the Fleet until he had paid his workmen double the amount they had lost and their charges for bringing the complaint besides.⁸

E. M. LEONARD.

CORRESPONDENCE OF RICHARD CROMWELL.

THE following letters of Richard Cromwell are now in the possession of my cousin the Rev. Richard E. Warner, Stoke Rectory, Grantham, and the Rev. Thomas Cromwell Bush, descendants of Henry Cromwell. They were left, with some portraits and other things, to Henry Cromwell's grandsons by Elizabeth Cromwell, eldest daughter of Richard, and it is to her that most of the letters are addressed. Elizabeth had no nearer relations than her cousins Richard and Thomas Cromwell. The letters are not dated from any place: the first three probably were written from Paris or Switzerland; the later ones are from Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, and Richard is supposed to have lived near Newmarket when he first returned from abroad in 1680. At all events he was certainly not far from London. I have selected the most interesting in the collection.

AUGUSTA S. BURN.

I.

[Undated, but written to his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, during his wife's illness, therefore before 1676, and written probably from Paris.]

Deare Betty,—I would write unto yo^r mother but I know not how: for I feare her weakness: ffor truly untill Mr Prit: his letter I was in great thaughtfullness & could not tell what the next letter would send: but blessed be the Lord for any remaining hop's. Ah, the stroke would have been seveere, and the dispensation is much exercising, God can isshew all for good & turne o^r feare, and sorrowings into joy. will he be pleased to let us praise him? Your Aunt S.¹ will at last answer desires & expectation: and I hope shee may come oppertun'ly, I can assure you she comes not without advice. Mr C.² hath been freindly according to his skill. Yo^r ffather hath expressed himselfe very generous in sending the nose of the skull wth an upper mandable he says yo^r mother knows how to order it. He hath sent of the Snakes root of Verginnia prescribed by Mr C as the best of cordialls; you must powder it, and give as much as will ly upon a sixpence in a spoonfull of sack, take another spoonful to washe the mouth & throate of that w^{ch} sticks behind. Pray finde out yo^r mothers recsit of the Lucutelles balsome³ take a coppie out of it to be sent to yo^r old ffather, belike yo^r mother promised to give him a receipt of it. be full and plaine in yo^r draft of it. Send it when yo^r Aunt S returns. Pray desire your mother to quiet her minde concerning me, and let her strive to be cheerfull, bid her consider

¹ *Privy Council Register*, 10 May 1637. On 17 May an order was made for the release of Thomas Reignolds, as he had given the weavers full satisfaction.

² Probably an old servant; S. Smith is mentioned as a servant or friend.

³ Mr. Cooper, the doctor.

⁴ Locatelli balsam, used for coughs.

that in a few dayes the Sunn will be turning towards her and that her blood may be refreshed. Let her sattisfy herselfe of the love of God, and what he doeth shall be for her soules advantage; the love of God is unchangeable, and he hath the tender bowells of a ffather. the L^d encrease faith. I cannot now goe further, but desire that we that are specially concerned may be plying the throne of grace for your mother, with my sincer love and affections to her, as alsoe my prayers for you all desiring boeth the rod & we may be sanctefyed I rest

Yo^r loving f

[Signature torn off.]

II.

[Written from Paris—probably about 1675-6—to his daughter.]

Deare Betty,—I had yo^r by the hand that visited you, noe pleasing account as to yo^r mothers falling again towards her former distempers, they greatly move me; and that of M^r R.⁴ his letter since startles: truly my heart is heavy & I could better make my Eys to run then my pen, I confesse I have not freedome of expression what is it that the Lord will doe with us? Oh that he would spare, that he would looke upon a poore afflicted ffamily. . . . I know not the present strength of your deare mother I am persuaded she is very weake my great greife & sorrow. I am unable to help, what can such a poore creature direct? yet would the Physician be against sweets? your powder Cordialls I think not alwayes the best, what if she should try Curdes, balm, Rosemary or Rue, this last is nautious. The Lord direct the good Lord step in in this our great perplexity. . . . Oh the heart breakings of some & the crying of children! Hast thou Oh L^d snatched once nay twyce out of the jawes of death, Let thine handmaiden yet be raised, restored to her place to be a living monument of thy praise, let her yet be continnewed a blessing to a poore distressed famuly. . . . The Lord instruct us, thy rod is sharpe. Pray imbrace thy mother for me, I doe love her, she is deare to me. Desire her to keep up her spirits beg her to be cheerfull. A good mother & a loving wyfe—her name is a sweet oyntment, her soule is precious, Lord let her yet live to praise thee; my prayers & love is for her & you all. . . .

I rest your poore & sorrowing freind.

[No signature.]

III.

[Undated, but written most likely from abroad to his daughter, and soon after his wife's death in 1676.

These first three letters are written on similar paper and appear to be of about the same date.]

Deare,—I have received your letter which gives my oppressed soul a little ease & my troubled mind some space of quietness: from a burning fyre, relaxation, and hopes that we may have the exercise of paternal affections, love & reason and to that end you seem in yours to invite which shall be performed with the best judgment & the most sereen candidness of minde the Lord (who is earnestly sought unto by me) shall be pleased to afford & bless me with; hoping that you will lose no

⁴ Mr. Rayner, the steward of the Hursley estate.

time in your addresses to the God of your Spirits & your Father in covenant that you may be made free to discharge the most inward of your thoughts that both our souls may be as with skill searched and dressed that no corruption may be secretly hid to occasion new inflammation to the casting us into new distempers, relapses being most dangerous. Dear child, for my hopes are in thee & in my greatest troubles deprivements of dearest & nearest relations, in my solitary life, when I have looked about and cast my thoughts upon my children, praises & thanksgivings to the God of my choicest mercies have so (through His divine goodness) flowed that my whole soul hath been refreshed, that love & dutifulness your health & that deportment that graced you made you so acceptable where the Providence of God casts & removes you that from a crown of thorny troubles my head hath been as it were wrapped in soft silk & solacing itself in the comforts & hopes of my children as upon a downy pillow, I can rightly say that I have been as much concerned for your condition, & the Lord is my witness I have been as solicitous for your present as well as changing state (my circumstances considered) as the best of fathers. The Lord hath given us the wound & it is he that must heal us, our sins brought the stroke let us repent & humble & turn unto the Lord whose is infinite in mercy & hath said the rod shall not alwayes be upon the back of the righteous & if it be well with them, doubt not of a good portion of the things of this world: but get a heart fitted for them or else your soule may too late repent the eager desiring of them, they being given rather out of judgement than mercy. Your mother knew full well how I was concerned for you, take notice that Mr Goddard in that point was not true either to me or you or others, you see the hand of the Lord: certainly God reignes, & hath an Eye upon all his works, you are a chylde of many prayers, if he numbers our haire, takes care of sparrows, feeds the young Ravens, & cloathes the young lillies, how much of more worth are yee of little faith. Stir up your graces use faith & prayer in temptations, be vigorous in them importunate as the widow, as a good souldier not to give over till you have got an irrecoverable victory—to conclude hoping I may drop something suitable and seasonable, desiring you not to be amaised & frighted as the children of Israel whose had their enemys surrounding them and the sea before them, but with Moses faith be quiet, feare not, *stand still and see the salvation of the Lord*. And now to him that works all things in & for us, for without him wee can doe nothing, be Glory and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Remember me to your sister Dorothy, my prayers for you both I rest your truly loving father

R. C.

To make all more plaine consult with my sister & the soonest I may see you to be better sattisfied of the occasion of yours & this answer.

IV.

[Undated, but probably written to Elizabeth in 1681, as mention is made of his daughter Dorothy, and of his landlord's son desiring an apprenticeship, and therefore written in England.]

Dear Childe,—I hope my distemper is turning, it hath been very sharpe, & a solitary time with me; Pray help me to acknowledge the

good rest of the Lord to me in it, ffor though my thoughts were troubled (not as to Death) but that rodd after rodd should come upon me, The condition of my poore ffamily & the love I have for my children, all these with other considerations, I should not (though I was torne as it were in peices with my distemp) but have a sense upon me, And truly I have been greatly supported. Deare children while you have strength provide against Sickness & weakness, its ill putting offe o^r accounts with God, watch then ; The industrious Ant layes up in the Su^mer for the winter. . . . Let not London's greatness nor glory, hinder us from making forward to the new Jerusalem, where we may imbrace true riches, contentment & happyness. I heare Dolly hath been ill of her old distemp— She must take heed of taking colds, old yong, yong old. My Land L^d in the country desired me to improve my interest amongst my acquaintance to finde oute a suitable trade & suitable master for his Son, He gives 10 or 12 pound wth clothes att setting oute, the Ladd is ingenuous about 19^{teen} yeares of age. A gold wyer drawer was propounded but the weakness of his Eys were doubted. S Smith propounds a Tin worker w^{ch} we do not disapprove off

I rest yo^r
R CARY.

V.

[This letter, to his daughter Elizabeth, must have been written while his daughter Dorothy was ill. She died in 1681, a year after her marriage with Mr. Mortimer. She was born the same year her father left England, 1660, and was named after his wife.]

Deare Chyld,—Sickness of relations and other disappointments hath caused S. Smith to be so long a coming, I hope shee will find, when shee comes to you a better account of the goodness of the Lord then what we meet with by your uphill & downhill letters. Yet such distempers are not quickly removed they require time & great care & exercise of Patience. I need not be a nurse or Physitian, & I hope the L^d heares o^r prayers. I thanck you for your lynes, and you rejoyce my heart for the goodness of the L^d upon you. Our troubles rather increase than deminish, we are in the fyer the L^d purge us of all drosse. Truly Chyld there is cause of great wrestling wth the L^d for our strength is not great, the weight is heavy, oure way is rugged, and the night is very dearke. yet let us put o^r trust in the L^d co^mit thy wayes unto the L^d and he shall bring it to passe. He shall bring forth thy Righteousness like the light, & thy judgement as at noone day. I was very much concerned for thy sister D.—I hope you will give me a better account, an account that may ease my thoughts. . . .

I thank you for yo^r pott of Hayre venneson: it is spent and yo^r cooking was very well approved. All the things you wrote for are provided. Your brother wrote for the little gun, he may have it, but I thinck it is not so propper for shott it being a wreathed barrell as for a single bullet, wth w^{ch} he will not venture to shoote at a Pheasant. Mr R. had an excellent piece I believe he will not refuse your brother. ffor the pistols pray let him be disuaded from such a ffancy, the day will not beare it. Shall he goe beyond sea then he may have what he desires in that matter. Remember me to them all, take a kisse to yo^r selfe &

give the rest each one, give my love to M^r and M^{rs} R. my kind thanks to Herzent and others, excuse my haste I pray for you all, and that the L^d would enable me to serve you I rest

Yor^s

[Signature cut off; no date.]

