

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
FAMILY PAPERS

PRESERVED AT
CALDWELL.

PART II. VOL. I.
MDCCXXXIII—MDCCLXIV.



GLASGOW. MDCCLXIV.

PRESENTED
TO
THE MAITLAND CLUB,
BY WILLIAM MURE
OF CALDWELL.

1745.

- XXIV. Glasgow, November 4. Thomas Miller, Esq. of Glenlee, to Mr. Mure: Rebellion in this year—Pretender's march towards England.
- XXV. November 4. John Graham, Esq. to Mr. Mure: Same subject.
- XXVI. Alanbank, November 8th. John Coutts, Esq. to Mr. Mure: Same subject—Provost Archd. Stuart's affair.

1746.

- XXVII. Glasgow, February 10th. Thomas Miller, Esq. to Mr. Mure: Full account of the battle of Falkirk.
- XXVIII. Address to his Majesty from the County of Renfrew on the suppression of the rebellion, drawn up by Mr. Mure.
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XXIV.

MR. MILLER, OF GLENLEE, TO MR. MURE.Glasgow, 4th Nov^{br} 1745.

My dear Willie,

The situation of affairs in this country at present is such as must certainly engage your concern and attention not a little. It is a melancholy subject to write of, and what perhaps few people would choose to volunteer upon; but I have learnt to put a strange value upon your friendship; and, as I thought my intelligence of what is passing in Scotland would be agreeable to you at present, I was fond to contribute, as far as was in my power, to your satisfaction in that particular. It may seem indeed that my correspondance is not extremely valuable, when, by reason of my present situation, I am unable to inform you with certainty, either of the number or motions of the Highland army. Our last letters from Edr. advise us that they evacuated that place by the march of their advanced guard upon Thursday last, their main body upon Friday, and their rear guard yesterday afternoon. They at present occupy the towns of Dalkeith, Musseleburgh, and the other villages adjacent. There is a report to-day that they are upon their march towards Lauder, in order to attack Berwick before Generall Wade come up with the army.

But whatever may be in this report, they certainly give out in their army that they are to meet Genl. Wade and fight him so soon as he enters Scotland; with what probability of success I shall leave you to judge, when I have informed you,

that, according to our latest advices, their army upon Thursday last was not 7000 strong, and of these not above 5000 Highlanders.

It is extremely surprissing to us here that so little pains has been taken to guard the northern coasts. No less than four ships have lately landed from France, with 12000 stands of arms aboard each ship, besides some cannon, money, and military stores. The cargoes of all these ships had safely landed at Edr. before the march of their army, by which means they are not only all compleatly armed, but have likewise a considerable quantity of arms to carry alongst with them for the service of their English friends. This day we have certain accounts of the arrival of two more French ships at Montrose, with arms and other stores, but no men.

But we imagine that their cargoes will hardly be gott up to their army in time, especially now that their battery near Aloo, by which they commanded a passage over the Forth for their other cargoes, is demolished. By this passage they saved a very long carriage by the heads of Forth, where the roads moreover are almost unpassable; so that it would have been of great consequence if this passage could have been prevented. However, after repeated trialls by his Majesty's ship the Happy Janet, it was found impossible to disturb them, or hinder their whole convoy to pass, consisting of above 100 cart loads, besides artillery.

A few days after the passage of their grand convoy, a party of about 40 Highlanders happened to pass at the same place, of which General Blackney having been informed, sent out a party from the Castle of Stirling, under Lieutenant Abercrombie, who, having surprised the Highlanders, put them to flight, and, with the assistance of the country, took sixteen of them prisoners, with their whole baggage. It is surprising what a spirit begins now to appear thro' the whole country. Last Wednesday, being his Majesty's birth-day, the inhabitants of Perth inclined to give some publick evidence of their loyalty, in which they were interrupted by a party of

Highlanders, then in the town. Upon which the mob rose, disarmed the whole party, killed a French officer who happened to be amongst them, wounded severalls, and drove the rest out of town. Poor wretches! it would pity you to hear how their parties which come off from the army are hunted down, in their passage through this west countrey homewards. Severall instances of this have happened since their march from Edr. which has already occasioned a considerable desertion, and which in all probability will increase, in case they should turn their backs upon the King's army, and endeavour to enter England by the west road, which many people imagine they have in view.

There has been no junction of any considerable persons to their army for some time. You have heard of Ld. Kilmarnock's being with them. His Lordship had the honour of uplifting the excise from the town of Falkirk last week, and of lifting some horses for his Highness's use from that neighbourhead. We have long heard of the M^cDonalds and M^cLeods being upon their march to Edr. But as we have not heard any mention of them for some days, we hope the President¹ has at length prevailed, and kept them at home. If the M^cLeods come up, our friend Sandy M^cLeod² certainly comes with them.

