

THE DECLINE  
OF  
THE LAST STUARTS.

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EXTRACTS  
FROM  
THE DESPACHES OF BRITISH ENVOYS  
TO  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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# The Roxburghe Club

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## PREFACE.

In the summer of 1838, having lately been engaged in a narrative of the Insurrection of 1745, I felt some curiosity to explore the fate of its hero during the remainder of his mournful career. It was at that period and with that object, that I made the following extracts at the State Paper Office from several bulky volumes of despatches. This compilation will, as it appears to me, afford a clearer and more certain view of the facts as bearing against the last of the Stuarts, than even their own Papers now preserved at Windsor supply.

It is true that considerable allowance must be made for the unfavourable statements in these extracts, as coming from a hostile quarter. This feeling appears to have survived long after the source of it, that is the danger arising from Charles Edward's pretensions, had wholly passed away. Thus for example in the despatch of December 12. 1780, we find Sir Horace Mann, while giving an account of the Countess of Albany's escape from her husband, and laying great stress on the Count's ill treatment, altogether pass over the well known fact of the Countess's infidelity. The name of her lover Alfieri is suppressed, and he becomes only "a gentleman of her acquaintance."

With every allowance however for undue colouring, I have no doubt that the facts related in the following extracts are in the main trustworthy, and that the character of Charles Edward, as therein portrayed, is generally accurate. There is I conceive abundant evidence to show that the Prince-Pretender in his earlier years, as during his expedition of 1745, possessed high energy, enterprise, and courage—an athletic and vigorous frame—a frank and generous temper. But on the downfall of his hopes he betook himself to intemperance for oblivion of his sorrows, and this fatal resource ended as usual in the decline of his health and the degradation of his faculties. The concealment in which he lived after his exile from France and the various disguises he assumed, though adopted no doubt with a view to another sudden attack on England, served also unfortunately to

withdraw him from the sense of shame and the responsibility of public opinion. On his reappearance in Italy, after the death of his father in 1766, he had long since become what these extracts I fear too truly describe him. Amidst so much of gloom,—of degradation, as well as of misfortune,—was destined to close that ancient and haughty line of Kings!

“Heu quantum hæc Niobe, Niobe distabat ab illâ  
.....  
Invidiosa suis, at none miseranda vel hosti!”

MAHON.

Walmer,  
November, 1842.

# EXTRACTS

&c.

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*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, March 8. 1749. N. S.

The news of this place has been for some days past, that the Pretender's son has been obliged to leave Avignon.\* His sudden departure from that place was said to have arisen from the apprehensions the Pope was under that the Port of Civita Vecchia was threatened with a bombardment by an English Fleet. The Pope's Legate was reported to have gone to him and to have represented that under the present circumstances it was impossible for him to continue his residence at Avignon. The same accounts added that the Pretender's son had affected to take no notice of the Legate's representations, but that notwithstanding, he had thought proper to leave the town one evening, after a ball which was made for him. Whatever was his intention at the time these first letters left Avignon, he seems not to have adhered to it; for I am told for certain that he is now returned to that place and even talks of continuing there. He has wrote to this town that the reports the French Ministry had raised of his having given his parole of honour to cross the Alps, are not founded, for that he was not even asked to give it. I am however inclined, I own, to believe that he did, and the officer that conducted him to Pont de Beauvoisin insists upon it.

From what I had the honour to write to Your Grace formerly, of my conversation with Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx, I am disposed to believe the French Ministry do not mean he should continue there. I intend in my next conversation with Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx to talk farther with him on the subject, and will take care to give Your Grace the earliest information possible of

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\* On the 11th of December 1748, Prince Charles Stuart had been arrested by order of the French Government on his way to the Opera at Paris, and been conveyed first to the State-prison of Vincennes and afterwards to the Savoy frontier at Pont de Beauvoisin. From thence he had made his way to the Papal city of Avignon.

that Minister's answers.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, March 12. 1749. N. S.

The intelligence of the Pretender's son having left Avignon on the 28th ult. N. S. at night, is confirmed on all hands, though which way he has taken his route, is not known. Some of the letters say he is gone to Bologna, though I can hardly believe it; others that he has passed through Lyons in his way to Fribourg. But when I spoke to Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx about it, he told me that they did not yet know the place but that he should know in a day or two. His own opinion was that he would return to Avignon again and that his going from thence was only on a party of pleasure. It is certain that he has ordered a service of plate to be made for him in this town, and seemed fully determined to settle a family at Avignon in spite of the remonstrances the Pope has made to him, at the instigation of this Court, which Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx said they had made, not as thinking themselves bound to it by anything in the Triple or Quadruple Alliance, but because they should be glad to be quite rid of him. His absence from Avignon occasions much speculation at that place, where his attendants (excepting one person who is gone with him<sup>\*</sup>) give out that he is indisposed and keeps his room. Some curious people however took the trouble to climb up to the top of the house he lived in, in order to see if there was any fire in his apartment; which it seems there was not. They carry on the farce notwithstanding, of his being ill, and the Physician goes regularly as if to visit him every morning. Your Grace will certainly know by other channels, much sooner than I can, where he is; but I shall notwithstanding think it my duty to inform you of whatever particulars I shall learn relating to him.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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\* Colonel H. Goring.

*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, March 22. 1749. N. S.

I asked Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx what was become of the Pretender's son, for that I could hardly believe the stories that I heard of his having gone through Lyons in his way to Metz, after what he had told me last week of his master's resolution not to have any regard to him, if he dared to put his foot again in France. Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx answered that he had passed through Lyons with only one companion and one servant and had never stopped but to change horses, but that some of the post boys who had drove him before, recollected him; that the King his master was quite ignorant of his designs and his journey, but that he was extremely piqued and enraged at the young Pretender's conduct; that he had sent orders to have him stopped, and that if they did catch him again, he would give me his word, he (the young Pretender) should not be honoured a second time with a detachment of the *Maison du Roi* to escort him out of France, but that the *Marechaussée* should have orders to drive him out. Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx thinks he will return to Avignon and that he is gone on some affair of gallantry to Metz. As it is impossible for him to get back to Avignon without crossing some part of the French territories, I told Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx that if he offered to return, I hoped and expected they would take that opportunity to send him across the Alps, for that at Avignon he could never be permitted to stay; for that if he offered it, the consequences might be disagreeable to some Princes of Italy. We shall know, I fancy, in a day or two what is become of this adventurer, whom some have sent to Poland, some to Sweden and others to Metz: I think the last the most likely.

JOSEPH YORKE.

*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State,*

Paris, March 26. 1749. N. S.

The young Pretender is still concealed and by many thought near this

town, but I am pretty certain the ministry here are ignorant of the place he is in, and Monsieur Puysieulx has assured me again yesterday that they are doing all they can to find him, and are determined to send him immediately to Marseilles, and embark him for Civita Vecchia. He has besides told the Pope's Nuncio here, that he (the young Pretender) shall not stay at Avignon.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, May 9. 1749. N.S.

From what motive I am not able to say, but for these six or seven days past the Jacobites have been very industrious in spreading a great many stories about this town of riots in England, some of which they pretend have happened at London, others at the Horse Races, and a letter wrote by some persons of the University of Oxford to the Pretender's eldest son, inviting him to be present at the opening of Radcliffe's library, where they assure him of a better reception than the University had had at Court on a late occasion.

As I have never heard a single word of these stories from England, Your Grace will easily imagine in what manner I treat these accounts when they are related to me, which they are almost every day by private persons, some from motives of affection for His Majesty and his illustrious House, and others from reasons very opposite.

I have taken all the pains I can to trace these stories to their source, and I am pretty sure the spreaders of them are Monsieur de Guilles,\* who was taken after the battle of Culloden and was the person who accompanied the young Pretender as French Minister during the Rebellion, and General Buckley; but with what view I do not know. I had the honour to acquaint Your Grace some days ago, that the report prevailed at Paris that the Pretender's eldest son was dead. He may perhaps be ill in some place where his friends are afraid he should be discovered, and they spread those stories about in order to draw the attention another way; especially as the

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\* This gentleman's name was Boyer, and his title, more accurately spelled, was I believe Marquis d'Eguilles. He was a brother of the well known Marquis d'Argens.

same stories make him in England.

The taking up of Colonel Kennedy with which the papers are filled, may perhaps give some colour to this, for the people here are extremely curious to know why he is arrested, though I have not been asked about it by any of the Ministers.

I heard however since Kennedy's arrest that Brigadier Lally has declared he has laid aside his intention of going into England; as well as some others.

I shall do my best to follow this affair, though the Jacobites have so thorough an aversion for me that I am forced to go a round about way to get any thing from their quarter. I do not believe the Ministry here intermeddle in this affair at all, for reasons I have formerly given, and am still in the same way of thinking.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, May 14. 1749. N. S.

In my conversation with Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx, he protested to me more than once that he did not know where the Pretender's eldest son was at this time, that he had certainly been at Strasbourg, though upon his honour they knew nothing of it, till he was gone from thence, no more than of his having passed three or four days in the environs of Metz; that he was certain he was not at either of those places at present, and he desired we would not imagine they had played a double game in this affair; that he could assure me they did not, and I might depend upon his keeping his promise which he had made to me some time ago, of acquainting me with what they knew about him; that when it was reported he was going into Sweden he had wrote to their Ambassador there not to have the least intercourse or correspondence with him, and to declare at that Court that such were his orders. The same thing, he said, had been wrote to the French Ministers in all the other Courts where it was suspected he might pass.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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*Hon. Colonel Yorke to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, June 4. 1749. N. S.

The informations I have received within these few days about the Pretender's eldest son, though not so circumstantial as I wish them, have nevertheless made me doubt a good deal of the truth of his being gone into Poland, and incline me to believe that that journey is an invention to turn the eyes of those who are looking after him, another way. I thought it however a good foundation to talk to Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx on this subject, and I accordingly told him yesterday the intelligence I had picked up: the substance of it was no more than this, that there were letters in this town from him within these few days without date, in which he desires his friends not to be uneasy about him, that he was in perfect health and would write to them soon again; but the particular in the letter which struck me was, that he desired Waters the banker and General Buckley to whom he wrote, to send him back the man who delivered them the letter because he had immediate occasion for him. That alone seems to destroy the notion of his being in Poland, because it is not probable that he should send a man so far with a letter, and I own gives me some suspicion that he is not far from this quarter, though Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx assures me that Mons<sup>r</sup> d'Argenson who is charged to find him out, leaves no stone unturned to compass it. He owned he had heard of these letters but that all the spies about Waters his banker, had never been able to prove anything against him; that he had sent for Waters to Versailles himself, and had examined him, nay had threatened his neck, but that he positively to the last denied his knowing where he was hid; that the strictest orders were given throughout all the provinces to search for him and arrest him, and he would promise in his master's name for religiously fulfilling his engagements particularly in this case wherein he himself was so ill treated; that Waters had drawn bills upon this Court which had been protested and that no money would be given him from hence; and if I would bring him advice of the place where he was hid so that he might be stopped, he would promise me to reward the person that should discover him to me, with a hundred pistoles and I might engage myself upon honour for the sum.

I have dwelt the longer upon this affair, because I am thoroughly convinced in my own mind that he is not at a vast distance from hence;

though, by what Mons<sup>r</sup> Puyzieulx says, the Court knows nothing of it. I know the Court is very strict with strangers upon their frontiers in Dauphine and Provence, because some English gentlemen have wrote to me on their detention, desiring redress, but they have always been treated with the utmost politeness.

I shall do what I can to learn something certain about this Adventurer, though his conduct is so very extraordinary that it is not very easy to get at the truth.

JOSEPH YORKE.

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*Earl of Albemarle to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, 12 Aug. 1750. N. S.

Collins the messenger being arrived with dispatches from M<sup>r</sup> Keene for Hanover, which I have forwarded by Kuony, and with others for your Grace with which he is to go on to London gives me the opportunity of sending your Grace some informations that were given me yesterday concerning the Pretender's son,—That Sullivan received an express yesterday morning from a place unknown to every body but himself and Waters the banker, that he (the Pretender's son) had been at the point of death for many days, but was declared by his Physician to be out of danger, no longer ago than Wednesday last; which proves that he cannot be at a great distance from hence. He was obliged to make himself known to his Physician that he might take the better care of him: from whence it may be concluded that he must be in a very low situation. I shall renew my endeavours to find out where he is.

ALBEMARLE.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 28. 1750. N. S.

