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It may be added that the notebook is full of indications that the writer was an Oxfordshire man. His father died at Oxford, his mother at 'Morton in Marsh.' Events taking place at Oxford are frequently referred to, and the one entry about Somerset is as follows: 'I went into Somersetshire, where, having a dangerous illness, I lived about half a year.' These are the words of a visitor, not of a resident.

SAMUEL R. GARDINER.

A LETTER FROM LORD SAYE AND SELE TO LORD WHARTON,
29 DEC. 1657.

LORD SAYE and Lord Wharton both received a summons to sit in the house of lords, or 'other house' established by Cromwell, in accordance with the provisions of the Petition and Advice. Wharton was inclined to accept the seat in that chamber which the Protector offered him, and Lord Saye wrote the following letter to dissuade him. The original of the letter is contained in a volume of Wharton's papers amongst the Carte MSS. in the Bodleian library, vol. 80, f. 749. An extract from the letter is printed in an article on 'Cromwell and the House of Lords' in *Macmillan's Magazine* for January 1895.

C. H. FIRTH.

My Lord,—I have receaved your letter, and am obliged unto you for the many expressions of your love and respects to me, which I shall be glad to answere uppon any occasion whearin I may serve you; and for this which I take to be the cause of your writings att this tyme I shall clearly and sincerely declare unto you my judgement thearin, and what my practise will be accordinge thearunto. For the Government of this Kingdome accordinge to the right constitution thearof and execution agreable thearunto, I think it to be the best in the worlde; beinge a mixture of the 3 lawfull governments in that manner that it hath the qintessence of them all, and thearby alsoe the one is a boundary unto the other, whearby they are kept from fallinge into the extreames which eather apart are apt to slippe into, Monarchy into Tyranny, and Aristocracy into Oligarchy, Democracy into Anarchy; now the cheefest remedie and prope to opholde this frame and building and keape it standinge and steady is, and experience hath shewed it to be, the Peeres of England, and theyr power and priviledges in the House of Lords, they have bin as the beame keepinge both scales, Kinge and people, in an even posture, without incroachments one uppon another to the hurt and dammage of both. Longe experience hath made it manyfest that they

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have preserved the just rights and libertyes of the people agaynst the tirrannical usurpation of Kings, and have alsoe as steppes and stares upheld the Crowne from fallinge and beinge cast downe uppon the flower by the insolency of the multitude from the throne of government. This beinge soe, will it not be as most unjust, soe most dishonourable and most unworthy, for any antient Peere of England to make himselfe a felo de see both to the Nobilyty of Englande and to just and rightly constituted Government of the Kingdome by beinge made a partye and indeed a stalkinge horse and vizard to carry on the designe of overthrowinge the House of Peeres, and in place thearof to bringe in and sett up a House chosen att the pleasure of him that hath taken power into his hands to doe what he will, and by this House that must be carryed on as picked out for that pourpose, and altered and newe chosen as tyme and occasion shall require, some 5 or six Lords called to sitt with them whoe may give some countenance to the designe, which for my part I am resolved neaver to doe, nor be guilty of seemminge to allow thearof, but rather to professe and bare witnes agaynst it: a barbones Parliament, as they call it, without choyce of the people att all is not worse then this, which is layinge asyde the Peeres of England whoe by byrth are to sitt, and pickinge out a company to make another House of in theyr places at the pleasure of him that will rule and with all call a few Lords thearby causinge them to disowne theyr owne rights and the rights of all the Nobilyty of England, dawbinge over the busines in this manner to theyr perpetual shame whoe shall yealde thearunto. For my part this is my resolution, if a writt be sent me I will lay it by me and sitt still, if I be sent for by force I canot withstand it, but when I come up I will speake that I hope by God's assistance which shall be just in his sight and just to this government beinge now about unjustly to be subverted. My Lord for your lawers I looke uppon them as wether-cockes which will turne about with the winde for theyr owne advantages, which I wish they did not love more then truly, with them thearfore whear thear is might thear is right, it is dominion if it succeed, but rebellion if it miscarry, a good argument for pyrates uppon the sea, and for theaves uppon the highway, fitter for hobbs¹ & athiests then good men and christians. I hope I shall a great deale more willingly suffer for well doinge then have fellowship with unrightuousnes and give the least countenance to that I knowe to be unjust. Your man is in hast thearfore I must end. My service remembered to your good Lady.

Your assured friend and servant

W. SAY AND SEALE.

December 20 1657.

¹ That is, Thomas Hobbes the philosopher, whose writings were said to have reconciled 1,000 gentlemen to the Protectorate.