B.65. GEO ADDL MSS 32,1450

Before we give an account of the particular persons employ'd by K. William it may not be amiss to draw the great outlines of the characters of the most considerable people during this Reign, whether of Court or Country party, Whigg or Tory, this will prevent frequent repetitions & deviations from our principal subject, besides the advantage in the subsequent History from a previous acquaintance with the principal Actors.

Bentink Earl of Portland is the first person we shall begin with, who for several Years appear'd the most favour'd & dear Servant the King had; honour'd with his Prince's confidence from his Childhood, entrusted with his most secret Affairs, thoughts & wishes, he serv'd his Master with great fidelity & docility, ever obedient to the least command, this is the best side to

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view him, for as a Man he was proud & cold, dry in his manner, greatly many Enemys without acquiring one friend, austerlacious; as a favorite insolent & rapacious; both Soldier & Counsellor, without superior parts in either, ever acting or appearing to act as an instrument, seldom or never by principle; the titles, offices & emoluments he enjoyd were beyond estimation, a Peerage, Groom of the Stole, Privy purse, Windsor Great Park &c. All Scotland put into his hands, which he managed by Carstairs one of the Kings Chaplains there, who, from his power was generaly called the Cardinal of Scotland, to these were added many precious Grants of the antient demesnes of the Crown.

It is no wonder if in this Country where foreigners are esteemd intruders & Court favours the right of natural born Subjects, that such an accumulation

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GEO ADDL MSS 32/1451

of gifts & emoluments & could excite malice, envy & hatred; Lord Portland had his share of all these, many of the reproaches cast on him reflecting on the King himself, who did not however diminish in the least his favour to him, or the contrary he maintained his ascendancy unshaken, till supplanted by Keppel.

Keppel from a page rose to the greatest pitch of favour that ever any man obtain'd about the King; Lord Portland observ'd the progress of it with great uneasiness, & returning from his Embassy in France, unable to support the superiority of his rival, he took occasion from a small preference given him in prejudice of the Office of Groom of the Stole, to lay down all his employments, very contrary to the King's wishes, who still gave him his confidence, tho the

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offer had his favour, & that so entirely that he disposed of every thing in the King's power to give.

Keppel was cheerful possessed all the arts of a Court, civil to every body, ~~without beyond measure of Portland~~ but so immoderate pleasure that he was scarce able to submit to the attendance necessary to support his post.

Sidney made E. of Romney was one of the greatest National favourites the King had, he had been employed Envoy to the States General by Charles II. when he laid the foundation of the Confidence K. William afterwards ~~reposed~~ placed in him; he retreated to Loo when his Mother Algernoon's destruction was intended, out of gratitude for the protection given him, & resentment for the cruel treatment of his family, he entered warmly into the Revolution

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GEO ADDL MSS
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1452

both by his negociations in Italy, & correspondence in England, he went out an adventurer & return'd a Minister, little genius, no turn to enterprize, & very compliant to his Master's Will, he call'd himself a Whig & was such in Theory but not in practice, desirous of every one's friendship he promis'd everything ask'd him, but, for fear of the resentment of others he never performed any thing, & was only a Solicitor for himself; in all State equaly remiss, not without suspicion of corruption in business, he follow'd pleasures with the greatest avidency, & in them consumed all the fortune he got, for he was very profuse without the least Liberality which brought him a multitude of followers without one real friend; he was so great a favorite that when accus'd before the Queen by Sir Rowland

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Gwynne of selling places in Ireland, he
call'd a Council to justify him & turn'd
Sir Rowland out of the Green Cloth.
He had the first Regt. of Guards
was Ld. Warden of the Cinque Ports, &
Secretary of State, with the gift of the
Irish forfeitures, & afterwards Ld. Lieutenant
of Ireland.
Spencer E. of Sunderland is the next
person we shall mention who is generally
characterizd as a Man of great abilities
join'd with great cunning, dissimulation,
foresight, & penetration, but without
principle or sense of any of the Machivelian
kind; this Lord had offerd his services to
the P. of Orange through the E. of Danby
when Secretary of State for the first time
to Ch. II. till that time he had voted against
the exclusion Bill, but then was for
it against the express orders of the
King, which brought on his disgrace

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GEO ADDL MSS 32/1453

but had address enough to get into power again as well as into his Secretarys Office, the King himself mediating a reconciliation between him & the D. of York, who on his Brothers death received him as his Uncle without the appearance of it, for he managed every thing through Father Peters, then turned Roman Catholic, received the Garter & promoted all the extravagances of this unhappy Reign, at the same time keeping up the closest correspondence with his Uncle Sidney & when the Revolution was on the point of taking effect, he carefully diverted & overruled every measure that was likely to defeat it, but all this conduct had render'd him so black that the new Government durst not owne him, he was even excepted out of the general pardon, & it cost much time & trouble before the King durst

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place at open confidence in him, for he was ~~familiar in the~~ closet long before he had any public office.

