





T H R E E

L E T T E R S.

I. *A Letter from a Jesuit at Liege, to a Jesuit at Fribourg, giving an Account of the Happy Progress of Religion in ENGLAND.*

IT cannot be said what great affection and kindness the K. hath for the Society; wishing much health to this whole Colledge by R. P. the Provincial, and earnestly recommending himself to our Prayers. The Provincial *Alexander Regius* being come back for *England*, the K. was graciously pleased to send for him; (several Earls and Dukes waiting his coming at the hour appointed) the Q. being present, the King discoursing familiarly with him, asked him *How many young Students he had, and how many Scholasticks?* to which (when the Provincial had answered, That of the latter he had Twenty, of the former more than Fifty) he added, *That he had need of double or treble that number to perform what he in his mind had designed for the Society;* and commanded that they should be very well exercised in the gift of Preaching; *for such only* (saith he) *do we want in England.*

You have heard I make no doubt, that the K. hath sent Letters to Father *Le Chese*, the French King's Confessor about *Wadden-house*, therein declaring, that he would take in good part from him, whatsoever he did or was done for the English Fathers of that Society. Father *Clare* Rector of the said House going about those Affairs at *London*, found an easie access to the K. and as easily obtained his desires. He was forbid to kneel and kiss the Kings hand (as the manner or custom is) by the K. himself, saying, *Once indeed your Reverence kissed my hand, but had I then known you were a Priest, I should rather have kneeled and kissed your Reverences hand.*

After the business was ended, in a familiar Discourse, the K. declared to this Father, *That he would either Convert England, or dye a Martyr; and that he had rather die to-morrow, that Conversion wrought, than Reign Fifty years without that, in happiness and prosperity.* Lastly, he called himself a *Son of the Society*, the Welfare of which, he said, He as much rejoiced at as his own: And it can scarce be said how joyful he shewed himself when it was told him, That

he was made partaker, by the most Reverend Father *N.* of all the Merits of the Society; of which number he would declare one of his Confessors: Some report R. P. the Provincial will be the person, but whom he designs is not yet known. Many do think an Archbishoprick will be bestowed on Father *Edmond Petre*, (chiefly beloved) very many a Cardinals Cap, to whom, (within this Month or two) that whole part of the K. Palace is granted, in which the K. when he was Duke of *York* used to reside; where you may see I know not how many Courtiers daily attending to speak with his Eminency, (for so they are said to call him) upon whose counsel, and also that of several Catholick Peers, highly preferred in the Kingdom, the K. greatly relies, which way he may promote the Faith without violence. Nor long since some Catholick Peers did object to the K. that he made too much hast to establish the Faith, to whom he answered, *I growing old, must make great steps, otherwise, if I should dye, I shall leave you worse than I found you.* Then they asking him why therefore was he not more solicitous for the Conversion of his Daughters Heirs of the Kingdom, he answered, *God will take care for an Heir; leave my Daughters for me to Convert; do you by your example reduce those that are under you, and others to the Faith.* In most Provinces he hath preferred Catholicks; and in a short time we shall have the same Justices of the Peace (as they are called) in them all. At *Oxford* we hope Matters go very well: one of our Divines is always Resident therein; a Publick Catholick Chappel of the Vice-Chancellor's, who hath drawn some Students to the Faith. The Bishop of *Oxford* seems very much to favour the Catholick Cause: he proposed in Council, Whether it was not expedient, that at least one Colledge in *Oxford* should be allowed Catholicks, that they might not be forced to be at so much Charges, by going beyond Seas to Study? what Answer was given, is not yet known. The same Bishop inviting two of our Noblemen, with others of the Nobility to a Banquet, drank the King's Health to an Heretical

tical Baron there, wishing a happy Success to all His Affairs; and he added, That the Faith of Protestants in *England*, seem'd to him to be little better than that of *Buda* was before it was taken; and that they were for the most part mere Atheists who defended it. Many do embrace the Faith, and four of the chiefest Earls have lately profess'd it publickly.

