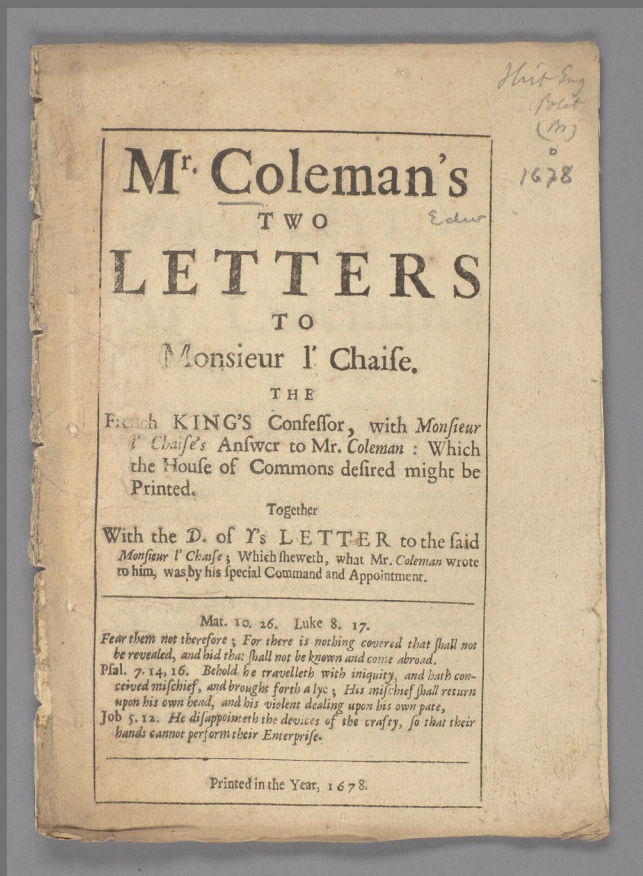


Coleman, Edward

Mr. Coleman's two letters to monsieur l'Chaise the ...



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Mr. Coleman's
TWO *Edw*
LETTERS
TO
Monsieur l' Chaise.

THE
French KING'S Confessor, with Monsieur
l' Chaise's Answer to Mr. Coleman : Which
the House of Commons desired might be
Printed.

Together

With the D. of Y's LETTER to the said
Monsieur l' Chaise; Which sheweth, what Mr. Coleman wrote
to him, was by his special Command and Appointment.

Mat. 10. 26. Luke 8. 17.

Fear them not therefore; For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and hid that shall not be known and come abroad.
Psal. 7. 14, 16. Behold he travelleth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth a lye; His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing upon his own pate,
Job 5. 12. He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their Enterprise.

Printed in the Year, 1678.

M^r. Coleman's

TWO

LETTERS

TO

His Majesty's

THE

His Majesty's Controllor, with Mr. Secretary of the Treasury, to Mr. Coleman: Which the House of Commons desired might be printed.

London

With the D. of the LETTERS printed by the Printer, which is sold by the Booksellers.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the Sign of the Crown, in St. Dunstons Church-yard.

For them not intended, I would be willing to receive the same, if they should be so minded, and if they should be so minded, they may send me the same, and I will be glad to receive it, and if they should be so minded, they may send me the same, and I will be glad to receive it.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the Sign of the Crown, in St. Dunstons Church-yard.

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THE
 FIRST LETTER
 OF
 Mr, Coleman's

To the *French Kings* Confessor,

MONSIEUR LE-CHEER.

SINCE Father Sir *Germaine* hath been so kind to me as to recommend me to your Reverence so advantageously as to encourage you to accept my Correspondence; I will own to him that he has done me a Favour, without consulting me, greater than I could have been capable of, if he had advised with me, because I should not then have had the confidence to have permitted him to ask it in my behalf; And I am so sensible of the honour you are pleased to do me, that though I cannot deserve it, yet at least to shew the sense I have of it; I will deal as freely and openly with you at this first time, as if I had the honour of your Acquaintance all my life, and shall make no Apology for so doing, but only tell you, I know your Character perfectly well, tho I am not so happy as to know your Person; and that I have an opportunity of putting this Letter into the hands of Father Sir *Germaines* Nephew (for whose integrity and prudence he has undertaken) without any sort of hazard.

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In order then Sir, to the plainness which I promise, I will tell you what has plainly passed between your Reverend Predecessor Father *Ferriers* and my self, about three years ago, when the King, my Master, sent a Troop of his Horse-Guards into the Most Christian Majestys Service, under the Command of my Lord *Duras* : He sent with it an Officer called Sir *William Frogmorton*, with whom I had a particular intimacy, and he had then very newly embraced the Catholick Religion, and to him did I constantly write, and by him address my self to Father *Ferriers*.

