



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

LETTERS OF EDWARD HASTED TO
THOMAS ASTLE.

MR. R. COOKE of Detling, to whom we were indebted for the transcript of the Hasted Autobiographical Memoirs printed in our last Volume, has kindly sent copies of the following letters addressed by our Kentish historian to his friend Thomas Astle. Astle, who had a considerable reputation in his day as a paleographer and antiquary, was engaged on the Catalogue of the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum library, and was also—with Sir Joseph Ayloffe and Dr. Ducarel—employed by the Government to draw up a report on the public records at Westminster and Whitehall. Hence he was particularly well placed for rendering assistance to the industrious friend who was so busily employed in gathering materials for his County history. Hasted was evidently fully alive to the value of Astle's friendship, and his advances seem to have been met with considerable generosity, though judging from the single extant letter in reply from his pen, Astle's correspondence was not marked by the same effusiveness. When the first volume of the *History of Kent* appeared in 1778 with its dedication to King George III. Hasted had hopes that "something would come of it," and was not a little disappointed when, after the ponderous volume was safely deposited in the Royal library, no further notice was taken of its author, and the vision of a knighthood, on which Astle had apparently rallied his friend, melted away. When the third volume was ready, in 1791, Hasted's affairs were already on the down grade, and to Astle was entrusted the disagreeable task of informing the Royal Librarian that

if delivered the volume must be paid for. In the later letters Hasted adopts a far less familiar style, the "Dear Sir" or "Dear Astle" gives place to the more formal "Dear Sir"; nevertheless, there is abundant evidence to shew that Astle, even in the days of his complete downfall, was Hasted's very good friend, and it was to him that he turned for assistance when his misfortunes had brought him to the King's Bench prison (No. 31). Astle succeeded Sir John Shelley as keeper of the public records in the Tower in 1784, and died in 1803 (four years before Hasted removed to Corsham), bequeathing his extensive collections to the Marquis of Buckingham. In 1849 they were sold to Earl Ashburnham. The following letters were purchased by Mr. Cooke from a London bookseller in 1902, and doubtless came from the Ashburnham sale. From their pagination Mr. Cooke is of opinion that the letters once formed part of a bound book, and expresses the hope that their publication may lead to the recovery of the remainder of the volume.

A few notes have been added by the Editor.

No. 1.

Roman Camp at Heppington, Co. Kent [1763].

DEAR SIR,

I have often wished much to write to you, but since my being in East Kent, I have kept so close to MSS. and Antiquities, that it has not been in my Power to furnish materials for one. But I have broke from them for a little while, and last week spent my time most agreeably with Bryan Fosset,* when most of our Time, Indeed all that we could spare from the Ladies, was spent In his study, or in sallying out to find Roman Camps, Tumuli, etc. This we properly Dressed for, and had you seen us, you would certainly

* The Rev. Bryan Faussett of Heppington near Canterbury, born 1720, was an antiquary of such high repute in his day that he was called by his contemporaries "the British Montfaucon." The late Mr. C. Roach Smith, in 1856, edited for Mr. Joseph Mayor, Faussett's Journals relating to field work in East Kent, under the title of *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, which contains a few references to Hasted, but does not mention the work at the "Roman Camp" referred to in the above letter. Its site was probably that of the well-known earth-work in Iffin's Wood.

have taken us for Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday. We found a fine Roman Camp, about 2 miles from him [*sic*], Heppington in Kent, containing 8 acres and a Double Vallum, and The Prætorium Way very Entire, 3 or four feet above the Ground, but quite Covered with Bushes and Brambles, and he is very soon to have it very clean and nice. Without the outermost Vallum is a plain intrenchment of the Britains, and this we conjecture to have been the place where the Romans kept their *Castra æstiva*, whilst Canterbury Served them for their Winter Quarters, from Which it is Distant about 2 miles and an half. In our Progress homeward on the Roman Road, Which goes on Each side it, about 2 fields from Mr. Fosset's house we thought we found a Large & certain Tumulus, about 22 yards Diameter, & getting 5 or 6 hands together, we set them all to Work, & Mr Fosset got himself his hollow Trowel and Tools proper for the purpose. We dug a Trench about 2 ft. wide, thro' the middle of it as Low as we perceived the Earth to have been laid by art, about a foot below the surface We found a Compact Pavement Circumflex, as the shape of the Barrow Way, all of flints curiously cut with the chissel to fit one with the other, near the out sides they were smallest, about the size of a Pidgeons Egg, & as they Came nearer the Crown of the Tumulus, they Increased Larger, to the Size of about Three Inches by one & an half, but all so close and Compact that no Tool Could Penetrate them Struck downright on them, but by undermining them on the outside, we made shift to get them up; under this was a Laying of clay, then another of the Common Earth of the Place, and then another thick Pavement the same as the other, & about Two feet Underneath it. Under this another Stratum of Clay, then one of Mould, & under it Chalk for about 2 feet deep. I was obliged to Leave the same Afternoon, Heppington on my Return home, so that I do not know what he has done in it since, but I shall very soon, and then I shall Let you know What it has turned out, for we Were both of us In great Doubt whether it was British or Roman, and Mr Fosset Was greatly Inclined to think it was more likely to be the Latter, but We found no signs of any one buried there. We found a Square flint about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Inches Square & $\frac{1}{4}$ Inch thick cut very nicely with the chisel, and on one side of it, it Was much Blackt With the remains of having had a fire on it, it is on the Roman Road from Canterbury to the Portus Lemanis, about Three miles from the former and about a mile from the above Camp, from which there comes quite up to it, a hollow Way and the Road divides at it, running then on Each

side and Joins Immediately as it Ends, again. I should be very much obliged to you If you would be so kind to look into the visitations of Berkshire, In the Museum, if you can find there any of the name of Hasted, I have by me a confirmation of a Coat of Arms Granted by Segar, Garter, to Laurence Hasted, my Gt Gt Grandfather, of Sunning in Berks, in the year 1628, viz: *Gules an Eagle Displayed Ermine, Beaked and Legged or, and a Chief Chequer or and az.** If you could find any Information for me of them, either there or any Where else I should be very Much obliged to you.

Nov. 4, 1763.

I hope much to see you in this Country to make a Tour together with S^r Joseph Ayloffe & D^r Ducarel, to both whom I beg my respects When you see them, and I hope they Will not forget me when they find any Matters relating to Kent. I hope I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you often, which I assure you Will be a very great one to me.

I am, D^r Sir,

Your Much obliged humble Servant,

Throwley, near Faversham,

EDWARD HASTED.

Nov^r 4th, 1763.

No. 2.