Entertaine yo^r guesse with freedome.

VI.

[This letter is the first with a date.]

To the tow Ladyes E. C. A. C. att Hursley near Winchester these present.

25th 87.

Deare Ladyes,—I had yo^rs by this bearer, oh that I had the liberty to express my soule to you; The day is darke yet I am not wthout hope; the providences of the Lord are not to be compromised by mortals: therefore let us put o^r trust soly on him, who made all things & governs all things. his Ey is over all his works. I thank you for your kind expressions. this day I met with M^r R. your brother & selfe have declared what so ever is complying to your owne resolutions, fixe yo^r selves give us tim^{ly} notice: believe I have not been very right by reason of a cold these 5 weeks. This day I let blood, I thought I should not have writ, my affection over swayes, excuse my going no further than to assure you that I am yours to command

CRANDBERRY.

VII.

[Elizabeth Cromwell in her answer to this letter refers to the length of time she had been parted from her father—namely, twenty-eight years, from 1660 to 1688. Richard Cromwell evidently still lived a very retired life and shunned publicity; in the then disturbed state of England it was natural he should do so.]

7th y^e 8th 88.

Madam,—I have yo^rs and according to yo^r one order my shaking hand returns. You will give me leave to query whether yo^r Brother & Sister understand & had knowledge of what yo^rs proposed. Know that yo^r company is more desired (nay I say your Sister & yo^r Brother principle to you both) then I can expresse: If yo^r affairs are for Towne I will waite uppon you; a lodgin you know to finde. I confess I know not how to invite you to a place that is upon reparation, alteration, & what not to please. I recomend all to yo^r more serious thoughts. This is not to discouradge, though I add the present confusion that is uppon the greatest counsels in Europe. The Lord Raines Let all them that believeth, rejoice. The dayes are short, the wayes will be dirty: Padders & highwaymen, Lyons & beasts of prey are for the night. I am very ready to answer to M^{rs} Leadbeater's house setting up and am ready to contribute with your direction. My service to your brother & Sister.

I rest yo^r humble servant

RICHARDSON.

for Madam Elizabeth Crⁿ these.

[Written on the other side of the paper on which this letter is written is one in answer, from his daughter Elizabeth probably: the writing is like one letter signed 'E. C.']

Most D^r & ever Hon^r S^r,—I humbly beg your pardon for my giving you the troubel of answering my letter y^rselfe, it was to prevent mistakes (most being ready to give their own scuse) & to keepe my proposal private till I knew your mind about it, which I take to be for some other time rather than now, tell the happy time of seeing you shall offer, give me leave to assure you by writting that it was not any affair that I had in town, or any delight I have in a iorney that occasioned my asking leave to wait on you before winter, but only my desier to see you as often as may be, & thinking all things had been settled before youre move to y^r new quarters, I hoped to injy you there with greater freedome then I could expect in London, knowing what hurries usually attend that place, besides I thought some pretty gratuity which I might be capabel to return would save greater expence. My Bro: or any else knew of what I had proposed, till afterwards my Sis knows nothing yet of it nor doe I intend she shall. she having spent soe much time already I suppose she would not desier to take a iorney againe soe sounes, & I thought I might with my maide easily stepp up & downe againe without being missed; as for your desiens of seeing and inioying us I can never question being very senseibel of the greatness of your affection & love, I desier patiently to wait tell our good God who has soe wonderfully preserved us these 28 years wandering apart & together in all y^r shall bring us together, & in the mean time bee the strengthening our Faith & Patience that we may quietly wait doing our Duty tell he shall deliver us from those straits & difficultys which of a long time we have been exercized with, to whos protection I commite you beging yr blessing & leave to subscrib myselfe your most affec: & most duty-humbel sarvant.

VIII.

[There is no date to this letter, but it was probably written about the same time Richard is still afraid of living with his children and compromising them. I have put it among the letters dated 1689, as the writing and papers are similar.]

For the Ladys Æ, A. C. att Hursley near Winchester—these in Hants.

Deare ee,—I have received both that from you and another from y^r sister: and very much refreshed to finde soe good a temper of mind in you both; you seem to hint that my last to you drew such dearke lines as if I was wrapt in the mantle of melancholly. Perhaps I might have some thoughts and to be wthout clowds, take my cercomstances, you cannot but excuse me. I doe assure you, nothing in this world could be more pleasing to me then to enjoy the company of my children: but lett me act as Fa: not to doe that w^h shall be prejudicial I think my removal should be wth advice, & I am ready to imbrace it: I would not be wanting to seeke it, though I have found hetherto no encouradgement, I have waited, lett the sinn lye at the doore of those that have only pretended, and by experience I have found very false, and my Eys are witnesses they have not in all theire dealings & wayes anything to

boaste off. They may loade me as much as they please, & peradventure they at the same time are loading themselves. God will be judge. Yee are all blessings & comforts to me, I thank you for your Xtelian advice: tryalls calls for ffaith, a suitableness to the exercise keeps the head above the waves, hetherto God is good, he hath been very tender: happy are they that putt theire trust in him, I say in him alone. I have seen your brother, I am glad to see him soe well & greatly pleased to heare it was soe well wth you both, & that the distemper of your head was removed w^{ch} you exprest when you wrote; as also glad that the once taking of the Venice treacle was of that advantage to your sister as she exprest. would I could serve you both better. I am forc't to desire your sister to take her parte in this letter as answer to hers, so farr as to gaine a better time & leisure: ffor that your brother maks soe sudden a returne. Present me to Mr Leadbeater & his wyfe, I design'd the present to have been better. Remember me to Mr Rayner & his wyfe. Your sister may dispose of the puppy. I think nay intend (the Lord willing) to be in Towne tomorrow in the evening to see your Brother before he taks his journey, and if anything more occurs shall acquaint him, and having exceeded the modest bounds of my paper, I shall shut up desiring the Lord to bless you both in your outward and inward man, who am

Yo^r in all affections & duty

R: C.

IX.

For Oliver Cromwell in King Street near Guildhall these.

8^{mo} 4th 89.

Sr,—Since I parted from you I have not had any account how it is wth you: I bless the Lord I gott home very well; it would have pleased me to have received a little hint how the Br^o entertained you, for I am very much persuaded he hath very good intelligence, and knows men as well as things, though I believe he is sattisfied (as well as the wisest of our day) this is as crittical a time as times and times hath afforded. The 19th of this month the Parliament meets. The great silence as to affairs in Ireland maks people to muse as if things did not run currantly; the weather & the country no freinds to our new planters especially if they lye in the field. I have no more, but if your stay is longer continued I should (if with your conveniency) be glad to see you, especially to discourse what you intend as to the gentleman you mentioned about 20 miles from you towards Basing, if I see you not, make noe motion of the matter concerning me to him or any other untill further conference betwixt us either by person or writing. I have forgott his name, but I think you said the s^d gentleman marryed your Cosen Cutts sister. Sr I desire to waite upon the Lord for counsell unto whose care I recommend you and rest

Your affectionate & to serve you

C. R.

Black Robert and Madam Pen^s parts I believe you may have him upon reasonable terms, if you care to treat with him, the fellow is ingenious, a speciall kitchen gardener w^{ch} I esteem to be the most of use and proffit.

^s Mrs. Pengelly, wife of Mr. Pengelly, afterwards Serjeant Pengelly, with whom Richard lived at Cheshunt.

X.

ffor the Ladies E. A. C. att Hursley near Winchester in Hampshire,
these.

9th 2nd 89.

Deare hearts,—I thanck you for remembrance. Its my duty, & through goodness you are minded specially morning & evening. I assure you, you cannot be compromised under any difficulty to express yourselves to me, I know you want not for affections, my cercomstances, providentiall make me rather to winde up my Colors then to display them, for time & seasons are beautifull however our Eys are: for att the best they may be mistaken in the very true laying of Colors. I know my love & duty to you all, I am sattisfyed of yo^r Paradisticall abode, yet I will moderate my passion & deny the appetite of my sense, & act faith; The better to discharge my duty: Indeed I love you. I have seen yo^r Brother much to my sattisfaction & I hope the Lord is pleased wth the temper of his minde, Oh that we could caste o^r care upon him that careth for us. I charg'd his memory wth a supplement of the Sear cloth w^{ch} hath been beneficiall to me. for shirts & stockens I leave to yo^r owne conveniency I am obleiged & I assure you I am yo^rs most affectionately

CRANDBERRY.

Salute all freinds.

I designe the conveyance of this by Mr Rayner.

XI.

9th 29th 89.

Madam,—Its not reasonable that yo^rs of the 29th should be neglected; to answer yo^r apologies is unnecessary, & I will plaide my unskilfulness, therefore pray madam let us be swallowed up in the overflowing of affections it being little to use words, where there is such an Ocean that cannot be in danger of either Rocks or Sandes. I have received all that was put up, Shirts, Stockins and Sear cloth, the last of these was the more lookt for, & that it came noe sooner: you have sattisfyed me, & it was needless, for though I had worne out that w^{ch} was employed, it had effected so great an advantage that the supply may honestly attend a call, for the use of that w^{ch} you have sent. The worke of Shirts & Stockins are greatly praised, they shall not want my thancks, & it shall not passe wthout a sighe that I am att such a distance to kisse those fingers. Madam I dare not touche the last parte of yo^r letter, my joye is soe great that I must shake my penn, & then what lines should I drawe? you say the clouds are very darke: I confesse it: dark fryday, & black Munday. A Spanish Ambassado^r said in James the first time he had not seen his freind in England in six weeks time. The Sunn was: through vapours (black) interposed—blessed be God for yo^r Faith & hope. In this (give me leave to say) & in this, you & all those that have the same faith & hope, are unexpressible beautifull nay happy. Pray excuse me & present my affections to yo^r Brother Selfe & Sister. The contents of the inclosed I intend to observe, give it to peruse: The great God be our ffather & Counsellor I rest wth all hearty salutations to freinds

Yo^rs in all affectionate duty

R CRANDBERRY.

We have wth Mr Wa : & Mr Reed : sett the affaire of the deceased Mr W^d as well as circomstances permitt, & when they are proceeded some hand or other will give yo^r yong gentleman an account. Things as to the Pub : goes on in such a method as all o^r high flown imaginations are as loose as the dust. All are gazing not knowing where they shall be. the plane honest country converse is the best : Too forward buddings are soone snipt & consequently unprofitable, it is good to be sober, & its wisdom to be waiting upon God to see him to God first. Sir H I⁶ is coming up, his L^t Col : is dead att Chester perhaps a favourable providence, He would have been talkinge, it was always a distemper incident to him. I must say noe more. excuse my scribble or game I reiterate salutations deare S^r and Ladies.