The Reverend Father, *Alexander Regnis*, Nephew to our Provincial, to whom is committed the Care of the Chappel, of the Ambassador of the Most Serene Elector Palatinate, is whole days busied in resolving, and shewing the Doubts or Questions of Hereticks, concerning their Faith, of which number you may see two or three continually walking before the Doors of the Chappel, disputing about Matters of Faith amongst themselves. Prince *George*, we can have nothing certain what Faith he intends to make Profession of. We have a good while begun to get footing in *England*. We teach Humanity at *Lincoln*, *Norwich*, and *Tork*. At *Warwick* we have a Publick Chappel, secured from all Injuries by the King's Souldiers. We have also bought some Houses of the City of *Wiggorn*, in the Province of *Lancaster*. The Catholick Cause very much increaseth. In some Catholick Churches, upon Holydays above 1500 are always numbred present at the Sermon. At *London*, likewise, things succeed no worse. Every Holyday, at Preaching, People so frequent, that many of the Chappels cannot contain them. Two of ours, *Darmes*, and *Berfak* do constantly say Mass before the King and Queen, Father *Edmund Newil* before the Queen Dowager, Father *Alexander Regnis* in the Chappel of the Ambassador aforesaid, others in other places. Many Houses are bought for

the Colledge in the *Savoy* (as they call it) nigh *Somerset-house*, *London*, the Palace of the Queen Dowager, to the value of about eighteen thousand *Florins*, in making of which after the Form of a Colledge, they labour very hard that the Schools may be opened before *Easter*.

In *Ireland* shortly, there will be a Catholick Parliament, seeing no other can satisfie the King's Will to Establish the Catholick Cause there. In the Month of *February*, for certain, the King hath design'd to call a Parliament at *London*: 1. That by a Univerfal Decree, the Catholick Peers may be admitted into the Upper House: 2. That the Oath or Test may be annulled. 3. Which is the best or top of all, That all Penal Laws made against Catholicks, may be Abrogated; which that he may more surely obtain, he desires every one to take notice, that he hath certainly determined to dismis any from all profitable Employments under him, who do not strenuously endeavour the obtaining those things; also that he will Dissolve the Parliament: with which Decree some Hereticks being affrighted, came to a certain Peer to consult him what was best to be done, to whom he said, the Kings pleasure is sufficiently made known to us; what he hath once said, he will most certainly do: if you love your selves, you must submit your selves to the Kings Will. There are great preparations for War at *London*, and a Squadron of many Ships of War are to be fitted out against a time appointed; what they are design'd for is not certain. The *Hollanders* greatly fear they are against him, and therefore begin to prepare themselves. Time will discover more.

Liege, 2. Feb. 1688.

II. A Letter from the Reverend Father Petre, Jesuit, Almoner to the King of England, written to the Reverend Father la Chese, Confessour to the Most Christian King, touching the present Affairs of ENGLAND.

Translated from the French.

Most Reverend Father,

IF I have sail'd, for the last few days, to observe your Order, it was not from want of Affection, but Health, that occasion'd the neglect; and for which I shall endeavour to make amends by the length of this.

I shall begin where my former left off, and shall tell you, That since the appearing of a Letter in this

Town, written by the Prince's Minister of *Holland*, which declares the Intentions of the Prince and Princess of *Orange*, relating to the Repealing of the *Test*, or to speak more properly, their Aversion to it: This Letter has produc'd very ill effects among the Hereticks; whom, at the return of some of our Fathers from

from those parts, we had perswaded, that the Prince would comply with every thing relating to the *Test*, that the King should propose to the next Parliament, in case he should call one; to which I do not find his Majesty much inclin'd. But the coming of this Letter (of which I have inclos'd a Copy) has serv'd for nothing but to encourage the Obstinate in their aversion to that matter. The Queen, as well as myself, were of opinion, against the sending of any such Letter to the *Hague*, upon that subject, but rather that some person able to discourse and perswade, should have been sent thither: for all such Letters, when they are not grateful, produce bad effects. That which is spoken face to face, is not so easily divulg'd, nor any thing discover'd to the People, but what we have a mind the Vulgar should know: And, I believe, your Reverence will concur with me in this opinion. This Letter has extremely provok'd the King, who is of a temper not to bear a refusal, and who has not been us'd to have his will contradicted: and, I verily believe, this very affront has hastned his resolution of re-calling the *English* Regiments in *Holland*. I shew'd his Majesty that part of your Letter, that relates to the opinion of his *Most Christian Majesty*, upon this subject, which his Majesty well approves of. We are interested to know the success of this affair, and what answer the States will give. The King changes as many Heretic Officers as he can, to put Catholics in their places; but the misfortune is, that here we want Catholic Officers to supply them: and therefore, if you know any such of our Nation in *France*, you would do the King a pleasure to perswade them to come over, and they shall be certain of employments, either in the old Troops, or the new that are speedily to be rais'd; for which, by this my Letter, I pass my word.