Returning to the Church of England he had an office at Court, ~~&~~ both party combinations forcing him to resign it, the King gave him £2000. a Year for two lives. During this whole interval he never ceased keeping up managements with the Republican party, Dr. Swift tells us that histor ~~let~~ out in life upon the Republican principles.

Osborne Marquiss of Carmarthen was also a principal figure in this Reign he had long been eminent for a florid Speaker, first in the House of Commons, & afterwards when treasurer to K. Ch. II. in the House of Lords; he was at first acceptable to the people for having succeeded Ld. Clifford a Roman Catholic & great things were expected from him, but the King who knew him better

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GEO ADD
MSS 32/
1454

prefer'd him from other views, he wanted to get money from the Commons, & knew Osborne to be a fit person; he became a great favorite by continually acquitting in the King's Commands; endued with great plausability & artifice he was ever furnish'd with reasons to inquire of the King to change his purpose if hazardous or impracticable, or to satisfy with his excuses in case of failure.

The length he could stretch his complisance appears in his joining Montague in soliciting a pension for the Crown of England of 6,000,000. of Livres of France; he managed the House of Commons without attempting to take off the Leaders, solicitous to get a majority by preferring a good division before an eloquent speech.

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He entangled himself in the prosecution of the Popish Plot, from where his adversarys took occasion to abuse him with having been an accomplice, & on an impeachment, sent him to the Tower, but the King granted him a pardon & proposed making him Marquiss of Carmarthen, which last favour he declined at present accepting, & the pardon was overruled by the House of Commons as irregular in a case of impeachment, however as he had the Queen's particular favour having in a manner made the match between her & K. William, besides the merit he had in taking a strong part at the Revolution, he got out of his difficultys. She wished to give him a great Post, & he himself aspired at the treasury, but Sunderland & Halifax stood in his way

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GEO ADDL MSS
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1455

besides the opposition of the House of Commons who lik'd it better in Commission, he had many friends whom he was anxious to oblige, he thought it better therefore to accept any office than none, was made President of the Council & Marquiss of Carmarthen.

Finch E. of Nottingham of all the Nobility seem'd the most unlikely to accept favours if offer'd & the least entitl'd to hope for them; he had oppos'd the Exclusion Bill, would have nothing to do with the Revolution, renounc'd all concern in it, even after he had promis'd to embark, besides exerting the utmost vigour to traverse the progress of the New Settlement; but the firmness he had shown, the character he had maintain'd, made him thought a necessary acquisition & his

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having been eight or nine Years at the head of the Admiralty, was of no small service to him as most of the Flag Officers were at his Command, besides his zeal for the Church & aversion to Nonconformists gave him a powerful party among the Clergy; to all this we may add that his strong love for the Prerogative came to be no crime when he had once acquiesced to the new Establishment.

He was naturally grave & solemn both in Public & private, his prejudices exceeded both his parts & Virtues, he could easily start scruples when necessary & as easily dispense with them when they had served his turn, tho stiff in Office he could bend at Court, he idolized his own Sufficiency & importance, & yet suffered L.d. Portland to be the first mover in foreign Affairs.

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GEO ADDL MSS 321
1456

Herbert E. of Pembroke when Younger Brother was bred to the Law which enabled him when a Peer to do business with advantage, & to show more than ordinary Learning, indeed he had an affectionate regard for Arts & Sciences, & their Professors, he wished to be useful to his Country in any Office, unmixed with that Ambition which seizes every opportunity to get into place, he possest a candour that bordered on Credulity, which not only endangered his being imposed on, but made him the division of People much beneath him in understanding, his integrity was so unshaken that looking on all parties as being in the wrong, he would never enlist with any; this singular Character made all which to be well with him, & as he went much lengths

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with each in their turns, he had often in his power to be serviceable to the King himself.

He possessed most of the great offices by turns, & that irreproachably if not ably, for whenever the King found himself under difficulties concerning a vacant office from various pretensions, he got a respite from persecution by putting in Ld. Pembroke, who afterwards would resign it with as great indifference as he received it; this temper softened the displeasure of those disappointed & preserved him from hatred & envy.

When placed at the head of the Admiralty he was a total stranger to every branch, but by great application acquired so thorough a knowledge of it & conducted it so wisely, that he got the esteem even of the Sea, who generally despise a Land Man in that Office

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GEO ADDL
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1457

He left this Board for Privy Seal on the resignation of Ld. Halifax.

Thus far Ralph; Burnet gives him a different character, says he went into all the measures of the Torys keeping free from Criminal engagements, that he had a restless spirit, & could not bear being out of business; he tells us that his vivacity & judgement as well as reputation fail'd in his latter Years, & he ends the whole with this severe expression, that he lost he dyed a better man than he liv'd.

Rapin's Continuator also tells us that he was a turbulent Man & hated both by Whigs & Torys.

