XVI. *Unpublished Letters from the Queen of Bohemia, daughter of James I. to Sir Edward Nicholas. In a Letter from JOHN EVANS, Esq., F.S.A., to J. Y. AKERMAN, Esq., Secretary.*

Read 15th and 22nd January, 1857.

Nash Mills, Hemel Hempsted, Dec. 15th, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE great pleasure in sending you for communication to the Society of Antiquaries copies of a series of letters written by the Queen of Bohemia, the daughter of James I., which are I believe unpublished, and which, like all the letters of that unfortunate princess, will be found of some interest. They are all addressed to Sir Edward Nicholas, who, as you are well aware, was Secretary of State to both the Charleses. The letters which passed between the Queen and Sir Edward, from August 1654 to January 1655, fifteen in number, have already been published in the Appendix to Evelyn's Diary, edited by the late Mr. Bray; and the twenty-five I now send you may be regarded as a continuation of the same correspondence, embracing as they do the period from April 1655 to January 1656.

Though throwing some little light upon historical points, their principal interest consists in their being so true a reflex of the lively gossiping character of the Queen, which through all her misfortunes appears to have remained unchanged—her enjoyment of a hunting party, a copy of verses, or a famous mask danced by the gallants of the court, having been as great in 1655 as it was some forty or more years before, when, full of youth and hope, she had been the presiding goddess of the costly festivals at Heidelberg, in honour of her arrival in the Palatinate.

The terms on which she stood with the royal exiles at Cologne, her son the Elector, Prince Rupert, and other members of her family, are exhibited in these letters, together with notices of the political reports at that time current at the Hague, and other matters of passing gossip. I must however leave them to speak for themselves.

I might, perhaps, express a regret at the meagreness of the notes, with which I have thought it advisable to illustrate the letters, but that I know that those who may consult them for historical purposes will stand in need of no elucidations such

as I could give, while those who merely read them as studies of the character of Elizabeth, or as specimens of what were a Queen's letters two centuries ago, will require no further explanations than the letters themselves afford.

I remain, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

J. Y. AKERMAN, Esq.

Sec. Soc. Ant., &c. &c. &c.

JOHN EVANS.

I.

Letter endorsed by Sir Edward Nicholas, " $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁶ April 1655. Rec^d $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁹, Queene of Bohemia, that I have good luck in my children."

Hagh, April 26.

M^r Secretarie, I receaved from you the good news of the King's safe returne to Colein so late upon Thursday as I had not then time to thanke you as I doe now ; for indeed it is verie good news ; for as long as God preserve him I hope he will yett have another fling for it, for as you say in your last I ame not at all out of hope, and if he be sett into his as you wish, it will be best, but how soever or by whome, so it be well done, I shall be satisfied. I ame verie glade my cosen of Brunswick escaped so well, but sorie he had not the hapiness to see the King, which I finde by your letter he mist but a day. The King has lost a verie faithfull servant of the good Duke of Richmond. I heard of his death by the post, and ame veri sorie for it. What I doe to your daughter is not what I woulde, but what I can ; for indeed she desERVE all I can doe, and much more. She is now quite recouered and abroad againe. There is heere little news. The peace betwixt France and Cromwell is much talked of heere ; but I hope the Marquis de Leide, Ambass^r from the King of Spaine, will hinder it. They say he goes this next week, verie well accompanied, and it is reported that both the Queene of Sueden and the Prince of Condé sends with him to Cromwell ; but I cannot assure you of the truth of it. Queen Mother of Sueden is dead,^a her daughter seemes much troubled at it, which makes her rap out with manie an oth. I dout not but you will heare all from S^r Henry de Vic. Thom. Eliot and your sonne Talbot will be with you by this time, I beleeve. I finde your sonne a verie honnest man. I see you have god luck in your children, which I wish you in all things else, being ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I send you a letter for the King.

^a The enmity that at this time existed between Elizabeth and Christina of Sweden is well known.

II.

Letter endorsed "3^o May, 1655. R. 6^o, Queene of Bohemia." Addressed, "For M^r Secretarie," and tied up with black silk, with two seals in black wax, impressed with her Majesty's arms, or rather those of her deceased husband.

Hagh, May 3.

