my servant, Robert Cotton, who shall geve yow advertisement of my dealinges in that behalf. And wheras enformaçon hath byne geven unto me by my sayd servant of the wrek of [a] certayne boate wthin the lymittes of my manors of Barry and P^okery,¹ w^{ch} bye divers psons, of w^{ch} the greatest nomber hath byne of myne owne ten^antes, hath sinisterly byne imbeciled and conveyed awaye; I am therby occasioned (as p^usuminge of yo^r assured good will towards me) to

¹ Porth Kerry, Glamorganshire.

crave yo^r favorable assystance unto my sayd ser-
vante, aswell wth yo^r good advise as allsoe wth yo^r
frendly direction for the cōminge to the true
understandinge of suche thinges as are by my
sayd ten^antes wrongfully deteyned, and in whose
possession they are, soe as restituçon may be
made unto me accordinge to righte and equitye.
And thus, hopinge of the contyn^ance of youre
frendly good will towards me, aswell in this
cause as all soe when tyme shall serve for the
tryall of my longe delayed suite for the psonage
of Penmarke, w^{ch} I will never leave tyll I have
brought the same to some pfection, I ende, and
rest assured unto you wherin my poore friend-
shippe may be any meanes pleasure you. From
Blettso, this xviiith of November 1579.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCVI.

To my very lovinge cosen and frend S^r Edwarde
Stradling, Knight.

My right harty comendaçons unto you beinge
had. Advertesinge that this bearer, Hughe Haw-
kins, in whose favor yow have written to me for,
hath renied his old suite to me, as concerninge v^{li}

w^{ch} he sayeth he hath lend forth aboute the defence of my ten^{antes} in lawe matters for payment of the Chemse money, w^{ch} was chardged uppon all my ten^{antes} there, and as yet not aunswearid any one peny at their handes: I thought good therefore to desyre yowe to take so moch paynes as to pswade wth my ten^{antes} that some order of leavinge [levying] maye be made amongst them for the repayinge of his mony agayne, althoughe he beare xx^s for his pte, or more, as you yo^r selfe shall thinke reason. And soe, wishing to you and my la: your wiffe as to my self, will ende. Blettsoe, xiith of Maye 1580.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCVII.

To my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

My verie good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge hadd unto you. Whereas upon the late heringe of my sute in the Chauncery against the Deane and Chapter of Glouċ. towchinge the psonage of Penmarke, order was taken by the courte to graunte a comission into yo^r shiere for the examinaçon of suche wittnesses as are on

eche pt to be pduced; and for that havinge many wayes heretofore had sufficient assurance of yo^r good inclinaçon and lovinge disposition to-wardes me, and therefore psuminge of yo^r frendly travaile therein on my behalf, (as I would my self doe for you yf like occasion servid,) I have byne bould to nomynate my cosen S^r Will^am Herbert and you my comissioners, and have sent herewth unto you a coppye of the order made in the Chauncery, wherby yow may have advertisement aswell whoe be elected on the adverse pte, as also of the lymitaçon of the place and tyme to sytte on the same, to y^e ende you maye determyne the same to be att suche convenyent tyme for yo^r owne leasures as you both may best be there; w^{ch} I would willinglye wishe to be, yf it may soe seeme good unto you, betweene Bartlemewetyde and a fortnight before Michaelmas. And allso that the comission^s on the other syde maye have xx^{tie} dayes warninge before the sittinge therof, accordinge to the effecte of the sayd order, for w^{ch} cause I have appointed my servant, Robert Cotton, to attend uppon you for the knowledge of yo^r pleasures; and, uppon notice of yo^r ap- poyntmentes, he shall geve them to understande thereof. Wherein also I would gladlie receive from you so^{me} enformaçon of your resoluçon for the certeintye of the daye soe soone as I might

conveniently, so as I may take order to prepare all things readie for that purpose. And thus hopinge, as I have allwayes hetherto fownde yow my very good cosen and frend, soe you will pceed in the accomplishment of my request in this behalf, (the rather for that yt towcheth my auncyent inheritaunce, w^{ch} hath byne longe wth-holden from me,) wherin you shall fynd me readie to requite yo^r frendly courtesye as it shall please you to use mee, I comitt you to the Almightye. From London, this vith of June 1580.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and assured frend,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCVIII.

To the right wo^r my very loving cosen and frend S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge had unto you, wth most harty thanks for yo^r courtesye and frendly forwardnes to take paynes in the comission w^{ch} I have bye good advyse procured for the more spedye endinge of the contrāvsye betwine me and the Deane and Chapter of Glocester (whereof hetherto I have by many synister practises byne delayed). Wherin, as yo^r

frendshipp dothe aunswere my expectaçon and opinion of yo^r good disposityon towards me, soe shall you bynde me (by deserte of yo^r courtesye) to rest an unfeyned frend towards you wherein by any meanes I maye be able to pleasure you. As towchinge the places of yo^r lodginge and dyett, for that I would willinglie have yt where yo^r self doe best like of, I have geven comaudem^t to this bearer, Cotton, my servant, to attend upon you for the knowledge of youre pleasure in that behalf, who shall accordingly make p^pparaçon; hopinge his diligent endeavor shall not be wantinge to dischardge his duetye therein accordinge to the trust I have reposed in him. And thus, leavinge to be tedious wth supfluous writtinge, I remayne assured unto you, and wisse you con-
tyn^ance of healthe, wth yo^r hartes desyre. Blett-
soe, this xxvth of Julye 1580.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

XCIX.

To the right worshipfull and my very loving cosen
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeven.

Good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge
had unto you. As I have alwayes hitherto fownde

you a frendlie furtherer of my cause when I have byne occasyoned to use youre frendshipp towching my tedious sute for the psonaḡ of Penmarke, soe doe I not nowe doubt (the matter growinge towards some pfection of endinge) of yo^r frendly travaile to be employed in the true and effectuall examynaçon of suche matters as I am enforced to prove by deposition of wittnesses, accordinge to the p^rporte of the Queenes Ma^{tes} comission to you and others in that behalf directed: in w^{ch} matter, as I am well assured there will be many cunninge devyses practysed by the defend^{tes}; so doe I hope of yo^r good and provident circumspection to prevent the same as muche as yow maye, wherein speciall regarde is chefely to be had in the choyse of a clerke w^{ch} will not be corrupted for affectyon to the contrary pt, or by other meanes, but deale plainely and truly in settinge downe the deposiçons of the wittnesses examined, w^{ch} is my only desyre; wherof I doubt not but my cosen S^r Will^{am} Herbert and you will have good consideraçon. And soe, wth moste hartly thanks for yo^r sondrie courtesyes, w^{ch} you shall fynde me readye to requite wherein I may by anny meanes be able to pleasure you, I wishe yow contyn^ance of healtie, wth yo^r hartes desyre. Rypton, this xxiiiith of August 1580.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

C.

To the right woꝛ and my very loving cosen S^r
 Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, My very harty comendaçons beinge had unto you. Whereas I would be very lothe, aswell for kinred sake, as also in respect of the longe contynued amytye and frendshipp betwixt us and our auncestors untill this tyme, that any contraᵛsye should nowe aryse betwyne you and me; whereof I have byne latelye enformed there ys some likelyhood, uppon suche cause as, beinge tedious to writte of at large, I referre to this bearer, my servante, Robert Cotton, and Lewys Davie, to make relation of unto you, who also shall gyve you to understande of my determinaçon and order taken wth them for further dealinge in that behalf. I am therefore to require you both to geve creditte unto their reporte, and also to have suche consideraçon therin as that there maye be no further matter donne or attempted then shalbe agreeinge wth lawe and equitye, as my trust is you will; and woulde be sorye of y^e contrary, as lothe to have any cause of contençon wth my frends yf I may avoyde the occasion. Thus, ceassinge to troble you any further, I wyshe

you healtie and happines. Blettsoe, this xvith of
November 1581.

Yo^r loving cosen,

OLYVER SEYNT JOHN.

CI.

To the right honorable my very good lord, the
Lord S^t John of Bletisoe.

MY very good L: my humble comendaçons
beinge had unto you. Whereas I receavid by
Lewis David and Robert Cotton a ðre from you
touchinge my haven of Aberthawe, the relation
whereof yow referred unto them; whose de-
maunde att my hands, as it seemed verye strange
unto me, soe was I right hartely sorye that by
some unquiett psones meanes any contra^vsye
should arise betwine yow and mee; as well
for the nighe kynred sake (w^{ch} I doe greatlye
accompt of), as also in respect of the longe con-
tinewede amitye and frendshipp betwene us and
o^r auncestors tyll this tyme. For consideraçon
whereof I have thought good to laye downe unto
yow, for aunswere of yo^r ðre, the truth of my case,
the w^{ch} is as followeth: I and my ancestors, ever
since the conquest of the co^m of Glamorgan lords

of the manor of East Orchard, have bine the only lordes and possessioners of the whole haven of Aberthawe; and duringe the same tyme had the goverment and appointing of all passinge boates usinge the same haven, the grauntinge of all cockettes, and all other money for kyllage, shippe mony, and all customes, comodities, and royalties whatsoever, rysinge, growinge, or happeninge in all places wthin the p̄sincte of the same haven, as proper and only belonginge to mee and my sayd ancestors, lords of the same manor, wthout clayme or contradiction of any pson or psones. I am to put yo^r L: in remembraunce that I as lord of the manor of Sully, havinge the same by purchase from the Prince, wth as lardge words as counsell learned could devise, w^{ch} manor was of longe tyme in the possession of the Kinges of Englande, (against whom noe p̄scription could take place,) am wth better colour to make tittell to the haven of Barry, consideringe the same haven doth devide yo^r manor of Barry and my manor of Sully, than you, against whom prescription will hold place, to make clayme to my haven of Aberthawe. This by yo^r L: considered, I doubt not but you will be satisfyed, and geve lesse credytte to suche p̄curers of contraversye. And soe, wishinge unto yo^r L: as unto my self, I humblye take my

leave. S^r Donattes, the last daye of February
1581.

Yo^r lovinge kinsman to
use in that he maye,

EDW: STRADLINGE.

CII.

To the right wo^r and my very good cosen S^r
Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

MY good cosen, According to my promise, though not worth the readinge, I have written these fewe lynes, rather to assuer you that, if ther had byne any thinge of more emportaun^c, you should as well have hard it as this tryffell. Also hartely requiringe you to use me in any occasion yowe shall have, wherin yow shall cause me to think that yow make that accompt of me that I doe of you, trustinge that yow shall not fynd me to fayle in any poynt that appertayneth to a trewe kynsman and assured frend. The latt brutt of the Queenes Ma^{ties} hasty returne towards London is nothing so, aswell appeareth both by tres latly written, as also by the reporte of S^r Harry Portman, who did yesternight come hither directly from the courte; for yesterday her Ma^{tie} dyneyd at S^r John Thyn¹ his house, that night to one

¹ Longleat, Wilts.

Mr Hawker his howse, this day to my fellowe Mervin his house, ther to rest untill Saterdag, and then to my L: of Pembrockes, where she will remayne untill Twisday, from thence according as it was first appointed. Synċ me cominge hether, my L: hath byne advertysed from iii barkes w^{ch} he hath abrode to discover, lying beyond the Isles, that they cann heare nothings of the K: of Spayn's navy more then they before advertysed, w^{ch} is, that the plague remayneth so great that neither capytaine nor soldier will goe abroord; also that the Turke maketh suche preparaçon, that all wold be lytle enoughe to be employed that wayes yf it weare possible to sett forwardes. The advertysments out of Fraunce are noe more then yow dyd heare at yo^r being in Bristoll. The Queenes Ma^{tye} hath dubyd vi knightes in Somsetshire, w^{ch} are, Portman, Horner, Clifton, Rogers, Sydname, and Stowell. So, havinge noe other matter worthy to be written, I will comytt yow to God, wishinge unto yow as to my self. From Exetter, in hast, this second of September 1574. Yo^r assured cosen,

J. SEYNT JOHN.¹

¹ Sir John St. John succeeded to the title of Baron St. John of Bletshoe on the death of his father, Lord St. John, in April 1582. He married Catharine, daughter of Sir William Dormer, Knight, of Eythrop, and died October 23, 1596. He was one of the peers who sat on the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots.

POSTSCRIPT.—Hast had almost mad me to forgett my most hartly comendacions unto yow and my good lady yo^r wiffe, wth like thanke for yo^r gret curteous entertainm^{tes} and paynes yow dyd take at the sea sydd.

CIII.

To the right wo^r and my very good cosyn S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight, at S^t Donattes.

S^r, This bearer, the parson of Portkery, havinge a comission to be sette one betwixt him and one Hopkin, servant to Hughe Griffyth of the Chauncery, for his psonage howse and certen grounde, I have thought good to nomynate for his comission³ my cosen Will^am Mathewe, and one Hopkin Gwyn, thinking them the most fittest, you and others of my deare kinsmen and frends beinge refused. Wherefore, sythe I have no grete accquayntaunce wth my cosyn Mathewe, also a meere stranger to the other, I hartely pray yow to deale with them to take paynes therein and extend their lawefull favors; for that the matter all together towchete my Lord's inheritance, and but a vexa^õn wthout any juste tittell, as will appeare upon the tryall. I am boulde to signifye thus muche to you, for that my L: is not heare

to doe it him self. So, leavinge further to trouble, wth my most hartly comendaçons to yow and my good lady yo^r wyffe, I comitt you bothe to God, wishinge unto you as to my self. From Fetter Lane, in hast, this xxxth of June 1576.

Yo^r assured cosen,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CIV.

To the right worshipp^l and my very good cosen
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

MY very good cosen. Forasmuche as I doe knowe that you do p^tycipat wth me in greife for the deathe of my deare father, yo^r kinsman and frend, who ever made accompt of yo^r frendshipp, beinge stewarde generall of all his landes in Wales; so nowe I am earnestly to desyre you that you woulde take the like paynes for me, for that I do appoint you likewise my high stewarde in the same my lands; and this my tre shalbe a sufficient comission and warrant for yow in that behalf. Also, for that my Lord and father had great tryall of M^r Smythes care he had in hys affayres, my desyre is that he may contynue still understeward under yow yf you thinke good. And further, this is to advertyse you that I have appointed John Spencer to have his bailliffwyck

still of Funnmun and Penmarke, as also Robert Cotton his baillifwyk of Lancadell, and Evans Richardes his ballifwyke of Barrye, for that I would be lothe to put out any officer that servid my Lord and father; not doubtinge but that you shall fynde them readye to attend youre pleasure in any thinge you shall comaunde them in my behalf. And soe, wth my harty comendaçons to yow and my good la: I rest yo^r frend assured, and soe comitte you to God. From London, the xviiith of June 1582.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CV.

To the right worshipp^l and my very loving cosyn
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, yeve these.

My very good cosen, My harty comendaçons beinge had unto you and to my ladye yo^r wyfe. I am geven to understande by my servant, John Spencer, that my L: of Pembroock his officers do demaunde of my ten^antes a certen duetye out of my lands, by the deth of my Lord and father; and wherefore they shoulde so doe I knowe not. I am therefore to request you that you would talke wth them, and take suche order that I may

see the record wherfore they demaunde the same ; and then, upon the sight thereof, I will satisfye them to there contentment, for I would be loth to have my officers and tenantes molested by them or any others ; hopinge that you will have a care over them in all ther honest acçons, wherein I shall most hartely desyre you to stande wth them. And soe will leave any further to trouble you att this tyme, but wishe unto you as to my self. From my howse in London, this xiiiith of February 1582.

Yo^r loving cosen and
assured frinde,
J. SEYNT JOHN.

CVI.

To the right worshipp^{ll} and my very loving cosen
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeven.

S^r, Whereas I lately receavid from yow by my servant, Thomas Gybon, a message of request concerninge the returne of answeere of yo^r letter heretofore sent unto me, w^{ch} letter I having loste, and beinge of late tyme soe busyed wth phisicçons and chirurgions as that I conveniently could not consider thereof, by w^{ch} occasion I have forgotten the contentes of the same ; yf, therefore, it shall please you by my bailliffes to signifye agayne

unto me the effect of the matter therein conteyned, I will like wyse by them retorne unto you suche aunswere as the same requirethe, prainge you to thinke no discourtesye in that I have not hitherto pformed the same. And thus, wth my harty comendaçons, I leave further to trouble you; comittinge you to Godes tuyçon. London, this xxiiiith of Apryll 1584.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CVII.

To the right worshipfull and my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeaven.

Good cosen, Whereas by yo^r late lres sent unto me, and instructions therewth receavid, I fynde yow were aucthorysed by my Lorde my father to determyne a contra^vsye betwine Thomas Spenc^r and my servante Robert Cotton, concerninge five acres of lande in Penmarke; for the w^{ch} I my self have comenced sute against the sayd Spencer above a twelvemoneth sythens, havinge lawfull right and tyle soe to doe: neverthelesse, forasmuche as I pceave you have passed yo^r pmissie to Thomas Spencer for the pformance of the order

heretofore made by yow in that behalf, and therefore beinge willinge rather to unlinquish myne owne right then to doe any thinge whiche might in any sorte impeache yo^r credit, I am contented for yo^r sake, as this bearer hath requested me, whoe ys desyrous to contynewe frendshippe wth him and all other of his wives kinred, to surcease from any further pcedinge in lawe against the sayd Spencer; but that he shall quietly enjoye the same in suche maner as by yo^r former arbitrament hath bene awarded. And soe, wth my hartie comendaçons, I committe you to Godes tuytyon. London, this firste of June 1584.

Yo^r loving cosen,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

POSTSCRIPT. — I praye yow make my hartie comendaçons to my good lady yo^r wyfe, whom I wishe by some god occasion I might see in this countrey.

CVIII.

To the right worshipp^l and my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeven.

Good cosen, Whereas a dewe seasure was made lately to my use of the coppye holde of one Cor-

rocke,¹ forfeited by his misdemeano^r in grauntinge the same for yeres, contrary to the custome of the manor; w^{ch} Corrocke hath sythens attempted sute againste me in the courte of the Marches. After which sute firste p^{er}secuted, he made pety^on unto me for my favor to be extended unto him; w^{ch} request beinge denied by mee in respect he would first enter sute against me, beinge his lorde; and the same beinge objected unto him by my receavo^r as matter of greate misbehavior, he answered my sayd receavor that by yo^r advyse he comenced his suite, w^{ch} otherwise he would not have attempted. To w^{ch} reporte allthoughe I give no great credit, for that yow were especially chosen by my Lorde my father, and continued by me in the place of highe stewarde of my small livinge in those ptes, as one whom in frendshipp we ever accompted greatlye off, and doe not doubt but that yow will rather be a good instrumente of peace and union betwixt me and my ten^antes then of dissention and stryfe; yet I thought it appteyninge to the pte of a frend and lovinge kinsman to geve you intelligence of the speaches, trustinge you will have hereafter soe greate a respecte to contynue frendly tranquillitye betwine me and my ten^antes as I would to pleasure yow in the like, or any other cause, as

¹ Corrwg, an ancient family near Cowbridge, long ago extinct.

occasyon may require. Whereof not doubtinge,
I comitt yow to God, leavinge further to trouble
yow, but wth my harty comendaçons. Blettsoe,
this xxxth of November 1585.

Yo^r loving cosen and frind,
J. SEYNT JOHN.

CIX.

To the right worshipp^l and my very loving cosen
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, thes be yeven.

Good cosen, Yt hath bine enformed me that
sythens yo^r cōminge out of the countrey, great
oppression and bad dealinge hathe byne used
against some of my ten^antes by meanes of youre
wante to assyst and speake for them; w^{ch} harde
course beinge like to continue towards them, yt
standeth uppon me to p^rvide for redresse thereof:
w^{ch} occasion moveth me to entreate the intelligence
of yo^r determinaçon for yo^r returne; the which
the sooner it may be, the better it will corresponde
to my desyres, who would be loth to have the
place of my highe steward longe unfurnished, to
the hurte of my ten^antes and p^rjudice of my selfe.
The effecte whereof I make some doubt of, wthout
yo^r owne presence, or some other in that roome.
Thus, expectinge yo^r aunsweare with what con-

venient expedition you may, I comitt you to God, and wishe yow increase of health. Blettsøe, this xviiith of September 1587.

Yo^r loving cosen and sewer frind,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CX.

To the right wo^r and my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, thes be yeven.

MY very good cosen, Beinge geven to understand by the contentes of yo^r last lres of yo^r determinaçon to discontynue from the countie of Glamorgan, I am enforced, throughe the necessitie of myne owne affayres, as well in regarde of my selfe as of my ten^antes, whoe have nede of sōme present supporte against the hard courses lately taken against sōme of them, to appointe a newe officer in the roome of stewarde of my landes, who may in my absence be assystant unto them. In the doinge whereof I hope I shall not be discourteouslie thought of by you, towards whom I beare no lesse affectyon then at any tyme heretofore I have donne, as uppon any opportunitye yow shall fynde me in all frendshipp readye to joyne wth you, whom I comitt to Godes happie p^rtection ; beinge desirous to see yow, wth my good

cosen yo^r wife, when any occasion maye drawe yow into these ptes. Blettsœ, this xxviith of November 1587.

Yo^r loving cosen and suere frend,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CXI.

To the right wo^r and my very lovinge cosen S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, these be yeven.

Good cosen, Understandinge that uppon pticuler grudg borne by M^r Anthony Maunsell to my ten^antes of Penmarke, for pryvate respect of sutes betwine him and me, he threateneth to use them hardlye in the taxaçon of the subsedie.¹ In the w^{ch} I am most willinge they should be equally delt wth in the imposiçon of such rates upon them as any others of habilyte like unto them, so would I be lothe that M^r Maunsell's malice should effecte their undoinges wth burdeins unreasonable beyonde the measure of indifferencye or justice. For p^ovençon whereof I am drawn to solicit you (beinge a comission^r in the same divisyon wth him) wth my t^re of request that they may fynd equall favor wth other men of their degrees, wthout pmission of any indirect course to be held against

¹ A parliamentary aid to the crown.

them: w^{ch} reasonable demaunde, hopinge both you, and others to whom I have likewyse written, will see accomplished, wherby I shall not be enforced to complayne further, I comitt you to God, and wishe you increase of health, with yo^r hartes desyre. London, this viith of September 1589.

Yo^r loving cosen,

J. SEYNT JOHN.

CXII.

To the r. wo^r and my very lovinge cosen Sr Edw:
Stradling, Knight.

My good cosen, As opportunitie serveth, I cannot onytt the pformaunce of suche frendlye offices as maye expresse my good affection towards you, which moveth me (by this my readye messenger) to salute you at this present; signifyinge the amendement of my weake estate, wth hope of more pfecte recoverye, wherin I have fownde a goode furtheraunce by helpe of the Bathe. And thus, wishinge unto you and my verye good ladye and cosen yo^r wife as greate happynes as I desire to my selfe, I hartely leave you to God's tuycon. Bathe, this xiiiith of June 1592.

Yo^r loving cosen

JOHN SEINT JOHN.

CXIII.

To y^e r. wo^r and my very lovinge cosen S^r Edw:
Stradlinge, Knighte.

MY good cosen, Wheras I latelie received from you a note in writting abstracted out of an ancient inquisition of an office¹ fownde in the countye of Glamorgan in the yere 1399, wherein relacion is made of dyvers knightes of my name then lyvinge in the same shiere, whiche recorde would at this time doe me greate pleasure for some especiall purpose, I doe moste hartelie praye you to helpe me for the same originall by this berer to be sent in some boxe sealid, which I doe faythefullie promise to returne unto you agayne verie shortlie and safelie. And for yo^r curtesie herein I will reste moste thankfull, and readie to performe anie pleasure I maye unto you, as occasion shall enhable me. And soe I hartelie leave you to Godes tuicion. London, this xiiith of Auguste 1592.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

J. SEINT JOHN.

¹ An inquisition of an office was an enquiry made by the King's officer, his sheriff, coroner, or escheator.

CXIV.

To my lovinge frend and cosin S^r Edwarde Strad-
linge, Knight.

My good cosyn, Havinge harde of late of a mariadge intendid betwine a syster of yours in the Lowe Countrye, and a very well knowne frend of myne, M^r Robert Gyles, I have thought itt noe lesse then the honest parte of my frendshipp to lett you understand the grete honestye and every waye good nature of that man; so as I doe suerly thinke her a happye woman that ys matched wth a man qualefyed as I knowe him to be. And I doe hartely wishe that he had as greate a lyvinge to maynteyne them both as I knowe he ys worthy off; and that I feare be the only thinge y^t wanteth. And therefore both hope and earnestly wish that of yo^r good disposition you will shewe yo^r likinge, and also brotherly furtheraunce, to make them somwhatt the better case. Yow shall suerly doo a good deede, and wherof yo^r self I thinke will have noe cause of repentaunce. And thus, wth my most harty comendaçons to yo^r selfe, wth my lady and cosyn yo^r wife, do comitt yow both to God. From my howse

att St Mary Adys, the xxvith of January
1574.

Yo^r very loving frend and allye,

ANTHONY MOUNTAGUE.¹

CXV.

To my lovinge cosyn and frend S^r Edwarde
Stradlinge, Knight.

WYTH my right harty comendaçons unto yow,
good coosyn, and to my cosyn yo^r wiefe. I am
att this presentt to move you (beinge, as I heere,
shiryff there) in a matter much against my will,
towching a gentleman of yo^r countrey, M^r Carne,
att whose hands I am hardly dealt wthall. The
case is this: Christopher Morgan, his cosyn,
beinge my receyvo^r, imployed my renew at his
will; and the same over late fownde, and he
chardgid, and nott able to denye the dett, M^r
Carne offrid him self to joyne in bonde wth him
for lx^{li} parte of the deptt, requiringe me for
frendshippe to him to graunte them a yeres

¹ Sir Anthony Browne, eldest son of Sir Anthony Browne by Alice daughter of Sir John Gage, K. G. ; married, first, Jane daughter of Robert Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex ; and secondly, Magdalen daughter of William Lord Dacre of Gillesland. He was created Viscount Montagu 21 Sept. 1 Ph. et M. 1554, and died 19 Oct. 1592.

daye more off payment. I refused to take M^r Carne, beinge lothe to sue my frend: he would nott butt be bownde, and I graunted him his owne daye; att the w^{ch} nothings beinge donne, sute was made to forebeare in yett half a yere. I graunted itt, receavinge assurid promyse nott to fayle yt the Whichsentyd followinge: att w^{ch} tyme M^r Carne beinge in London, twoo yeres nowe past, made importune meane to be foreborne till Michaelmas, and that upon his fayth and honestye I should have it. From that day to this I remayne unpayd, have every tearme causid him to be warnid of the sute commensyd against him att Michaelmas tearme shalbe two yeres, his band forfeytid, and nowe he att outlawrye and outlawid. His attachment I have stayed since Hillary tearme, sentt him word by John Turbill his cosen, my man, hereof; and further, that Morgan affirmeth, beinge in pryson otherwise, that M^r Carne is allowed itt by him, and hath receavid of sale of his to paye me. These thinges beinge true, I am to [too] bad dealt wthall, and cosennid, and never had answeere of or from him these two yeres. And y^t att this tearme I have written my self to him, and geven him notice what I must and will doe, at his pill be it. And therefore, good cosen, I am to request yow, and look for justice at yor hand, to execute the processe yf he will not

satisfye the deytt. And thus, wishinge all hap-
pines to yow both, and wishinge to see yow in
this countrey, rest ready in all frendshipp to
pleasure you. From Cowdrey,¹ my howse, the
vth of May 1583.

Yo^r assurid frind and cosen,
ANTHONY MOUNTAGUE.

CXVI.

To my assured lovinge frend and cosyn S^r Ed-
warde Stradlinge, Knighte.

My good cosyn, Where I lately wrotte unto
you towchinge a matter betweene M^r Carne and
me, requestinge of you the execution of justice ;
havinge this daye by meane hard from him, and
most lothe to offer for such a tryfle (in respect)
so greate a daunger or disgrace to any gentleman,
I have thought good to pray you to stayer the
execution till Michaelmas next, by w^{ch} tyme yf
he satisfye me, I will hold my self content for
injurye past ; yf he doe not, I will presently send
you word to proceede in justice. And rest ready
to pleasure you in all frendshipp: and wth my
wiefes and my most harty comendaçons to yo^r

¹ Cowdray, in Sussex, the ancient residence of the Browne
family, was destroyed by fire in the year 1793.

self and my good cosyn, comitt you to God. This
Whitsonday,¹ 1583.

Yo^r assured frind and cosen,

ANTHONY MOUNTAGUE.

CXVII.

To my very lovinge frend and cosyn S^r Edwarde
Stradlinge, Knight, be these [given].

MY good cosyn, Understandinge by one James
Hobson, my neighbour att Battell,² that by his
meanes, and divers others, there was a comission
upon the statute of Banckrootes, about three
yeres past, directed to you and divers others,
against one Anthony Morley ; by force whereof
you dyd then bargaine and sell all such goodes
and chattells as were by office fownde to be his
to one Thomas Mineffe, to satisfie the sayd James
Hobson and others his creditors, and tooke bonde
of him for the pformaunce of the same ; w^{ch}, not-
wthstandinge yo^r order, and the rest of her Ma^{tes}
comissioners, is not pformed, nor the sayd James
Hobson, and others in the same order mentioned,
satisfied : these are to requeste you eyther to
comaunde the sayd Thomas Meneffe, according
to yo^r order, to paye and satisfye the sayd James

¹ 29th of May.

² In Sussex.

Hobson, els to sett over to the sayd James, and other the credito^rs, yo^r sayd bonde taken from the aforesayd Thomas Meneffe for the pformance of yo^r sayd order, that therby they may have there debt truly payd accordinge to yo^r direction and order. And soe, wth my righte hartly comendaçõn, do leave yow to God. From my house att Cowdrey, the xxvth of Julie 1589.

Yo^r loving frind and cosen,

ANTHONY MOUNTAGUE.

CXVIII.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, After our very hartly comendaçõns. Wheras by vertu of our precept ther was certeine brasse^t¹ of one Will^am Wykes stayed wthin yo^r manor of Sully, w^{ch} was afterward by yo^r officers there receavid into their custodye: forasmuche as, by due examinaçõn of the matter, we fynd that the sayd partye dyd lawfull^t obteyne the same, we thought good soe to certifye you; and as we have bene written unto by some of his frinds for our lawfull favo^r in the mate^r, soe we are to desyre the same at yo^r hands in his behalf, whoe enformed us of yo^r most curteus p^mys of

¹ Brazil wood.

frindshipp to cause the same to be redelyvered upon our warrant of dischargde thereof, w^{ch} theis our tres maye be. And, for your courtesye toward the sayde ptye, we shalbe readye to requyt when opportunitye maye serve towards anye of youres; praynge to knowe yo^r pleasure herein by this bearer. And soe we comytt you to God. From Cardyffe, the xxiiith of Maye 1575.

Yo^r lovinge cosens,

WYLLYAM HERBERT. NYCHOLAS HERBERT.¹

CXIX.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r, My most hartye comendaçons premised. Theas are to crave your frendship and favour in the behalfe of this bearer, Thomas Spencer, who, traveylinge in his mother's causes, shall greatly neede your ayde and assistance. His elder brother, vexing his mother, against right, nature, and reason, amongst divers other injuries witheld from her a leas w^{ch} had bene taken of S^r John Seyn Jones; but beinge forced by the counsell of the m^{ch}es to delyver the same unto her agayne, beinge hers as executres, he signified to my

¹ Nicholas Herbert of Cogan, near Cardiff, a younger brother of Sir Wm. Herbert, was sheriff for Glamorganshire, 1578—1587.

Lord Seynt John that the leas was not good, not for any good will he bare to my Lord, but for the yll will he bare to his mother. Wherefore thes shalbe humbly to desyre you to wrytt your letters to my Lord Seynt John, to praye him to stand good lord to this poore weake aged wydowe; and in soe doing you shall assyst the poore woman againste the malyce of her unnaturall chyld, and allso bynde me to requite yo^r courtesye yf it lye in my power.

Yo^r loving cosen,

WYLLYAM HERBERT.

CXX.

To the r. wo^r and my lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knighte.

