

sion of his displeasure at the dangerous liberty taken by Innes, James very properly insisted on his being dismissed from the queen-mother's service. Implicit submission to his authority was yielded, both by her majesty and her spiritual director. "The king is master," wrote Innes to the duke of Ormonde, "and I, having the honour to be both his subject and his servant, think myself doubly obliged simply to obey his majesty's orders, without saying any thing for myself."¹ This unpleasant occurrence happened towards the end of February, but whatever consternation the spirited conduct of the chevalier de St. George created among the reverend messieurs of the chapel-royal of St. Germain, it is certain that it did not in the slightest degree disturb the affectionate confidence which had always subsisted between the royal mother and her son, and which remained unbroken till the hour of her death.²

The coldness of the weather and the increasing debility of the queen, prevented her from paying her accustomed visit to Chaillot at Easter. The fatal malady in her breast, though for a time apparently subdued, had broken out again with redoubled violence in the preceding summer. She had borne up bravely, and endured with unruffled patience the torturing pangs that were destroying the principles of life, and continued to exert herself in her beloved son's cause till within a few days of her decease. Her last illness attacked her in the month of April, 1718. She had recovered from so many apparently more severe, that a fatal termination was not at first apprehended. A deceptive amendment took place, and she even talked of going to Chaillot; but a relapse followed, and she then felt an internal conviction that she should not recover.³

The following letter, without date or signature, in her well-known characters, which is preserved among the Chaillot papers in the hôtel de Soubise, appears to have been written by the dying queen to her friend Françoise Angelique Priolo. It contains her last farewell to her, and the abbess and sisters:

¹ Stuart Papers, edited by Glover, vol. i. pp. 24, 25.

² Chaillot Records, inedited, in the hôtel de Soubise.

³ Ibid.