It has given me great concern, that notwithstanding the utmost diligence and infinite pains that I have taken to discover where the Pretender's eldest son conceals himself I have not been able to get any informations about him; all my correspondents at Rome persisting in the same story that the Pretender himself nor any of his adherents there, knew anything of him. I wrote to Cardinal Albani very lately on the same subject, who by the last post acquainted me that it was certain that nobody there knew anything of him, and that in an interview which he himself had a few days before with the Pretender's second son the Cardinal, the latter enquired with great earnestness about his brother, and desired Cardinal Albani, as a particular favour, to try by the means of his friends and correspondents, to discover where he resides. He owned to him that the Pretender his father now and then received a letter from him, some times by one and some times by another, with news of his health only, but that those letters were never dated nor any mention made of the place whence they came;\* adding that the Father was quite in despair. Cardinal Albani assures me that he was fully persuaded there was no mystery or deceit in the young Cardinal's discourse, and concludes by saying that if his father and the Pope (who is equally curious to be informed of him) cannot succeed it is no wonder that other people cannot discover where he is. I have frequently acquainted my Lord Albemarle with the opinion that he was concealed in Lorraine, but His Excellency has constantly replied that he has not been able to get the least information of it. I have likewise employed some Lorrainers here who have relations in that country, but all to no purpose; and very lately hearing that he was concealed in a Convent at Bologna, I used various means to make enquiries, by the means of Priests and others, but to no better purpose; nor indeed is it probable that he would choose that place to conceal himself, as the Court of Rome would be so soon informed of it.

HORACE MANN.

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\* This assertion is fully confirmed by the originals of such letters, preserved in MS. among the Stuart Papers.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 19th 1751. N.S.

My correspondents at Rome have acquainted me that the Pretender in the last week received a letter from his eldest son by the way of Avignon, but without any date or place; which letter, though it has satisfied him with regard to his son's health, yet leaves him still in an uncertainty with regard to the place of his abode.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 18th 1752.

I have only at present to inform your Lordship that a public report prevails at Rome, and from thence has been wrote hither that the Pretender's eldest son has changed his religion. Nobody pretends to allege any other grounds for this report than that it is supposed that Cardinal Tencin had wrote to the Pope to inform him of it, but even of this there was no kind of certainty at the departure of the last letters from Rome. Marquis Ginori the Governor of Leghorn, who is now at Florence has assured me that he had received a letter from Cardinal Corsini his uncle, in which he makes no mention of it at all, though he supposes if it was true that he must have been informed of it. Baron St. Odil has only made mention of it in his letters to the Ministers here as a report that was spread about Rome; and Cardinal Albani has wrote it to me in the same light, adding at the same time that he had not been able to learn what foundation there was for it. My correspondents have wrote to me likewise in the same uncertainty, though every body mentions the report being general. They add, that whether true or false, an unaccountable consternation had on a sudden been observed in the Pretender's people and adherents, that they appeared dejected and very mysterious when questioned about it. The French post which is supposed to have carried that news to Rome, arrived there only one day before the post departed for Florence, which prevented any body from making more strict enquiries into it.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State .*

Florence, August 25. 1752.

The report which I had the honour to mention in my two last letters to Your Lordship that the Pretender's eldest son had changed his religion, still subsists, more I am inclined to believe from the want of any material circumstance to destroy it, than from any fresh proof of the probability of it. Cardinal Tencin certainly wrote it to the Pope, and though it has been said that he had since contradicted it, yet Cardinal Albani and others have by their last letters assured me of the contrary. In this uncertainty therefore as to the main point, the first opinion prevails in all the Coffee houses and is still the public talk, though many people of higher rank do not give credit to it.

HORACE MANN.

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*Earl of Albemarle to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, Wednesday 10th January 1753.

Though I cannot depend on the certainty of the informations that have been given me concerning the Pretender's son, yet as they may be combinable with others Your Lordship may have received, I think it necessary to acquaint you that I was told last week that he passed through this town, after making a stay in it of two days, but from whence he came or to what parts he was going it was not possible to know.

One of my intelligencers went so far as to say that he saw him in the streets the 4th instant, but so disguised as to make it extremely difficult to know him, having painted his face with red, and coloured his eye brows with the deepest black, and keeping a handkerchief to his face as to keep off the cold; that he followed him as far as he could with safety and saw him go into the Scotch College, from whence as it was evening he did not perceive him come out again and so lost him. I have made all the inquiries I could from other hands but have not learnt any thing that could confirm the above account: if I had, I should not have failed making the applications to this Court which in that case I have been directed to do.

ALBEMARLE.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 26. 1754.

The Pretender and his son the Cardinal had an audience of the Pope<sup>\*</sup> to compliment him on the Festivals of Easter; the former who had not for a considerable time made any mention of his eldest son, said publicly not long ago at table that he had received a letter from him and that he was very well; but as he did not mention where he was (which nobody ventured to ask) it is supposed still that the Pretender himself does not know, and that the letter he received was as usual without any date or place.

HORACE MANN.

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<sup>\*</sup> Cardinal Lambertini, elected Pope in 1740, under the title of Benedict XIV., and died in 1758.

*M. Ruvigny de Cosne to the Secretary of State.*

Paris, April 9. 1755.

A Letter M<sup>r</sup> Mildmay has received from an acquaintance of his at Aix dated the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst, informs him that the Pretender's Son has lately passed three weeks at Avignon, incognito, being all the while in an Abbé's dress: that he sometimes walked out in the evening with three or four of his friends and went away from thence a day or two before Palm Sunday and was attended as far as Lyons by the Chevalier Harrington and another person who are since returned to Avignon. But as that letter does not say where the young Pretender went from Lyons, it confirms my suspicions of his having been (perhaps of his being still) in Paris or near it. I will do all I can to find out if it is so, though it will be very difficult to know it in so large a City as this and in the continual and different disguises he uses.

RUVIGNY DE COSNE.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 19. 1755.

In proportion as the Pretender's adherents at Rome have judged that a rupture would ensue between His Majesty and the Crown of France they have appeared to be elated, flattering themselves that such an event would be favourable to them, though they have been much more modest than on many other occasions. The Pretender, who has lately had a long audience of the Pope, is supposed to receive letters from his eldest son, by the French couriers, more frequently of late than usual; but he never says more of him than that he is well. People however suppose by the frequency of those letters and the channel by which they are sent, that his son is in some part of France.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, 20 December 1755.

My correspondent at Rome having given me previous notice of the departure from thence of some livery-servants belonging to the Pretender's eldest son and that they were to pass through Tuscany, I found means to set two Englishmen to watch for their arrival, who pretending to be their friends insinuated themselves so well into their company as to pass the whole evening with them. They were five in number and all Scotch, the names of three were Stuart, Macdonnel, and Mackenzie; they were dressed alike in the Pretender's livery and said they had been with his son in Scotland; upon which the people employed asked where he was. They answered only that they were going to Avignon and should soon know, and in their merriment drank the health of the Boy that is lost and cannot be found. Upon which one of them answered that he would soon be found; another reproved him and made signs to him to hold his tongue. They seemed to be in awe of each other, so it was not possible to get any particular notice from them any more than that they left Avignon last September and went to Rome (of which circumstance I made mention in my letters to Sir Thomas Robinson) where they lately received a sudden order to return to Avignon with all haste.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 24th. 1756.

The Pope has lately granted a privilege to the Pretender of an uncommon nature in the Roman Church, though very trifling in itself, to drink either broth or chocolate before he communicates, on account of his habitual indisposition of stomach which prevents him from fasting so long

as their Church prescribes before that ceremony. The Pope has wrote what is called a Decretal Letter on this subject, in which among other examples he quotes that of Pope Julius the Third, who granted the same privilege to Charles the Fifth after his abdication.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 20th. 1759.

By the last accounts from Rome I have been informed that the Pretender continues in the same weak state of health that I have often mentioned, and that he has frequent fainting fits, proceeding from violent pains in his stomach. He sees very few people and speaks little, and upon the whole is looked upon to be in very great decay. A person whom they call Lord Gordon lately arrived at Rome is frequently at his house. The people about the Pretender now say that he frequently receives news from his eldest son and that remittances are made to him into France.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 8. 1760.

The Pretender's health has suffered very little alteration of late, though he is so emaciated and so weak that it is not natural to suppose that he can hold out long. He seems of late totally indifferent to all affairs both of a public or of a domestic nature, and leaves the management of both, to

his son the Cardinal and Mr. Grimes\* (whom they call Lord Alford) who receives and answers all his letters. Cardinal Corsini, in whom he always had the greatest confidence, and some few others, whom he used to admit most familiarly, go there seldom and stay a very little time with him, as he cannot bear the fatigue of talking.

HORACE MANN.

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*Mr. H. Stanley to the Secretary of State .*

Paris, June 8. 1761.

I hear that the Pretender's eldest son is drunk as soon as he rises and is always senselessly so at night, when his servants carry him to bed. He is not thought of, even by the exiles.

H. STANLEY.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1761.

By a very fortunate accident I have information by undoubted authority that the Pretender's eldest son lives for the most part of the year, in the Bishoprick of Liege, at a house in the country, not far from a hunting seat of that Prince, though he frequently makes excursions from thence. He commonly goes to Paris in the Carneval; at other times he goes into Switzerland and to other places, but always disguised and under a different name from that he goes by when he is at his house near Liege, which is Smith. He has only with him Mr. Sullivan and a few servants out of livery.

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\* John Graham was invited by the Pretender to Rome to be his Secretary of State on the death of Mr. O'Bryen (Lord Lismore) in 1759, and was named titular Earl of Alford.

The woman he had with him and by whom he had a child,\* being provoked by bad usage, ran away from him about a year ago, and took refuge in a convent. This affected him much, and he wrote a letter to the King of France to beg that he would give orders that she should be sent back to him; but the King acquainted him that he could not force the inclination of any body in that situation. Since that accident he is said to be very melancholy, and to have taken more to drinking than usual. He has totally discontinued of late writing to his father; from whom he had not received any money since the former yielded to him the money he had in the public funds at Paris, ever since the late Regent's time, which I am told amounted to a revenue of between four and five hundred thousand French livres. He has several servants at Paris, others at Avignon and in other places, to whom he allows salaries and pensions. By some dispositions that were made by his orders at Rome when the Pretender was dangerously ill, it was supposed, that in case of his death, he would have gone thither, though probably not to fix there, as he has so great an aversion to his brother.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 26th. 1763.

The Pretender remains in the same situation in which he has long been, so weak that he never stirs out of his room, though at certain hours he admits people to sit with him. The Cardinal his son is frequently troubled with a fluxion in his eyes, for which, by the advice of his physicians he lately removed to his Bishoprick at Frascati.

HORACE MANN.

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\* Miss Walkinshaw.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 9. 1765.

The Pretender continues in the same situation he has been so long in; so few people go now to his house, and none but those who are immediately necessary are admitted to see him; so that nobody speaks of him.

HORACE MANN.

*Cardinal Albani to Sir Horace Mann.*

à Rome, ce 6 Novembre 1765.

Monsieur,

Quoique peut être à l'heure qu'il est ce ne soit plus un secret, je vous prie néanmoins Monsieur de la tenir à vous, et de ne m'en faire jamais auteur, la nouvelle, que le fils aîné du Pretendant après s'être tenu si caché, qu'il y a bien du monde qui ne le croit plus en vie, a fait entendre, qu'il est disposé de revenir à Rome. Il demande d'y être reçu et traité avec les distinctions, dont il jouissait avant son départ, de succéder au trepas de son pere aux appointements dont il jouit sur la Chambre Apostolique, et d'être reconnu comme son Pere (après son decés) en Roi.

Le Pape lui a fait repondre qu'il le reverra, avec bien du plaisir, qu'il le fera traiter selon son rang distingué, qu'il peut compter après la mort de son Pere sur les appointements qui étaient déjà fixés pour le Cardinal son frere. Mais que par rapport aux marques de Royauté, il ne peut ni veut prendre sur lui de les accorder. Et que sur cet article il reglera ses demarches sur celles de quelqu'autre Souverain. Je ne sais s'il s'accommodera de cette reponse, qui naturellement lui a été envoyée, et du surplus qu'il en arrivera j'aurai soin de vous en instruire. Je vous prie cependant d'agréer mon attention, et les protestations d'amitié avec laquelle je serai toute ma vie

Monsieur, &amp;c.

ALBANI.

M<sup>f</sup> Mann à Florence.

[Inclosed in Sir Horace Mann's despatch of November 12, 1765.]

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 9. 1765.

The last letters from Rome brought such accounts of the Pretender's health as make it improbable he can hold out long. This has given rise to an opinion that his eldest son will return to Rome. My correspondents there have acquainted me with such particulars relating to it and so many other people have received the same advice, that if I was not informed of the contempt which he has always expressed for his brother, and his aversion on that account to return thither, I should suspect there might be some foundation for this rumour. It is said that the Pope having been applied to about it has given his consent and even that Cardinal Stuart<sup>\*</sup> has consented to yield to his brother the pension of twelve thousand crowns which the Court of Rome has always allowed the Pretender, the reversion of which he obtained in favor of his second son in the time of the late Pope Lambertini. The credit which is given to this report is the chief reason of my informing you of it at present, though I have taken such measures to be better informed that I hope soon to be able to acquaint you with certainty what grounds there may be for it.