RIGHT wo^r cosin, After my hartie comendaçõs to yow and to my good ladie, wth like thanks for my late intertainment. I perseve by yo^r letter what reportes hath risen of my late beinge at Wennie;¹ the w^{ch}, though it be agrienge to the accustomed seditius practises of o^r contremen, yet is not a littel grevose to me, for that it seemithe to alter yow somewhat from that good disposition

¹ Ewenny Priory, granted to Sir Edward Carne by Henry VII. in the thirty-seventh year of his reign. Ewenny is now the residence of Sir Edward's descendant, R. T. Turbervill, Esq.

to agrement that bye yo^r frindes was wished: w^{ch} I praie yt maye not, for I assure yow I ame far voieded from havinge used eney suche unhoneſt offises (as is reported) towards yow at my beinge in Wenie; w^{out} that the declaringe ther to M^r Carne¹ that yow affirmed and stode to the wordes yow hard spoken at Cowbridge (w^{ch} was that he had used yow falselie and unhoneſtlye) maye implie in it as muche as is surmised by them; w^{ch} is as liklie, as it is treuwe that John Kemis hard me affirme the same, no man beinge in place where I talked wth M^r Carne concerninge that matter (w^{ch} was in his galerie) savinge mine unkell and my brother, who I dowte not wilbe wittnesses of sufficient creditte wth you to disprove that w^{ch} is bruted; w^{ch} I praie (as afore) maie not alter yo^r good disposicōn to an honest and wo^r agrement. And so, wishinge to yow as to my selfe, I take my leave. From Swansey, the viiith of June.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

WYLLYAM HERBERTT.

¹ Thomas Carne, eldest son of Sir Edward Carne, Knight, Doctor of Laws. Sir Edward was knighted by the Emperour Charles V; and enjoyed the confidence of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth. He died at Rome in 1561. Thomas Carne married Ellen, daughter of Sir Hugh Wyndham of Pillsden, Knight.

CXXI.

To the r. wo^r and my verie lovinge cosen S^r
Edward Stradlinge, K.

RIGHT wo^r and my verie good cosen. The secrett malice of some of my good neyghbo^rs have of late p^cured the encrease of my troble in the exchequier; so I thincke this verie tearme I shalbe forced for redresse therof to be at chardges in puttinge in of a plee: wherein as I shall have greate neade of M^r Atturneie's favo^r, so thoe I doubt not therof in a juste cause, y^t if yt shall please you to afurther me therein wth a few linaes in a gen^lall recomenda^çon of my causes there, I shall the rather assure my selfe therof, and rest as redie to stand yow in what steede I ame able, as by my doings at this pⁿte yow maie easelie p^ceve whate accounte I make of yow; unto the like wherof I would not, for the gaine of a mouche better cause, descend unto enie man in Glamorgan. Yf it shall please yow to write, I praye yow to keep it secrete and deli^ve it to the bearer. And thus, most hartelie comendinge my selfe to you and to my good ladie, I take my leave. Swanzey, the xvith of Januarie.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. HERBERTT.

CXXII.

To the r. wo^r my verie lovinge cosen S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knighte.

My verie good cosen, My moste hartie comen-
daçons premised. Wheras I have ben advtised
that it hath bean reported unto yow that M^r S.¹
should reporte in my hearinge at London, that, the
Earl of Penbroke standinge indifferent, he would
litle esteame of yow, with sōme other wordes most
undecent; for that treuth is a thinge we owght to
embrace, and slander a matter that we should all
detest, I could noe less doe then by thease my
fres assure you that neither at my howse at Lon-
don, nor in enie other place in my hearinge, enie
suche wordes weare uttered by him; and for
mine owne pte soe conceave of the gentleman, and
that upon goode grownds, that theise same [appear]
unto me eyther to hate him verie mutch, or toe
knowe him verie litle, that imagine suche thinges
of him, beinge verie frea from suche indiscreatnes
and vanities as those words doe importe. And
soe, ceasinge further to trowble you, I comite yow
to God. From my house at Neawport, the last
of Julie.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

WYLLYAM HERBERT.

¹ Stradling?

CXXIII.

To the r. wo^r my lovinge cosen S^r Edward Strad-
linge, Knight.

RIGHT wo^r and my verie good cosen, After my hartie comendaçons remembred to yow and my good ladie. You shall understand that my Lorde of Penbrocke, who restithe as muche yo^r frinde as to enie kinsman he hath on this side Severne, willid me to doe his hartie comendaçons unto yow, and to desire you to accepte in good parte, and as a wittenes of his good affection towardes yow, the office of stewardshipp in his maner of Lanttwit;¹ the w^{ch} as, for the nernes of yo^r neieborhode thereto, no man can so well governe as yo^r selfe, so is he better contentid to have his tenants in that ptes at yo^r comaundement then anie other, as wth sure time and occation he p^rmised me (who failed not to make motion for an office more fitte for yow) to make knowen to yow. In the meane time he requesteth yow to thincke of hime as of one that derelie loveth you. And so, wishinge to yow as to my selfe, I take my leave. Cardiffe, the iiiiith of December.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. HERBERT.

¹ Llantwit, near St. Donat's Castle.

CXXIV.

To the right wo^r my verie lovinge cosen, S^r
Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT wo^r, After my verie hartie comendaçõs. I am earnestlie requested by my cosen, George Williams, to become herbie a suiter unto yow in the behalfe of one Jenkin John, a s^vant and well-willer of his, who, as I understand, hath of late married a tenāte of yo^{rs}. The some, therefore, of my request is, that yt wold please yow to graunte hime yo^r good will, and to be a meane that he maie likewise obtaine the good will of Jenkin Rees, his wiefe's unckle; wherof he is verie desirous, in respecte of theire present affinitie. Herein yow shall pleasure me in suche sorte as I shall have no cause herafter to be forgettfull therof if yow have occasion to use me in the like case. And soe, understandinge that yow and my ladie are determind this wintter to ride to Cardigan to make meerie, wherof I praie yow to lett me understand of the time of yo^r journey, that I and my wiefe¹ maie make o^rsellfes redie to beare

¹ The Herbert pedigrees make no mention of Sir W. Herbert's wife. It appears, however, by the Stradling pedigree, printed in Sir John Price's translation of Cradoc of Llancarvan, that Sir W. Herbert married Catherine Puleston, second cousin to Sir Edward

yow companie, wth our hartie comēdaçons to yow bothe, I take my leave. Swansey, the second of December 1590.

Yo^r verie loving cosen,

W. HERBERT.

CXXV.

To the r. wo^r my verie lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradlinge, K.

RIGHT worshippfull, After my verie hartie comendaçons. Yow shall understand that on Mondaie next, beinge the ixth daie of this instant Auguste, my sellf and my cosen Maunzell (God willinge) doe intend to take our jorney towards our chardge.¹ My brother Turbill² mindeth to

Stradling, and grand-daughter of Sir W. Gruffyth, Knight, of North Wales : vide supra, p. 15, note 1. Her sister Jane married Sir W. Herbert of St. Julians.

¹ In 1590 Queen Elizabeth appointed Sir Edward Stradling, Sir William Herbert, Knights; Thomas Mansel, and Richard Bassett, Esquires; deputy lieutenants of Pembrokeshire. This was done at the instance of Sir Christopher Hatton during "the troubles of Sir John Perrot."—G. Owen's History of Pembrokeshire, in Cambrian Register, vol. ii. p. 176. Elizabeth probably distrusted the gentry of Pembrokeshire, as it was not till 1595 that Sir John Wogan and others were made deputy lieutenants in lieu of Stradling and his friends.

² Jenkin Turberville, of Penlline Castle, Glamorganshire, married Cecil, the sister of Sir W. Herbert.

take some paines to sue for a pardon for oñ John Jenkin, a servant of his, whò receved verie hard and straight measure this last assises at Cardif: for the better obteneinge wherof, yt is thought verie nessesarie that the handes of some halfe dozen of the justices of the peace should be subscribed to the certificatt w^{ch} shalbe deliued yow; and therfore I have thoughte, for the pcuringe of yo^{rs}, heerby to entreate yow therunto. In requightall wherof yow shall finde me willinge to doe the like for anie frind or s^vant of yo^{rs}. And soe for this time, wth my hartie comendaçons to my ladie, I take my leave. Swanzey, the viiith of August 1591.

Yo^r verie loving cozen,

W. HERBERT.

CXXVI.

To the righte wo^r my lovinge cozen S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knighte.

RIGHTE wo^r, After my hartie comendaçons unto yow bothe. Wheras it pleased you at yo^r last beinge heere to make offer unto us of a peice of venuson when either of us thought good to send for it, yow shall understand that about Sondaie or Mondaie next I doe fain expecte the cominge

of some of my frindes hither ; wherfore, if it will plaze yow to vouchesafe me a pece nowe, I shall thinke myself greatlie behouldinge unto yow ; and this bearer, my frind, will see it conveied unto me. Soe, hopinge to see yow shortelie cominge this waie towardes yo^r chardge, to w^{ch} time I refere the imptinge of my cosen Maunsell's dealinge and mine in Pembrokeshere, I hartelie take my leave. Swansey, the xxvth of Auguste 1591.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. HERBERTT.

CXXVII.

To the r. wo^r my lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradling, Knighte.

RIGHTE wo^r and my verie good cosen. In my Lordes journey to Harword,¹ his honor hath ben desirous to be acompanied wth yow amonght others of his frinds, and for that end his L:² did more then foure daies sythence take order to sende yow warninge therof: and nowe, hearinge that the messinger did mistake his wordes, and that therbie yow have not as yet hard enie notis of his

¹ Hereford. "The common people call it Hariford."—Gibson's Camden, vol. i. p. 491.

² Lord Pembroke.

pleasure, I have herbie thought good to advtise yow that his L: is fullie determined to take his jorney thetherward upon Thursdaie next in the after noone, and to lie that nighte at Sainte Jelliauns;¹ to the end that, if yo^r lesure will pmitte, you may ether be here on Thursdaie by noone for that effecte, or ells to overtake his L: at S^t Jellians that night. And so, wth my hartie comendaçons, I take my leave, this p^sent Teusdaie.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. HERBERTT.

Yf yo^r busines or lesure will pmitte you, I prairie you take this jorney, for his honor will thankefullie receve it as the companie of him he muche loveth. Fare ye well!

CXXVIII.

To the r. wo^r and my verie lovinge cosen S^r
Edward Stradling, K.

RIGHT wo^r and my verie lovinge cosen, Wth my right hartie comendacõs unto yow, and to my ladie youre bedfello; beinge right glad to here of youre bothe sounde retornes to Glamorgan, w^{ch} I

¹ Saint Julians, near Newport, the seat of Sir W. Herbert, a distant relative of the writer. Sir William probably wrote from Cardiff.

praie God to prosper to youre owne hartes desire. The berer hereof, yo^r cosen and mine, Catheringe Turbill, beinge so importunate on me as I could not be at rest untill I should writte unto yow for youre lawfull favore to her; it notwithstandinge, for her better contentment I am to praie yow to asyste her in her lawfull cawses as muche as unto you shall seme necessarie for her. And thus, wth my wiffes comendaçons bothe unto yow and to yo^r ladie, of whose saffe retorne to this countreie she is verie glade also, I comitt yow boothe to Godes tuicion. At Swansey, the xxviith of Januarii.

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

W. HERBERTT.

CXXIX.

To the right worshipfull my very loving frend
and kinsman S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my very harty comendaçons. You shall understande that I am nowe at Sir Edwarde Maunsell's howse,¹ and doe purpose to supp wth you this nighte; and doe intend, God willing, to imbarke my self towards Devonshire in the morning: wherefore I pray yow to geve order that the

¹ Margam, Glamorganshire,

best boate w^{ch} is in the passage may be stayed for me onely. And soe I byd you farewell, this xiith of Auguste.

Yo^r very loving frend and kinsman,

H. GILBERT.¹

CXXX.

To the right worshipfull and my very loving kynseman S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

My good cosen, I have receaved yo^r tres by yo^r servaunte; touching the contentes whereof I will, for wante of tyme, omytte to discourse; but desire you, yf there be any thing wherin I may stande you in steede, to imploye me: assuringe you I will performe whatsoever shall lye in my power as

¹ Humphrey Gilbert, son of Otho Gilbert of Greenway, Devon, by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir Philip Champernon, Knight, was originally intended for the law, but was introduced into Elizabeth's court by his aunt Catherine Ashley. He was knighted by Sir Henry Sydney, then Lord Deputy of Ireland, for his exploits there. He served in the Low Countries. In 1578, availing himself of the Queen's patent, he sold the estates of his wife Ann, only daughter of Sir Anthony Atcher, of Otterden Place, Kent, and made two expeditions. He took possession of Newfoundland in his second voyage, 1583. In the month of September of this year he ventured to sea in the Squirrel, a vessel of ten tons' burthen, and was lost. Anthony à Wood calls him "an expert seaman, a valiant warrior, a good scholar, and a perfect gentleman." Sir Humphrey was (as has been elsewhere stated) uterine brother to Sir Walter Raleigh.

willingly for you as for any frende or kynseman that I have. And soe, wth my very hartly commendaçons to my good ladye, I comytt you to God, the xxixth of Januarye 1573.

Yo^r loving frend, that during lyfe
will remayne at yo^r comaundement,

H. GILBERT.

CXXXI.

To the right worshipfull and his loving kynseman
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knyght.

COSEN STRADLING, My servaunte having occasion to come by you, of right I thoughte my selfe bounde to wrytte my frendly commendaçons to you and yo^r good wyfe; assuring you ever to fynde me most readye to doe you any pleasure or frendly service that I may. From London, the iiiith of Marche 1573.

Yo^r lovinge kynseman,

H. GILBERT.

CXXXII.

To the righte woꝛ and his especyall good
frend and kynseman S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, &c.

S^r, I receaved by yo^r servaunte yo^r most frendly
lres of the xxvith of October, wherin I founde
that yow are contented to imbraese and intertayne
me in the rancke of yo^r cheefest frendes. In re-
specte of abilitie to pleasure yow, I muste geve
place to many ; but, in greatnes and readines of
goodwill, I will yelde my self seconde to noen.
Therefore, my good cosen, comaunde and imploye
me in all yo^r occasions wherin my frendly servises
maye stande yow in steed ; for my most worthye
lady, yo^r good wyffe, dyd soe curteously use me
and cherys me in my sycknes, that I maye not
omytt acknowledginge my selfe to be muche
bounde to her ladishipp for the same, w^{ch} I will
endevoure my selfe to requitt by remayninge
holely at her ladishipp's comaundement. And soe,
wth a myllion of comendaçons to yo^r good selfe,
and to my good lady yo^r wiffe, I comytt yow
bothe to God ; thankinge yow for yo^r lres, w^{ch} I
will from tyme to tyme requit by every conveni-
ent messenger. From my house in Lyttell Sente

Ellins, wthin Bishopes Gate, the iiiith of November 1573.

Yo^r loving kynsman and faithfull

frend to comaunde, no man more,

H. GILBERTT.

CXXXIII.

To the right worshipfull and his especiall good frend
and cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight, &c.

S^r, In such pap¹ as my oste coulde spaer, I have adventured to write unto you in, not soe muche by the thousand parte for yo^r selfe, as to present my most humble comendaçons to my good ladye your wyfe. Truste to me, I doe bothe honor and love her in the highest degree for the noble and curteus intertaynment that I founde at her handes when I was at yo^r house; I can never forgett yt, nor will duringe life be founde unthankfull for the same: and yf yow will intreyne yo^r selfe in copersynery to be a sharer, I will never bringe a wrytt of righte to disapprove yo^r tytell. And soe, my good cosen, I comytt you and my good ladye to God; resting noe lesse ether of yo^{rs}, then your greate curtey-

¹ Paper.

syes hath moste justly purchēd and bounde me.
Knell, the vith of Marche 1580.

Yo^r kynseman and most assured
frende to comaunde during life,
and no mā more,

H. GILBERTT.

CXXXIV.

To the righte worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
Knight, be these delivered.

S^r, The bearer herof, being one that dwelleth somewhat neere me, hathe requested me to wrytte these fewe lynes unto yow in her behalfe. That wheras she hathe by the space of nyne yeares byne maryed to one Richarde Love, by occupaçon a carpenter, the sayd Richard Love about Whitsontyde last was twelve monethes deptyd from this poore woman his wyef, and tooke wth him a lewde concupyne, who hathe a husband at this present dwellinge at Bathe. This poore woman hath byne enformed by some of her frendes that the sayd Richard Love, her husbände, inhabiteth in a pise somewhat neere yow, called Cowbridge: yf, therefore, yt may please yow for Godes sake, as allso according to the lawes of the realme, to shewe yo^r favo^r to this poore woman in

takinge some good order wth the lewde fellowe her husbände, no doubtte you shall doe a most godly deede ; and my selfe, in this poore woman's behalfe, will alwayes be readye to be employed in these ptes, or in any place ells where I may stand you in the like steed. Thus, as one unacquaynted, doe, wth my hartly comendaçons, take my leave of you. Hasyllburye,¹ this xviiith of Marche 1573.

Yo^r lovinge frend,
JOHN CLYFTON.²

CXXXV.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradling,
Knight, at S^t Donates in Wales.

I AM at this instante requested to writte unto you in the behalf of Johan Warman, the bringer herof ; who, as I understande, is mucche charged wth the maintayninge of her poore children, havinge an unthrift unto her husband, not any thing consider- ing their estate, nor using any meanes for redresse therof, but rather practyseinge the contrary. These are, therefore, hartely to desyre you in the behalf of the sayde poor wo^man, her povertye

¹ Probably Hasilborough, near Crewkerne, Somersetshire.

² Sir John Clifton, Knight.

considered, to extend youre frindshipp unto her, that by meanes wherof you may provoke her husbände to be contributory to the sustentaçon of the sayde children, as unto yo^r wisdome shalbe thoughte mete and convenient; wherin you shall not only dooe a meritoryous deede, but alsoe fynde me willinge to requyte the same in any thinge I maye. Thus, not doubtinge yo^r furtheraunce in this respect, I leave any further to trouble you: wth my moste hartye comendaçons unto you. Morehayse, the xxvith of September 1574.

Yo^{rs} assured,

Jo. MORE.¹

CXXXVI.

To the right worshippfull and my very loving
cosen S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshippfull, After my verie hartye comendaçons. The cominge of our new justice moveth me to molest certaine of my frends more then otherwise I wold, amongst whome you are one that I have chosen to be bould uppon, prayinge you to healpe me to a peece of fleashe at this p^sent, suche as you shall thinke meate; and, thus

¹ The family of More was of some eminence in Devonshire. Morehays is near Collumpton.—Sir W. Pole's Collections, p. 186.

doing, you shall fynd me allwayes readye to requitt yo^r courtesye when occasion shall serve. Soe I conclud; wth my hartye comendaçons unto my good ladye yo^r bedfellowe, as unacquainted, comitting you both to Godes p^{te}cçon. From Emllyn,¹ the xiith of September 1574.

Yo^r loving cosen,

H. JOHNES.²

CXXXVII.

To the r. wo^r my verie lovinge cosen S^r Edward Stradling, Kⁿighte.

RIGHTE wo^r, My verie hartie comendaçons to yo^r selfe and my ladie yo^r bedfellowe remembred. Whereas my sonne³ and heere, this bearer, is determened to be sueter in the way of marage unto yo^r nece M^{rs} Barbara Gamadge, of whome he hath made chiefeste choice above all others; and, havinge motioned the cause alreadie unto

¹ In Carmarthenshire.

² Sir Henry Johnes, Knight, Sheriff for Carmarthenshire in 1574 and 1584, and for Brecknockshire in 1580, married Elizabeth daughter of Matthew Herbert of Swansea. Sir Henry was the son of Sir Thomas Johnes, Knight, of Abermarles, Carmarthenshire.

³ Sir Thomas Johnes, living in May 1599. Vide Meyrick's Cardiganshire, p. 358.

her father, hath obtained his goodwill to repaire unto the gentlewoman and her frendes to talke therein; and consideringe yo^r intereste and my la: in her to be suche (beinge yo^r neare kinsewoman) that, nexte unto her father, yow bothe are those whose advise and counsell she is to use and followe in this case afore anie other, I am therefore not onelie to crave and desier yo^r owne good will and my ladies likewise, but allso to requeste yow to extende yo^r frendlie assistaunce wth my sonne towarde the obtaininge of the gentlewoman's goodwill, in whome consistethe the chiefeste successe of his suete; and in thus doinge you shall finde me and my frendes alwaies readie to pleasure you. Thus, byddinge you hartelie farewell, I end. From Porthamal,¹ seconde daie of October.²

Yo^r assured lovinge cosen,

H. JOHNES.

¹ Probably Porthaml in Brecknockshire, in Leland's time the residence of the Vaughan family.—Vide Jones's History of Brecknockshire, vol. ii. p. 339.

² This letter must have been written before the year 1584, when Mr. Gamage died.

CXXXVIII.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
Knight, yeve these.

MY humble dewtie remembered. For as muche, right worshipfull, as I ame assured by soundrye credible gentlemen in these ptes of the greate care yow have alwayse had to equitie and justice, respectinge rather thestimaçon of yo^r worshipp and credit than anie waise bente by will in the behalfe of anie to wronge the leaste, I ame therfor most desirouse to attende yo^r pleasure; and would before this time, accordinge to my dewtie, have seene yow, but that ptlie my deaffe eares so maymethe me as I should two muche have trobled yow, and specially for that I ame a meere stranger as well to yo^r worshipp as in this countrey: and so, rather doubtinge yo^r s^vantes worste than anie yo^r indefferencie, his outradge at my howsse considered, and for that he is in those ptes well frendid and akinned, and dwellethe nere my waye, darethe me so muche as, I assure yo^r wo^rshipp, I ame fearfull to travall that waise, least haplie I might be by his meanes opressed; and, as one rather glad to eschew all ocasion of quar^elles then to seeke the leaste, am bolde to stey till yo^r pleasure therin be further knowen. And albeit I was

served wth yo^r warrante the viith of this moneth to be before yow; yet for that the counstable refuseth to aide me, or otherawise to warent my saftie, p̄suminge upone yo^r accostomed goodnes to otherwardes, the p̄mises by yo^r hable judgment considered, I have rather thought better to stey then so to endanger my selfe: and, evon so, beseching yo^r wo^rshipp to pardon my boldnes therin, do by way of complainte moste humblie beseche yo^r worshipp herbie to understand theffecte and treuth of the unconsidered behavio^r of yo^r s̄vant Morgan John and William Thomas, done me the vth daie of October at my howse, w^{ch} was in forme followinge, &c. All w^{ch} beinge, r. wo^r, trewe, (as I am well hable to prove,) I doubte not but yo^r hable judgment will hold me excused; and beinge not trewe, nor hable to prove the same, I do crave no favo^r, but to be punished accordinge to of my deserts therin; and beinge moste true, as God is my judge it is, yet am I contētid rather to committ my self in all to yo^r order, then otherwise (thoughe sure I were to wyn) to seake my remedie by lawe againste anye that weareth yo^r cloathe, or otherwise beareth yow good will: and, evon so, wth all submission I do moste hartelie praie yo^r wo^r, for triall of my trouthe herin, to vouchsaffe to have the heringe of the p̄misses, and in dewe examinaçon therof to take

souche order for ende as to yo^r wo^r shall seeme good; wherunto, or for other yo^r comaundm̄tes therin, I will, accordinge to the purporte of yo^r warrante, attende yow at yo^r pleasure, so as I may passe in safftie. Thus, comyttynge the circumstances (nowe to longe to write) to this gentleman, berer herof, I end yo^r troble, and will praie to God to graunte yow longe liffe in healthe, wth all encrease of worshipp. At my poore abenige in Castle Llougho^r,¹ this ixth of November 1574.

All yo^r w. at cōmaundm^t,

CHRISTOPHER LAURENCE.

CXXXIX.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edwarde Stradling,
Knight.

IF good will in deservinge your gentlenes and civilitye towards me, wth an earnest desyre to fynde occatyone and opportunity to shewe the effect thereof, were a sufficient recompence for the same, then assuredly were I not farr in yo^r debt; but, wantinge occasion to putt good will in ure, the desire must countvayle the effect. Herein-closed I send yo^r worshippes booke, wherin the state of Glamorgan for a longe tyme in many

¹ Lloughor near Swansea.

things ys p̄served from oblivyon, and deserveth thankfull acceptaunĉ. And, because I meane to contynew yo^r debter, I crave the lone of the register¹ of Neath, (wherin att my last being wth you I found somewhat of Justyn,) and yt shalbe safely kept and sent home at yo^r p̄fixed tyme. And seinge that yow refuse the things which others most fervently crave and desyre, v̄z: gaynes and p̄fytt; and althoughe by just meanes due, yet in respect of the zeale ye beare to the publique comodity of yo^r country before yo^r owne p̄vate wealth, yow contemne and forsake the same, I would wishe others to have but that effectyon, not seeke extraordinary meanes to exact more then due, as you have in forsaking yo^r due, although rated wth as much lenity and favour as such matters were at any tyme: therefore I pray yo^r worshipp to send me by this bearer the extract, and I doubt not but others wilbe as glad therof as yow were moved with pity. Leving over longe to troble yow, I comytt yow and yo^rs to God's p̄servaĉon. From S^t Nicholas, 18 Decem. 1574.

At yo^r commaundem^t,

RYS MIRIKE.²

¹ Vide Collectanea Topographica, vol. iv. p. 20.

² Clerk of the peace for Glamorganshire. He resided at Cottrell in the parish of St. Nicholas, near Cardiff. His daughter and heiress, Barbara, married Miles Button, son of Sir Thomas Button, Knight. Meyrick compiled a History of Glamorganshire, which has

CXL.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, After most hartye comendaçons to you and my good ladye yo^r bedfellowe. Yt maye please you to understand that I am enformed that there ys come o^v into yo^r countrie from thes partes one Richard Pyperall Ansties, a pavyor, and one Ralfe Pyperal Anstyes, a smythe, whoe are brothers, and comitted a felonye of late in thes partes; and one of them, that ys to saye, Richard, fled, not bing apprehended; thother was apprehendyd, and comytted to the keepinge of a poore neighbour of myne, beinge a tythingman, from whome he escapyd, and so rann his waye: by meanes whereof my sayd poore neighbore ys leeke to be in pill of lyfe, unles some speedye remedye be had nowe before this next assisses. In consideraçon wherof I shall most hartely request you to bestowe yo^r frindly helpe, furtheraunce, and advice by all meanes possible that you maye, aswell by caus-

been printed by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart. from the original MS. in Queen's Coll. Library, Oxford. It is entitled "A Book of Glamorganshire Antiquities, 1578." He was the author of a volume of pedigrees termed the "Cottrell Book." This manuscript was in the possession of the late John C. Earl of Clarendon.

inge secrete serche to be made, as anye other waye w^{ch} to you shall seeme beste for the spedye takinge of them, yf ytt be possible ; and, yf they or eyther of them may be taken, that by yo^r order and direction they maye be sent hether wth speede ; further prayinge yow to p̄cure from other justices there the leeke helpe and furtheraunce in this matter : and in yo^r soe doinge yow shall not onlye p̄fett the cōmon wealth, by rooting owt suche yll weades, but allso bynde me, and other my frends here, to pleasure you or anye other yo^r neighboures in that countrey in leeke case. And so, referring to the reporte of this bearer, John Jane, the resydewe w^{ch} yow shall require to knowe in this matter, doe comytt you and all yo^{rs} to Godes tuytion. Meryfeld,¹ the xth of Marche, anno Domini 1575.

Yo^r assured to comaunde,

JOHN WADHAM.²

¹ In Somersetshire.

² John Wadham, son of Sir Nicholas Wadham, Knight, married Joan, daughter and coheir of John Tregarthin of Cornwall, who died in 1581. His son Nicholas founded Wadham College, Oxford, and died October 20, 1609, without issue ; devising his estates to his sister Joan, the wife of Sir Giles Strangways, Knight, of Melbury in Dorsetshire.

CXLI.

To the right wor^{ll} Sr Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, In most hartye wise I comend me unto you, yelding you most hartye thanks for yo^r frendshipp shewed to John Jane, my poore neighbour, in taking the prison^{rs} w^{ch} bracke from [prison] in this country; assuringe you, yf I may pleasure you or any frend of yo^{rs} anye waye in thes partyes, I shalbe most readye to accom-
plishe ytt. Further, I am hartelye to requeste you to stand good frend unto this bearer also, in helping him to his gelding w^{ch} was stollen from him, p^{ro}ving the same to be his owne, as the order ys in that behalf; wherin, I assure you, you maye credytt him, for that he is my neere neighbour I knowe him to be a very honest man. He hath lres to the highe shryve (from the judges) to remove the pryson^{rs} into Somers, to be tryed ther; by meanes wherof, and of other charges in p^{ro}secuting against the felons, the gelding will be very deere unto him, thoughe he were better then he ys. And so, boldening my selfe uppon yo^r gentyllnes, doe for this tyme comytt you to God, restinge yo^{rs} to use i' that I maye. Meryfelde, the xxiiiith of Apryll 1576.

Yo^{rs} to co^maunde,

JOHN WADHAM.

CXLII.

To the right worshipfull Sr Edward Stradlinge,
Knight, yeve this.

RIGHT worshipfull, Wth my humble comenda-
çons unto yow. Not forgettinge your former pro-
mise unto me for a hawke of yo^r eyrie, yt makes
me the more bould wth youe in cravage a hawke
of this yeare, the rather for my necessitie who
ame at this present destituted, and wold faine
have my wante supplied therin, the rather to
keepe me from idelnes; prainge youre worshipp to
sende her unto me by this berer, my brother in
lawe, whom I do sende unto youe of p^rpose for
her. And any pleasure I maie doe youe ther-
fore, yow shall evermore finde me redie to pforme
towardses youe accordinglie; as o^r Lorde God
knoweth yt, who alwaies pres^rve yo^r worshipp!
Meere, this viiith of Julie 1575.

Yo^{rs} moste assured to commaunde,

EDW: WADHAM.¹

¹ Edward Wadham of Mere, Somerset, nephew to John Wadham of Meryfield, married, 1st, Margaret d. of John Young; 2ndly, Alice d. of . . . Carew, county of Devon.—Hutchins' Dorset, 2nd edit. vol. i. p. 523.

CXLIII.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, My humble comendaçons remembred, gevinge yo^r worship most hartly thankes for yo^r gen^l Ire sent unto the Lorde Tressurere for his warant for me, the w^{ch} nowe I have obtained, beinge for iii hundreth quarters of wheat; desiringe you that, when the same warant shall come to yo^r worshippes handes, that you will accept the same, and that I may receive the same without any troble or molestation for the same, and that I may have yo^r worshipes furtheraunce and helpe that my man may have the same all as sone as may be, for that my shipp doth goe unto Rochill, to be reladen backe with salte from thence. Therefore I meane to lade pte of the quantity in her nowe, and the rest I meane to lade the next yeare, or when occasion shall serve. And so, trustinge of yo^r worshipes favours and helpe herein, I rest troblinge att this present: and, yf I may plesur yo^r worship or any frind of yo^{rs} here, I pray you make boulde of me, and you shall fynde me readye to pleasur you in any thinge I may; as knoweth the Almighty, to whome I comitt yo^r

worshipp. From London, this þsent xith day of Marche, anno 1575.

Yo^r worship's to comaund,
THOMAS PULLYSON, Alderman.

CXLIV.

To the r. worshipth S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight,
geve theise att S^t Donnattes.

AFTER my dewe comendaçõs to yo^r selffe and my ladie yo^r wife, with whom (for that I have not hethereunto had aquentaunce) rekon my self in some blame. I hope, ere this somere passe, to se you both at S^t Donnattes in helth, although I have not before this; yeldinge you my hartie thanks for that it pleased you to entertaine my brother, worth to his proffite many waies. I was not unmindfull that they weare dewe unto you, but, lest you might the rathere thereupon determine to bere with disorderes upon hope of amendment longer then were resonable, I thought good to forbear: and nowe, trustinge that he will demeane him selff towarde you to yo^r liking, I hartely thanke yow for yo^r goodnes shewed unto him, and praie yow, if matter unknowen unto me be not to the contrarie, that you will employe him such way as he may pleasure you;

and therin shall he be most bounde unto you, and my self and the rest of his frindes greatly beholden. And so I leve you to God. Hunteworthie,¹ the xviith of Maye 1575.

Yo^r cosen to cōmaund,

EDWARD POPHAM.²

CXLV.

To the right wo^r his loving cozen S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my very hartly comendaçons. I pceave that my man William is not well dealt wthall in the countrye there neere you, in that they force him to use suite of lawe for the recovery at their handes [of] that for w^{ch} they have noe coullor to deteyne. For thadvoiding of expences in lawe, to my man's hinderaunce, (as allso thoccasion of his non-attendaunce on me to my discomoditye,) I praye you soe muche to be trobled as (yf amongst them selves they cannot agree) to call them before you and to pswad an end betwixt them, or to request some frind of yours dwelling nere the

¹ Near North Petherton, Somersetshire.