Yo^rs most affectionate
R. C.

Yo^r letter was very acceptable to my Land lady. boeth of them presents theire affectionate services to you all. They have & are true freinds. Present me to both your Chaplens and their wives.

I suppose you have seen the declaration concerning Ludlow, the notes of the house are useful : lead me not into temptation but deliver me from Evill I will say noe more.

XII.

Jan 31st 39.

Madam,—Though I have nothing materiall, yet having the oppertunity by my landlady M^{rs} Ab : & my pen in my hand I adventured to scribe my affectionate service to your selfe, Sister & Brother : I hope he had mine of the receipt of those birds he was pleased to send me : & I assure you I tooke great pleasure to understand att the same time of your healths & welfaire of your ffamily. I hope Madam, your Brother received the Boxe of Tobacco w^{ch} was sent him by Winchester carryer some time since, it contained nett 25^{lb} : coste 2^{lb} 10^s : I have paid for it, & A. J. Bod : tells me it was his best Virginnea. Madam it would greatly please to see your Brother answer a duty both to God & his ffamuly : He did incouradge me when I last saw him, but I confesse I have heard nothing, yet I would hope he would not dalley any longer with providence, but take a resolution to fixe his minde in a matter, praiseworthy and sattisfaction to his Relations & freinds. If you doe not understand me I tell you plainly yo^r Brother ought to marry. The Romans would not imploye any in the affaires of theire Comonwealth unlesse they were married, wyfe & children are rather Spirres than cloggs. my prayers are that the Lord would direct him & I wishe it were in my power & province to serve you all in that w^{ch} might be for the sattisfaction of all yo^r minds. I had a letter from your Cosen

* S^r H I was probably Sir Henry Ingoldsby, son-in-law of Sir Oliver Cromwell, of Hinchbrook, and first cousin of the Protector Oliver. Sir Henry was a strong parliamentarian and in the army; he was made a baronet by the Protector Oliver. At the Restoration he went over to the royalists and was confirmed in his baronetcy by Charles II.

H. C.⁷ whose signefys his wives being delivered of another Sonn. His name must be his wives ffathers name, it was exprest with an Apologie, & also he writt that his sister Russell⁸ was brought to bed of her eighth Child. It seems to me to be a breeding country. What shall we say? What is man or the Sonn of man that thou art mindful of him. Man is conceived in Sinn & brought forth in iniquity; to trouble & sorrow, The Lord give us ffaith in Jesus Christ, whose only can relieve us & deliver us from Sinn & Wrath. Let us with Eagles wings fly unto the Rock whose top is in the Heavens. Madam, we are oute of the Roade of news, & we please ourselfe with the Hermits retirednesse more than wth the confusions of Tongu's in the Towne, I viset it very seldom; yet give me leave to tell you the Proroging of the Parlement was very surprising, soe many are the discourses, that I hope you will excuse my silence untill the noises of men's heads be quieted, when perhaps we may understand the true reason of the Prorogation. 8 or 4 days preceding the House of Comons had named Dr Watson & Dr Scott to keep the 30th Jan: with them, but prevented. Taxes grumble the gizards of many: and the unequal distribution of the Assess^{ers} maks Complaints. Some understand the Act of the Convention one way & some another, pray use not the word Convention too comon. and yet some will say the reason for Proroging is in order to dissolving to make way of a more authenticke Parlement, as to its sumons. Be not others drudges, especially in the matter of moneys, As the members of Each country voted, soe they have time to order. Yo^r grand f: would never meddle in mony matters. be reserv'd yet civell, let noe man make you their hacny. Madam I hope you will excuse me, I cannot but blushe, yet give me leave to repeat my affections to you all assuring you theirs is none that more respects & vallowes you then yo^r most faithfull and oblaiged to serve

CRANBOURNE.

Gentleman, wyfe & sonn present all dues to yee. My hearty saluts to Mr Leadbeater & his best wyfe—the bordering ffenns affords both ayre & Soyle for breeding. Pray alsoe present me to Mr & M^{rs} Reyn^r.

Madam E. C.

[Answer to above letter evidently a rough copy, as it is written on the back of the above letter. The signature 'dutifull C.' and 'E. C.' show it to be probably written by his child Eliz^a Cromwell. Elizabeth Cromwell was evidently the rich one of the family, and seems to have been applied to for a loan or her cousin Major Henry Cromwell. She speaks of the new baby, who was named Benjamin Hewling, after his grandfather. The writing of this letter is very careless and scrawled.]

Most deare & ever Hon^d S^r,—I blush to say I have two of y^r most kind letters to return my humbled & hartly thanks for, since I must confess an opportunity has slipt me that of the birds, for want of timely notice, & now been longer delayed by Mr Lead: kindness to their nece who is to be the bearer of this to London: chusing a private hand & to what I have to writ need not fear the comon way, we are by the blessing of God in y^e injoyment of much mercy, but the want of y^r presence & the fear, you have not that attendance you ought to have is very abating to our

⁷ 'Your Cosen H. C.' here referred to was Major Henry Cromwell, of Spinney Abbey, near Soham, second son of Henry, lord-lieutenant of Ireland. Major Henry's second son was born at Spinney in 1689, and was named Benjamin Hewling, after his maternal grandfather.

⁸ 'The sister Russell' was Elizabeth, seventh child of Henry, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, who married Mr. William Russell, of Fordham. She had fourteen children.

satisfaction, give but the word & I am ready to be your valet de chambre when ever you chose it is much my troubel I canott visit you as I would frequently, yet I hope when my brother marries (which he seems inclined to, tho I think he knows not how to goe about it) I shall be more at liberty to travel, I wish the hint in y^r letter may quicken him, could he acomodate his mony matter a littel I dont doubt but he would goe briskly on, Oh that it would please our good God to direct him in his choice & lead him as he did Abrahams servant in the right way. The Tobacco came safe my bro: was soe pleased with it. I thought he had acknowledged the resait for it. My Cosen H. C. gave me an account of his son with the double name & in that letter acknowledged my hundred pound promising principel & intrest desiering forbearance. I was glad to see he owned it & have defered his bond promising to be as I have ever ben his freind. The news we have here makes my bro: glad he is here quietly looking after his own concerns & admiring y^r foresight.

.....
pardon the roughness of these lines & be pleased to accept of humbel duty & sarvis from all here with her who is, Dearest S^r

Your most obliged & most dutifull C.
in all affectionate service
E. C.

XIII.

ffor my hon^d Lady Madam Elizabeth Cromwell att Hurseley near
Winchester Hants these

March 10th 89/90.

Deare Madame,—I began wth your Sister, & my penn rann me oute of bounds before I was aware & having spent much of my powder, I hope you will excuse me if I am not soe learge to you, nor is it want of affections nor matter but time our yong schollar whoe is to give them a lift to London & now waites (for the end of this) booted &c :^o I am glad it pleased you to have hint from me to call upon your Brother to settle: I have revived it againe to your sister, & I hope you will boeth see it soe reasonable & necessary that you will call upon him. It concern's your ffamily in generall & you & your sister particularly. he is the Spring that must move your wheels. You pleased me to say he was inclined, & your drole (that you thought he knew not how to goe aboute it) made me smile. Well madam I thank you for your carefull affectionate expression concerning me, pray lett your Brother settle & that will be the best step for us to enjoye eache other according to what you desire. I would not have you att a distance from him when he is aboute a matter of such concerne for I know he will advise with you both. And it is my prayers to the Lord to direct that a blessing may succeed to you all, that we may experiment by what is brought together, that though we are forsaken of men yet we are not of the Lord. I had a transient view of a letter from your bro: to Coz: W. it startled me & to deale plainly (for that is best among freinds) it went against the haire, nor can I make head or foot of it, I suppose the Corporation hath chosen well, a couple of Monmouth-

* This refers to Richard's anxiety that his son should marry.

tonians & the freeholders should choose together: it must come to the Committee for Elections & they are generally a Committee of Affections.¹⁰ I doe believe it had been better (upon what we have att present before o' eyes) that your brother had declined the choyce. It is not too late for him to take advice, whether the nature of the thing will allow to be dropte & soe prevent a public stain. Maynard & Runton who opposed Gerrard & Hawtry lost it for knights of the shire Middlesex. Our Church of England were allarumed & bravely bestirred themselves in the choyce of this Parlement: & it pleaseth our King very well: he loves not to see the Presbyterian to prick up his Ears, & the Commonwealths man hangs them down. The Lord appears to be breaking & pounding together all must be melted downe & then looke for som what, what thinck yee of the Kingdom of Christ. Pray do not call me fiannattique why all our world are mad. And is it not a strange sight to see a sober man in a mad world. Madam pray excuse me, I find my penn to comit errors it blotts & blurrs, I am not upon a right subject & I must not stay the yong schollar any longer; services are all presented: I shall know more when I see your brother, by whose light I shall know how (better) to direct my penn desiring the Lord to continnew his favour & blessings I rest Deare Madam

Yo^r most affectionate
& faithful servant
CANTERBURY.

Present me to yo^r Brother I write not to him for that he is soe neare his journey. To M^r & M^{rs} Leadbeater To M^r & M^{rs} Raynor & to whom so ever is in the way quallafyed let them know I present respects love nay service.

XIV.

[There is no date to this letter; it must refer to Richard's son Oliver. The writing and paper place it about 1690, when his son would be thirty-four years old. Yet Richard writes as if his son were quite a young man. Evidently Elizabeth Cromwel was the ruler of the family, the one to whom they looked for guidance.]