Our Fathers are continually employ'd to convert the Officers; but their obstinacy is so great, that for one that turns, there are five that had rather quit their Commands. And there being so many Malecontents, whose party is already but too great, the King has need of all his prudence and temper, to manage this great affair, and bring it to that perfection we hope to see it in ere long. All that I can assure you is, That here shall be no neglect in the Queen, who labours night and day, with unexpressible diligence, for the propagation of the Faith, and with the zeal of a holy Princess. The Queen Dowager is not so earnest, and fear makes her resolve to retire into *Portugal*, to pass the remainder of her days in Devotion: she has already ask'd the King leave, who has not only granted it, but also promised, that she shall have her Pension punctually paid; and that during her life, her Servants that she leaves behind her, shall have the same Wages, as if they were in waiting. She stays but for a proper season to embark for *Lisbon*, and to live there free from all stories.

As to the Queen's being with Child, that great con-

cern goes as well as we could wish, notwithstanding all the satyrical Discourses of the Heretics, who content themselves to vent their poison in Libels, which by night they disperse in the Street, or fix upon the Walls. There was one lately found upon a Pillar of a Church, that imported, That such a day, Thanks should be given to GOD, for the Queen's being great with a Cushion. If one of these Pasquil-makers could be discover'd, he would but have an ill time on't, and should be made to take his last farewell at *Tyburn*.

You will agree with me (most Reverend Father) that we have done a great thing, by introducing Mrs. *Celiver* to the Queen: this woman is totally devoted to our Society, and zealous for the Catholic Religion. I will send you an account of the progress of this Affair, and will use the Cypher you sent me, which I think admirable. I can send you nothing certain of the Prince and Princesses of *Denmark*; he is a Prince with whom I cannot discourse about Religion; *Luther* was never more earnest, than this Prince. It is for this reason that the King (who does not love to be denied) never yet press'd him in that matter, his Majesty thinking it necessary that the Fathers should first prepare things, before he undertake to speak to him. But this Prince, as all of his Nation, has naturally an aversion to our Society; and this antipathy does much obstruct the progress of our Affairs; and it would be unreasonable to complain hereof to the King, at present to trouble him, though he has an intire confidence in us, and looks upon our Fathers, as the Apostles of this Land. As for *Ireland*, that Country is already all Catholic; yea, all the Militia are so. The Vice-Roy merits great praise; we may give him this honour, That he is a Son worthy our Society; and I hope will participate of the Merits of it. He informs me, he has just writ to your Reverence of these matters, how things go there. Some Catholic Regiments from those parts will speedily be sent for over, for the King's Guards; his Majesty being resolv'd to trust them, rather than others; and may do it better, in case of any popular Commotion, against which we ought to secure ourselves the best we can. His Majesty does us the honour to visit our Colledge often, and is most pleas'd when we present him some new Convert-scholars; whom he encourages with his gracious promises. I have not expression sufficient to let you know, with what Devotion his Majesty communicated the last Holy-days; and a Heretic cannot better make his court to him, than by turning to the Catholic Faith. He desires that all the Religious, of what Order soever they be, make open profession, as he does, not only of the Catholic Religion, but also of their Order; not at all approving that Priests, or Religious