The first thing of great importance, which I presumed to offer to him (not to trouble you with lesser matters of what passed here ; and immediately after the fatal Renunciation of the Kings Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, to which we owe all our late mischiefs and hazards) was in *July, August, and September, 1673.* when I constantly inculcated the great danger the Catholick Religion, and his most Christian Majesties Interest would be in, at our next Session of Parliament, which was then to be in *October* following ; at which, I plainly foresaw, that the King, my Master, would be forced to something in prejudice of his Alliance with *France*, which I saw so evidently and particularly that we should make Peace with *Holland*, that I weighed all the Arguments I could (which to me were Demonstrations) to convince your Court of that Mischiefe, and pressed what I could to perswade his Christian Majesty to use his utmost force to prevent that Sitting of our Parliament, and proposed Expedients how to do it : But I was answered so often and so positively, that his Christian Majesty was so well assured by his Ambassador here, our Ambassador there, the Lord *Arlington*, and even the King himself, that he had no such apprehensions at all, but was fully satisfied of the contrary, and lookt upon what I offered as a very zealous mistake, that I was forced to give over arguing, tho not believing as they did, but confident-

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ly appealed to time and success to prove, who took their measures rightest. When it happened, that which I fore-saw came to pass, the good Father was a little surpris'd to see all the Great Mens mistake, and a Little one in the Right, and was pleas'd by Sir *William Frogmorton* to desire the Continuance of my Correspondence, which I was mighty willing to comply with, knowing the interest of our King, and in a more particular manner, of my more immediate Master the Duke, and his Most Christian Majesty to be so inseperably united, that it was impossible to divide them without destroying them all.

Upon this I shewed, That our Parliament, in the Circumstances it was mannaged, by the temerous Counsels of our Ministers, who then Governed, could never be useful either to *England*, *France*, or the *Catholick Religion*, but that we should as certainly be forced from our Neutrality at their next Meeting, as we had been from our active Alliance with *France* the last; that a Peace, in the Circumstances we were in, was much more to be desired than the continuance of the War, that the Desolotion of our Parliament would certainly procure a Peace, for that the Confederates did more depend upon the Power they had in our Parliament, than upon any thing else in the World, and were more encouraged from thence to continue the War, so that if that were Dissolved, their Measures would be all broken, and they consequently, in a manner necessitated to a Peace.

The good Father minding this discourse somewhat more than the Court of *France* thought fit to do my former, urged it so home to the King, that his Majesty was pleas'd to give him Order to signifie to his Royal Highness, my Master, that his Majesty was fully satisfied of his Royal Highnesses good intention towards him, and that he esteemed both their Interests but one and the same; that my Lord *Arlington* and the Parliament, were both to be lookt upon as very unuseful to their Interest; and that if his Royal

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Highness would endeavour to Dissolve this Parliament, his Majesty would assist him with his Power and Purse to have such a new one as would be for their purpose. This, and a great many more expressions of kindness and confidence *Father Ferrier* was pleased to communicate to *Sir William Frogmorton*, and commanded him to send them to his Royal Highness, and withal to beg his Royal Highness to propose to his Most Christian Majesty what he thought necessary for his own Concern, and the advantage of Religion, and his Majesty would certainly do all he could to advance both or either of them.

This *Sir William Frogmorton* sent to me by an Express, who left *Paris*, *June 2, 1674. Stilo Novo.*

I no sooner had it, but I communicated it to his Royal Highness, to which his Royal Highness commanded me to Answer, as I did on the 29th. of the same Month.

That his Royal Highness was very sensible of his Most Christian Majesties Friendship, and that he would labour to cultivate it with all the good Offices he was capable of doing for his Majesty: That he was fully convinced that their Interests were one: That my Lord *Arlington* and the *Parliament*, were not only unuseful, but very dangerous both to *England* and *France*, that therefore it was necessary that they should do all they could to Dissolve it. And that his Royal Highnesses opinion was, That if his Most Christian Majesty would write his thoughts freely to the King of *England* upon this Subject, and make the same offer to his Majesty of his Purse to dissolve this, which he made to his Royal Highness to call another, he did believe it very possible for him to succeed, with the assistance we should be able to give him here; And that if this Parliament were dissolved there would be no great difficulty of getting a new one, which would be more useful: The Constitution of our Parliament being such, that a new one can never hurt the Crown, nor an old one do it good.

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His Royal Highness being pleased to own those Propositions, which were but only general, I thought it more reasonable to be more particular, and to come close to the Point.

That if we hapned to agree, we might go the faster about the Work, and come to some issue before the time were too much spent.

I laid this for my Maixme, *The Dissolution of our Parliament would certainly procure a Peace.* Which Proposition was granted by every body I conversed withal, even by Monsieur Ravigny himself, with whom I took liberty of discouraging so far, but durst not say any thing of the Intelligence I had with Father Ferriers.

