

his autograph notes for 1706, thus notices the death of his royal mistress :—

"This year queen Catharine, widow to king Charles II., died in Portugal, and did me the honour to make me her first, or chief executor, which in Portugal is distinguished from the other executors; and the king of Portugal commanded his ambassador to come to my house and acquaint me with the honour that her majesty had done me, as also to let me know his majesty's approbation of her choice; and to show me a letter from his majesty, full of compliments and acknowledgments for the service that I had formerly done her majesty, during the time that I had the honour of being lord chamberlain to her majesty."

His lordship wrote to the ambassador a complimentary letter in French, stating "that he was very sensible of the honour his majesty had done him in approving of the choice the queen had made in naming him as one of her executors, and that it would have been to him the greatest pleasure in life, had he been able to perform the duty of principal executor to one of the greatest and most illustrious princesses in the world: but the gout, and the other infirmities of old age, would prevent him from acting in that capacity."¹

Catharine of Braganza was prayed for in the liturgy of the church of England, as queen-dowager, in the reigns of James II., William and Mary, and queen Anne.

¹ Introductory Memoir to lord Chesterfield's Letters.