ligious should conceal themselves, out of fear; and he has told them, That he would have them wear the Habit of a Religious; and that he will take care to defend them from affronts. And the People are already accustomed to it; and we begin to celebrate Funerals with the same Ceremony as in France; but it is almost a Miracle to see that no body speaks one word against it, no not so much as the Ministers in their Pulpits; in so good order has the King managed these matters. Many *English* Heretics resort often to our Sermons; and I have often recommended to our Fathers, to preach, now in the beginning, as little as they can of the Controversie, because that provokes; but to represent to them the Beauty and Antiquity of the Catholic Religion, that they may be convinc'd, that all that has been said and preach'd to them, and their own Reflections concerning it, have been all scandal: For I find (as the Apostle says) they must be nourish'd with Milk, not being able to bear strong Meat. Many have desir'd me to give them some of our Prayers, and even the holy Mass, in *English*: which I mean to do, to satisfy the meanest sort, of which the greatest part do not understand *Latine*, but not to take away from the new Converts their Testaments, which is a matter of moment; and, that we may not disgust them at the beginning, we must permit them to have them for a time, till they part with them of themselves. I have need of *C. H.*'s counsel upon this point, and not in this only, but also in a great many other matters that daily press me: for you may easily believe, that I have often more business than I can well dispatch; and we must work with so much circumspection and precaution, that I have often need of your Paternity's wise counsel. But the Lord, and the good Virgin do strengthen me as there is occasion.

The Bishop of *Oxon* has not yet declar'd himself openly; the great obstacle is his Wife, whom he cannot rid himself of: His design being to continue Bishop, and only change Communion; as it is not doubted but the King will permit, and our holy Father confirm: though I do not see how he can be farther useful to us, in the Religion in which he is, because he is suspected, and of no esteem among the Heretics of the *English* Church; nor do I see that the example of his Conversion is like to draw many others after him, because he declar'd himself so suddenly. If he had believ'd my counsel, which was to temporize for some longer time, he would have done better; but it is his temper, or rather zeal that hurried him on. There are two other Prelates that will do no less than he; but they hold off alike, to see how they may be serviceable to the propagation, and produce more fruits, while they continue undiscover'd.

That which does us most harm with the Lords and great men, is the apprehension of a Heretic Successour: For, (as a Lord told me lately) assure me of a Catholic Successour, and I will assure you, I and my Family will be so too. To this happy purpose, the Queen's happy delivery will be of very great moment. Our zealous Catholics do already lay two to one, that it will be a Prince: GOD does nothing by halves; and every day Masses are said upon this very occasion.

I have gain'd a very great point, in persuading the King to place our Fathers in *Magdalen-Colledge* in *Oxon*; who will be able to tutor the young Scholars in the Roman Catholic Religion. I rely much on Father *Thomas Fairfax*, to whom I have given necessary Instructions how to govern himself with the Heretic People; and to take care, in the beginning, that he speak not to them any thing that may terrifie. And, as I tell you, a Religious has need here of great prudence, at this time, that the King may hear of no Complaints that may displease him; and therefore we dare not at present, do all we shall be able, and bound to do hereafter, for fear of too much haring the Mobile.

I like well that Father *Halis* goes to stay sometime at the *Hague Incognito*, on pretence of soliciting for a Place, which is not soon to be got there; and I have given him a Letter to some of that Court: Father *Smith* that is there now, by reason of his great Age, not being able to do all he ought and wishes to do, and is also too well known there. And I shall often impart to you what I shall learn from those Quarters; from whence I shall weekly receive something of moment, so long as the two Courts are in so bad Intelligence together, as at present they are. For my part, to speak freely on this Topick to your Reverend Fatherhood, I am of opinion, we should rather endeavour to Moderate, than Aggravate the Difference between them; tho' I know I do not, in this matter, altogether concur with the Sence of the *French* Ambassadour, who considers only his Master's Interest: But we are necessitated to take other Measures, and such as perhaps may not always agree with the Interest of *France* in this matter.

And I think aggravating of this Breach at present, to be also prejudicial to the Catholick Religion itself. The great design we have so long aimed at, is applying to the King of *France* to take from the Hereticks all hopes of a Head, or any other Protection, than what they must expect from their own King; whereby they, finding themselves expos'd to his Pleasure, will the more readily subscribe to his Will. But this misunderstanding between us, will occasion an opportunity to the Heretics to set up the Prince of *Orange* for their Chief: And let me assure you, not to deceive yourselves, The Religi-

ous of England, as well as the Presbyterians themselves, regard the Prince of Orange as their *Messy*; and his Party is already so powerful in both these Kingdoms, that it will appear terrible to any thinking person, should things come to extremity; as may never happen, if matters are not push'd on too far, but managed with Moderation. And I desire therefore, with great deference to your better Judgment, that this matter might be hinted to his *Most Christian Majesty*, as opportunity shall serve, and am sensible it must be done with very great caution.