M^r Secretarie, I have receaved yours of the 2^o, and by the Thursday's post I had the hapiness to have one from the King in M^r Chancelour's paquet, who is now heere, and will be with you shortlie, with my sweet Nephue,^a the States of Hollande having taken a resolution to desire his absence, and this day it was to have bene signified to his sister; but I beleeeve it will be prevented, because my Neece has a letter from the King, who desires to have him come to him; but I beleeeve he had not gone so soone if the States had not taken their resolution, which is not come from Cromwell, but their owne clawing with him. The offence they tooke against my Nephue was because, as he went out to take the aire on horsback, he tooke horse within the court at the staires, which I have seene manie a page and lacquay doe; but they woulde take anie occasion to shew their zeale to the divell. I confess I ame verie much out of charitie with him for making us all loose my deare Nephue's companie. I knew no more of Rupert's ingagement with the Duke of Modena then you did untill Thursday last, that he writt it to my Lo: Craven to tell it me; neither doe I know the conditions. I beleeeve he has accepted of that imployment not to live idlie, since the King is not pleased to imploye him, whose service I ame sure hee hath still a verie constant affection for, above all others, which all his letters to me protest; but that not being, he must doe something, and not sitt idlie at home, being confident he will always be readie to serve the King whensoever he shall command him. There be commissioners come from the rebells hither to settle the trade, and it (is) reported that there shall shortlie come an Ambassadour hither from Cromwell. Some write hither from France that the treatie with them is not so sure as manie think. I pray remember me to your sonne Talbot, and beleeeve me ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Dan. Oneal is safly arrived heere: he assueres poor Nick^b is safe. His man is come over.

^a Afterwards William III.

^b Nicholas Armourer.

III.

Letter endorsed “ $\frac{4}{14}^o$ Junii 1655. R. $\frac{7}{7}$. Queene of Bohemia.”

Hagh, June 14.

M^r Secretarie, I ame verie glade to finde by your letter that you are ridd of your paine; I easilie beleeve the sad condition of the affaires doth add not a little to your paine. What you heare from Germanie about the aversness for a King of the Romans I have not heard, but wish it so; but if those Princes and tounes have not some of the Electours of their opinion it will doe litle good. They write in my letters from Berlin the King of Sueden has given the Electour of Brandebourg great assurance of his affection, and of having no desein to hurt him. The last letters Bourdeaux writt to this French Ambassadour was that his next letter shoulde be dated from Paris, being going away because Cromwell will signe no treatie with his Brother of France till he have satisfaction for the massacre the Duke of Savoye has made of his protestant subjects. How the King of France shoulde give satisfaction for it I know not, except it be by hanging the Count de Quinsey, who helped to that horride action with his forces. There is heere little news, but the States are in great allarme of the King of Sueden arming, and will send troupes to their frontiers to secure them; some tolde me that Beverwest shoulde command them. They are an hundred and fiftie companies. Brederode is falling into a dropsie, and, I beleeve, will not live long, which I wish heartilie you may till you see your excellent Master upon his throne, and till then be ridd of your gout. This I wish as being ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I beleeve you will have Middleton verie speedilie at Coloogne.

IV.

Letter endorsed “ $\frac{11}{11}$ Junii, 1655. R^d $\frac{14}{24}$. Qu: of Bohem.”

M^r Secretarie, there is news come from Roterdame of a letter come thither that Cromwell and his counsell have assembled the lawyers to have his charge of protectour settled upon him and his posteritie; Wedensday wee shall know the truth of this; but if it be, sure I beleeve he will change his title, for an hereditarie protectour is a Bull. They are still heere in feare of Sueden, which the Baron Spar wonders at, protesting his Master doth (not) think of anie such thing. I beleeve you will see my lo: of Rochester before this letter, for he was at Bruxelles the last

week. I ame verie glad that worthie liftenant General^a is safe at Munster; I beleeeve he will be by this time with you. I pray assure him still that I ame extremelie his Frend. My deare Neece is gone to Foundre Merdike; you then may easilie guess how I pass my time once a weeke. I shall wish myself with you and my sweet Nephue a shooting. I hope it will recover your legg againe. I have almost forgot to tell you a pretious peece of news which came hither in written hande the last post from Paris, that the French King was to marry with Cromwell's daughter to make the league the firmer with England; it is taken heere for a kinde of Libell, which the French heere are verie angrie at. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I send you a letter for my sweet Nephue and for my Lo: Wentworth.

Hagh, June 21.

V.

Letter endorsed “ $\frac{18}{28}$ Junii, 1655. R. 1^o July. Qu. Bohem.”

M^r Secretarie, I ame verie glade my lo: of Rochester is so well gott to you, for I beleeeve his prettie bulke had much a doe to hide itself in a mouse hole; it is heere verie confidentlie reported that Cromwell has assembled all the Lawyers and judges to take to himself the legislative power, and so change his title; the French Ambassadour thinks it will be Emperour, because the Kings heeretofore did not take themselves that power, he will have the iudges declare his power and not the army, and then he may give his daughter to his Brother of France; tis pittie that none of his sonnes are unmarried that he might have his Brother of Spaines daughter for him. Hanibal Seistad,^b the late vice-Roy of Norway, is heere; he professeth verie much himself the King's servant; he meanes to be with you shortlie at Colleyn; he has bene in England and verie civilie used by Cromwell, but for all that he protests he hates hime. I had a verie civile letter from Prince Adolf,^c who tells of the King his Brother's hastie sending for him, and that he hopes to be sudainlie back to make an end of his mariage, excusing himself that he did not come this way by reason of his great hast. I saw yesterday little Madselle Ruperda married in the French church; she was a verie handsome bride.