Dear Childe,--It will not be many dayes but yo^r Brother will be wth you, soe as the L^d prospers his returne. and you may acquaint M^{rs} S. wth it that she may not be surprised. . . I intended it upon a rumor that the great one wth his followers were going down some time this weeke, w^{ch} is uncertaine; how ever meeting with that which wounds mee; had I a horse I thinck onlie of my duty & the trouble of my Soule rather then his returne should not be made & that speedily what ever hazard I should have met with as to my owne lyfe or Son I should have adventured. You know the caution boeth of us gave him & what care & cercomspection was necessary. I preceeded his setting forth with a letter to M^r Parr to have an Ey to prevent what ever might be of blemish to his name or behavior. I followed him with cautionary

¹⁰ Richard Cromwell's son Oliver was elected member of parliament for Lymington in 1690, William and Mary's second parliament. However, the exigencies of the times caused all returns of members to be adjusted by the government, and Oliver's election was not allowed.

letters to keep his deportment fresh, that there might not be the least slip. I incouraged in my letters his manly liberty, strengthening his good minde & disposition, that this journey might prove every way to his profit. But the contrary I meet with, there being no regard of what was either said or wrott, And such are the clattering of tongues in this Towne concerning him, that I know not whether he hath not given a deadly wounde to his poore distressed ffather & sisters: nay let me tell you I know not but he hath ruined himselfe, I am certaine as things are represented to me & others' he hath eclipsed all the glory of his Travels. When he comes to you deale plainly wth him, & tell him he must humble himselfe before the L^d for he hath greatly offended his people, he hath prodigiously opened the mouths of o^r Enemyes to his & his ffamily's derision. And with all let him know subterfuges, & a dessembling tongue will doe him noe good, ffor I tell you the person that came to tell me of what he had heard at the relation of things, he protested he was ready to sinck under them. I say againe for him to smoothen his guilt will be a double iniquity. I protest I shall never trust him for the future if he gads aboute to smoothen anything. The general charge is keeping company with the basest of the country, horse racing, & whether it hath been accompanied with drinking, gaming, swearing or what not I cannot tell for I heare only things in general w^{ch} make my hearte to ake. What is this judgement from the L^d upon us, what are instructions, cautions etc. I am afraide he received noe good by the acquaintance wth y^e yong Lockharts. Pitty, pitty, pitty me, is this a day to be careless, when every one is throwing at us. Oh that the L^d would deale wth his Soule, its a day of mourning, I have only this comforte to support my soule that I have used the best of my endeav^{rs} in the behalfe of my children. And say not that I have ruined you, nor for want of patience doe not ruine y^{re}-selves. The day is dearke & it is alsoe light. I have felt & feele & yet I intend to waite for the L^d only can deliver. You may show my letter to M^r S. & yee may both as Christians deale with him, & prepare him to be ingenious: ffor I am resolved to goe to the bottome of things, & it is that I am concerned for his sisters & his owne soule more than I am for myselfe, having dealt plainly with you, I am at some ease of minde desiring the L^d would turne all for o^r everlasting good.

I resto your deare affectionate & truly loving
f. C R.

XV.

[To his daughter Ann Cromwell, who afterwards married Dr. John Gibson, a physician in London. The state of England and Europe at this time was very unsettled, and is evidently often in his mind.]

Decem^{br} 18th 90th.

Deare,—Think not I forget you, though I confess I have been silent too long in returning & owning of that of yours to me. that w^{ch} was one barr I knew not upon M^r Abbotts remouing how to send see as my letter might come safe to you. And though we write nothing of State affairs they being above our providentiall sphear; yet I am not willing to be expos'd, nor can there be that freedome when we are thoughtfull of

such restraint as a peeping Ey. The hand by whom this comes gave me a hint as if there were some foule play to letters directed to him. Deare heart I thanck thee for thy kind & tender expressions to me, and I assure (if there had been any cause) they would have melted me, there is a great deale of pittie, piety & love, (what I had before was soe full that I had not the least rome to turne a thought or surmise) but what shall I say, my heart was full, but now it overflows; you have putt joye & gladness in it: How unworthy am I to have such a child & I know I may venture to say, that the like parralell is not to be found: what I said was experienced matter for information, what you replyed was in behalfe of those whoe protest themselves to be the Lord's people & they that are truly such are as tender as the Apple of his Ey. I rejoyce in that we both of us love them, yet we are not to deny our Reasons as to the mischeife some of them hath been instrumentall not only in particular to a ffamuly, but in generall to the Church of Christ, besides what woes are hanging over these nations, may we not goe further & bring in all Christendom. I have been above 30^y years bannished & under silence & my strength & safty is to be retyred quiet & silent, we are foolish in taking our cause out of the hand of God. Our Saviour will plead & God will do right he hath promised let us joyne our Prayers ffor faith & Patience, if we have heaven let whoso will have the world, my hearty, hearty, hearty affections & love to your sister and selfe. Salut all freinds I rest commendng yee to the blessings of the Almighty againe fairewell who am

your truly loving father

B. C.

Present me to all freinds.

LandL^d & Land lady present respects & service.

fforth Madam Ann Cromwell att Hurs'ly near Winton South^{we}.

XVI.

[There is no date to this letter and the signature is torn off, but it is evidently from Elizabeth Cromwell to her father: the writing is similar to her letter signed 'E. C.,' and the expressions are also similar.]

Is there noe hopes Dearest Sr that the turns made of late by the Wheel of Providence may lead you from your Cell & Hermits life that your famely may be made happy by your prescence, why should not you quit y^r thoughts of those as has soe unjustly deserted you & yours, and indeavour to settel your selfe soe as your Children may be serviceabel to you then they can be in this way you are now in, I hope it will not be long erre you will give me leave to wait on you, at which time I must again beg your pardon for the freedome I now take with my pen as I doe now, & also that I have been so remise in writing as to have two of your most affectionate leters to return thanks for at once, my De: Brother can informe you how much I long to be serving my Dearest F. & what news the Countrey affords therefore I will say noe more but heartily wish this jorney may be as sattisfactory to my Brother as the last for I thought I never saw him looke better in my life, desiering you & y^r may be guided & counseld by the onely wise Counseller to whos

1898 CORRESPONDENCE OF RICHARD CROMWELL 107

protection I comitt you beging your blessing I take leave to subscrib myselfe

Yours very
[No signature.]

XVII.

[Probably written to his son Oliver, and from the style of writing and paper written about 1690.]

Feb. 22.

I blesse the Lord for his grace, I desire to love, & through his goodness all his works & dispensations are more than favourable. My laste letter was the second, the first might have been worth yo^r observation as to my Soule, the second worth consideration, both oute of love & affection. The day requires holding the Anchor for how soon doth the marriner repent of his ffancy: ffaine would he be at Anchor but neither winde or tyde will suffer it. I thanck you for yo^r first & second letter; whoe can you confide in better than in him that will tell you yo^r faults. I blesse the L^d I have but few to tell you of. The Lord be acknowledged for the welfare of yo^r Sisters; This is to incourage you to write & speak: I am not in haste therefore take yo^r best conveniency. Believe it, God will be waited upon; the pitt is open ready to swallow: & if I have any observation, you have not as yet loste any time. I give you my heart, Hearte to Hearte is good. My true respects love & kindness to M^r S. wth assurance that I wish all your happyness & that the L^d will be pleased to begitt & maintaine a right understanding are the prayers of

Deare Deare
yo^r most affectionate
freind Cr.

XVIII.

For M^r Edward Rayner¹² att Hursley neare Winchester These Hants.

Aug^r 29, 91.

Deare madam,—When I had wrote the inclosed of the 27th I thought good to stop it until we had gott Thursday & fryday evening over, for that great voyding of blood¹³ was on Wednesday between 5 & 6 o'clock as I think is mentioned. We have kept him in bed & to-night w^{ch} is fryday he was tooke out until it was made, and t^h returned blessed be the Lord all quiet soe that o^r hop's beginn to return; yet we must waite for it will be some time before his strenght will be restored or to returne to the place where he received yo^r letters. Therefore Madam be pleased to direct your letters for M^r Thomas Pengelly att finchley East end near Highgate, I know not why they should not come safe, for the Post Office orders the letters for the penny posts in theire several quarters. Or if you like not this you may inclose to M^r Lee as you formerly did, and

¹² Mr. Rayner was steward at Hursley to Elizabeth and Ann Cromwell and their brother Oliver, and some letters were evidently sent under cover to him.

¹³ Referring to a previous letter containing an account of the severe illness of a lad, probably a young Pengelly, as Richard was most likely at Cheshant at this time.

direct him to send either by y^e market people or Coache or penny post. I think we may write more slowly than we did att one time, a time that required it. The wings of the Almighty cover you.

Yo^r humble servant

RICHARDSON.

we all present o^r dues.

XIX.

ffor M^r Edward Rayner at Hurs'ley near Winton These in Hampshire.

7th 17th 91.

Madam,—Yo^r Brother & Sister were in the right, one att a time is sufficient, for oure maine concern's is to understand how the howse stands; that my letters crowded one upon another, its difficult to passe them 4 or 5 miles to the Post Office. yours of the 12 arrived att evening on 14^{teenth}, & for those that come for any of you, your direction maks them performe theire journey as quick & steady, nay better then stop & bate in London. . . . There is nothing would be more pleasing then to answer the invitation made by yee, & there is not a day but I cogetate upon the subject, there are difficultys which a little time may remove; I cannot disgest the Par: usadge of Ludlow I believe we cannot parrallel a time of greater roguery & dissimulation & treachery as what we are in, & the time we are coming into is to be feared will be worse & worse. My shirts doe grow thinn. I am glad focky is with you. . . . S^r I had turn'd out my bay horse to grasse, these last 3 nights the weather being temperate I left him oute, this morning I went to look upon him, but he could not see me, the sudden alteration surprized me, I went for the farryer, who hath toooken out a hawe, his Ey was swelled, & it is swelled, I have toooken him to stable but whether he will come to see againe or noe I know not. I wish focky may please you, I believe you must tye him up & not let him be too full when you hunt him. one letter att a time is best, I am sorry to finde yo^r Sister E to complane, I hope itt will goe offe againe. My hearty affections to you all, having out runn'd the Constable I rest wth all dues from all to all

Yo^rs in duty

C R.

XX.

For Oliver Cromwell Esq^r att Hursley near Winchester Hants These.

10th 19th 91.

S^r,—Yo^rs of the 10th instant forces me not to delay longer for I have now by me wth this tow from you the other being that of the 29th of the last month as also one from yo^r Sister E & another from your Sister A. yo^r first as also these last have perplext my thoughts fearing I might creat thoughts of remissness in me towards you. I hope your candors will acquit me when I shall give you some touche of the true reason of my forbearance; the week preceeding the last I was invited by M^r Swan to come to Towne to discourse an acquaintance of his about an overture to be offered to you, oure first meeting afforded me very little light for my old man would not disclose the person, but altogether played upon one string, viz: that I should give an account of you,

yo^r estate etc: I thought I was bound to be cautious as he was reserv'd or might act the parte of cunning. I told him how providence had made me a stranger to my family, but he had the liberty (pretending friendship) to satisfye himselfe as to the person & his estate—with all Rancks whether high or low Lawyers, Divines, Phisistians, Marchants, Tradesmen in City Country freind or foe such is the generosity & free sperrit of the ffamily. The old man would not be satisfi'd but I must give him another meeting, w^{ch} was the following week, & all the time & place we mett, it was my parte to heare, & when time was spent, I understood shee was about 80 years of adge worth 8000 baggs of nayles. And finding the old man as darke as he was before, resolving not to fall into a snare I repeated what I have above mentioned, & that he or any appointed might satisfy their Eys if they would take the paines as to the Estate, person & government of the ffamuly—telling him relations might be byassed, & as I tooke leave, I cal'd for M^r Sw: that if this gentleman had anything more to say in this businesse if he hinted it to him he should give me notice & I would meet him. Now S^r had I kept touche with y^r letters I had saved the trouble of my scribe, & your trouble of reading S^r I must not omit to lett you know I entered an acquaintance wth yo^r Cosen Moss, old & yong exprest great love. . . .