I can tell you nothing at present concerning the certainty of calling a Parliament; it requires so many things to be consider'd of, and measures to be taken, that his Majesty ought to be well assur'd of the success, before he Convenes them together. I am not of opinion with many other Catholics, who say, That by calling them, the King hazards nothing; for, if they will not answer his ends, he need only Prorogue them, as is usually done: But it is my opinion, and the sense of many others, That his Majesty hazards much; for if it should unfortunately happen, that they should, in their Assembly, refuse to comply with his Majesty's desires, it may be long enough ere he compass his ends by way of a Parliament, and perhaps never: and then there rests no expedient, or other means, but by Violence, to execute the Orders of his secret Council, which must be suppos'd by his Army; who, upon a pretence of Incamping, may be called together with the less jealousy or suspicion. So, you may see (most Reverend Father) that we do not want work in these Quarters; and I must be supported by your Prayers, which I beg of you, and from all those of our Society.

His Majesty is so desirous that things may be done in order, and upon a sure fund, so as to be the more lasting, that he makes great application to the Shires and Corporations, to get such persons chosen for the Parliament, as may be favourable to his ends, of which he may be sure, before they come to debate: And the King will make them promise so firmly, and exact such Instruments from them in writing, that they shall not be able to go back, unless they will thereby draw upon themselves his Majesty's utmost displeasure, and make them feel the weight of his resentment. And I have here inclos'd some effects of his Majesty's endeavours in this matter, which is an Address which the Mayor, Sheriffs and Burgesses of *Newcastle*, in the County of *Stafford*, have presented to the King, [see the *Gazette*, where this Corporation, as well as *Gloucester* and *Tezbury*, and others, in their Addresses, promise to choose such Members as shall comply with his Majesty's desires.] If all Towns were in as perfect Obedience as these, we should certainly have a Parliament call'd, which

the Catholics and Non-conformists expect with great impatience. But, since this cannot be said of many of them, the King's Secret Council think good to wait for the Queen's delivery, that they may see a Successour, who may have need of the whole Protection of the *Most Christian King* to support him, and maintain his Rights. And, by the Grace of G O D, we hope, that that Prince, treading in his Father's steps, may prove a worthy Son of our Society, like his Father, who thinks it no dishonour to be so call'd.

As to other things, (most Reverend Father) our Fathers, with me, as well as generally all the Catholics, with what grief do we hear of the Disunion that arises between his Holiness and the *most Christian King*! How does my head, in imitation of the Prophet's, become a Spring of Tears to lament night and day the Schism that I foresee coming into the Church! Is it possible that our holy Society should not stand in the Breach, and prevent the mischiefs that this Difference may occasion in the Church? And that no body can reconcile *Levi* and *Judah*, the Priesthood and the Scepter, the Father and the Son, the eldest Son of the Church with the Vicar of Christ upon Earth? And what a Desolation, and what Advantage to the Heretics, must this occasion? They begin already to bid us Convert the Children of the Family, before we begin to Convert Strangers. And I must with grief confess, they have but too much reason for what they say; and if there does not come some present assistance from Above, I foresee this Affair will occasion great prejudices in the North: Nor have we any hope, that his *British* Majesty will interpose herein openly, he receiving so little satisfaction from his Holiness, in some demands made by his Ambassadour at *Rome*, which (morally speaking) ought not to have been denied so great a King, who first made this Step, (which his Predecessours for a long time were not willing to undertake) in sending his Ambassadour of Obedience to *Rome*: And yet, for all this, our holy Father had not any particular consideration of this Submission and Filial Obedience: so that I dare not mention this matter, but by way of discourse, daily expecting that of himself he will be pleas'd to make some Proposal therein. I doubt not (Reverend Father) of your constant endeavour to accommodate this matter, thereby to take away from the Heretics, especially the *Hugonots of France*, this occasion to laugh and deride us: and we should think the change much for the worse, if, instead of the *French King's* going to *Geneva*, he should march to *Rome*: What may not all this come to? especially since the *Marquise de Lavardin* has been so passionate in his discourse to the Cardinal-Chancellor, as to call him Impertinent; and so far to target his Duty and Reverence toward our holy Father, the Pope