Ld. Godolphin a Younger Brother of a Cornish family was page to Charles II. famous when very Young for playing deep with great temper; he possess'd the greatest reserve & taciturnity with great application & dexterity in business, remarkable for his probity he chose the

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Revenue walk & followed that business under
Ld. Sunderland, he had been for the Exclusion
still like him, & reconciled to the Duke, by
his assistance, he became secretary of state,
a Clerk & afterwards first Commissioner
of the Treasury, in the reach reign he was
taken from the Cabinet to be Chamberlain
to the Queen & served afterwards in the
Treasury under Ld. Bellamis; he seems to
have had no share in the Revolution, he
attended K. James to the sea side, & it is
affirmed that he kept a constant
correspondence with K. James & Queen
He was made Commissioner of the Treasury two years after the Revolution
to her death, wealth was not his object;
honours were more forced on him than
solicited by him, he seldom made
parade of his power, & as he hated the
cringing of a levee he never would have
one, ~~also~~ not inaccessable in the
time of business, & despising all advantages
that could be devised by feeding people

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GEO
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1458
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with false hopes.

Cavendish E. of Devonshire had but middling parts tho grave in his person & much the man of quality, fond of the pageantry of a Court & very intent on his own dress & figure, he had the Garter & professed the Office of Ld. Steward.

Sackville E. of Dorset had excellent parts, was esteemed the most polished critic & genteelest satirist of his time, but severe, a great Patron to men of Letters, very agreable & accomplished, yet was never considerable as a speaker in the House or Undertaker in the State, & was liable to much censure for conivingat if not sharing with those who carry'd every Vacant Office to market; he himself made the Garter & was made Ld. Chamberlain.

Seymour D. of Somerset had no great parts very high & vain of his family, rather blunt than courtly in delivering his

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sentiments, on all other occasions cautious, ceremonious, an oeconomist with generosity, capricious in his affections, unsteady in his engagements, very loyal to the crown; he had the Garter from K. Charles II. was Ld. of the Bedchamber to K. James II. from which Office he was dismissed on his refusing to be present at the reception of the Nuncio; the Revolutioners did not solicit him, for which reason he opposed it & continued in opposition to the end of his Reign, when Ld Rochester made him a convert to the Court.

Butler D. of Ormond was a Man of great spirit & galantry, a Courtier without selfishness or deceit, too much the dupe of his own vanity & generosity, often putting it out of his own power to be just by being every man's patron & solicitor, & keeping his table, purse, & heart open to all without distinction

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1459

he was Lieut. General, Capt. of the first troop of Guards, & Ld. of the Bedchamber, he had accompanied the P. & D. of Yorke when they left St. James, & was personally dear to K. William, for his Father Ld. of Yorks sake & his own; he served in every Campaign during this War, but distinguished more by his bravery than conduct, he acquired the character of the most popular man in England by his condescention, galantry & profusion, & seemed to have no ambition of any other kind.

Savile Marquiss of Halifax stood next the D. of Buckingham for wit, eloquence, & elegant pen in Ch. Charles Court, nor did he want knowledge or understanding sufficient for any business; he had much vanity, great singularity in his actions, & a constant affectation of superiority which appeared in whatever he said or did, created him more enemys than his Wit & parts did

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admirers; his connections were few & those he had never lasted long, so that when out of place he found himself without a friend, he is commonly ranked among the Tories, yet the share he had in the Brook House Committee proves his first professions were to the Whigs; he was one of the warmest in the address for removing the D. of York from Court, the most active to prevent his exclusion from the Throne; he accepted that Prince's Commission to treat with the P. of Orange in 1688. but made use of that opportunity to open a Treaty for himself; when made Ld. Privy Seal after the Revolution he took care to keep a back door open with St. Germans in case the new settlement should fail; he published a labour'd piece to reconcile the public to the Character of a trimmer, which was in reality his own.

Chesterfield E. of Mulgrave had imagination, pleasantry & middling talent for Poetry

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1460

& as much taste, politeness, & sentiment as was sufficient for a Man of Quality to make a figure in a frolicsome Court where the summum bonum was grafting for a Wit, & living as a libertine; his understanding was far above a common one but ~~[illegible]~~ beyond genius, he was brave in his person, of a sower & sullen temper, loose in his morals, coarse in his pleasures, & wavering in his Political measures & attachments.

He had the Garter from Charles II. whom he served as Chamberlain to his death, got the same office under K. James & held it to the Abdication, he was in opposition during K. William's Reign & a Wit, Poet, rake & Gamester, terrible orator & Politician took a great share in every Debate, he spoke as premeditately & with great effect & admiration.

Mordaunt E. of Peterborough had more of an original in his composition than any other Man of his time, quick, lively,

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full of fire, frank & communicative, a great projector, neither to be discouraged by difficultys, wearyd with disappointments, or terrifyd by dangers; prodigal to a degree, more in love with fame than Virtue, dealing in long narratives & declamations & happy to be listned to even in a Coffee House; impatient of opposition, angry when slighted & not to be affronted with impunity, too volatile to be always consistent, descending to actions even sometimes beneath himself, but oftener soaring above every one else.