Next, *That a Sum of Money certaine, would certainly procure a Dissolution.* This some doubted, but I am sure I never did, for I knew perfectly well, that the King had frequent Disputes with himself at that time, whether he should Dissolve or Continue them, and he several times declared, That the Arguments were so strong on both sides, that he could not tell to which to incline; but was carried at last to their Continuance by this one Argument; *If I try them once more, they may possibly give me money, If they do, I have gained my Point, If they do not, I can dissolve them then, and be vvhere I am now; so that I have a possibility at least of getting money for their continuance, against nothing on the other side.* But if we could have turned this Argument and said, Sir, Their Dissolution will certainly procure you money, when you have only a bare probability of getting any by their continuance; and have shewn how far that bare probability was from being a foundation to build any reasonable hope upon, which I am sure his Christian Majesty was sensible enough of: And how much 300000 *l.* Sterling certain (which was the sum we proposed) was better than a bare Probability (without any reason to hope that that would ever come to pass) of having half so much more (which was the most he designed to ask) upon some vile
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dishonourable terms and a thousand other hazards, which we had great reason to be afraid of. If, I say, we had had power to have so argued, I am most confidently assured we could have compassed it. *For Logick in our Court built upon Money has more poverful Charmes than any other sort of Reason.*

But to secure his most Christian Majesty from any hazard as to this point, I proposed that his Majesty should offer that sum upon that condition, and if the condition were not performed, the money should never be due, if it were, and that a Peace would certainly follow thereupon, (which no body doubted) his Majesty would gain his end, and save all the vast expences of the next Campagne, by which he could not hope to better his condition, or to put himself into more advantagious circumstances of Treating than he was then in, but might probably be in a much worse considering the mighty oppositions he was like to meet with and the uncertain Chances of War.

But admitting that his Majesty could maintain himself by his great strength and conduct in as good a condition to Treat the next year, as he was then in, which was as much as could then reasonably be hoped for, he should have saved by this Proposal as much as all the men he must needs loose, and all the charges he should be at in a year, could be valued to amount to more than 300000 *l.* Sterling, and so much more, in case his condition should decay, or it should be worse than it was when this was made : and the condition of his Royal Highness and the Catholick Religion here, which depends very much upon the success of his most Christian Majesty, delivered from a great many Frights and real Hazards.

Father *Ferriers*, seemed to be very sensible of the benefit which all Parties would gain by this Proposal, but yet it was unfortunately delayed by the unhappy and tedious sickness which kept him so long from the King in *Franche Conte*, and

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and made him so unable to wait upon his Majesty after he had returned to *Paris*, but so soon as he could compass it, he was pleased to acquaint his Majesty with it, and did write to the Duke himself, and did me the honour to write to me also, on the 15th. of *September* 1674. and sent his Letters by Sir *William Frogmorton*, who came express upon that Errand.

In those Letters he gave his Royal Highness fresh assurances of his most Christian Majesties Friendship and of his Zeal and readiness to comply with every thing his Royal Highness had or should think fit to propose in favour of Religion, or the business of the Money, and that he had commanded *Monsieur Ravigny*, as to the latter, to treat and deal with his Royal Highness, and to receive and observe his Orders and Directions; but desired that he might not at all be concerned as to the former, but that his Royal Highness would cause what Propositions he thinks fit to be made about Religion, to be offered either to *Father Ferrier*, or to *Monsieur Pomponne*.

These Letters came to us about the middle of our *September*, and his Royal Highness expected daily when *Monsieur Ravigny* should speak to him about the subject of that Letter, but he took no notice at all of any thing, till *September* 29. the Evening before the King and the Duke went to *Neu-market*, for a fortnight, and then only said, That he had command from his Majesty to give his Royal Highness the most firm assurance imaginable of his Friendship, or something to that purpose, making his royal Highness a general Complement, but made no mention of any particular Orders relating to the subject of *Father Ferriers* Letter.

The Duke wondring at this proceeding, and being obliged to stay good part of *October* at *Neu-market*, and soon after his coming back hearing of the death of *Father Ferrier*, he gave over all further prosecuting of the former Project.

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But I believe I saw *Monsieur Ravigny's* policy all along, who was willing to save his Masters money, upon an assurance we would do all we could, to stave off the Parliament for our own sakes, that we would struggle as hard without money as with it, and we having by this time upon our own Interests prevailed to get the Parliament *Prorogued* till the 13th. of *April*, he thought that the *Prorogation* being to a day so high in the Spring, would put the Confederates so much beyond their measures, as that it might procure a Peace, and be as useful to *France* as a Desolution.

Upon these Reasons, which I suppose he went upon, I had several discourses with him, and did open my self so far to him as to say that I could wish his Master would give us leave to offer 300000 *l.* to our Master for the desolution of the Parliament, and shew him that a Peace would most certainly follow a desolution, which he agreed with me in, and that we desired not the Money from his Master to excite our Wills, or to make us more industrious to use our utmost power to procure a Dissolution, but to strengthen our Power and Credit with the King, and to render us more capable to succeed with his Majesty, as most certainly we should have done had we been fortified with such an Argument.

To this purpose I promised *Monsieur Pomponne*, frequently, by Sir *William Frogmorton*, who returned from hence again into *France*, on the 16th. of *November*, the day our Parliament should have set, but was *Prorogued*, *Monsieur Pomponne*, as I was informed by Sir *William*, did seem to approve the thing, but yet had two Objections against it.