We have a boxe, my old great boots came not to hand, let Madam E know we found the pot of Oysters very good & Madam Ann s stockens they are to be valewed, A pair of new Glov's I know not from whom wthout it be little M^r Sparks. T. P.¹⁴ my fellow travellor presents his service to yo^rselfe & ladys & desired me to signefy M^{rs} Mary Purvis lives at Sanford near ffaringdon in Berks. Its time to stop my head is hott my fingers are cold yet give us leave to present all dues from All to All with our affectionat & joynt prayers for all blessings I rest intirely yo^r^s

R CRANMORE.

The great M^r Baxter dyed last week to be interred tomorrow. M^r Cocken was interred some time since. And one M^r Brand an eminent minister buried y^e last weeke.

XXI.

[Addressed on the outside to Mr. Rayner, the steward, but written to his daughter.]

To M^r Edward Rayner at Hursley near Winchester.

Dec^r 1st 91.

Deare,—I might stop my pen & stay a little longer having since my coming backe dischargd my selfe with one to your Brother; w^{ch} was a little after my returne to the Post where I now am. My fellow traveller Wedesday last wrote alsoe to give an account of the Co^missions he was charged wth. It would not looke well that M^r Leadbeater should come empty wthout scrip or scrole, besides it saves 8^d carriage. A letter from his wyfe spake yo^r Brothers com^g home on ffryday evening but it was wth a cold the reste of the ffamuly well. Colds many tims have very ill effects upon the body. his spirrits are very active, the house is originall clay, a breache is soone made, & its ill repairing in Winter, besides there is an old proverb 'old yong, yong old'

¹⁴ T. P. was the son of Mr. Pengelly of Cheshunt, with whom Richard was living.

Pray Ladys joyne wth me & desire him to be more kinde & carefull of himselfe then perhaps his yong blood will give him leave to consider. Poor Robbin says in his Almanack good meats & drinks to put into the body warme cloths upon the body att this season of the yeare, certainly an excellent D^r. we have sent to enquire for o^r boxe without successe, we suggest the missetake was in the messenger demanding in the name of Clark when it should have been Pengelly our errour shall be soone corrected. Madam Pen stayed all the week to entertaine o^r promised expected guests, M^r Leadbeater & M^r Prilby, Satterday she was forc'd to Towne tow houres after her taking coache, my gentlemen came, we answered the surprize as well as we could they seemed sattisfied, it would have been better if shee had been att home. I told them they were welcome. They returned after dinner to Towne M^r Leadbeater returned next morning to Highgate Church to give a sermon to the importunity of one M^r Price a former acquaintance. tell his Nancy of it, & let her know that if his horse had been att home he would have stayed att London towne a quarter of the yeare. M^r Prilby hath a bagg full of stories to tell her. but for her comfort she must not believe all. Deare hearts I thank you for all yo^r love. I greatly rejoyce & solace myselfe, I chew the quid of all yo^r kindnesse yee are comforts the greatest in this world, the Lord of Heaven reward you bo'th with temporall & spirrituall blessings of rest. All dues from All to All. Madam Pen : ¹³ begs a little respite to expresse her acknowledgement of yo^r care & kindnesse to her sonn, the father also expresses most sensibly his obligations to you all— & so doth my fellow traveller. excuse the hast & badness of my pen.

yo^rs yo^rs yo^rs in duty & affections

C R.

XXII

[The post mark is the only date,

The quality of paper and writing place

this letter in 1691. The deliverance of 'your brother' is probably from one of the attempts to arrange his marriage, so often alluded to in these letters.]

for M^rs Cromwell at Hursley near Winchester these.

Deare heart,—The first account I had of yo^r illness soe astounded me, that I have been as one benumbed ever since, I wrote & I did not know to whome nor when, nor what. . . . Deare deare you have cleared my sight & cheered my heart with the sight of your own handwriting of the 26th the steadyness of your hand but esspecially the words of yo^r minde is a cordial to my soule; what miserable creatures should we be had we not a God to go to. . . . Thus farr was I before I came to Towne, I have only time to conclude leaving what I have to say untell I have more time & better instrument considering yo^r sisters lines on the other side of yo^rs, I am forc't to conclude your Brother is happily delivered we have cause to bless y^e Lord. I love, love, & love you : yee have my prayers. dues to all from all I rest yo^rs in my whole soule

C R.

Yo^r Brother longs to be at home, he will discourse what the penn is shorte off. My hearty love.

¹³ Mrs. Pengelly.

[On the other side of this paper are the following lines from his son.]

This serves to lett my dearests know that I will observe Marjories letter but I cannot jor^o till Tuesday. Therefore I expect my coach at Winton on Tuesday next.

I am y^r
O. CROMWELL.

XXIII.

10^o 31 92.

Deare Madam,—I have had my thoughts not a little exercised how I might return to yo^r of the 17th for it came while I was under the rules of my Docter, the observation of whome I was resolved to tye myselfe wth the most exactist stricknesse; & I must say while I was in the use of means I was much releived. . . . I will come to see you as soone as it maybe convenient. . . . Mr^s Sophia¹⁶ gave me an account of yo^r going out of Towne on Wednesday. . . . I have told you I intend to see you. The good Lord keep & blesse yee all, are the prayers of (wth dues from All to All) yo^rs in hearty affections

R RICHARDSON.

I know not how the D^r will order for me & therefore when you write let me know the dayes yo^r brother Mortimer¹⁷ is at Home.

XXIV.

[For his eldest daughter and enclosed to Mrs. Sophia Leadbeater. There is a post-

mark outside,

for Mr^s Sophia Leadbeater att Madam Horseman in Bartlett Courte in Holbourn London These.

April 1st 93.

Deare heart,—My purpose of seeing you, I was prevented, the 1st parte of the week being roughfe, the latter of same was inviting & when I had joyned my resolution to make use of my horse as I was in bead ready to rise turning my head I was struck with such a rick w^{ch} pointed from my neck to my left shoulder, & though it is not soe troublesome as it was yesterday, yett it will not lett me have my desire of coming to see you today. . . . I received yo^r of 29th March wth the inclosed yesterday morning. Well madam I think you have done well in being att liberty as to yo^r returne for Hursley. Yo^r sister says she had one from yo^r brother whoe wrote from Comton where he was kindly treated this was on Tewesday night—for on Thursday morning they began their journey onward for Exeter, & here yo^r sister breaks off. . . . I perceive she intends a journey up, I thincke her genious ought to be incouradged, & I am satisfysed you will be ready to consider what shee shall desire soe farr as you are capable to help her. . . . You doe well to change yo^r ayre often, I incourdge yo^r designe for Battersea. Pray let yo^r sister

¹⁶ Mrs. Leadbeater.

¹⁷ Mr. Mortimer, who married Dorothy Cromwell, Richard's youngest daughter.

know I have hers of y^e 27th Mar^{ch} & that I shall (if you incouradge her journey up) cease writing untill I either see or heare again from her. I am in hast the Lord blesse yo^r wth dues from All to All.

I rest yo^r most affectionate f & servant

C R.

XXV.

8th 26 97.

Deare,—I was almost persuaded to stay my pen untill the Thursdays return of the Post; for Satterday I received a letter from my Lady Russell,¹⁸ it was scribled with bemoaning & exprest a soifte & tender spirit wth affection to have a line or tow from me by way of returne. I told her that hers was very welcome though it found me more out of Tune than I have been for many yeares, amongst other matters, I re-comended her to the sermons of o^r Lord & Saviour in the 6th & 7th chapters of St Matthew & to be conversant in the Psalms as her ffather was for there is noe case but what may be there found. . . . You are to be comended for the Affections you bare to yo^r Brother, M^r Wavell hath not (notwithstanding all the fine weather & blessed seed time) answerd as yet to his promised seeing of mee. Put not your trust in man saith the Divine Orakle. . . . excuse the defects of my pen from the noise of my head my knee is som'what better, I have bespoke a cover for my head, measure is taken Dues to all I rest your most

affectionate f & servant

C R.

XXVI.

9th 16 97.

Deare Madam,—Y^{rs} of the 8th should have been answered sooner, I put off Tewsday Thursday & Satterday posts in hop's of having something material to write. Your sister did well to make a step to me before shee made a returne to the desired answer. The D^r ¹⁹ knows that the step is on my account & youre sister & all of you will be sattisfyed in our delay when we can answer for o'selves, we are not idle but labouring to get better light & understanding to prevent errours. Sit loose, it may require sometime, & I cannot see how anything can be done without your Brother's presence, I am sattisfyed lett it goe w^{ch} way it will you will have satisfaction not only in the stop that providentially have been put upon your Sisters penn but also as to her longer waiting, for if it be of the Lord, nothing shall hinder. What can you expect from me, If yo^r Ey saw how it is you would pittie me, my heart is ready to fly in peices to feel the cercomstances of your ffamuly. I wish you had not acquainted yo^r Cosen Morse²⁰ that the ship was sold. Its a start, I love & pittie you, blott out these last 6 lines. The King is arrived,²¹ the people for severall miles was upon the Roade a night to gett to Towne to see. I did not

¹⁸ His sister Lady Frances married, as her second husband, Sir John Russell of Chippenham. Henry Cromwell, his brother, also married a sister of Sir John Russell.

¹⁹ Dr. Gibson, who married Richard's daughter Ann in the following year. Ann seems to have taken some time to consider his proposals.

²⁰ 'Cosen Morse' was granddaughter of Bridget Cromwell, Richard's sister.

²¹ William III after the peace of Ryswick.

intend to say anything more than that I had received your letter but would not say more, being willing to attend the promised guest viz Mr Wa: Morse. as also Mr Lisle. What I shall meet with from them I know not, espetially y^e last, the Alderman's Wyfe starts tow other kins women of hers ten 1000 a peice the course is often spoiled w^h there are many haire in view & the world is full of trickes; blessed be the Lord who hath bestowed upon y^r Brother so large a measure of understanding he must put forth himselfe for himselfe, the world is tricking, & these q[ue]s[t]ions he propounded to the Alderman as to fortun's are more to be preferred, & if Mr Lisle when he comes talks upon the subject I shall adventure to declare my opinion. I shall beg of the Lord to help us in our difficultys, he is our only hope & rest. Oh that all o^r exercises & tryalls may be sanctafyed & we bettered; my knee is not freed from paine nor my head from noise I sleep & eate well, M^{rs} Banes is very weake hath been forc't to mak reiterated use of S^r Edmund King, who sayes the attendance must be nigh & watchfull for w^h shee goes it will be quick. I have scribled too much Excuse wth due affections to you all

I rest your humble servant

Ma^de Pen : presents dues to All.