HORACE MANN.

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\* More commonly known by the name of Cardinal York.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 3<sup>d</sup>. 1766.

I have this instant received notice from Rome by an extraordinary conveyance that the Pretender expired about 9 o'clock at night on the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 10. 1766.

A few hours after the departure of my letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant a courier passed by from Rome with dispatches from Cardinal Stuart to his brother, among which I am assured there was one directed for him by his father, to be sent to him after his death. It is supposed that the courier will meet him on the road to Rome, but that his brother advises him not to proceed thither, till he receives farther notice from him. This circumstance the Pope's Nuncio here confirmed to me yesterday, as knowing it for certain.

Immediately after the Pretender's death, Cardinal Stuart repeated his personal solicitations to the Pope, with the utmost warmth to acknowledge his brother by the titles which his father had assumed; but the Pope constantly persisted in his refusal. Nevertheless not being able to silence his importunities, the Pope promised him to call a Congregation of Cardinals to ask their advice on this subject, as is customary there on all affairs of importance. In the mean time as by all the accounts I have received from Cardinal Albani (though he insists on not being named) and many others, that the French Ambassador there (who is the same that behaved so uncivilly to the Duke of York when His Royal Highness was at Rome) supports the demand in all societies with the utmost warmth, and as every thing is carried on at Rome by cabals and intrigues, I thought it would not be improper in my answer to Cardinal Albani's letter on this subject, to set in view the inconveniences that the Pope may expose himself to, by complying with the instances that have been made to him;

knowing that he and others to whom I have wrote on the same subject, will make a good use of it, and that this method is the most capable of making an impression both upon the Pope and the Cardinals he may consult, who are for the most part excessively ignorant of Courts and of the world.

Cardinal Stuart has communicated his Father's will to the Pope, who sent for an English friar to translate it to him: the common report is that the Pretender has left in the public funds at Rome, in money jewels and plate, the value of a million of Roman crowns (about 250,000 £. sterling.) I should suspect however, that the sum is exaggerated; but of this it will be very difficult to know the truth. Cardinal Stuart enjoys a revenue in ecclesiastical benefices in France Spain and Rome of near sixty thousand crowns, about 15,000 £. sterling.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 21. 1766.

I have now the great satisfaction, Sir, to acquaint you, that in the Congregation of Cardinals held at Rome to consult about acknowledging the present Pretender, it has been determined in the negative. The "secret of the Inquisition" as it is termed there was imposed on all who assisted at that Congregation; nevertheless the result of it was soon known, though as yet I am not informed of the less interesting particulars.

HORACE MANN.

P. S. The Pretender passed by a few hours ago on his way to Rome: he only stopped to change horses.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 1. 1766.

By the last letters from Rome I have received notice of the

Pretender's arrival there: his brother went some posts to meet him. Curiosity had assembled great crowds of people about his house to see him get out of his coach, and some few of the Nobility waited in his antichamber, with whom he stayed a very little while, being much fatigued by his journey and hurt by being overturned in his coach; on which account he keeps for the most part in bed, and only gets up for dinner and supper. He still passes incognito under the name of Douglas,\* with a view, as it is supposed, to exempt himself from all ceremony with regard to the Pope and the College of Cardinals, with whom he is most extremely dissatisfied. His brother however went the day after his arrival, to the Pope, and again renewed his solicitations to acknowledge him, with which the Pope was much offended and made him no answer. Circular notice has been sent to the Nuncios in the different Courts of the Pope's decision on this subject. The Nuncio here spoke to me of it a few days ago and desired me to do them justice in England: on which occasion I must beg leave to observe to you, Sir, that the decision of the Court of Rome on this occasion, so contrary to their maxims and to the practice of so many preceding Popes, is looked upon in these parts as the strongest and the most public proof of the respect which the greatness of His Majesty's name and the apprehension of offending him could produce.

HORACE MANN.

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*Letter of the Young Pretender to his Brother inclosed in Sir H.*

*Mann's dispatch of February 1, 1766.*

à Bouillon, ce 28 Nov. 1765.

Votre lettre du 30 Octobre dernier, mon cher frere, et celle qui y était jointe m'ont été remises. J'ai vû avec la plus grande sensibilité toutes les marques de vôtre bon cœur et de vos attentions pour mes intérêts. Soyez persuadé du retour le plus parfait et de toute la tendresse de mon amitié. Je ne saurais trop vous exprimer combien j'ai été pénétré des sentimens de Sa Sainteté, de ses expressions, et de ses offres obligeantes sur les propositions que vous lui avez faites de ma part. Soyez l'interprete de mes sentimens de vénération et de reconnaissance auprès d'Elle, en attendant que je puisse m'en acquiter moi-même, et dites aussi mille choses de ma

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\* His letters to his father written since his departure from Avignon in 1749, and still preserved among the Stuart Papers nearly all bear the signature of John Douglas.

part a Mons. le Card<sup>1</sup> Albani et a toutes les personnes qui nous sont attachées.

J'aspire au moment de vous embrasser ce qui sera le plutôt possible. Je ne perdrai pas un instant sur les préparatifs de mon départ. J'espère de vous trouver en aussi bonne santé que Ossi me l'a annoncé.—J'en étais ici de ma lettre lorsque je reçois la vôtre du 6 courant. Je ne puis que vous repeter que j'ai la même impatience de vous rejoindre. Si j'avais les ailes d'un oiseau nous serions bientôt satisfaits.

Vôtre très affectionné frere

CHARLES P. R.

*Mr. Dick to the Secretary of State.*

Leghorn, February 10. 1766.

When the Pretender arrived at Rome he had with him Mr. Mackintosh as Master of the Horse, Mr. Hay, Groom of the Bedchamber and Mr. Aire, Ecuyer. Mr. Stafford who has lived some time at Avignon was soon expected to join his family.

JOHN DICK,  
*British Consul.*

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 11. 1766.

I had the honour by my last letters to acquaint you, Sir, with every thing that had passed at Rome on the Pretender's arrival there; since which, the resentment which Cardinal Stuart has publicly shown of the Pope's decision not to acknowledge his brother, has drawn upon them both an additional mortification. So soon as the Pretender was a little recovered of the fatigue of his journey, the Cardinal his brother carried him with ostentation about the streets of Rome, in his coach and *on his right hand*, a distinction which according to the rules of that place no Cardinal can show to any but a Crowned Head. This circumstance therefore being looked upon as a public contempt of the Pope's decision, joined at the

same time to a visit which Cardinal Orsini the Minister of Naples made to the Pretender, on which occasion it was supposed they must have given him the title which the Pope refused him, gave so much offence, that the Pope immediately assembled the same Congregation of Cardinals as before, in which it was determined that Cardinal Torreggiani the Secretary of State, should in person give orders in the Pope's name to Cardinal Cavalchini Dean of the College, to send a gentleman round to all the Cardinals and to all the heads of the distinguished orders, to acquaint them that the *Santa Sede* (which is the term always made use of to distinguish the Court of Rome) does not acknowledge the Prince Stuart as King and that it was expected they should conform themselves in their behaviour to him agreeable to that declaration. By the advice of Cardinal Albani the Secretary of State sent orders again by the last post to the Nuncio here, to inform me of this circumstance, as a proof that the resolution of that government was not illusory; and I have likewise received farther proofs of it, by the notice that Cardinal Torrigiani severely reprimanded, at the same time, the Grand Priors of the Order of Malta Altieri and Fiano, as well as Marquis Gualtieri, for their personal behaviour on this occasion. I have thought it my duty, Sir, to represent to you even the minute circumstances and consequences which this uncommon affair has produced, and so much the more, as they will probably determine the Pretender not to settle at Rome, but to choose some subaltern town in the Ecclesiastical State, unless he should be permitted to reside in France; to which it is said he would give the preference.

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HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 22. 1766.

Nothing has passed at Rome worthy your attention excepting that the Pretender lately dispatched couriers both to Paris and Madrid from whence he seems to expect answers that may fix his resolution in regard to the place of his abode.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 22. 1766.

In the last week the Arms of England which the late Pretender had over the door of his house,\* with those of the reigning Pope and the Senate of Rome, were taken down in the night time. The Pretender was at Frascati with his brother, but is since returned to the City.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 15. 1766.

I have this morning received an account from Rome by an extraordinary conveyance that the indiscretion of the Pretender, fomented by that of his adherents, had given occasion to fresh disturbances there, to the Pope, as in open defiance of his decision and of the notification that was sent by his order to all the Cardinals and to the chief of the principal

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\* This was the Palazzo Muti-Papazurri, in the Piazza di Sant' Apostoli, and near the Palazzo Colonna.—*Melchiorri Guida di Roma, Part 2. p. 566.*

orders not to acknowledge his pretended titles, the Rectors and Students of the English, Scotch and Irish Colleges there, as well as the Superiors of two other Irish Convents, dared to receive him with all the state they were capable of, and to acknowledge the titles he assumes, in the most solemn manner that could depend upon them. Every thing being privately settled for that purpose, the first visit the Pretender made was to the English Convent of St. Thomas, at the entrance of which he was received by the Rector, and by all the Students in their habits of ceremony, who conducted him to a Chair of State, when a Te Deum was sung for his return, by the title of Charles the Third, their Sovereign, after which he was conducted to the great hall of their College where they all kissed his hand. The same ceremony was practised the three days following in the Irish and Scotch Churches which I have before mentioned. For which public contempt of the Pope's orders, the Rectors of the English and Scotch Colleges (both Jesuits) as well as the Superiors of the two Irish Convents, were by an order from the Secretary of State banished from Rome. An order was likewise sent to the Abbé Grant, who is agent there for the Scotch Roman Catholics and who has been very busy on this occasion, not to dare to approach any of the Pope's Palaces, or to frequent his Ministers; at the same time that the pension which he received from that government has been taken from him.

Every body applauds the resolution with which the Pope and his ministers have acted in supporting his dignity on this occasion; but what has both surprised and mortified the Pope extremely is, that his Nuncio at Madrid has lately acquainted him that the King of Spain spoke with warmth to him on the subject of the Pope's not acknowledging the Pretender, both in terms so little respectful to the Pope and in a manner so totally different from the declaration which Monsieur Aspuru his minister at Rome, jointly with the French Ambassador, had made to the Pope on this subject, that it has given him a most sensible uneasiness; and though he is persuaded that the Court of Spain has privately on this occasion given some very favourable assurances to the Pretender and his brother, and that encouraged by them they have taken the steps above mentioned; nevertheless the Pope and his ministers have not been intimidated, by this inconsistent behaviour of the King of Spain, from showing a proper resentment to the offenders. On the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, the day after the order of banishment was notified to them, the Pretender went into the country to hunt, where he purposed to stay a month.

I shall continue my utmost attention to what passes farther on this occasion, as there is great reason to suspect that the Court of Spain acts

with the utmost insincerity with regard to His Majesty in this affair.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, June 17. 1766.

The Pope's health declines very fast; his nephew in the last week took possession with the greatest pomp, of the post of Senator of Rome. Cardinal Stuart and his brother remain quiet; the latter resides chiefly in the country, but it is said that he still flatters himself that when the present Pope dies, his successor may be more favourable to him and acknowledge his pretended titles. I shall therefore be particularly attentive to every thing that may be contriving there on this subject.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, July 12. 1766.

The late Pretender's son, who is commonly called Count or Baron Douglas, is totally neglected by the Government there and by the public, though the Ambassadors of France and Malta and the Spanish Minister go often to him, but it is said they treat him without any ceremony. Some dispositions are making in his family, as if he intended to fix his residence at Bologna, where the house of Marquis Angelelli was prepared for him, even before he returned to Rome, in hopes that he would have waited there the result of what was then treating at Rome in regard to him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 8, 1766.

Upon the interposition of Monsieur Rezzonico the Pope's Nephew, the superiors of the English Scotch and Irish Colleges and Convents, who in the month of March were banished from Rome, for having in defiance of the Pope's orders, received the Pretender with some formality in their respective convents on his return to Rome, were restored to their employments. The Pretender for the most part lives at Albano, from whence he makes frequent visits to the Cardinal his brother at Frascati. He amuses himself in hunting and shooting, and but very few people go to him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 29. 1766.

The late Pretender's son who retains the name under which he has always been known there [at Rome] of Prince of Wales, committed in the last week some great outrages against some of his own people in a drunken fit, by drawing his sword and pursuing them, so that they narrowly escaped being killed.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, June 3. 1769.