1. That the Sum we proposed was great, and could very ill be spared by his Majesty in the Circumstances he was in.

To which we answered; That if by his expending that sum he could procure a Dissolution of our Parliament, and thereby a Peace, which every body agreed would necessarily follow, his most Christian Majesty would save five
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or ten times a greater sum, and so be a good husband by his expence; and if we did not procure a Dissolution, he should not be at that expence at all, for that we desired him only to promise upon that condition, which we were contented to be obliged to perform first.

2. The second *Objection* was, *That the Duke did not move it, nor appear in it himself.*

To which we answered, That he did not indeed to *Monsieur Pomponne*, because he had found so ill an effect, of the Negotiation with *Father Ferrier*, when it came into *Monsieur Ravignys* hands, but he had concernd himself in it to *Father Ferrier*.

Yet I continued to prosecute and press the Dissolution of the Parliament, detesting all *Prorogations*, as only so much loss of time, and a means of strengthening all those who depended upon it in opposition to the *Crown*. The Interest of *France*, and the *Catholick Religion*, in the opinion they had taken, that our King durst not part with his Parliament, apprehending another would be much worse.

2. That he could not live without a Parliament, therefore they must suddainly meet, and the longer he kept them off, the greater the necessities would grow, and consequently their power to compel him to do what they listed would increase accordingly; and therefore if they could but maintain themselves a while, their day would certainly come in a short time, in which they should be able to work their Wills.

Such discourses as these kept the Confederates and our Male-contents in heart, and made them weather on the War in spite of all our *Prorogations*, and therefore I pressed, as I have said, a Dissolution until *February* last, when our Circumstances were so totally changed, that we were forced to change our Councils too, and be as much for the Parliaments Sitting, as we were before against it. Our Change was this.

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Before that time the Lord *Arlington* was the only Minister in credit, who thought himself out of all danger of a Parliament, he having been accused before them and justified, and therefore was zealous for their sitting, and to increase his Reputation with them, and to become a perfect Favourite, he set himself all he could to prosecute the *Catholick Religion*, and to oppose the *French*.

To shew his Zeal against the first, he revived some old dormant Orders, for prohibiting the *Roman Catholics* to appear before the King, and put them in Execution at his first coming into the Office of *Lord Chamberlaine*. And to make sure work against the second, as he thought, prevailed with the King, to give him and the Earl of *Offery*, who married two Sisters of *Myn Heere Odyke's*, leave to go over into *Holland* with the said *Heere*, to make a Visite, as they pretended, to their Relations, but indeed and in truth, to propose the Lady *Mary*, Eldest Daughter to his Royal Highness, as a Match for the Prince of *Orange*, not only without the consent, but against the good liking of his Royal Highness; insomuch as the Lord *Arlingtons* Creatures were forced to excuse him with a distinction, that the said Lady was not to be lookt upon as the Dukes Daughter, but as the Kings, and a Child of the State, and so the Dukes Consent not to be much considered in the disposal of her, but the Interest only of State; by this he intended to render himself the Darling of the Parliament and Protestants, who would look on themselves as secured in their Religion by such an alliance, and designed further, by that means to draw us into close Conjunction with *Holland*, and Enemies of *France*.

The Lord *Arlington* set forward upon this Errand, *November* the 10th. 1674, and returned not till *January* 6, following. During his absence, the Lord *Treasurer*, Lord *Keeper*, and Duke of *Lauderdale* were the only Ministers in any considerable credit with the King, and who all pretended

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to be intirely united ro the Duke, declared loudly and with great violence againſt the ſaid Lord, and his actions in *Holland*, and did hope in his abſence, to have totally ſupplanted him, and routed him out of the Kings favour; and after that they thought they might eaſily enough have dealt with the Parliament, but none of them had Courage enough to ſpeak againſt the Parliament, till they could get rid of him, for fear they ſhould not ſucceed, but that the Parliament ſhould ſit in ſpight of them, and come to hear that they had uſed their endeavours againſt it, which would have been ſo unpardonable a crime with our omnipotent Parliament, that no power would have been able to have ſaved them from puniſhment.

But they finding, at his return, when they could not prevail againſt him by ſuch means and arts as they had then tried, reſolved upon new Councils which were to out-run him in his own courſe, which accordingly they undertook, and became as fierce Apoſtles, and as zealous for *Proteſtant Religion*, and againſt *Popery*, as ever my Lord *Arlington* was before them; and in purſuance thereof, perſwaded the King to iſſue out thoſe ſevere Orders and Proclamations againſt *Catholicks*, which came out in *February* laſt, by which they did as much as in them lay to extirpate all *Catholicks*, and *Catholick Religion* out of the Kingdom.