C R.

XXVII.

Jan : 15th 98.

Deare Madam,—My laste was to yo^r Sister I hope shee hath received. This is only to lett you know that yo^r to Madam P. is come to hand, its but resonable but some little time should be allowed to make her return, for its but necessary to be informed whether that of yo^r Sister's to Towne be received we are endeavouring to be informed & that wth caution which will require some little time. That the Lady hath found out the person & the carractistical badge put upon him, ocations no disturbance but rather imbrace her affections, but who shee hath plowed with though I have a shrewd guess yet for the present its prudence to pass it. Let the Person be a little Whig its better than a great Tory. That the Ladyes were not acquainted with what they have hunted after is no fault here for its above 5 weeks since I wrote to the Lady R^{ss} to have a conveniency of time & place given me to waite upon her & the other female but I think it hath broken off our letter communication. I will refuse nothing where I may finde God in it & att least be passive where I cannot see & hope for the blessing of y^e Lord. I intended to say no more than y^e 2 first lines but be ready to heare what any shall say, it being my duty to waite on the Lord for its a great concerne, & I am psuaded boeth on one hand & the other the Lord is sought & with dues to all I rest

Y^r affectionately to serve

C R.

XXVIII.

To Elizabeth Cromwell.

[This letter is torn and frayed at the edges.]

Mar 26 1698.

Deare Madam,—Though it be so long as you mention since you laid hold of your pen to me, it was either that others stept in or that there was no business to write upon, & if I mistake not it was youre turne; now this is

²² Lady Russell, who seems by this to have been also trying to arrange the wished- or marriage of Richard's son Oliver.

to satisfy you that I have yours of the 21 instant. That of your brothers giving an account of his safe returne, said that you were pritty well, but your sister was some^{wh} indisposed, but not to hinder her to goe aboute ; I am glad my letter was to satisfaction, & I accept her thancks &c : Cheerfulness of minde is a very good compannion, & it keeps off that w^{ch} is noxious cherriseth that wh^{ch} is profitable & pleasant to health. That w^{ch} shee had from the Gentle^m carrys authorety, the fountaine is alwayes prefferable to the streame, the first is clear when the other by accident is fowle. Creditt may be allowed where there is stricktness to maintaine reputation, but how much more secure is that person who hath a principle above Education or morality. The visit is the next, having accepted yo^r Bro^r invitation, your Brother is a Gentleman & he cannot act other then like himselfe, he is a brother & loves his Sister, & hath not only said that he would doe what belongs to him as to your sisters portion : and in that point how ingenously did he act with his wood ward ; but I hope he will hold on his resolution of settling himselfe, and then the portion will be better and more easily raised. The present (if partys agree) is for your Brother and gentleman to settle and secure the portion according to each others satisfaction²³ this no doubt but boeth of them affection into halfe of the if the partys agree ; and pray take notice that this will be the last time of asking What signefys scribling ; consider the day, cercomstances, and amongst the rest your sisters adge, and who hath heitherto intressed y^mselves concerning any of you : Therefore look upon the Providence, but especially upon the ffather of it, who is an all knowing all wise God, and if any lack wisdom lett them aske it of God, whoe gives it with a pleasant liberalety. Madam Pen : intends to viset you with a line or tow the next weeke, shee dropt out, that shee intends to be plane, well upon that single account I will leave her to her purpose, not directing, but incouradging as I suppose not mistaking as that which is most agreeable to your genious : and its to be lamented we have so little of it in this adge ; Its a fuel not to be cast among swine : well madam, our World is to be lamented, the day is only happy or rather favourable to them that have least to doe in it. The Dissenting Dissenter how are they tairing one another a peices, what sport doe they make the Divil & their ennemys : on the contrary how displeasing wounding, greiving to the Trinnitie of our being & happyness. To whose Councell care & blessing I recommend you all with all your concerns, I rest yo^r most affectionate f & servant
C B.

before I shut my letter I must let you know the Dr after dinner gave us a viset. He holds his resolution Munday come 7ven night you cannot doe less then to send youre Charrot, for it will be too much for him to foot it. I assure you he is modest to a beauty : shall I bid you all be cheerfull, pray be merry, God is good.

I cannot give you a particular account how it hath been wth me, a very hard winter, but what a day is this, how dry, but chang'd into softness, it is bountifull to y^e prisoners. A hope of delivery. & what a seed time,²³ yo^{re} Brother hints ! God is good, but Exeter

²³ Here and in the following lines the letter is torn

y^e Wednesday after the D^r Munday, the ffarr . . . before that time; our Lady Day is just past . . . desired for his own money. . .

[Ann Cromwell married Dr. Gibson on 16 June. I give the entry from the register of Hursley parish, sent to me by the kindness of the Rev. J. G. Young, the present vicar.

Anno Dom., 1698.

16 Junij. Thomas Gibson de Londino Arniger et M. D. duxit Dominam Annam Cromwell de Hursley.

Afterwards she and Dr. Gibson lived in Hatton Garden, London, and Richard used to stay with them, for he mentions Hatton Garden and the Gibsons together.]

XXIX.

To the same.

July y^e 5th 98.

Madam,—Since I sawe you I have had my thoughts exercised upon the discourse we had aboute youre Brother; I would not make reflections, but I greive that the Eyes that should see will not see, & the person only proper to act doeth not act. I owne a duty & from that, I could not but send for this bearer, I have had a full & learge discourse with him about the Nottinghamshire ffamuly, & I finde myselfe so loaded that I am forced to acquaint you; & that it is more then (may I say it) necessary that you should unbiasse yourselfe of all prejudice & cooley heare what the bearer hereof can give you in that Affaire. The gentleman his name I take to be Taylor, a dissenter, free & gentile, only one daughter 3000^l p an: has been in Towne for severall moneths but lately is gone into the Country Regards nothing more but a civil gentleman—whether he hath an Estate or noe for his daughter. What shall we say, your Brother not ignorant of such a business, nay, when he was to discourse M^r du Moulin. I confess I am not pless't. That you may the better discharge your comission, heare what this gentleman sayes, & that you may have the better advantadge to serve yo^r Brother, let me desire you to recieve him with freedome & freindship & as a kinsman. Such notice & mannage-ment of business maks very uneasy, therefore I shall breake offe, with returne of thancks for the late kind entertainment of yo^r Brother & Sister Gibson, hoping shee is better than when I was with her. wishing you all happynesse I rest with dues from All to All

Yo^r in all affections

C. R.

XXX.

To the same.

Jan 20th 1700.

Deare Madam,—Yo^r of the 15th instant tells me that yo^r sister gave you an account of my being at her house & how I was freed from that cold my last acquainted you with, & this I may add it went off without its usuall concluding with a coughfe. I know not but my going to Towne & the kinde reception might be an additional means, the more I looke upon the relation between your Sister & M^r Gibson the more I see of God. without flattery lett me say they are a worthy couple, the D^r improves in heavenly as in Earthlys. Blessed be the Lord for his good hand of

providence in that affaire. The same God can doe more, we have more work of that kinde. Oh that it would please him to take away our reproach, that the mouths of thy people O God may be stopt, in that thou hast lift up the light of thy countenance upon us as a kinde father in disposing of thy children. Thou ought to be sought unto, for that which is done by God is well done, & if he will nothing can be done without him. for encouragement, Gods nature is goodness, he will not alwayes chide, his heart is love & he delights in mercy. How tenderly hath he dealt with you in your late exercisings he tooke yee (brother, selfe, it was somewhat longer wth yor woman) & layed yee upon his knee but not in anger showed the rod, & kist you; the Postscript of your letter next morning tells me after bleeding your brother had a very good night throat well & easie. Let these mercys encourage faith & duty I have (sayes the Psalmist) trusted in thy mercy, my heart shall rejoyce in thy Salvation because thou hast dealt bountefully wth me. I had been undone, if I had not been undon, none but God can kill & bring to lyfe. O that we may learne I am called upon, the Lord sanctafy all his providentiall dealings with dues from all to all I rest

your most affectionate f and

assured to service to my power

C R.

I shall take care of your farmers designed kindness & observe as to carridge paid or not.

XXXI.

To the same.

Jan 27 ⁶⁰/₇₀₀

Deare &c:,—This is only to lett you know (according to intimation in yor last to me) I sent Robert on Thursday to the Winchester carryers Inn, whoe found & brought what was mentioned viz: A statly chine accompanied with a fatt Turkey. A farmer may be gent in his present, what ever the employment. tow shillings for carridge att a penny in the poynde maks me to heare the Farmer to say this hog this chine the best is for Mr Clark well pray thank the man for the chine & the woman for the Turkey, I will tell you it was the best, because it was to come to your best freind I weighed it at 7½ halfe. I intend to make a Royal feast on the Royal day in spight of the hangman that burnt the covenant. Rich^d Ward of Most, & Cap^t Har: ²⁴ I design to be guests. I have not the Ladyes as yet. pray lengthen my affections to your Selfe & Brother, blockhead, say Brother first. I am glad you are together, the blessing of Heaven be upon you boeth with dues from All to All I rest truly your

C R.

XXXII.

To the same.

Feb 25th ⁷²/₇₀₀

Deare & c:,—The reason I delayed the returne to yor^s of the 14th instant is that I am visited with that unwelcome noisie compannion which you know my head hath been formerly troubled with. Robt having some

²⁴ Capt. Har: is probably the same person as the Capt. H. mentioned in the next letter, Richard's nephew Henry Cromwell, son of Henry, lord-lieutenant of Ireland.

business the beginning of the week in Town mett the Dr & told him how it was, whoe replied if I kept from taking cold by keeping warme (for the cause of the noise was from a cold) it would goe offe . and . another reason I deferred to the last day of the weeke in hopes to have given you an account that the wind's are allayed, but this I can tell you they are not encreased, but rather abated, & I am encourdged with a draught of patience to try a little further time, for whoe knows not but the Dr may be right, & the spring at the dore in all probability it will be warmer. Aenough of this, & truly Madam you must not esspect att this time much more then what is in yo^r, & for the latter part I have not time to speake, I know not the feild you intend nor how you will draw up all my case is to gett intelligence where & how you intend to plant your roaring may, I will endeavour what I can to get the rear of her for when shee roars shee maks a terrible noise. her breech will be musique to cause mirth, but the mouth terror & feare. well to close this we are in the dearken, & therefore it is folly to make an answer before a right understanding of w^ht should be spoke too.