The new Pope\* gives great satisfaction to all who approach him and shews particular attention to the Foreign Ministers with whose Courts his chief aim is to procure a perfect reconciliation; but as yet he has not explained himself with regard to the abolition of the Society of Jesuits. The Person who is known at Rome by the name of Baron Douglas had certainly hopes if Cardinal Stoppari had been chosen Pope, that he would have acknowledged his pretended titles, as that Cardinal was one of those in the Congregation that was held in the late Pope's time on that subject, who voted for it; but he retired into the country the instant he heard of the present Pope's election.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, June 30. 1769.

On the 22<sup>d</sup> the son of the late Pretender was introduced to the Pope by his brother under a private name; by which presentation he is supposed to have given up his pretension of being known at Rome by any other title; the refusal of which since his father's death had excluded him from all sort of society, but hence forward he will associate with the Nobility there as a private person.

HORACE MANN.

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\* Cardinal Ganganeli elected Pope, May 1769, under the title of Clement XIV.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, July 29. 1769.

I had the honour to acquaint your Lordship by a late letter that Cardinal York had introduced his brother to the Pope; I have since received the following particulars relating to it: that the Pope received him standing and would not permit him to kiss his foot, as he offered, but embraced him with marks of affection, told him that he had formerly served his father as a Chaplain, and that he always had the greatest regard for his family, and was sorry that political considerations prevented him from giving him such proofs of it as might be agreeable to him; but that he exhorted him to abandon the retired life that he had led for some time, and not to exclude himself from all society on account of titles which could not be given to him. In consequence of all which he has laid aside all distinction of a second coach for his attendants, and is to pass under the name of Count Erford (if there be no mistake in the Italian manner of writing it) and without any additional title, but that of *Signor Principe, Ella* or *Sei*, as every common gentleman in Italy is addressed so, in the third person.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 11. 1770.

I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship that the person whom I mentioned in my last letter is not arrived, though for some days past he has been hourly expected, and that orders have been given by the Chevalier Neri to the people at the gate of the town by which he must necessarily pass, to give him notice of his arrival at whatever hour it should happen. No dispositions however have been made here either at any public inn or private house to prepare a lodging for him, though formerly both he and the Cardinal his brother always lodged at the house of Prince Corsini. I have seen people who have returned from the fair of Sinigaglia who have informed me, that being intoxicated with wine to which he is extremely addicted, he had sometimes behaved in a very irregular manner, even in the public streets and in the shops at the fair; but that being known, the common people shewed him a certain respect and gave him the title of Majesty, which title at Rome, excepting by his own immediate domestics,

is totally disused.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 18. 1770.

I was mistaken in the opinion I ventured to mention in my last letter to Your Lordship in regard to the late Pretender's son.\* He arrived here yesterday from Bologna in company with Count Spada and Count Vegha, Romans; the first is called his Master of the Horse, the other his gentleman. He has four servants out of livery, two footmen men, and two running footmen, and is lodged at a public inn. He went in the evening to the public *Casino*, which is a place, as in most of the great towns in Italy, where the Nobility only of both sexes resort. He wears the Garter under his coat and the badge of St. Andrew at the button hole of his waistcoat. He was presented there to several ladies by the name of *Conte d'Albania*, and played at cards till about 10 o'clock, when he retired to his inn. He intends to be at the Theatre this evening, where a box has been taken for him.

So soon as I was informed of his arrival, I made a visit to the Chevalier Neri both to inform him of it and to remind him of the promise he had given me to take effectual care that no distinction of any kind whatever should be shown to him that could give the least displeasure to the King. Monsieur Neri had not then had notice of his arrival, but repeated his promise to me that nothing should be done either of a public or even a private nature that could give the least offence. It is said that he proposes to stay here a few days, that he will then make a tour to Leghorn, Lucca, and Pisa, where he will reside some time in order to take the waters and baths which are at a small distance from thence.

HORACE MANN.

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\* Sir H. Mann believed that the Pretender would either not pass through Florence or only stop there to change horses.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 21. 1770.

The Pretender is still here and frequents all public places; the government has not shewn him the least distinction, but many of the Nobility of both sexes have made him visits, which he both receives and punctually returns. He goes constantly to the Theatre and pays visits to the ladies in their boxes; that which he makes use of is accidentally contiguous to mine. Nobody gives him the title which perhaps he expects, and he refuses every other. He is to go away on Thursday and is to fix (he says) at Pisa, for some time, in order to make use of the baths and mineral waters in that neighbourhood.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 8. 1770.

The Person I have mentioned above is still at the Baths at Pisa, from which it is said he finds great benefit. He lives exactly in the same manner as he did here; but I must not omit that two or three very low people have applied to him, to be touched for scrofulous disorders, which ceremony he performed.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 6. 1770.

I had the honour to acquaint Your Lordship by my last letter that the late Pretender's son was just then arrived here. Fewer visits have been paid him than when he was here before. He has heard of the reprimand that Monsieur Neri received from the Great Duke for having shown him that

personal attention, and is sensible that that Minister is gone into the country on purpose to avoid him; but all this, from the nature of his temper, has produced a different effect from what it would have had on most men, having made him determine to stay here longer even than he first intended, though the people about him have used their endeavours to get him away; being under constant apprehensions that the natural violence of his temper, piqued by the above mentioned circumstances and greatly heated with wine for these three days past, may induce him to commit some great irregularity in public, of which the government would be obliged to take notice. They have consulted some gentlemen who might be supposed to have an ascendant over him, and have expressed their fears on this subject; but nobody will interfere, so that they have wrote to the Cardinal his brother to represent to him the necessity of getting him from hence.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 13. 1770.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> instant the late Pretender's son set out from hence to another villa of the Duke Salviati, where he proposes to stay some days; and on his return from thence, as he must necessarily pass through Florence, orders have been given that the post horses should be sent to the gate of the town, that without stopping in it, he may proceed directly towards Rome.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 2. 1771.

The late Pretender's son has ordered a villa to be taken for him near the Pisa Baths of which he proposes to make use at the proper season. He continues to lead the same irregular life as at Rome, being totally addicted to drinking.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 17. 1771.

The late Pretender's son is removed from Pisa to Siena, where he proposes to stay some time.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 28. 1771.

I have this instant received notice that the Pretender left Siena in a most mysterious manner last Saturday the 17th instant. The author of this intelligence is Mons<sup>r</sup> Borghese a gentleman who is the first Ecuyer of the Great Duke and a Chamberlain, who was then at Siena, and who has repeated to me the account which the day after his arrival here he gave to the Great Duke. This gentleman says, that two days before the Pretender's departure, an officer arrived at Siena supposed by common report to be in the Venetian service, who was frequently with him, and that on Saturday at three in the afternoon the Pretender in his own coach went out of the gate of the town, with two servants, and that at a small distance from thence a post chaise, with his Valet de chambre only, waited for him; that at the first post on the road to Florence he dispatched one of his servants back to Siena with a letter to Count Spada one of his gentlemen, with orders to set out for Rome with all his servants and baggage which orders he obeyed the next day. Mons<sup>r</sup> Borghese came hither the day after and made particular inquiries at each post, and found that the description of the

person answered, and by the precise notice which I have had from the post house here, I find, that on Sunday night about 12 o'clock two people, without any servants on horseback, arrived there from the Roman Gate in an Italian post chaise with two wheels, one of whom only got out of the chaise; they changed horses and proceeded on towards Bologna. At the entrance at the Roman Gate they gave in the name of Smith.

I will give this notice to His Majesty's Ministers in Germany, that in case he should pass through the places where they reside, they may give notice of it to His Majesty's Secretary of State for their provinces.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, Sept. 3. 1771.

All that I have been able to learn relating to the Pretender's journey since the departure of my last letter, is, that he passed through Bologna in the same mysterious manner, and though he was accidentally detained at the post house much longer than usual by the shaft horse felling down three times, he did not get out of the chaise, but constantly held an handkerchief to his mouth. He proceeded to Modena, though that does not decide the road he took afterwards. The general conjecture is that he is gone into Poland at the instance of the confederates, and to give some sort of colour to this opinion it is supposed that the affair was managed last year at Rome by the Princess Tablonowsky, who being related to the family of Sobiesky, was much taken notice of by the Pretender and the Cardinal his brother.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 1. 1771.

By the last French Courier, Marquis de Barbantane received notice by the dispatch from the Court that the Pretender had been there some days, lodged in an *Hotel garni*, that he had seen nobody but the Duc de Fitzjames, with whom it was supposed he had family business, and that he

was to set out the 17th past on his return to Rome.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 8. 1771.

On the 4th instant the Pretender arrived at Pisa in company with two French Officers, and proposed to stay there four days to drink the waters. He was in great danger in crossing the river Serchio about four miles distance from Pisa; on which occasion he expressed the utmost fear and consternation.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 21. 1772.

I had the honour to write to Your Lordship two letters by the last post, the latter of which was purely to convey to Your Lordship a letter which I had that instant received from Rome with the notice of the sudden departure of the Pretender towards Loreto, where it was supposed he was to meet a Lady he was to marry. The letters are again this morning come in from Rome with a further account of that affair, namely, that the lady is a sister in law of the Duc de Liria and was a Chanoinesse of Mons, that he was to meet her at Loreto where the marriage ceremony was to be performed and that they were then to retire to a house of Cardinal Marefoschi at Macerata, but were expected at Rome in this week.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, May 2. 1772.

On the 22d. instant the Pretender with his bride\* returned to Rome, and immediately sent a gentleman to Cardinal Pallavicini Secretary of State to inform him of his arrival, making use of the title of His Majesty and the Queen his Consort. The Cardinal bid the messenger tell him that if he meant he should convey that notice to the Pope, he would do it, but that he should certainly omit the titles which he had so improperly made use of on this occasion. The Romans call her *Regina Apostolorum* from the situation of the house they live in, which is very near a church called the *Santi Apostoli*.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 22. 1772.

As I have lately observed an article in the English newspapers which asserts that the Cardinal of York was dead, and that his sister in law is with child, I think it my duty to acquaint Your Lordship that both those circumstances are false.

HORACE MANN.

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\* She was Princess Louisa of Stolberg, born in 1752 and therefore thirty two years younger than her husband. Dr. Moore who saw her at Florence about 1776 thus describes her: "The Countess of Albany is a beautiful woman, much beloved by all those who know her, who universally describe her as lively, intelligent, and agreeable." *Letters from Italy, vol. 2. p. 393*. The secret motive of Count Albany's journey from Siena to Paris in 1771 was the negotiation for this marriage.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 11. 1773.

It is long since that I have had occasion to mention the Pretender in my letters to Your Lordship. For some time after his marriage he abstained from any great excess in wine, but of late he has given into it again as much as ever; so that he is seldom quite sober and frequently commits the greatest disorders in his family. This behaviour has made Mr Carol the principal person about him whom they there call Lord Carol, take a resolution to leave him entirely, but Cardinal York has induced him to defer his departure at least for some little time longer.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 13. 1774.

The Great Duke's presence at Leghorn prevented the Pretender and his wife from going there, as they intended. They had been at Leghorn a few days before and passed under the name of Mr. and Mrs. Stuart of the suite of the Count and Countess of Albany. The motive of his leaving Rome and of his resolution to fix his residence at Siena for the next year, called the Holy Year, is, that none of the public attentions would be shown to him as were shown to his father, since the Court of Rome has refused to acknowledge the titles he assumes. Those attentions consist in allowing him to have a distinct place called there a *Tribune*, to be erected for him near what they call the Holy Gate, which the Pope breaks down with a small gold hammer, and in many other places where ceremonies peculiar to that year only are performed.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 1. 1774.

Two days ago the Pretender with his wife and a numerous

retinue arrived here from Siena: they are lodged at the house of Prince Corsini called their *Casino* near the walls of the town. He has taken the name of Comte Albanie and intends to make some stay here. It is said that they have taken this opportunity as they may appear at the theatres and other public places in the evenings in masks, which are to be generally permitted next Wednesday till the Advent.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 29. 1774.

The Pretender by the instigation of his wife has again altered his resolution with regard to his stay here the whole Carnival, but I have been assured by a respectable person who frequents him that he wishes to abandon Rome and fix his residence in Tuscany. What obstacles such a resolution might meet with, I do not pretend to judge; but I have thought it my duty to give Your Lordship the first and I believe well grounded hint of it. The Pretender sometimes returns to his habit of drinking, though hitherto it has not produced any public extravagance; but a few evenings ago a scene of some *éclat* happened in his box at the Theatre, between him and a French Officer, to whom he gave injurious language; the Officer replied that he supposed he did not know who he was,—the Pretender answered “*Je sais que vous êtes Français et cela suffit!*”

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 27. 1774.