Pope himself, as to say he Doted : as the Heretics do confidently discourse in these parts. I have caused some Masses of the Holy Ghost to be said, That GOD would please to Inspire the discontented Parties with a Spirit of Peace and Concord. You did acquaint me, some time since, That Madam *Maintenon* did take upon her the Title of *Daughter of the Society*; by vertue whereof, you may command her, by vertue of Obedience, to use her Credit and Eloquence with the King, to incline him to an Accommodation in this matter. In the mean time,

I hear that at *Rome*, many eminent persons endeavour the same with his Holiness, who says, He cannot, nor ought not to recede from what he has done; otherwise, it were in effect to submit to the Articles made in *France* by the Clergy in 1682, and consequently of too great moment to recant: and therefore, Submission ought to come from the Son, and not from the Father. I recommend myself (Reverend Father) to your Prayers and Blessing, desiring you would continue to assist me with your Salutar Councils, and rest for ever

St. James's, Feb. 9th.

Yours, &c.

III. *The Answer of the Reverend Father la Chese, Confessor to the Most Christian King, to a Letter of the Reverend Father Petre, Jesuit, and Great Almoner to the King of England, upon the Method or Rule he must observe with His Majesty, for the Conversion of His Protestant Subjects.*

Most Reverend Father,

When I compare the Method of the *French Court* (which declares against all Heresies) with the Policy of other Princes, who had the same Design in former Ages; I find so great a difference that all that passes now a days in the King's Council is an impenetrable Mystery: and the eyes of all *Europe* are opened, to see what happens; but cannot discover the Cause.

When *Francis* the First, and *Henry* the Second his Son, undertook to Ruine the Reformation, they had to struggle with a Party which was but beginning and weak, and destitute of Help; and consequently easier to be overcome.

In the time of *Francis* the Second, and *Charles* the Ninth, a Family was seen advanc'd to the Throne by the Ruine of the Protestants, who were for the House of *Bourbon*.

In this last Reign many Massacres hapned, and several Millions of Hereticks have been Sacrificed, but it answer'd otherways: and his Majesty has show'd (by the peace and mild ways he uses) that he abhors shedding of Blood; from which you must persuade his *Britannic* Majesty, who naturally is inclined to Roughness, and a kind of Boldness, which will make him hazard all, if he does not Politickly manage it; as I hinted in my last, when I mentioned my Lord Chancellor.

Most Reverend Father, to satisfy the desire I have to shew you by my Letters the Choice you ought to make of such Persons fit to stir up, I will in few words (since you desire it) inform you of the

Genius of the People of our Court, of their Inclinations, and which of them we make use of; that by a Parallel which you will make, between them and your *English* Lords, you may learn to know them.

Therefore I shall begin with the Chief: I mean, our Great Monarch. It is certain that he is naturally good, and loves not to do Evil, unless desir'd to do it. This being so, I may say, he never would have undertaken the Conversion of his Subjects, without the Clergy of *France*, and without our Societies Correspondence abroad. He is a Prince enlightned; who very well observes, that what we put him upon, is contrary to his Interest, and that nothing is more opposite to his Great Designs, and his Glory; he aiming to be the Terror of all *Europe*. The vast number of Malecontents he has caused in his Kingdom, forces him in time of Peace to keep three times more Forces, than his Ancestors did in the greatest Domestick and Foreign Wars: which cannot be done, without a prodigious Expence.

The Peoples Fears also begin to lessen, as to his Aspiring to an Universal Monarchy: and they may assure themselves he has left those thoughts; nothing being more opposite to his Designs, than the Method we enjoyn him. His Candor, Bounty, and Toleration, to the Hereticks, would undoubtedly have open'd the doors of the Low Countries, *Palatinate*, and all other States on the *Rhine*, and even of *Switzerland*: whereas things are at present so alter'd, that we see the *Hollanders* free from any fear of danger;

danger ; the *Switzers* and City of *Genova*, resolv'd to lose the last drop of their Blood in their defence; beside some diversion we may expect from the Empire, in case we cannot hinder a Peace with the *Turks* ; which ought to hasten his *Britannick* Majesty, while he can be assured of Succors from the most Christian King.