Capt. H.²³ was arrested for mony's by the Agent of the Regiment in w^{ch} the Capt had a Troop. It was contrived to be att a house in Grays Inn lane not far on the backside of Hatton Garden. The Dr was wrot to the letter read to y^e wyfe only that the Dr would come. The Dr told his wyfe that it was a Spunging House, shee tells him (as being the gray mare) he could not goe. Away trots the careful wyfe to M^r Bend : ²⁶ & there shee finds the Captains wyfe, boeth arm'd, how sharpe their weapons were & how they clattered I cannot tell. after some shorte time the debt was payed, but for the Arrest your Sister upon conditions furnisht the Capts wyfe with fortie shillens.

It was an action I am afraide was accompaned with a trick, I can say noe more untel I goe to Towne. Let this suffice it is noe pleasing subject. well, before I conclude I must take notice of the kinde intention of yo^r Brother to put me into the same Cloath with himselfe, Pray tell him I heartly prize his kindness, & when it comes (let it be sent to yo^r Sister in Hatton Garden who may receive it for me) to hand & then I shall order it with my taylor for the use it is designed. As to the quantity I am for the coate to be made with wescoate of silk, how to direct I am noe taylor, but my bill tells me my last cloth coate & breeches is 4 yards & a halfe, & the breeches is accountable for 3 quarters of a yard, soe by this calculation the coate will be 3 yards 3 quarters if the cloath of the above mentioned bill was Ell wide as yours sayes that of your Brother is, I believe your brother will better gheuss what will make a coate better than I, it being a coate upon a wascoate not a coate upon a coate as he hath as yo^r speakes for himselfe.

Deare heart I cannot but express my concerne for the occation but rejoyce also with your Cosen Moses kimical sacke dissiplined so much to yo^r profit & advantage ; I am persuaded she doth heartly love you.

²³ Captain Henry Cromwell was very poor. His wife was supposed to have spent too much money in supporting dissenters. After this his aunt Lady Fauconberg induced the duke of Ormond to give him a troop of horse, and he went abroad on service.

²⁶ Mrs. Bendysh, daughter of Iretou and Bridget Cromwell.

when I see her I will lett her know what affections you have for her. My thoughts are not a little exercised, it is best for us humbly & patiently to waite on the Lord, though he taks not the weight off yet his hand must support or else we must sincke. I did not thinck I should have had my penn so long, nor is y^e noise of my head encreased take all in good part my cordiall love to your Brother & selfe with dues from all to All.

I rest

Yours

C R.

XXXIII.

To the same.

Mar 12th 1650.

Deare Madam,—This is to let you know upon the receipt of yours of the 5th I went to Towne on the 8th happely missing Mr Pengelly who dyned at Hatton Garden on the 6th your sister not being well he was ordered to putt a stop to my coming up that week, but it was other wise ordered by my going Islington, & Mr Pengelly coming down Panckridge roads & I am very well sattisfied that we did miss one another; though I found none but servants below staires, the master gone out of Towne in his imployment 10 miles, & the mistress confined to her chamber, soe when I came up the poore woman was surpriz'd, having no company no dinner, but that was quickly set right by a well cho'sen & well drest tale of cod, & I had in company honnest Cosen Gibson, & a . . [illegible] . . that was prepared for y^e servants. not wanting a glass of wyne. & this was better than if I had gone abroade & hunted for a dinner, giving me the more time to enjoy your sister, whoe hath not been well, but by the use of mean's all will end for advantadge, & when I understood what you had wrote to your Sister I tooke my resolution to stay all night, having agreed to send to Mr^s Smith to enjoy her company next morning, for I had a cast in my thought that her husband lived some time in Northamptonshire, shee owned shee knew the place & that there was such a name of a famuly²⁷ as you had exprest, but cheifly that she had them that now & for severall yeares have lived in the Towne who are persons capable & such as shee can rely upon to give such an account as may be expected. Shee thaught for not loosing of time to doe soe what that night by Satterday nights post. Note, The Person on the side is not named, I suppose hath or will give you an account in what order this affaire is put. The old gentlewoman did imbrace the thing we propounded wth a heartyness. & seemed to brisk herselfe upon the imploy. The Cloth is come, with my hearty thancks to my Benefactor. I am taking the D^r prescription, a box of Pills I began yesterday, 3 in the morning & 3 when to bead wth a draught of sage tea. untill I have emptied y^e box. I must breake off for I have been too long poring I deserve a chiding. Therefore with dues from all to All I rest

Yours in hearty affections

C R.

Doe you remember att Bucklersbury a confectioner you had a maide for that time (I confess I have forgot her) shee was called Rose Williams. Did you know Mr Richards among the shugar bakers & Davis, this latter

²⁷ Evidently still trying to arrange Oliver's marriage.

married Rose afore mentioned & lives at Ket : This by way of information, every business hath a beginning, you talke of seeing this Spring these parts, I doubt not but you will finde some that will give you welcome, But you will finde oure quarters have broke up. Oh Lord leave us not.

XXXIV.

To the same.

April y^e 1st 99.

Deare &c,—The fooles day is the lott of my penn, & it fals out very well for I have nothing to trouble you with but lett you know I had that of yours of the 22nd which for matter & variety was pleasing. I shall not coment on the purchase, nor descant upon the Rule of Error, but w^t will you say if your Brother finds not a very great change in the same sorte of hounds while stricktly governed & exercised & since left at loose. I thinck he did very well to exercise his body & recreate his minde in a pastime soe well suited to booth, my feare is he is not horst to his hounds, & much more, there being danger to be under built as to his weight hard for the horse to get up hill, dangerous to tumble downe. Let this little touch suffice I wish you boeth well, a blessing attend boeth you & youre affaires, them in the Country & them Elsewhere. Yourre Brother & Sister Hatton²⁸ gave us a viset about the middle of the weeke preceeding this, it was shorte, but very hearty, excusing how his occasions would not suffer it to be other. Shee gave me a touche of your bro : business, she said also that her Cosen Bendish was resolved to attend it. your Sister seemed to be pleased with the circumstance, gave me an account of some y^e could not goe to Church for want &c : its the same you had told mee. I acquainted M. P.²⁹ about your mentioned guift, shee presents her service & is ready to serve you. The great God Bless you with dues from all to all I rest

Yours in all real affections

[The signature is torn off this letter, but the paper and writing are thesame as the signed letters.]

XXXV.

To the same.

Aug : y^e 8th 99.

Madam,—I have tooke penn in hand, but I know not what to dictate, nor is this of mine in course, for yo^{rs} of the 24th was in relation to one of the 6th of the last moneth viz. : fur : & you have one since your Sister Gibson came downe, you being boeth entitled to it. Therefore I might have stayed a Post or tow in this punctillio not being behind a hand. However let things be what they will now I must goe on, was your Sisters viset soe pleasing, let an increase of pleasure bee with that of her husband, by whom went salutations to All, & if all, you may (M^{rs} fondling) be suer to be included, & now being come to the last word of your letter, why may I not give over. Oure spring is dry, but I am afraide our Harvest hath more Raine then tears. generally a people under judgments are hardned, as I have heard from one who said when he was a boy how glad he was to heare cry fyer that he might run from his worke

²⁸ ' Brother & Sister Hatton ' are Dr. and Mrs. Gibson, who lived in Hatton Garden.

²⁹ ' M. P. ' is Mrs. Pengelly.

& frisk up & down sporting the warming of his hands. I pray God Englands professors doe not loose the old serious Puretan spirit. We would hope it hath not been so much raine furth^r off, or with you, as it hath powred downe here though the greatest parte comes with a SW windo it hits for grasse, though not for corne. the latter is of greatest concerne. The Lord rules & orders All things, he is all wise, we are but servants, let us be found obedient & thankfull. I am now come to conclude having runn the gantlope of one of my old visitours a whippinge sneezing cold it exercised my body from top to bottome, it proved beneficiall to those paines in my knee, not but I intend to take y^e first conveniency to breathe a veine. I have been greatly loaded boeth in body & minde if sanctafyed they shall be for profit, oh that we may learne that thease teachings may make us learned I wishe you All, all happiness. outward & inward with dues from All to All & rest as certainly I am your most affectionate f & humble servant

R.

XXXVI.

*To the same.*Aug. 10th 1650.

Deare heart,—You complaine of a dull lazie humour put you behind hand having tow from me to return to; confess had there been anything of business you might have had a foundation for youre appologies, but this I will observe, the same was with me: well Sister Dottril we are both caught. you have been att Newmarket where upon those adjacent heath those birds mimick away boeth their liberty & life; I believe you have heard the same it being comon through the wholl country therefore I will passe from this to something else. And let me poste it, it is like the world, a disappointment, for none of my gheusts did answer my invitation, but who thinck you had the loss, not I, nor the house, we had the more cold, & nothing can be prefered to a cold chine of such a hog & such a feeding. But that which is most to be tookeing notice of I have not the reccit of my letter, & that it should not miscarry, & to prevent a shift, I sent Robert to put it into Mr Wa: hand he not being at home, having been gone out an houre before, Rob^t delivered the letter to the chiefest daughter att home. Well, I have been too long upon this stadgc, I was jaded; & the next stadgc will be worse I feare; it is concerning the Capt: ³⁰ att Hackney, pray Madam give me leave to please myselfe, that your sister G.³¹ hath given you an account of the design & how it was mannadged, so that I may save me neck in riding this stadgc what as to the badnesse of the ways, dearkness of the night & badnesse of the guide, tricks & designes of darkness god will prevent if he hath any love or kindness for a Person or ffamuly. Oh that man would yet consider & be wise. I am sattisfyed if the Captain com's to have any sense he will finde he hath done himselfe no kindness, & perhaps naming him to be one to the chine, the other tow tender nosed gentlemen would not come, but my ignorance should not have hindered them taking notice of my letter it would be but a penny besides the paines of writing. Let it passe, for truly I am quiet, & through the goodness of the Lord, I can & I hope (by w^t I

³⁰ Captain Henry Cromwell.³¹ Mrs. Gibson.

have gone through) make a proffitable use to myselfe. I am glad nay rejoyce to finde by your penn the soe good fraime of spirrit the Lord is pleased to accompany you with. . . . Blessed be the Lord it is so well with y^r family, & that your fears are over as to Dick Purdue, & that there is a stop put to the small Pox in your neighbourhood, let the Lord be lookt upon, & the rodd sanctified. Robert went to Towne I had him see Madam in Hatton Garden & aske her when shee will be free for me to step up to see her; he is not yet returned & expecting the penny poste every minnute, I am forc't, & fear how farre my penn hath runn it is but reasonable to shut up, with hearty love & well wishes to your Brother & Selfe & dues from All to All I rest

Yours &c.
C R.