The dissensions among the Cardinals appear as great as ever so that it is impossible to form any judgment when the election may be made. Cardinal des Lances has been talked of for some days, but what will make your Lordship smile, is, that the Pretender has said here that he will not return to Rome till his

brother is made Pope, and that he is in daily expectation of receiving a courier with the notice of it.\* He probably was heated with wine (which is very often the case) when he said this, as he was remarkably noisy that evening at the public *Casino*, which he and his Consort always frequent. He is attended by Mr. Carril to whom they give the title of Lord Carril, and by Count Spada a foreign gentleman, and she is attended by Mrs. Carril and by a German young lady. No kind of notice has been taken of them by the Court, but he every day invites some of the principal Officers of it and of the Nobility, to dinner.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 5. 1775.

The Pretender's health continues still to be in a declining state; the habitual discharge from one of his legs is still stopped, and of late he has been troubled with violent pains in his stomach after eating (though very moderately.) Nevertheless he goes out constantly to take the air in his coach, and to the Theatre, where for the most part of the time he remains in the corner of his box in a drowsy posture. A box has been taken for him in the great Theatre for the next Carnival and he has insinuated that if he could find a house here that suited him, he would take it; but as this idea proceeds from a delicacy to Prince Corsini, whose *Casino* he has hitherto and still inhabits, it is not thought that that gentleman will permit him to leave it on that account, as none of his family makes use of it.

HORACE MANN.

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\* On the death of Clement XIV. in 1774 the Conclave elected Cardinal Braschi, who assumed the title of Pius VI.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 26. 1775.

In the course of my letters since the Pretender's residence here I have informed Your Lordship of every thing that related to him that I judged worthy of Your Lordship's notice, of which I have the most authentic means of being informed. His conduct in general is very decent; never permits any of the few people who frequent him nor even his own attendants in his presence to give him any other title than that of Count Albanie. No civilities have passed between him and his wife, and the Great Duke and Duchess, though some of the principal Officers of the Court, and Foreign Ministers sometimes are with him without any ceremony. No ladies of the Court or country go to their house, having been offended by the Countess for not returning their visits; so that none of them have made entertainments for them. The only point in which the Pretender behaves indiscreetly is with regard to the Pope for not acknowledging him under the titles which were given by the Court of Rome to his Father, which at his death I had the good fortune to prevent being continued to his son, and I have lately informed Your Lordship of what passed between him and the Pope's Nuncio here on that subject, which produced a total rupture between them; but as that point continues to give him uneasiness he has lately drawn up a protest in the name of the Roman Catholic Bishops in England and Ireland, in hopes of inducing them to sign and send it to the Pope; setting forth that as he refused to acknowledge the Pretender's titles, they cannot acknowledge any longer the Pope or pay any obedience to him for the future. The Protest has not been sent away, and I am assured that his friends will endeavour to prevent his taking so useless and so outrageous a step, that could not fail of producing the most serious consequences, to his own prejudice, and such confusion in their church. Your Lordship may depend upon this intelligence.

HORACE MANN.



*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 6. 1776.

With the consent and approbation of Cardinal York the Pretender has withdrawn from the Public Funds at Rome a considerable sum of money for the purchase of a large house here, as I had the honour lately to inform your Lordship. He has likewise received a service of plate (with the Cardinal's arms upon it) and many jewels from thence, great part of his household furniture with his equipages and horses; but still there are many obstacles that retard the conclusion of the treaty for the-purchase of the house.

Both the Pretender and his wife (whom he never leaves) frequent all the public places and are often in the same hall (as at balls) with the Great Duke and Duchess, but they take no notice of each other. During the Carnival the Pretender always wears a Venetian mask, but his wife appears in her own cloaths at all entertainments of that sort; which are their only resource, as very few of the Nobility frequent them, and nobody has ever made any entertainment for their amusement in the evening, as is practised for all strangers of condition.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, May 14. 1776.

The Pretender has for many days past been very ill; his legs and thighs are swelled extremely and give him at times great pain. Upon the whole his constitution is so much decayed that his family and physicians are frequently much alarmed and so much the more as they cannot induce him to be more moderate in drinking wine and strong liquors. He has not been able to remove the obstacles to the purchasing the house here (of which I have frequently made mention) but he has hired it for five years, and has removed all his furniture from Rome.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 21. 1776.

By the arrival two days ago from Vienna notice was brought that the Great Duke and Duchess's departure was fixed for the 19th instant but that on account of the Great Duchess's pregnancy they were to travel so slowly that they will not be here till the middle of next month. This delay has made the Duke of Ostrogothia alter his resolution of staying at Florence till their return, and he now proposes to set out for Rome at the end of this month. His Royal Highness observes a strict incognito under the name of Comte d'Oeland. He returns visits and accepts of invitations for dinners. He condescended to do me that honour a few days ago with a numerous company.

Soon after that Prince's arrival here he made a visit to the Comtesse d'Albanie to whom he said he was related; but not till he had been assured by Marquis Barbantane the French Minister, who frequents them much, that both her husband and she had no kind of pretensions, and were treated here as private people. This was the light in which that Minister informed me of it after the visit had been made. The Comte d'Oeland dined there yesterday, and the Pretender, when at table, said with a sort of joy,—*Ah Monsieur le Comte quelle consolation pour moi de diner avec un de mes Egaux!*

The Pretender's health is at present bad; one of his legs is swelled to an enormous size, and for some days past he has had frequent severe fits of the colic, nevertheless he goes every evening to the Theatre where he sleeps the great part of his time.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 28. 1776.

I had the honour to inform Your Lordship by the last post that

the Pretender was then much indisposed. His disorder has greatly increased during the course of this week; the discharge from his leg is stopped, and that always occasions a sort of suffocation in his breast. He has quite lost his appetite and has severe pains in his stomach, with frequent indigestions. Nevertheless he goes every evening to the Theatre where he remains in the corner of his box, dosing; though the sickness at his stomach very commonly obliges him to retire in a hurry into the public passage, where two of his servants attend to give him assistance. His physician is using all the means proper to procure the return of the discharge from his leg, which may relieve him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, July 25. 1778.

I have been informed by the Pope's Nuncio here that the Pope was not in the least offended by any expressions made use of in the oath prescribed to the Roman Catholics in Ireland. The Pretender, on the contrary, was extremely hurt, nay enraged, at those therein inserted in regard to him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, Nov. 30. 1779.

Though the gradual declining state in which the Pretender has been for a long time has not furnished me with any particular motive to make mention of him of late in my letters to Your Lordship, I must now, my Lord, inform you that for some days past a complication of very alarming circumstances has appeared, that make his physicians think him to be in danger; notwithstanding which, such is his restless disposition that he continues to go abroad in his coach, to admit people to dine with him every day, and never fails going to the Theatres every evening, though of late with a strong fever upon him, and so weak that he

has been supported by two servants from his coach to his box, where, as usual, he laid on a couch. In this manner he has gone on till last night when the Theatres were closed on account of the Advent. His Physician tells me that he thinks a dropsy on his breast is formed, and I am informed by people in his house and by those who frequently dine with him, that he has quite lost his appetite, though he still drinks a little strong wine. He appears to have a great deal of choler on his breast and stomach which makes him cough at nights and disturbs his rest. However he obliges his wife still to lay in the same bed with him, and in every other respect uses her very ill, so that her health seems much impaired of late. She says that he has not made any will, and as yet she has no other prospect than that of having six thousand crowns a year (about fifteen hundred pounds sterling) after his death; which sum was settled upon her at her marriage; half of which she now enjoys independent of him as pin money, nor has the Cardinal his brother ever given her any token of his friendship.

I must inform Your Lordship of what will appear a ludicrous circumstance; that his wife says, that this poor visionary man has always kept and still has under his bed, a strong box with twelve thousand sequins, which he says he has kept ready for the expenses of his journey to England whenever he shall suddenly be called thither. This Your Lordship may depend on.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 29. 1780.

Since the departure of my last letter a favourable change has happened in the Pretender's health, though the nature of his disorders and the irregularity of his way of living do not promise a long continuance of it, as he has taken again to drinking wine and even carries a little bottle of Cyprus in his pocket to the Theatres. He was so heated with it some evenings ago at a mask ball there, that he would dance a minuet with a young lady, though he was obliged to be supported through it by Count Spada his gentleman, which exposed him to the ridicule of a crowd that surrounded him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 12. 1780.

I have often had occasion to mention to Your Lordship the irregular behaviour of the Pretender, but a late instance of it has produced a scene last Saturday, of which it is my duty to give Your Lordship the earliest account. Of late the intemperance of his behaviour, especially when he was heated with wine and stronger liquors, has been vented against his wife, whom he has for a long time treated in the most indecent and cruel manner. On St. Andrew's day, which he always celebrated by indulging himself in drinking more than usual, he ill treated her in the most outrageous manner, by the most abusive language and beating her, and at night by committing the greatest indecencies upon her, in bed, and attempting to choke her. Her screams roused the whole family, and their assistance prevented any other violence; but it is supposed that from that instant she determined to separate from him, though she concealed her intention till she could write to the Cardinal of York to represent the affair to him and to receive his answer. In the mean time she meditated on the means of putting it into execution. The Cardinal's answer was conceived in terms of great civility and compassion, exhorting her, for the honour of his family, to bear with his brother's behaviour as long as she could, but promising her both assistance and protection in case she should be obliged to leave him. Fresh instances of his cruelty making her think herself in danger of her life, she meditated on the means of putting her resolution into effect; for which purpose she made her case privately known to the Great Duke, and invited a lady of her acquaintance to breakfast with her in company with her husband as she had often done before; after which he proposed to the ladies to take the air in his coach as usual and they under the pretence of visiting a sort of convent, not a strict cloister, which is immediately under the Great Duchess's protection, induced him to go thither, having previously engaged a gentleman of her acquaintance to be there to hand her out of her coach and to prevent any acts of violence that might ensue as the Pretender always carried pistols in his pocket.\* The ladies getting first into the convent, the door was

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\* This appears to have been his constant habit, ever since his return from Scotland.

immediately shut and barred to prevent the Pretender's going in. He flew into a violent passion, demanding his wife: a Lady of the Court who has the direction of that place in the name of the Great Duchess came to the grate and told him that the Countess Albanie had put herself under the protection of the Great Duke, and that being in danger of her life, had resolutely determined never to cohabit with him any more. Upon which he returned home, where he committed the greatest extravagances, and has since declared that he will give a thousand zecchins to any body who will kill the gentleman who assisted his wife on that occasion. He likewise had the folly to say publicly that he knew that by his Majesty's order I had given several thousand zecchins to his wife to induce her to administer a potion..... He immediately sent Count Spada his gentleman to the Great Duke to complain of what had happened and to demand his wife; but he received a very unfavourable answer. Thus the affair remains at present.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 23. 1780.

Nothing material has happened in the Pretender's family worthy Your Lordship's notice, since his wife retired into a convent, of which I had the honour to give Your Lordship an account by my last letter. He at first refused to send her any of her clothes, or the common necessaries of that sort of which she stood in absolute need, as she had carried nothing with her to avoid giving the least suspicion of her intention; but an order was sent to him to supply her with every thing of that nature; which he immediately complied with. She lives at present very quietly in the convent, and is drawing up a manifest to justify the step she has taken; a copy of which manifest is to be presented to the Great Duke, one to the Pope, another to Cardinal York and a fourth to the King of France, with a view of obtaining their unanimous consent to a legal separation, and an ample maintenance out of the allowance of twelve thousand crowns per annum (or three thousand pounds sterling) which the Court of Rome has made him

ever since his father's death. Cardinal York has desired his sister in law, to repair to Rome, having obtained the Pope's permission for her to reside in a principal convent of Ladies there, called the Orsoline, till some final disposition can be made in regard to her, and she is preparing to go thither.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, Dec. 30. 1780.

The Countess Albanie set out from hence for Rome with all possible secrecy, last Wednesday night. Besides her own servants she was attended by one of the Nuncio's, and other steps were taken, by order of the Great Duke for her greater security against any molestation, in case the Pretender should have got notice of her departure; which even as yet does not appear. She is to lodge in the Convent of the Orsoline, where the same apartment that the late Princess Sobiesky (the Pretender's Mother) inhabited on the like occasion, has been assigned for her, and she is to have six thousand crowns a year allotted to her for her maintenance out of the pension of twelve thousand which the Court of Rome gave to the late and the present Pretender; as I had the honour to acquaint Your Lordship by the last post. The Pope wrote a very obliging letter to her with his own hand to inform her of these dispositions, but added that in case she should have any very urgent necessity to go abroad, she should be served by the Cardinal York's coaches and servants. This was some disappointment to her, as she had hoped that she might have had liberty to go out to take the air when she pleased. The Pretender some times talks of going to Venice for the Carnival, at others of settling at Genoa; but he seems too much confused as yet to take any fixed resolution.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 23. 1781.