² Edward Popham, son of Alexander Popham of Huntworth, by Joan daughter of Sir Edward Stradling, grandfather of the Sir E. Stradling to whom this letter is addressed.

partyes to doe soe muche in your behalf. And thus, hoping theare maye be a tyme, er long be, that I may vysitte you, doe leave you to Godes tuyçon. Huntworthie, the xvth of Apryll 1580.

Yo^r cosen to use,

EDWARD POPHAM.

CXLVI.

To the right wo^r his loving cozen S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

THIS bearer hath dealt wth an untrustie companye neere about yow, w^{ch}, upon my request unto you, yt pleased you to be troubled wth, for which I hartely thanke you; and doe likewise praye you nowe once againe to cause that ther be some finall end betwixt him and his bad debtors: he is willing soe to be dispatched of the countrye, as he mighte not to have the like occasion againe to be troubled there. And soe, wth my very hartly comendaçons to you and my good ladye, I cōmytt you both to the tuyçon of thallmighty. Huntworthy, the xxviith of Apryll.

Yo^r cosen to comaund,

EDWARD POPHAM,

CXLVII.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r Robart Lynzey,¹ upon that he depected from you, made his repayre unto me, and requested me to wrytte unto you to make a farther prooffe of his servyce; w^{ch}, for that I dyd not knowe howe greatly he hath mysbehaved him self towardses you, I forbear to doe, and leave that to your consideraçon. He sheweth me that throughe his faulte he hath not onlye loste your servyce, w^{ch} he thought you would have bene contented to have accepted suche waye as you required yt, as he should not have bene destitute of entertaynment during his life, but allso ys likelye to loose a preferment² in maryadge neare you, unles of your goodnes (of him undeservid) you favor the same: yf, therefore, his offence have not soe displeased you but that yt might stand wth your lykinge to further him herin, I soe beseche you in his behalfe. And thus, not forgetting myne appointment to see you and my ladye, yf I can bringe yt possiblye to passe, I make unto you

¹ Robert Lindsay, second son of David Lindsay, eighth Earl of Crawford. The Earl died in 1588. Robert received a grant of lands from his mother, the Countess of Crawford, in 1574.—Wood's Peerage of Scotland, vol. i. p. 201.

² Probably he alludes to Barbara Gamage.

and her my most hartye comendaçons, and leave yow both to God's tuyeçon. Huntwortheie, the xxiiith of Auguste 1580.

Yo^r lovinge cosyn,

EDWARD POPHAM.

CXLVIII.

To the right worship^l S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, For soe muche as my cozen James Redes¹ yo^r servantes long absence might geve you greate cause to mislike, unles the same hath ben upon urgent occasion, I am in trewe excuse therof to advertes you, that the cause of his hetherto staye was to gether certen money up due to him by waye of añuitye at Michelmas last past, w^{ch} monye he could not receive untill nowe of late; and therefore I beseeche you to consyder of him accordingly, and in suche sorte acceptte him from hence foorthe, as his diligent servyce and pformaunce of dewty towards you shall occasyon, w^{ch} I hope wilbe in every respecte as he by your sondrye goodnes [is] justly bounde. And thus, wth my very hartye comendaçons, I leave you unto the

¹ Perhaps James Rede of Boddington, near Cheltenham, who appears to have been sixteen years old in 1513. See Escheat.

tuytion of Almightye God, whom I beseeche longe to contynew you in moche worshippe. Dyxton,¹ this xxiith of November 1575.

Yo^{rs} assuredly to comaund,

JOHN HYGFORDE.²

CXLIX.

To the right worshipfull and my loving kinsman
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

SEYINGE there happenith some occasiones wherin I have cause to deale in the behalfe of some poore neighbours of myne wth the beste sorte of insseesers in yo^r partes of Wales, I have beethoughte me of you myne old acquaintaunce and kynseman, wishing as well unto you as anie frind you have. The cause that these bearers have ys, for that, at this S^t James' fayre laste, as they came from Brysto,

¹ Dixton is a place close to Monmouth. It is noticed by W. Higford in a little tract published in 1658, entitled "Institutions or Advice to his Grandson."

² John Higford, son of W. Higford, who died 37 Hen. VIII, was lord of the manor of Dixton and Alurington in the 3rd of Edw. VI. He was High Sheriff for Gloucestershire in the 15th and 28th of Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth Fettiplace of Bessels Leigh, Berks. Queen Elizabeth was at Dixton in 1592, and conferred the honour of knighthood upon him. John Higford, Esq. of Newark, near Gloucester, one of the coheirs of the late Duchess Dowager of Norfolk, is of this family.

they were robbed by a pyrate; the w^{ch} pyrate, by the helpe of some of the countee of Walles, [with] the same boet, was taken at the Mumels,¹ wherein they founde all there goodes before taken from them; w^{ch} they claymunge as theire owne, was afterwarde by the Welshe men taken from them. You shall understand bothe their names and dwelling places, wth a note of suche goodes as they have taken from these men. My request to you ys, that, accordinge to justice and equitye, their goodes may be by yo^r helpe the rather restored to them agayne, soe as they have not more cause to complayne on yo^r neighbours then on the pyrates. And I shalbe readye to pleasure anye of yo^{rs} in that I am able. Evin thus, wth my hartie comendaçons, I betake yow to Godes keping. From my house at Walston, this ixth of September 1575.

Yo^r loving cosen and frynd,

R. GREYNVILLE.²

¹ The Mumbles, near Swansea, Glamorganshire.

² This gallant officer was of an ancient family in the West of England. He was born about the year 1540. When a youth, he served as a volunteer against the Turks in Hungary. Subsequently he was employed by Elizabeth in Ireland. He was elected Knight of the Shire, for Cornwall in 1576, soon after was made High Sheriff, and received the honour of knighthood. He entered into the colonization schemes of his relative Sir Walter Raleigh. Early in 1585, he took the command of a squadron consisting of seven small vessels; sailed for Florida, where he established a settlement; and re-

CL.

To the r. worship^{ll} S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll} sir, My dutie humbly used. After my most humble thankes yelded unto the same for so many benefites used and bestowed upon me, for the leste wherof I am not hable by any meanes to gratifie yo^r worship, I am most justely therefore to acknowledg my self at yo^r comaundement in that I or any frinde I have or may p^cure not only therefor, but also for that yo^r worship hath so by yo^r great wisdome preserved the goodes of this my deare frinde, w^{ch} otherwise had (as is credibly affirmed) ben uterly lost, to his undoinge; beinge a man substancially accounted of in this cittie, as in deade he is. The whole cittie of Heref^r are much bounde unto you for yo^r good dealinges herein, by the w^{ch} you have preserved the estate of one nott of the simplest

turned to England. The Queen's commands forbade him to quit Cornwall during the war with Spain. In 1591, he was made Vice-Admiral of a squadron fitted out for the purpose of intercepting a rich Spanish fleet. The enemy's convoy was too powerful for its assailants. After a desperate engagement, Sir Richard's ship was captured. He died of his wounds three days afterwards. He has been sometimes blamed for rashness, but his censurers appear to be very imperfect judges. — Chalmers' Gen. Biogr. Hist. vol. xvi. p. 247.

members therof; and I in the meane while, till he may p̄cure you some thankes from them, do most hartely thanke yo^r worship, not only for the benefites bestowed upon me, but also for yo^r great goodnes bestowed towardses him, for the w^{ch} he thinketh himself so much bounde to yo^r worship that of himself he is not hable to signify: and therfor, as he maketh meanes to knowe of yo^r worships frindes here, wherby he may by them in his behalf yelde yow so^me thankes; so I, p̄suminge of your worship's curtesy, have in the meane time enterp^esed (albeit not in any respecte meate or worthy) to directe to yo^r worship these rude lres of most humble and hartly thankes. And so, cessinge to troble yo^r worship, I comitt the same to the tuition of thalmightie. From Heref^r, the xxiith of May 1576.

Yo^r wo^r allwayes at comaudem^t,

EDWARD WALWYN.¹

¹ Probably "Edward Walwyn, sixth son of Thomas Walwyn of Old Court, in the parish of Lugwardine, Hereford," noticed in a pedigree bearing date 1576.

CLI.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, deliver these.

RIGHT worshipfull, It may please yow to be advertysed that of late I examined one Stephen Stonne, who amonge other thinges confessed unto me the sale of two mares in Walles about Allhallowtyde laste, and the chainging of one other about five or sixe weekes since, and sayd that he bought all those marres neere Netherbury in Dorsett shere; wheruppon I comytted him to the keping of one of the tethinge, where he dwelte untill I might make tryall therof: and theruppon sent to one Mr. Strowde, a justice of the peace in Dorsettshire, dwelling neere Netherbury,¹ for the tryall of the troethe therof; w^{ch} the sayd Stonne understandinge, conveyed him selfe from him to whom he was comytted, and is fledd. Sythence w^{ch} tyme the sayd Mr. Strowde hathe advertysed me that he boughte noe suche marres at Netherbury, but that there have byne divers mares stollen in that contry, wherof this bearer hath lost twoo, and supposethe, as well by the markes as the tyme, that they are the twoo mares

¹ Parnham, in the parish of Netherbury, still the residence of Mr. Strode's descendant, Sir W. Oglander, Bart.

w^{ch} the sayd Stonne about Halhallautyde solde in Wales. I doe therefore desyre you to be a meane that he maye see the same marres, and yfe they be his, then doe pray yow that he maye have yo^r further^aunce in atteyninge his goodes agayne; wherin yow shall doe a good deed, and fynde me readye to pleasure you wth the like as occasion shall serve. And soe doe cōmytt you to God. From Meryfelde, this ixth of Julye 1576.

Yo^r assured,

HENRY PORTMAN.¹

CLII.

To the right wo^r and his very good cosen S^r
 Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

Not longe synce I was bolde to troble you for a neighbour of myne of Charde,² and rest moeche behollding unto you for yo^r frindshipp shewed in helping him to his gelling. Yo^r frendlye readines therein hathe gotten you a customer of me; for, beinge earnestly movid by a goodhonest man

¹ Sir Henry Portman, son of Sir William Portman, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, married Joan, daughter of Thomas Michell of Carrington. He died in 1590. His valuable Somersetshire estates are now possessed by Lord Portman.

² In Somersetshire.

of Wells called Thomas Tugle,¹ an apothecarye, that hathe to doe wth some of yo^r neighbours, for my favorable fre unto some of worshipp in thoesse ptes, I have thought good rather to become more beholdinge unto you for him, then to seeke further frindshipp ells where. He saith that one Mr. Rice Gwyn is indebtyd unto him in a good rownde sōme of mony for charges bestowed on him, lyeing a good space sicke in his howse; but cheefely for that he became sewertie for him unto others, and therby susteignethe greate losse and hindaunce. That his father, Mr. Richard Gwyn,² before good wittnesses promysed and undertooke to see him justly satisfied for all that was betwene him and his sōne; w^{ch} notwthstandinge, this bearer sayethe he is compelled by lawe to sell his lyving to paye that he undertooke for Mr. Rice Gwyn; and, haveing humbleie desyred satisfaction according to their fayre promises, can not obtaine the same. His desyre ys, that you will vouchsafe to comōne wth Mr. Rice Gwyn and his father; and, as you fynde his cause mete to be in honestie consydered, so to further the same. Yo^r order, yf they soe agree, he will abyde for any

¹ Probably the same name as Tugwell, a respectable Somersetshire family at the present day.

² Perhaps Richard Gwyn, second son of Richard Gwyn of Llan-sannor, near Cowbridge.

ende, rather then by sēwte offend them to whome he hathe meante soe well. Yf yo^r leasure serve to heare this bearer at lardge, there will appeare greate unthankfullnes for his greate good will. Yf by your meane he may fynde ease, and be relieved of his grieffe, he shall be bownde to praye for you, and I remayne yo^r debter untill opportunitie will serve to reacquyte some pte of your curtesye. In the meane tyme, wth dewe thanks and most harty comendaçons to yo^r selfe and my cosen your bedfellowe, though unacquaynted, I comytt you to the tuyçon of the Almightye. Whitlackington, this xxvth of August 1576.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frende,

GEORGE SPEKE.¹

CLIII.

To the right worshipfull my assured good frend
and cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling Knighte.

My good Knight, The bearer hereof, being of
North Wales, having occasion to repayre hyther

¹ Sir George Speke of Whitlackington, Somersetshire, was son of Sir George Speke, and Elizabeth daughter of Sir Andrew Luttrell. He married Philippa, daughter of William Rouswell, Esq. Solicitor to Queen Elizabeth. His ancestor John married Alice,

to my howse, where he remayneth my howsholde chappleyne, passed, a yere past, in his jorney hither, thorowe yo^r countrey of Glamorgan, where he was by certayne dishonest p^{ersons} of that country robbed, and had by them taken from him iii^{li} xiii^s. The redresse of soe greate an injurye done unto him I willingly referre to yo^r good considera^õns, and wthall his cause and the whole circumstance thereof, to be signified by him selfe, who is hable to enforme you as well of their names as of their dwelling places; and therefore have no doubt but that yow will for my sake see him restored, being a poore younge man, of his money: w^{ch} I hartely pray yow to doe, as you may at yo^r will employe me in those p^{tyes} in any thinge I may stande you in some steede or doe yow pleasure; wherof I make some profe, as in this cause and other. I presume of yo^r frendshipp, wherof as I have noe doubt, so I hartely pray you to shewe yt him at this my request, his cause beinge honest; w^{ch}, wthout s^{ome} good order therein taken, shall [not] otherwise be p^{ro}vided for. I beseeche you lett him during his aboade in the countrey be under yo^r salfe p^{ro}tection, and returned wth all convenient speede; as, wth my right hartly

daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel of Lanheron, Cornwall; and, through her, Sir George was distantly related to Sir Edward Stradling.

comendaçons, I byd you as my selfe farewell.
 Dartington, the xviiith of September 1576.

Yo^r assured lovinge frende,

A. CHAMPERNOWNE.¹

CLIV.

To the right worshipfull my assured good frend
 S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

I THANKE you, my good Knight, for yo^r travell taken at my request in the behalfe of my minister, who duringe his life thinketh himselfe most bownden unto you. Your servaunte, the bearer, hath had occasione of very urgent busines to stayer here longer then his determinaçon was, and therefore prayed me that I sholde by my tres geve you to understande thereof, to the ende yow sholde conceave noe yll of him, havinge had sōme wares in those ptyes upon credytt, by reason of his longe tarynge he maketh nowe at his cominge to dischargdge his sayd credytt, in suche sorte as I must in his behalf crave the contynuance of yo^r favoure towards him; w^{ch} I beseeche yow showe him, unlesse throughe his yll behavio^r he geve

¹ Sir Arthur Champernounge of Dartington, Devon, was second son of Sir Philip Champernounge of Modbury, Devon. Dartington is still in the possession of the Champernounge family.

you occasione to the contrary. What yow will have done in these pties I beseeche yow imploye me, and yow shall fynde me most readye to accomplishe yo^r request; as knoweth God, who have yow in his keepinge. Dartington, the viith of October 1576.

Yo^r assured loving frend,

A. CHAMP'NOWNE.

I beseeche you p^sent my small comendaçons to my la: yo^r wife, as unacquainted; hoping y^e next s^omer to see bothe you and her.

CLV.

To the righte worship^{ll} and his very good cosen
S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

My good Knight and cosen, This bearer, my chaplaine, in whose behalfe I have good cause to thanke you, having occasion to make his repaire unto yo^r ptyes, I would not omytt to salute you wth thes fewe lynes, wherin I have litle or rather nothing else to signifye unto you but only the aptnes and the readye good [will] that ys and shalbe wthin me to be imployed in any thing wherin I maye, to the uttermost of my litle power, stand you in steade or doe yow pleasure. I have written unto my nephewe Gamedg in the behalf

of the bearer hereof, beinge your countryman; and the somme of my request tendeth to this, that he would for my sake bestowe upon him, beinge moved wth a desyre to dwell in his owne country, the advosom of the benefyce of Coytye, w^{ch}, as I am geven to understand, is of his gyfte. The sollicitinge of this my sute, and the furtheraunce therof, I willingly comend unto yo^r frendly diligence; w^{ch} I praye you soe imploye, as both I in movinge, and you in followinge, may bringe the matter to good effect, as through both our travells joyned in one the sayd advowsom maye be bestowed upon him, and that through your good woorde he maye be p^rvided of some cure against Michaelmas nexte; whose behaviour I doubt not will prove suche as yt shall nethere repent my nephewe to have yelded to my request, nor you to have furthered the same, which is as mucche as in this matter is needfull to be sayd or wrytten. For the rest, I have an earnest desyre to see you heere in this country, yf any occasion mighte leade you hether. Dartington, the last of Julye.¹

Yo^r loving kinsman² and assured frind,

A. CHAMPERNOWNE.

¹ Vide p. 164, note 2 : the same remark is applicable.

² Joan, daughter of Sir Philip Champernoune, married Robert Gamage of Coity Castle, the uncle of Sir Edward Stradling.

CLVI.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^l, My duety remembred. Havinge occasion throught the death of my father to sue out a comission to be directed for the retorninge of certificatte of such landes as he was seysed of in his life's time, I have p^sumed so much, both for the frindship and good will longe time continued betwine you and him, and for the consideration w^{ch} therefore I doe repose in yo^r worship above the rest, to chouse you a comissioner for the better and more favourable doinge of the same on my behalf: but, since I must confesse this much boldnes of myn in troblinge you hath not pceeded of any defect further then the goodwill w^{ch} most specially I bere to all those whose faithfull frindlynes and curtesy hath byn tried towards my father, I canott therfor desire you further to trouble yo^r self in this behalf then that you may do with yo^r very good leasure and convenience; assuringe yow that I shall accompt my self in all respectes fully satisfied with that whatsoever shalbe don with yo^r lest trouble and best comodity. And thus, offeringe to employ my self at al times and most willingly whensoever yt shall please you to use or comaunde me, and

cravage pardon for my boldnes, I comitt you to God. From my mother's house by Uxbridge, this 20th of February 1577.

Yo^{rs} to comaunde,

WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

CLVII.

To the r. wo^r my very lovinge frend S^r Edw:
Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my verie hartye comendaçõs. Whereas I am informed that one William Webbar and John Webbar were broughte before you for suspiçõn of felonye by hewe and crye made of one that suspected them for the stealinge of a mare out of this countie of Devoñ, you shall understand that one John Webbar, uncle unto the sayd William and John (nowe suspected), hath bene before me, and affirmeth that he did lend the sayd mare unto the sayd Willm, and delyvered her him selffe, and hath his sayd mare agayne; and as I understand by the reporte of dyvers of the neighbors of the sayd Webbars that they be and are of honeste behaviour, and have lyved amonge them without suspiçõn: wherefore you shall doe a charitable dede to discharge them, excepte they are to bee bur-

thened anie farther. And soe bydde you moste hartelie farewell. Wood, the xxth of June 1577.

Yo^r lovinge frend,

CHA. CAREWE.

CLVIII.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My dutie remembred; and, havinge a convenient messinger, thought good to trouble yow with this my letter, to signifie unto you that I have geven my cosen to understande that I have sene a dede of yo^{rs} w^{ch} dothe barr him of suites and services, savinge onlie his rent of vi^s by the yeare dew for your lande holden of him; uppon w^{ch} reporte he is therin satisfied. I gave the like notice of yo^r wo^{rs} courtesie and greate paines taken in his affaires, who yeldeth unto you noe lesse thankes then the same dothe deserve, and in requitall resteth him selfe readye to doe you anie service in theis pties, or to pleasure anie frind of yours in anie thinge he may. Not forgettinge the greate entertaynement you gave me, I shall hūblie pray you to comaund me in anie thinge I maie, to my simple power.

Thus, althoughe in base sorte discharged of my promise to yo^r wo^r, I ame now to remember my good ladie, concerninge the talke that yt pleased her to ympte unto me at my depture towching a gentel woman, of whose estate, aunswerable to her ladieshippes mosion, I have enquired, and ame accertained that she ys free from promise or anie agrement of matche; so as, yf the like be in the gētleman, ther may be farther pcedinges, yf it be yo^r plesures. Her portion is knowen by her sister's, they be equall: her pson and condičons are semelie. Now I rest yt in yo^r likinges; and, as I am bounde, wyshe the preservačon of you bothe in muche worshippe, wth longe life to continew. Stowgurse, this xxvith of Marche.

Yo^{rs} to cōmaunde,

GEORGE CAREWE.¹

¹ Probably George Carew, son of Sir John Carew, and grandson of Sir W. Carew, of St. Edmundsbury, co. Suffolk, who was knighted after the battle of Blackheath, 1497. This George married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Englefield, of Englefield, co. Berks. He died in 1604.

CLIX.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, Wheare I determined nowe from Maghen to come to visite you at S^t Donattes ; so it is that, as I was readye to take horse to you warde, I was by tres out of the couterye (where I dwell) by some frends of myne earnestlye called upon for some necessarye service to be done, w^{ch} I mought not omytt: therefore at this tyme I praye you beare wth me, and heereafter I wilbe bould at some other tyme to trouble you and yo^r howse, and in the meane tyme I shall remayne readye for yow and yo^{rs} to the uttermost of my small power. And thus, wth remembraunce of my most hartye comendaçons unto yo^r worshipp and to my good ladye, I comytt yow both and all yo^{rs} to the tuyçon of the Allmightye. Att Maghen,¹ in hast, this Fridaye morninge, being y^e xvith of August 1577.

Yo^r assured cosen to his power,

WYLLYAM GAMES.

¹ Machen, a seat of the Morgan family in Monmouthshire.—Cox's Monmouthshire, p. 67.

CLX.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

AFTER all due order of comendaçons. These are most humbly to desyre yo^r worshipp's favorable frendshipp to the bearer herof, my very frend, whoe have ben well knowen, reputed, and taken, amongst all men, even from his begininge, right honest and of good behavio^r, and for tenn or twelve yeres a greate trader in merchauntes ware, and then verie frindly to manye; who, by his to kinde hart in trustinge the untrustye, in lending his goods, and by suertieshipp, and robbinge, and by other like mishappes (suche as it pleaseth God to suffer the best sorte of his people manye tymes to taste and feele), he is fallen nowe in greate decaye, and therby greatly indebted to his creditors, and, nott havinge to content their greedines, is every hower in greate daunger to be cast into prison, to the utter undoinge of him selfe, his wiefe, and eight smale children. Maye it please yo^r worshipp, therefore, for Goodes sake, in the waye of charitye, and ptly aswell at this my humble request, as also for the old amitie betwene us, to extend yo^r accustomed pitie and charitye towards the recoverye of this poore man, who hath the Counsailes tres placcardes under

seale: in w^{ch} doing doubtles you shall doe a good and charitable deed, wherby God will reward you, and he and his for ever bownde to praye for you; yea, the countrey wherein he dwelleth, hearinge therof, will yelde thanks unto you, and I for ever most dutifull shall think me bownde unto you in accomplishinge this my request as ife it were done unto my self. I sent you a ðre by Mr. Walter Baskerville¹ of Pontrilos; but I never hard aunswere thereof. When you have occasion to be in Hereford sheere, Bristoll, or Gloucester, I beseeche you writte, and I will attend upon you; for I have to talke wth you of dyvers things. Thus I comytt you to God. Glocest^r, the xxixth of Julye 1578.

Yo^r wo^r moste assured,

LEWYS VAUGHAN.²

¹ Pontrilas, on the south-western part of Herefordshire, not far from Abbey Dore.—Walter Baskerville was the natural son of Thomas Baskerville of Pontrilas, fourth son of Sir Walter Baskerville, of Erdisley in the county of Hereford, Knight, who died in 1505.

² Lewis Vaughan was the grandson of Lewis Vaughan of Merthyr Tydvil, a natural son of Sir Roger Vaughan, Knight, of Tretower, Brecknockshire.—Vide Jones' Hist. vol. ii. p. 360.

CLXI.

To the right worship^{ll} Sr Edward Stradling,
Knight.

THIS bearer (right worshippingfull) hath bene ever an honest quiete man, and well able to lyve, untell, nowe of late, by lendingge of his ware to sondrye gentlemen, of whome some be dead, some other are become as poore as he, not able to paye; wherby he is soe farre indebted that he is never able to come out therof, nor to avoyde the dainger of lawe for the payment of his credytors, by meane of a howse full of children he hathe from one yere upwards to tenne, except the reliefe of some good people may supplye his wantte: in w^{ch} respecte her Ma^{tes} honorable Counsaill in the M'ches have graunted him a placcarde for pyttie and charityes sake to the countyes of Glocester and Glamorgan, to aske the devoçon of suche as shall please to geve him anie thinge; where, yf it may please you at this my suete to further him wth yo^r countenance and credytt amongst suche of yo^r frends as will geve, you shall doe undoubt- edly a charitable deede, w^{ch} God will rewarde, and assuredly bynde me (yf I maye be further bounde then I thinke my selfe alreadye to be) at your comaundeñt, eyther in this sheere or ells

where, in the like case for anye frende of yours duringe liefes. And soe, wth due and most hartly comendaçons to you and my good ladye, I wyshe you eancrese of worrshipp in prosperous, happie, and lovinge lyefe. Hyneham,¹ my poore howse, neere Gloucester, the xxviiith of July 1578.

Yo^r poore kinsman ever assured,

N. ARNOLD.

CLXII.

To the very right wor^{ll} and my good cosen S^r
Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, Althouge altogether unacquainted, yet by reason of fame, w^{ch} leveth nothing unpublished, I am boulded to writte unto you in the behalfe of my husband's nephwe, matched to yo^r kinsewoman and myne, hardly dealt wthal in youre countrey for his owne by Mr. Carne. I hope by yo^r good meanes he shall the soner obteyne his right: I am earnestly to desyre

¹ The manors of Highnam and Over, Gloucestershire, belonged to the abbey of Gloucester, and were granted to John Arnold, Esq. of Monmouthshire, who died in 1545; when livery of the manor of Highnam was granted to his son, Sir Nicholas Arnold, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Dennys of Dyrham, Gloucestershire. Sir N. was one of the Council of the Marches.—Sydn. Papers, i. 137.—Atkyns' Gloucestershire, 176.

your lawfull frendshipp in his cause; for that I have requested the younge gentleman to stayer wth me tyll my husband come from London, or ells he had beene him selfe wth you. Good sir, make me behouldinge unto you in shewing him some pleasure, w^{ch} yow shall not fynde bestowed on an ungratefull bodye; as knoweth God, whose goodnes blesse you wth encrease of muche worshipp and felicitye. From my house at Lantonye, this xiiiith of June 1583.

Yo^r assured frend and cosen,

MARGERETT ARNOLD.¹

CLXIII.

To the right wo^r my especiall good frend S^r
Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My humble comendaçons most hartely remembrede. I have bene requested by verie frynds of myne to recomende this bearer to your wo^r, who, both for likinge of you and a zeale he oweth the name (beinge him selfe a Stradling by the mother), hath willed principallye yo^r worshipp's enterteignment; his frends verie honest and of a sufficient lyvelyhodd, his owne behaviour well knowen to be sober wthout quar-

¹ Wife of Sir Nicholas Arnold,

rellinge from his childhood, and yet his mannodd (where he hath served) very well deemed of; soe that, yf hytt stande wth yo^r woo^{rs} lykinge to accepte of him, I dare take upon me he will discharge [the duty] of an honest and faythefull servant. Thus, being bould to troble you herin, I leave you as I maye. From Hereford, the vith of Maye 1579.

Yo^r wo^{rs} to use in y^t he may,

JOHN BREINTON.¹

CLXIV.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, After my harty comendacions. Thes are to signifye unto you that yt pleased S^r Thomas Esterling your father to geve out unto my ounce Powell of Parkehall, neere Oswestrye, that the sayd S^r Thomas should beare a coote in his and nowe in yo^r armis, w^{ch} he thought that of right my brother S^r Andrew Corbett² ought to bare; and since, throught dyvers

¹ John Breinton of Stretton, co. Hereford, natural son of Simon Breinton, married Mary, daughter and coheir of Humphrey Ashfield of Heythrop, co. Oxon.

² Sir Andrew Corbet, Knight, married Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Needham, Knight. The family of Corbet is one of the most ancient in the county of Salop.

occasions that we have had since the death of my sayd brother S^r Andrew Corbett to travell in searching out of o^r pettigree, we cannot as yette come to the marke we shoott at ; and soe, by the advise of my ounce Maist^r Powell, a gentillman very well seene in harrolderye, who, remembre the gentell offer of the good Knight, S^r Thomas yo^r father, dyd advise me to writte unto you, yf you doe understand anye such thinge, that you would geve us some instruction, as allso your pettigree, whereby we maye the better come to o^r purpose. And in soe doing, yf there be enye thinge that we maye pleasure [you] wyth the like, doubt you not but yt shalbe at yo^r comaundementt. Thus God p^rserve you and youres in perfectt health. From Blettsoe, the Lord S^t John's howse, the xxiiiith of Maye 1579.

Yo^{rs} to comand and ould acquaintās,

WATER CORBETT.¹

Walter, brother of Sir Andrew, and son of Sir Roger Corbet, Knight, by Anne, daughter of Andrew Lord Windsor.—Collins' Peerage, by Brydges, vol. iii. p. 670.

CLXV.

To the r. wo^r and my verie good cozen S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

Wth my best and most hartest comendaçons.
Wheras I ame appointed by the Queene and the
Councell furthewth to go in to Ireland wth the men
owt of Southwales, w^{ch} I doubt and feare I shall
finde excedinge rawe, yet my only trust and hope
is in yow that you wilbe carefull to helpe me to
suche men as shalbe able of bodie, wherby the
Queene may the better be servid, and I therbie
may gett fame honestlie; and, wthall, that yow will
see them aswell furnished as you can wth her
furniture, and, if it be not verie good and suffi-
cient, lettig me have reasonable allowance, wth all
speade possible I will provide you of the same;
also prainge yow that they maie be well furnished
in there apell, and that their cottes may be reed,
wth a little lace of grene, yf they have not coattes
reedie made, for I would be verie lothe to put
the countrie to anie double chardge; and that I
may be advtised of the same at Penecoyd wth all
speade possible; and that they may have some
allowance of some convenient store of powder for
to traine their shotte while theie are of this side
the sea, and on the sea in goinge, for some of o^r

men have ben spoiled allredie for lacke of the same. Thus once againe prainge you to have care of the ablenes of the men, and, if it be possible, to helpe to some that hath served alredie; besechinge yow to consider some good allowance for yo^r ptes for my cunditt money, consideringe I am driven to care for me and my officers, the w^{ch} I am driven to carie hence from London. Thus comittinge yow to God, I take my leave. From the Co^t, this xviiith of September 1579.

Yo^r lovinge assured cosen,

WYLLYAM MORGAN.¹

CLXVI.

To the r. wo^r my especiall good cosen Sr Edward Stradling, K.

I HAVE thought it good to send this bearer, my chaplayne, unto yow, to knowe howe forward yow are in the settinge forth of yo^r men, and what wantes yow have, eyther of halberdes or anie other good furniture, and that we maye make all the shifte we can to supplie those places. My onlie trust is in yow for the choice of the men, bothe

¹ Son of Sir Thomas Morgan, Knight, of Penycoed, Monmouthshire, by Cecil, daughter of Sir George Herbert of Swansea, Knight. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at Bristol in 1574.

for their psonage and behavio^r; and that they maie be reasonable furnished wth necessarie aparell and furniture, and some suche that maie carie some money wth them for their relife, or otherwise they maie perishe for want. Also I praie yow they maie have resonable allowance of powder to traine them while they are of this side the water, and on the sea in goinge; for God knowes what maie happen unto us, as it hath to o^r Devonshire men alredie, who have bought it deare, as I here saie. Their cottes I would wishe to be after the fashion as the coattes in this countrie are; the w^{ch} if yow will, I will send yow an example I thinke my man that was wth yow before had on his backe. I have brought betwine xxx^{tie} and xl^{tie} foot souldiers wth me from London, [who] are resonable furnished, whome, if it will please yow to allow some good allowance to furnishe them, you maie have half a dosen or eight of them to spare so manie of yo^r countrey; and prainge yow to have the best consideraçon yow maie for o^r coundith¹ money, seinge for that I have caried a great manie of the best from London. Thus, takinge my leave, I wishe unto you as to my self owne harte. In hast. From Penecoid, this xxviiith of September 1579. Yo^r loving and assured cosen,

WYLLYAM MORGAN.