Sir, his Majesties Brother is always the same, I mean, takes no notice of what passes at Court. It has sometimes happen'd, that Kings Brothers have acted so, as to be noted in the State; but this we may be assur'd will never do any thing to stain the glory of his Submission and Obedience: and is willing to lend a helping hand for the Destruction of the Hereticks; which appears by the instances he makes to his Majesty, who now has promised him to cause his Troops to enter into the *Palatinate* the next Month.

The *Dauphin* is passionately given up to Hunting, and little regards the Conversion of Souls; and it does not seem easie to make him penetrate into business of Moment; and therefore we do not care to consult him which way, and how, the Hereticks ought to be Treated. He openly laughs at us, and flights all the Designs, of which the King his Father makes great account. The *Dauphiness* is extremely witty; and is without doubt uneasie to shew it in other matters besides Complements of Conversation. She has given me a Letter for the Queen of *England*; wherein after her expression of the part she bears on the news of her Majesties being with Child, she gives her several advices about the Conversion of her Subjects.

Most Reverend Father, She is undoubtedly born a great enemy to the Protestants; and has promoted all she could with his Majesty, in all that has been done, to hasten their Ruine; especially having been bred in a Court of our Society, and of a House whose hatred against the Protestant Religion is Hereditary; because she has been raised up by the Ruine of the *German* Protestant Princes, especially that of the *Palatinate*. But the King having caused her to come to make Heirs to the Crown, she answers expectation to the utmost.

Monsieur Louvois is a man who very much observes his duty, which he performs to admiration; and to whom we must acknowledge *France* owes part of the glory it has hitherto gained, both in regard of its Conquests, as also the Conversion of Hereticks; to which latter I may say, he has contributed as much as the King: he has already shew'd himself Fierce, Wrathful, and Hardhearted, in his Actions towards them; though he is not naturally inclin'd to Cruelty, nor to harrass the people. His Brother the Archbishop of *Rheims*, has ways which do not much differ from those of his Soul; and all the difference I find between them is, That

the Archbishop loves his own glory, as much as *Monsieur de Louvois* loves that of his Majesty. He is his own Idol; and give him out Incense, and you may obtain any thing. Honour is welcome to him, let it come which way it will. The least thing provokes this Prelate; and he will not yield any thing derogatory to his Paternity. He will seem Learned; he will seem a great *Theologian*, and will seem to be a good Bishop, and to have a great care of his Diocess; and would heretofore seem a great Preacher. I have hinted in my last, the Reasons why I cannot altogether like him; which are need-les to repeat.

The Archbishop of *Paris* is always the same; I mean, a gallant man; whose present Conversation is charming, and loves his pleasures; but cannot bear any thing that grieves or gives trouble; though he is always a great enemy of the *Jansenists*, which he lately intimated to Cardinal *Camus*. He is always with me in the Council of Conscience, and agrees very well with our Society; laying mostly to heart the Conversion of the Protestants of the three Kingdoms. He also makes very good Observations, and designs to give some Advice to your Reverence, which I shall convey to you. I do sometimes impart to him, what you write to me.

My Lord *Kingston* has embrac'd our good Party: I was present when he Abjur'd in the Church of *St. Denys*; I will give you the Circumstances some other time.

You promised to send me the Names of all Heretick Officers who are in his Majesties Troops; that much imports me; and you shall not want good Catholick Officers to fill up their Places. I have drawn a List of them who are to pass into *England*; and his most Christian Majesty approves thereof: Pray observe what I hinted to you in my last, on the Subject of the Visits, which our Fathers must give to the Chief Lords, Members of the next Parliament; those Reverend Fathers, who are to perform that duty, must be middle-aged, with a lively Countenance, and fit to persuade. I also advis'd you in some of my other Letters, how the Bishop of *Oxford* ought to behave himself, by Writing incessantly, and to insinuate into the people the putting down the Test and at the same time calm the storm, which the Letter of Pensionary *Fagel* has raised. And his Majesty must continue to make vigorous Prohibitions to all Booksellers in *London*, not to print any Answers: as well to put a stop to the Insolency of Heretick Authors; as also to hinder the people from Reading them.