23 Nov. 1763. Hasted to Astle. Giving an account of the progress of his "History."

DEAR SIR,

I received your most obliging favour, and return you many thanks For the trouble you take In Continually thinking of me. You Judge very right that the MSS. & Drafts you mention Will be very acceptable, Indeed they Will, There is no satisfying an Antiquarian's Appetite, the more you feed him, the more Ravening he Grows. Those or anything you Can procure for me, I shall receive With many thanks to you, and any little matters (if any should fall in your Way that Cannot be procured for a small time) I shall gladly pay the Expence of, if you will be so kind to trouble yourself to get y^m Copied for me. I should be very Glad of

* Hasted was probably descended from a purely Kentish ancestry. His great-grandfather, Moses Hasted, or Harsted, was a yeoman in the neighbourhood of Canterbury at or about the date of the grant referred to, and there is not the least reason to suppose that he was in any way connected with the Hasteds of Berkshire.

any thing relating to y^e Pedigrees or Arms of any body relating to this County, perhaps M^r Edmondson may have some which you Could procure for me, you know I am not Long In Going thro' them, & Will return them Within any limited time. The Drawings I shall be In hopes of, as soon as you Can Conveniently send them. All parcels Will Come safe to me by any of the Canterbury Machines, directed for me To be Left at the Roe Buck in Ospringe, and I beg a line at the same time by the same Post that I may send & Enquire after them and prevent their being Lost.

I am much ashamed of Asking you these favors, but I must trust to your Good Nature for my Excuse in it. Whatever is or shall be In my Power, you May always freely Command.

I should Wish for much from your Augm^{tn} office, but I am afraid my seldom seeing London, & my small stay when there, Will prevent my Ever profitting by such valuable Records & your Great Kindnesses In Laying them open to me. I do assure you I Work very hard from Morning to Night, and I have The Good Luck to have some very valuable MSS. Pour in frequently. I have Just finished The Materials D^r Plot Left for his "Natural History of Kent," and am now about those which Warburton, Som^t Herald, had Collected for a History of this County.

I shall be very glad to Wait on you, if you Come to Surrenden at Xmas. Besides the pleasure I shall have in seeing you I shall have an Opportunity of seeing the Surrenden Library, for tho' I Was very Well acquainted With the late S^r Edw^d Dering, I am not at all known to the present Gentⁿ. It will give me Much pleasure to hear from you often, for I am so far from Town now, that What is out of Date with you is great news to me. One thing I enjoy much here, Which Induces me to stay at Throwley, I enjoy my Time & Leisure Without the Interruption of too many visitors, with which I was Pestered at Sutton.

You will be so kind to make my Compts to S^r Joseph Ayl[off], and if I have not the pleasure of seeing him, the D^r, and you[rself] before, I shall claim his promise next Summer, & I dare [say] to make it a most agreeable Antiquarian Tour.

I am, D^r Sir,

Your much obliged & most obedient Servant,

Throwley, near Feversham,

EDWARD HASTED.

Nov^r 23^d, 1763.

[Addressed] To M^r Astle at the British Museum.

No. 3.

DEAR SIR,

I received a Letter a Day or Two ago from Mr Brian Fosset of Heppington, in Which he gave me an Account, that on his being at the Antiqⁿ Society, when last in Town, the secretary was reading the Account I sent you of the Tumulus, that he & I had been trying to open. That he desired the President to pay no further regard to it, and promised to send a true Account of it. There is no doubt, but had I thought that Letter Would have been read at the Society I should have put it in better Dress, but as I think Mr Fosset's behaviour has attacked the Truth of it, It is Incumbent on me to assert the truth of the facts there mentioned, and to declare there they are literally & minutely true. As to the Conjectures they are but Conjectures, but are such as he or myself then made, and both acquiesced in at that time. I may perhaps have mistaken his Words, but as you Were present I hope you Will Let me know your thoughts of it, & if there is Occasion, that you Will vindicate It at your meeting, for if It is Consistent With the Rules of your Society and they thought the Materials Worth their hearing, I should Insist on its being read there and a Proper Regard had to it, for I would sooner forgive any man's accusing me of almost anything Whatsoever rather than of an Untruth*—I will say no more of this, but I hope very soon to hear from you more of it, which I shall expect With much Impatience. I work so hard at my favorite design, morning, noon, and night, that I know nothing of the World, but what my Correspondents & the Newspapers Inform me of. I hope to do so much this winter in the Transcribing Part, that when the fine Weather Comes In Summer I shall have nothing to prevent my viziting Every Parish in the County Without Which I can never Compleat my Work, and I should be very Unwilling to print it before I had made use of your kind offers of the Augmentation office & Museum, for which I must allot 4 or 5 months in London, but when that Can be I cannot fix, as my materials Increase beyond my utmost Expectations, and tho' the further I proceed the more labour I find still to go thro', yet I am more & more Convinced Every day, that I shall

* It is pleasant to relate that this early instance of the *Odium Archaeologicum* between rival antiquaries, which is still far from being extinct, was not allowed to rankle. Hasted in a letter to Dr. Ducarel in 1780, written after Faussett's death, describes the latter as "Our late friend Bryan Faussett, who was I do think as capable and learned a man in that way as this country ever had or will produce" (*Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Appendix, p. 215).

be able to make it a History tolerably Compleat; At Least Infinitely [more] so than any yet made Public, but I find that I must next summer get a young man somewhere, to live with me [as] Amanuensis, for I shall have full Employment for him, and myself too, and I shall spare neither Trouble nor Expence in it. I wish much for an opportunity of seeing London, In hopes I may then have the pleasure of spending some hours with you. I had some hopes of seeing you in Kent this Xmas, but I find the time is now past without it which is no small Disappointment to me,

Who am, Dear Sir,

Your much obliged & most obedient Servant,

Throwley, near Feversham,

EDWARD HASTED.

Jany. 17th, 1764.

No. 4.

1764. March 17th. [Black Prince, Houmout.]

DEAR SIR,

Had I not been in Weekly Expectation of being Called To London, I should have answered yours Long before now, Which bears a Date so Long ago as January. I find this Will not be, till after my return to Sutton, about the Middle of next month or beginning of May, for the summer, When I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you frequently both there and in Town. The Last time I Wrote to D^r Ducarel (to which I have not yet been favored With an Answer), I begged the favor of him, to acquaint me where I Could order my entrance money to be paid to the Antiqⁿ Society, what it was, and by what time it ought To be paid. If May Would do, I could then pay it myself, or If more Proper before, I would order it Immediately, & I should be much obliged to you to Inform me of it.

I have lately been Very Laborious In Heraldry, & have Collected 3 volumes With pretty Good Authoritys, and about 2000 Coats of Arms, Which, though at first it Cost me some pains & Trouble as Well in the Blazon as Colours, yet I go on now tollerably Well & quick, but I find I want the Treasures of the British Musæum, In this Branch especially, Very Much Indeed. As to the Drawings, If you Will favor me When I come to Town With an Introduction to the Gentleman, I Will Gladly Wait on him & beg a sight of them, and then only, I Can be a Judge of What Will be useful In my Design, & I can then take the Account of Dover Castle back With me.

I congratulate you much on your Discoveries & I think you very happy in them, they Could not have fallen into Better hands, who either would or Can improve them more than yourself. If you go on thus a few years your Collection will be a very valuable one Indeed.

In my observations on the Monument of Edw^d The Black Prince, at Canterbury, I observe over the Coat of Arms of the Eldest son of England, a Label With this Word *Houmour*; what it means I cannot possible Conjecture, & a Learned Antiquarian Friend of mine tells me he has a Grant of this Prince's, *wherein he signs himself Houmour*. I wish among your Acquaintance you Would mention this, especially to the D^r & S^r Joseph, who will perhaps be so kind to give me their Thoughts on it—as I can find no title at that given to him, Whereby I can form any hint to myself of it.