He was the first of the Nobility who openly discover'd an attachment to the P. of Orange having got K. James's leave in 1686. to offer him his service & on his arrival at the Hague, he represented the attempt on England, that Prince had been long thinking of as

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1461

a matter of great difficulty, to be the
most facile, trifling attempt. He was
Ld. of the Bedchamber to K. William, &
for some time at the head of the treasury.
Both Ld. Delamere had been a violent
excluder in the last Parliament of Charles II.
he was also a violent partizan of the
D. of Monmouth, on which account he was
try'd for High Treason but was acquitted; he
seem'd in this & his other actions to believe
himself in the right, ever against tyranny,
what he did he affirm'd to be according to
his conscience, & his life was so irreprouchable
that his adversarys could scarce find
any to call his professions in
question; he was a violent enemy of the
Tory part of the administration, was
made E. of Warrington by K. William
& Chancellor of the Exchequer, which
place he did not keep above a Year;
Burnet accuses him of taking money in
this Office, but it is a rumour only &

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unsupported by any other cotemporary Writer.
he was Author of many Political pieces,
wherein he endeavours to make the Tory
answerable for the miscarriages of
this Reign.

Herbert E. of Torrington of K. William's
creation from one of the principal promoters
of the Revolution became through long
persecution a determined opposer; he
was abandoned to pleasure & action,
Religion made no part of his system,
coarse in his ideas, rough in his
expressions, & imperious in his manner;
he was a consummate Master of every
thing regarding the Marine; Pushed
tells us that he embarked into the
Revolution scheme out of hatred to
the E. of Dartmouth, he was truely
censur'd for his behaviour in the sea
fight off Beachy where however he
was by the unprejudice thought to have

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GEO ADDL MSS 32/
1462

gain'd more honour considering the superiority of the Enemy, than if he had gain'd a Victory with equal force; his manners made him odious to the King, being much more a Sea man than a Courtier; Ld. Nottingham hated him for setting up the Admiralty Board against the Secretary of State's office; advantage was taken of the crisis of affairs to run him with clamour, & render his excellent parts useless to his Country.

Churchill E. of Marlborough, no man was ever more differently represented than this Lord; his friends with the utmost panegyric place him at the top of human nature, while his Enemys with all the malignity of invective make him a Judas Iscariot. he began with page to the D. of York, then an Ensign in the Guards; from this a Capt. of Grenadiers under the D. of Monmouth in Flanders; Miss Jennings

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whom he married proved of the greatest advantage to his fortune by her having possession of the Ds. of Denmark, so that a Regt. of Dragoons, a Scotch Peerage, the third troop of Horse Guards, a Commission of Lieut. General, Envoy to the Court of France, & an English Barony was the rapid progress of K. James's favours, certain it is that he has been greatly accused of ingratitude to that Prince, which his friends justify by the love of his Country, while his Enemys affirm he never did nor said any thing but with a view to his own interest. he certainly was fond of money, & therefore to be rich was the fundamental he sate out with; Court favour & a superiority in the Military Art were the principal materials for his future fortune & after the D. of Monmouth's death, nothing stood in his way, & in this light the introduction of the D. of Orange was

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,
1463

unfavorable; but the prospect of War in the new Reign, & the hopes of commanding the Army amused him into the steps he took at that time, by which means he on a sudden found himself in a situation he did not foresee.

K William had Generals of his own whose attachment to him he was certain of & in them he determined to put his trust but however he concealed this by great attentions to Ld. Churchill, he added a Regt. of Guardes to his Troops of Horse, gave him the Bedchamber & made him E. of Marlborough & sent him with a command under Ge. Waldeck into Flanders, where however he met with so many slights that he came home disgusted, which with some other things that happened in his Expedition to Ireland, did notwithstanding the extreme coolness of his temper, make him break out into complaints that were soon followed by his dismission from the

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King's service; the habitual composure he enjoyed was of the greatest service to him in his Military operations; few Generals were ever more successful, notwithstanding many things he had to struggle with, which ever attends an Army composed of the troops of different Nations; this appeared plainly with regard to the Dutch & Austrian Officers, from whom he made many complaints; to great Military talents were joined also those of the Cabinet, but too great a fondness for money greatly sullied these eminent qualitys.

Much more might be said of him, but we meet with such contradictions in every part of his character that a future age will be capable of forming a much better judgement of it than we can at present. besides it will open more in the next Reign when we see him placed in a higher point of light.

