

LETTERS

Written by

Sir *W. Temple*, Bar^t.

AND OTHER

Ministers of State,

Both at Home and Abroad.

CONTAINING,

An ACCOUNT of the most *Im-
portant Transactions* that pass'd in *Christendom*
from 1665 to 1672.

In Two Volumes.

Review'd by Sir *W. Temple* sometime before his Death:

AND

Published by *Jonathan Swift* Domestick Chaplain
to his Excellency the Earl of *Berkeley*, one of
the Lords Justices of *Ireland*.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *J. Tonson*, at *Gray's Inn Gate* in *Gray's
Inn Lane*; and *A. and J. Churchill*, at the *Black
Swan* in *Pater-Noster-Row*, and *R. Simpson*, at the
Harp in *S. Paul's Church-yard*, MDCC.

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TO HIS

Most Sacred Majesty

William III.

King of *England, Scot-*
land, France, and
Ireland, &c.

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These Letters of Sir *W. Tem-*
ple having been left to my
 Care, they are most hum-
 bly presented to Your
 MAJESTY by

Your Majesty's most dutiful
and obedient Subject.

Jonathan Swift.

DEDICATION / TO / Sir *William Temple's* / LETTERS; VOL. I.
 TO His] Dropped-head title 1762
 3 III.] the III. 1762
 7/8 *W. Temple*] *William Temple's* 1762

The text is printed from the thick-paper copy once belonging to Charles Montagu, Earl of Halifax: *Letters Written by Sir W. Temple, Bart, and Other Ministers of State, both at Home and Abroad ... Reviewed by Sir William Temple and Published by Jonathan Swift*, 2 vols (London: J. Tonson; A. and J. Churchill, and R. Simpson, 1700), sigs A2r-A4r (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 469). It is now in the Forster Collection, The National Art Reference Library, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington (Forster 8718*), and has been collated with *The Works of Sir William Temple, Bart*, 2 vols (London: for A. Churchill, et al., 1720), II, sig. A2r, 1-2 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 477), and *Volume X of the Author's Works: Containing Sermons on Several Subjects, and Other Pieces in Prose and Verse*, 18mo (Dublin: George Faulkner, 1762), 214-18 (TEERINK AND SCOUTEN 53); in the misbound Ehrenpreis copy (EC 5271) pp. 217-18 follow p. 228.

THE
Publisher's Epistle
 TO THE
 READER.

THE *Collection of the following Letters is owing to the diligence of Mr. Thomas Downton, who was one of Sir William Temple's Secretaries, during the whole time wherein they bear date. And it has succeeded very fortunately for the Publick, that there is contained in them an Account of all the chief Transactions and Negotiations, which passed in Christendom during the seven Years, wherein they are dated; as, The War with Holland, which began in 1665: The Treaty between His Majesty and the Bishop of Munster, with the Issue of it: The French Invasion of Flanders in the Year 1667: The Peace concluded between Spain and Portugal, by the King's Mediation: The Treaty at Breda; The Tripple Alliance; and The Peace of Aix la Chapelle in the first Part. And in the second Part; the Negotiations in Holland in consequence of those Alliances, with the Steps and Degrees, by which they came to decay: The Journey and Death of Madame: The seisure of Lorraine, and his Excellency's recalling; with the first Unkindness between England and Holland, upon the Yatch's transporting his Lady and his Family: And the beginning of the second Dutch War in 1672.*

With these are intermixt several Letters, familiar and pleasant.

I found the Book among Sir William Temple's Papers, with many others, wherewith I had the opportunity of being long conversant, having passed several Years in his Family.

I pretend no other Part, than the Care, that Mr. Downton's Book should be correctly transcribed, and the Letters placed, in the Order they were writ. I have also made some literal amendments, especially in the Latin, French and Spanish: These I have taken Care should be translated and printed in another Column, for the Use of such Readers as may be unacquainted with the Originals. Whatever faults there may be in the Translation, I doubt, I must answer, for the greater Part; and must leave the rest to those Friends, who were pleas'd to assist me. I speak only of the French and Latin; for the few Spanish Translations, I believe, need no Apology.