My next Labour will be to Attack Dugdale's Monasticon & Carefully to Extract out of him Whatever relates to Kent. The more the Antiquarian toils the more he sees beyond him to Encounter; it is Well they prove So pleasant to us, for as there is no End to them, We should otherwise soon tire & Stop the pursuit, But I think this Will never happen to you or me.

Pray make my Compts. to S^r Joseph Ayloff & D^r Ducarrel and

I am, D^r Sir,

Your most sincere humble Servant,

Throwley,

EDWARD HASTED.

March 11th, 1764.

As it is Impossible to be an Antiquarian without having a Particular Attachment to the Ladies, at Least I Judge so, from those I have the pleasure of being acquainted With, and you are a young Man, Why Cannot you take a ride to our Assize Ball, Wednesday sennight; If you are fond of Dancing you Will have an Exceeding Good one, and In all likelihood your Flame Will be there. I would Induce you If I could, in the 1st place for your own sake, & in the next, that I may have the pleasure of meeting you there. I dont question If you Were to give S^r Joseph Two or three Items of our Kentish Lasses, if he would not Leave Even the Charms of the British Musœum for those of a Beautifull Lass of Seventeen. Adieu.

No. 5.

DEAR SIR,

I should not have troubled you so soon with another Letter, Especially as it is to ask a favor & Trouble of you, but your offers of Kindness have Incouraged me to it.

It is to beg you to get me an Exact Copy Verbatim of a Grant of Arms in your Musceum, markt as follows:—Vol. 2^d, No. 4900, 10, To John Dorman—as this, by the name, In all likelihood nearly concerns me.* If it Will not be too much trouble I should be very Glad to have it, and as soon as you Can conveniently. I hope you Will not forget the Tour you talked of making With sr. Joseph & D^r Ducarrel into East Kent this spring. If you do, I hope I shall have the pleasure of accompanying you & them. I shall be always Glad to have the pleasure of hearing from you, and any trifles of Antiquarian fare Will be a Rich repast to me at all times.

I am, Dear sir,

your much obliged

& most obedient Servant,

Throwley,

EDWARD HASTED.

Ap^l 1764.

[In another hand:—]

A Grant from Thos. Wriothsley, Garter, to John Dowman of Pokelington, Com. York, LL.D., 20 July 1526.

No. 6.

[Roman Tumuli near Canterbury.]

DEAR SIR,

I wish it had been In my Power to have met you at Tunbridge, had I been at Sutton I certainly should, but from hence the Distance is so great, that it put it entirely out of my Power. When your Letter Came I was gone to disturb some Bones of the *old Romans on Chartham Downs near Canterbury*. The Tumuli there are upwards of 100, of different Sizes. We opened four: the first was one of the Smallest. In this we found: 1st the

* Hasted had married Anne, daughter of John Dorman of Sutton at Hone, in 1755; his efforts to find a Coat of Arms for his wife were apparently unsuccessful.

skeleton Entire of one, Whom We Judged, by the Size of his Bones, to have [been] a man in the Prime of his youth, his teeth Were remarkably firm & strong. Close under this We found another Skeleton, which from Several Circumstances, We Judged to have been a Woman's; no Armour, Urns, or Least thing besides was found, tho' we Emptied the Grave entirely. The next Was much Larger (about 30 yards over). In this We found the Skeleton of a very youth, With the remains of a Box or Coffin, In Which he had been buried, & no one thing else remarkable, Except that In turning over the Earth, Which had been thrown on, at the raising of the Barrow, We found many Pieces of Broken Urns, and the Antler (as We Judged) of a Calfe, Which seemed, as if it had been Burnt. The next We open'd Was not far distant, tho' not quite so large: here we found nothing: the Bones being Entirely decayed, as they Were in the next, Which was of the Smallest size. I think the above proves this place, Contrary to the opinion of most, if not all, our former Antiquaries, to have been, not the place only Where a Battle has been fought (if any Ever Was there) but in after times a Common Burial Ground to their Garison at Canterbury, from Which it lyes but three Short miles; but I intend this summer to have another Day's trial here, What I then discover I will Let you know. I am much obliged to you for your kind offer as to the Society's money, but that is finished by D^r Ducarrel's Kindness.

I do not overlook your very kind promises of assisting me as to Kent. I shall gladly thank you for Every little trifle you Will put down on Paper for me, & I shall very Willingly return it with any thing In my Power.

I shall be always Glad to hear from you, tho' now franks are abolished I must sound the Inclinations of my Correspondents, before I put them to the charge of Postage, for What Was not worth the Expençe of time it took them up before, in reading only, but I must measure the Intervals of mine to them, from theirs to me.

I am, with Compliments to D^r Ducarrel & S^r Joseph Ayloff, & With My sincere Wishes of our meeting soon together In Kent,

D^r sir,

your most Sincere humble servant,

Throwley,

EDWARD HASTED.

Apl. 29th, 1764.

No. 7.

DEAR SIR,

I received your kind favor by the Dr and the Extract With it from the Rolls, it is quite as full as I could Wish it to be & Will be of as great use to me, as any thing I have as yet met With from my friends. If there are any manors of a Different name from the Parish, it Would save me much trouble to name the Parish too & the tenure of the estate Especially. I am quite ashamed of this Trouble you give yourself for me. If it is Ever in my Power I shall always return it With many thanks, as I shall for any Materials you Can at any time oblige me in.

The Last Week has been most pleasantly & agreeably spent, & Wanted nothing more than yourself & Sr Joseph to make it more so. I shall trouble you With another Letter Very Soon, for at present I write In the midst of Pipes, Tobacco, on Bad Paper, Worse Pens & Ink, & Every Inconvenience of a Tavern.

I am, Dr sir,

Your Much obliged friend & sert.,

Ospringe,

EDWARD HASTED.

May 19th, 1764.

To Mr Astle At the British Museum.

No. 8.

DEAR SIR,

How often I have Intended thanking you for your last kind favour I need not tell you. I will not think that you Suppose me so void of Gratitude, or even common civility, not to have acknowledged it, had I not been prevented by many Concurring circumstances. I have Expected Every Week to have made myself happy With you In London. This M^{rs} Hasted's Condition has prevented & kept me Confined at home. I received your kind note from Rochester, & did think I should have seen you In your return, I own, as I did not, I thought you Were still at Surrenden, till yesterday, when I heard of your return & that you are angry With me. You must not be angry With me—you shall not—When I have never Intended a Cause for it, but Day after Day, Week after Week, has stole on, not one Without uneasiness to my self in not. having Wrote to you, & still thinking I should get to you almost as soon as my Letter, as it has run on to this Length of time, I am

Convinced (tho' not Intended) it is Wrong and deserves your Anger, as such I submit to your friendship, and know your generous sentiments Will not Let me long be in suspence, that you forgive me. I own I greatly admire your good Qualities & Esteem your friendships, and as I highly value them both, I shall be much hurt to Lose you, more so by any unintended act of mine, but of this I will now say no more, hoping to see you at the Augmentation office next Tuesday or Wednesday, when I hope you Will not deny me your Company for a Day or Two as I shall not return till the next Evening.

