

The Rev^d Mr^s Butler's narrative

74135

In the Month of July last I waited upon Mr Chaving
been long known to his family, to sollicit a favor of him, which
he told me it was not then in his Power to grant. He took that
Occasion to inquire into my Situation. I told him among
other things, that I was happy in the Friendship of the D^o
BP of Norwich. He express'd Satisfaction at it, for, says he,
he is a Man of great Candor and Sincerity.

In or about October I waited upon him again & repeated
my desire of that favor; he said, he could not undertake it, but
pointed out a Method, in which if the BP was disposed to
serve me, it might be done. The next time I waited upon him
I acquainted him, that his Lordship had cheerfully undertaken
his Part, and on that Occasion express'd my Respect for his
Lordship, and signified that I thought it an happy Event
for the Public, that he was entrusted with the great
national Charge of educating their R^h. His answer was,
that they had two good Men about them Mr Stone & Mr Scot.
The Conversation then changed, and I left him without any
Suspicion, that those Gentlemen were mentioned to dero-
gate from the Governor and Preceptor.

In less than a Month after I saw him again, when
the Bishop chanced to be named. He told me, that he thought

him

him a Man of Levity, much unacquainted with the World, that in Learning his Accomplishments were not so great as was generally imagined, in particular that he did not believe his Lordship understood Horace, as it was necessary towards the understanding of him to have a better Knowledge of Mankind, than he could pretend to; but that he wished Religion and Morality might be his Care in the Instruction of his Royal Pupils, for that a few Latin Words would be of little Use, especially as they could ~~never~~ ^{hardly} attain to any Perfection in the Latin Tongue. I heard him with Pain, but thought it improper to acquaint his Lordship with this, as it did not then appear to me to proceed from any settled Design against him, but only the Liberty usually taken with absent Characters in Conversation.

The next time I saw Mr C. much the same Language was repeated, and particularly the Necessity of training up their R^H to Religion and Virtue, of which he added the late Archbishop of York was a very bad Tutor. I then ventured to tell him, that I wished his Lordship knew wherein his Conduct was thought defective, tho' I should be sorry to convey the Intelligence, but that I was sure he had his Undertaking too much at heart not to rectify whatever he was convinced was amiss. He told me it was too late in Life to alter Habits, that he was a Man of

Levity

Levity and not fit for the Office he had undertaken.
74136 I then gave his Lordship some distant hints, but still thought it wrong to betray what had past, not imagining it to be of Consequence enough to disturb his Peace of Mind, or to create a Coolness between him & Mr C.

In the Beginning of February I waited upon Mr C again, when he told me, that the Bishop had express'd himself very strongly my Friend, but at the same time said he was sorry to say it, he was one of the most improper Men in the World for his Post, that his Conversation was full of Levity, flying from one thing to another, nothing of Steadiness or Dignity in him; that he saw him at Court boasting to every body of what he had done for their R^{ty}, that he thought it indecent in him to be seen so often at Court, for his leisure hours should be supposed to be spent in thoughts upon his Charge; that he had no Authority over their R^{ty}, that he supposed he undertook the Office with a View of farther Promotion, that if he was a wise Man, the way to make them his Friends would be to discharge his duty to them.

I saw Mr C again soon after, when he told me he had been spending an Afternoon with his Lordship, and had much Conversation with him, and that he found him very

very much affected at not succeeding so well as he wished in his Undertaking. He said he was sorry to see his Lordship so affected, but that he might now see by Experience, that he was unequal to his high Office, that he ought from the Beginning to have called in all possible help, and not to have trusted to his own Strength, as if the whole weight of the Education lay upon him; that Lord Harcourt was a very worthy Man, but that he and the Bishop had determined to support one another. I then said, that I believed the Bishop had an Esteem for his Judgment, and would be glad to receive any useful hint from him, and I left him that day with a seeming good Impression concerning his Lordship.

The last time I saw Mr C. was on Monday the second instant, when having succeeded and not knowing how far I was obliged to him, I went to thank him. The Conversation soon turned to the former Subject, and he expressed himself with more Bitterness than ever; that their R H were in the most improper hands in the World, that he never saw a Man of such Levity as the Bishop; that when he first saw him he could not help asking where they pick'd up this Man; that he, the Bishop, had boasted indeed early of the Proficiency made by their R H, but that being one day at Carlton House, he look'd into their Books and
found

found they could not spell; that when his Lordship first enter'd upon his Office he set out upon Latitudinarian Principles, but finding it would not make his Court, he had altered his Tone, that all Authority was gone, that he gave Advice to their R^H in the most ridiculous manner; that Caesar was not a proper Book for them, that Tully's Offices was the most proper Book; that Lord Harcourt had said indeed, that Caesar contained much good Sense and true Policy, but that it was impossible he could know what it contained; that Mr Scot was an admirable Mathematician, & Mr Stone a Man of uncommon Abilities, but that they could only learn a few Latin Words of the Preceptor, that when he comes to discourse of the Interests of the several Powers, he must talk like a Parrot; that their R^H can never receive Instruction till they have a good Opinion of the Instructor, that Morality they can never learn without an Example, and that but little Example could be expected from one who had been bred under the late Archbishop of York. I told him his Lordship was universally esteemed, and that I apprehended the Ministry had a high Opinion of his ~~Abilities~~ ^{or Words to that Purpose.} Abilities. He answered, that their Eyes would open. The Mention of Lord Harcourt led me to say, that he was esteemed a Nobleman of great Virtues, and particularly

larly

larly qualified for his Office by his good Breeding. His Answer was, that he had family Virtues, but the Breeding of a Groom. After this and more to the same Purpose, in which the Duc de Montausier and Bishop of Meaux were highly extolled, and their Lordships calumniated, I was under great Concern, and told him that it would be unhappy if they did not succeed, for that I apprehended there was no Possibility of changing hands. His Answer was, I don't know that. This confirmed my Alarm, and I left him with a Resolution, tho' he told me all this with Confidence, to do Justice to the Bishop. But the Notion of having some Obligation to Mr C kept me in painful Silence for ten days, during which time I could not rest, when I reflected that I was privy to the Symptoms of a design against his Lordship, to whom I owed the utmost Duty and Esteem. At last having under fictitious Names proposed the Case to a judicious Friend, it was agreed, that in spite of any Confidence on the Part of Mr C or Obligation of mine to him, I could not in good Conscience conceal from his Lordship, ^{who seemed to think Mr C his Friend,} the above Reasons I had to suspect a design formed against Lord Harcourt and Him.

West^r Mar. 23. 1752.

ing
in

,

s

with

on

el

ms

ous

ed,

li-

im.

only qualified for his Office by his own Possession. His
Power was not to his Family but the Succession
of a Governor after this was more to the same Purpose, in
which the Duke de Montausier and Bishop of Meaux
were highly extolled, and their Lordships calumnious
was under great Censure and told him that it would be
advantage of the King's Service for that I should not
have been so long in changing Lodging. His Answer
was, I don't know that. The Duke was my Alarm, and
I left him with a Resolution to be in the night with
the Duke, to be in the night with the Duke, but the Notion
of having some Obligation to the Duke was so painful
that I could not bear it. I had a great deal of
trouble when I reflected that I was private the Duke
in design against his Majesty, to whom I owe the
almost daily and constant. At last having more faithful
Names proposed the Duke to a judicious Friend, it was great
that a great deal of confidence in the Duke of M. C. or M. L.
and his of mine to be in good Lodging
and I had a great deal of trouble in the Duke's
and I had a great deal of trouble in the Duke's