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,
1464

Hyde E. of Rochester second son of
Ld. Chancellor Clarendon seemed on his Father's
fall too great a courtier to resent it, & rather
of a submissive turn, but power brought on
the love of it, he grew proud of office &
impatient of contradiction, very regular in
his private life, formal in his manner,
not without abilities & accomplishments,
but so assuming & self important, so
little accommodating to his opinion of
others that the more advantage he
obtained, the more ill will he excited.
He was 1st Commissioner of the Treasury
in the Reigns of both the Brothers, but
chose to resign it under K. James rather
than part with his Religion, when got a
grant of 4000 a year ~~considerable grant~~ out of the
Post Office for two lives.

Neither he nor his Brother Clarendon
took any part in the Revolution &
tho he seemed willing in the debates
to admit the Validity of the Throne, yet
he continued inflexible with regard to the

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filling it with the P. of Orange; this rendered him so obnoxious at Court that a resumption of the Grant was talk'd of, but the Queen stood his Friend, so that he continued in possession of it. Tho at the head of the opposition when Ld. Marlborough was dis grac'd he came into play as a Cabinet Counsellor tho without Office, which might be owing to the extreme bad terms he was always on with the Churchills.

Talbot E. of Shrewsbury was of the most amiable disposition with excellent parts, he changed his Religion in K. James's Reign & went over to the P. of Orange risking his life & fortune in the cause he believed to be that of God & his Country, he became a cordial friend to the Whiggs from the moment of his conversion, without losing his Charity for the Torys, he was made of a temper to smile on all around him

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1
1465

& seemed to desire nothing so much as to serve & oblige all mankind.

Soon after the Revolution he was made Secretary of State which he soon resigned but got it again with the Garter & Patent of Duke; his health obliging him to go abroad, he resigned the Seals a second time towards the end of this Reign & was made Ld. Chamberlain.

When first out of business he betray'd no purpose of opposition, but party connections did not let him keep this temperature long & on the abbrupt dismission of Ld. Marlborough he discover'd a great degree of animosity & resentment, when that Ld. was sent to the Tower he not only protested strongly against it, but made himself responsable for his innocency which was so highly resented at Court that his name was struck out of the Council List

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Besides these people of rank whom we mention'd, there were many others in great Offices in this Reign, but as they were either mere Courtiers, or put in to stop a gap, we avoid mentioning them; such were Cornwallis who succeeded Ld. Pembroke as Privy Seal, Overkirk Master of the Horse, Zulestein Master of the Robes &c.

With regard to Ecclesiastical affairs men of moderate tempers, & tollerating principles were promoted to the dignitys of the Church, under Tillotson who had the See of Canterbury, a Divine of great ability & accomplishments, of an amiable temper & deportment, endow'd with great meekness, forbearance, & charity, & therefore extremly fitted to mollify the eager & mutinous spirit of the inferior Clergy.

We next shall take a slight survey of the Law; the Great Seal was twice put into Commission, Maignard a shrewde, old

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GEO ADD MSS 321
1466

practicioner, was put at the head of the first, he was inclin'd to the Whiggs, but more to the profits of his profession than to any thing else.

Holt was Chief Justice of the Kings Bench, a man of great knowledge, great impartiality & steadiness.

Poole made Master of the Rolls owed his advancement more to party than any ~~[illegible]~~ his profession, showing generally more zeal than candour, & when Speaker of the House of Commons acting more as an instrument of his party that president of that Assembly.

Polifen first Attorney General & then Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, was a able Lawyer an artful but dry Pleader, a very indifferent Judge, he had been the creature of Jefferies & when on the Bench shewed so strong an inclination in all Court causes to

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follow his old patron's example, that the opposition used to call him Jefferies II.

Treby succeeded Pollexfen both as Attorney General & Chief Justice, he had always been a Whigg, but violently abandoned to every party purpose.

Somers on Treby's being made Chief Justice became Attorney General he had been early engaged in political pursuits & writ several pieces in Charles II. time in which he shew'd a superior understanding, & a thorough knowledge of the Constitution, Law, & History of the times, & yet which is extraordinary did not become eminent as a pleader till Council for the Bishops in 1687. when his tallents became display'd, & acknowledg'd imediately, & this prov'd the way for the various office he afterwards enjoy'd till by getting the Seals he was placed at the head of his profession; his public conduct however

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GEO ADDL MSS.
321/1467

was not without blame, chiefly owing to the defference he paid the Crown when in Office, & the violence of those with whom he was connected when out of it; it was acknowledged even by his adversarys that no low born man was ever so highly bred, & that he had such a command of himself that no unguarded ~~ill~~ word ever escaped from him even when he met with the greatest provocation; he is said when he resigned the Seals to have made a more important figure than when he received them, & certainly no fallen Minister ever retained a stronger ascendancy in the House of Lords than he did.

~~Lord~~ Trevor succeeded Somers as ~~Solicitor~~ General more by merit & character than favour.

We now come to those of the administration who were in the House of Commons.

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Admiral Rufsel is the first person we shall mention, he was by nature impetuous, arbitrary by habit, open to flatery, from in his friendships, fierce & irreconcilable in his enmity; he was an early revolutioner very considerable from being at the head of the Fleet, & much beloved both by Officers & the Common Men, till great power gave him opportunity of showing that impatient & fierce & roaring temper.