I hope s^r Joseph & D^r Ducarrel will be kind Enough to Let me have the pleasure of being With them as much as they Can. I dont, Indeed I cannot often meet With such pleasure, such Happyness I may Call it, I have thought it such—since I have been favored with their & your friendships; my best respects attend them both.

I must have a Line from you this Week (however unreasonable) to tell me you think no more of being angry; my best Wishes attend you always,

Who am, Dear sir,
Your most Affectionate friend & sert.

Sutton,

EDWARD HASTED.

July 31st, 1764.

[Addressed] To Thos. Astle, Esq., at the British Museum,
Bloomsbury, London.

His *peace* is *made*

No. 9.

DEAR ASTLE,

I Wrote you a Letter the other Day directed to the Treasury which I suppose you had, I knew nothing then of our Assembly Ball, Which is to be at Dartford next monday, Where I hope you Will be, and Indeed I claim a promise of it from you, made Soon after your Dis-appointing me at the Last. I shall hope to see you, if you can, on the Sunday, and hope, if you have any friend, that it will be agreeable for you to bring with you, that you Will not Come alone; and I shall Expect you accordingly Without any Excuses. I have a near friend, whose Interest I have much at heart, who Would reap great Benefit from founder's Kin at New College. I think I heard you say you had a Descent to S^r Edw^d Dering from

Wickham—If you have or Can procure it for me, it Will oblige me much; all the knowledge I want at present is, by What Means & by Whom the Descent Came to the Derings, to whom of them & at what time. I shall Make no Excuse for the Trouble, as you know how Much I am obliged to you for this & many other favors and how ready I shall be at all times to Serve you to the Utmost of my Power, not only in return for these, but out of the Sincere value & friendship I bear to you. I beg my best respects to S^r Joseph Ayloffe & D^r Ducarrel,

& I remain, D^r sir,

Your Much obliged Friend & Servant,

EDWARD HASTED.

Sutton,

March 6th, 1765.

[Addressed]

To Thos. Astle, Esq^r, at the Treasury, Whitehall, London.

No. 10.

DEAR ASTLE,

It is With the greatest Concern, I heard as I was just Leaving Town on friday, that you had been so very Ill, I was but a few hours in Town, and I imagined you had been in Staffordshire, as you hinted to me in your last, I should otherwise have Certainly made my way to South Lambeth, as it would have given me great pleasure to have found you recovered from so dangerous an Illness, which from your own Letter I took to be but very slight. Was I your Physician I should advise you change of Air at Some Small distance, an Easy Journey, and should prescribe a Week, at least, at Sutton. My Chariot Will be in Town on Wednesday Evening Next and return home on Thursday, you would Make us both happy if M^{rs} Astle and yourself would fill it hither, it should be at your Command at any hour by leaving a Line at my Mothers before that time, I need not tell you, I dare say you Will believe me that We Will do all We can to forward your recovery, and you know here your time and the method of filling it up is entirely at your own disposal. M^{rs} Hasted has lain in of a Girl the Week before last, so that she now gets about again. She has a great desire to Ask M^{rs} Astle to be one of the Godmothers if it Would not be disagreeable to her, This you Will tell her without Ceremony, and we Will suit the time according to your Own Convenience from a

Week to three weeks hence, but I Wish and hope to see you here, when I can talk of it to you myself.

I Corrected the sheet you sent Me and told the Printer to send the others to me, but I have not heard from him Since, by What you sent me I think there remains Much of the Letters unprinted. There is a Paragraph in the first 10 Lines of the life, Which I must alter before it is printed off, if I can do it in the Proof sheet. You Will be so kind to let me have it for that purpose, when ready. Mr^s Hasted Joins With me in our best Compliments to M^{rs} Astle & yourself, and I am at all times, Believe me, D^r Sir,

Your Sincere friend & Servant,

Sutton, Sept^r 1st, 1766.

EDWARD HASTED.

[*Addressed*]

To Thos. Astle, Esq., at the Treasury, Whitehall, London.

1^d

No. 11.

DEAR ASTLE,

I received the favor of yours on Sunday, With a very Impertinent Letter to you from Dodsley* on the back of it. I have no great opinion of the merit of the Letters myself, and yet I think I have seen more Insignificant than these Published, trifling as they are, he must be a most Impudent Puppy to offer to write such a one to you, a Stranger to him. I am very Sorry you have had so much trouble in managing of it, and did I not know your own Worthy Disposition and the pleasure you take in Serving your friends, I Should return you a Sheet full of Complaints for it, Which I shall change into my Sincere thanks to you, not only for this, but the many other Acts of Friendship I have so often received from you. The Least trouble I think Would be to Let Griffin have it, clearing himself Every Expense, and if any Profit should accrue from it, he should have the half of it; If he thinks that too much, then Let him take the Whole—in either Case; that we should have 6 or 7 Copies a piece half Bound gratis—and that the Title shall be approved by us before it is printed and neither of our names Mentioned in or about it—as Editors or otherwise—and

* James Dodsley, younger brother of the more celebrated Robert Dodsley, dramatist, printer, and bookseller. We are unable to discover the nature of the publication to which Hasted refers.

if you Will be so obliging to see this Done, the sooner We get rid of it the Better—for the time for the Sale of such things Wears off apace. I hope to have the pleasure of Waiting upon you very soon in London, but I have a close attendance at the Assizes here, and When they Will permit me to return I cant yet tell. My best Compliments as Well as M^{rs} Hasted's attend you and M^{rs} Astle and our best Wishes for the Health of your Little Gentleman, and I am, D^r Sir,

Your Ever Affectionate friend,

Maidstone,

EDWARD HASTED.

March 16th, 1767.

I beg my Respects to Sir Joseph Ayloff and D^r Ducarrel.

Whatever you agree With Griffin make him Sign his name to it.

[Addressed]

To Thos. Astle, Esq., at the Treasury, Whitehall, London.

[Seal].

No. 12.

DEAR ASTLE,

I should have answered your obliging Favors before now, but I was in great hopes of seeing you in Town today; This I am prevented of by the Weather, Which tho' very happy, Warm, Seasonable, yet is so very Wet that It would be a folly to Attempt it. I am very Well pleased With your Agreement about the Letters, I hope by this time you have quite Completed the Whole of it. I thank you much for the Trouble you have had in it; Which I shall be Glad to repay by any like good turn in my Power. I have Wrote S^r E. Dering a Letter of Thanks for his MSS. & Letting him know that I had Sent the Whole of them to you. I hope I shall be able Some time Within this Fortnight to Call on you, by Which time I hope you Will have Settled the time of your Tours this Summer into Kent. M^{rs} Hasted Joins With me in Compliments to M^{rs} Astle & Yourself, & I remain, Dear Sir,

Your Sincere friend & humble Servant,

Sutton,

EDWARD HASTED.

Apl. 23^d, 1767.

[Addressed as before.]

No. 13.

Jan. 8, 1774.

DEAR SIR,

I cannot omit the first opportunity of returning you my best thanks for the Honor you have been so kind to procure for me, which I assure you I receive With all due Respect & Gratefulness. If there should be any Letter Written, any Notice or other kind of Acknowledgment taken of it by me, you Will be so kind to Instruct me in it, & I shall be happy in the doing it.