¹ Conduct.

CLXVII.

To the r. wor. and my very lovinge frinde S^r
Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my right harty comendaçon. Wheras my very frinde, the berer herof, David Watkins, hath a sute dependinge befor M^r Sarjant Pophame,¹ who, as I understande, is yo^r kinsman, I am therefor to request yo^r favourable Ire in the behalfe of the berer hereof to M^r Pophame, to shewe him his leafull favoure acordinge to the equity of the case, and I shalbe ready to requit the same when occasion shall serve. Thus biddinge yow most hartely farewell. From Cardiffe, the xxvith of September 1579.

Yo^r verye loving frend,

W. LEYHTON.

¹ Afterwards Lord Chief Justice Popham.

CLXVIII.

To the r. wo^r and his singular good brother M^r
Edw: Stradling, Esquier.

S^r, Havinge receaved yo^r curteous and gentle
fres by my brother Edwarde Gage¹ (yo^r late
thankfull gheste), and owinge you withall my
continuall desire of yo^r well doings (in eche re-
specte), I longed not a litle to be thoroughlie
satisfied (concerninge you both) of the chiefest
earthlie care and onlie thinge wherby we have the
kindlie fruyçon of whatever ells it pleaseth God
to blesse us in this worlde withall, namly, “men-
tem sanam in corpore sano;” either of which
wantinge, what use have wee of oughte ells we
happ to have? And albeit (God bee thanked)
you are both highlie bounden unto him, amonge
his other manifolde blessinges, for havinge afford-
ed the one of you both theis assured enoughe,
and the other of you the firste of theis in perfec-
tion (which is noe small gifte), yet the second and
later of the twoe (the sowndnes and good estate)
upholdeth his fellowe. For that my said brother,

¹ Edward Gage married Margaret, daughter of John Shelley of Michelgrove, Sussex; and left a son, John, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Sir John Stradling, Knight and Baronet.

then, rather brought me into some, then rather could putt me out of anie doubt of my zealous and carefull conceyte, emboldened me forthwith to move you by thes lynes to enter into noe lesse consideraçon of this one pointe thoroughlie then to yo^r knowen wisdom and good foresighte doth appertaigne, or doth importe you both soe muche and manie waies to have; and that for moe causes then should well beseme me to sett downe to suche a one; whose sufficiencie for advisinge yo^r selfe (my good brother) as I both reverence and cannot but acknowledge, nevertheless yet withall at this time will I (by yo^r patience) somewhat touche what cometh in my hed, by the waye, to put you in mynde of hereabouts. Firste, sithens ye bothe (I well knowe it) alike hartelie joyne in dailie desire (and soe doe all yo^r frinds, and none but suche you maye be sure,) that God would (whereof none dispaireth) send betwene you dyvers yssues; (the same beinge a verie naturall inclinaçon and next neighbour to ymortalitie, to desire to lyve alwayes in our likes;) the stēmes springinge out of our owne roots, the shootes and slippes of our owne stocks, the bowes of o^r owne bodies, the braunches of our owne bows, the blossoms of oure owne braunches, and the fruyts of our owne trees, beinge unto us, above all other, moste

deere and acceptable, and to our taste and liking moste pleasinge and saverie. Agayne, sithens our children are to our younger yeeres a pastyme, to our midle age a solace, and to our elder a comfortable ayde and staye; withall, a present joye and ever a newe succeedinge hope; to o^r frynds a gladnes, to our foes a confusion, fynallie, the blessinge of God and the onlie beste ende of mariadge; — sithens, I saie, yo^r owne selves so well knowe, and soe muche desire, this one thinge: eftsons, my instant request unto you bothe is, that you would vouchesafe to take suche good occasion, upon this my poore sclender advice, as maye witnes in you (to the worlde) the same carefull disposiçon to remedye suche defaults or ympedyments as (anye of all our bodyes beinge neglectede or unrepayred) sensible thretneeth us, the hinderance and ympaire in suyng of those proper and naturall frames and courses of suche our bodilie instituçon as by greate presumpçon were necessarilie requisite to be better intended. Which albeit I shuld not doe well to affyrme of my good syster (whome as yet I never sawe), experiens yet of begettinge twoe boyes makes me to p^rsume to will you to remember it is not for naughte that the verye beste husbandmen are forced religiouslie to observe the beste and aptest mowlds, and soe (preciselie firste pre-

paringe the same) to take their timely season; before which husbandly regarde they would thinke it in vayne to expecte their bountefull encrease; for, as well herein as in oughte ells, it is to be beleved that God doth fewe thinges without his ordered wisdome and due meanes (yf we mighte comprehend them): which secundarie causes of his we then beste use and applie to his goode pleasure when either our owne skill showeth us by oure inserche, or otherwise appereth to our felinge and senses, that wee neede the same. Which if my sayd sister shoulde happelie doe, (feare [for?] I meane some impayre or impfection in her selfe latelie waxen by reason of change of ayre, or of complexion, weaknes of bodye, fayntenes of stomacke, ill digestion, or too greate habundance of theis badd humo^r, never lightlie but vicious,) yf all theis, anie of theis, or other quite besides anie of theis signes and tokens somewhiles shee happ to feele of, or feelinge litle suspecte more, or suspectinge somewhat be acknoven of nothings (for beste were it to take heede ere we feele); then, (my good brother,) for that whiche may casuallie growe to soone, and the repentance for it beinge growne certainly come to late, beare, I beseeke you, with this my vehement importunitie: thonly some whereof is, shortly, that you will, wth open

eyes awake, afore all intendinge herein, (some-what seriouslye while there resteth yet this greate hope,) unto the good and gracious opportunityes even God himself layeth open unto you, by the full fraughte and large supplye of anye wants allmoste you can reckon. The present doubte of more yminent perill then appeareth thunpleasant lyves they leade that lacke their healthes; the hartye grieffe it maye be hereafter (God willinge yssue) to feare the naturall courses of this latter ages shall scareslye afforde yo^r life to see them staye them selves; and the more and greater grief (which God sheilde) to dispayre almoste the havinge of anye succession of yo^r owne; and all this phapps but throughe the neglecting of former occasion or opportunitye, the lacke of some easye ordynarye consideraçons at the firste beginninge, or rather thorroughe to careles an accompte, or over moche securitye in wenyng it to be still better with us then it is in deede. Wherefore, that, in fyne, you maye aswell knowe for what cause I make especiall choyse of this tyme to urge you thus in, as partelie appeareth what maketh me thus earnest, I muste tell you (in conclusion) my brother aforesayde informyng me what himselfe somewhat doubted by his gesse; my selfe enoughe assured of bothe yo^r outwarde likelyhoodes (in appaurance) wth the

beste (unlesse some inwarde contrarye); consideringe also that this waye litle taryauce maye doe greate harme unawares; withall, not unmyndfull of the towardly season approching with the springe, thonly beste tyme (for suche a purpose) besides the quyetie calme thereof, hereto not unlikelie; my wife, againe, (owne syster unto yo^{rs}.) after a like maner, in a like case foreciblie dryven (as it were) to make hir firste a newe bodye before she could enjoye her old health (yea, her liefewellnye) or yet her younge sonne; and lastlie, my selfe bounden (without observaçon) to speake, where I love, as I thinke; and well knowinge I could not possiblie handle a matter more importinge you bothe everye waye then this, unto which principall respecte yo^r other worldlye causes are but shadowes and accessaries in deede, lent you but to be remembred by;— this poynts, amonge other, inforced me to forgett yo^r paynes in readinge over, as I have done my small travell in exceeding the juste measure of ordynarie tres upon this extra ordinarye occasion: which, if it (by their good happ) mighte some what move (more then they can pswade) you wiselie to wey the nedefull and farder circumstaunces requisite, in suche sorte as yo^r frendes heere maye perswade them selves, you have then assayed all possible and likely meanes

hereabouts to the fullfillinge of all the gladsome contentaçon good healthe and good children bringe on everye side. And theis tedious lynes, [read] you shall besydes the service of God in his churche, and yo^r countrie in the co^mon wealthe, have thoroughlie satisfied the longe and generall expectaçon of yo^r selfe, and those that love you ; and theis tedyous lynes shall likewise have full-filled the escope of the well affected mynde they were written wth. Therewhiles, allsoe, lett me cōjure you bothe, I praye you, by thinviolable bonde of unfeyned fryndshipp, neither to denie us this reason of oure requeste in cōminge hither bothe this next springe together unto this cittie, —the choise time and onelie place, without anye comparison, for all the phisicke helpes ; nor enjuriously to suffer youre selves to be thus lingeringlie defrauded (a longer while) by this protracted delayes of the blesfull benefitte and joyefull possession of youre owne welhopinge and good harts' desires ; w^{ch} I praye God to send you shortelie (by theis meanes or otherwise), to his honor, yo^r comforts, and our wishes. From my chamber in the Inner Temple, the thirde of Marche 1572.

Yo^r loving brother assured to cōmand,

EDM. SANDER.¹

¹ Edmund Saunder, son and heir of Sir Thomas Saunder, Knight,

CLXIX.

To the r. wor. Sr Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

Sr, As I have ben heretofor bolde to crave yo^r favour and paines about the exãiãcon of witnesses to be p^{duced} on the behalfe of Jenkin in a cause of contraversy betwine him and me dependinge in the Chauncery, so do I nowe instantly pray yow that you will vouchsaf recevinge the Queenes Ma^{tes} comission, w^{ch} shalbe delivered unto yow by this berer for that purpose, to be at the exãiãcon of suche wittnesses as the same Jenkin shall cause to be brought before you and othere the comissioners, and to appoint some time for yo^r and their meetinge together, so as the same comission, and the exãiãcon thereupon taken, may be returned in due form and order. On my pte ther are no witnesses at all to be exãined ; all that be are on his pte to be p^{duced} : for the indiffreny of w^{ch} exãiãcon my desir is, y^t yt may please yow to be at it, who I am sure will se that al thinges therein shalbe justly and rightly doñ ; for the w^{ch} I shall accompt my self greatly bounde to you, and be readie at yo^r comaundement in all y^t I

by Alice, daughter of Sir Edmund Walsingham of Charlwood, Surrey, married Philippa, daughter of Sir John Gage, and sister of Agnes the wife of Sir E. Stradling.

may. And so, with my dewe comendaçons unto yow, I take my leve. From London, the xxth of February 1578.

Yo^{rs} assuredlye to cōmaunde,

JOHN KEMPE.¹

CLXX.

To the right worshipfull my very loving frend
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

GOOD S^r Edwarde Stradling, Whereas yt hath pleased you heretofore to shoue unto my brother John Kemp soe muche curtesye and frendshippe in his sute against Edmunde Jenkyn in Walles for suche cattell as are dewe to him in the right of my Ladye Harbarde his late wife, as sewerly he remayneth greatly yo^r debter for the same; and, in his behalfe, accompt my selfe soe muche beholdinge to you as, yf yt lye in me any waye to gratifye yo^r curtesye, you shall find me as ready as any frend you have. In the meane tyme, for as muche as he is to call the same Jenkyn by pces before my L: Chaunceller this next tearme for the same matter, yf yt will please you to geve this bearer, my brother's man, yo^r good direction, and the assistaunce of some secrete trustie ser-

¹ Brother to Anthony and Thomas Kempe.

vaunt of yours to goe wth him and ayde him in the executing of the same pces to effecte, you shall bynde me whyle I lyve to requyte yo^r curtesye in any thinge I maye. And soe, wth my very hartly comendaçons, as unacquaynted, for this tyme I take my leave. O Lantighe, the laste of September 1580.

Yo^r very loving frend,

THOMAS KEMPE.¹

CLXXI.

To the right wor^{ll} my very good brother S^r
Edward Stradling, Knight.

My good brother, Having suche a convenient messenger, I could not but salute you and my good syster wth these few lynes. My wife and I were in hope to have seane yow in these ptes or this tyme. I wilbe right glad to be yo^r host whensoever you will take occasion to cum: there be a great many of yo^r frinds that would be glad also to see yow. I am sorye the distaunce of o^r dwelling ys soe farr a sunder as we can meete noe oftener. The good ould lady o^r mother in lawe hath her health resonably well, thanks be unto

¹ Elder brother of Anthony Kempe.

God; she lyeth at a litle howse called Awston,¹ where I harde from her wthin this two dayes. My brother John Gage lyeth at London, and there myndeth to contynew for a tyme. Thus, my good brother, wth most hartly comendaçon from my wife and me to yo^r selfe and to my good syster, I wishe unto yow both yo^r hartes desyre. Slyndon,² the xxixth of June.

Yo^r assured loving brother,
ANTHONYE KEMPE.³

CLXXII.

To the right wo^r my very good brother S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

GOOD brother, As I have byne bould to trouble you for a matter touchinge a brother of myne, soe nowe againe, being earnestly required by him, I am to desyre you to shewe him your further favour. Ther is a cōmission directed owt for the heeringe of the matter in contraversye betweene my brother and the other partye, and my brother was soe bould to nominate you wth an other to be comissioners on his behalf; wherein,

¹ Alsiston near Pevensey, Sussex.

² Near Arundel, Sussex.

³ Anthony Kempe married Margaret, daughter of Sir Edward Gage, Nov. 19, 1569.—Gage's Hengrave, p. 238.

althoughe he ys over bould to trouble you soe muche, yet he hopethe you wilbe content to take some paynes, the rather at my requeste, wherby he maye come by his right: and, soe doing, you shall nott only bynde him to doe you anye pleasure or service he can, but I wilbe allso readye to requyte yt anye waye I can. I have no newes worth the sending. My brother John Gage remayneth sorrowefull for the death of my syster his wyfe: my ladye o^r mother in law hath not bene well this three monethes, but I hope in noe daungerous disease. The rest of yo^r frynds in thes partyes be well. We were in hope to have seane you and my syster the last sōmer. I praye you determyne a jorneye hether the next yere, and soe you shall make a greate manye here glad of your good companye. Thus, wth moste hartye comendaçõs from my wife and me to your selfe and to the good ladye our syster, I comitt you to the tuiçõn of Almightye God.

Yo^r assured loving brother to cōmaund,

ANTHONY KEMPE.

CLXXIII.

To the right woꝛ and her loving sonne in lawe S^r
Edward Stradling, Knight.

Good sonne Stradling, Wth my harty comendaçons unto you and my daughter, being very glad to understand by yo^r letter sent by M^r Stuple of your good healthes, the w^{ch} I beseeche our Lord longe continew. I am moved by this bearer my naybour, one Constances Matheman, who is to request yo^r lawfull favo^r for a crayer¹ of xiiii or xv tonnes, ner ther abouttes, w^{ch} sayd crayer ys arived in your partes neere aboute you; of the w^{ch} one John Mardes of Pemsey² ys owner, who hath made this berer his lawfull auturney; the rather by yo^r good helpe to recover the sayd crayer, wth mast, anccar, cabell, and saylles therunto belonging; of the w^{ch} crayer was master Thomas Holton, and John Arye and one Collene maryners, w^{ch} maryners were of thes partyes, and, as they sayed, had yo^r pasporte and yo^r letter to me, w^{ch} I receavid: wherfor, good sonne, the rather at my request, shoue yo^r lawfull favo^r in this behalf to this bearer, who is altogether unacquainted in those pties. And thus, wth Godes blessing and myne to you bothe,

¹ A small ship.

² Pevensy, Sussex.

I comytt you to the tuic̃con of the Holy Trinitye.
Written from my house att Alsyton, this vith of
September anno 1574.

Yo^r loving mother,
ELYZABETHE GAGE.¹

CLXXIV.

To the r. wo^r my verie lovinge brother S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knight, yeve these.

ALTHOUGH, my good brother, the distance of
place betwine us is suche as we maie dout how
our lres maie come to eche other safely, yet cane
I not omitt still to writte, as I have donne;
although, by me not heringe from yow againe, I
have cause to fere the safe arryvall of my letters
wth you. But, brother, where such assured
knowledge is had of ether our goodwilles and
affections to other as is I trust betwine us,
writtinge often or sildome, or the myscaringe of
letters, wayeth littell; but the chefe sheowe of that
naturall and brotherlie affection that ought to be
betwine us shall for my parte consist in my
redines to pleasure yow by all the meanes I maie
when yow need to use me (makeinge no difference,
I assure yow faithfully, betwine yow and the rest

¹ Mother of Lady Stradling.

that have matched wth my sisters then betwine my owne naturall brothers). And if I offend God in vantinge of anny worldlie thinge, I will not denie it is in the hapie matchinge of my sisters; wherof I confesse I joye more then in any worldlie thinge. And as God hath afforded me that comfort, so am I at this present to advertise yow of the like good fortune to yow and yo^r howse, a happie match beinge concluded betwine yo^r syster M^{rs} Wenchliane Stradlinge and a most deere frinde of mine, M^r Robert Gyles, a gentellan I suppose to yow right well knowen, and one of whose rare worthines I have so good experience as that howse wherin he matchethe maie justly thincke they have gayned no smale matter in alliinge thers unto suche one, whose singular wisdome and great vertue, wth his sufficiencie to live wth no smale worldlie credite and estimation, maie alone sufficientlie pcure yo^r condysent and goodwill; w^{ch}, notwthstandinge, in his behalfe I doe most hartelie require, wth suche yo^r brotherlie and favorable consideraçon of them as the case and place they are p^sentlie in requirith; wherby youe shall not onlie give greate comffort to them, but also plesse God most highlie in bestowinge some parte of the aboundance that he hathe given yow to so good, naturall, and charitable an end. Wherfore, my good brother, as this is the firste

requeste ever made unto you, so doe I most hartelie require yow (the rather for my sake) to open yo^r purse awide to the present awgmentta-
 çon of yo^r sister's portion; w^{ch} now maie better pleasure them (there case considered) then her-
 after, paradventue^r, when the time and world shall better favoure them, and they then redie wth all sufficiencye to aunswer yo^r brotherlie frend-
 ship and love againe; w^{ch} surelie bothe yow and yo^r howse maie justlie hope of att the handes of so worthy and good a man, of whose comfort and frendship time shall better manifest to yow the frute therof then this present time can well suffer him to shewe or declare. And so, re-
 comending them bothe to your good favour and brotherlie consideraçon, acknowleginge what soe^v yow shewe to them a matter gratefull to my selfe, I comitte you to the custodie of the blessed Trinite. From Liege, the xxiith of October.

Yo^r moste lovinge brother
 and assured frinde,

JOHN GAGE.

CLXXV.

To the right wor^{ll} my very good cosen S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull and my very good cosen,
As I am inforced (even at this instant) sondring
wayes to moove, and, necessitie dringing me to
proove my frendes, soe am I bowlde amongst
manye our well willers to select and choose you,
as one whose frendshipp I assure my selfe of soe
farr foorth as the facte shall not be dangerous to
be done by you to yo^r frende, nor anye dispayre
of yo^r frende to requite the same agayne. So it is,
M^r C: his lyvinge stondinge nowe in harde termes,
and we havinge receavid the more parte of the
comodytee and p^rfytt thereof, as right and reason
woulde, nowe in thende our frendes maye (by
rigor of lawe) be inforced to repaye that w^{ch} is
alreadye payd unto us; therefore, to p^rvent and
helpe this, hyt maye please you at this my request
(yf you fynde yo^r selfe meete for yt) to affoord
me one hundred powndes, or soe muche as conve-
niently you can spare, uppon the bonnde of M^r
C: and my brother John Gage, to be repayd to
you agayne by a daye, the perfoormaunce wherof
I trust you shall have noe cause to doubte: in
doinge of w^{ch} as you shaft gretly pleasure M^r C:

presently, soe shall you bynde him to requitt the same wth the leeke or more to you as tyme, place, and occasion maye serve hereafter. And as the forbearinge therof for a tyme, I hoppe, shall nott muche hinder you ; soe, yf you shoulde altogether lose yt, w^{ch} God forbyd, yt coolde not quite undoe you : but I trust ther shallbe suche meane made as by God his helpe none of both shall haꝑen. Thus, requiringe yo^r p̄sent aunswere and resoluçon therin, wyth my very hartly comendaçons unto yo^r selfe and my good cosyn yo^r wife, I end ; comittinge you to the custodye of our Lorde. From London, this vith of Februarye 1573.

Yo^r verye loving cosen
and assured frend,

KATHERIN C.¹

¹ The Editor has not been able to ascertain the name of the writer. She speaks of her "brother John Gage ;" but it appears that he had no paternal or maternal sister of the name of Katherine, so that the lady in question must have stood in that relation to him by marriage. His second wife was a Copley, of Gatton in Surrey Was the writer wife of a Copley ?

CLXXVI.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, After my very hartly comendaçons, with the like thankes for all yo^r curtesyes and gentlnes. And whearas in times past I have felte your liberality for vensone, the same moveth and rather boldeneth me at this p^sent to be a cravere for one bucke, yf the same may be spared ; for my neighbours and frindes here aboutes doth looke to taste some of the wilde beste with me before my departure, w^{ch} may be shortly. I am therefor to pray yo^r gentlnes to take ordere for me against Twisday next. And, doinge my comendaçons to my verie good ladie, I comitt you both to the tuition of the Almighty, who sende you both youre hartes desire. From S^t Fagan's, the viiith of September 1580.

Yo^r owne moste assured, whē he can,

JO. GYBBON.¹

¹ John Gybbon, Doctor of Laws, of St. Fagan's Castle near Cardiff, in the commission of the peace for Glamorganshire, 1565, married Mary, fifth daughter of Matthew Herbert, Esq. by Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight. He was one of the executors to the will of Sir Thomas Stradling, Knight.

CLXXVII.

To the r. wor. his lovinge frinde S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my right harty comendaçons. I finde my self greatly indepted to my frinde M^r Roßtes, your hoste and myne, for my good hostage here. I ca'nott tell howe to recompence him but by your meanes. I pray you to bestowe on him for my sake a boocke¹ of this season, to make him and his frindes merey withall; you or yo^r frinde shall use me in a farre greater matter. Thus, not doubtinge herof, I comitt you to Godes blessed tuition, with my harty comendaçons to my ladie yo^r wieffe, as unaqueiented. Cardiffe, this iiiiith of August 1580.

Yo^r assured frind,
H. TOUNESHEND.²

¹ Buck.

² One of the counsel admitted to plead in the Marches Court.—
Sydney Papers, vol. i. p. 145.

CLXXVIII.

To the r. worship^{ll} my verie lovinge frinde S^r
Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my harty comendaçons. Where co-
mission was awarded, at the sute of one Morgan
David, toutchinge the takinge a cowe of M^r
Kemes¹ of Keven Mably; and, upon some ex-
cepçon taken by the def^r to the comissionere, a
counter maunde was graunted, and a newe comi-
sion of the same efect directed to you: wherin
albeit I do p̄sume your proceedinge wilbe such
as noe party shall have juste cause to be greeved
therwith, yet, for that I here the matter is borne by
gen^ẽ of good accompte, I hartely pray you to
have speciall care to foresee that revenge of
preeve malice be not sought to p̄judice the
poore man under shadowe of her Ma^{tes} service;
w^{ch}, as I trust, neither p^rtie shall have occasione
to suspecte. So I hartely byd yow well to fare.
Ludlowe, 9 Decembris 1580.

Yo^r verie lovinge frind,

H. TOUNESHEND.

¹ Edward Kemeys, Esq. of Cefn Mably, near Cardiff, now the
property of his descendant Charles Kemeys Kemeys Tynte, Esq.

CLXXIX.

To the r. wor. his verie lovinge frinde S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my very hartie comendaçons. Wheareas there is matter of contra^vsy at this time, and hath hanged longe in sute in this court, betwne certaine distressed marchantes of Bristoll, and some of yo^r countreyemen and neighbors of that county of Glamorgan, touthinge some wronge and injury yo^r said countreyemen shoulde offre unto them in their voiage by sea, as they allege; w^{ch} said matter is now put in comission out of this house to M^r John Crowthere of this towne of Ludlowe, and others, for thendinge therof: I am hartely therfor to desir you not only to geve countenanç unto the said comissioners my neighbors and frindes, and that they shall receive no discourtesy in that countrey att eny manes hande,—as I wilbe carefull to se that no frinde of yours comended by yo^r tre shall take discourtesy at any manes handes in this countrey,—but also to helpe and further a good end therein; for the w^{ch} you shall finde me very thankefull unto you, and ready to requite yt to any of your frindes; and soe leve it to your good consideraçon.

I bid yow hartely farewell. From my chamber
at Ludlow Castill, 22 Dec̃ 1585.

Yoꝝ very assured loving frend,

H. TOUNESHEND.

CLXXX.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^l, My dutie in humble manere remembred. Althoughe I am uterly unknowne unto your worship, yeat, notwithstandinge, such force necessity carieth with it, that it maketh men, otherwise by naturall inclinaçon indued with modestie and shamfastnes, to seeme impudent: and doubtles two causes have constrayned me to direct these rude and simple carecters or lines unto you; videlicet, aegestas, amonge scholors durissimum telum; tristeque et immutabile fatum, not farr discrepant from the same. But for as much as I am better able in writtinge to expresse, then in barbarous wordes to p^rnounce, my want, penury, and windreeven estate; deeply consideringe that you [are], like a verteous Mæcenas, with most bountifull respectes to behold as well those whom sinistere fortune hath dejected and cast downe, as also such as have byn trained and brought up in good letters, I am imbouldened

to open my neade unto you: and, although it be layede downe in sacred writt that "Beatius est dare quam accipere," yeat my confidence is you will have charitable consideraçon of the premisses; as knoweth the Almighty, who alwaies preserve yow. Raptim, xviii^o die mensis Octobris 1580.

Yo^r w. moste bownden,
WYLLYAM HUETT, Clerke.

CLXXXI.

To the righte worshipfull my loving cosen S^r
Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, yeve these.

RIGHTE worshipfull, my very good cossen, Havinge receavid your frendly and curteous tres by one George Popham, whoe, as by yo^r sayd tres I understande, had informed you that my shippe of late beinge at Swansey, where the sayd George wolde (had not yow and S^r William Herbert, my very good fryndes, used meane to the contrarye,) have stayed my sayd shippe, supposinge him selfe to have byne thereof disposessed by indirect and unlawfull meanes: wheruppon I thoughte yt good to signifye unto yow that the same shippe was taken for comyttinge spoyle on the seas; and soe, upon good prove and manye-

feste testimonye thereof, confiscated into her Ma^{tes} handes; and by direction from my L: Thresero^r, under her Highnes, comytted to my custodye and use, renderinge accompte for the same: all w^{ch} notwthstandinge, for that hyt hathe pleased yow in frendshippe to shewe me yo^r courtesye, and to wrytte in the favo^r and behalf of the sayde Popham, I will (yf he can p̄cure my L: Thresero^r is l̄res for her deliverye) not only use my best furtheraunce thereunto, but also deale therin in suche sorte as yow shall fynde yo^r requeste to be accomplished, and he him selfe fully satisfied. Soe, wth my very hartly comendac̄ons, doe comytt yow to the tuyçon of the Highest; restinge yo^{rs} in all that I may. From Talverne,¹ the xviiith of Julye, anno 1581.

Yo^r lovinge cosen and
assewred frende,

JOHN ARRUNDELL.²

¹ Near Truro in Cornwall, praised by Carew for its "pleasant prospect, large scope, and other housekeeping commodities."

² Sir John Arundell of Talverne, a junior branch of the Arundells of Lanhearne, from whom Sir Edward Stradling was descended through his grandmother Elizabeth Arundell, wife of his grandfather Sir E. Stradling.

CLXXXII.

To the righte worshipfull and my very good frend
S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

Wth my verie hartye comendaçons unto you.
Wheras this bearer, John Hawkes, hathe request-
ed me to signifye unto you my opynion of him as
touchinge his honestye and good workemanshipp ;
truly he ys taken in this countrie of Sussex to
be a very good workeman, and I have also
founde the same in him, and one that will doe
his bargayne accordinge to his agreement, soe as
pte of his mony be deteyned from him till his
worke be finished. So, wth my hartye comenda-
çons to my good ladye youre wyffe, I comytt you
to God. London, theis xxth of Marche 1582.

Yo^r verie lovinge cosen and frind,

THOMAS SHERLEY.¹

¹ Sir Thomas Shirley of Wistenton, Sussex, Knight, born May 9, 1549; married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Kempe, Knight: he died in October 1612. His eldest son, Thomas, was knighted in 1589. He had two other sons, Sir Anthony and Sir Robert, the celebrated traveller.—Nichols' Leicestershire, vol. iii. p. 721. Fuller, in his Worthies, speaks of the three brothers in the highest terms of praise. The elder Sir Thomas was probably the writer of this letter.

CLXXXIII.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, After my very hartly comendaçons. Understandinge that your sheere doth wante a convenient gaole to serve the shieriffe alwayes as occation shall requir, I am mynded to cause the Q. Ma^{tie} to be moved to graunt the keepinge therof to my servant David Morgā, berer hereof, by patent for term of his life, to thende such a gaole may be provided as may serve alwayes for the purpose: neverthelesse, beinge loth to attempte the same to your mislikinge, and others the justices of peace of that countrey, I have thought good to impt the same unto yow and them befor hande, and withall to pray you most hartely, the rather for my sake, to geve yo^r assent therto, like as M^r Gerrarde¹ yo^r justicer hath donn. The gaioler shall serve no man but the shieriffe for the yeare; and his patent shalbe condiçonally so as he doth finde sufficient suertyes to save the shrieffe harmlesse, whearby all inconveniences that might eles ensue shalbe p^rvided for:

¹ Churchyard, in his Worthines of Wales, A.D. 1587, notices in the chapel of Ludlow Castle the armorial bearings of Sir William Gerrard, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and Justice of the three shires in South Wales.

and therfor I pray you eftsones do me this pleasur, and comaunde me duringe life. Whearewith I leave yow to the tuition of thalmighty. From tharches in London, this xviiith of July 1578.

Yo^r owne assured in his power,

DA. LEWES.¹

CLXXXIV.

To the right wor^{ll} my very loving cosen S^r Edward Stradling Knight.

AFTER my very hartly comendaçons unto you. Wheras the Queenes Ma^{tie}, of her gracious favour, hath heretofore graunted a patent of the gayolershipp of that countye to my kinseman Davyd Morgan, w^{ch} he hath ever sence enjoyed: for that he is a younger brother, and hath noe other way of livinge, I have thought good to praye you most hartely that he maye, wth yo^r favo^r and lykinge, enjoye the same by him selfe or his deputye wthout troble; and you shall have sufficyent suertyes to save you harmeles, according as her Ma^{tes} sayd graunte doth purporte; and

¹ Dr. David Lewis, Judge of the Admiralty Court, Principal of Jesus Coll. Oxford, a master in Chancery, &c.; died April 27, 1584, and was buried in Abergaveany church, where there is a monument to his memory.—Coxe's Monmouthshire, p. 192.

what favo^r you shall shewe him I wilbe readye to requytte. And soe, trustinge that he shall need noe other helpe herein besyd my request, I byd you hartely well to fare. From the Courte at Windeso^r, the xiith of December 1582.

Yo^r assured loving cosen,

BLANCHE PARY.¹

CLXXXV.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradling, Knighte.

UNDERSTANDINGE that one Christian, the wiffe of Awen² Lyddon, of the parishe of Lantwitte, dwelleth not farr from you, whoe hath the graunte of a litle tenemente of myne in reversion after the deceasse of one of her systers (whoe is but twoe yeeres elder then her selfe), the which lease by lawe I maye easelye avoyde; and for that I

¹ Blanch Parry, daughter of Henry Parry of New Court, Herefordshire, was chief gentlewoman of the Privy Chamber to Queen Elizabeth, and keeper of the Queen's jewels: she died Feb. 12, 1589-90, aged 82. A monument is erected to her memory in Backton church, Herefordshire: vide *Gentl. Mag.* vol. lxxv. part i. pp. 376, 378. The probate of her will bears date March 5, 1589. She gives diamond rings to the Queen, Lord Burghley, and the Lord Chamberlain, and sundry pecuniary legacies. Jones, in his *History of Brecknockshire*, vol. ii. p. 556, states that she possessed landed property in that county. Her grandfather, Miles ap Harry, married a daughter of Sir Harry Stradling, the ancestor of Sir Edward Stradling.