Lord Kenmure, (as you might see from the newspapers,) has been up at Edr. and kissed the Prince's hand. His joining of them was so little doubted of, that, to my certain knowledge, a good many horse were pressed, to be formed into a body under his Ld.ship's command. However, after spending some time at Edr. and conversing fully with their Generals and Statesmen, he found their affairs in such confusion, and in so desperate a way, that he privately withdrew from court, and has returned to his own countrey. What I have said of the motive of my Lord's return you may

¹ Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord President of the Court of Session.

² This Alexander Macleod, advocate, had been sent by the Pretender from Edinburgh on a mission to the chiefs of Sky, to induce them to join.—Home, Hist, of Rebel], pp. 130, 324.

depend upon, not as a conjecture of my own, but as the real account of his Ld.ship's conduct. Poor Camming, our friend, is with them. I likewise hear of Ferguslie's³ having joined no earlier than Tuesday last. Sir Ja: Stewart continues under his parole, and is preparing, as I am told, to return soon to Coltness with his family.

You have probably heard of an accident which happened to Ld. Dundonald last week. He happened to be going in to Edr. to see my Lady, and having come up with a coach in which Lochail's Lady and children were, near to town, he thought he would meett with less trouble from the Highlanders, if he rode into town with the coach. It happened to be pretty late when they came to West-port, which happened to be shutt. Upon which the coachman crying out to open the gate to friends and Prince's people, the castle having overheard, fired down upon them as they entered the Grass mercat, by which my Lord's horse was shot under him; his servant was killed upon the spot, and Stalker's wife, who was in the coach, and going in to see the Prince, was shot through the hip so dangerously that her life is despaired of.

XXV.

MR. JOHN GRAHAM⁴ TO MR. MURE.Glasgow, 4th Nov^r 1745.D^r Sir,

As I hope long before this time you have got safe to London, I shall acquaint you with any material news that occurs here, and must earnestly begg, that you will be so good as to let me know what is passing with you, in relation to the confusions that have so long disturbed this country.

We are now certainly informed that the whole of the Highland army, which, by the best accounts we have, consists of 6000 Highland men, and 2000 Volunteers from the Low

³ Cochran of Ferguslie, in Renfrewshire.

⁴ See No. xxi.

country, have marched from Edinr. the length of Duddistown, in order, as they give out, to meet Marshall Wade, and fight him; but my own opinion is, that they will wait where they are, untill he is a day's march on this side of Berwick, and then in the night time endeavour to give him the slip, and so march streight for Westmorland, and from that to Wales, if they are not prevented; for they have seiz'd as many horses as are not only sufficient to carry their whole baggage, but likeways to mount all their Volunteers, that would never be able to march up with the Highlanders. We are like ways very well informed, that Genll. Wade was to be at Berwick as on Saturday last, and our accounts say, that there are 15000 regular forces with him, so that we all hope that a little time will extricate us from the difficulties we have laboured under; and as I doubt not but you will have heard of the narrow escape that my Lord Dundonald had, I shall acquaint you of the true state of that case. My Lord, it seems, when I was in the country, had been strongly importuned to come into Edin^r only for a day or two; and, without acquainting his Governour, he hired a couple of horses on Saturday was a fortnight, and early on the Sunday there after he sett out for Edin^r and carried with him one Moy, a horse-hirer. He arrived at the West-port at Edin^r about nine that night, and he there overtook a coach that was carrying in some of Lochell's children, and, as the gate was shut, Moy the hirer was so foolish as to call out to open the gate to some of the Prince's people. This was heard from the Castle wall, upon which they fired a cannon with grape shot, which killed Moy the hirer, and my Lord Dundonald's horse under him, and wounded a gentlewoman that was in the coach with Lochell's children. My Lord returned to this place, two day's thereafter, sufficiently convinced of the folly of that visite. Sir Robert Morton had just such another escape last week; for as he was going to his own house, a shot from the Castle carry'd away a

part of his boot head, and killed the horse he rode upon. I have but too much reason to believe that F—g—lie⁵ has been so foolish as to joyne the Highland army, and I am, D^r Sir,

Your most humble Ser^t

JOHN GRAHAM.

I must likeways use the freedom to give you the trouble of the inclosed letter.

XXVI.

JOHN COUTTS, ESQ.⁶ TO MR. MURE.

Alanbank, Nov^r 8, 1745.