Which Counſels were in my opinion ſo deteſtable, being levell'd (as they muſt needs be) ſo directly againſt the Duke by People that he had advanced, and who had profeſſed ſo much duty and ſervice to him, that we were put upon new thoughts how to ſave his Royal Highneſs from the deceits and ſnares of them upon whom formerly we depended, we ſaw well enough that their deſign was to make themſelves as grateful as they could to the Parliament (if they muſt ſit) they thinking nothing to be acceptable to them as the perſecuting of *Popery*; but yet they were ſo obnoxious to the Parliaments diſpleaſure in general, that they would have

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been very glad of any expedient to keep it off, though they durst not engage against it openly themselves, but thought this device of theirs might serve to that purpose, hoping that the Duke would be so alarm'd at their proceedings and by his being left by every body, that he would be much more afraid of the Parliament than ever, and use his utmost power to prevent its sitting, which they doubted not but he would endeavour and they were ready enough to work underhand with him for their own sakes, not his, in order thereunto, but durst not appear openly; And to encourage the Duke the more to dissolve the Parliament, their Creatures used to say up and down, *That these vigorous proceedings against the Catholicks was in favour of the Duke, and to make the Dissolution of the Parliament more easie, which they knew he coveted, by obviating one great Objection which was commonly made against it, which was, That if the Parliament should be Dissolved, it would be said it was done in favour of Popery, which Clamour they prevented by the severity which they had shew'd against it before hand.*

As soon as we saw these tricks put upon us, we plainly saw what men we had to deal with, and what we had to trust to if we were wholly at their mercy, but yet durst not seem so dissatisfied as we really were, but rather magnified the contrivance as advice of great cunning and skill.

All this we did purely to hold them in a belief, that we would endeavour to dissolve the Parliament, that they might rely upon his Royal Highness, for that which we knew they longed for, and were afraid they might do some other way, if they discover that we were resolved we would not.

At length when we saw the Sessions secured, we declared we were for the Parliaments meeting, as indeed we were from the moment we saw our selves used by all the Kings Ministers at such a Rate; That we had reason to believe they would sacrifice *France, Religion, and his Royal Highness*

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too, to their own interests, if occasion served, and that they were led to believe that that was the only way they had to save themselves at that time; for we saw no expedient for to stop them in their Carreirs of Persecution, and those other destructive Counsels, but the Parliament, which had set it self a long time, to dislike every thing the Ministers had done and had appeared violently against *Popery*, whilst the Court seemed to favour it; and therefore we were confident that the Ministers having turned their faces, the Parliament would do so too, and still be against them, and be as little for *Persecution* then, as they had been for *Popery* before.

This I undertook to manage for the Duke, and for the King of *Frances* Interest, and assured *Monsieur Ravigny* (which I am sure he will testify if occasion served) That that Sessions should do neither of them any hurt, for that I was sure I had power enough to prevent mischief; tho I durst not answer for any good they should do, because I had but very few assistants to carry on the work, and wanted those helps which others had of making Freinds.

The *Dutch* and *Spaniard* spared no paines nor expence of monys to animate as many as they could against *France*.

Our Lord Keeper, Lord Treasurer, and all the Bishops, and such as call themselves *Old Cavaleers*; who were all then as one man, were not less industrious against *Popery*, and had the Purse at their Girdle too, which is an excellent Instrument to gain Friends with, and all united against the Duke, as Patron both of *France* and of the *Catholic Religion*.

To deal with all this force we had no money, but what came from a few private hands, and those so mean ones too, that I dare presume to say, that I spent more my particular self out of my own Fortune, and upon my single Credit, than the whole body of the *Catholicks* in *England* besides, which was so inconsiderable in comparison of what our Adversaries

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versaries could command, and we verily believe did bestow in making their party, that it is not worth mentioning.

Yet, notwithstanding all this, we saw that by the help of the *Non-Conformists*, as *Presbyterians*, *Independents*, and other Sects who were as much afraid of Persecution as our selves, and of the Enemies of the *Ministers*, particularly the *Treasurer*, who by that time had suplanting the Earl of *Arlington*, and was grown sole manager of affairs himself, we should be able to prevent what they designed against us, and so render the Sessions ineffectual to their ends, though we might not be able to compass our own; which were to make some brisk step in favour of his Royal Highness, to shew the King that his Majesty's affairs in Parliament were not obstructed by reason of any aversion they had to his Royal Highnesses person, or apprehension they had of him or his Religion, but from Faction and Ambition in some, and from a real Dissatisfaction in others. That we have not had such fruits and effects of those great summes of money, which have formerly been given as they expected.

If we could have made then but one such step, the King would certainly have restored his Royal Highness to all his Commissions, upon vvhich he would have been much greater than ever yet he was in his whole life, or could probably ever have been by any other course in the World, than what he had taken, of becoming *Catholick*, &c.

And we were so very near gaining this Point, that I did humbly beg his *Royal Highness* to give me leave to put the Parliament upon making an Address to the King, That his Majesty would be pleased to put the Fleet into the hands of his *Royal Highness*, as the only person likely to give a good account of so important a Charge as that was to the Kingdom; and shewed his *Royal Highness* such reasons to persuade him that we could carry it, that he agreed with me in it, that he believed we could; yet others telling him how

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great a damage it would be to him if he should miss in such an undertaking (which for my part I could not then see, nor do I yet) he was prevailed upon not to venture, though he was perswaded he could carry it.