Upon being disappointed first Lord of the Admiralty on Ld. Torrington's disgrace, he became as much offended as if he had been stripp'd of all his Offices, & thus wrangling with his own ill usage, he was the loudest in complaints against the Court when Ld. Marlborough was dismiss'd, & almost upbraided the King with that Earl's services; this could not fail of producing the greatest resentment

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GEO ADDL MSS 321
1468

against him & yet notwithstanding his mortal hatred to Ld. Nottingham, the king on his departure to Holland left him the Command of the Fleet, & even afterwards when an invasion was expected & his removal proposed & debated, it was overrul'd for want of firmness in Nottingham.

Sir John Trevor was taken from the Bar to be made Speaker by K. James II. in which Office he discover'd such Parliamentary abilities that he was placed in that office by K. William again in his second Parliament, & had very much the secret of managing the House; but the venality of his old profession hung about him, acting with little principle that he lost all character notwithstanding which he was made Master of the Rolls.

Hambden had more learning than Wisdom, more violence than steadiness, never pleased with what he was, ever wish'd what he was not, the disgrace

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& danger he had run into in Ld. Russell's affair with K. James, the infamy of saving his life at the expence of his honour in making a confession of all he knew to that Prince, had cast a gloom over his mind & deportment; he is not mentioned as one of the Revolutioners, but considering all the hardships he had met with in the former Reign there is no doubt but he must have been hearty in that interest; on his first being made Chancellor of the Exchequer he recovered his spirits & regained some degree of confidence; but on the Torys getting back their ascendancy, & he finding himself inefficient in Office, Council, & Parliament, became as much depressed as ever, he continued however in his place, tho highly discontented & without zeal for the Service; if he was not able in

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1469

Treasury matters, it was more owing to want of experience than capacity, besides the times did not furnish him with the opportunitys that occur now every day of raising large contributions, the Members were too dependant on their Constituents to venture giving great sums; any supplys granted were to be given on terms agreable to the People & they were at that time continualy preferring a present abatement to every future consideration.

Sir Robert Howard continu'd Auditor of the Exchequer in this Reign the place being for life; but inefficient like Hamden every where, he acquitted his Office with the loss of his Popularity by turning advocate for Ld. Shaftesbury after having undertaken to manage an impeachment against him; but his controversy with Treasurer Osborne help'd to recover it, & the facilitating K. Williams business in the House of Commons help'd

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to make amends for the neutrality he had kept in the last Reign & at the Revolution, but Osborne his old Enemy was still too mighty for him, & considerable only from the concurrence of accidents, I have over he lost all his importance.

Wharton the Comptroller had a singular Character not easily discovered, call'd a Republican, but wished in fact to subject both the Regal & Popular power to the Will of a Oligarchy a Liberty by nature, son to Ld. Wharton a Whigg & rigid Presbeterian, he follow'd both his family creed in Politics & Divinity without ever suffering any Article to trouble him in his practice, he held every thing to be lawfule & that no man was fit to be a party Leader that had any reserve of principle, passion, or affection, that he was not ready to sacrifice to facilitate his purpose, or who was not proof against all the censure

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,
1470

& reproach that could follow detection,
he looked on Modesty as an infirmity,
despised decorum as much in appearance
as in his actions, he was indecent with
the Ladys, irreligious with the Clergy,
& mode right & wrong equivocal terms
with a Judge, he is even said to have
talked in a very free style with the
King himself to whom he once said
K. James was not so far off but he
might be brought back again, to
which the King replyed ~~that~~ <u>when ever</u>
<u>that must be no one shall do it but</u>
<u>myself</u>.

Notwithstanding all this profligacy,
he was by his intrigues, fortune, activity,
eloquence & firmness so useful to his
party, that the ashamed of him they
durst not disowne him, & some were
so dazzl'd with his abilitys, & captivated
with his pleasantrys, that they were
blind to his enormities, & thought they became
him, in short the person most like him was

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deem'd by his party the greatest Politician; his Faction make him a Patriot of the first class, & in the dedication of one of the Spectators he is declar'd to have every accomplishment; but Burnet the Writer of these times is entirely silent upon him.

Sir Edward Seymour was if possible prouder of his name & birth than the D. of Somerset, he was naturally blunt & rude, prevailing, famous in Parliament for Cunning & caprice; if gratify'd in one demand he thought it entitl'd him to another, if disappointed in any demand he show'd his resentment in terms too strong to be forgiven; he serv'd as speaker under Danby's administration for several sessions, but turning violent against Popery he was nominated by the Popular party a second time to the Chair, but the King not consenting

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GEO ADDL MSS
32,
147

he was set aside; after this he got into favour with the Court again, & accepted the Office of Treasurer of the Navy, was impeached for misdemeanors in his Office, which disgrace stuck to him as long as he liv'd; we are told that being angry at some Courtier in the House, he drop'd the question what should be done to the Man he thing delighted to Honour, & was answer'd Let him be made Treasurer of the Navy.