What return further than my thanks I can make to you I know not. I can only assure you that should you, as I know you Make Excursions in Summer into the Country, favor us With a visit at Canterbury I shall do all in my Power to make this Place & its Environs as agreeable to you as I possibly Can, & M^{rs} Hasted Will be happy to see M^{rs} Astle & renew her former friendship With her, & I hope you will believe this to be really meant & not designed as an Empty Compliment without the Hopes of its being put in Execution.

M^{rs} Hasted Joins With me in Compliments & the Wishes of many happy years to yourself & M^{rs} Astle, & I remain

Dear Sir,

Your much obliged & most obedient Servant,

Canterbury,

EDWARD HASTED.

Jany. 8th, 1774.

To Thos. Astle At South Lambeth in Surry.

No. 14.

[Rough draft of Hasted's dedication of his history to
King George III.]

TO THE KING.

SIR,

It is with the highest veneration and gratitude that I return your Majesty my most humble thanks for the permission which you have been graciously pleased to allow me, of dedicating to you [the First Vol. of—*pen struck through*] my History of the County of Kent, which, besides the honour thereby conferred on my labours, affords me the opportunity of personally testifying how much

I am your

Majesty's

most dutiful Subject and Servant.

No. 15.

Thomas Astle to Edward Hasted.

SIR,

On the other side I send you the Draught of the Dedication & the Letter to Mr Dalton, to whom the Vol. sho^d be sent. I mentioned Mr Barnard when I saw you, but I have since considered that as his Majesty was pleased to communicate to me his leave of dedicating the Book by Mr Dalton I think it will be more proper for that Gentleman to lay it before him. As for the Dedication, I have considered it, & I think it is better than if it was longer. You will observe I have used the word *Sir*, which I think more proper than *Sire*, for the latter word wo^d in my opinion be improper unless you was writing in French or speaking of a Stallion. However, I shall be glad to know if you think any alterations necessary.

I am very truly,

March 6th, 1778.

Sir, &c., T. ASTLE.

No. 16.

To Frederick Barnard, Esq^r, Librarian to His Majesty.

SIR,

His Majesty having been graciously pleased to allow me the Honor of dedicating to him my History of Kent, I beg the favour of you to take the earliest opportunity of laying the volume which you will receive herewith before his majesty, & to present my humble duty to Him.

I am,

Sir,

your most faithful and obedient Servant,

E. H.

[Endorsed] Dedication to the K. of Hasted's Hist. of Kent.

March 6, 1778.

No. 17.

DEAR SIR,

I duly received your kind favor with the Dedication the same Evening I Wrote to you to beg the favor of it, and I should have acknowledged the Receipt of it sooner, but I waited for the size of the vignette to be prefixed to it to Judge how it would fill the remaining space of Paper. I approve of it very much, but find I shall Want a Couple of Lines more to make it answer my Purpose, Which I have transcribed on the other side, & hope they will meet your approbation.

When my Book is ready, Which Will be the latter End of May, I propose Coming to Town myself with it, & hope then you will do me the honor of going with me to Mr Dalton, by which means I shall hope to gain the opportunity of seeing the King's Library. In the mean time,

I remain, with my best thanks for all your kind favors & Civilities, Dear [*sic*],

Your most obliged & most Affectionate humble Servant,
 Canterbury, EDWARD HASTED.
 March 15th, 1778.

No. 18.

TO THE KING.

SIR,

It is with the Highest Veneration and Gratitude that I return YOUR MAJESTY my most humble Thanks for the Permission You have been graciously pleased to allow me of Dedicating to YOUR MAJESTY My History of the County of KENT, which, besides the Honour conferred by it on my Labours, affords me a more particular opportunity of testifying My Duty to YOUR MAJESTY.

That Providence may preserve your Royal Person as a Blessing & Continuance of Happiness to the British Empire is the Earnest Prayer of

YOUR MAJESTY'S
 most dutiful & most faithful Subject and servant,
 Canterbury, EDWARD HASTED.
 May 1st, 1778.

To Thos. Astle as before.

No. 19.

DEAR SIR,

As the first Volume of my History will I trust be ready for publication by the middle of next Week, I am again under a Necessity of troubling you for your advice in relation to my presenting to the King his Copy. For if you think it will be any advantage for me to Come to Town purposely to Carry it to his Library, I will, tho' Inconvenient at present, certainly Come up on Monday 23^d just for it, & will With your leave Wait on you the next Morning as you shall please to appoint, but I must of necessity return before the End of the Week, and in that Case you will be so kind to direct me how to proceed in it in the mean time. But if a Letter Will do as Well, and your being so kind to deliver the Book for me, & to take the trouble of managing for me What ought to be on this Occasion, Will be equally as Well for me in every Respect.

I should take it as an Infinite favor if you would be so kind so to do, and I will send the Book directed for you that Day to be left Wherever you shall order, & I Will likewise Write such Letter as you will be so kind to dictate for me to the proper Gentⁿ on the Occasion to go with it. I sincerely beg your Pardon for this Liberty in giving you so much trouble, but I rely on your Continued friendship & kindness to me to excuse it. I hope to have the favor of hearing from you at your Earliest leisure, & remain, With many thanks to you for Every Civility,

Dear Sir,

Your most Sincere most obedient Servant,

Canterbury,

EDWARD HASTED.

June 8th, 1778.

If you chuse that your Copy should be sent up in the same Box you will let me know, & I will take Care of it. The general publication will not be till such time after the Delivery of the King's as you direct me.

No. 20.

T. Astle to E. Hasted.

DEAR SIR,

If you send the Book on Tuesday I will deliver it to Mr Dalton on Wednesday, & the general Publication may be as soon after that day as you may think proper. I sent you a d^r of

a Lre. to M^r Dalton, which you may send with the Book. I shall be glad of my Copy at the same time. Be pleased to direct the Books to the paper office, & when you come to town I will wait upon you to the Royal Library.

[*Unsigned.*]

No. 21.

DEAR SIR,

By yesterday's Coach I sent to London to M^r Johnson's, Bookseller in St Paul's churchyard, a parcel directed to you at the Treasury, Containing 2 sets of some reprinted sheets for the first volume of my History, to replace others in it which have some Errors I wished to have Corrected. I beg your Acceptance of one of them, & hope you will do me the favor of transmitting the other to M^r Dalton, or whom you think more proper, for his Majesty's Copy. I dont know much of the Custom of dedicating Books to his Majesty, but I wish to know if what has already past is all the notice I am to Expect he will take of me or my book. If it is usually so I am quite content, but in that Case I think I could have found out a more gracious Patron. I should be much obliged to you for a few Lines on this head, & in the mean time, thanking you much for all your very kind Instances of friendship & regard, I remain, With my best Compliments to M^{rs} Astle, in which M^{rs} Hasted joins, & to yourself & family, Dear Sir,

Your most obliged & most obedient Servant,

Canterbury,

EDWARD HASTED.

Nov^r 20th, 1778.

M^r Beauvoir* has just Called in & dying to be remembered to you.

[*Addressed*] Thomas Astle, Esq., Battersea Rise, Surry.

