

authority in his Life of the duke of Ormond, of the public resentment and open menaces thrown out to the duke on the occasion, by the earl of Offory, the duke of Ormond's son, even in the presence of the king himself. But as Charles II. like most other men, was more sensible of injuries done to himself than others, it does not appear, that this transaction hurt the duke's interest at court; for in 1671 he was installed chancellor of the university of Cambridge, and sent ambassador to France, where he was very nobly entertained by Lewis XIV. and presented by that monarch at his departure, with a sword and belt set with jewels, to the value of forty thousand pistoles; and the next year he was employed in a second embassy to that king at Utrecht. However, in June 1674, he resigned the chancellorship of Cambridge, and about the same time became a zealous partizan and favourer of the Nonconformists. On the 16th of February 1676, his grace, with the earls of Salisbury and Shaftesbury and lord Wharton, were committed to the Tower by order of the house of lords, for a contempt, in refusing to retract the purport of a speech which the duke had made concerning a dissolution of the parliament.

But upon a petition to the king, he was discharged thence in May following. In 1680, having sold Wallingford-house in the Strand, he purchased a house at Dowgate, and resided there, joining with the earl of Shaftesbury in all the violences of opposition. About the time of king Charles's death, he fell into an ill state of health, and went into the country to his own manor of Helmesley, in Yorkshire, where he generally passed his time in hunting and enter-

taining his friends. This he continued until a fortnight before his death; an event which happened at a tenant's house, at Kirkby Moor-side, April 16, 1688, after three days illness, of an ague and fever, arising from a cold which he caught by sitting on the ground after fox-hunting. The day before his death, he sent to his old servant, Mr. Brian Fairfax, to provide him a bed at his house, at Bishop-hill, in Yorkshire; but the next morning the same man returned with the news that his life was despaired of. Mr. Fairfax immediately went post to him, but found him speechless. The earl of Arran, son to duke Hamilton, was with him, who hearing he was sick had visited him in his way to Scotland. When Mr. Fairfax came, the duke knew him, looked earnestly at him, but could not speak. Mr. Fairfax asked a gentleman there present, a justice of peace, and a worthy discreet man in the neighbourhood, what he had said or done before he became speechless; who told him, that some questions had been asked him about his estate; to which he gave no answer. Then he was admonished of the danger he was in, which he seemed not to apprehend; he was asked if he would have the minister of the parish sent for to pray with him; to which he gave no answer. This occasioned another question to be proposed, if he would have a popish priest; but he replied with great vehemence, No, no! repeating the words he would have nothing to do with them. The same gentleman then asked him again, if he would have the minister sent for, and he calmly said, *yes, pray send for him.* The minister accordingly came, and did the office enjoined by the church, the duke