^a Middleton.

^b See Whitelock, p. 608.

^c Prince Adolphus, brother of the King of Sweden, who had proposed for the Princess Sophia in October previous. (See Evelyn, vol. iv. p. 213.) It does not appear why this match was broken off. Sophia married into the House of Brunswick in 1658.

Brederode is gone to Arnem to be neere the troupes that are at the frontiers. Nick Armorer, I beleeeve you have alreadie heard, is safe here. It is so hott I can say no more. I will know of Sir Charles Cottrell if there be anie bows here to fitt the King and Marquiss of Ormond. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I pray tell your worthie sonne Liffenant-general Middleton that I ame verie glade to heare he is safe come to his master, and assure him there is no bodie more his frend then I ame.

Hagh, June 28.

VI.

Letter endorsed "5^o July, 1655. R. 8^o. Qu. Bohemia, that there comes an Army of Presbiterians with the lo: Balcarris: that she never yet knew any of that party suffer meerely for his loyalty."

Mr Secretarie, I have yours of the 2 of this month. I am sure you heare of more Lords and gentlemen, they say 500, that are prisoners. The French Ambassadour tolde me the last night the treatie was at a stande: he beleeeve he will take the title of Emperour since the Kings have tied themselves to keep the laws. You will have with you a whole armie of presbiteriens with my lo: Belcaris; sure they will make great offers, beleeeve them who will; you know my minde; yett I have not knowen anie of that party suffer for the King, I meane meerelie for theire loyaltie. This place is verie barren of news, onelie a duel had like to have bene betwixt Sir Will. Keith and Mr. Binnion for iust nothing at play; they were gone as farr as Breda, and by good fortune were stopped there and made frends. I ame confident you have heard alreadie of a riche ladie Stanlie that did cheat poore Collonel Philips and wife of 200 pound, and had cheated more if Mrs. Mohun had not discovered her; when she was at Antwerp she knew her; her name is Skinner, and take away the k out of her name, you will finde her trade. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Julie.

I pray tell the right reverent Dick Harding it is so hott, as I cannot write to him till the next week.

VII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{2}{12}$ ° July, 1655. R. $\frac{5}{15}$. The Queene hath given order for And. Cogans bow, and all that she can find to send." Addressed "For M^r Secretarie," and tied up with black silk, with two black seals of her Majesty's arms.

M^r Secretarie, de Bie the Polish resident is returned from England. He beleeves that Cromwell will verie speedilie change his title. I ame sure you heare how he hath putt my lo: of Hartford, and manie more, in prison. The French treatie is yett at a stand. This Ambassadour sayth that Bourdeaux has order to returne this week if the treatie be not ended. There is no certaintie heere of Pen's fleet. It is written out of France that all the English marchands at Constantinople have had their throats cutt, and their goods seased upon by the great Turk: if it be true, I hope the good people will thanke his pretious highness for it. I have given S^r Charles Cottrell order to send you all the bows he can get. S^r Andrew Coghin's bow is not yett to be found, but it shall be verie narowlie sought for. I beleeve my little gentleman the Duke of Glocester is the distruction of most of your arrows. By then this come to you you will have my Lo: Belcaris and his ladie; they passed by Breda, but came not heere. My Lo: Culpeper is yet heere, but will spedilie goe. He was the other day a little high flowen, and in his oulde humour you know him at that time subiect to be in, which made him fall upon Mons^r Seistat; but all is now well again. Gerbier^a is heere, and all his familie. He is pressed much to cleere himself of the imputation of that base booke. I wish he may; in charitie I say it. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Julie 12.

VIII.

Letter endorsed "2° Aug. 1655. R. 5, Qu. Bohemia."

Hagh, August 2.

M^r Secretarie, before I say anie thing else to you, I will tell you that your wife came the last night saffie to the Brill. I hope she will be heere to-morrow. D^r Earle's wife is with her. I pray tell him so from me. To-morrow I hope you

^a Sir Balth. Gerbier.

will have my deare Neece with you, and your daughter, and shortlie you will see Dicke Darcie. He goeth this day hence; so doth to-morrow Nick Armorer, and the reverent Albert Morton, who is much more growen in breadth then height. Robin Sidney, Watt Vaine, and Robin Honywood and his sonne, are all here. Yong Rob: Honywood is a verie prettie youth, and not presise, like his Uncle Harry. He is verie like Watt, but better. There is heere no news, onelie I ame putt in hope the States will doe some thing for me this week. If they doe you shall heare of it. It is extreme hott heere, and, which is strange, the plague doth not increase; but it is extremelie at Leiden. The last week there died six hundred; everie bodie quitts the toune. I ame glade my sonne has at the last done a little civilitie to the King, though it be but a small one. I pray the wine may proove better then what he sends me. The two last times he sent me wine that was stark naught. His cheef favorit Hoer is heere. I know not whether or not he will honnour the King with a visit at his returne to his master. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I write not now to the King, because my Lo: Taff's a going, who shall have my letters. Tell my cosen of Amsterdam, sonne and nephue, that I expect his raper from raperhall. I sent, under your cover, a letter to him upon Thursday last; within it an epistle to my Nephue the Duke of Glocester. Tell Dick Harding the next week I will pay him the letter I owe him. Those that come now out of England beleeve that Cromwell will not change his title for feare of the army, who will not consent he shoulde doe it.

