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Knowsley Oct: 5. 1751

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I was surprized very much by a Paragraph yesterday in M<sup>r</sup>. Davison's letter, relating to Bibye's Deposition when the late S<sup>r</sup>. Derby's Will was proved in Chancery, as I am sure you also will, after what I have told you of his being hired and paid by M<sup>r</sup>. Whittle out of his own purse, as he certainly was. I had said to Davison that Bibye in reality was no Servant of S<sup>r</sup>. Derby's at any time in the three years before his death; in answer to which he writes thus; if so, the (John Bibye) must have much mistaken himself when he was examined to prove the late Lord's Will, for by that deposition he swears That he was Servant to the aforesaid Testator James late Earl of Derby at the time of his death, and as such did as he conceives become intitled to a Legacy of a Year's Wages under the Will, w<sup>ch</sup> were computed at about 50 a Year. I shewed this to Bibye, and asked how he could think himself S<sup>r</sup>. Derby's Servant; he answered that he supposes, he was induced to think so by his living in the house and being employed in my S<sup>r</sup>'s business, and his having received a Year's Wages as other Servants did. This, I own, is not satisfactory to me, nor will I suppose to you, but I thought it proper you should know it, as it seems to me to deserve consideration.

Inclosed you have a Copy of the Duke's Answer, which you



desired to see; and by a letter from P. Strange I expect to see Mr. Tho: Starkie here in a few days; I wish he may have occasion to call at Lathom by the way.

My Brother tells me you are at loss how to dispose of your Stone Colt this winter, having no proper Inclosures; I cannot commend my pastures for that season, but if you chuse to venture him here, the same care shall be taken of him as is of my own.

I am

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Your most humble  
Servant

Derby



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