I did communicate this design of mine to *Monsieur Ravigny*, who agreed with me, that it would be the greatest advantage to his *Master* imaginable to have the *Dukes* power and credit so advanced, as this would certainly do it, if we could compass it : I shew'd him all the difficulties we were like to meet with, and what helps we should have. But that we should want one very material one, money, to carry on the work as we ought : And therefore, I do confess, I did shamefully beg his *Masters* help, and would willingly have been content to have been in everlasting disgrace with all the World, if I had not with the assistance of 20000 *l.* sterling from him (which perhaps is not the tenth part of what was spent on the other side) made it evident to the Duke, that he could not have missed it.

Monsieur Ravigny used to tell me, that if he could be sure of succeeding in that design, his *Master* would give a very much larger sum; but that he was not in a condition to throw away money upon uncertainties.

I answered, That nothing of this nature can be so infallibly sure, as not to be subject to some possibility of failing, but that I durst venture to undertake to make it evident, that there was as great an assurance of succeeding in it, as any Husband-man can have of a Crop in Harvest, who sows his Ground in its season; and yet it would be accounted a very imprudent piece of wariness in any body to scruple the ventring so much Seed in its proper time, because it is possible it may be totally lost, and no benefit of it in harvest. He that minds the Winds and the Rains at that rate, shall neither Sow nor Reap.

I take our Case to be much the same now as it was the last Session, if we advance the *Dukes* Interest one step forwards,

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we shall put him out of the reach of all Chances for ever; for he makes such a Figure already, that cautious men do not care to act against him, or always without him, because they do not see he is much overpowered by his Enemies. Yet he is not at such a pitch as to be quite out of danger, or free from opposition, but if he could gain any considerable new addition of power all would come over to him as the only Center of our Government, and no body could contend with him further. Then would *Catholicks* be at ease, and his *Most Christian Majesties* Interest secured with us in *England*, beyond all apprehensions whatsoever.

In order to this, we have two great Designes to attempt this next Sessions.

First, That which we were about before, viz. To put the Parliament upon making their humble request to the King that the Fleet may be put into his Royal Highnesses care.

And, Secondly, To get an Act for General Liberty of Conscience.

If we carry these two, or either of them, we shall in effect do what we list afterwards. And truly we think we do not undertake these great Points very unreasonably, for that we have good Cards for our Game; Not but that we expect great opposition; and we have reason to beg all the assistance we can possibly get; and therefore if his *Most Christian Majesty* would stand by us a little in this Conjunction, and help us with such a sum as 20000 *l* sterling, which is no great matter to venture upon such an undertaking as this, I would be content to be sacrificed to the utmost malice of nine Enemies, if I did not succeed.

I have propos'd this several times to *Monsieur Ravigny*, who seems alwayes of my opinion, and has often told me That he has writ to France on this Subject, and has desired me to do the like; but I know not whether he will be as zealous in this point as a *Catholick* would be, because our prevailing in these things will give the greatest blow to the

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Protestant Religion here, that ever it received since its Birth, which perhaps he would not be very glad to see, especially when he believes that there is another way of doing his Majesties business well enough without it, which is by a Dissolution of the Parliament, which I know he mightily depends upon, and concludes, that if that comes to be dissolved, it will be as much as he need care for, proceeding, perhaps upon the same manner of discourse which we did this time twelve month. But with submission to his better judgement, I do think that our case is extremely much altered from what it was then in relation to a Dissolution, for then the body of our governing Ministers (all but the Earl of *Arlington*) were intirely united to the Duke, and would have governed his way had they been free from all fears and controule, as they had been if the Parliament had been removed, but they have since that time engaged in quite different Councils, and imbarqued themselves and Interests upon other bottoms, having declared themselves against *Poperie*; and to dissolve the Parliament simply, and without any other step made, will be to leave them to Govern what way they list, which we have reason to suspect will be to the prejudice of *France*, and *Catholicks*, because their late Declarations and Actions have demonstrated to us, that they take that for the most popular way for themselves, and the likeliest to keep them in absolute power, whereas should the Duke get above them, after the trick they have shewed him, they are not sure he will totally forget the usuage he has had at their hands. Therefore it imports us now to advance our Interest a little farther, by some such project as I have named, before we Dissolve the Parliament, or else perhaps we shall but change Masters, a Parliament for Ministers, and continue still in the same slavery and bondage as before, but one such step as I have proposed well made, we may safely see them Dissolved, and not fear the Ministers, but shall be established and stand firm without any opposition.

[18]

For every body then will come over to us, and worship the rising Sun.

I have here given you the History of three years as short as I could, though I am afraid it will seem very long and troublesome to your Reverence amongst the multitude of affairs you are engaged in. I have also shewn you the present state of our Case, which may by Gods Providence and good Conduct be made of such advantage to Gods Church that for my part I can scarce believe my self awake, or the thing real, when I think of a Prince in such an Age as we live in, converted to such a degree of Zeal and Piety, as not to regard any thing in the World in comparison of God Almighty's glory, the Salvation of his own Soul, and the Conversion of our poor Kingdom, which has a long time been opprest and miserably harrassed by Heresie and Schism.