IX.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{13}{23}$ Aug. 1655. R. $\frac{16}{26}$, Queen Bohemia."

Hagh, Aug. 23.

Mr Secretarie, I ame extreame glad to finde from yourself that you are so well recovered, and that honnest D^r Fraiser has bene so carefull of you, though it is but his custome, especialie to his frends. All the news that I can tell you is, that the last week the Spanish Ambassadour did drink to S^r Ro: Stone the King's health, and to the prosperitie of his hapie restablishment in his kingdome, which Stone pledged, telling him he wondred at the health since his master was the first that acknowledged the parliament. He answered it was true, but he had soundlie payed for it. I wish they woulde seek a good revenge. I heare no talking of

the treatie with France. I wish the Pope may make a good peace betwix the two kings. Though what the states have given me be but a thousand guilders a month, yet I hope it is good signe that they have yett some kindness for my house, and one day may shew it. All goes so ill up hill, as my Lo: Norwich calls it, as I have no reason to wish myself there. Your wife is verie well; and, though she be no great courtier, I finde her a verie good woman. She is still in cuerpo. Her goods are not yett come, though M^{rs} Coale is; you will have her with you and Dr Morley the next week, which (is) all I have time to say now to you; but that I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Tell reverent Dick Harding he shall heare from me the next post.

X.

Letter endorsed "30^o Aug. 1655. R. 2^o 7^{bris}; Qu: Bo:"

M^r Secretarie, I wish your news may prove truer, that Cardenas^a is leaving England, then mine. They tell me heere that there is an extraordinarie Ambassadors to goe from Spaine thither. The Duke of Mantua is now at Paris. He is lodged with Ned^b and his wife, who is his Aunt, in the Hostel de Longueville. Ned commends him to be a verie fine gentleman, a great deal of witt. It is not yett certaine the selling of Casal. There is heere no other news then what you see in the prints. The plague is still newsd at Leiden and at Amsterdam, and almost everie where heeare about, but less heere then aniewhere. When my Cosen of Amsterdame returnes, I pray tell him I heare he has made an excellent copie of verses upon Mam nurses windie misfortune. I hope he will lett me have them, with an adition of the Countess, his repudiated wife's, perfuming of the fore part of her goune; at least, I hope my sober Nephue will not fail to enquire after it. I woulde be loth to eate no more then he takes with his hawkes. I ame sure you heare by this time that Rupert's treatie^c and the Duke of Modena's is quite broken off. He had no minde to be deceived, or ill used. Opdam was sent for from

^a The Spanish Ambassador.

^b Edward, the Queen's fourth son, who had adopted the Roman Catholic religion and married the Princess of Nevers, daughter of the Duke of Mantua.

^c See Bromley's Royal Letters, p. 196, &c.

Spa to go to sea with a fleet towards the Sound. He is come, and the ships are making readie. It may chance make a breach betwixt these and Sueden, who prospers well in Poland on one side, and the Moscovits play the divel on the other side. I cannot but pittie the poore king of Polande, which is all I can doe, for I must not be for him in words more then for Sueden, you know. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Aug. 30.

Tell Dick Harding the next post he shall heere from me.

XI.

Letter endorsed "6^o 7^{bris}, 1655. R. 9^o. Queene of Bohemia."

Hagh, Sept^r 6^o.

Mr Secretarie, just now your wife has bene with me to take her leave of me to goe towards you. I have seene the printed petition; it is a most base one, and against my deare Brother of blessed memorie. I cannot imagine what aileth the Dons to suffer themselves to be so used by him. I woulde either they or France woulde break with him. I confess it were rather France then Spaine, since my deare Godsonne is amongst them. I pray lett me know if he be there as voluntorie, or as he was the last yeare. The King of Sueden^a doth still prosper. He treats with the Electour of Brandebourg.^b He makes small demandes, onelie his cheef ports, the Pilo, and another whose name I have forgott, and to change some articles in his treatie with the States, which he findes prejuditiable to him. What the Electour will answere I know not, but his frends heere think he cannot well with his honnour graunt these demandes. The Princess of Orenge is to sett out this week or the next towards us heere, where the Princess of Nassau comes to lye in. Brederode's death will make manie competitours for his charges; my next will tell you more of that, for but yesterday came the news of his death. I ame glade my sweet Nephue has so good fortune of hawking, but all that shall not make me yealde but that hunting is worth a million of it. Thus you see I ame constant in my inclination, and so will be in being ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I pray commend me to Dr. Morley.