² Evan.

mynde to bestowe it some other waie, consideringe what neede maye happen unto her here after, I mynde to geve her iiiii^{li} or v^{li}, upon condiçon that she will make me a lawfull discleame of her title and interest, which is more then ever she shall gett yf she refuse. Prayinge you to send for the sayd Awen Lyddon and his wiffe, and to take some order herein; whereupon you shall fynde me willinge to dooe you the like pleasure yf occasion serve. For quietnes sake I will abyde suche order as you shall thinke good, so that hit excede not the sōme of v^{li}. xiii^s. iiiii^d. Thus, leavinge to troble yow, with my hartye comendaçons I comitte you to thallmightye. From Heanton,¹ the xvith of Februarye 1581.

Yo^r verye lovinge frind,

ARTHUR BASSET.²

I praye you advertise me by this bearer what the partye will dooe heerein. And I truste you shall perswade youre neighbours, considering it is for their owne benefitt.

¹ Devonshire.

² Sir Arthur Bassett, son of John Basset, Esq. of UMBERLEIGH and HEANTON, married Elinora daughter of Sir John Chichester of RALEGH, KNT. He accompanied the Earl of Leicester into Holland with the English auxiliary force in 1585. He died of the gaol sickness 1586.

CLXXXVI.

To the right wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knighte.

GOOD S^r Edwarde, As I am to geve you hartly thanks for yo^r paynes latelie in causinge one Evan Lyddon, a neighbo^r of yo^{rs}, and his wiffe, to yeelde unto a composition concerninge the surrender to be made of a certeine mille and a cote, beinge my lande, which the said Lyddon's wiffe standes in possibillitye to enjoye after the decesse of one George Denys, her father, soe I am nowe allsoe to desire you to geve yo^r beste furtheraunce that the same surrendo^r maye be made perfect; for w^{ch} purpose the berer hereof hath nowe taken this jorneye, and hath broughte wth him a draughte of the same in paper, to thende you shoulde firste puse yt for the parties, and then to cause the same to be engrossed and sealid, together wth an obligaçon for performaunce of that which therin ys conteyned. And what ther is to be done on the contrarye partie in the behalf of yo^r neighoure and his wife, he, the berer hereof, is in like maner readye to the accomplishment thereof accordinge to the former agreemēt, whose abilitye and credyte ys suche as neyther they nor anye for them neede to stande doughtfull of; and because they shall not make anie scrupull con-

serninge this matter, as by surmysinge that the sayd George Denys her father should bee deade, I doe assure you upon my creadyte that he att the writtinge hereof was lyvinge and in verie perfecte healthe, and by all possibillitye likelye of a longe time soe to contynewe. And thus, beinge over bolde to troble you, (yet noe more then yow shall have mee readye to pleasure you in a greater matter,) doe, with my hartye comendaçons, comytte you to the Allmightye. From Heanton, the xth of Aprill 1581.

Yo^r verye lovinge frende,

ARTHUR BASSET.

CLXXXVII.

To the right worshipfull my very good frend S^r
Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

Good S^r Edwarde, I doe yelde yow my hartye thanks for your greate curtesye and entertainement at my late beinge at S^t Denys;¹ w^{ch} to requite I will not omytte soe farre fourthe as at any tyme yow may have occasion to use me. S^r, this bearer, a ten^{ant} of myne, who not longe since was occasioned to resorte unto yow for yo^r frendly assistaunce in dealing for him wth a neighbour of yo^{rs}

¹ St. Donat's.

of Lantwithe, called Evan Lyddon,¹ ys nowe in like sorte for his further assuraunce to have the wyffe of the sayd Lyddon to confesse a fyne, w^{ch} to doe her husbande standeth bounde. I am hartely to desyre you to pcure her to accomplishe the same; the parties will defraye the chardge of her repayre into this countrye. And therefore the sooner the same ys dōne the better, because wee have nowe a judge in o^r countrye, before whom the fyne may be acknowledged, w^{ch} were not good to have detracted. I seme bolde wth yow in these triffls, and am enforced by other occasions to be breefter then els I wolde, w^{ch} I pray you beare wth. And soe, my hartly commendaçons to yo^r self, and my good la: yo^r wyfe, doe ende. Barnestable, the iiiiith of September 1582.

Yo^r very assured frend,

ARTHUR BASSETT.

CLXXXVIII.

To the right worshipfull my very good frend S^r
 Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight, wth speed.

Good Sir Edwarde Stradlinge, I doe alwaies thanke yow for yo^r greate curtesyes, wth no lesse

¹ Vide pedigree of Luddyn, alias Lyddon, of Llantwit.—Golden Grove MS. Pedigrees. vol. ii. p. 70. Mention is made of Thomas Luddyn, 16 Hen. VI; John Lyddon 1 Hen. VII; and Edward Lyddon, great grandson of J. L.

to yo^r good la. I am hereby to requeste you to sende unto me, at any of my houses in Devoñ, yo^r servaunte, Thomas Richardes, by the last daye of this instante moneth; and to cause him to bringe wth him bothe his instrumentes, aswell that w^{ch} ys stringed wth wyar stringes, as his harpe, bothe those that he had when he was laste in Devon. I have geven some comendaçons of the man, and his instrument wth wyars, unto sondry of my good frinds, namely, to my cosen S^r Phellipp Sydney, whoe dothe expecte to have yo^r man at Salsbury before the viith of Marche next, where there will be an honorable assemblye and receyte of many gentlemen of good calling. So, hoping yow will herein accomlishe my request, doe most hartely comende yow to Godes good keepinge. From London, the vith of Februarye 1583.

Yo^r very loving frend,

ARTHUR BASSETT.

CLXXXIX.

To the right worshipfull my very good frend S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight, Highe Sherife of y^e county of Glamorgan.

Good Sir Edwarde, I have bene earnestly desyred by a good neighbour of myne of the towne

of Barnestable, one M^{rs} Witchalse, to writte unto you in her favoure. She dothe enforme me that there are certaine p^{ersons} w^{ithin} yo^r sheriefweeke that have bene indepted unto her of dyvers s^{omes} of monye a long tyme, and for the attayning therefore hath bene driven to greate charge and many delays before this used touchinge the execution of processe against them. She nowe seameth in that respecte to depende upon yo^r uppright and favorable dealing; and my selfe likewise doe hartely pray yow w^{ith} indifferencye to further those her sutes soe muche as to yow may appertaine therein to doe. There is one M^r Morgan, who ys her attorney, appointed to attend yow to manifest those her causes, and to delyver processe for the partyes according to order. So, restinge alwayes readye to pleasure anye frynde of yo^{rs} here in that I maye, w^{ith} my hartly comendaçons to yow and yo^r good la: doe comytt yow both to God. Heaunton, the second of Julye 1583.

Yo^r very assured frend,

ARTHUR BASSETT.

CXC.

To the right worshipfull my very good frend S^r
 Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

GOOD Sir Edward Stradlinge, This bearer, a servaunte to the right ho: the Erle of Bathe,¹ having some speciall suite unto yow, for the furtheraunce whereof he hath not only his lorde and master's fre, but also hath requested me to writte unto yow in his favoure; and for that I understande the cause to be good and lawfull, the rather am I willinge to writte unto yow in his behalf, desyring yow to frynd him therin soe muche as conveniently yow maye. Yow may assure yo^r selfe that my Lo: of Bath wilbe noe lesse thankfull for the same then yo^r fryndly dealinge shall deserve; and my selfe, for this and many other yo^r curtesyes, wilbe redye to requite yow with any thinge I canne doe. Soe, comending the partye and his busines to yo^r favourable assistaunce, doe most hartely take my leave of yow with many salutaçons. From Heaunton, the xiith of September 1583.

Yo^r very loving and assured frend,

ARTHUR BASSETT.

¹ William Bouchier, Earl of Bath, succeeded to the title in 1560. He died in 1623.

CXCI.

To the right wor. S^r Edward Stradling, Knighte.

AFTER my most hartie comendaçons unto you, good S^r Edwarde. And understanding by my priste, Hawkinges, that there is some contraversie betwixt his father, Robert Hawkinges, and his ounce, Hughe Hawkinges, for a small matter touchinge a cockeshutt ;¹ my request is unto you that yf may please you, the rather at my request, to take soe muche paynes as to call them both before you, and uppon heering of the cause to ende yt yf you maye. I fynde, by the reporte made unto me, that one M^r Button² may be a furtherer to their quietnes, wth whome it may please you to use yo^r discretion for hyt, (yf yt shall soe require,) and I shalbe readye to pleasure any frinde of yo^{rs} yf it lye in me. And thus, wishing you and youres as my selfe, doe cease to trouble you. From my bade howse at Cloforde,³ this xxviith of November 1583.

Yo^r very loving cosen and assured frind,

JOHN HORNER.⁴

¹ A fowling net.

² The family of Button was seated at Worlton, near Cardiff, Glamorganshire. Sir Thomas Button, one of the early discoverers in Hudson's Bay, &c. in 1611, was an eminent member of it.

³ Near Frome, Somersetshire.

⁴ Sir John Horner, Knight, Sheriff for Somersetshire anno 6 & 15 Eliz. ; died 24th Sept. 29 Eliz.

CXCII.

To the right woꝛ my very loving frind S^r Edwarde
Stradling, Knight, Sheryf of the countie of
Glamorgan.

MY right harty comendaçõs unto you remem-
bred. Whereas a frind of myne, one M^{res} Blunte,
hath an execution to be served upon one M^r
Kerne, of the county of Glamorgan, wherin you
are Sheryffe; I am therefore hartely to desyre
you, in the sayd M^{res} Blunte's behalf, to see or
cause the sayd processe to be executed according
to lawe; and in soe doing I shall thinke my selfe
pleasured at yo^r handes, and will be readye to
further any frend of yo^{rs} as occasion shall serve,
at yo^r like lawfull request whensoever. And soe,
wishing yow most hartely well to fare, I comytt
you to God. From Salopp, the xxviiith of this
present June 1583.

Yo^r olde acquayntance and frind,

G. BROMLEY.¹

¹ Sir George Bromley, Knight, "Justice of the three shieres in
Wales." His armorial bearings ornamented the chapel in Ludlow
Castle.—Churchyard's "Worthines of Wales," edit. 1776, p. 81.
The family was seated near the Hundred House, by Abberley Hill,
on the west of Worcestershire.

CXCIH.

To the right worshipfull his very loving frend,
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

AFTER my very hartly comendaçons. Whereas I dyd wrytt unto you my ðre from Shrewsburie in June laste for your furtheraunce in an execuçon against M^r Kerne, at the suite of my very frinde, one M^{res} Anne Blounte,¹ my Ladye Pawlettes² syster; I am therefore to desyre yow by yo^r ðre to advertyse me wth convenient speade to Beawdley what you have done therin, and, yf yow have not executed the same, the cause wherefore the same was not executed, that I may advertyse her therof; for that M^r Waringes his servaunte, as I am enformed, did deliver my sayede ðre to yo^r owne hands. And thus, wishing to youe as to my vearly frende, doe in haste comytt you to God. From Beawdley, the xxiith of October.

Yo^r verye loving frind,

GEORGE BROMLEY.

¹ Her monument in Clerkenwell church is noticed in Stowe's Survey, edit. 1618, p. 81.

² Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Blount, Esq. of Blount Hall in Staffordshire, married in 1559 Sir Hugh Poulett, Knight, of Hinton St. George, Somersetshire.—Vide Collins' Peerage, by Brydges, vol. iv. p. 5.

CXCIV.

To the right woꝛ my very good frend S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

MY humble and hartye comendaçons remem-
bred. That suche necessitye, s^r, at this p̄sent
hath made me soe bould to trouble you, I hope
you will the rather accepte yt of ould acquaint-
aunce, and geve leave to p̄sume no lesse then I
trust I maye of yo^r speciall good favoure and
frindshipp towards me; wherin if you shall vouch-
safe me the same, I shall thinke my self most
bonden unto you. I have sent downe unto yo^r
country my very frynds for the better executione
of a statute upon M^r Karne his bodye and lands
in Glamorgan shier, whose dealinge is soe harde
and uncharytable wth me, in wthholdinge my
poore livinge and staye, that he inforceth me to
doe noe less, to recover by lawe and force that
w^{ch} I oughte to have otherwyse pformed, as he
knoweth, as unto me. Howebeyt, for my desartt
heretofore towards him (to tell you the trewth),
he needeth litle to use me soe, havinge geven him
noe suche cause, but rather wth as much favour
as I coulde to have made him my better frynde
in affoording my righte, wherin I appeale to the
testimognie of his owne conscience: but syth

nowe he is foregetfull therof, as allso soe carelesse of his owne securitye, my poore estate can suffer me to forbear noe longer ; and therefore I am dryven to use my uttermoste remedye by this course to extend both his bodye and landes. And for that I have especyally assurede unto me his manor of Landoughe,¹ alias Langdoughe, and S^t Marye Church, I am humbly to desyre yow for the extent thereof to contin^ance this bearer, M^r Warnings, the doer for me ; beseeching yt of yo^r good charitye for my greate necessitye, and yo^r poore frende that will alwayes be readye to my small power to requite yo^r curtesye, as knoweth the Allmightye, to whose blessed keeping I comytt yow. Clarckenwell, this

Yo^r poore frend to comaunde,

ANNE BLOUNTE.

¹ The manors remained in the possession of the Carnes till the marriage of Martha Carne with Sir Edward Mansel, Bart. of Margam, in the reign of Charles II. Martha, and her sister Blanch, were co-heirs of Edward Carne of Eweny, great grandson of Thomas Carne.

CXCv.

To the right wor^{ll} my very good frynd S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

Good S^r Edward Stradling, Yo^r charitable and
soe worshipfullye using me in the executioⁿ of her
Ma^{tes} extent, w^{ch} I was soe boulded to send unto
you as my very good frynd, for some recovery
of my poore living wth M^r Karne, maketh me
bounde, soe sone as I cann, to thanke you most
humbly therefore, as also to acknowlege my selfe
yo^r poore beadwoman to praye continually for
the requitall of yo^r goodnes and curtesye towards
me therein. The lacke of M^r Karne's good con-
sidera^çon, soe voyd of all conscience and honestye
for a gentleman of his reputtacion and calling, to
drive his poore frynd, as my selfe, that have
wished him and used him soe well, to suche ex-
tremitie for my owne, I am sorrye for his evell de-
sart; wherin, albeytt, as touching me some whatt
neare, might justly move me, y^t in charitye I
beseche God to sende him a better mynde: not
doubting, as this is my fortune at his hands, soe y^t
reposing my selfe in you, and suche other good
friends whose curtesye I trust to accompte of, I shalbe
able to meete wth his dealinge in soe just a cause;

wherin still cravinge the contin^aunce of yo^r charitable good devotione and favoure towards me, who will ever be thankfull in all dutie and service that I can doe unto you, I commytt you, wth most dewe and hartye comendaçõs, to the blessed keeping of the Allmightye. Clarkenwell, the third of December 1593.

Yo^r most bounden loving frend

to comaunde,

ANNE BLOUNTT.

CXCVI.

To the right woo^r S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My humble dutye remembered, as well to yo^rself as to my good ladye your bedfellowe ; wth humble thanks aswell for my good venison, as allso for all other your frendshipp towards me alwaies, not able to deserve the same but only in good will, the w^{ch} shall allwayes con-
tynew, God willing, to my lives end, and readye to doe yow or anye of yours anye servyce or pleasure I can, to the uttermost of my power. And thus resting at your comaundement, as knoweth God, who alwaies p^rserve you and all

yours. Courtcarney,¹ the xith of this August
1583.

Yo^{rs} to comaund,

JOHN PRYCE.²

CXCVII.

To the right worshipfull my very good frind S^r
Edwarde Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER my very harty comendaçons. There is a
servant of myn, one Jacob of Somersett, had
(about iiii monethes since) a hound and a brache³
stolne from him; w^{ch} hound and brache he hath
intelligence are nowe in the possession of the
pson of Langan⁴ in those partes: my desyre unto
you therefore is, that you wilbe a meane my sayd
servante maye have his sayd houndes agayne, for
w^{ch} purpose he sendethe this bearer. In accom-
plishment wherof you shall have me readye to
requit you wth the like, occasion servinge. And

¹ Near Swansea.

² John Pryce, of Courtcarney, married Catharine, daughter of Christopher Fleming, of Flemingston, Glamorganshire. Mrs. Cameron, of Danygraig, near Swansea, is the present representative of the family.

³ A bitch hound.

⁴ Langan, near Cowbridge, Glamorganshire.

even soe I bid you hartely farewell. Hooke,¹ the
xixth of August 1583.

Yo^r lovinge frinde,

WYNCHESTER.²

CXCVIII.

To the right wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

BEING requested by my neighbo^{rs} and frends,
the m̄chauntes of Barnestable, to wryte for the
furtheraunce of their lawfull sutes to you, the
good that I wyshe them forceth me to wrytte,
and the equitye of their cause putteth me in hope
that you will heere me and them. The matter
ys this:—The second of Januarye last, a barke,
frayghted by my frynds afore mencioned, de-
parted from Ilfardcombe bound for Byskay; and
the next daye followinge, betwyxt Lands End and
Sylly, in Whytsande Baye, were robbed by an
Englishe rover, under the coullor of servinge Don
Anthonio.³ The man's name ys thought to be

¹ Near Southampton.

² William Powlett, Marquis of Winchester, married Ann,
daughter of William Lord Howard of Effingham. He died 1598.

³ Natural son of Lewis Duke de Beja, who was son of Emanuel
the Great; proclaimed King of Portugal 1580, died 1595. A
letter from Queen Elizabeth to this sovereign is extant in the Har-
leian MSS. 787. 14.

Story; a full-faced man, wth a readd bearde, yf hit be he: the shipp he sayled in is thoughte to be threescore and ten [tons], or thereaboutes. The marchauntes are enformed that he should be about Ellye oose,¹ nare Cardyffe. My earnest desyre ys, as any of you shall comaunde me in any suche case, that yow will frynde me and them, as occasion shall serve, according to justice and equitye. The losse is great, some younge men like to be undon, and they that may best beare hit greatly hindred; the facte wicked. For farder circumstaunces to be used in this matter, I referr to the bearers hereof. After my harty comedaçons to you all, I ende, beinge to pleasure yow in any thing I maye. From my house att Yolston,² the thirde of Februarye 1584.

Yo^r assured in that I

may pleasure you,

JOHN CHICHESTER.³

¹ Mouth of the river Ely.

² In Devonshire, near Barnstaple.

³ Sir John Chichester, Knight, married Ann, daughter of Sir Robert Denis, Knight; he died of the gaol pestilence at Exeter, 1585, s. p. He was the son of Sir John Chichester of Raleigh, Knight, by Gertrude, daughter of Sir W. Courtney of Powderham, Knight.

CXCIX.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

It is not the difference of tyme past, nor the distaunce of place nowe, right worshipfull, that doth or maye make mee ever to forgeett the lyneall discent naturallye throwen on me by birth and bloude from yo^r worthy howse; butt as one poore in powre, yet great in goodwill, I wishe you aswell as a dyinge bodye to a synfull soule. The bearer hereof, my sonne in lawe, Andrew Cavett, as you maye by prooffe perceave, hath bynne brought upp in service, whose honest behaviour I doe comend unto you, w^{che} hath moved me wth an especiall care that above all others he should attend on you; wherefore yf it maye please you to accepte his service, at my earnest request, untell suche tyme as he hath tryede a title of his nowe depending in lawe, I shall thinke it my wished fortune to enjoye yo^r wonnted favoure, and my selfe bounde to praye for you as longe as I lyve. My husband gave him some portion to mayntayne him, the keeping whereof hath bine very chargeable unto him, notwythstanding the thinge it selfe is well able to defraye the chargs, yf he could enjoye yt wth quietness. The effectts of his estate I have unfolded unto you, and his

diligent service shall yelde you and suerly showe you his honest deameanour therin. I may not omytt to yeld you hartly and humble thankes for yo^r great bountie and exceeding curtesye bestowed on my almost lost sonne, Richard Cowrtneye,¹ who ys (by yo^r great healpe and favourable furtheraunce) returned home to mee againe, to his owne benefytt and my good keepinge. Thus as I and myne are ever boulde to trouble you, soe are we bounde to praye for you; to whome we wishe suche encrease of credytt in healthe and happines as yo^r owne harte dailye desirethe. From St Cadock, my howse in Cornewall, this xiiith of June 1584.

Yo^r bounden k̄yswoman

tyll her laste gaspe,

DOROTHE CAVELL.²

¹ The site of the ancient cell of St. Karabus, or Karokus, now called St. Cadix, in the parish of St. Veep, Cornwall, was granted to Laurence Courteney in the 37th of Henry VIII. In the churchyard is a memorial of Nicholas Courteney, one of this family.—D. Gilbert's Cornwall, vol. iv. pp. 112, 113.

² The family of Cavall acquired Trehavarike, or Trearike, in the parish of St. Kew, Cornwall, by marriage with the heiress of the name of Trearike in the reign of Henry VIII. It became extinct in the male line about the year 1612.—Davies Gilbert's Cornwall, vol. ii. p. 338.

CC.

To the right wor. my very good cosen and assured
frynde S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

AFTER most hartly comendaçons unto you, and
to my good lady yo^r wyfe, from me and myne.
Thes shalbe to praye you to extend your good
favoure and frindshippe unto this bearer, John
Waters, in his resonable request: you shall co-
maunde me in the leeke. So, wishing your hartes
desyre, doe ende. From Cothelestone,¹ the second
of Marche 1585.

Yo^r verye loving cosen and assured frind,

JOHN STOWELL.²

 CCI.

To the right wor. my very good cosine, S^r Ed-
warde Stradling, Knighte.

S^r, These shalbe to geve you to understand
that a servaunt of myne, one Ellis Bagge, a

¹ In the hundred of Carhampton, Somersetshire.

² Sir John Stowell married Frances daughter of Sir Thomas
Dyer, Knight. He was the son of Richard Stowell by the Lady
Alice Poulett, daughter to William first Marquis of Winchester.
Lord Winchester died March 10, 1571-2, aged 97.

younge man wthout a bearde, his left legge memed, ys deputed from me, contrary to lawe; and, as I am enformed, he tocke boate this daye seven night att Myned,¹ and is past into Walles. These shalbe, therefore, earnestly to desire yow to take suche order as you thinke good for the apprehendinge of him, and presently upon his apprehençon he may be broughte to my howse at Cotheleston, and I will very well consider their paynes: herin yow shall doe me greate pleasure, and shall use me in any thinge I maye doe for yow or any of yours. So, wth most hartly comendacions to yow, and to my good ladye and cosen yo^r wiffe, doe leave yow to the Almightye. Cotheleston, the xxvth of June 1585.

Yo^r loving cosen and assured frind to use,

J. STOWELL.

CCII.

To the right wor. my very good cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

S^r, Having soe fytt a messenger, I could not but signifye unto you that my wife and I were very glade to heere that you, and my good ladye your wife, were in good healthe wthin these fewe dayes;

¹ Minehead, Somersetshire.

the w^{ch} we pray God longe to contynew to yo^r hartes desire : and soe, wth many thankes for yo^r paynes, and my good ladyes, taken heere this last sōmer, doe, wth most hartly comendaçons unto you and to my sayd good ladie from me and my wiffe, leave yow to the Almightye. Cotheleston, the xxvith of Aprill 1586.

Yo^r very loving cosen and assured frend,

JOHN STOWELL.

CCIII.

. wheate, under p^tence to make p^viçon for their famylie, and some of them apparantly knowen to be unlawfull engrosso^rs, by whose doinges of engrossinge the price of all sortes of graine in the markettes wth us are greatly enhaunced ; w^{ch} notwthstandinge, we thincke reasonable that suche as bonâ fide shall so make p^viçon them selves untill the time of harveste, be p^mitted so to doe. We pray yow note to conceve other then well of o^r p^tes to require suche credible testymcny from yow, or some suche other justice of the peace, that the ymploym^t of cornne to be boughte wth us is so trulie mente, and not to be transported out of her Ma^{tes} domynions, otherwise that we urge the p^ties buyeng to make

other credible pfe of their lawfull doinges in that behalfe, or not to be admitted to ymbote any. And so we comitte yow to the tuiçon of thall-mightie. Bridgw^r, the xiiith of July 1585.

Yo^r loving frindes,

THO. PAWLET. EDWARD POPHAM.

CCIV.

To o^r verie good Lorde, the Lorde Thomas Poulet, and o^r lovinge cosen M^r Edward Popham, Esquier.

AFTER o^r verie hartie comendaçons. For aunswer unto yo^r lres of the xiiith of this instant, touchinge the number of badgers,¹ and greate concours out of this countye into the pties of Somset, and ells where, for corne and graine, we can doe no lesse then wittnes unto yow that the dearth and wante at this pñte is suche as it greatlye urgethe the same. And if any were knowen unto us to make pvision of any graine to be transported into any foraine pties, trulie we would not only sertifie yow therōf, but use o^r endevo^rs by bindinge the pties to forbear that trade. And if any be unto yow suspectid in that behalfe, we thincke it verie reasonable that suche be restrained

¹ Hucksters.

untill they bringe from us or some of o^r assocyates a sertificat unto yow, w^{ch} we of o^r ptes will forbere to graunt unto any wthout their bondes and good assuraunce that the same shalbe ymployed and spent wthin this countie, and no where ells, and in the meane time in the behalfe of this co^mon welth, havinge considera^çon to this p^sent time, we are to besech yow that yo^r restraint extend no further then towards suche as carie some prooffe or stronge susspi^çon or p^sump^çon of yevell disposition in this behalfe. And thus, forberinge yo^r farther troubles for this time, we moste hartely comitt yow to God. S^t Donates, thes xxth of Julie 1585.

Yo^r lovinge fryndes,

EDW. STRADLYNGE. WYLLIAM MATHEWE.

CCV.

To my very good frend, S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

THIS bearer hath entreated me to wrytte unto you in his favo^r, that whereas one William Whytrowe bought certayne oxen of him, the price amounting to viii^{li}. xiii^s. iiiii^d. whereof he received iii^{li}. the rest remayninge in the hands of the sayd Whitrowe, who since fled his countrey wth a

woman servaunte of his, leaving his wyefe and three children to the chardge of the pishe where he dwelled, and ys nowe abydinge (as this bearer is enformed) wth a gentleman not farr of from yow ; in as muche as this poore man ys my neighbour, and knowing him to be of suche honest and good behavio^r as he will not enforme me wth an untruth, I am to pray you to further him in seekinge for his owne, sendinge for the ptie, and ayding him as farr foorth as lawe and the equitye of his cause shall geve yow occasion ; wherein I wilbe thankefull when the like shalbe offred in these ptyes for any yo^r neighbour or frynde. Thus, not doubting your frindlynes towards the poore man, I comytt yow to God. From my howse at Cadlegh,¹ the xxiith of July 1585.

Yo^r frynd to use,

W. COURTENAY.²

¹ Near Ottery Saint Mary ; an ancient mansion once the property of the Mohuns, and subsequently of the Courteney family. Sir William Pole, in his Collections towards a history of Devon written before 1635, states that in his time it was possessed by Sir Simon Leach.

² William Courteney, born in the year 1553 ; knighted about the year 1576 ; High Sheriff for Devon 1581. He sent out settlers to Ireland in 1585, and laid the foundations of the great estate in that kingdom now enjoyed by his descendant, the Earl of Devon. By his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Manners, Earl of Rutland, he had nine children. He died in 1630, aged seventy-seven. — Collins' Peerage, by Brydges, vol. vi. p. 264.

CCVI.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipp^{ll}, I have receavid a comission from my L: President and Counsaill in the M'ches of Wales, addressed and directed to you and me in a matter depending in contra^vs betwine Jenett Willim, pl. and Willim Morgan Lloyd, deff.; the effect of w^{ch} comission I can not fully sett downe, because I have not oppened the same. And for that hit requireth a certificatt from us, yf hit please yow to appointe a meetinge at Lancarvā, or ells where you will, at any daye the next weake after this, saving Frydaye, I will be ready, and bringe the sayde comission wth me, by Godes grace. And thus, wth my hartye comendaçõs to yo^r selfe, and to my good ladye, I wishe you all felicitye. Landaphe, the vith of September 1585.

Yo^r w^r poore kinsmā and frind to his power,

WYLLIAM EVANS.¹

¹ W. Evans, LL.B. in the commission of the peace for Glamorganshire 1565, Treasurer of the Cathedral, Chancellor of the diocese of Llandaff for forty years, and distinguished for his generous patronage of the bards. He died in 1589.—B. Willis's Survey of Llandaff Cathedral, p. 23.

CCVII.

To the righte woꝛ S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
Knight.

PLEASETH it yõ to understand that I am desired to entreate yõ to give creditt to my fellowe, Davye Roberts, whom mi Lo: and M^r thincketh very well of, and to whom my selfe is greatlie beholdinge, to be employed under yow in some office, upon suche condiçon as to yo^r selfe shall seme best, if yow be appointed her Ma^{tes} Sheriffe for the countie of Glamorgan. So, certefienge yow I wilbe as ready in any of my dealings to gratefie any of yo^{rs} whensoever yow shall require it, and beseechinge the Almighty to blesse and keepe yow and my good la: yo^r bedfellowe, I leave to trouble yow further. From Cardiffe, this xiiiith of November 1585.

Yo^{rs} to commaund,

THO. WYSEMAN.¹

¹ "An officer" of the Earl of Pembroke in 1578.

CCVIII.

To the right worshippingfull S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
Knight.

PLESETH it yow to understande. The bringer herof, one well knowne of longe time unto me, passinge this waie, and desirous to make staie in this contry, and I beinge enformed that yow are destitute at this time of one of his quallitie to serve as yo^r clercke, I thought good to beseche yow, the rather at my request, to entertaine him as yo^r servaūte for that purpose, w^{ch} he cane very well dischardge; and will, I doubtte note, everie waie else cary himselfe so dilligente and dutifull as shall apptaine, and as shalbe to the goode likinge of yow and my good ladie yo^r bedfelowe, to whome, wth yow, I desire theis maie make my moste hartie comendaçons. And so, beseeching thallmightie to blisse and keepe yow bothe, I leave to trouble yow further. Cardiffe Castle, the xxvth of September 1589.

Yo^{rs} to comaund,

THO. WYSEMAN.

CCIX.

To the right wor. S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my harty comendaçõs. Havinge occasion to use some frende in Wales for a buke, coulde not call to mynde anye there soe fytted for my selfe to be bolde wthall as wth you, and in noe other sorte then you shall comaunde me in Englande; and soe I prey you (uppon the receipte herof) to deliver this bearer a bucke, as I shall requyte you wth the like when you shall have occasion to sende unto mee, et cosi resto al comando di ṽra s^{ria}. London, the 12 of June 1581.

Yo^r lovinge frind,

JOHN YONGE.¹

¹ John Young of Bristol was knighted there by Queen Elizabeth in 1574. The Queen lodged at his house, St. Augustine's Back, for seven days.—Seyer's Bristol, vol. ii. p. 245. Sir John died in 1603, aged 70. There is a tablet in the south side of the choir of Bristol Cathedral to the memory of Sir John, Dame Joan his wife, and eight of their children.

CCX.

To the right worshipfull my very good cosen S^r
 Edwarde Stradling, Knighte.

I THANKE you most hartily for yo^r gentle remembrance wth the doa, w^{ch} I doe take as kindly; though conceiving not a little unkindnes in you, I will not saye also to my ladye, for that she is grow^rned [governed], that you woulde passe throughe the cyttie wth her, and lodge heare towe, and woulde not comaunde this house as yo^r owne, nor make me ptaker of yo^r heare being. Hyt is scant p^donable, nor may not be wthout suche satisfaction as may redeme soe greate an offence, w^{ch} cannot be wthout a p^sonall apparence; yea, and y^t w^t my ladye also, for y^t her aunswaere shall be yo^r excuse. And so y^e Almighty blesse yow both w^t health and all other felicitye. From Bristoll, y^e 28 of Januarye 1587.

Yo^{rs} assuredlye,

J. YONGE.

CCXI.