XXXVII.

To the same.

April 4th 1700.

Deare Madam,—Yo^{rs} of the 28^d I received the 26, & yo^r sister with her husband visited us the 27th March. I had as full an account of what we call a concerne as shee was then stowed; she said, shee would write unto you by the next post, of w^{ch} I was willing, as being under an obligation to answer one from you, & for that w^{ch} I should have said it would have been what had been chewed therefore I thought it best to give way to yo^r Sisters inclination & purpose as being best able to sattisfy. But truly I had another reason that hinders & that is the noise of my head, nothing hetherto maks any alteration, I tooke 5 douzen & 2 pills with a Draught of Sage Tea 3 pills in the morning & 3 at night as also I sneezed wth the juce of white primrose, I have sence that also according to rule lett blood, what shall I say? naughty boys are not safe w^{thout} the rod. It is an exercise & I believe exercise was the beginning of it. . ffret not thyselfe att Evil doers &c P^s 37, 1, the 7th especially y^e last words of y^e verse. I desire to mend that it may be sanctafyed. I will say noe more of this now, being pleased with a dash of yours to me of an intended designe of a journey to London about the middle of next month w^{ch} is this of April. Lett it be safe & pleasant, & the journey made prosperous in that it is designed for. M^r Bodden signefyed to me that he had received a letter & bill from Hurseley, it will be look't after the latter end of this or beginning of the next week. I thanck your Brother for care and kindness wee will please ourselves with the thoughts of a not long delayed expectation in the desired embraces of eache other. The seamans mariadges are most esteem'd by some, for their often renewing the wedding day by the repeated returne of every voyadg. Pray excuse the Errors of my head, my heart is yours with dues from All to All I rest a poore pilgrim your freind

R.

[The next three letters are dated and signed with his own name or initials. Written after his son's death, they refer to business arrangements with his daughters, and seem to show clearly that although Richard was annoyed and irritable about some business there was no real quarrel with them.]

XXXVIII.

ffor Madam Elizabeth Cromwell att Hursley near Winchester
These Hants.

Jan 21 1703.

Deare Madam,—Yo^r is in answer of mine of the 18th the last month ; And youe begin, I am very sorry you have such uneasie & hard thoughts of all oure endeavors for serving you & yo^r family according to the true intent of the will of your dear deceased Brother to which I must adheere & therefore beg a legall order for the hundred pounds you call for & I will return it as soone as I can get it inn. To prevent blunders let it be remitted according to my former directions unto Adam Bodden ; Baccounist in George Yard Lumber Street. I tell you Daughter this is not an unnecessary caution ; To trouble & tare me aboute my Estate is a feeling to the flesh, but I have spirit as well as flesh I will sooner be abused then my companions at Hursl'y hampton Co^t & in many dangers in my hiding pilgrimaging removals : whoe dare to break that knot of love & faithfulness which time hath of soe many years experienced. I tell you againe & againe what I doe its for youe more than for mysele, doe not think I flatter or eulogie I am for your Brothers will you have a Legall administration for a part ; I have Law comprehensive. I am forc't to gird close & I hope the Lord whoe hath preserved me will stand by me in what is my right. All that I require of you is to keep your selfe free & as I advise you, I doe resolve upon as to mysele The Coast is free S^r C : B.³² is married [at] last Some sayes 10,000^b others 20000. Pray encourage Steele he may prove a good chapman I heare of the death of Cosen Harsent a losse of a good freind ; which I took him to be. I will conclude, I could have entertained you with a long scribble, I am at the candle noe good light for old Eys ; & my matters are better discourst than written. be upon yo^r guard we know not whoe to trust. I will say noe [more] but assure you I am your affectionate f & true freind to serve you

R C.

I doe present the hearty love & service of Madam Pengelly I believe you have seen a letter from yo^r Cosen Disbrow keep yo^r Eys & Eares open & guide yo^r selfe with that reason & understanding that God hath given you, be not imposed upon Light will discover the hidden things of darkness.

XXXIX.

To Elizabeth Cromwell.

December 1st 1705.

Madam,—Yo^r of the 5th tells me by ffrydays post you received my orders for selling the yearly seasonable quantity of coppice wood, & that you would observe the best assistance for selling. Secondly, you say : I find by being here & paying as fast as I can, gives the credditors such satisfaction that I have not had one dun from any since you left me, & you further say you hope the winding up yo^r bottom ³³ will be more pleasant than the beginnige. This sht paragraph hath a deal of matter in it. Its the executrix stock for the credditors, but whose Land is it.

³² Probably Sir Charles Barrington, of Hatfield, Broad Oak, Essex, a cousin to the Cromwells through the Protector's wife, who was Miss Bouchier.

³³ Bottom or end of the accounts.

The Dr⁴⁴ said with your mannagry it would make 3 Rents viz : 900^{lbs} p an : one for him, another for you & a third for wages tare & weare & upholding the stock reparation etc with other contingencys : So that there is nothing for poore Pilgarleck⁴⁵ so thou must live upon Charetie & as thou behavest thyselfe some time sweet some time sower.

I doe not understande how you have not been dunde since I cam from you & the winding up of your bottom will be more pleasing. I should be glad to see you at the end of a perplexed troublesom business your Brother Mortemar sent me a letter of what he had been doing about the woods now he hath found enough to quiet the fears of those that had concerns upon Hursley : & I will assure you had I been as well informed as I am now the woods should have paid all portions & debts of what kinde so ever. which would have prevented a great deale of dirt & duste, I did try & attempt, but Jehu like I was run down, & they furiously drove on to the overthrow of their charriot. It hath troubled boeth head & heart. the first duste (the taking off of the disguise) was by a penn from Hursley to London now Madam you shall see I am no Jehu but can comānd my penn to say no more of this subject at this time. Yo^{rs} of the 19 brings us Turrkey, Chine & puddens & you would have added some of the daintys of the woods, The game appeares to be destroyed when such tow marksmen & who so well knows the woods as M. St. Johns⁴⁶ & his man a wholl days banging could not finde a pheasant. when I in time past going in alone have sprung anie of 7^{best} brace, wth my hawke I have in tow houres brought in 3 brace & halfe. The Royalty must be lookt to, & I approve of W^m Cook whom you recomēd, let Cleverlys instrument be demanded & w^hever gunn or guns your Brother lent him & what ever is his own he shall have the liberty to sell them but this last clause may waite a time by way of tryall so see w^ht faire means may doe, & may make a smother step to authority & provoked riggoure. But tell W^m Cooke I approve of the nomination & carrectoⁿ that hath been given by you of him. & I doe appoint him my game keeper, & you may let him beginn w^hn he will by word of mouth, I discharging Cleverly & substituting Cooke in his place. you should know how Cooke writes himselfe which must be observed in my warrant. Your 3^d letter of the 24th is upon W^m Cook concerning a Beech & an old Pollard deny him not for he offers faire. Keep your accounts distinct that which is the personall & that w^{ch} is the reall, what the priviledg John Bowls had I know not but it is necessary that Holms & the tow other coppices you mention should be seicired & none fitter than this very person who shall not want a power suited to the office & honn^r of the Royalty. for the present give him my word & desire M^r St. John to tell Cleverly he is no more gamekeeper & that he will do well to deliver w^ht gun or gunns (if any lent by yo^r Brother) up to you, to prevent suspicion, & deliver himself from temptation. I have now tyred you & wearyed myselfe therefore I will end with my paper assuring we are your best friend, Dues from All to All.

Yo^{rs}

R. C.

Turkey Chine puddens were all very good, comēding includes thanks.

⁴⁴ Dr. Gibson.

⁴⁵ Meaning himself.

⁴⁶ Mr. St. John was cousin to the Cromwells.

XL.

To the same.

[This last letter was written when Richard was eighty-two years of age, and is the only letter in the collection with his full signature; it must have been addressed to his daughter. Richard must have lived after his son's death partly at Hursley and partly with the Pengellys at Cheshunt; he died at Cheshunt in 1712, and was buried at Hursley. His daughters buried him with much pomp. After a time they sold Hursley and went to live in London. Elizabeth survived her brother and sisters; she died in Bedford Row in 1731.]

November 1st 1708.

Madam,—I give you full power according to the direction of the letter designed for me to see in answer to that from Hursley. I say full power to make choyce of such person or persons you with the best information & judgement you can meet with To bargain & sell what Coppices & underwood is to be disposed of this season My sonn Mortemar³⁷ may be helpfull dues to all my deare first born I rest yor^e etc

R. CROMWELL.

A JACOBITE LETTER, 1749.

THE following letter is printed from a copy in the charter chest of an Aberdeenshire family related to the Menzies of Pitfodels. William Menzies of Pitfodels and his five sons took an ardent part in the rebellion of 1745-46, and the letter is presumably from one of them to his wife.¹

ROBERT S. RAIT.

Manchester: jth May, 1749.

DEAR WIFE,—I wrote you fr. Newcastle In January last, wherein I acquainted you, that I was to take a tripe in through England. I left New Castle the begining of Febr: and came to York a few days after; where I stayed a whole Moneth, fr. thence I write Mr Carmichall: to remite you forty shill: str. which I hope he has complied with. since I left York I have traversed most of the west ridding of Yorkshire, pairt of Lancashire; Cheshire, and a pairt of North Walles and on Friday last I returned here; where I desinge to stay this week; and pairt of the next, after which I am hopefull to sett my head homeward: if things do not once more give way. When I left London I wrote you I then expected soon to see you. that proposall failed; and if this do fail, adeiu to any more. ye have seen in the newspapers that the Pr. had left Avignon Janr. which is trew, but what place he has gon to is yet yet a secreat to most people, it is generally said that he is gone to Poland to Marie Princess Badziwell, but that I take to be desingly done to cover the reall desinge. If I should tell you that he has been married almost two years, and that for reasons of State the consumation of the marriage has been delayed and that he and my Patrons brother is in J——d and that in a little time ye'll see them boeth; and that my dream is Just ready to be fulfilled: ye'll not believe me. Neither do I believe myself. A little time will do good. Make my compliments to U. and his family to P. and his family: and believe me to be.

Copic taken Thursday the jj day of May 1749 at Pitfodels.

³⁷ Mr. Mortimer, who had married his youngest daughter, Dorothy.

¹ Cf. Allardyce's *Jacobite Papers*, i., New Spalding Club, Aberdeen, 1895.