

Rev. Thomas Brooke Clarke

Rev. James Stainer Clarke 6 H.P. A

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Permouth 27 May 1813

Doctor Clarke begs leave to have the honor of submitting the following communication to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, with the most humble sense of duty. Having heard different reports, Dr Clarke is not certain whether the ~~Secret~~ Papers now in His Royal Highness's possession be the collection which was deposited at Rome, or in the Scotch College at Paris. If it be the former, there are some original letters which passed between the Pretenders wife & Count Alfieri, which Dr Clarke hopes to be able to add to His Royal Highness's collection. They are curious not only from the private & personal nature of the correspondence, but from its public relation to the schemes & objects of the Pretender & some of the Potentates of Europe with respect to the House of Hanover. The Duke of Cumberland had them some time in his possession; but whether His Royal Highness got them from him again, or not, Doctor Clarke is not sure. If not, it is probable he may have

lent them to Lord Hardwicke, who borrowed other very valuable Foreign Manuscripts from him & requested permission for Mr Gork to make some few extracts from them. He has written to Lord Hardwicke on the subject; & shall spare no exertion to recover them, in order to have the honor of presenting them to His Royal Highness.

If the collection be the one formerly deposited in the Scotch College at Paris, it is valuable, not only for the interesting Diary kept by James from the time of his departure from this Country, but for the authentic facts which may serve to compare & to correct the Misconceptions or Misstatements of Hume. One of those Doctor Clarke begs leave to mention. When Hume went to Paris, he was invited to dine at the Scotch College, & several of the French Literate were asked to meet him. After Dinner the Abbe Gordon who was Head of the College, told Hume that some errors had crept into his History relative to Mary Queen of Scots. Hume defended himself on the authenticity of his information. The Abbe assured him that his materials were erroneous instead of being authentic on some points.

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~~Rev. James Sturges Clarke~~ 6 H.P. 4

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Sturges resisted the imputation: and the Abbe begged permission of his company to absent himself for a few minutes in order to go to the Library & produce his proofs. He returned with the original papers, & begged they might be read. After this perusal, which brought forward incontrovertible evidence against Sturges, he acknowledged his error, & promised that in his next Edition he would correct his mistatements:— but he never did.

These papers will prove of great utility on some points, & there are important old tracts on others published during the time of the Stuarts which would prove a valuable addition to His Royal Highness's papers. While writing the Memoirs of the Kings Supremacy Dr Clarke made great research & found some of them to be very important, which he shall be leave to have the honor of depositing, as a First Fruit Offering of his official Service, in His Royal Highness's Library. And if the Prince Regent will permit him to examine what works of this kind are already in his Library, Dr Clarke may be enabled from his former Research to go back & select from old Collections some valuable & interesting additions for the Library. The collection of Modern Tracts in his Majesty's Library is perhaps the best in existence, as well as his collection of Charts, Military, Maritime, & Civil.

Dr Clarke  
27. May  
1813.

relates to Stuart Pope