I doubt not but your Reverence will consider our Case, take it to heart, and afford us what help you can, both with the King of Heaven, by your holy Prayers, and with his most Christian Majesty, by that great credit which you most justly have with him. And if ever his Majesties Affairs or your own can ever want the service of so inconsiderable a Creature as my self, you shall never find any body readier to obey your Commands, or faithfuller in the execution of them, in the best of his power, than

Your most humble, and

most obedient Servant,

September 29. 1675.

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THE
ANSWER.

FROM

MONSIEUR L' CHAISE to Mr. COLEMAN
from PARIS, 23d. of October, 1675.

Sir,

THE Letter which you gave your self the trouble to writ
to me, came to my hands but the last night. I received it
with great satisfaction, and I assure you that its length did not
make it seem tedious; I shall be glad on my part, to assist in
seconding your good Intentions, I will consider of the means to
effect it, and when I am better informed than I am as yet I will
give you an account, to that end I may hold Intelligence with
you, as you did with my Predecessour. Sir, I desire you to
believe that I will never fail as to good will, for the service of
your Master, whom I honour as much as he deserves, and
that it is with great truth that I am,

Your most humble, and
most obedient Servant,

D. L. C.

THE
SECOND LETTER
OF
Mr. Coleman's

To the French Kings Confessor,

MONSIEUR L'CHAISE.

I Sent your Reverence a tedious Letter on our 29th. of September, to inform you of the progress of our Affaires for these two or three last years. I have now again the opportunity of a very sure hand to convey this by. I have sent you a *Cypher*, because our Parliament now drawing on, I may possibly have occasion to send you something which *You may be willing enough to know, and may be necessary for us that you should*, when I may want the conveniency of a Messenger. When any thing occurs of more concern than other, which may not be fit to be trusted to a *Cypher* alone, I will, to make such a thing more secure, write in *Lemon*, between the Lines of a Letter which shall have nothing in it visible, but what I care not who sees, but dried by a warm fire shall discover what is written, so that if the Letter comes to your hands, and upon drying it any thing appears more than did before, you may be sure no body has seen it by the way.

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I will not trouble you with that way of writing but upon special occasions, and then I will give you a hint to direct you to look for it, by concluding my visible Letter with something of *Fire or Burning*, by which mark you may please to know that there is something underneath, and how my Letter is to be used to find it out.

We have here a mighty work upon our hands, no less than *The Conversion of three Kingdoms, and by that perhaps the subduing a pestilent Heresy, which has domineer'd over part of this Northern World a long time.* There was never such hopes of Success since the Death of our *Q. MARY*, as now in our dayes, when God has given us a *PRINCE* who is become (may I say by Miracle) *Zealous of being the Author and Instrument of so glorious a Work* : But the opposition we are sure to meet with, is also like to be great : So that it imports us to get all the Aid and Assistance, *For the Harvest is great and the Labourers are few.*

That which we rely upon most, next to God Almightyes *Providence*, and the Fervor of my Master the Duke, is the mighty mind of his *Christian Majesty*, whose generous Soul inclines him to great undertakings, which being managed by your Reverences exemplary *Piety and Prudence*, will certainly make him look upon this, as most suitable to himself, and best becoming his power and thoughts ; so that I hope you will pardon me, if I be troublesom too upon this occasion, from whom we expect the greatest help we can hope for.

I confess I think his *Christian Majesty's* temporal interest is so much attracted to that of his *R. H.* which can never be considerable but upon the advancement of the *Catholic Religion*, that his Ministers cannot give him better Advice even in a politick sence abstracted from the Considerations of the next world, then that of our dear Lord, *To seek first the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Righteousness thereof, that all other things may be added.*

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Yet *I* know his most *Christian Majesty* has more powerfull motives suggested to him by his own Devotion, and your Reverences Zeal for Gods Glory, to engage himself to afford us the best help he can in our present Circumstances: but we are a little unhappy in this, That we cannot press his Majesties present *Minister* here, upon these latter Arguments, which are most strong, but only upon the first, *Monsieur Ravigny's* sence and ours differing very much upon these, though we agree perfectly upon the rest; And indeed though he be a very able man, as to his Majesties service, in things where Religion is not concern'd, yet *I* do believe it were much more happy, considering the Post he is in, that his temper vvère of such a fort that vve might deall clearly vvith him throughout and not be forced to stop short in a discourse of consequence, and leave the most material part out, because vve knowv it vvill shake his particular opinion, and so perhaps meet vvith dislike, and opposition though never so necessary to the main concern.