The Countess Albanie is treated at Rome with the greatest

attention; she has obtained leave to go abroad whenever she pleases without the least Constraint. She had a long audience of the Pope in the Sacristy of a Church. Cardinal York treats her with the greatest civility and has made her the most generous offers, and she goes frequently to dine with him at Frascati, where he commonly resides. He has offered her his house in town, to be attended by his servants and entertained at his expence, though six thousand crowns have been allotted to her by the chamber of Rome, while she remains in that city. But the above offer she has refused, and a house has been taken near the Convent for a cook or other servants, where her table is provided; but she does not intend to stay in Italy. It is said that the Princess Stolberg her mother and the Marquise de la Jamaïque her sister, are to come to Rome in the spring to carry her to Paris, where she is to live with the former.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 28. 1782.

By the last letters from Rome I have been informed that Prince Corsini who lately returned thither, after having resided at Florence near two years, asked an audience of the Pope by Commission of the Count Albany; in whose name he made three requests to the Pope. The first was, that the Countess his wife might be sent back to him: the second, that the whole pension of ten thousand Crowns which the Apostolic Chamber used to allow him through the means of the Cardinal his brother, might be continued to him without the deduction of four thousand crowns which are assigned out of it to the Countess; and lastly, that Count Alfieri, whom he accuses of having been chiefly instrumental to her elopement, should be banished from Rome. To the first demand the Pope replied, that he was highly satisfied with the Countess Albany's conduct at Rome and that he would never alter a resolution that had been taken after the most serious examination, in which the approbation of the Great Duke of Tuscany and the consent of Cardinal York concurred: that as to the assignment to the Countess out of the pension, he would not interfere, knowing that the Cardinal York was incapable of committing an injustice;

and, that as to Count Alfieri he wished to have many gentlemen of equal merit at Rome. After having answered to the three requests the Pope reproved Prince Corsini in very severe terms for having accepted such a Commission from Count Albany, and immediately gave orders to a person belonging to the Cardinal to inform him of what had passed: the same orders were likewise sent to the Great Duke's Agent at Rome, to give an account of it to His Royal Highness, as Prince Corsini, in excuse for what he had done said that he had been charged with the Commission by the Great Duke.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 11. 1783.

By my last letter I had the honour to give Your Lordship an account of the applications which Prince Corsini had made to the Pope in favour of Count Albany, which were not only rejected with disdain, but orders were given to the Tuscan Agent at Rome to inform the Great Duke of it. In consequence of which it appears that His Royal Highness was much offended with Prince Corsini; as the Great Duchess took an opportunity lately to speak publicly of the affair at a Drawing Room at Pisa, in very severe terms on Prince Corsini's having made use (as she said) of a respectable name on that occasion. The diminution of Count Albany's income has obliged him lately to make a reformation in his family; he has totally altered his way of living and behaves in every respect with proper decency.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 1. 1783.

In consequence of what has lately happened at Rome in regard to Count Albany, of which I gave Your Lordship an account by my former letters, Cardinal York, who thought his dignity offended by the application which Prince Corsini made to the Pope

on that subject, has wrote an ostensible letter to Monsignor Lascaris, Patriarch of Constantinople, who resides at Rome, his chief confident, to justify his conduct in assigning to the Countess his Sister in law four thousand crowns out of the pension of ten thousand which the Chamber of Rome had always allowed to his father (besides a house in Rome and a villa at Albano, which were calculated at two thousand more) who during his life obtained a grant from Pope Lambertini of the said pension, to his son the Cardinal, without any restrictions in favour of his brother; which grant has been confirmed to the Cardinal by all the succeeding Popes, though of his own accord he gave it to his brother, while he remained at Rome, and even at Florence, till he gave just cause to his wife to separate from him with the approbation and assistance of the Great Duke; the Cardinal then seeing it necessary for the dignity of his family to provide for the Countess his sister in law, who by her separation from her husband had lost the sum of three thousand crowns which by her marriage articles was stipulated for pin-money. He therefore had assigned to her four thousand crowns out of that pension, reserving one thousand to pay the pension of a Lady who attends the Countess and the expence of equipage, table and servants; of all which the Cardinal enters into a minute detail, with a view of demonstrating that his brother, being relieved from all those expences and of the maintenance of his wife, is richer by receiving only five thousand crowns per annum, than he was before she left him. The Cardinal's letter consists of twelve pages in folio, and I fear that Your Lordship will even think this extract of it, too long.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 25. 1783.

A few hours after the departure of my letter to Your Lordship on Saturday, I received notice from Count Albany's house that he was dangerously ill. He had been abroad the day before and had invited company to dine with him the day after. He made his will yesterday, and in the evening the Sacraments of the Church of Rome were administered to him, at the same time that a Courier was dispatched thither to inform Cardinal York of the very

imminent danger in which his physicians (from whom I receive accounts two or three times a day) then thought his brother to be. Some favourable symptoms however have appeared in the last night, though his physicians, who pronounced his illness to be a dropsy in his breast, still think him in danger.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 1. 1783.

At the departure of my last letter Count Albany's illness bore a more favourable aspect, the habitual humour in his legs had begun to take its usual course, by which the swelling in his thighs and body were much lessened and the oppression on his breast was in a great degree removed: but though no alteration has been made in the above circumstances his fever has increased: a diarrhoea has come on, and he passed the two last nights very unquietly.

Cardinal York sat out from Rome immediately on receiving the notice of his brother's condition, but being apprehensive of not finding him alive, he stopped at Siena, from whence he sent a Courier to get intelligence of him, and then came on, and arrived here late on Saturday night. He is lodged at a Convent near his brother's house with whom he passes the whole day, and though he receives no visits and is in a strict incognito he said Mass the next day in the Church of the Convent where he lodges. He proposes to set out for Rome the day after tomorrow.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 5. 1783.

Since the departure of my last letter the Count Albany has continued every day to grow better, so that his physicians are at present of opinion that all immediate danger is over, though he has still at regular periods a small degree of fever; of which however they make the less account as every other essential circumstance is favourable.

Cardinal York set out the day before yesterday on his return to Rome.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, April 26. 1783.

At the departure of my last letter, Count Albany was so well recovered from his late dangerous illness, as to be able to take the air; but on Sunday last on going down to his coach he was seized with a fit, in which he remained insensible for half an hour. His physician immediately sent to inform me of it, but that not being present at the time it happened he could not judge of the nature of it. As yet however it has not been attended with any visible bad consequences.

It now appears that during the time that Cardinal York was at Florence, Count Albany his brother convinced him of many circumstances relating to his wife's conduct and her elopement from him, of which the Cardinal was not informed, and in which all those who took the part of the Countess had likewise been deceived, that the whole was a plot formed by Count Alfieri. All this coming from his brother at a time that he appeared to be in the most imminent danger, made a great impression on the Cardinal, who on his return to Rome exposed the whole to the Pope and obtained an order from him to Count Alfieri (who lived in great intimacy with the Countess) to leave Rome in fifteen days. This was notified to him last week and he was preparing to retire to Venice.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 23. 1783.

Count Albany's health is so well reestablished that he omits no opportunity to make little excursions to the neighbouring towns of Tuscany, to see a horse-race or any festival that is exhibited in honour of their Tutelar Saint. He has lately been at Siena for a

week, from whence he returned two days ago.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 11. 1783.

For some months past a French Gentleman named the Chevalier des Tours, who married the widow Lady St. George has resided here, with whom a few weeks ago Count Albany by some unusual advances on his part sought to make acquaintance; for which purpose he called in person at their door, to invite them both to dinner. The Chevalier des Tours accepted the invitation for himself, but very prudently made excuses for My Lady. Count Albany and the Chevalier des Tours soon became very intimate and as the former (like most people in distress) is fond of making known his complaints, he exposed his situation to him, and the difficulties he was under for want of money to supply the common though very moderate expences of his family; for which he said he was obliged every month to borrow money here, and that he even feared that that resource would soon fail him. The result of all which was, that he was determined to make application to the Court of France, in which he desired the assistance of the Chevalier des Tours to draw up a memorial for him to His Most Christian Majesty, to be transmitted to the Comte de Vergennes in a letter from the Chevalier, requesting that minister to present it to the King; that being the only method by which he could hope that it would be received, as the letter which he wrote directly to him on his accession to the Throne was sent back unopened.

The Chevalier des Tours has communicated both those papers to me; the first contains a narration of his situation, with great complaints of the cruelty and injustice of his brother in retaining the pension of ten thousand crowns, which the Court of Rome allowed to the late Pretender, and that the Pope Lambertini (as he pretends) settled upon him. I will not trouble you, Sir, with any observations on this particular or with the reasons that the Cardinal York alleges to justify his detaining (not the whole as the Count says) but only half of that pension for the use of the Countess Albany when she eloped from her husband and retired to Rome, of

which I gave my Lord Grantham an account by my letter No. 3. of the present year and as the confuting that point has no immediate connection with the memorial that I am speaking of; the chief purport of which is, to induce his present Christian Majesty to grant him the same annual sum which his predecessors allowed to his father, which he would now receive with gratitude under any denomination either of Subsidy, Succour, or even *Pension*, though he formerly rejected the assistance which Louis XV. offered to him under that name; from which time all communication between him and that Court was at an end.

The Chevalier des Tours's letter served only as a cover to the memorial, with excuses for the liberty he had taken. It was sent a few days ago and though the Chevalier and Lady St. George had fixed their departure for Rome at the beginning of this month, Count Albany has prevailed upon him to stay here till he receives an answer from the Comte de Vergennes.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 8. 1783.

By my letter No. 33.1 had the honour to give you an account of a circumstance of a singular nature that had then come to my knowledge; in regard to which I have now, Sir, to inform you that by the last French Courier the French Gentleman therein mentioned received an answer from the Count de Vergennes, which he immediately brought to me before he had communicated it to the Pretender, to acquaint him that he could not venture to lay the memorial before the King his master, or make any use of it on account of the Memorial being signed *Charles Roi*, and that it was beneath His Majesty's dignity to take cognizance of the family discord between the Pretender and his wife, which was alleged in that paper as a motive for the favour he then asked: therefore any step he might take in the affair would be vain. Count de Vergennes finished his letter by desiring that the Chevalier would communicate it to Monsr. le Comte d'Albany. I am not informed of the impression it made upon him, as I have not been able to meet since with the Chevalier des Tours.

That Gentleman has communicated to me a circumstance of his familiar conversation with the Pretender relative to his affairs, which though very trifling will make you smile, as it denotes the folly of his character. When the Chevalier expressed to him his doubts that the above mentioned memorial would produce any good effect he asked if he had any other means of supplying his necessity, adding, that he had heard he had some jewels at Rome of great value and particularly the great ruby which I believe belonged to the Crown of Scotland and is supposed to be the largest that is known; the Chevalier advised him to sell it to the Empress of Russia or the Court of France, or if the value of it was too great, to accept a large annuity for his life. To which the Pretender replied with great warmth and disdain that he never would part with that jewel, as he proposed when he returned to England to add it to those of the Crown.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 11. 1783.

As I am every day more convinced that something of importance is carrying on between the Court of France and the Pretender and have reason to suspect that the latter either has a connection with the King of Sweden or is endeavouring to gain his friendship, every circumstance that tends to give light into either of these points merits your notice. For some days past the assiduity of the Chevalier des Tours at the Pretender's House has been greater than usual, and I know for certain that the day after the departure of my last letter he was employed there for many hours in writing and in the evening they met again at a third place. The Chevalier

came to my house the same evening, but taking no notice of the promise he had made to acquaint me with the impression that Monsr. de Vergennes's letter had made upon the Pretender, I put the question to him. He answered that it was very great, but that having observed that there was no notice taken in that letter of the pension, he intended to write again on that subject.

I must own that I observed a duplicity in the Chevalier's answer and by mixing with the company then in the room he avoided giving me an opportunity of further discourse with him. I am persuaded likewise by combining it with the circumstances of my last letter that the Pretender has written to the King of Sweden, as the Chevalier set out yesterday morning alone for Pisa in the Pretender's carriage and with his horses. I have taken the proper steps to be informed of what he does there.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 18. 1783.