^a Charles Gustavus.

^b George William, grandfather of the first King of Prussia.

XII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{3}{13}$ 7^{bris}, 1655. R. $\frac{6}{18}$. Qu: Bo:"

Mr Secretarie, I feare your beleef will prove true of this people, for they are not yet agreed about the Mareschall's place. My next shall tell you more, onelie Hollande will have none, but the generalitie will have one. P. Maurice is heere; P. Will: is not yett come. I wish it either of them, for they are both verie much the King's servants; the first I named, I assure you, as much as anie. Pen's fleet is returned in an ill case; all is true you have heard of his losses; besides, he can tell how good horse flesh is, for they have eaten it, being forced at Jamaica, the people there having caried away all the provisions: else there is heere little news. They talke of Opdam's going out of a fleet, but I beleieve it will [be] too late in the yeare before it goe out, for there is yett nothing readie for it. My next I beleieve may tell you more, for it is written to me that the King of Poland^a has an armie of 60,000 men. If it be true, the King of Sueden will not gett Poland so soone. I ame sure you heare that the Vaudois have made theire peace with the Duke of Savoye before Cromwell's deputie did come to them. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Sep.¹³.

XIII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{1}{11}$ 8^{bris}, 1655. R. $\frac{4}{14}$. Queene of Bohemia. That the States of Holland have voted for Mons^r Nordick to be Governor of the Basse."

Mr Secretarie, I beleieve before this you will heare before this of the certaintie [of the] king of Sueden's victorie against the king of Poland, who it is saide heere is fledd into Silesia. I pittie the poore king of Poland; all my comfort is that the King of Sueden may as well and much more iustlie breake with Cromwell as he has done with Poland. There is heere little newes, onelie our States are not at all pleased with the Suedes victorie. They are iustlie punished for assisting the Queene of Sueden against my Uncle. There is yett nothing knowen who shall be Mareschal heere. As for the gouvernement of the Bass, those of Hollande have given theire voices for Nordwic, where you may see he doth not suffer much for his being for the house of Nassau. I doe not write all, but this is under the rose. The States General have not yett saide whom they will chuse. His highness of

^a John Casimir.

Tarente is going this weeke into France. His ladie follows in the spring. I will not write to the King till Thursday because I will be first sure he is with you, that my letters be not too stale. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Oct. 11.

XIV.

Letter endorsed "⁸/₁₈ 8^{bris}, 1655. R. $\frac{1}{2}$ ¹. The Queene of Bohemia. That she is much troubled that her sonne the El^r carryed himself soe very unhansomly towards the K."

Mr Secretarie, I ame verie glade that all your court is so well returned to you, and so well pleased with their journey. I was sure the Electour of Ments woulde miss to doe all possible civilitie to the King. As for Rupert, he did but his dutie, and it doth comfort me extremelie to finde how well both my Neece^a and the king did accept it. I ame sure no bodie can have more true zeale and affection for their service then he hath. But I ame vexed to some tune to know how unhandsomlie my sonne the Electour has caried him. You cannot imagine how it angers me to see that he that shoulde be the most kinde and civill shoulde be the least to the King. I hope now you will not blame me for not desiring to live with him. I coulde tell you more, but I will not out of charitie, because he is my sonne. The Princesse of Orenge is to be heere this night or to morrow. The Prince of Tarente away yesterday towards France. Wee have nothing of the Suedes since their late victorie, which our States doe not at all rejoyce at. There is yett nothing done to the clerk. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Oct. 18.

I pray remember me to your wife and your sonne Talbot. Your daughter had had some presents from my daughter if she had gone to Heidleberg. I ame sure they are realie sorie they saw not the King and their cosens there. I pray [say] to your daughter I have not time to write to her, but upon Thursday she shall have an epistle.

^a Mary Princess of Orange.

XV.

Letter endorsed "2^o No^{bris} St. No. 1655. R. 7^o. The Queene of Bohemia."

Hagh, No: 2.

Mr Secretarie, the visit of the Princesse of Nassau and others caused the brevity of my last letter. This will come to your handes without anie other, for Chogneats^a going to morrow and S^r Charles Cottrell taking the same journey at the end of this week, I write by them both to the King and my Neece. You will finde by your letter that the packet boat is not stoped. Benat the French captaine of horse passed by Dunkerk upon Friday was sevenight, and then the Spanish Ambassadour's goods were come in a little boat, but they were afrayed that the Ambassadour was seized upon by Cromwell. After tomorrow we shall know the truth. The Landgrave's death is but too true. He was verie unfortunatlie killed as he went unadvisedlie to a toune that he thought was in the Suedens handes. They suffered him to come close to the bridge and then shott him dead. He was so farr advanced before his people as they had time to save themselves, so as none was killed but he. The Princess of Orenge is now heere. She lookes well, and [her] daughters are growen. The clerk and the solicitour that were in prison are both banished, the clerk for ever, and the other for ten yeares. The Countess is not yett come. My deare Neece putts me in hope I shall see her within three weekes. I ame extreme glade our honnest Dr has done her so much good with his phisick. I pray beleve me ever

Your most affectionat frend,

XVI.