Tho a Veteran Tory he join'd the P. of Orange at Exeter, & sign'd the association, but being as he thought neglected went into the opposition, however when the Torys prevail'd he was made a Commissioner of the Treasury & Cabinet Counsellor.

Burnet in his Memoires affirms that there was £30,000. when he quitted the Treasury of the Navy the accounts of which were

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never made up.

E. of Ranelagh had wit, humour, knowledge & vivacity & libertinism & pliance enough to be a favorite of Charles II. & was entrusted by that Prince with the administration of the Revenue of that Kingdom; but at affairs the King made a bargain with him to defray his expences at Windsor, & he turned out Ld. Essex for refusing to pass Ld. Ranelagh's accounts without Vouchers; he was afterwards made Paymaster of the Forces, in which Office he was continued by K. William untill the Tories came in; it is remarkable that the Whigs who had blackened him in every Reign for his Corruption in the Irish Revenue & his Conduct in Spain as to K. William's Reign, took as much pains to black him afterwards & on his dismission declared him White as Snow;

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,
1472

He was able in business, quick at expedients, insinuating, shrewd in suggesting pretensions & excuses for whatever was or was not done, & behaved with such dexterity that it was difficult to fasten any thing upon him in which the thing was not in some way involved & in such cases neither party chose to proceed to extremity.

Mr. Blathwaite was neither considerable by birth or parts, he was Secretary at War in subservience to L.d. Portland.

Having mentioned the two Gentlemen that held the Pay Office & Secretaryship at War, it may not be amiss to observe that all our Historians are silent on these Offices, hiding them establish'd they discourse of them as if they had always been so, & even the House of Commons admitted the Gentlemen who held them to take their seats among

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them without any enquiry concerning their origin, powers, or appointments. The Day Office grew up with the Guards, the other with the Army, & this last became under the King, the sole mover of Military officers in a manner that it may be independent even of the Cabinet, & the Treasury may happen to be forced into difficulties by acquiescing to, or disputing orders neither authorized by, nor comprehended in the establishment. There is no minute in the Journals concerning either of the Offices until Dec. 1692. when we find a resolution for settling the Pay of each at 20s. per diem, tho still without any limitation of their respective ordination or subordination of service.

Sir John Trevor was not of the most amiable Character, a mixture of the Hare, the Fox, & mark of a Lyon

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GLO ADDL MSS
321
1473

an intrepid face, with a bold ~~tongue~~ & feeble heart, fitter for party than action, not sensible of this himself till the experiment was to be made. He was the first mover of the exclusion Bill & undertook to arm the West in the Cause of Monmouth, but when the time of performance came he pretended sickness & fled out of the Kingdom for this he sheltered himself under the Prince of Orange, & studyd Civil Law, Politics & the interests of Europe in Holland, on the Revolution taking place, he was made Chief Justice of Chester, ~~[illegible]~~ became more eminent for his knowledge than eloquence, & according to a ~~[illegible]~~ preface of his own saw things with other eyes, & became as zealous in the service of the Crown, than he had formerly been in opposing it.

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Mr. Howe a Younger Brother of Sir Scrope Howe's sits in the House of Commons being one of those happy Speakers who are attended to whether approved or not, happy in expression rich in topicks joined with a plausible manner of stating them with imagery captivating when he pleases but very severe at other times, a great railler when over powered, so guarded as to be secure of a retreat & never to be put in confusion, either the best of friends or worst of Enemys, the Slave of his own passions & very skilful in fomenting or composing those of others; he was one of those who joined the Prince at Exeter had been Vice chamberlain to the Queen, but went into opposition on the Key being taken from him.

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GEO ADDL
MSS 32
1474

Mr. Finch Brother to Ld. Nottingham was long a practitioner at the Bar & had acquir'd a great deal of Mechanical Oratory, famous for long harangues, adorned with all the greatest beauties of language on the most barren matter, he had no promotion in this Reign, nor does he appear to have given himself up without reserve to his Brother, but as he had a great regard for him as head of his family, he seems to have given the Court little trouble as long as Ld. Nottingham held the Seals.

Granvile second son to Ld Bath had parts but was very self conceited, poetry, galantry & the fine Gentleman were the things he aimed at, so that it surprizd every body, when he apply'd himself to the business of the House of Commons, but his vanity made him aim at every distinction, he had been both in the Land & sea service, Colonell

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Governor of Deal, & Captain of a Man of War; Educated a Tory he remained one being left out of employment, he came to be esteem'd an excellent Chairman of the Committee, & came to be much attended as a Speaker.

