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EDMUND HOWARD

therefore proposed to Sir Hans Sloane to sell it, I do not well remember whether for one or two thousand pounds, and recommended the two men before mentioned as proper persons to purchase it; a bargain was soon struck." One of these gentlemen presently went bankrupt, and Howard was ordered to lock the gates to prevent his carrying away any materials he had not paid for. "I secured and nailed up the front gate," Howard continues, "for though they had torn the house to pieces, pulled the iron bars out of the windows, and the greater part of the lead from the top of the house, sold and carried off a great deal, and so wounded and crippled the house that it appeared more hideous than before, and would now be madness to attempt to repair it, still there was abundance of lead and iron stored up in a strong-room, which they had collected together, and no small quantity remaining where it was originally fixed. Very soon after I had nailed up the great gate they came with a cart and by violence broke open the gate, loaded the cart with what they liked, and drove away. They were so many I could not resist them, but, while they were gone, caused a deep ditch to be dug in the gateway to prevent any carts passing that way, and by every means in my power endeavoured to hinder their taking anything off the ground. This