I am afraid we shall find too much reason for this Complaint this next Sessions of Parliament, for had we one here for his *Christian Majesty* who had taken the whole business to heart, and who would have represented the state of our case truly as it is, to his Master, *I* do not doubt but his *Christian Majesty* would have engaged himself farther in the affair then at present *I* fear he has done, and by his approbation have given such counsells (as have been offered his *R. H.* by those few *Catholicks* who have accessè to him and are bent to serve him, and advance the *Catholick Religion*, vvith all their might) more credit with his *R. H.* Then *I* fear they have found; And have assisted him also with his purse as far as 100000. Crowns or some such summe (vvhich to him is very inconsiderable but vvould have been to them of greater use then can be imagined) tovwards gaining others to help him, or at least not to oppose him, if vve had been so happy as to have had his most *Christian Majesty* vvith

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vwith us to this degree, I vwould have answered vwith my life for such success this Sessions, as vwould have put the interest of the Catholic Religion in his R. H. And his most Christian Majesty out of all danger for the time to come.

But vwanting those hopes of recommending those necessary councells vvhich have been given his Royall Highness in such a manner as to make him think them vworthy of his accepting, and fit to govern himself by, and of those advantages, vvhich a little money vwell managed vwould certainly have gained us, I am affraid vve shall not be much better at the end of this Session then vve are novv : I pray God vve do not loose ground. By my next, vvhich shall be ere long, I shall be able to tell your Reverence more perticularly vwhat vve are like to expect : In the mean time I most humbly beg your holy prayers for all our undertakings, and that you vwill please to honour me so far as to esteem me, vvhich I am, entirely and vwithout any reserve

Sir, Most Reverend Father,

Your Reverences most humble

and most obedient Servant.

A Coppy

*A Coppy of his R. H. his Letter to L' Chaise, about the
time Mr. Coleman wrote his long Letter, 1675.*

THE 2d. of June, last past, his Most Christian Majesty offered me most generously his Friendship, and the use of his Purse to assistance against the designs of my Enemies and his, and protested unto me, That his Interest and mine were so clearly linckt together, that those that opposed the one, should be lookt upon as Enemies to the other; and told me moreover his opinion of my Lord *Arlington*, and the *Parliament*; which is, *That he is of opinion that neither the one nor the other is in his Interest or mine*; and thereupon he desired me to make such Propositions as I should think fit in this Conjunction.

All was transacted by the means of Father *Ferrier*, who made use of Sir *William Frogmorton*, who is an honest man and of truth, who was then at *Paris*, and hath held correspondence with *Coleman*, one of my Family, in whom I have great confidence.

I was much satisfied to see his most Christian Majesty altogether of my opinion, so I made him Answer the 29th. of June, by the same meanes he had made use of to write to me, that is, by *Coleman*, who adrest himself to Father *Ferrier* (by the forementioned Knight) and entirely agreed to his most Christian Majesty, as well to what had respect to the Union of our Interests, as the unusefulness of my Lord *Arlington* and the *Parliament*, in order to the service of the King my Brother, and his most Christian Majesty, and that it was necessary, to make use of our joynt and utmost credits to prevent the success of those evil designs resolved on by the Lord *Arlington* and the *Parliament*, against his most Christian Majesty and my self; which of my side

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I promise really to perform; of which, since that time, I have given reasonable good proof.

Moreover I made some Proposals, which I thought necessary to bring to pass, what we were obliged to undertake, assuring him that nothing could so firmly establish our Interest with the King my Brother, as that very same offer of the help of his Purse, by which means, I had much reason to hope I should be enabled to persuade to the Dissolving of the *Parliament*, and to make void the designs of my Lord *Arlington*, who works incessantly to advance the Interest of the Prince of *Orange* and the *Hollanders*, and to lessen that of the King your Master, notwithstanding all the Protestations he hath made to this hour, to render him service.

But as that which was proposed was at a stand by reason of the sickness of Father *Ferrier*, so our Affaires succeeded not according to our Designs, only Father *Ferrier* wrote to me, the 15th. of the last Moneth, *That he had communicated those Propositions to his most Christian Majesty, and that they had been very well likt of, but as they contained things that had regard to the Catholick Religion and to the offer and use of his Purse, he gave me to understand he did not desire I should treat with Monsieur Ravigny upon the first, but as to the last, and had the same time acquainted me, that Monsieur Ravigny, had order to grant me, whatsoever the conjuncture of our Affaires did require; and have expected the effects of it to this very hour, but nothing being done in it, and seeing on the other hand that my Lord Arlington and several others endeavoured by a thousand deceits to break the good Intelligence which is between the King my Brother, his most Christian Majesty and my Self, to the end they might deceive us all three, I have thought fit to advertise you of all that is past, and desire of you your assistance and Friendship to prevent the Roguerys of those who have no other design than to betray the Concerns of France and England*

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also, and who by their pretended service, are the occasion they succeed not.

As to any thing more I refer you to *Sir William Frognorton*, and *Coleman*, who I have comanded to give an account of the whole state of our Affair, and of the true condition of *England*, with many others, and principally my Lord *Arlingtons* endeavours to represent to you quite otherwise than it is.

The two first I mentioned to you are firm to my Interest, so that you may treat with them without any apprehension.

FINIS

Errata. Page 1. line 6. for *LE-CHEER*, read *L'CHAISE*, and so where-ever you meet with that Name. l. 7. *ibid.* for *Sir Germaine*, r. *Saint Germaine*, and so throughout.