

King Charles to the Duke of Buckingham.

CHARLES

I.

1625.

STEENIE,

YOU know what patience I have had with the unkind usages of my wife, grounded upon a belief that it was not in her nature, but made by ill instruments, and overcome by your persuasions to me, that my kind usages would be able to rectify those misunderstandings. I hope my ground may be true, but I am sure you have erred in your opinion; for I find daily worse and worse effects of ill offices done between us, my kind usages having no power to mend any thing. Now necessity urges me to vent myself to you in this particular, for grief is ease being told to a friend; and because I have many obligations to my mother-in-law (knowing that these courses of my wife's are so much against her knowledge, that they are contrary to her advice), I would do nothing concerning her daughter that may taste of any harshness, without advertising her of the reasons and necessity of the thing; therefore I have chosen you for this purpose, because you having been one of the chief causes that hath withheld me from these courses hitherto, you may well be one of my chief witnesses, that I have been forced into these courses now. You must therefore advertise my mother-in-law, that I must remove all those instruments that are causes of unkindness between her daughter and me, few or none of the servants being free of this fault in one kind or other; therefore I would be glad that she might find a means to make themselves suitors to be gone: if this be not, I hope there can be no exceptions taken at me, to follow the example of Spain and Savoy in this particular. So requiring a speedy answer of thee in this business (for the longer it is delayed, the worse it will grow), I rest,

Nov. 20.

Your loving, faithful, constant friend,

Hampton Court,
20th of Nov. 1625.

CHARLES R.