To the right wor^{ll} Sr Edward Stradling,
Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, Littere non erubescunt; and therefore what reason wold have me conceale wth modestie for feare of denyall, even that the necessitie of my case willeth me to reveale wth audacity in hope of obtayninge; soe that what the one by pswasion woulde drive me from, the other by force doth dryve me to. And therefore suche is my hope of yo^r worshipp's curtesye shewed me at all tymes, and suche my urgent buisines at this instant, that, quighte rejectinge all rocks either of repulse or rigor, I will bouldly manifest my matter; and because many words are supfluous, and long circumstances tedious, and neither necessarye, seinge to one willing one worde is inough, but to the unwilling a thousand to few, this is the case: I receavid a letter w^{thin} these iii dayes from a very frind of myne, the contentes wherof was, that, yf I could by the iiiiith of October next prepare xx^{tie} nobles, I should presently purchase xx^{tie} marke by the yeare: &c. His curtesye was greate, and I accepted yt; the gayne not litle, and I licked yt; but the dis-

bursed mony ys somewht, and that I wante; and althoughē not all, yet the greatest parte. And therefore, as yo^r worshipp hath heretofore byn a magnificent and worshipfull Mecenas unto me, soe I beseeche you at this instante to enlarge and amplifye the same towards me; and, that I may the better manifest my willing and dutifull mynde unto youre worshipp, extend yo^r bountifull liberalitie in as ample maner as you dyd before, but not in the same forme. I only request a certaine sōme of money of youre worshipp in the waye of borroweinge, w^{ch}, God willing, when yo^r worshipp shall appointe I meane to surrender; and wth yt (yf you accept yt) a harte readye at all tymes to obay yo^r best: this is the greatest I can render, and the greatest yow maye require: and what the sōme is I neither need nor will putt downe; only signifiinge unto yo^r worshipp that the greateste quantitye I have is the least parte of the totall sōme; and soe lytle, that I may saye wth Terence, *Id aliquid nihil est*. And therefore, yf charitye maye move yo^r mynde, yf my p^rferment may anye thinge pswade yo^r wo^rshipp, then I beseeche yow consider my case, and soe consider yt that by this bearer I maye receave not a corrosive but a comforte; in hope whereof I ende, wishing yo^r worship and all yours all thinges yo^r

wishes woold have, or yo^r wills cann crave.
28 September 1581.

Yo^r wo^r daylye orato^r,

. N. LU.

CCXII.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight, Sheriffe of the countie of Glamorgan.

AFTER our veri hartie comendaçons unto you. Whearas the Q. Ma^{ti}, aswell by the advise of the L. President of her Highnes' Counsaile in the Marches of Wales, and the Justice of assise then beinge in that countie of Glamorgan, and with the assentes of all or the most part of the Justices of peace in the said countie, hath, by her Highnes' letters patentes, beringe date the xith daye of Apriell in the xxith yere of her raigne, graunted unto David Morgan, berer hereof, thoffice of keepinge of her Ma^{tis} gaiole in the said countie, with all fees and other comodities incident therunto, w^{ch} he hath (as he aleageth) quietly e^v since had and enjoyede. Nowe complaint is made unto her Ma^{ti} in her Highnes' Courte of Requestes on the behalf of the said Morgan that you will nott suffer him to enjoy her Ma^{ti} said graunt, like as other yo^r p^rdecessores have hitherto donn,

althoughe he hath offered to geve such suffecient caution for your indēpnitie as you canott dislike; and thereupon processe was required to call you hither to aunswere him therin. And for that we have respect to the charge you have newly entread into, we have spared to graunt the same for this time: nev̄thesse, we have thought good to pray and require you to have such considraçõs of her Ma^{tis} right and graunt as without good cause you do nott withstand the same, but pmit the said Morgan to enjoy her Ma^{tis} gift, pforminge the condicõs inserted therein, w^{ch} he offereth fully to pforme; letting you to understand that if you doe not suffer him to have and enjoy the benefitt of her Highnes' said tres patentēs, or shewe us sufficient cause in lawe of your refusall, that we may nott deny him his request, and such further remedie for the mayntenance of her Ma^{tis} right and his possession in the said office as shalbe agreeable to equitie and justice. And so we bidd you hartely well to fare. From London, this xvth of January 1582.

Yo^r assured loving frendes,

THO. SEKFORD. VALENTYNE DALE.¹ DA. LEWYS.

¹ Sir Valentine Dale, D.C.L. was of All Souls College, Oxford. He was Dean of Wells, and a Master of the Requests, "a person of great wisdom and integrity, who had been employed in foreign affairs of the highest importance."—Lodge's *Illustrations of British History*, vol. ii. p. 382. He

CCXIII.

To my right worshipfull frind S^r Edward Strad-
linge, Knight.

AFTER my right harty comendaçõns. I under-
stande there is a matter in variance like to arise
betwine you and David Morgā touchinge the
keeping of the gaol in the county of Glan̄gan.
The truth is that her Ma^{ti} graunted him that
office uppon such speciall sute, and upon such
substanciall information, that it is verie like shee
will see her graunt mētained, and will mislike that
it shoulde be in anywise impugned; and therfor,
in respecte of the oulde frindship betwine us, I
would geve you advice not to stande therein, least
it might breede you more displeasure then the
matter is worth, namely, since it toucheth you but
for one yere, and his title beinge for terme of life
doth constraine him to stande the more earnestly
in it for othere that may be moved to withstande
him by your example. And thus, knowinge yo^r

He was sent by Elizabeth in 1588 to the Prince of Parma, Vice-
roy of the Low Countries, to expostulate with him against Cardinal
Allen's book — Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, by Bliss, vol. i. p. 622.
[Syd. Pap. i. 325.] Dr. Dale died Nov. 17, 1589, and was buried
in St. Gregory's church, near St. Paul's, London. His daughter
and co-heir, Dorothy, married Sir John North, eldest sou of Roger
second Lord North.

wisdom and experience to be such as can right well consider what is best, I leve to use any further pswasion unto you ; comittinge you unto Almighty God. At the Court, the xith of Jenuary 1582.

Yo^r assured,

VALEN. DALE.

CCXIV.

To the r. wor. S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

OUR dutifull and moste hartye recomendaçons remembred. Of late I talked with my neighbour and kinseman, Thomas Roscarroke, that we both mighte have a convenient time to make a longe pretended viage to see yo^r S^t Donatts, and yo^r good estate therein, which God longe contynewe in noe worse condycion then we well understand you have begonne. In the meane space, havinge for my parte byn earnestlie required by the frends of one Richard Vyvyan, otherwise (by reason of the house he was borne) called Trenowitche, to wrytte unto you in his behalf ; which thinge I doe the gladlyer take in hande, for that, as farr as ever I coulde pceave, he is of an honeste disposiçon, naturallye dessended of an honeste race, and that is to be cherished in our happye

and prosperous estate. He is an honeste traveler in the trade of marchandize by the seas, by whose honeste trade manye poore bodye hath relieffe. He havinge bene of late aboute the partes of Neath in Wales, and ther makinge his shippe anewe, which he accompted to doe with lesse charges there then heere in our countye Cornwall, by reason of the good store of tymber ther, which is nott soe plentifull [here]; att the endinge of which his buisnes he is dyversly molested there, arested under pretence of debts, and other querells pickte againste him, onely as I am enformed to poll him, and to gett brybes of him, greatlie to his hinderance and heavye loss, unles God and good men send him the better ayde. I, thinkinge it a meete matter for yo^r vertue to be occupied in maynteyninge of justice, soycke [seek] now to crave yo^r helpe for the same Richard Trenowithe, and therein as God the rewarder of juste dealinge and mayntayner of justice shall putt into yo^r mynde to doe by yo^r sellfe or yo^r fryndes for the savinge him from wronge and injuryous oppression; wherby yo^r neighbours, comynge into this angle or anye pte therof, shalbe assured to fynde the more humanitye, and yo^r selfe the sooner and longer remembred in the devoute prayers of suche as skape wrongefull oppressinge handes. I recēd yo^r tres howe the twoe stones, after mytche trouble

of the carryers, were landyd for you, which I wished had byne better for you. Yf you lacke anie suche or other things whatsoever lyinge in myne habilitye, comaunde, and then see whether I fayle you. Allmightie God preserve you wth his contynall grace, and make you to injoye for ever the joyes which the Saviour of the worlde, Christe Jesus, hathe provided for them which love and put their truste and confidence onely in him. Bockellye, this xviiith of Maye 1582.

By yo^{rs}, WYLL'M CARNSEWE.¹

CCXV.

To the right worship^{ll} and my verie good frinde
S^r Edward Stradling, Knight, geve these.

S^r, After my right hartly comendaçõs, &c. Whereas upon Sondag, the first daie of this instande moneth of Marche, a mischaunce happened to your men, the berers hereof, that a seminary priste escaped from them out of their lodginge, beinge the Whit Hart in the Strande; for whome I my self went all that night, and

¹ Carew, in his Survey of Cornwall, 1602, speaks of Master Carnsew of Bokelly, in the parish of Saint Endelion, and of Master Roscarrock of the same parish.—Vide Carew's Survey, edited by Lord de Dunstanville, 1811, pp. 297, 8, 9.

made privie serche thorowe out all London and Westm̃, withe other suspicious places, and tooke about nine score of suspected and masterlesse psons, thinkinge to have taken that lewede prist amongst them, but my happ was not soe good : and truly yo^r men have taken great paines and travaile in makinge serches for him, besides the great vexaçon of their mindes, that truly I did thinke that they woulde have benn distracted of their wittes. And the Lordes of the Councell understandinge of the escape upon Wensdaie, beinge the iiiiith day of this moneth of March, sent for your men to appere befor their honors ; and thereupon they were sent into the Marshallseys : and I, hereing of their imprisonment, went on Sunday last, the viiith of this moneth, before the Lordes of the Councell, and declared to their honers what paines both I and your men have taken in the serchinge for that lewed pson, and upon earnest entreaty I gott thē discharged. Wherupon the L: of the Councell, beinge my Lo: Chamberlyne, my Lo: Admirall, and my Lo: of Hundesdon, sittinge then at the Councell table, and no moe, desired me to wright unto you, and to desir you that you will stand good master to your men, and that you will not put them out of service, for that they have shewed them selves dutifull servantes in this matter. I found y^e

fault in the chamberlyn and tapster of the Whit Hart aforsaid. Wherefor I most hartely desir yo^r worshipp to receve these your servantes into your grace and favoure againe, and that you will not put them to any further punishment, for that they have ben imprisoned here in London to their great greiffe and troble. Thus, nothing doubtinge of your good favour herein, I byd you hartely farewell. London, the ixth day of Marche 1583.

Your assured frind to my smale power,

W. FLETEWODE.¹

CCXVI.

To the right worship^{ll} S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

S^r, My most harty comendaçons remembred. I have receved such unkinde dealinge at M^r Carne's handes for my good will, as I am forced

¹ William Fleetwood, an eminent lawyer, educated at Oxford, which he quitted without taking a degree. As a member of the Middle Temple, he acquired a high reputation. In 1570 he was made Recorder of London, and in 1592] Queen's Serjeant. He was very popular with the Londoners. Stowe notices one of his speeches in 1583 against the increase of buildings. He married Marian, daughter of John Barley of Kinssey, Bucks, by whom he had eight children. He died Feb. 28, 1594, and was buried at Missenden, Bucks.—Lodge's *Illust.* vol. ii. p. 384.

to do contrary to my nature, and that w^{ch} otherwise I would have ben veri loth to do. I lent him xx^{ti} marckes the last at his beinge here to finishe his accompte, and gave him time to pay me att the last audite, wheare I had not so much as a letter from him. Havinge since had occasion to writt unto him for his favoure to my good frinde Richard Mòrgan (for whom I yeld you my hartly thanks), he not only denied flatly to do him any pleasure, but said that Mathewe David, and not he (whose bonde I have), must paie me. Hereupon I have p̄cured y^e processe I sent you; hartely prayinge you to cause it to be duly executed and saffely returned, as you shall use me in any service or pleasure I may do you. And so I comitt you to the Almightye. At London, the xxiiiith of Aprill 1583.

Yo^{rs} in what I maye,

ROBERT DAVY.

CCXVII.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradling, Knight,
geve these.

S^r, My humble duty premised. May it please yo^r worsh. to understand that, havinge noe better meanes to testify my thankefullnes for all yo^r

worsh. goodnes, I have bene bould to send yow the cotypes of my first tryall and labours in this kynde of profiting others. And I have also bene bould in the greater of them to make my mone in the Lord's cause unto yo^r wor. and others, beseeching yo^r worsh. most humbly both to puse and accept them as the testimonyes of my humble duty and poore goodwill; and when you have vewed what I wishe, and weghed well what in deed wanteth, even for the Lord's sake vouchsafe to thinke of yt. The Lord hath made you able to doe much good, and, his mercies considered, I doubt not will make you willinge. Never yet lyved y^t man or woman that lost at the Lord's hand what to his honor he disbursed. Yo^r worsh. knoweth yt, and I nede not speake yt, Vertue being furdred maketh her founders famous, — famouse, I say, in this world, and renowned ever in an other world; neither ever perisheth the memory of the rightwouse. The Lord hath made yow a pyller of this country, and, yf yo^r godly zeale shall ever make yow soe, allso of his kingdome: his worde is past him already, and shall not be revoked; "He that honoreth me, I will honor him." Thus, humbly beseeching yo^r worsh. to pardon my bouldnes, to accept my poore present, and to vouchsafe them readinge, nothing doubting of all furtherance of yo^r worsh.

of Godes kingdom, I cease, and beseeche the Lord to inriche you wth all his mercyes, to his prayse and yo^r owne profytt, both here and for ever. Cardif, y^e 19 of Febr̄ 1584.

Yo^r w^r humble bownden,

GERV. BABINGTON.¹

CCXVIII.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r, All humble duty p̄mised. Although I was never able to doe your worsh. any service since I cam into the countrey, yet have I divers tymes bene most bould to sew to you for my wants; and at this tyme am havinge noe other way to supplye my necessity by: and yt is, that it woulde please yo^r worsh. to be soe good to mee as to lend me sūme playne horse that is taull, to carye the ende of a litter that I have gott for my poore childe to goe into Wilton; w^{ch} yf yo^r worsh. will doe for me, I shall safly (God willinge) returne him home agayne, and ever more stande ready whilst I live at yo^r comaundement. Thus,

¹ Gervase Babington, Doctor of Divinity, Treasurer of the Church of Llandaff, and chaplain to the Earl of Pembroke, some time Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; consecrated Bishop of Llandaff in 1591; translated to Exeter in 1594. In 1597 he was removed to the see of Worcester. He died May 17, 1610.

comending my want to yo^r worsh. good pleasure, I most humbly take my leave; wishing yo^r selfe and my good ladye ever more well to doe, and beseeching the Lord to requite all yo^r great goodnes to me during my aboade here in this country. I wanted noe goodwill to have come to your worsh. my selfe, to have taken my humble leave; but God knoweth what I wanted. The Lord of heaven ever keepe yow and yours.

Yo^r w^r humble bownden,

GERVASE BABINGTON.

CCXIX.

To the right worth S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

ALL bounden duty p^rmitted. These are most humbly and hartely to thanke yo^r worshipp for yo^r horse, w^{ch} I have sent backe againe by this bearer, the man that fetched him, ever and ever bounde unto yo^r worshipp for soe great a pleasure in soe great a want. And althoughe God knowes I am nothing in this worlde to be ever able to doe yo^r worshipp any service, yett even that nothing that I am is and shalbe at yo^r owne commaundement whilst God bestoweth upon me life and libertie; as knoweth He to whome in my hartye prayers I most humbly comend yo^r wor-

shipp and my very good lady for ever. Wilton,
this . . . of October 1585.

Yo^r w^r humble and ever boūden,

GERVASE BABINGTON.

CCXX.

To the r. wor. my very lovinge frend S^r Edward
Stradling, Knighte, at his Castle of S^t Do-
nattes.

S^r, My very harty comendaçons p̄mised, with
hope of yo^r wished health and my ladies'. Under-
standing by M^r Fleminge that itt hath pleased
God to call the pson of S^t Tathan¹ to his mercy,
and that the patronadge thereof appertaigneth to
you, I made bolde in the behalf of my selfe, in
that my lyvinge is smalle and my chardge greate,
and that it hath pleased her Ma^{tie} upon due
regarde thereof, under her Highnes' broade seale,
to aauthorize me for the better mainten^{ance} to
take in comendam any helpes which conveniently
I mighte attaine unto, to pray you to bestowe the
same on mee; which if you doe, I shall not only
take greate care to see the cure carefully dis-
chardged, but allso shall remayne moste thanke-
full unto you for yo^r frendly consent herein.

¹ St. Athan, a parish near Cowbridge, Glamorganshire.

Thus, comittinge my suite to yo^r frendly consideraçon, I take my leave. From London, the xviith of Marche 1592.

Yo^r loving frind assured,

GERV. LANDAVEN.

CCXXI.

To the r. wo^r S^r Edw. Stradling, K. at his Castle at S^t Donats.

S^r, My righte hartie comendaçons premised, with bothe hope and wishe of youre healthe. Beinge made acquainted by my good neighbour here, M^r Stradlinge,¹ with yo^r desire, I presentlie sent to my register for it, but fownde that as yett none is broughte in; a greate faulte in them, and a greate negligence in my officer. The beste speede that maye be made to have it broughte in shalbe made, God willinge; and then my selfe will take care to procure you a copie. Soe, restinge yo^r greate debtor for manye oulde favo^rs, and nowe allsoe for yo^r kinde remembraunce for sōme venson these holydayes, which I understand of by my good neighbour, I bidde you hartelie farewell. From Landave, this xth of December 1592.

Yo^r loving frind assured,

GERV. LANDAVEN.

¹ Probably of Roath, near Cardiff.

CCXXII.

To the right wor^{ll} his moste assured frende Sir
Edward Stradlinge, Knighte, at his Castle of
S^t Donates.

GOOD S^r Edward Stradlinge, This yo^r kynde
letter, and soe lovinge acceptaunce of my poore
pamphlettes, increase my debte unto you verie
greatlie; and shall even more, yf more possibly
I can, stirre me upp, when I see you not, to
desire God to multiplie his favo^rs towardses you
and all yours. The same daie you deputed here-
hence I receavid them from London, and, seeinge
one of yo^r servauntes in the shire haulte, intreated
him to conveye some of them unto you, havinge noe
leasure to writte anie thinge, w^{ch} I truste you will
pdon. Yf I shall gett tyme heereafter, my pen
shall be noe lesse myndefull of yow and yo^r loving
farewell voutsafed me heere, then my harte is
of yo^r kynde cominge to Landaffe, wth manie,
manie, favors mo. And, as neere as I am able to
remember what God inabled me to saye of late,
I will send you a written coppie; for I never
penned speche in my life before I uttered it,
but onlye the firste comon place, as we caull it
in the uni^vsite, that I made, w^{ch} was before I
was minister, in the colledge chappell, for a triall

used of all younge masters of artes. Thus doe I promise what I wishe mighte be worthe eyther p̄misinge or sending, because I see howe I am beholden to you; behoulden, I saye, even above all desertt or meanes to deserve, I feare me, heerafter. But God is able wher his serv^auntes be not; and to y^t riche treasurye of his I comend both yo^r selfe and all yo^r lovinge testimonies to my selfe, but specially to my ministerye and his gospel: prayinge him in his infynite goodnes to voutsalfe to remember his gracious p̄mise to any suche as shall but geve a cuppe of colde water to any of his p̄ffittes in the name of a p̄phett, that is, for his function, office, and caulng sake; and to p̄forme that p̄mise in moste gracious abund^aunce to yow and all yo^{rs}, knitting yo^r harte faste unto him and his truthe, against all deceitefull workes and workers of the contrarie. Amen! Cardyf, this xxviith of Aprill 1594.

Yo^r poore frind most assured,

GERV. EXON.

CCXXIII.

To the r. worship^l S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

RIGHT worship^l, My verie hartie comendaçons remembred, with like thankes for yo^r greate courtesie shewed to this berere, my nephewe, the continuaunce wherof I praye you lett him have: if it might rest in my poore powere to requit the same to yow or yo^{rs}, you shall not finde me unreadie. Thus, with my wife's most harty comendaçons, I comitt yow to God, whoe preserve yow in longe and perfect helthe, with much encrease of worship. Builth, the xxvith of Julii 1583.

Yo^r wo^r ever assured to his power,

CH. WALCOTT.

 CCXXIV.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

S^r, After my hartiest comendaçons. Whereas Aunthony Wodvyle, the Erle Rivers, maryed Margret his daughter to S^r Robert Poyns, my greate grandfather, from whom I descende; and

whereas the haroulds woulde pswade me the same Margrett to be a bastarde, and not begotten in matrymony: knowing that yow cann therin certifye me the troethe, because she was a daughter to your anceto^r, I beseeche yow, sir, signifye to me the troethe by your tre, wth suche circumstances as may induce hytt; and for soe doinge I shall thinke my selfe speciallye to you beholdinge, taking my leave of you. At Tokington Lodge, this xiiith day of June 1584.

Yo^{rs} assured to cōmaund,

N. POYNZ.¹

CCXXV.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

SUCHE is my hard fortune, right worshipp^{ll}, as I am forced nowe in my latter dayes, by reasone of sōme extraordinary chardges of late fallen upon me, to requeste thayde, furtherance, and benevolence of my good frynds, kynsemen, and wellwillers for the relife of my pñte necessitie; w^{ch} course trewly is greatly repugnant to my harte

¹ Sir Nicholas Poyntz of Tockington, in the parish of Iron Acton, Gloucestershire, married Ann, daughter of Sir Ralph Verney, of Penley, Herts. His second wife was Margaret, daughter of Henry Earl of Derby. Sir N. was Sheriff for Gloucestershire in 1569.

and licking: neverthelesse, being urged therunto, I enboulden my selfe to call upon yow, and requeste yo^r good furtheraūce herein, as one of whose frendshipp I have allwayes assured my selfe, althoughe I had small meanes to deserve the same. Thus, wth humble comendaçons unto you, and to my good lady yo^r bedfellowe, I comytt yow both to the blessed tuytion of thalmightie. At my poore howse Bedwelty, the xiith of Julye 1584.

Yo^r poore cosen to comaund

in that he maye,

EDM. M.¹

CCXXVI.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, At the request of certen of my neighbo^{rs} I have enbouldened my selfe to troble yow wth these fewe lynes, by the w^{ch} I am to signifye unto yo^r wo^r that a barke of this harbo^r, named the Salamon, was robbed in Whytsand Baye, neere about the Lands End, on the thirde of January last; from whome was taken c. peces of sayes, fiftie peces of fyne whitt carsies,

¹ Probably Edmund Morgan of Penllwyn and Bedwelty, Monmouthshire, the youngest son of Thomas Morgan, Esq. of Machen in that county.—Vide Morgan Pedigree, Coxe's Monmouthshire.

and certen bayes, to the number of xx^{tie} peces, or theraboutes, besyds other things w^{ch} cannot nowe be certenly layde downe, for that the barke ys not as yet returned: w^{ch} fact was comitted by an Englishe pyrate of the burthen of 60 tonnes, or theraboutes. And as hit is heere reported that suche a shipp is nowe at Ellios,¹ and the captayne therof comytted in Cardyff; the w^{ch} yf it so be, I humbly beseech yo^r w: vouchesafe to use meanes (yf yt be possible) that the same shipp may be stayed and searched, and the company thereof examined, for the better tryall of the trouthe in the premisses. And I for my parte shall not only be thankfull, and rest ready to doo yo^r worsh: the best service I may, but also yow shall bynde my sayde neighbo^{rs} to their powers, and wthall doe an acceptable deede unto God, for that some of them w^{ch} have susteyned pcell of this losse stande upon their utter undoing. This bearer can signify unto yo^r w: by mouthe more at lardge touching the premisses, and therefore I cesse troubling yow any farder at this instant; beseeching Almightye God to blesse yow, and prosper all your good and godly enterprisses. From Barnestable, the third of February 1584.

Yo^r w^r most humble,

JOHN HARRIS.

¹ Mouth of river Ely.

CCXXVII.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, my very good cosen, Having occasion to use some ancientt pedegrees of dyvers howses in Wales, aswell from S^r Richard Stackepole, as from S^r Rees of Wales, and one Turbervile, owt of sōme of w^{ch} howses yo^r selfe and I are both descended; and occasyoned also to use the pedegree from Hawys Gaderne, the daughter and heire of Owen Kyviliocke of Powys, married to S^r John de Charleton, Knight; in w^{ch} name the Lordes of Powys continued foure descentes, and then divolved to two dauughters of Edward Charleton, (that is to saye) Jane married to S^r John Graye, Knight, and Joyce, the younger daughter, to John Lord Typtoft. The discent synce from Graye and his wife was to Henry Lord Powys, their sonne and heire, and from Henry to Richard, from Richard to John, from John to John, from that John to Edwarde deade wthout yssue. And nowe, what other children of sonnes and daughters any of the Grayes, Lordes of Powys, had, ys to bee inquired. And for that I am informed there remayne in yo^r handes

dyvers pedegrees and notes, w^{ch} may manifest this matter, I make bolde to desyre and pray you to lett me have a coppye thereof, signed wth yo^r owne hand; w^{ch} I trust yow will the rather doe, for that you yo^r selfe being of greate antiquitie and worship, have a mynde to maintayne and preferr suche psonages as are like unto yo^r selfe; and, as occasyon shalbe offred, you shall fynde me ready to pleasure you or yo^{rs} in any thinge I shalbe able to doe. Thus, wishinge contin^aunce of yo^r good health, wth most increase of worshipp, I comytt yow to y^e tuiçon of thalmightye God. From the Courte, the xxixth of Aprill 1584.

Yo^r loving cosen, assuredly yo^{rs},

H. VERNON.¹

¹ Henry Vernon, Esq. who styled himself Lord Powis, died without issue in 1606. He was the son of Thomas Vernon of Stocksey, Derbyshire, and grandson of Thomas Vernon of Stocksey, living in the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, who married Ann, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Ludlow of Hodnet, Salop, Knight, by Elizabeth Gray, daughter and sole heir of Richard Lord Powis.—Collins' Peerage, by Brydges, vol. vii. p. 403.

CCXXVIII.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r, Although myn acquentaunce geveth me not occasion to troble yow herewith, yeat beinge mariede to yo^r cosen jermynge, and as one gent^l shalbe occasioned to use the frindship of another, so am I at this p^rsent to p^rsume of yo^r wor: curtesey as to desir you to bistowe upon me a bucke against the sessions to be holden for the county of Pembroke, w^{ch} begineth the xxiiiith of this August. So doinge, you shall not fynde me ungratfull, but ready my selffe (with any thinge I have) att your comaundement, yf cause showld any way hapen to serve you to use me; and, so ever restinge, I comitt you to God. Bulston,¹ the xvii^o of August 1584.

Yo^r moste assured to use,

J. WOGAN.²

¹ Bolston, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, once the property and residence of the Wogan family, and now of Robert Ackland, Esq.

² Sir John Wogan of Bolston, Knight, Sheriff for Pembrokeshire in the 16th and 40th of Elizabeth, son of Richard Wogan, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Gamage.

CCXXIX.

To the right honorable the Earle of Pembroke,
Lorde President of the Marches of Wales.

OUR duties used unto yo^r lordshipp. The pusinge of yo^r L: ĩres of the second of this instant, w^{ch} came to our handes the xxiith of the same, jointly directed to us both, wrought in us grieffe and consolaçon both together: the first in respect of yo^r L: heavye conceipt; the later in respect of yo^r goodnes and justice towards us in comittinge to writtinge the reasons inducinge yo^r honor soe to conceive. Hopinge that the self same integritye w^{ch} moved yo^r hono^r unto the later, will in like sorte, upon pusall of our aunswere, remove the first out of yo^r mynde; wherein yf we shall seme tedious, the largnes of yo^r L: ĩre, consistinge of 84 lynes written in a verye smale hande of the whole bredth of the papre, joined with our unskillfullnes, doth vendicat some tolleraçon in that behalf. Our late ĩres unto the Ll: of her Ma^{tes} most honorable Privey Counsaile seme unto yo^r L: rather to pseed of malice or of contempte of yo^r L: then of any upright meaninge to redres offences or punishe offenders; for tryall whereof yo^r L: referreth to be respected what should move us both only to entermedle in this action. And

soe in aumpliſenge hereof yow doe interrogatively p̄seed to aske whether we alone be carefullie mynded, or alone be aucthorised to chasten suche faults, or continually have accustomed to use suche integritye, &c. Truly, right honorable, for a briefe and plaine aunswere of oʳ intençon, we affirme that there is one supream Judge, only mightie, and must be obayed; only wise, and cannot be deceived; only just, and [will] doe us no wronge: He it is that one daye will beare wittnes that we never caryed any intençon of malice or contempte towards yoʳ L. And as to the first interogatorye, whether we alone be carefully mynded, we aunswere, that God forbidd we should; we judge and hope the beste of oʳ associates, and referr them to their owne consciences. Touchinge the seconde, whether we alone be aucthorised to chasten suche faultes; trulye we thinke it be so, we never hard anye aucthoritie they eyther had or used; w^{ch} is the foundaçon and well springe, and breedeth some stomacke towards us, and yet can never be imputed to anye faulte in us yf the Ll: of her Ma^{tes} most honorable Privey Counsayle have sent us [alone] this aucthoritie under the broade seale of Englande by a speciall messenger, and from time to time have confirmed the same, and that very lately this last sōmer under nyne of their

hands, whereof my L: Admirall him self that nowe is was one; y^e true coppies whereof we have sent yo^r honor under our hands. We trust, for executinge their comaundem^{tes}, and endevo^r imployed to o^r owne daily chardges, we deserve not to be thought malicious towards yo^r honor. Yf we have done any thinge att this pñte, or since yo^r L: callinge or late advauncement, w^{ch} we have not continually used thes 8 or 9 yeres laste past, we are giltye of malice towards yo^r Lo: and my Lord Admirall both: but thus we delt in yo^r father-lawe's time, beinge L: President, and in my L: of Lincoln's¹ tyme, beinge Lord Admirall, and yet were never or accounted malicious, or to prejudice theire aucthoritye. The whole Counsaile table continually, as occasyon was offred, receavid our certificate, and can wittnes the same. And where it is thought we should certifye the L: Admirall and yo^r L: in respect of yo^r severall aucthorityes by sea and by lande: we aunswere that o^r comission and instructions, beinge the only rule and leavell of o^r pceedinges, directed us to certifye the Ll: above; wherein yf we have erred, it was in followinge our direction from the Ll: and the wordes of our comission. Another objection touchethe the bail-

¹ Edward Clinton, Baron Clinton, created Earl of Lincoln 1572. Lord High Admiral, K. G. Ob. 1585.

liffes of Cardyffe, whom your L: doth pmise not to defend, but to see them punished yf they have contemned; w^{ch} scruple is easely resolved and determined by point of charter. Yf thereby it may appeare that they are thus enfranched, that they neede to bringe or sende noe townsman before any authoritye from her Ma^{tie} any further then the towne hall, or that they shall direct or prescribe her Ma^{tes} comission^s a place to execute their authorityes, we will yelde and acknowledge our error; w^{ch} prerogatyve yf they cannot shewe, then is their contempt unto o^r authoritie unexcusable, and their pretence of libertye used for a cloke both to cover their owne inten[̄]cons and to inflame yo^r L: disposicion towards us: wherein it is to be regardeded that if they have any suche prerogative, wherof haply we be not altogether ignorant, that hetherto untill this p^sent tyme it was never put in practyse. Often tymes we confesse we use the towne hall, but alwayes by our owne accord and assents, and never by their p^scription. M^r Fabyan [these] fewe yeres past used the same authoritye that we have for the space of three weekes or a moneth together; butt allwayes eyther in M^r Hawckins' or John ap Morgan's house in the Highe Streate, at his election. The Queenes Solicito^r from the Marches, latly sent hither by yo^r father in lawe, exercised

his aucthoritye; but never in the towne hall, but only at Baily Robert ap Evans' owne howse. Yf this had byne their first practyse and subernaçon wth suche pirates, it had bine the more tollerable; but verily we never learned of anye pyrate arrived in this roade wherein they have nott shewed their inclinaçon: w^{ch} as enformers we doe not deli^{ve} unto yo^r honor, in w^{ch} exercise we have no delight; but as comission's by good aucthoritie we have certified the Lls: above, w^{ch} they are to credytte as unto their wisdomes shall seeme cōvenient. And where we wishe the Ll: to consider the townsmen's bouldnes doth concerne, &c. and yo^r L: [doth] interpret the same to p^{ro}ceed of no good meaninge towardes yo^r L: we can but wish to yo^r honor all godlye wisdomes to decerne every spirite; and then, notwthstandinge some privat unkindnes for pryvat causes, yo^r honor noe doubt woulde suspend and forbear suche conceiptes of us. We are not ignorant, but wee knowe well the nature of a contempt, and to whom and what place it toucheth and concerneth; that is to saye, that place only and that aucthoritie from whence it is derived. And as unto yo^r L: heavye conceipt of our bouldsteringe of blodie actions, only grounded upon reporte of others; because we cannot, wth due regarde of o^r dutyes towardes yo^r hono^r, aunswere

soe malicious reporters in due pportion as the qualitye of their malice towardes us might require, wee forbear att this tyme wth more tedious discourse to pester yo^r honor, and soe recomende the same to Almighty God. S^t Nicholas, the xxviith daye of Januarye 1586.