The Chevalier des Tours, the French Gentleman of whom I made mention in my two last letters, returned from Pisa a few days ago and the next morning sent to appoint an hour to come to me. He then told me that he came to give me, in the utmost confidence, an account of the commission which the Pretender had induced him to transact there with the King of Sweden, to whom under the name of Count Haga he presented a short letter from the Pretender, signed Count Albany, which letter the Chevalier himself had written. The contents of it were solely to refer the King to what the Chevalier should represent to him on his own part: he then gave the King a full account of the distracted situation the Pretender was in for want of money, as likewise of what had lately passed between him and the Court of France through the channel of Count Vergennes which had produced no effect, so that the Pretender doubts very much if Count Vergennes had even communicated his memorial to the King. The Pretender therefore entreated the King of Sweden to write directly to his Most Christian Majesty as the only sure means of making known to him the distraction he was in, and to use his utmost endeavours to induce him to continue the

pension of two hundred and forty thousand livres which the Court of France allowed to his father. The Chevalier told me that the King of Sweden seemed extremely affected by the representation of the Pretender's situation and offered him any present he might stand in need of. The Chevalier said he had no authority to accept of any. His Majesty promised to write to the King of France immediately, saying that he felt the more compassion for him, as there had been a crisis in his own life when he might have been reduced to the same state, that he was actuated solely by the sentiments of humanity and compassion, and that he had made known to His Britannic Majesty that if he should ever be in the same place where the Pretender resided he would see him, that he would speak to me when he came to Florence and hoped that I would not object to his dining with the Pretender. To this I answered that His Majesty would do me too much honour by condescending to ask my opinion but that there were certain regards that were practised between Sovereign Princes of which they themselves were the only judges, but that neither the Emperor the Elector Palatine and many other Sovereign Princes, whom I named, as likewise others even of Sovereign Families who had been here, none of whom had ever any communication with the Pretender and that the Great Duke, in whose Capital he resided never had the least connection with him.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 18. 1783.

After much discourse with the Chevalier des Tours on the subject relative to the Pretender, in whom there appeared so much sincerity on the Chevalier's part, that I said I would speak plain to him: that he had great connections in Ireland by the means of his wife Lady St. George, that so far as his present intimacy with the Pretender tends only to assist him in procuring some pecuniary relief from France or Sweden I had little to say, but that if anything was carrying on that might give occasion to disturb any part of the King's dominions I trusted to his honour that he would give me the earliest notice of it and that I could venture to assure him that by so

doing he would recommend himself much to his Majesty. To this he answered with the most solemn protestations, that as from the confidence which the Pretender had at present in him he should be the first to be informed of anything of that nature, he not only would refuse with disdain to be concerned in it, but would immediately give me notice of it, in which I might depend upon his honour, but that he could assure me that the Pretender had often of late said to him he would not again be the tool of France, and that whatsoever might happen, nothing less than a solemn invitation from Great Britain like that to King William, accompanied by a body of seventy or eighty thousand men from France should engage him to move a step. The Chevalier added that the Pretender was not so weak as to flatter himself that anything of that nature would ever happen, but that at all events he is so infirm that he is quite unable to perform any long journey.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 6. 1783.

Since my last letter of the 2d. instant, the French Gentleman of whom I have often made mention in my late letters, communicated to me a Memoir which he had drawn up for Count Albany to be given to the King of Sweden, containing the particulars in regard to which he desired his assistance and mediation with the Court of France in order to obtain the annual allowance that had been granted to his father of two hundred and forty thousand livres. Among the causes, alleged in the Memoir, of the poverty to which he is reduced, he makes mention of the gradual diminution of the interest on the funds on the Hotel de Ville at Paris, which originally produced eighty thousand livres, though by various operations under the direction of different Comptrollers it is now reduced to thirty six thousand. Another cause he attributes to his marriage, which involved him in great expences and has been attended with the most disagreeable consequences; that he took that step contrary to his inclinations, but was induced to it by the pressing solicitations of the Court of France through the means of Duc d'Aiguillon who conveyed a promise to him by the Duke de Fitzjames that the allowance

aforementioned should be granted to him, though it was never effectuated. This Memoir was communicated to the King of Sweden for his approbation, by the French Gentleman, previous to a conference which had been appointed on that subject, and he approved of it, but at the same time strictly ordered him to warn the Pretender that if a single word or hint should escape from him when they met, of any other pretensions or views of ambition, he would stop his mouth and leave him immediately, as his only intention was to endeavour to procure him such pecuniary assistance from France or jointly with the Court of Spain as might make his present situation easy. The conference took place the 1st of this month, at which the French Gentleman assisted, during which the King of Sweden exhorted him totally to abandon all views of ambition, and represented to him how much more happily he might end his days if his domestic affairs were made easy, to which he promised to contribute by every means in his power.

They then passed to common discourse, in which the Pretender related some circumstances of his life that had occurred formerly to him, and particularly what follows;—that in the month of September 1750 he came from France in company only with a Colonel Bret, that they examined the exterior parts of the Tower, one Gate of which they thought might be beaten down with a petard; from thence they went to a lodging in Pall Mall, where about fifty of his friends were assembled, among whom were the Duke of Beaufort and the Earl of Westmoreland, and he said that if they could have assembled only four thousand men, he would publicly have put himself at the head of them. He staid there a fortnight, and asserts that the Government never had the least notice of it.\*

HORACE MANN.

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\* This narrative is fully confirmed by the statements in Forsyth's *Italy and King's Anecdotes*. Colonel Brett here mentioned was a principal manager of the Jacobites in England. The Duke of Beaufort at this time was Lord Noel Somerset who had succeeded his brother in 1746 and who died in 1756. John, seventh Earl of Westmorland, a Lieutenant General in the army, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, died in 1762

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 30. 1783.

By my last letters I have had the honour to give you an account, Sir, of the dispositions which the King of Sweden had made to assist Count Albany in his pecuniary concerns. Besides the present supply of four thousand Rix dollars which he has given him, His Majesty has wrote to the French King to prevail upon His Majesty to grant him an annual sum, but without mentioning that which the French Court allowed to the late Pretender; previous to which the King of Sweden exacted a promise from Count Albany to accept of whatever sum that Court might be disposed to give him. His Swedish Majesty sent his letter to his own Minister at Paris with orders to demand an audience, and to deliver it into His Most Christian Majesty's own hand. His Swedish Majesty has likewise wrote to the King of Spain on the same subject and has taken other steps, which though they may appear ludicrous are not less certain. It is supposed that when the Order of the Templars was suppressed and the individuals were persecuted, some of them secreted themselves in the Highlands of Scotland, and that from them either arose, or that they united themselves to the Society of Free Masons of which the Kings of Scotland were supposed to be Hereditary Grand Masters. From this principle the present Pretender has let himself be persuaded that the Grand Mastership devolved to him, in which quality in the year 1776, he granted a patent to the Duke of Ostrogothia (who was then here) by which he appointed him his Vicar of all the Lodges in the North, which that Prince some time after resigned, as many of the Lodges in those parts, for want of authentic proofs, refused to acknowledge the pretended Hereditary succession to that denomination. Nevertheless the King of Sweden during his stay here obtained a patent from the Pretender in due form, by which he has appointed His Swedish Majesty his Coadjutor and Successor to the Grand Mastership of all the Lodges in the North: on obtaining which, the French Gentleman whom I have often mentioned in my late letters, assured me that the King expressed the greatest joy, not only in regard to his political views (which he could not explain to him) but as he hoped to turn it to the advantage of Count Albany, as he would in his quality of Coadjutor, send deputies or write to all those Lodges to represent the present situation of their Grand Master, not doubting (as the principal obligation of that Fraternity is to assist their Brethren in distress) that he should be able to obtain a considerable, or perhaps an annual, contribution for their

Grand Master.

Count Albany said that a few years ago a Minister from the King of Denmark to the Circles of Germany, named Baron Vochter, being then at Florence solicited the same nomination in favour of the Duke of Brunswick, and that he expected him here again in the month of April. I must own that I never thought that the Society of Free Masons was looked upon in Germany to be of such importance as to excite the ambition of two such Princes to be at the head of them, and more especially in virtue of a substitution void of the least power in the person who grants it, nor should I have given credit to it if I had not the best authority for every circumstance of what is herein related.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 10. 1784.

At the departure of the last letters from Rome the King of Sweden was still there. He had frequent conferences with the Pope, to whom he was determined to recommend Count Albany and to use his utmost endeavours to induce the Pope to give orders that the whole sum of ten thousand crowns which the chamber of Rome allowed him before the elopement of his wife should be remitted directly to him, without passing through the hands of his brother the Cardinal York, who detains half of that sum for her maintenance at Rome.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, February 28. 1784.

By many of my letters to Mr. Fox from the time of the arrival here of the King of Sweden I gave him an account of that Prince's disposition to assist Count Albany by giving him at present the sum of four thousand Rix-Dollars (about one thousand Pounds) to extricate him from the immediate distress he was supposed to be under in his domestic affairs, with a promise that on His Majesty's

return to Stockholm he would remit to him as much more; which sums were to serve for the present year, but that he would in future make a regular annual assignment to Count Albany of fifty thousand French livres during his life. Of all this the King of Sweden spoke frequently to me, and farther told me that he had wrote to His Most Christian Majesty and had induced the Great Duchess to write to the King of Spain her father, in favour of Count Albany. In this situation the affair remained when the King of Sweden left Florence; for though he had given a verbal order to a banker here to make the first payment to Count Albany, His . Swedish Majesty refused to give him any written order to do it. The affair therefore was suspended till he arrived at Rome. There, he soon after received notice of Count Albany's dangerous illness, which occasioned another suspense, and as the King of Sweden in the mean time frequented the Countess Albany and Cardinal Bernis at Rome, they persuaded him that Count Albany neither wanted his assistance or deserved his compassion; so that hitherto he has not felt any good effect of that King's promises to him. The King of Sweden is still at Naples; it therefore only remains to see, when he returns to Rome, if he will comply\* any part of them.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, May 8. 1784.

By my letter No. 10, I had the honour to acquaint Your Lordship that by the mediation of the King of Sweden an accommodation had been made between Count Albany and his wife, with the consent of Cardinal York his brother (who was a principal person concerned in it) with the approbation and under the sanction of the Pope I was not then precisely acquainted with the conditions, but have since been authentically informed by the person who drew up the contract, that a formal instrument was signed by the three parties concerned, and ratified by the Pope, by which the Countess has obtained an amicable divorce *à mensâ et thoro*, and liberty to reside where she pleases. For this single point she has sacrificed every other advantage; she has given up her pin-

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\* Sir Horace means apparently *accomplir*, to fulfil.

money which by her marriage contract was fifteen thousand French livres per annum, as likewise four thousand crowns (or £1000 sterling) which the Cardinal since their separation stopped for her maintenance out of the pension of 10,000 crowns which the Court of Rome always allowed to their father, the disposal of which the present Pope left to the Cardinal who gave his brother only five thousand, but now the whole is to be given to him, to whom likewise the Cardinal gives up all the furniture in the house at Rome with the plate and his share of the jewels that were brought into their family by the late Pretender's wife the Princess Sobiesky, excepting the great Ruby and one of a lesser size that were pawned to the King of Poland by that Republic; these are to be kept in a deposit; either to be redeemed if that state should ever be in a capacity to do it, or to the survivor of the two brothers. Among the above things that were portable by land, there is a large shield of gold which the Emperor Leopold presented to the King of Poland for raising the siege of Vienna; all which were brought here from Rome the beginning of this week. The other effects are to be sent by sea to Leghorn.

Count Albany by the above means will now have a clear income of ten thousand crowns from Rome, besides which he has in the French fund 54,000 livres per annum. The Countess by relinquishing her pin-money and part of the Roman pension receives nothing at present from her husband's family, but on the separation from her husband the Court of France allows her a pension of 60,000 livres, and at his death by her marriage articles she will have a dowry of 6000 Roman crowns.

By my former letters I acquainted Mr. Fox with what had passed between the King of Sweden and Count Albany, for whom His Majesty had actually given orders to a banker here to furnish him with four thousand Rix-dollars but the payment of that sum was suspended, first for want of a proper security, during which time Count Albany fell dangerously ill and then his Sweden Majesty having been instrumental to the aforementioned accommodation made him judge that Count Albany had not any need at present of his assistance, so that he has revoked the order to the banker.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, July 10. 1784.

In the last week the Pretender (called here Count Albany) caused a writing to be drawn up by a Notary public and authenticated by all the necessary forms, by which he acknowledges his natural daughter who with her mother resides in a Convent at Paris (in quality of pensioners) by the name of Lady Charlotte Stuart. She is about thirty years of age and as she is not obliged to conform to any of the rules of the Convent she is often absent from it and frequents the Prince of Rohan Archbishop of Bordeaux. Count Albany says that he will send for her to live with him here. He has this day renewed his applications to the Court of France, by the means of a letter to the Comte de Vergennes for some assistance. This seems to be his last resource, as in his letter (of which I have seen the rough draft) he represents that he is overcharged with debts, that the King of Sweden has not performed his promises, both personally to assist him (which circumstance I explained in my letter to Your Lordship, No. 14) and to intercede with His Most Christian Majesty in his favour; he complains therein of the cruelty of the Cardinal his brother, who is so totally alienated from him that he never answers his letters.