Letter endorsed "8^o No^{bris}, 1655. R. 11^o. The Queene of Boheme."

Hagh, Nov^r 8.

Mr Secretarie, I have receaved noe letters from you this week, it may be S^r Charles Cottrells being gone they are sent after him. I did not think to have written this week, but the resident of Sueden having bene with me yesterday, and tolde me by his king's commande what I now send you in writing, which he sent me this morning, I send it to you that the King may see it. I finde that though the French are more for Sueden then Poland, yett they are not glade of the King of Poland's utter ruine. Mr Lovell will tell you what he heares in England. He

^a There is some doubt as to the correct reading of this name.

went from hence upon Saturday, with Sr Charles Cottrell. The Spanish Ambassadour has Cromwell's pass to be gone, but till he be at Dunkerke I shall still feare the Spanish bravadoes. It is reported heere, the Electour of Brandebourg has sent one to Cromwell. I hope it is not true, but if it be I shrewdlie guess who has counselled it: I am sure not the Count of Waldec. By my next I hope I shall know the truth to write it to you. Cracovie has five townes, whereof Casimir is one. They are all in one wall. I tell you this that you may the better understand the paper. I am ever

Your most affectionat frend,

XVII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{5}{13}$ No^{bris}, 1655. R. $\frac{8}{18}$. The Queene concerning the quarell between Mr Stone and La Mer." Addressed "For Mr Secretarie," tied with black silk, and with two black seals, as before.

Hagh, No. 15.

Mr Secretarie, I was much surprised at your news of the wedding; and if your letter had not come too late, I had upon Thursday desired you to chide M^{rs} Ramer and Sr Allexander, that they could not stay till they came hither, that I might have bene at their wedding; but now I hope to doe it myself, since my deare Neece writes to me she will be heere upon Saturday or Sunday next. You may be sure she will be welcome. The Suedens victories continue. Cracovie is certainlie yealded, and the Cossaks come in to the King of Sueden. It is reported that Cromwell will not give a passport to the Spanish Ambassadour in England, not as an Ambassadour, but onelie as a privat man. What he meanes by it I know not; yett I shall not be confident of their falling out till I heare the Ambassadour is at Dunkerke. I beleeve Sr Charles Cottrell is now by this time with you, since he went the verie next day. There is fallen out a scurvie quarrell betwixt Stone and La Mere, by Greneville's most indiscreet action, where she has done herself a great deal of wrong, and indangered two men's lives. Sr Charles Cottrell can tell the cause of the quarrell—about a letter La Mere should have written to Grenville's prejudice, she being tolde it at least 7 or 8 weeks agoe, as she has by her speeches tolde to others; now she bethought herself to question La Mere, which, if she had done it herself, by any woman, or Dr Morley, there had bene no business made of it; but imploying of Stone it coulde come to no other but a quarrell, where Stone did carie himself not verie discreetlie, affronting La Mere in the street going of the Church, contrarie to his worde to me and

D^r Morley, that he woulde not medle with that business, so as I got him to be arrested; but he did get out by the negligence of the soldiers the last night, and for ought I know may by this time be with La Mere, who went away at the instant that he was affronted, and so has kept himself away. If anie of them come to mischief I ame free, for I did all I coulde to hinder it; but it will lye heavilie upon that unworthie bodie, whosever it was, that tolde such a thing to Grenville, and upon her who sett on the business upon Stone. I write this to you, because I beleeve it will be made an odd storie at Collein, and innocent people unjustlie accused; but this I onelie say to your self. I ame verie glade that my Neece assures me I shall see her the next weeke, or at the end of this. Some speech is heere, as if her deare frends woulde bring her into a new process; but I hope it is not true, who ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

XVIII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{1}{2}\frac{2}{2}$ ° No^{bris}, 1655. R. $\frac{1}{2}\frac{5}{7}$. Qu: Boheme, That my sonne may write a coppie of D^r Morley's."

Hagh, Nov^r 22.

Mr Secretarie, I have such an extreme colde, my nose and eyes running like a fountaine, as I cannot say anie thing to you, onelie to tell you that I dide desire D^r Morley to let me have his two sermons he sent to the King. He saith there is but that copie of them which he sent by S^r Charles Cottrell, where I intreat you that when your sonn has copied them out for the King, he will take the paines to copie them out also for me, and send them to me when you restore the originall. I have seene Cromwell's declaration against Spaine. It is a verie weake one. I hope Spaine will be so wise as to mend that fault these people heere committed, and take the King's quarrell in hande. Hodancourt has not desired the King of Spaine's protection, but will have money of his own king for his gouvernement, as the last French letters say. The P. of Condé offered himself to him, but he has refused him. I ame verie sorie your goute beginns seaze you. I wish you well ridde of it, who ame

Your most affectionat frend,

Ny Neece will be heere this night. I pray tell S^r Charles Cottrell I have the colde so extremelie as I cannot write to him till Thursday.