THE / Publisher's Epistle / TO THE / READER] PREFACE to
 Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE's Letters. 1762

It is generally believed, that this Author, has advanced our English Tongue, to as great a Perfection as it can well bear; and yet, how great a Master he was of it has, I think, never appeared so much, as it will in the following Letters; wherein the Style appears so very different, according to the difference of the Persons, to whom they were address'd; either Men of Business, or Idle; of Pleasure, or Serious; of great or of less Parts or Abilities, in their several Stations. So, that, one may discover, the Characters of most of those Persons, he writes to, from the Stile of his Letters.

At the end of each Volume, is added a Collection, copied by the same hand, of several Letters to this Ambassadour, from the chief Persons employ'd, either at home or abroad in these Transactions, and during six Years course of his Negotiations. Among which are many from Pensionary John de Witt, and all the Writings of this kind that I know of, which remain of that Minister so renowned in his time.

It has been justly complained of, as a defect among us, that the English Tongue, has produced no Letters of any value; to supply which, it has been the Vein of late Years, to translate several out of other Languages, tho' I think with little Success. Yet among many Advantages, which might recommend this sort of Writing, it is certain, that nothing is so capable, of giving a true Account of Story, as Letters are; which describe Actions, while they are alive and breathing; whereas all other Relations are of Actions past and dead: So as it hath been observed, that the Epistles of Cicero to Atticus give a better account of those times, than is to be found in any other Writer.

In the following Letters, the Reader will every where discover the Force and Spirit of this Author; but that which will most value them to the Publick, both at home and abroad, is, First, that the Matters contained in them, were the Ground and Foundation, whereon all the Wars and Invasions, as well as all the Negotiations and Treaties of Peace in Christendom, have since been raised: And next, that they are written by a Person, who had so great a share, in all those Transactions and Negotiations.

By residing in his Family, I know, the Author has had frequent Instances from several great Persons both at home and abroad, to publish some Memoirs of those Affairs and Transactions, which are the Subject of the following Papers; and particularly of the Treaties of the Triple Alliance, and those of Aix la Chapelle; but his usual Answer was, that whatever Memoirs he had written of those Times and Negotiations, were burnt; however, that perhaps after his Death, some Papers might come out, wherein there would be some Account of them: By which, as he has often told me, he meant these Letters.

I had begun to fit them for the Press during the Author's Life; but never could prevail for Leave to publish them: Tho' he was pleased to be at the Pains of reviewing, and to give me his Directions for digesting them into Order. It has since

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pleased God to take this great and good Person to Himself; and he having done me the Honour, to leave and recommend to me the Care of his Writings; I thought, I could not at present do a greater Service to my Countrey, or to the Author's Memory, than by making these Papers publick.

By way of Introduction, I need only take notice, that after the Peace of the Pyrenees, and His Majesty's happy Restoration in 1660, there was a general Peace in Christendom (except only the Remainder of a War between Spain and Portugal) until the Year 1665. when that between England and Holland began, which produced a Treaty between His Majesty and the Bishop of Munster. And this commences the following Letters.

I beg the Readers Pardon for any Errata's which may be in the Printing, occasioned by my Absence.

Appendix

Part of a discarded Preface, a fair copy in Swift's autograph, cancelled with diagonal pen strokes (THE ROTHSCHILD LIBRARY II, 610 [2254]; LINDSAY, p. 85 [SwJ 484]).

... Man; yet not knowing how soon I may cross the Seas into Ireland, where some Concerns are like suddenly to call me; and remembering how near I have been perishing more than once in that Passage: I am more unwilling to venture those Papers than my self; because if the Publication should fayl with me, I am convinced it would be a very generall Loss. For I am sure that in them may be learnt the true Interest of our Nation both at home and abroad; as well as those of the Neighbors we are most concerned in; together with the Principles, Dispositions, and Abilityes most requisite or necessary to fitt and enable any Gentleman for the service of His Country.

I have therefore ventured to publish them upon these Reasons: But will not stick to confess that I have been a little tempted to it by the Advantage I propose to my self from the Impression of a Book which I have Reason to think will be received with as much and as generall Kindness and Esteem as any Writings that have appeared since those of this Noble Author; and be entertained with equal Applause both at home and abroad.

11 *I beg the Readers Pardon for any Errata's which may be in the Printing, occasioned by my Absence.] om. 1720, 1762*