Yo^r L: poore kinsmen,

EDW. STRADLING. WM. MATHEWE.

CCXXX.

To the right worshipfull and their loving frind
S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

AFTER our hartye comendaçons unto yow, with thanks for yo^r curtesy bestowed upon us. As we would be sorye that yo^r travell to these present assisses shoud hinder yo^r health, soe yo^r presence (yf it may be had wthout pill to yo^r selfe) is by us loked for, bothe for the dischargde of yo^r owne dutie, and also for the better proceeding in some causes depending before us, and especially touching the rape, wherein we doe expect to be furnished by you and by yo^r meanes wth suche evidence at the least as was geven heretofore when you were psonally p^sent at the open hearinge therof in so^mer last, wherby the prison^r may have his deliu^rance on way or other, according

to justice: in respect of w^{ch} matter, and for other causes, we may not well p^don yo^r p^sence according to yo^r requeste. Soe fare ye well. Cardyffe, this xviiith of September 1581.

Yo^r frindes,

EDMUND WALTER.¹ THO. ESCOURT.²

CCXXXI.

To the right worshipfull my very loving frind
S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

GOOD S^r, I hartely comend me unto yow. Con-
sydering the late disorders and garboyles³ comit-
ted wthin that county of Glamorgan, whereof is
like to ensue a greater inconvenience and daunger
then may well be endured wthout speedy refor-
ma^çon; and because the tyme of the greate ses-
sions there ys nowe at hand, when yt is fytt the
offenders should receive their des^sts, and the
causes of these differences by all good helps quali-

¹ Churchyard, in his *Worthines of Wales*, p. 76, noticing Ludlow, speaks of "a fayre house by the gate, of the making of Justice Walter." He was Chief Justice of three shires in South Wales, and was buried at Ludlow in 1592.

² Probably Thomas Estcourt, who died in 1598, whose tomb is in Shipton-le-Magne church, Gloucestershire. There is a portrait of him in the robes of a Judge, dated 1570, at Estcourt, the residence of T. G. B. Estcourt, Esq. M.P.

³ Uproars.

fyed; I have therefore thought good earnestly to pray you to geve me meeting at the towne of Cardyff uppon Sunday night the ixth of this instant, for suche conferences to be had touching the pceedinges in that behalfe as to justice shall appertayne. And even soe I leave yow to the Lordes tuytion. Ludlowe, the firste of Marche.

Yo^r very loving frind,

E. WALTER.

CCXXXII.

To the right worshipfull his very loving frend
S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

S^r, My very harty comendaçons remembred. I have receavid yo^r lre, and therby doe understand yo^r mynde and purpose for our advertysment to my L: Chauncellor of the sufficiencie of suche genth of yo^r countrey as have byn recommended to his L^{pe} to be fytt psons for the office of justices of peace there. From w^{ch}, by other yo^r lres, yt appearede you did altogether derogate; refusing (as yt seemed) to joine in certificat eyther wth yo^r justices of assisses, or anny other in the same cause, but rather to sever and single yo^r selfe from us, and by yo^r pryvat lres did intend to acquaynte his L^{pe} wth yo^r opinyon of

them, and of yo^r conscience therin: wherat I more misliked then nowe I will utter; and, seeing your better confirmity therin, doe, for my owne parte, forgett my former conceyte had of yow in that behalf, and doe thinke wth yow that our best course ys to suffer yt to rest tyll o^r meetinge at the next assises, when, upon conferrence had together, I hope the aunswere shalbe to his L^{ps} satisfaction, as he requireth; w^{ch} was my determina^õn before the receipt of yo^r lres, and soe did I impte as muche by lre to M^r Lewes. And even soe I leave yow to the tuy^õn of the Lord. Ludlowe, the xviith of this August 1585.

Yo^r verye loving frend,

E. WALTER.

CCXXXIII.

To the right wor^{ll} his verie lovinge frind S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, High Shieriffe of y^e countie of Glam^{an}gan.

M^r Shrieff, I hartely comende me unto you and to my good ladie. Wheare as one Thomas Jones, esquier, nowe lately recovered by order of her Ma^{tes} Counsell here in the Marches of certaine copp^hhold landes, lienge within the l^{pe} of Molton in that county, against this berer my servant,

and his mother in lawe; w^{ch} matter, notwithstandinge, was by M^r Jones his assent referred unto such order as I shoulde take therein: but, for that I thinke my opportunitie will nott serve me to ende the same before the next essises, I doe therefore hartely desir you, that, ife M^r Johnes doth sue forth any pces from any her Ma^{tes} courtes above or here in the Marches to put him in the posñion thereof, you would shewe my servant so much favo^r as to stay the execuñon of such pces untill y^e next essises; wherein you shall much pleasur the yonge mann, and cause me nott to be unmindefull of that and all othere your courtsyas, and, as ocation shall serve, redie to requite the same, as knoweth the Almighty, to whose tuyñon I comitt you. Ludlow, the iiiiith of this Apprill.

Yo^r veye lovinge frind to use,

E. WALTER.

CCXXXIV.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, After my right harty comendañons and wiffes, yo^r olde awnt, who dayly prayeth for yo^r helth and well doinges. She was

verie glade of yo^r fre that you wrott unto me touchine the correçon of the genealogie of the Stradlinges, sett forth by Doctor Powell; and I do thanke you hartely for the same fre. I am required by a countrey mañ of myne, Rhutherth Beaushin,¹ to writt unto you in the favoure of a sonne of his, who hath served you this two or thre yeres, as he informeth me: for the sonne I do not knowe, but I can ascertaine you that his father is a good honest man, and well able to live in his countrey; and, for the sonne, you can best discerne, you se what disposiçon he is of if he hath served you so longe. These, with my praiers for the preservaçon of your helth, and with my harty comēdaçons, and my wiffes, to my good ladie as unaquented, I shall betake yow both to the tuition of thallmighty. Plasward, the seconde of June 1585.

Yo^r assured cosen to use,

SI. THELVAL.²

¹ Beauchamp.

² Simon Thelwal of Plasward, Denbighshire, married the third daughter of Sir William Griffith of North Wales, Knight, by Jane, daughter of Henry Stradling, who was the second son of Thomas Stradling, Esq. of Saint Donats, and great-uncle to Sir Edward Stradling. Mr. Thelwal instructed Lord Herbert of Cherbury in the Welsh language. Vide Life of Lord Herbert, p. 35.

CCXXXV.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

My duty to yo^r worshipp most humbly remem-
bred. I have nowe, S^r, wth mucche adooe ended
my jorney, and gotten agayne under my posses-
sion my fugityve servant; for the w^{ch} I must
needes acknowledg my self greatly bounde both
unto yo^r worshipp and unto yo^r county in gen^lall,
soe farr as that the warst of them, yf they be
occasioned to use me, shall find me most ready
to make requitall therof to the uttermost I shalbe
able. And soe will I not remayne ungratefull to
the warste. Before I goe from yo^r country, I will
wayte on yo^r wo^r; and, wherin soever yt please
yow to comaunde me, yow shall fynde me most
willinge. And even so, leaving any farder to
troble your worshipp, I doe most humbly take
my leave. Kyltheligare,¹ this xviith of Maye.

Yo^r wo^r alwayes at commaund^t,

ED. HALFACRE.

¹ Gelligaer, Glamorganshire.

CCXXXVI.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

MY duty to yo^r worshipp most humbly remembred. I cannot let passe any messenger wthout a fewe words of thankesgeving, having noe other matter to offer unto yo^r worshipp for the greate curtesye and frindshipp I receaved from yow, my selfe beinge a stranger, and noe waye deserving that favour w^{ch} I fownd ; but yet in what soever (because yo^r worshipp shall [not] fynd me ungratefull) I may doe yow any pleasure or service, eyther in these ptyes or ells where, you shall wth an unfeyned good will fynde me most ready, eyther for yo^r selfe or my good ladye, to the uttermost of my simple power. And even so eftsoones, and most humblie thanking yo^r wo^r, my dewty to my good ladye in most humble wise remembred, prayinge yow to pardon my bouldnes, I doe even soe take my leave. My poore howse at Whitestone in Cornwall, the xxvth of June 1585.

Yo^r wo^r alwaies most humbly to comaund,

ED. HALFACRE.

CCXXXVII.

To the righte wo^r S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knichte.

MY dewtie to yo^r wo^r most humblie remem-
bred. Findinge this bearer in o^r pts of Devon-
shere, and beinge alwaies glad to heare of yo^r wo^r,
I thought yt also my dewtie contnewally to shewe
my selfe bothe dewtifull and thankfull for yo^r so
greate curtesies shewed me, and to shewe my selfe
most thanckfull and redie at all times to doe yo^r
wo^r, or anie frind of yo^{rs}, anie servis I shalbe able ;
for suerlie I must needs acknowledge my selfe so
greate lie bownd unto yow as that I shalbe never
able to yeald suffycient thanks for the same
but in poore good will, w^{ch} is alwaies redie to
serve yo^r wo^r in all that possyblye I maye. Yeven
so, cravinge pdon for my boldnes in writtinge, my
most dewtifull comendaçons to my good ladie not
forgotten, I humblye take my leave.
the 24 of September 1586.

Yo^r wo^r awayes most

humbly to be cōmaunded,

EDW. HALFACRE.

CCXXXVIII.

To the right wor. my very good cosen S^r Edward Stradling, Knighte.

S^r, I am entreated by Robert Hensley, the bearer herof, to enforme you of the troeth of a bargayne betwine him and one Thomas Sulley, late of S^t Athens of yo^r neere neighbourhoode, touchinge an anvyle w^{ch} he did sett unto the sayd Sulley for a yere. The bargayne is witnessed by two psons, viz. John Wattes, clerke, minister of Porlocke, and John Bearde of Selworthye,¹ who sayeth that, about our Lady day last past, Robt Hensley did sett to heire the sayd anvyle to the sayd Thomas Sulley at a rent of iii^s. iiiii^d. for the yere; wth further condiçon that yf the sayd Robert, or any of his brothers, woulde require to have agayne the sayd anvyl into theire possession wthin the sayd yere, then, upon one q^rter's warninge, the sayd anvyle was to be restored, and he to abate of the rente according to the tyme that he possessed the same. The ptyes y^t dothe testifie this bargayne are honest and credible; wherefore I beseeche yow extend yo^r lawfull favo^r to my honeste countreyman accordinge to the equitye of his cause: soe shall you have me ever ready

¹ Both in Somersetshire.

to requite you or any neighbour of yo^{rs} in the like cawse, or greater, as occasion shall move. Thus, making to you and to my good ladye my right hartly comendaçons, doe take my leave of you. Att my house, Combsydenham,¹ this xxixth of June 1586.

Yo^r very loving frend and cosen,

GEORGE SYDNAHAM.²

CCXXXIX.

To the right worshipfull my very good and assured frende S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My verie bounden dutie used, &c. Havinge mynded more then xii^o monethes sithens to truble yo^r worship with some invention, thereby to shewe my gratfull mynde to the same for your singular benevolence so bountifully at all times bothe in worde and deede bestowed on me to my good ; in short time after, occasion offeringe to be a suter unto you, &c. moved the same by your faithfull servant, my verie lovinge frind Jenkin Rice, w^{ch}, I lerne sithens

¹ Now in ruins, situate between Taunton and Dunster, Somersetshire.

² Sir George Sydenham, Knight, married Mary Blunt, sister to Lady Poulett.

by him, yt pleased your good worship and my veri good ladie to like and accept of, &c. Expectinge my repair longe befor this, w^{ch} for busines, &c. I could not hither unto, or yet well can; yet knowinge my bounden dutie not to frustrate your good expectaçon or my sute any longer, but by one meane or other to manifest the same, have nowe thought good humbly to shewe your w. hereby that I rest and wilbe at yo^r worship appointment to be employed: in pawne whereof I humbly beseach your w. and my verie good ladie to accepte of a brother of myne, and take him to your service, who hath served my verie good and latt master decessed, &c. and nowe permitted to depart willinge. I am to have him nere me in this countie, if it may be; and, pleaseinge it you so to doe, you shall have us both, as you have me alreadie, dubly bounde to yo^r good worships duringe life; as knoweth the Almightye, whoe I besech ever to p^rserve you to yo^r hartes good desires. Porteynon,¹ 18 Julii 1586.

Yo^r wo^r most humble,

Ro. WALLE.

¹ Glamorganshire.

CCXL.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight, these be geven.

S^r, I receivid your tres consarning yo^r troublesome guest, and have byn most willing to satisfy your request therin, as in any other thinge, to my power: the order taken by the courte will be to your liking. For myne owne parte, I hold my selfe, in respect of many good frynds who esteeme greatly of you, bounde to pleasure you in what I may; and therefore I pray yow to make that accompt of me where in honesty and duty I cann or may. And soe, wth my most loveinge comendaçons, I beseeche the Almighty to receive yow into his holly p̄tectyon. Att Hereford, this thyrde of Marche 1587.

Yo^r loving cosen to his power,

NY. ST. JOHN.¹

¹ Perhaps Nicholas St. John, of Lydiard Tregoze, Wilts.—Collins' Peerage by Brydges, vol. vi. p. 50.

CCXLI.

To the right wor^{ll} and my good cozen, S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My very hartye comenda-
çons remembred, &c. The vearye necessitie that
I am [in] at this p^sent tyme causeth me to trouble
you and others my frinds; that is, to request
you to graunte mee yo^r warrant to your keep by
this bearer for the deliverye of a season bucke
against this sessioⁿ: and in soe doinge you shall
not only pleasure me greatlye therin, butt also
bynd mee to requytte the same in the like dis-
tresse wth thanks. And thus, wishinge you wth
us in the countrey, wth my comendaçons unto my
good ladye, I hartely take leave. Cardyf, the vith
of Julye 1587.

Yo^r loving cozen and frynde,

THOMAS LEWYS.¹

¹ Vide p. 17, note ¹.

CCXLII.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, I canot devise howe to begine to yeld thankes unto yo^r w. and my verie good ladie for yo^r curtesey to my brother, beinge driven to extremitie in that pte. I praise God that it was his hap to make an end of his liefse, since God had so determind, in so worshipfull a place. Well, S^r, my harte will not suffer me to troble yow longe: but, if the prayre of the poore wydoe and her poore orfantes may stand yo^r w. in steed, they are bound dailie to beseche the Almightye to requite yo^r goodnes; and my selffe, and all the rest of our poore frendes, will alwise be redie to pleasure yo^r worshippe in eny thinge we maie. And so, besechinge yow to pardon my rudnes and brevitie herein, consideringe my hard hap for the losse of so good a brother, I comite yow and my good la: to the custodie of God, who ever p^serve yow and send yow longe liefse, wth increse of muche worshippe. Uske, the xvith daie of Marche 1588.

Yo^r w. moste humble to cōmaund,

WA. JHONES.

CCXLIII.

To hir loving cozen S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

S^r Edward, Yt is soe that, by meanes of my husband his earnest entreatye, my nevyw Becham and my brother Edward have p^mised him to come unto Walles to one M^r Carne, whom my husband hath made great reporte of; so that we meane, God willing, to take yo^r house by the waye, for I will assure ye the bearer herof hath soe enformed us of sundrye comodytyes w^{ch} you have, that feawe or non hath the like in Walles. And thus, wth my verye hartye comendaçons, I byd you farewell. From Canford Howse,¹ the xxth of October 1589.

Yo^r assured cosen in what she can,

MARY SENIOR.²

¹ Canford near Wimborne, Dorset, now the property of William Baron de Mauley.

² Probably Mary Senior of Shaston, Dorset, whose will is extant in the Prerogative Office, bearing date Jan. 13, 1620. She desires to be buried at Motcomb, Dorset; appoints her mother Margaret executrix, devises property to her brother Thomas, and "ten shillings to Mary Senior to buy her a spoon."

CCXLIV.

To the r. wor. his very lovinge frind S^r Edward
Stradlinge, Knight.

GOOD S^r Edward Stradlinge, Whereas my sonne
Edward Aubrey is sheriff of the next sheere¹
adjoininge to you, where there are very fewe
pckes, I am dreeven to make bolde hartely to
desir you to bistowe a bucke upon him, w^{ch} I will
readily requite with any kinde of pleasure or
curtesy that any way lye in me. And so, with
my right harty comendaçons, I comitt you to the
ptexion of the Almighty. From the Court at
Greenwish, this first of July 1591.

Yo^r assured lovinge frinde,

WM. AUBREY.²

CCXLV.

To my very lovinge frend S^r Edward Stradlinge,
Knighte.

AFTER my very hartye comendaçons. Wheras
the berer hereof, a poore aged man, one Evan
Treheron, of the towne of Lantwitt in the countye

¹ Brecknockshire.

² Vide note ¹, page 26.

of Glanorgan, hath exhibited a petiçon unto mee, complayninge that, beinge her Ma^{tes} ten^{ante} of a small house which he demised to one Richard Nicholls and John Rees for the rent of vi^s. by the yeare, and being by coven^{ant} bounde to the repa^çons thereof like as they have coven^{anted} with him, they doe ne^vtheles suffer the sayd howse to goe into ruin and decaye, to his undoinge if he should repaire the same; wherefore I verye hartely praye you to call the sayd Nicholls and Rees before you, and to take suche order with them as the sayd ten^{mt} maye be resonably repaired: and hearin I am the bolder to use yo^r meanes to satisfye the desire of this poore man, beinge otherwise unwilling to troble you in a matter of so small importaunce. From the Corte att Nonsuche, this last of Maye 1593.

Yo^r vearye loving frind,

W. BURGHELEY.¹

CCXLVI.

To the r. wor. S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

My dutye remembred to youre wo^r. You shall understande that I am come home; but noe

¹ William Cecil, Baron Burleigh, died in 1598, aged 77; the favourite minister of Queen Elizabeth for forty years.

sooner come, but that M^r Justice Walter, hearing that shortlie I was to departe from London, and leavinge one att Brecknocke to sollicit my hastie repayre to him to Ludlowe: upon this occasion, and for that hee is the Justice of Assise in this circuytt, and to be kept in hande for manye purposes, I am goinge this daie to Ludlowe, havinge a farre greater desire (as God knoweth) to resorte to my Mæcenas. But after my returne from Ludlowe I will (throughe God's grace) be shortlie there. The cause of my longe tarynge in London was for the sure setlinge and placinge of the bookes, and pusinge every one of them, sheete by sheete, that noe impfection mighte be fownde in them; which sheetes in xii hundreth and odd bookes growe to a greate number and a tedious pusall. Of these bookes the Queenes Ma^{tie} hadd one, my Lorde Tresorer¹ an other, and my L: of Essex the thirde, for that these three hadd juste cause to have a consideraçon of this excellent language. From the Queene I knowe not what aunswere was hadd, for that I came away before I spake with M^{rs} Skudamore, whoe did deliver the booke; but at the cominge of M^r Skudamore² to Home-Lasye I shall knowe. There

¹ Lord Burleigh.

² John Scudamore of Ham-Lacy was Gentleman-Usher to Queen Elizabeth; received the honour of knighthood, and was one of the

is more worshipfull speches concerninge youre selfe about the settinge foorth of that booke then about anye one thinge that ever you dyd in all youre life. And thus, with my humble dutye to yo^r selfe and to my singular good ladye, and hartye comendaçons to M^r John Stradlinge, I beseeche God to blesse and save you all. Brecknocke, this xiith of Julye 1592.

Yo^r wo^r to comaunde

duringe liffe,

JOHN DAVYS.¹

knights for Herefordshire in five several parliaments in that reign. His first wife was Eleanor, daughter of Sir James Croft, Knight; by whom he had James, who was knighted for his valour at the siege of Cales. T. Warton imagines that the "Syr Scudamore" of Spenser's "Faerie Queen" is a personification of this individual. Lady S. was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth.

¹ Commonly called John David Rhys. He was the son of David Rhys who was in the service of Sir William Griffith of Llanfaithlu in Anglesea. Here John Davys was born in 1534. Some accounts state that his mother had been waiting-woman to Jane Stradling of St. Donats, who about this period became the wife of Sir W. Griffith. John Davys was sent to Oxford at the age of eighteen. In 1555 he travelled into Italy, studied medicine at Sienna, where he took a degree and acquired a profound knowledge of the Italian language. He published his "Cymrææ Linguæ Institutiones" in 1592, and dedicated the book to Sir Edward Stradling. Sir Edward's will, dated 10th May 1610, refers to this work: "Item, whereas there were printed at my expense twelve hundred and fifty British grammars, I do give fifty of them ready bound to my friend Mr. Doctor Davys, the author of them; and my will is, that the rest of them shall be given and bestowed from time to time by my cousin, Sir John Stradling, upon such gentlemen and others as he

CCXLVII.

To my lovinge cosen M^r Edward Stradling.

COSEN EDWARD, Because my Lord is nowe at the Courte, I pray you to deliver [with] yo^r owne handes thes letters to his Lordshippe, w^{ch} doe conserne yo^r father.¹ I have written to his L: my opinion therin ; and yf yow shall see that no good doe come on it presently upon my Lord's dealinge therin, then I praye yow wth speede advertyse me howe hit standeth, and I will come my self to followe the sute on his behalf. My opinion in the meane tyme is, that you shall gather instructions out of yo^r father's letter to complayne to my Lordes and M^r Secretary on yo^r father's behalf, and not to showe yo^r father's letter but only to my Lord ; but the complaynt and sute to be from

shall think fit, for the advancement of the British tongue." Camden, in a letter to Sir John Stradling, dated Feb. 13, 1593, says, "Clarissimum et eruditissimum virum D. Johannem David mihi officiosissimè saluta." Theophilus Jones observes that, according to Wood, "he died as he had lived, a Roman Catholic, about the year 1609, at or near Brecknock, at which time he must have been 75 years of age ; but from the inscription on his wife's tomb, who is called 'Uxor Joh'is David,' and not 'Vidua,' it should seem that he was alive in 1617, and that his son Walter Davids was a Protestant, and at this time vicar of Brecon."—Hist. of Brecon, vol. ii. p. 51.

¹ This letter must have been written before 1571, when Sir Thomas Stradling died.

you by yo^r owne knowledg, because you may have acsies to yo^r father. I pray yowe comende me as hartely to him as hart can thinke, and he shall see that I will not slack his sute heare in upon the next advertysment from yow after yow have conferred wth my Lorde. Soe I comitt yow to God, this

Yo^r lovinge cosen,

J. LUMLEY.¹

CCXLVIII.

To the right wor. my very loving cosen S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, As urgent busines hath byn cause wherfore I have not taken my leave from you before my depture towards London, soe I trust, hit being dewly consydered, you will hould

¹ John Baron Lumley. The attainder of his father, George Lord Lumley, was reversed in 1547; John being an infant. Queen Mary conferred on him the order of the Bath in 1553. He was held in high consideration by Queen Elizabeth; sat on the trials of Mary Queen of Scots, Secretary Davison, and Robert Earl of Essex. At the accession of James, he was a commissioner for settling the claims of the coronation. His first wife was Jane, daughter of Henry Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel. He was one of the chief mourners at Sir Thomas Pope's funeral, and named as one of the executors to the wills of Sir Thomas Stradling and his son Sir Edward. He died April 11, 1609.

me for this tyme as excused. And because I wold, as neere as I can, doe my endeavour to prevent that noe inconvenience or disorder may happen in my neighbourhood during my absence, these are right hartely to pray yow that yow will take upon yow the p̄tectomyon of my poore neighbors and frinds in p̄venting that the riche shall not oppresse the poore, and that the poore iniurye not the wealthy: in doing whereof yow shall doe a charitable deed, cause them to be bounde unto yow, and fynde mee not only thankfull, but also ready to be imployed in case like by yow or any of yours. And thus, wth my right harty comendaçõs unto yo^r selfe and to my good ladye, I comitt yow both to God's tuyçon. Lantrithed,¹ this 8 of November.

Yo^r loving cosen,

THO. MAUNSELL.²

¹ Lantrithyd near Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, the seat of Anthony Mansel, uncle of Sir Thomas. Vide p. 107.

² Sir Thomas Mansel, Knight and Baronet, eldest son of Sir Edward Mansel by Lady Jane, daughter of Henry Somerset Earl of Worcester, was knighted 1581, created Baronet May 22, 1611; married Mary, daughter of Lewis Lord Mordaunt. He died in 1631, æt. 75. Sir Thomas represented the county of Glamorgan in the parliaments of 1597, 1601, 1603, and 1614. There is a portrait of Sir Thomas at Penrice Castle.

CCXLIX.

To y^e righte woõ S^r Edwarde Stradling and S^r
William Harbart, Knightes, and to other her
Ma^{tes} Justices of her Peace in the coñ of
Glañgan.¹

RIGHTE woõ, Our humble dutyes remembred.
For as muche as by the helpe and meanes of our
very frendes and countrye neere adjoyninge,
knowing the greate grieffe and hinderance that
we and they do daily fynd and sustaine by reason
of the decaye and uter ruine of our pere and
harbour, we do purpose (God willinge) to p̄cede
in p̄curinge some helpe in the newe reedifyinge
and erectinge thereof; and are the more willinge
and redye, for that the righte wo^r the justices of
the peace of our countrye beinge our very frends
and neighboures, who knowe our grieffe and de-
cayed harbour, have taken upon them on our
behalf under their firmes to

¹ Perhaps this imperfect document has reference to the decayed
port of Colhow, near Llantwit Major. Sir John Stradling speaks
of it in a letter to Camden, 1594, "Conveni ipse homines grandævus
spectatæ probitatis et fidei, qui navem frumenti onustam ad ostium
rivuli Colhue inter duos colles tutissimè religatam conspexerant."

CCL.

To my very lovinge frynd S^r Edwarde Stradlinge,
Knichte.

GOOD S^r Edward, Albeyt my acquaintaunce wth you is not verie greate, yet forasmuche as this bearer, my servaunte, ys for some cawses to be an humble suter to you, I coulde doe noe lesse butt recomende him by thes fewe lynes; prayinge you, if soe be he doe request yo^r fryndshipp, to afford him your favo^r in suche honest and lawfull requestes as he shall make unto you: wherin I shall nott onely accompte ytt done to one whome I both love and favor, butt thinke my selfe greatlie beholden to you, and be readie to requite yo^r courtesye towards anye of yours yf the like occasion be offred. And soe, hopinge I shall have cause to geve yow thankes in his behalfe, I recomend me very hartely to you, and bed yow farewell. Towstocke,¹ the xith of September.

Yo^r verye assured frind,

W. BATHON.²

¹ Tawstock, near Barnstaple, now the seat of Sir Bouchier Wray, Bart. the descendant of the Bouchiers.

² William Bouchier succeeded to the earldom of Bath in 1560, on the death of his grandfather; and died in 1623.

CCLI.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, After my right hartly comendaçons p̄mised. I am (at the earnest request of dyvers this bearrer's frynds) moved to writte unto you in his behalfe for searvice: wherefore, yf yo^r worshipp be destitute of a servant, and accepte of him, I will assure you, you shall fynde him quiett, tractable, obedient, and diligent; but for his knowledge in searvice, (by reason he was never trayned nor brought upp therein,) I thinke him very rawe; howebeit, in respectt of his good nature and inclinaçon, noe doubt he will soone attayne thereunto: wherefore, yf his searvice maye pleasure yo^r worshipp, I doe bothe wishe and desire you to accepte him, wherein (besyds him selfe) you shall binde a number of his poore frends beholding unto you, as knoweth God, to whose tuition I comytt yo^r worship. Tethigeston, the xxth of Februa^ry.

Yo^r lovinge assured cosen and frind,

WA. LOUGHER.¹

¹ Watkin Lougher of Tythegston near Bridgend, Glamorganshire, married Catherine, daughter of Robert Gamage of Coity. He died in the year 1607. Sir John Stradling addressed two epigrams to him. The Rev. Robert Knight is the present representative of this family.

CCLII.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

How subjecte to mutabilitie the slipperie wheele of Fortune standeth, there is none soe meanelie conceyted but well knoweth. Y^t base borne people have bin exalted to the seate imperiall, and those of greatest parentage descended to plaine beggery, who that readeth histories doth not see? In trowth, Fortune is onlie constant in inconstancye; noe marveil, then, right worsh. yf my selfe have tasted the same sauce as greatest parsonages have bin servid wthall. Noe man's footeing is soe stayed but may fall: "Hodie mihi, cras tibi," yow knowe by whome yt was spoken. To justifie my selfe I dare not, the worlde beinge wittnes against me of my misbehaviour: if follies past mighte by repentaunce be revoked, for what is past I am hartely sory; but, the horse being stollen, yt is too late to shoot the stable doore. And, yf better late then never, my owne rod hath nowe sufficiently beaten me, misery hath taughte me wytt: "Semel insanivimus omnes." In that, therefore, what is past remedie is past hope, and yestarday can not be recalled, nothing remayneth but to apeale for succor unto yo^r worsh. as to my only sanctuary of refuge. Co^mon curtesye, even

amongst meare strangers, should extorte from Christians soe muche compunction as “condolere cū dolentibus,” and to helpe them that are in distresse, wthout any respecte of psons; muche more then shoulde charitie be extended to such as are of the houshoulde of faith, yssued out of one Vyne, formed of like elementes, children to one Father, ransomed wth one blod, and members of one and the selfe same bodie. God, who freely giveth to all men all things, respecteth not man’s desertes, but his mercy: noe more, good Sir, doe yow respect not my offences, my name, my actyons; onlye respecte Him in whose name I demaunde yt, who doth accounte that geven unto Him w^{ch} is geven to the poore. I pleade not for my selfe (thoe how my state standeth God knoweth); but for those whome I love better then my selfe, collups of my owne flesh, my poore children, who are very shortly like to ronne a moste ruthfull rase yf God will not vouchsalffe to styrre upp yo^r mynde mercifully to consider them. For Godes cause, therefore, right worsh. extend yo^r charitable hande, adopte some of them amonge the number of yo^r familie, helpe them, comfort them, succor them: let not the children’s teeth (as the prophet sayeth) be set an edge for that the fathers have tasted sowre grapes; let not my offences be any p̄judice unto them; laye not my

actions into their dish ; neither Peter-like crush all the bees, for that one waspe hath stoonge yow. Remember what Augustine sayeth, “ Ideo rogans dives non exauditur in tormentis, quia rogantē pauperem non exaudivit in terris.” Vouchesalfe only, I beseech yow, to account my children Christians, and for Christianitye sake relyve them ; and, in soe doing, God, who will render to eʒy man according to his works, will noe doubtē repay yow tenn hundred foulde, and my selfe and my children duringe life wilbe contynall intercessors for yoʳ prosperous estate, w^{ch} God graunt longe to contynew.

Yoʳ^s to comaund,

.....

CCLIII.

To the right worship^l S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, Yesterdaye in my waye homewardest, passing through S^t Tathans, I hard of the arryvinge of a bote of salte at Aberthaw : wheruppon I repayred thether ; and ther questioninge wth the m^r of the bote, beinge owt of Porteynon, and the m^{ch}ants owt of Aberthawe heere in yoʳ jurisdiction, I fownde by their owne con-

fession that ther bote was neyther entered before anye custom (as I clayme yt ought to be), neyther before anye officer of yo^r worshipp (clayminge a priviledge wthin yo^r l: in that respect), neyther had they any certificatt from anye customer that the custome therupon due hath bene paid, neyther anie cockett from anye officer for the transporting therof. I soe take yt, the defectes and wantes aforesaid being considered, that ther resteth nothings els to make the bote and the salte, or anye other m^{ch}andises therin conteigned, to be forfeyed to the Queenes use. But my seysure, wherin I meane to p^{ro}ceed,—w^{ch} extreeme dealing, other then being therto by reason of myne office constrayned, I am loth to shewe to anye neighbour you have; and therefore, least youre worshipp should imputt to mooche hastines in me in the doing therof, or that I had not unto yo^r worshipp that regard that of dutye I ought to have, I have byne soe bould as to wrytt these fewe lynes unto you touching the p^{ro}misses; wherin I rest, in that apptaineth to lawe and equitye, wth anie resonable and lawfull favo^r I maye shewe, to be by yo^r worshipp directed, w^{ch} I crave to receive in writtinge upon the backe syde of this my letter wth this bearer. And thus, wth my humble dutye premised unto yo^r worshipp and to my good ladye, wth leeke thanks for my good

entertainment, I comytt the same to the tuyçon of Allmighty God. In hast, at Boverton¹ as appeth, this eveninge.