XIX.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{1}{2}$ No^{bris}, 1655. R. 2° Dec. Queene to me."

Hagh, No. 28.

Mr Secretarie, I ame verie glade your goute is departing. My colde is gone also, but before it left me I was verie angrie at it, for when my deare Neece came hither I could not goe to her for my colde, nor she to me for her weariness, but yett we mett at last. I finde her verie leane and paile, which troubles me verie much; but [if] she will exercise enough, she will be soone well. After I had my first childe I was just so, but I rumbled it away with riding a hunting. I tell her of it, but she is deadlie lasie. I doe wish with all my heart the Dons would be wise, and not goe on their slow slow pace, but make hast to take your incomparable master by the hande. There is no news heere, onelie that Mons^r Chanut is gone for France. I know not yett who comes in his place, which is all I write now to you, from

Your most affectionat frend,

XX.

Letter endorsed, "6° Dec^r. st. No. 1655. R. 9°. Queene Bohem."

Mr Secretarie, my dearest Neece begins, God be thanked, to mend in her looks and health since she saws billettis everie morning. This week wee are to see a famous maske danced by our gallants of the Hagh, French and Dutch; and yesterday the Princess of Nassaw was brought to bed of a daughter. This is all the news heere, onelie Hoquincourt has receaved none into Peromne, but that the French King is there, he having made his agreement; but you will knowe it as soone as I, who has had it from my deare Godsonn's letter to me from Paris, not knowing yett what he shall doe, the articles of the treatie not being yet published or known. The King of Sueden is gone from Warsovie towards Torne, in the Royal Prusse, where the Electour of Brandebourg is with his troupe, yett it is hoped the King and the Electour may agree.

Wee have stayed La Mere, he was caught at Dort; I hope you will doe so to Stone, for they say he is at Collein, so as they may be agreed. I ame verie glade your paine is gone, and that honnest D^r. Fraiser is so well recovered. I pray tell him so from

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, De. 6.

XXI.

Letter endorsed, " $\frac{3}{13}$ Dec^r. 1655. R. $\frac{9}{19}$. Queene Bohemia."

Hagh, Dec^r. 13.

Mr Secretarie,^a I ame extreme glade that the King is so hapie as to discover one rogue. I pray God he may discover the rest, for without dout that villain has companions. Cromwell sure. has more spies than one upon the King. It must needs be he that did betray the last business, for I heare that some of the King's party did trust him, and sent him out of England. There was few but might have bene deceived by him. I have seene him twice heere, but had little talke with him; he desарves verie justlie to be hanged. There is no news heere. I long to have the Dons doe something, but they (are) cruell slow in their deliberations. I wish with all my heart Cromwell may continue his desseins against the Indies, to waken the gravitie of the Dons' pace, and make them goe faster. The English marchands desired a convoye from Amsterdam for going into England, because of the Spaniards, but were refused, it being against their peace with Spaine to give convoys to fight against them. It is extreme colde this day, it both freezes and snows. The best news I can tell you is of my deare Neece continues to mende dailie in her lookes. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I ame glade the King will commande to send Stone, for then I hope it will be well ended betwixt La Mere and him. The honnest Captaine is most furiouslie threatened by some that are no wiser then they shoulde be; but you know the proverb, threatened people live long.

XXII.

Letter endorsed, " 3^o Jan. 165 $\frac{5}{8}$. R. 6^o n.s. Que. Bohemia."

Hagh, Jan. 3.

Mr Secretarie, I wish the match betwixt Mancini and Cromwell's daughter may goe forward; for one thing, the alliance betwixt them is verie fitt and equall. Yesterday Somerdik's eldest daughter was married to Weaver's eldest brother, who was killed heere a yeare agoe by an English Cap. that came from Brasil, S^r Cha: Cottrell knows who he is. Stone and La Mere are at last frends, and he waits againe. My dearest Neece setts forward towards Paris Thursday come sevenight,

^a This letter refers to the execution of Manning, a servant of Sir Edward Hyde's, who, Whitelock says, was shot as a spy.—(See Whitelock, p. 618.) The letter published in Evelyn's Diary under the date December 27, 1654, is of December 27, 1655, as it refers to Manning, who, it appears, was assassinated and not judicially executed. The subsequent letter of January 10 is also to be referred to this year 165 $\frac{5}{8}$.