* The Rev. Osmund Beauvoir, Head Master of the King's School, Canterbury, from 1750 to 1782, where he had a great reputation as a teacher. He was also Vicar of Littlebourne, and of Milton next Sittingbourne. On his retirement from the King's School he was created a D.D. by Archbishop Moore, and was shortly afterwards elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. See Nichols' *Literary Anecdotes*, vol. ix., and *Literary History*, vol. iii.

No. 22.

DEAR SIR,

I duly received your last kind favor and immediately wrote to Mr Johnson, St Paul's church yard, to know What he had done concerning the reprinted Sheets I sent to him, directed for you at the Paper office, Treasury, Whitehall, To which I received for answer, that The parcel for Mr Astle was sent agreeable to the direction some time since. As this is the Case, I must beg the favor of you to send some one to Investigate this matter, both at the Treasury, & at Mr Johnson's, & to find whom it was Carried by, and by whom delivered. There were in the parcel 2 sets of the reprinted sheets, Large Paper, put between 2 thick Paper Boards, & then Inclosed in a Covering of paper tyed up, & directed as above. Dr Ducarrel & other Gents had parcels of a like nature, Which all Went safe. I would not put you to this Trouble Could I replace them for you, but I printed but 6 sets of these sheets ON LARGE PAPER answerable to THE 6 COPIES OF THE Volume, so that I cannot replace them again, and I should be very sorry that the 2 Copies they were Intended for should be Imperfect on this Account, as they must be if they are not recovered. I thank you for your Information relating to my Expectations from the King, pecuniary ones I never dreamt of—I only wished to know if there might not be usually some notice taken on this Occasion more than has been—as I fare the same as others I am quite Content. You are quite mistaken as to Mr^s Hasted's not being surprised at my receiving the Honor of being Dubbed, nor should I receive it at any rate till I had Consulted my good friend, Apothecary, Mayor of Maidstone, now the Worshipfull Sir Thos. Bishop, Knight, which I shall take the first opportunity of Doing, as I Expect Every post-boy that I see to find him a Messenger to fetch me up for this glorious purpose. I hope you have not Deceived me by flattering Tales—if you have, *Heu Quantâ de spe decidi*. You are very kind in offering me your kind friendship and assistance in relation to my 2^d volume. I shall not wish for anything further from you in it than the Continuance of your kind friendship & your giving my Work that approbation to the World, Which from your known Character among all Lovers of Literature, will do more to stamp a sterling value on it, in the esteem of the Public, than that of any other that I know of, & I request this Instance of your friendship to it, & hope that you will favor me with any thoughts that may Occur to you, or that you may hear of, relating to any future

Improvement I Can make in the progress of it, in any shape Whatsoever, for I am happy in being always open to Conviction, & in being taught by others, for I am but too Conscious how little I know in Comparison of what is still further to be known. I shall be much obliged to you to let me have a line when you have Enquired after the lost parcel. In the mean time M^{rs} Hasted Joins with me in Compts. of the Season, & the return of many happy years to M^{rs} Astle, yourself, & family, With Which I remain, Dear Sir,

Your obliged faithful servant,

Canterbury,

EDWARD HASTED.

Dec^r 28th, 1778.

[*Addressed as before.*]

No. 23.

DEAR SIR,

When I was in London the other Day I was in great hopes to have had time to have Waited on you, but having only from 10 in the morning till 6 in the Afternoon between my Coming there & going from thence, I found it utterly impracticable. I wished to have asked the favor of your Assistance. Could you have done it With propriety in procuring me, among your Literati friends, an Engraving for the 2^d vol. of my History of the Ruins of the Antient ARCHIEPISCOPAL PALACE OF CHARING, which, if I remember right, you & I once took a view of together. They are stately ruins, & will furnish matter for an Exceeding rich plate. Godfrey is to Come down this summer to take some Drawings of Seats in the Neighbourhood of Charing & Could both take the view of it & Engrave it, or only the former, as it suited the kind Donor of it. You may perhaps think I have not payed that proper attention to that kind friendship I have ever found from yourself in not requesting this favor of you, but I have trespassed so much on your goodness already that I cannot in Common Decency Incroach further on your kindness to me. Indeed it hurts me much to be obliged to trespass so much on the Liberality of my friends, as I am Continually forced to do in the progress of my work, but it is

beyond my Ability to Carry it forward Without them, & I hope for their pardon in Whatever I have requested of them, & in particular from yourself, Especially in the subject of this Letter, Which Will be an additional obligation to, Dear sir,

Your sincere & faithful humble Servant,

Precincts, Canterbury,
April 25th, 1779.

EDWARD HASTED.

M^{rs} Hasted Joins in best Compliments to M^{rs} Astle & yourself.

[*Addressed as before.*]

No. 24.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have Just received M^r King's* Circular letter To the Members of the Antiqⁿ Society. His Expressions of the open dishonor intended to be Cast on him are very high, & more so to one Who am Wholly unacquainted With the proceedings & Intrigues of the Conclave. I wish much to be informed of as much about the matter as may direct my choice & behaviour on St George's Day With propriety as Well in regard to the Society as those friends I always Wish to go with there. I hope you will do me the favor of letting me know this, *sub sigillo Confidentia*, according to Which I shall take my ride on Friday towards London or not. If I do I shall hope to assure you there how much I always am

Your most faithfull servant,

Canterbury,
April 17th, 1785.

EDWARD HASTED.

[*Addressed*] Thos. Astle, Esq., Battersea Rise, Surry.

[*Endorsed*] M^r Hasted, April 1785. Antiq. Election.

No. 25.

DEAR SIR,

By M^r Simmons, Printer of Canterbury, I understand you have received from him my 3^d volume, L. P. Copy, Which I directed him to send to you. My 2 first volumes of the same size I presented to the King for the permission you so kindly procured of dedi-

* Mr. King was a candidate for the Presidentship of the Society, and had memorialized the fellows in his favour. He was not elected.

cating my Work to him, and had not some very unpleasant Circumstances happened in my affairs since, I should certainly have done the same by the present 3^d volume. But, tho' I would not deprive the Royal Library of it, *I cannot*, in my present situation, afford to *give it*. May I request the favor of your friendship to inform the Librarian of this, to make the proper application for me, that He may send for it to White in Fleet Street (Where I will order it to be sent the beginning of next Week), & to pay the same price for it that has been paid for the 2 others, L. P. Copies, which I have sold, viz., five Guineas & at half the price fixed by Payne, Newsagent, on it, as he Will Inform you. Your serving me in this particular & that at your Earliest Leisure Will oblige Me Very Much. I need not I hope repeat to you, that had not my present situation made it unavoidable for me to ask this, I should by no means have done it, but that being so, there Can need no further Excuse, nor I should hope any further entreaty to you to accomplish the end I wish for in it, Which Will add to those many Acts of friendship you have already shewn to, D^r sir,

Your most obedient & obliged Humble servant,

Calais,

EDWARD HASTED.

August 17th, 1791.

I beg the favor of a Line from you in answer to the above directed to me at Dover, Kent, Which Will be sent to me here.

I have finished great part of my next & last Volume, which I hope to put to print this Winter.*

[*At foot*] Thos. Astle, Esq.