In short, you intimate to me, That his Majesty will follow our Advice: It's the quickest way, and I cannot find a better, or fitter, to dispossess his Subjects from such Impressions as they have received. His Majesty must also, by the same Declaration,

tion, profess in Conscience, that (if complied with) he will not only keep his Word, to maintain and protect the Church of *England*; but will also confirm his Promises by such Laws, as the Protestants shall be contented with. This is the true Politick way; for by his granting all, they cannot but Consent to something.

His most Christian Majesty has with great success experienced this Maxim: and though he had not to struggle with Penal Laws and Tests, yet he found it convenient to make large Promises, by many Declarations; for, since we must dissemble, you must endeavour all you can to persuade the King, it is the only method to effect his Designs.

I did also in my last, give you a hint of its importance, as well as the ways you must take to insinuate your selves dextrously with the King, to gain his good will. I know not whether you have observed what passed in *England* some years since, I will recite it, because Examples instruct much.

One of our Assisting Fathers of that Kingdom, (which was Father *Parsons*) having written a Book against the Succession of the King of *Scots*, to the Realm of *England*: Father *Creighton*, who was also of our Society, and upheld by many of our Party, defended the Cause of that King, in a Book intituled, *The Reasons of the King of Scots, against the Book of Father Parsons*: and though they seem'd divided, yet they understood one another very well; this being practis'd by order of our General, to the end, that if the House of *Scotland* were Excluded, they might shew him who had the Government, the Book of Father *Parsons*; and on the other hand, if the King hapned to be restored to the Throne, they might obtain his good will, by shewing him the Works of Father *Creighton*: So that which way soever the Medal turn'd, it still prov'd to the advantage of our Society. Not to digress from our subject, I must desire you to read the English Book of Father *Parsons*, intituled, *The Reform of England*; where, after his blaming of Cardinal *Pole*, and made some observations of faults in the Council of *Trent*, he finally concludes, That suppose *England* should return (as we hope) to the Catholic Faith in this Reign, he would reduce it to the

State of the Primitive Church: and to that end all the Ecclesiastical Revenue ought to be used in common, and the Management thereof committed to the care of Seven Wise Men, drawn out of our Society, to be disposed of by them as they should think fit. Moreover, he would have all the Religious Orders forbidden on Religious Penalties, not to return into the Three Kingdoms, without leave of those Seven Wise Men: to the end, it might be granted only to such as live on Alms. These Reflections seem to me very Judicious, and very suitable to the present State of *England*.

The same Father *Parsons* adds, That when *England* is reduced to the True Faith, the Pope must not expect, at least for Five years, to reap any benefit of the Ecclesiastical Revenue; but must leave the whole in the hands of those Seven Wise Men; who will manage the same to the Benefit and Advancement of the Church.

The Court goes this day for *Marli*, to take the Divertisements which are there prepared: I hope to accompany the King, and will entertain him about all business; and accordingly as he likes what you hint to me in your Letter, I shall give you notice. I have acquainted him with his *Britannic* Majesties Design, of Building a Citadel near *Whitehall*; Monsieur *Vauban*, our Engineer was present: after some Discourse on the Importance of the Subject, his Majesty told Monsieur *Vauban*, that he thought it convenient he should make a Model of the Design, and that he should on purpose go over into *England*, to see the Ground. I have done all I could to suspend the Designs of our Great Monarch, who is always angry against the Holy Father; both *Parsons* are stubborn: the King's natural Inclination is, to have all yield to him; and the Popes Resolution is unalterable.

All our Fathers most humbly salute your Reverence. Father *Roine Ville* acts wonderfully about *Nismes* amongst the New Converts; who still meet, notwithstanding the Danger they expose themselves to. I daily expect News from the Frontiers of the Empire, which I shall impart to your Reverence, and am with the greatest Respect,

Paris March 7. 1688.

Yours, &c.