which is almost all the newes heere, onelie the Hollanders in the Indies have beaten the Swedens out of Nova Suetia. How their king will take it God knows. They are now sending their Ambassadors to him; he has had Elbing deliverid to him, and Dansik is a treating. He is going himself with his army to Kunisberg, where the Electour of Brandebourg and his ladie and all his army are. I feare it will goe hard with him, if he doe not agree, and one of the conditions will be that he must quitt his alliance with the States. He has an envoye with Cromwell, although the Princess of Orenge woulde not confess it; and at his audience, complaining of the King of Sueden's taking all the countries out of his ambition, Cromwell answered he much wondered why men did take so much paines to reigne. Good man! he tooke no paines for it, nor has no ambition. There never was so great an hipocrit. I wish him as ill a new yeare as, I thank you, you wish me a good. I pray God it may be more hapie to us all then the former has bene. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

XXIII.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{7}{17}$ Jan. 165 $\frac{5}{8}$. R. $\frac{10}{20}$. Que. Bohemia."

Mr Secretarie, though I have little news to write yett I will onelie tell you that my dear Neece is gone this morning, and has verie good weather. I pray God send her a good journey and speedilie to returne, for this place is verie dull without her. The King of Sueden lyes close to Kunisberg with his armie, and has sent into the toun to the Electour the Chancelour Oxenstern to treat with him, so as it is hoped he will make a peace betwixt them. Dr Fraiser came hither upon Wedensday night, and is gone with my deare Neece this morning. The States heere woulde have persuaded the Electour of Brandenburg to have lett them have had the keeping of the Pilo; but he has denied it. My Neece and the Princesse douager are parted verie good frends. I ame sure you know that Heinfleit and his Ladie stayed behinde. The match betwixt the Prince of Ost Frise and Mademoiselle de Orenge is broken with both their consents. They have always had an aversion one for the other. I ame alway

Your most affectionat frend,

Hagh, Jan: 17.

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XXIV.

Letter endorsed " $\frac{1}{2}^0$ Jan. 165 $\frac{5}{8}$. R. $\frac{1}{2}^{\frac{5}{8}}$. Queene Boheme. That D^r Morley leaves her—desires the King not to recommend any one to her." Addressed, "For M^r Secretarie," and sealed as before.

Hagh, Jan. 20.

M^r Secretarie, my last being the day that my dearest Neece went from hence I had not much time to say much to you, which made me forgett a maine business I meant to advertis you off, which is that D^r Morley has desired me to give him leave to retire, protesting it is for no kinde of discontente but onelie to be free to himself, finding his age begins to weaken him, and that he always loved his libertie and onelie for my sake he came hither, and seemes to be verie well satisfied with his usage heere, which trulie was less then I wished, but I did it according as I coulde, as I tolde him, though it was not so much as I desired. I ame verie sorie he goes away, for I esteeme him verie much, and have persuaded him all I can to stay, but he still persists in it; wherefore, in the condition I ame in, I ame resolved to take no other Chaplaine but M^r Beaumont, who will say prayers to me, and when there shall be a communion D^r Morley has promissed me to come when I shall desire him, or if as I hope I shall goe to Rheims he will come to me; all which I pray acquaint the King with, that, if anie shoulde speake to him to recommend a Chaplaine to me, I beseech him not to doe it, being already thus ingaged to M^r Beaumont. There is little news heere; it is reported but not certaine that the king of Polande marches with a great armie of Cossaks and Tartars against the king of Sueden, who is yett neere Kunisberg. The Chancelour Oxenstern is in the toun still treating, but it is beleevd heere there will be no agreement. I ame ever

Your most affectionat frend,

My dearest Neece and the Princesse dowager and P. Williame are parted verie good frends.

XXV.

Letter endorsed "24^o Jan. 165 $\frac{5}{8}$. R. $\frac{1}{2}^{\frac{7}{8}}$. Queene Bohem."

Hagh, Jan. 24.

M^r Secretarie, I have receaved yours, and finde your news at Colein, concerning Sueden and the Electour of Brandebourg, doth not agree with the news heere, for

the Elect. is still at Kunisberg, and the Chanceler Oxenstern is yett treating there with him, and their horse doe skermish everie (day) together. I feare the good Electour will have the worst, and the States socours will come to late, for till the spring they cannot be readie. The Tartars will doe more hurt to Poland then good, for they never doe nothing but pillage frend and foe all alike. My Neece has passed Gorcum verie well; the rivers were verie well passed. This night or Wedensday we shall heare more of her. Within your letter I receaved one from the King, to recommend D^r Wishard to me in D^r Morley's place; but that letter I writt to you by the last post I hope will satisfie his Ma^{tie}, being alreadie ingaged to Mr. Beaumont. There is no great news heere, where for a week the weather has bene verie good, cleere, and frostie, but not extreme colde. My deare Neece has verie good weather; my Godsonne is by this time at Peronne to meet her. I am ever

Your most affectionat frend,

I beleeeve Rupert is by this time at Heidleberg, but I heare not that he is yett ingaged at Vienna. I wish he may ingage nowhere, but where he may best serve the King.