No. 26.

Dedication to the 6th vol. of the Hist. of Kent, 8vo.†

DEAR SIR,

I thank you much for your kind & friendly note to me, equally so, with all I have ever received from you. The Inclosed is as difficult a task as any I have ever had. To express the effusions of my Gratitude to you, to do Justice to yourself & at the same time not to exceed it by a flattery, which must disgust you, is no easy Task. My poor Abilities are not equal to it, therefore I trust to

* The Fourth Volume did not appear until 1799.

† In another hand, contemporary by writing.

your goodness to take the will for the deed & to supply & charge What I have been deficient in, & from your well known experience in the elegance of Polite learning make it such that neither of us may be ashamed of it. I thank you kindly for the friendly manner in which you mention my Debt to you. Believe me, Sir, I have every sentiment of your liberal friendship to me from the early time of our acquaintance to the present moment, being most truly,

Your much obliged & faithful humble servant,

King's College, St. George's fields,
July 31st, 1798.

EDWARD HASTED.

I hope for the favor of your return of the Inclosed at your earliest leisure. Pray send me the Colours of your Arms & your Crest.

[*Addressed as before.*]

No. 27.

DEAR SIR,

I have, since I wrote my last to you, been turning in my thoughts if I could suggest to you any probability of the situation of NUNHELMESTON, Which from the very early dissolution of the Nunnery of Liminge, & its being upon that event's taking place, blended in the year 964 With the other possessions of the Priory of Xst church in Canterbury, is become a matter of no small difficulty. However, I have, upon recollection, found What perhaps may be some clue to it.

In the Parish of Barham, Which is situated Northward from Liminge about 3 miles, the parish of Elham only intervening, there is a Manor belonging to sir Henry Oxenden, now Called Outelme-stone, & Written in old Deeds & Writings Outhelmestone.

On this there are 2 suppositions.

One is that this Manor, which bounds up Northward to the Roman Watling Street Way on Barham Downs, & in some Measure seems analogous to those bounds by which Nunhelmestone is described, might be, as there is no such name to be met with elsewhere, the very estate itself, & might When the Nunnery was annihilated lose its former preaddition of *Nun* & take that of *out* instead of it as lying Without the Manor & Parish of Liminge in Which the Nunnery was situated, the like of Which is frequently to be observed in the names of Places, & further you will observe

that Nunhelmestone is said to be given to the church *at* Liminge & not that it lay *in* Liminge, either Parish or Manor, nor indeed is it described to lye in any Manor or Parish, but only by its antient boundaries.

The other supposition, Which I think by far less probable, is that if outhelmestone is not the Identical place in question—That it had the preaddition of *out* to it, to distinguish it from the other helmestone, Which was situated probably *in* the Manor and Parish of Liminge, & which to distinguish it from the other was first called Wreg or Wieg (?) & afterwards Nunhelmestone—but as not the least trace is to be found in these parts of any such name, or anyone nearly like it, or that can possibly be screwed or manufactured into it, excepting outhelmestone, commonly pronounced outelmestone, I own With submission to your better Judgment I should be a strong partizan in favor of the former supposition. Excuse my good sir my troubling you With so many lines on this head, but your saying you wished much to know of this matter My hopes of being of service to you has occupied it. If there is any other doubts relating to it in which I can serve you, or in any other thing, It will give the greatest pleasure to, Dear sir,

Your Much obliged humble servant,

St. George's Fields,
Dec. 15th, 1799.

EDWARD HASTED.

[*Addressed*] Thos. Astle, Esq., Battersea Rise, Surry.

Dec. 15, Mr Hasted.

No. 28.

DEAR SIR,

I truly thank you for your last favor in every part of it. The extracts relating to FOLKESTONE have been of great service to me & cleared up the doubts I had relating to that part of my Account of it. As to K[ing] Whitred's Charter relating to *Nunhelmestone*, I fear you never can ascertain the situation; conjecture is all you Can hope for in it. If you do not approve of the Conjecture of *Outelmestone* I know not where to direct you to it. There is a WILMINGTON in the Parish of Bocton Aluph, & Lath of Scray abt. 3 miles from Ashford on the High [road] thither from Canterbury & abt. 8 miles from Liminge. See vol. 3, *Hist. Kent*, p. 193. There is likewise another Wilmington in Limne Parish, about 4 or

5 miles from Liminge in the same Lath. I dont find that the church of Canty, to which the Nunnery of Liminge is said to have been granted long before the Conquest, ever had any possessions in Bocton above mentioned, but in Limne it had much, Which on the division of that Church's possessions in ABp. Lanfranc's time, was allotted to the Archbishops. You state the boundaries to be Berdeshamestire between Cemiguines Way & Streetley (?). This latter Wilmington is situated close to the Roman *Street* or Way leading from Canterbury to the Portus Lemanis or Limne, now remaining, & Called Stone street Way, besides which here is a noted Manor Called Street & another called Berewic, Which latter formerly belonged to Xst church & was held of the ABp. by Knights Service; both these manors, as well as the Street or road, seem to have some reference to your boundaries, see vol. 3, *Hist. Kent*," p. 436, 437, 438, 448. I fear all this will be but little service to you, but it is the best & all I have to send you. There is but one hope further, & that is from the early Rolls of Liminge Manor, the present Lord of it can have none higher than Hen. the 8th's reign, When it was severed from the ABp. [Archbishop], & I should think those before that time must be either at Lambeth or in the Augmentation office, or perhaps both. If you think it of any use I will apply to the owner of Liminge Manor, the Rev. Mr Price, whom I have Corresponded With on Historical Information more than once. Surely the Book in the Cotton Library, Augustus 11, 83, 92, 93, in which the Catalogue says on all the Charters relating to the Lands of this Nunnery, can give much information relating to the situation of this place. You will I hope excuse my not sending the 4th volume thro' the hands you desired, but there were reasons that made it impossible, & I hope it was of no material consequence to you.

Accept my best thanks, sir, for the liberal manner in Which you have *cancelled my note*; sorry I am that I should have occasion to trespass on your kind friendship so much.

Wishing you & yours the return of many happy succeeding years, I remain With much respect, sir,

Yours truly obliged & most faithfull Sert.,

King's College, St. George's fields,

EDWARD HASTED.

Jan^y 7th, 1800.

[*Addressed as before.*]

No. 29.