Robert Harley was like Wharton a Scion from a Puritan Stock, Burnet makes him a noble one, Rolling broke allows him no merit but what he arrogated himself over a bottle of Claret, he also tells us that bred at the Inns of Court he retain'd in the height of power the low manner of jesting he used to in that company. this Severe author also affirms he was suspicious incommunicable, irresolute a cool friend & timid enemy, an interested insufficient, & ungrateful Servant, & a double dealer in many of which Swift seems to agree, however

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GEO ADDL MSS 32,1
1475

he as well as Burnet tells us he was eminently learned & his Parliamentary abilities are not call'd in question even by Ld. Bolingbroke who endeavours to debaid him as much as Swift tries to exalt him it appears he worked better in the dark than in the clear shine in the Political Line; as to the name given him of trickster & ambitious, with craft & cunning how few Ministers have ever been otherwise, he certainly had power ever in his eye, & sought preferment through the medium of popularity.

Paul Foley was like Harley bred in the Inns of Court, he came a joint adventurer with him in Politics & had the start of him, figure & character, he had lived long a tedious life remote from London, tho' ~~tho'~~ known at Court, & when he came into the House, chose to appear a plain country Gentleman, thoroughly versed in

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every thing relating to Parliament he had great weight in the House, which was more owing to his abilities that to his manner or language; he was rather formidable for the rigour of his principles than amiable in any thing & very different from Harley, ready to stoop either to power or popularity however he pushed his Catonic temper to an extreme, never making the proper allowances for the imperfections of human nature, & by too much bitterness created a suspicion that his austerity was owing more to a malignity of temper than to an honest discharging of his conscience.

Sir Christopher Musgrave was a man of solid parts blameless morals exemp by devotion, regular & wise & senatorial in his whole deportment. He was at the head of the Tory opposition had been long in Parliament without

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GEO ADDL MSS 32/
1476

reproach had acquir'd both experience & importance, he seem'd to avoid Courts & levees & to put his ambition solely on performing his duty to God & his Country; thus far we have found an amiable character, but if Burnet is to be believed not a perfect one for tho no offers could bring him into the King's interest, yet he occasionaly gave up several points of the greatest importance in the critical minute, for which Burnet affirms he received 12,000. at different times from the King.

Sir Thomas Lyttelton was a Whigg by profession but refractory or conformable according as he was posted, when treasurer of the Navy he endeavour'd to put himself on an equal foot with Ld. Shaftesbury by imitating his conduct; he was in great consideration with the King who knew that on occasions he could be prevail'd with to give up his party; no man

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was a better judge of the temper of the House nor turn of a Debate, nor was any better furnish'd with ingredients to protract or precipitate the issue of it.

Charles Montague was naturally vain & assuming, he is said to have grown giddy with his quick promotion, & to have behaved haughtily to his friends & ungratefully to his Patron Ld. Halifax whom he endeavoured to drive out of the closet, when he had got sufficient footing there himself; it must be said however to his honour that he did nothing in the great affair of recoinage without the advice of Newton & Locke; that he was Addison's first Patron & recommended Stymer to make the collection of Treaty;

He was Chancellor of the Exchequer & had great knowledge of the Public funds & treasury matters; his turn was at first to Wit & poetry, & when in business had great vivacity both of thought & expression; he gain'd a

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GEO ADDL MSS 321

1477 great ascendancy over the rest of the King's servants, spoke with great spirit, but rather too assuming, he was impeached by the House of Commons for receiving illegal grants &c. which he answered in such a manner that the charge turn'd out in his favour, whatever mistakes he might have fell into by his own passions & the current of the times he liv'd long enough to be convinc'd of them & had his life been yet longer, his second Administration would probably have made amends for any faults in his first.

Such were the Characters of the principal Actors in these problematical times, they afford us but a melancholy retrospect, & tis grating to humanity to observe in such a variety of portraits so little pleasing, so much disgusting; the rage of party no doubt has blacken'd

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some too much, & painted others in too gaudy colours, & the various contradictions we meet with from cotemporary writers makes it extremely difficult to get at the truth, & the more so that as yet the History is too recent & the descendants of many of these Gentlemen too strongly interested in what can be said, for & against their ancestors, some certain facts however may be drawn from this short Biography; we see plainly that both Whiggs & Torys having found their way equaly to Court lost the name of regular distinct Corps, they were no longer reduced under one or several confedente leads, no longer actuated by one will nor concurring in the same plan, on the contrary both parties were so broken, mixed & confounded that

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GEO ADDL MSS 32
1478

it is already become difficult to assign each individual his proper standard, Whiggs serving under Torys, these again opposing the Whiggs, & all preserving the same malevolence towards each other, all in their turns masking their ambition under Popularity, or turning supple tools to procure the emoluments & favours of the Crown.

What has been said we have chiefly aimed at giving a general idea of this or that person engaged in Ministry or opposition, a few remarks & striking circumstances was sufficient for this purpose, as it is not the annals of this Nation we are at present tracing but the History of its Revenue, Debts, & Taxes.

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