Count Albany's health decays daily, insomuch that he is quite incapable of transacting his own business, much less of writing his own letters; in all which he is assisted by the person whom I have mentioned in my former letters.

Cardinal York has very lately received the arrears of his ecclesiastical benefices in Mexico, which had been stopped during the last war, amounting to the sum of one hundred and eighty thousand Roman Crowns or about £45,000 sterling. His whole income I am assured amounts to 600,000 French Livres.

HORACE MANN.

*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, July 17. 1784.

I had the honour to acquaint Your Lordship by the last post

with many circumstances relating to Count Albany, and particularly that he often talked of sending for his natural daughter from Paris, to live with him here, though nobody then believed that he would so soon put it into execution, but two days ago only, he took the resolution to send his old servant Stuart (who has attended him in all his excursions) for that purpose to Paris, by the weekly French Courier, who passes by from Rome this evening. He has wrote to his daughter on this occasion for the first time, by the name of his *chere Fille*, to inform her that he had acknowledged her by a public deed, and by his will had appointed her sole heiress to every thing he may be possessed of at his death. He has wrote likewise to the Comte de Vergennes to desire that he will get the deed of acknowledgement of his daughter, registered in the Parliament of Paris, and to obviate any difficulties on account of the titles which foreign Sovereigns would not allow, he styles himself in those public Deeds *Charles Edward Stuart, Grandson of James 2<sup>d</sup>. King of Great Britain*. On this occasion he has made applications directly to the Comte de Vergennes, earnestly entreating him to intercede with the King his master to grant him whatever pecuniary assistance His Majesty may be disposed to give him, as he much doubts that the King of Sweden has complied with the promise he made to him to speak to His Majesty in his favour.

Count Albany's health continues to be extremely weak and the state of his mind seems to approach that of imbecility, though he constantly goes abroad in his coach, has a small company every day at dinner, and never omits going to the Theatres.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 28. 1784. Count Albany has not yet received any answer to the letter which he wrote to Mons<sup>r</sup> de Vergennes by his servant, whom he sent the 16th of July to Paris, of the contents of which I gave Your Lordship an account by my letter No. 20. His health declines daily, and he seems very impatient for the arrival of his daughter, I was misinformed of the name of her mother, which

is Walkinshaw, not Walsingham as I then mentioned.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, September 18. 1784.

Count Albany has received notice from Paris that his natural daughter whom he calls Lady Charlotte Stuart, to which name in the Act to acknowledge her he added the title of Duchesse d'Albany, was on the point of setting out on her journey hither. She is to be attended by two ladies and two gentlemen and is expected here the beginning of next month; for which purpose he is very busily employed in making preparations and furnishing his house with a large quantity of furniture of all sorts that he lately received from Rome, taken from the house which his father inhabited. Besides that furniture he received a large quantity of plate and his share of the jewels which belonged to his mother, except the two large Rubies which were pawned by the Republic of Poland to his grand-father Sobiesky for a great sum of money, with a power to redeem them in the space of a hundred years, which are nearly elapsed. These the Cardinal York would not trust to his brother, from a persuasion that if he could find a purchaser he would sell them, or even part with them to some Court for a considerable annuity for his own and his daughter's life, as there is no probability of their ever being redeemed by Poland.

Count Albany's health continues daily to decline, of which he is very sensible, and it makes him the more impatient for his daughter's arrival.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 9. 1784.

On the 5th instant Count Albany's daughter arrived here. She was attended by Madame O'Donnel who I am told is a French

woman married to an Irish Officer of that name in the French service, and is to remain here in quality of *Dame de Compagnie*. She had likewise with her a Scotch gentleman named Nairn whom they call My Lord. She has appeared every evening since with her Father at the Theatres very richly adorned with the jewels that the Pretender had lately received from Rome. He had asked leave to put a canopy over his boxes with a cloth of State, but was refused: he obtained permission however to ornament them within as he pleased. One is hung with red damask and another of yellow, with velvet cushions to each, laced with gold, but of the common size with those of all the other boxes. All the ladies and gentlemen of the country leave tickets of visits at her door, which she is to return. The Pretender has wrote letters to the Pope, to the Cardinal his brother, to the Courts of France and Spain and probably to many others, to announce the arrival of his daughter here; they are wrote by her and signed by him. Some attempts have been made for her being presented to the Great Duchess, but as she has not brought a letter of recommendation from the Queen of France to Her Royal Highness, it has been evaded by alleging that being in the country and far advanced in her pregnancy she did not receive anybody.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 23. 1784.

By my last letter I had the honour to inform Your Lordship of the arrival of Count Albany's natural daughter and of what had passed in his family on that occasion; I have now that of transmitting to Your Lordship the translation of a paper which he had caused to be drawn up and sent to the gazetteers in order to be inserted in the gazettes of this place as an article that had been sent from France, in which he enters into all the circumstances relating to his motives of having sent for her; but as all the articles are revised before they are permitted to be printed, this and every thing else relating to her or the titles which he therein gives her, were totally rejected; on which account the Pretender has expressed the highest dissatisfaction and seems surprised that this Court will not

allow her the rank which he asserts has been approved of and acknowledged by the Court of France. In the last week he went with his whole family to Lucca to see the Opera there. On his way thither at Pistoja, he was seized with an epileptic fit which lasted four hours; nevertheless he proceeded afterwards to Lucca and went that evening to the theatre, having previously desired to be furnished with a coach, and a box at the theatre, for which purpose and to prepare a lodging at an Inn, the brother of the minister here of that republic preceded him the day before: great civilities were shown to them there, and they returned here two days ago.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 7. 1784.

Though Count Albany is extremely infirm nevertheless to supply the want of public spectacles during the Advent, he has private balls three times a week at his own house, consisting of eight or ten ladies, to amuse his daughter, at which he assists, though he drowns most part of the time. On the 30th of last month being St. Andrew's day, which he has always celebrated by inviting more company than usual to dinner, he performed the mock ceremony of investing his daughter with the order of St. Andrew, though she had worn that badge some days before. For that purpose he was seated in a chair with a sword in his hand, she kneeling before him, with which he touched her shoulder declaring her to be a Knight of that Order. She then rose and made her obeisance of thanks and went round to the company, repeatedly saying *Je suis Chevalier*; at the same time favours made up to represent a thistle were distributed to the company, who wore them for that day.

Your Lordship will perceive by mentioning the above trifling circumstances that nothing of a serious nature is passing here worthy of your notice, though they serve to show how weak the understanding of the Pretender is grown.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 4. 1785.

The Great Duke lives in the most private manner at Pisa. Many applications have been made to his ministers here, by the Pretender to induce His Royal Highness to permit some public acknowledgment to be made here of the titles which he has given to his daughter of Royal Highness and Duchess of Albany, and has been particularly pressing on the occasion of publishing the new Almanack for the present year, which has been deferred some days on that account; but the Great Duke has at last decided that she should not therein be mentioned. The Pretender's health grows worse every day, though he still frequents the theatres, where he sleeps the greatest part of the time.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 15. 1785.

I cannot too often mention the decay of the Pretender's health. He has been much mortified of late by the refusal which he has met with, to have his daughter mentioned in the Calendar of this Court, or in any of the public papers here, in regard to which point the Great Duke has always acted with the utmost delicacy and attention to His Majesty. I have been informed for certain that the Pretender has lately obtained from the Court of France a yearly pension of sixty thousand livres, and that ten thousand of which is to be continued to his daughter after his decease.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, May 21. 1785.

Count Albany has been taken ill at Pisa, where his daughter was presented to the Great Duchess and to the Queen of Naples, and was afterwards invited to dine at Court.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, October 22. 1785.

Cardinal Stuart having lately made a tour to several towns in the Pope's State, the Pretender's daughter obtained his leave to meet him at Perugia, though before he had never acknowledged her, nor had even answered the letters that she had wrote to him on her arrival in Italy. She had not only heart\* enough to insinuate herself into his favour, but likewise brought about a reconciliation between the two brothers, in consequence of which the Pretender, with his whole family is preparing to return to Rome for the winter; during which, the air of that place it is supposed may be beneficial to his health. His Physicians however are very dubious if his infirmities would permit him to undertake the journey, nevertheless he is determined to venture, and proposes to set out in a few days.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, November 29. 1785.

By my letter No. 29 (Novr. 5.) I had the honour to acquaint Your Lordship that the Pretender had been taken ill, for which he was obliged to suspend his journey to Rome, and though he is yet very infirm he has fixed his departure for next Friday, though his Physicians, on account of his habitual disorders, are very dubious

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\* Query art?

of his being able to perform the journey, which has been so regulated that he is only to travel about twenty miles a day. It has been insinuated to him from the Court of Rome that he must not appear there under any other qualification than that of Count Albany, to which he has subscribed, though the Pope, in the answer to the letter which his daughter wrote to him on her arrival in Italy, gave her the title of Duchess, which however she never could obtain from this Court, nor were the writers of the common gazettes ever permitted to mention her under that title.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 17. 1785.

Count Albany set out from hence the 2nd instant for Rome, but was not arrived there at the departure of the last letters, though he was expected a few hours after.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, December 31. 1785.

The Pretender performed his journey to Rome without any prejudice to his health; the Cardinal his brother went to Viterbo to meet him, and after some difficulties about the ceremonial, presented him to the Pope, to whom likewise he had presented his niece, some days before; and as she does not assume or pretend to any distinction, she has been received by the Roman Ladies with great civility.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, January 28. 1786.

By the last letters from Rome I have been informed that the Cardinal York has given up to his Niece all his own jewels, excepting those which are set in his Bishop's mitre, including the Great Ruby, which was mortgaged by the Republic of Poland to the King Sobiesky, which is supposed to be of a very extraordinary value: the consignment of these jewels was performed by a formal act of a Notary Public.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, March 24. 1786.

By my late letters I had the honour to inform your Lordship of the dangerous situation which the Pretender was then supposed to be in; since which he is in some measure recovered, though he still remains in so feeble a state that confines him to his bed. He has sent orders to unfurnish his house here and has determined, in case he lives, to pass the summer at Albano, where he has a house, which was given to his father by the Chamber of Rome.

HORACE MANN.

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*Sir Horace Mann to the Secretary of State.*

Florence, August 8. 1786.

The Pretender with his family has retired to Albano. He has lately assumed the folly practised by his father and grandfather to touch people who are afflicted with scrofulous disorders; many old women and children have been presented to him for that purpose, to whom, after some ceremony, he gives a small silver medal, which they wear about their necks.

HORACE MANN.\*

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*Lord Hervey† to the Secretary of State.*

Rome, January 29. 1788.

I take the first opportunity of informing your Lordship of my having left Naples and got thus far on my journey to Florence. I left Naples very much indisposed and I still continue so; however I shall proceed on my journey.

I think it also my duty to acquaint Your Lordship that some days ago the Pretender was seized with a paralytic stroke, which deprived him of the use of one half of the body and he has continued dangerously ill ever since, notwithstanding the application of eleven blisters. His death is expected every moment, and I am assured he cannot outlive the night. His brother the Cardinal applied strongly to the Pope for leave to inter his remains in the Church of St. Peter's with every Regal dignity but was refused by him, saying he had never been acknowledged a Sovereign and therefore could not have the honours. He will be interred at Frascati where the Cardinal has a villa. His natural daughter who is here at present, will at her father's death receive an income of near three thousand pounds sterling a year; partly granted by the Court of France, partly by this government, and partly arising from his personal property left to her. I mention this circumstance because it has been insinuated here, with some pains, that she would be left in a distressed situation.

HERVEY.

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\* Sir Horace Mann died in November 1786, having been British Minister at Florence since 1740—perhaps the longest diplomatic service at the same post that is any where recorded.

† Lord Hervey had been appointed successor to Sir Horace Mann at Florence and was then on his route from Naples to his post.

*Lord Hervey to the Secretary of State.*

Rome, January 31. 1788.

I have the honour of informing Your Lordship that this morning, between the hours of Nine and Ten, the Pretender departed this life.\*

I have not thought it necessary to send an express the whole way to England, but as the Courier went off last night, I send a servant to overtake him; wishing that Your Lordship might have the first intelligence.

HERVEY.

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\* Cardinal Caccia-Piatti informed the writer of this note, on the authority of some Members of Count Albany's Household, that Count Albany had in truth expired on the evening of the 30th of January, but that the date was altered in the public announcement on account of the evil omen which notwithstanding the difference of the Old and New Style, was supposed to attend the anniversary of King Charles's Execution.

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