Yo^r wo^r at cōmaundem^t,

NA. MORGAN, costomer.

CCLIV.

To the right wor^{ll} S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

RIGHT worshipfull, My absence from London at this present maketh that I can not presently accomplishe yo^r request; notwthstandinge, the next terme I will not fayle to cause the indenture to be soughte for, and, yf yt can be fownde, to be sent downe by somme trustye messenger. One statute betwixt yo^r father and you ys remembered to be in my keepinge; that, and anye other that I have, w^{ch} may doe you pleasure, and is for you to have, you shall comaunde, as one whom I re-cōmytte [accompte?] my good and specyall frende. Thus, wth my hartye comendaçons, I comytt you to God. From Southlande, the laste of November.

Yo^r frend to her small power,

ANNE GRIFFYTH.

¹ In the parish of Llantwit Major, Glamorganshire.

CCLV.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradling, Knight.

GOOD M^r Stradlinge, After my due comenda-
 çons. I have thought good of my self to write
 unto yewe as towchinge the election of a coron^r
 upon the death of John Llñ ; that like as I trust
 there is a frendship for e^v betweene my Lord and
 you, that their may no man^r of ways be any oc-
 casion mynstred that the same should any ways
 be perished. That, as concerninge the same elec-
 tion, yow will stay youre determynaçon for gev-
 inge yo^r voyces untill my Lorde may somewhat
 also consider of some w^{ch} I hope shalbe booth able,
 meete, and sufficiēt to s^{ve} the Prince and the
 countrey, and shalbe resyant in that parte of the
 shere as is most necessarie in that respect. My
 Lord, as youe knowe, is a freholder, in comission
 and custos rotulorum, and myndeth by Goddes
 sufferaunce to inhabit amongst yow ; and I
 doubte not, as yow have seene the experience,
 myndeth good s^{vice}, quietnes, and well meaninge
 to the countrey ; therefore there is some cause that
 his consent and minde shuld be received in that
 behalfe. I am so bold, therefore, (who of mine
 parte from the begininge have e^v wished the
 quietnes of yo^r countrey, and goodwill to be

betwene my L. and you alwaye,) to put yow in remembraunce so to consider of it as no sparke of unkindnes may breake oute in the matter; and I hope my Lorde will nomynate suche choice of psons as yow nor any man shall have cause to myslike of. I pray yow alsoe, good M^r Stradlinge, to impart wth S^r Edward Mansell youre owne consideraçons in that behalf; unto whome I wold also have writen if my hast away had suffered me. And thus I ende, wishinge helth, wth increce of worshippe. From Cardiffe, this xxvith of September.

Yo^{rs} assured,

Ro. GROVE.¹

CCLVI.

To the right worship^{ll} and his very frinde, S^r
Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

AFTER dewe comendaçons. I am earnestly requested by my neighbour, this berere, Harry Haysam, to writt my ðres of comendaçon unto you in his behalf; whoe informeth me that he is not well and faithfully delt with by one Richard Morgan of Lantrissent, unto whom he sayeth he

¹ An officer of Henry Earl of Pembroke. Vide his Lordship's letter to Sir E. Stradling, 22nd Nov. 1578.

delivered in readie money the sōme of one hundred and twenty poundes to be used in buyenge cattell in suche sorte as he shall himself declare unto yow ; and nowe, in demaundinge the same, the said Morgan denieth the debte, so that this berer, beinge in that countrey a stranger, is like to receve greate hindraunce unlesse he may finde some good helpe to further him in his right. I shall, therfor, most hartely desire yow that yow will, the rather for my sake, sende for the said Morgā to you, and to heere the matter betwine this berere and him ; and to do that good to this berere that you may helpe him to such money as is dewe to him. It seemeth to me by his talke that one of yo^r ten^antes of Sully knoweth the delivery of the money : ife it may therefore please you to sende for such witnesses as this berer can name, and so to examine the matter to some good ende, you shall not only do a dead of charity, but shall also binde me to do what I may for any your frindes whatsoe^v you shall comaunde me ; and so knoweth the Almighty, who sende you longe life. At Donhed¹ my [house], this xxixth of July.

Yo^{rs} ever assured,

R. GROVE.

¹ In Wiltshire.

CCLVII.

To the right wo^r S^r Edwarde Stradling, Knight,
give these.

RIGHT worshipfull, I may be thought over
boulde that, uppon small acquaintaunce and lesse
desartes, I should adventure to interrupt yo^r wor-
shipp wth the perusinge of my symple papers; yet,
nevertheles, an assured perswasion (springinge
from the laudable reporte w^{ch} is geven your wor-
shippe by all sortes in generall) of yo^r worship's
curtesye, w^{ch} carfullie respecteth the causes of
poore scholers and universitye men, did inboulden
me to addresse this petytyon unto yo^r worshipp,
hopinge that yow will vouchesafe to peruse yt
patiently, and to consyder of yt charitably. Not
wthstanding that synce my first repayre to Ox-
fourde I have imployed what paynes I coulde to
purchase knoweledge, therby to make my selfe
the more worthy of preferm^t, and have two yeres
past entred into the ministerie, that soe I might
be capable of some ecclesiasticall lyvinge; yet the
worlde hath shoven yt selfe soe ungratefull to-
wards me, and soe backwarde in requitinge the
greate charge w^{ch} I have byn att for the obtayn-
inge of lerninge, that never yet was I in any
possibilitye of having anye resonable staye; but

have byn enforced, to my great grieffe, to relye and depende altogether on the charity of my frindes. But of late a frind of myne, a fellowe of New Colledge in Oxen, hath laboured soe for me, that (as he sayeth in his lre w^{ch} lately I receaved) the warden of the house and all the fellows are contented to admytt me for one of their chaplens: but covetousnes raignes soe generallye (as yo^r worshippe knowes) amongst men at this day, that the doore w^{ch} leades men to any preferment, be yt never soe meane, can not be opened wthout the sylver or goulden key; yea, that kaye w^{ch} unlocketh the doore into the foresayd chaplen-shipp must be soe ponderous, that, yf yt waye not tenne poundes in silver, I shall have noe entraunce thither; but my trust is soe surely grounded on Godes p^rvydence, that I hope He will move the good myndes of worshipfull gentlemen to unite ther helps to worke a scholer's preferm^t. I am most humbly to beseeche your worship's furtheraunce herin, and to afford me the comfortable fruyte of youre charitie; and soe miche the rather for that vertue shall therby be advanced, lerninge increased, the church of God in tyme better edified, my countrey's expecta^on satisfied, and the glory of God celebrated: and what soever yo^r wo^r shall bestowe on me I assure you faithfully to recorde yt in most firme remembraunce, and in

token of thankfullnes I shall not cease to acknowledge yo^r worshipp for one of the chiefest authors of my wellfare. Thus, prayinge yo^r worship's pardon for my bouldnes, I comytte yo^r worshipp to the tuytion of thalmighty. 3^o Maii.

Yo^r wo^r to commaunde,

WYLLYAM FLEMMYNGE.¹

CCLVIII.

To the right worshipfull S^r Edward Stradling,
Knight.

MY duty, right worshipfull, humbly mynded. Wher, upon the staye made of my poore stock of brasill, yt pleased your goodnes to grante the same should be redelyvered upon M^r Harbart's dischargd (whyche herewthall is sent), I am humbly to crave yo^r tres to M^r Williams by this bearer for delyvery therof; and, as most bound to youre curtesye therin, I shalbe always redye by anye service I may to shewe my thankfullnes toward yo^r worshipp or anye of yo^{rs}. Through a litle trouble abowt possess^õ of a pasture, I have bene forced to remayne in Glouc^ẽ sheere ever sythens;

¹ The name of "Sir William Flemming, a priest," occurs in the pedigree of the Flemmings of Flemingston, Glamorganshire, in Elizabeth's reign.

and am p̄sently upon my returne to wayt on the Ladye Barkley, syster to M^{rs} Heneadge my m^{ris}, (wife to S^r John Barkley of Beverston,) to London, the rather to be excused for my longe absence, and for my farther favo^r; not doubting to obtaine my m^r to thanke yow for yo^r good doinges towarde me, that most humbly doe rest at yo^r comawnd assurid. Cardyff, the xxiiith of Maye.

WM. WYKES.¹

CCLIX.

To the right worship^{ll} my verie good frinde S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight, at Combehay.²

RIGHT worship^{ll}, My dutie and harty comendaçõs premised to yow and my veri good ladie, with like thankes [for] your many curtesee. I am sorie that you are enforced to depart so sone, whose good neighborhoode I accompte as the best parte of my beinge here. I have of late byn sum while

¹ There was a family of this name at Morton, Herefordshire; but whether of Morton near Leominster, or Morton Jeffries near Bromyard, is uncertain. Walter Wykes, of that family, was living in 1569.

² Combe Hay, near Bath. This property continued in the Stradling family till the reign of Charles the First, when it devolved to Sir Lewis Dyve, a royalist, who, in conjunction with the Earl of St. Albans, had become security for the Sir Edward Stradling of that day.—Gent. Mag. 1829, part ii. p. 321.

at Bristoll, or elles had seane you oft erre this; wishinge I were as nere yo^r neighbor where you continew, as I am nowe wheare I sojorne. I have sent you yo^r booke againe, youres befor at comaundement, nowe in possession; wishinge I had a far better testimony of my unfained affection towards you, that am and wilbe readie at all times hereafter, upon any oportunity, in a farr greater matter to confirme the same if it please you to prove it. And thus, wishinge you of prosperitie a journey as I desir a short retourne, I comitt you, with your good ladie and all youres, to God. Bath, y^e 8 of December.

Yo^r wo^r assured to cōmaund,

JO. SPRINT.¹

CCLX.

To the r. wor. S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

RIGHT worship^{ll}, My most hartly comendaçon remembred to you and my good ladie, with thankses for my good cheare. I have sent yow

¹ John Sprint of Christchurch, Oxford, 1574. He was Prebendary of Winchester and Canon of Salisbury, a "person famed as an excellent preacher." He was made Dean of Bristol in 1580; in which city, or near to it, he was born. He died Feb. 1589.—Wood's Athenæ Oxon. by Bliss, vol. ii. p. 197. [Fasti.]

Guiccardin,¹ a story worth the readinge; w^{ch} you may use at yo^r pleasure, as whatsoe^v I have, that is and e^v shalbe at yo^r comaundement. God blesse you and all yo^{rs}. Wimsleighe, the of October.

Yo^r wo^r to comaund,

Jo. SPRINT.

CCLXI.

To the r. wor. S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, Knighte.

GOOD S^r Edwarde, You maye thinke that I have forgotten you, but in truthe I have remembred you, althoughe I cannott effect yo^r desire, as I woulde; nether dyd I thinke it beste to deliver the cause thereof but by suche a messenger as this ys, who I knowe to be yours. And to him I praye you geve credett, and believe that you shall never want my goodwill in anie matter yf it maye lye in me to steede you. Even soe, right hartely comendinge me unto you and my good ladye yo^r wife. At Glocester, the firste of June.

Yo^{rs} right assured,

THOMAS THROK^mTON.²

¹ Francis and Lewis Guicciardini were Italian writers of note at this period.

² Sir Henry Sydney, in a letter to his son, Robert Earl of Leicester, 8th August 1568, speaking of his first visit to Kenilworth Castle,

CCLXII.

To the righte worshipfull Sr Edwarde Stradling,
Knight.

Sr, This bearer, yo^r kynseman, I have uppon yo^r tres entertayned to p^rceed in this actyon, and doe hope yt shall turne to his greate good. The comenda^õns yow geve in his behalfe shall cause me the better to regarde him, and to take that care that shalbe meete for a man of his callinge. And soe, wth right hartye comenda^õns, doe byd you farewell. Plymouth, this viiith of August.

Yo^r very loving frind,

FRA. DRAKE.¹

says, "Sir Giles Poole and Thomas Throgmorton of Gloucestershire came together with me."—Sydney Papers, i. p. 34. Thomas Throgmorton was leader of the Irish levies from Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire in 1577. He was Sheriff for the county in the 6th Ph. and Mary, and died in 1586. His son Sir Thomas was Sheriff for Gloucestershire in the 30th and 43rd of Eliz. and died 1607. He married, first, Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Berkeley of Stoke; and, secondly, a daughter of Sir Edward Rogers, Knight.—Collins' Baronetage, i. 296, edit. 1720.

¹ Francis Drake was born near Tavistock in Devon, in 1545. He went to sea at the age of eighteen. Soon after his return to England in 1572, he was introduced by Lord Chancellor Hatton to Elizabeth. In 1577 he sailed with a fleet of five small vessels from England on a voyage of discovery in the South Seas; and, on the 29th of May 1578, passed through the Straits of Magellan, having then only his own ship, being the first Englishman that had ever

CCLXIII.

To S^r Edward Stradling geve this in tyme convenient.

RIGHT worshipfull, Yf tyme, enimeye to my desyre, had not bene one cause of lett, I would have written to yo^r wo^r more at lardg: but this shalbe to certifye you that I am heere, the Earle of Toumñt in Barry; and my good will is suche towards you, for the good reporte that I heere of you, that above all the rest that I knowe I would gladly be acquaynted wth you, yf you will so accept yt; and so moche the rather, because that you being of the borders of Wales, and I the said Earle of Toumont of the borders of Irlande, I doe not doubt but we should talke more at lardg, yf yt be our fortune to meett. I have byne att Bristoff these iii weekes last past, after cominge from the Queenes Ma^{tie} and her Counsayle: in the

attempted the enterprise. Having sailed round the globe, he returned to Plymouth, Nov. 3, 1580, after an absence of two years and ten months. He continued in active employment for the remainder of his life, and greatly distinguished himself in the war with Spain. He died Jan. 28, 1596, of the bloody flux on board his ship, off Nombre de Dios in the West Indies, lamented by the whole nation. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Geo. Sydenham, by whom he had no issue. Lady Drake afterwards married William Courtenay of Powderham Castle, Devon.—Chalmers' Bio. Dict. vol. xii. 305.

meane tyme that I staye heere for wynde, yf I could learne the tyme convenient, I would be glad to speake wth you. Leavinge off to troble yo^r wo^r any more wth my letter, I comitt yow to God. Barry,¹ the xxvth daye of November.

TOUMONT.²

CCLXIV.

To the right wo^r S^r Edward Stradlinge, Knight.

S^r Edwarde Stradlinge, After most hartie commendations unto yow. I am to crave yo^r frendshipp, though but a strandger unto you; and I doubt not but, the matter beinge reasonable, you will use me wth that curtesye for having some occasion to come into thies ptes, and for a tassell ientell I loste in winter last past. I am let to understand

¹ Barry, a small harbour on the coast of Glamorganshire, a few miles west of Cardiff.

² Probably Connor O'Brien, third Earl of Thomond, son of Donough Earl of Thomond, by Helen daughter of Pierce Butler Earl of Ormond.—Archdall's Irish Peerage, vol. ii. p. 30.

CCLXV.

To the right woꝛ his very good cosen S^r Edward
Stradling, Knight.

AFTER my dutifull comendaçoⁿs p̄mised unto you, right worship^{ll} cozin, wth hartye thanks for the manifould curtesyes w^{ch} I have receavid at your hands in the tyme of your worshipfull father : and since hit hath not bene my chaunce to gratifye as yet you in any respect, wherby to woorke some recompence of extended curtesies : but yf yt laye wth your pleasure to comaunde, and in my power to p̄forme any thinge in our quarters, you should fynd me not onlye readye and willinge therunto, but also thankefull for occasion offred to showe my good mynde and gratefull meaninge. The cause of my writtinge at this tyme is in behalf of a sonne of myne, whom, because I founde not very capable of learninge, and therefore more enclyned to sōme other course of life, I brought upp to London to the entent to employ him in sōme good service or other. I thought upon sundry of my ould frendes in the Courte and els wheare ; but, resorting to my good ladye and mistres the Duches of Somerset,¹ I imparted my suite to my gracious

¹ Ann, widow of Edward Duke of Somerset, and daughter of Sir Edward Stanhope of Sudbury in Suffolk. She afterwards married

cosen your good syster, and wished rather then p̄sumed to p̄ferr him to yo^r worshipp's service; but she, of her great kindnes towardes me and confidence in you, as I found, embouldened me in this attempt, w^{ch} I p̄sentlye pursue, assuring me that, as I found you alwayes a most loving cosen, soe my sonne should have of you a good m^r. My request therefore is, by mediation of my good cosen yo^r syster, that hit may please you to accept him as yo^r poore servantt; who, althoughe he can not as yet dischargd his dutye in service towardes you in suche exquisytt sorte as were expedyent a good serving man should doe (because of his small experience and homelye bringinge upp), yet I dare so farr p̄sume upon his nature and myne owne tryall that you shall find him humble, tractable, and obedient at all tymes. I have, uppon hope of yo^r assent to this my request, geven him in chardge to be serviceable and conformeable to yo^r comaundementes in all respectes; yf he doe otherwise, he maye fullie pswade him selfe of the losse of me his naturall father. I hope you will beare wth his rudenes at firste, upon hope of amendement in further tyme; considering that noe desertt of his, but a speciall

Francis Newdigate, Esq. and died April 16, 1587. She was buried in Westminster Abbey. Her will devises immense wealth, and bears date July 14, 1586.—Nichols' Progresses, ii. p. 525.

desyre of myne to have him trayned in yo^r service, moveth me therunto. I have left him heare in London after my deptime, to attend upon your syster homewardest, and soe, by her furtheraunce and helpe, to be admitted to your worshipping's seruyce. And thus, craving pardon for my bould request, (not having satisfied or discharged any one of those bondes of dutie w^{ch} I doe owe you,) and desyringe you most hartely to use me in any thinge my poore habilitie can pleasure you, I comytt you to the mightie and mercifull p^{ro}tection of our Lord. Dated at London, in hast, the xixth daye of Maye.

Yo^r bownden cosen to comaund during lief,

WYLLYAM LEWYS.¹

¹ Probably William Lewis, brother to Thomas Lewis, Esq. of the Van.

APPENDIX.

I.

To the right worshipfull S^r Thomas Stradling,¹
Knight, etc.

I WOLDE gladely excuse the sygnifyinge of soe dolefull newes as the death of your daughter,² w^{ch} geveth me as much paine to writte yt as you to heare yt; yf I thought yt not better, since knowen yt must be, ye understoode yt by me who am partaker of your greifes, then by ane other that ys noe part therto; for that in misery company doth asswage payne, as in fellicity yt augmenteth pleasure. And although I take upon me to comfort you and the rest of her frends, I knowe

¹ Vide Introduction.

² Damasyn, second daughter of Sir Thomas Stradling, by Catherine his wife. Vide Sir John Stradling's "Epigrammata," lib. i. p. 25. "Tamasinæ Stradlingæ, prudenti & ingeniosissimæ puellæ, olim Illustriss. Ducissæ Feriensi à manibus, sepultæ Cafræ in Bœtica Hisp."

none that hath greater neede of comfort then my selfe ; for yf you have lost a daughter by nature, w^{ch} fortune bringeth, I have lost one by election, w^{ch} of all others is the straightest bonde of frendshipp. Yf you did hope in tyme to come to receave comfort of her, I hoped noe lesse ; and for vii yeres past my joyes have bene soe greate in her, as I knowe not wheather in any earthly thinge I have taken the like pleasure. For in her tyme I knewe not what troubles ment ; all my cares, all my busines, all my lusts were discharged upon her backe ; she honored me like her mother, she loved me as a syster, and served me wth such fidelitie and paynes as not woman lyvinge, I am suer, could vaūt them selves of soe wise, noble, vertuous, lovyng, carefull, nor able a serv^{ant} as I. Therefore, sens all thes desertes have wrought in me the same operatyon that nature hath wrought in you, and that, accountinge the present wante, myne doth farre excede yours, I hope in the handyworke of God ye will shewe yo^rselfe noe weaker then a woman, but prayse God wth me, that, sens every bodye is mortall, and soone or late we must dye, yt pleased Him to call her in suche tyme as she prepared her soole well to heaven, and in the worlde she left suche credit and estimation of her vertues as noe good man

ther was that dyd not lament and wepe her death. Synce that yt pleased God by her shorte lyfe to take away the meanes of recompensinge her soe greate deserts, me thinketh I am bounde to shewe in them whome I knewe to be most dearest wth unto her, those tokens of good will w^{ch} I would to God her longer life would have suffered me to shewe in her. And for that I knewe her syster Wentlen¹ to be the dearest unto her of all her systers, and of whome she semed allwayes to have particuler care above all others, my parte ys to comend her unto you above all others; desyringe you, wheras there wanteth alreadye noe obligacyon, neither of nature nor vertus, for yow to doe for her, from hence forwarde yt may be augmented and dobled in such sorte as therby may appeare the affection ye bore to your other daughter, and the desyer ye have to doe me pleasure. I my selfe am separated into suche a corner of the worlde, as by sollicitinge her frendes in her cause I am able to stande her in noe steede; yfe my beatter fortune from hence forwarde bringe me nearer my contrey, I will then travaile in myne owne parson to excuse that troble w^{ch} I nowe am enforced to put my frendes unto. Yf heare or any wheare els I am able to pleasure

¹ Vide p. 221.

you or any frend of yours, good M^r Stradlinge, thinke y^t I am as readye to doe yt, as for any man that I profes most frendshipp unto. God bles you and all your children, and prosper you as I desyer. From Cafra,¹ the xxvth of May 1567.

Yo^r most assured frind,

THE CONTES OF FERIA.²

II.

To the right worshipfull S^r Thomas Stradling,
Knight, thes be delyvered.

GENTLE S^r Thomas, Havinge had soe fewe occasions to writte unto you, I am hartily sory that thes yll newes should geve me the first, w^{ch} are to bringe you advertysment that your deare and good daughter M^{res} Damascene hath by Godes callinge chainged this life for a better, as by my Lady Countesses tres cominge herewth you shall at more lengthe perceave. To your wisdom and vertue all exhortations of well takinge this matter were superfluouse, of whose examples and doinges all suche as I am may learne to speake to our selves. In a better tyme for her selfe, and in

¹ In Spain.

² Vide p. 1, note ¹

a worse tyme for her mistresse and company, she could never have goone in; for goone from them she ys, to whome she was in dede (and not unworthely) a very mother, and governour, w^{ch} partes she did soe well parforme, that this whole province testifyeth yt to her endlesse honour and good fame. My Lady here (I assure you) by all apparances would have byne as litle grieved wth the lack of her only sonne; for she was to her an eye, an eare, a tong, an hande, and all her breath and spirite almost, as wthout whome nowe here ys in effect noe life to be seene, in regymēt I meane, besydes houshold affayres and forrayne travelles, all w^{ch} restid in her head and hand: wth the great griefe of all lefte behinde her ys she therefore goone, and wth her owne imortall honour. To wardes God such was her ende, which you most regarde I am suer, as her rare vertuouse life deserved. A good life can never end yll. Yf my laysure were more (w^{ch} is here subjecte to pestes¹ pleasures) I wold saye more, but to you yt nedyth not: God hath already so taught you, that you may teach all almost. This tyme and matter therefore requireth rather thanks, wth comfort and joye, than any payne, grutch, or sorrowe. And soe wth thes fewe [lines] I comende me right

¹ Sic in orig.

hartyly unto you, and to yo^r good devotions, in
w^{ch} I desyre to be remembred. At Cafra, the
xxvith of May 1567.

Yo^r owne ever assured to my litle power,

J. F.¹

¹ The Editor has not been able to discover the name of the
writer.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

- PAGE 12, line 4 of note, *for* "Deputy," *read* "Lord Deputy."
19, note ¹, *for* "Sir Thomas Gamage, Knight," *read*
"John Gamage, Esq."
49, line 12, *for* "generallie," *read* "[not] generallie."
66, note ¹, *add* "The MS. has been published by Sir
Thomas Phillipps, Baronet. Vide p. 168, note ²."
145, note ¹, *omit* "Sir Edward's descendant."
150, note ¹, *for* "translation," *read* "edition" — *for*
"Puleston," *read* "Gruffyth."
194, expunge note ¹, and *read* "Probably George Carew,
Dean of Exeter and afterwards Dean of Windsor, who
died in 1583; or his son, Sir George Carew, afterwards
created Earl of Totnes, born in 1555, died in 1629.
Stowgurse is perhaps Stoke Courcy, Somersetshire."
204, note ¹, *add* "Sir W. Morgan died without issue."
216, line 6, "O Lantighe" is "Ollantigh in Kent, then
the property of Sir Thomas Kempe, Knight."
227, note, *for* "Edward Kemeys," *read* "David Kemeys."
232, line 5, "John Hawkes." "Vide p. 53."
Introduction, p. xii. *add* "After this work had been printed,
the Editor met with a detailed account of a suit in the
Court of Wards and Liveries, A.D. 1584, against Sir E.
Stradling for seizing an heiress and her lands; but
'hardly,' according to Strype, who adds that he was
'innocent.' It is probable that Lord Burleigh was
influenced by the Crofts, or some other aspirant to the
hand of Barbara Gamage."—Strype's Annals of the
Church, vol. iii. p. 275.

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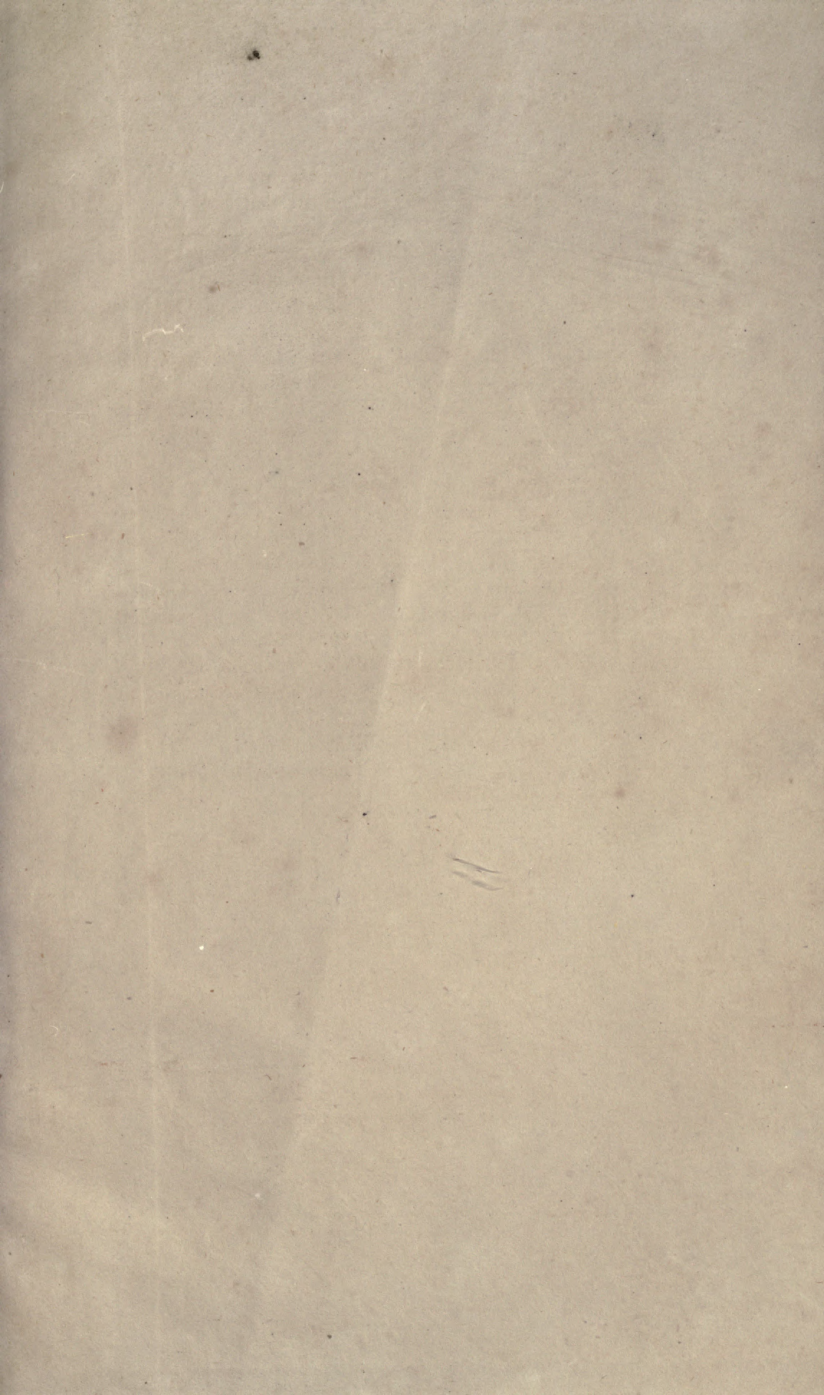
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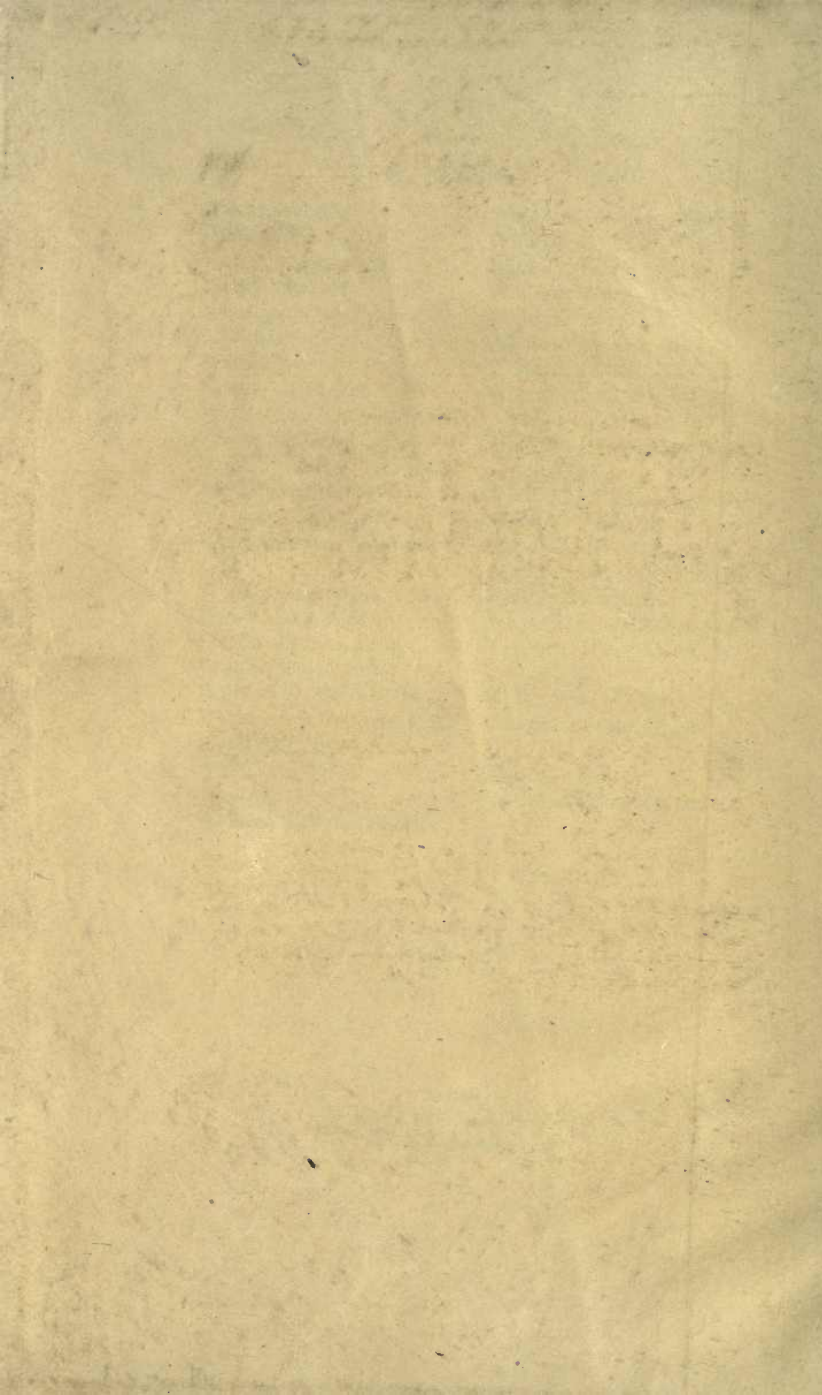
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THE END.

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