DEAR SIR,

I esteem myself greatly obliged to you for the Continuance of Your Remembrance of me, & the Gift of the Catalogue you sent me of Mr Harbin's MSS. You wish me to give you some Account of the Deeds Mentioned in it and Where they now are—I am truly unable to do either. As far as page 24 they seem in general to relate to the Families of Ferrers & Devereux, & to possessions in the Counties of Hereford, Worcester, Essex, and afterwards to Miscellaneous Matters of things & Persons in Co. Kent. Where they are I know not. I see My friend Dr Beauvoir's Arms are on the inside of the Cover. Was he possessed of these MSS.? I should hardly suppose that he Was, tho' he had a large & a very good Collection, Which I apprehend on his Death Went to his 2 daus. & Coheirs & their Husbands, Who I dare say parted With them,* but being myself in France at the time of his Death in 1789, & having no intercourse With the family since, I can say nothing with certainty of it. If they were not sold, his Eldest son in Law, Wm. Hammond of St. Albans near Canterbury, must have them, or at least Can tell where they Went, for he is one Who has no regard to these sort of things. I observe in Article 21 at top of page 37 is a Letter of Lady Russell's & this addition by way of note—Mr Griffith gave it to Surgeon Geekie, Whose da^r M^{rs} Head gave it to me. *This M^{rs} Head Was Miss Jane Geekie*, sister to the Rev^d Dr Geekie, Prebendary of Canterbury & resident there, the Two children of Mr Geekie, Surgeon; she m^d the Rev^d John Head, *Archdeacon & Prebendary of Canterbury*, Who succeeded his Brother *Sir Francis in the Title of Baronet* and lived and dyed in his Prebendal House there. Lady Head survived him several years & dyed in Canterbury. Sir John Head above mentioned was a relation of Dr Beauvoir's first wife, Miss Boys, & they always kept up an acquaintance of Intimacy, being near neighbours in the Precincts of the Cathedral. Who it means When it says M^{rs} Head gave it to me I know not, for I never heard the name of Harbin before, nor do I think such a person was ever at Canterbury during my long residence there. Could the Word *me* mean Dr Beauvoir? By her being Called M^{rs} Head this Gift must have been between the years 1751 & 1768, the former being that of her Marriage & the latter of her taking the Title of Lady Head, on Sir Francis' death.

* Dr. Beauvoir's library was bought by a Mr. Flacklin of Canterbury.

I have one observation more. At the Top of page 24 is this Title to the Articles which follow in the Catalogue: *Deeds & other Instruments added to the foregoing Collection*. These Deeds & Instruments in General relate to the Co. of Kent, & Many of them to Canterbury & the Gentry of the Country near it, among whom are the Names of Barrett & Boys, both the ancestors & Relations of Dr Beauvoir's first wife. Whatever related to whom he was very tenacious of, & collected all he could. Might I hazard a conjecture, I should, that the Doctor, if Harbin's Collection came into his hands, added the latter part of his own to it. Surely Leigh & Sothyby could remember something of the sale of it. Excuse the Length of this Desultory Letter, but my Wish to give you any hints to serve you in it will plead in my favor. I wish you happy returns to you & yours of the approaching Season, & requesting the Continuance of your friendship, I remain With much Truth,

Dear Sir,

Your obliged

St. George's fields,

& faithfull humble servant,

Dec^r 3^d, 1800.

EDWARD HASTED.

[*In another hand.*]

Died Jan. 1812 at Corsham, in the 80th year of his age, Edward Hasted, Esqr., F.R.S. & F.S.A.—*Herald*, Jan. 31, 1812.

No. 30.

The Several MSS. before mentioned were sent to Mr ASTLE in the following Parcels, the figures before them referring to those on the other side this Paper.

3 . . . Saxonum Codicelli.

3 . . . Some Loose folio sheets of Antient Charters With Drawings of the Seals.

1. A Bound Volume of Chartæ Antiquæ.

1. A Bound volume of Registers of Religious Houses.

2. Auxilium Tempore Edwardi Tertii.

3. A Register of St. Radigund's Monastery.

12. An octavo Bound of Manors and their owners in Kent.

8. The Charter of Romney Marsh on Vellum.

11. A folio Common Place Book for Kent.

4. The Charter of the 5 ports.
 4. A MS. entitled Castrum Dovor in Sheets folio.
 4. Ditto Entitled Quinqz Portus.
 6. A Mem^{dm} Book in folio of Sir Edw^d and Sir Anth^y Dering's.
-
9. Imperfect Copy of Domesday. .
 10. Escheats in small folio.
-
13. Small 4to relating to the Foundations of Religious Houses.
 3. A Register of s^t Laurence's.
 7. A Register of Xst church in Cantry.
 3. 2 Registers of s^t Augustine's in Canty.
 5. 5 Loose sheets of Escheats.
 5. 4 Ditto of Inquisitions.
 5. 2 Ditto of Fines and Clause Rolls.
 0. Extract from a folio of Mr Thynnes.
- A Copy of the Mem^{dm} Left with Sir Edw^d Dering.
1. . . 2 Bound Folios Containing Extracts of Charters relating to Religious Houses in Kent.
 2. A Parcel of Loose papers in folio Containing Aids Granted in Several Reigns of Lands in Kent.
 3. Ditto Containing Transcripts of charters relating to St. Austin's, St. Radigund's, and st. Laurence's Religious Houses in Kent.
 4. Ditto relating to the 5 Ports.
 5. Escheats in the County of Kent in several Reigns.
 6. Part of a Folio unbound Containing Collections of the Family of Dering.
 7. A small folio relating to Christ Church in Canterbury.
 8. . . 6 Loose Parchment Leaves relating to Romney Marsh.
 9. . . Imperfect Copy of Domesday, etc., in small folio.
 10. . . Ditto Containing Escheats in Various Reigns.
 11. A Small port folio Containing Collections for Kent.
 12. An Octavo Bound Containing Knights Fees in Kent.
 13. A small thin Quarto relating to the foundations of Religious Houses.
-

No. 31.

DEAR SIR,

I sit down With no small reluctance to Write this Letter to you. I feel my presumption in it, and yet I trust to your feelings, & the friendship that has for so many years subsisted

between us. I have been near 7 years Within these Walls, during the latter part of which I have struggled against adversity, & by the help of many noble & generous friends who knew me in the days of Prosperity, among Whom yourself stands foremost, & by the Labours of my Pen I have till now borne myself up from sinking under it. My property has been torn from me & kept possession of by the villany of an Attorney, & the Profit I hoped for from my History is locked up & useless to me; from the Ballance due to the Printer, & the Copies, upwards of 260 remain, an unsaleable pledge for it With him. These Were all my hopes, & they are frustrated, & I am now Come to a state of distress & woe, & I feel it still more severe from the want of those necessaries Which my Age, & What I have formerly known, require for my Comfort. You have at all times, sir, shewn your friendship most liberally to me, I feel the Weight & gratitude of it, it has never been from my mind, & my firm hope Was never to have trespassed on you again; but tho' I struggled against it & delayed it for this Week past, yet I am at last, at last Compelled by Urgent Necessity, hard fate—that is so—to request you once more to assist me in the hour of my distress. You have known me, sir, When my Heart has been open to all my friends, & my Hospitality equal to my Heart, a bitter & yet not an unpleasing remembrance, & I am far from repenting of it—that has long been passed by, never to return. With much diffidence I request the Kindness of your Assistance in my present Unexpected Crisis of Affliction, for it has come on me Suddenly & Unexpectedly, When I had no Idea of the so hasty approach of it. I am no spendthrift here, sir, I live Secluded from every one, almost a Hermit, on hard scanty fare, & only know the plenty & Luxuries of life by distant remembrance. I think from all your past Kindness to me, that you will not refuse my request in the hour of my distress, & be assured it Will be ever remembered by me With a heartfelt Gratitude by, Dear Sir,

Your most obliged & faithfull humble Servant,

King's Bench,

EDWARD HASTED.

Southwark.

July 12th, 1801.

[Addressed as before.]