D^r Sir,

I wrote Mr. Oswald last post, and sent him a state of facts relating to the entry of the rebell army into Edinburgh, as I could make them out from my memory. If they have come regularly to his hands, he has no doubt shoven them to you; but, lest they have miscarried, I have sent you a copy⁷ which is not very correct, as I had little time for writting out either the principall or the copy, and had no emanuensis to assist me but one of my sons, who has not been as yet used to writting anything but versions at the schooll. However, should the principall to Mr. Oswald miscarry, I doubt not but you'll be able to hammer out the facts one way or other. When I come to town, I may probably send you a more regular state from the city records. Mr. David Hume -wrote anxiously to know the state of that affair. I wrott him enclosed in my letter to Mr. Oswald, and I desired Mr. Oswald to furnish him with a copy of the facts. In case my letter to Mr. Oswald has miscarried, you'll please to forward to Mr. Hume the enclosed letter, with a copy of the inclosed narration, which you may put, if you please, in some better order or dress. There are no doubt many facts I have ommitted which might be of use in our friend's⁸ vindication, which will be suplyed by himself

⁵ See note 3 to No. xxiv.

when you see him. You know he has a very great property at Leith—

I may say his all—lyeing in wine-cellars. Whether he has thought proper to stay to look after his property, when it's in such hazard from the lawless governours they have for some time had in Edinburgh, or if he has gone to take his seat in Parliament, I know not; but in any case I thought it my duty to send you this narrative, that you may be able to satisfie his friends that he has not been guilty either of cowardice or treachery. And tho' his enemies have been successfull enough in raising a cry against him, yet time, I hope, will bring out the truth, and that it will then appear that the cry has been raised by those people who, to cover their own faults and blemishes, have endeavoured, with some success, to lay this load on an innocent man. I beg you'll, on receipt of this, write me, that I may be satisfied of it's having reacht your hands, and you may write me under cover of Mr. Fenwick Stow, merch. in Berwick. If this letter should be opened, as I believe most letters are, I hope, nevertheless, it will go forward, as the narrative or letter contains reflections on no man whatever, nor anything but a few facts, which can be made good, I think, by evidence; and it hurts no man, but serves the public, that the truth should come to light.

I am, d^r Sir, your most humble ser^t

JOHN COUTTS.

⁶ John Coutts, banker, and afterwards several times Lord Provost of Edinburgh— at this period one of the most influential citizens of the town, he was, by his wife, Jane Stuart of Allanbank, father of James and Thomas Coutts, late bankers, Strand; the former of whom represented the city of Edinburgh from 1762 to 1768.

⁷ The inclosure referred to has not been preserved.

⁸ Archibald Stuart, wine-merchant, Lord Provost and M.P. for the city of Edinburgh, son of Sir Robert Stuart, Bart, of Allanbank, a cadet of Coltness. He was accused of favouring the Pretender and conniving at the occupation of the town by the rebel force. For this he was brought to trial in the following year, but was honourably acquitted.—See Home's History of the Rebellion.

Since writting this, I took a resolution of writ ting you some things with regard to the springs of this cry against our friend, how it has been raised; but as the post is going, I have not time, but I shall soon again have occasion to write you. If anything is to be wrote in deffence of our friend, its proper to be known how the suspicion and cry against him first rose. This copy has been wrote by my son, very incorrectly, and, lam afraid, is scarce legible. If my letter by last post has reached Mr. Oswald, it matters not whether you can make out the reading of this or not; but if it has miscarried, you must make out this the best way you can, for I had not time to transcribe it.

XXVII.

MR. MILLER TO MR. MURE.

Glasgow, 10th Feb^{ry} 1745-6.

Dear Willie;

I should have thought myself much to blame, after what I promised, for haveing ommitted so long to write you of the wonderfull revolutions which have happened here lately, if I had not been informed of the freedoms used at the Post Offices since the affair of Falkirk. I should have liked much to have given you an account of that affair, according to the impression I had of it when at Lithgow with the army the night of the defeat. It would perhaps have amused you a little to have compared such account with what I am now going to write you of the present situation of affairs.

I suppose by this time you are quite master of all the particulars of that memorable action, and might therefor avoid giveing them in detail. It is certainly extremely unaccountable, that Genl. Hawley should have lyen in his camp, and allowed the King's army to be attacked by a parcell of rebels. Upon the 16th at night he lay encamped within four miles of them. The weather next morning was extremely

favourable, and if he had then marched and attacked them, as every body expected, he must without all peradventure have beat them to the devill. God knows what was his reason for delaying his business. But so it was, he kepted his camp upon the 17th till two afternoon, when he had the mortification to see the rebels within two miles and a half, advanceing to attack him, before he knew anything of the matter. By this time it blew a hurricane of wind and rain. The Generall, it seems, thinking it dishonorable to be attacked in his camp, marched his troops towards a riseing ground to meet the enemy, by which means he shortned the distance betwixt him and the rebels, and consequently lost so much time, which he greatly stood in need of, in order to form his army. The whole cavalry were ordered to the high ground, which was the left of our army, and had taken up their ground timeously. The infantry followed with surprising spirit, considering the badness of the day, and that the storm was full in their face. But the rebels, perceiveng our troops upon their long march from the camp to the field of battle, hurried on to attack them; so that the attack began before our second line was quite formed, and most of the regiments which were formed, by the quickness of their march, and the steepness of the hill upon which they were drawn up, were quite out of breath, and appeared to be greatly discomposed. The cavalry, which were all upon the left and in front, with the first line of foot, received the enemy's fire with great composure, and went on very briskly to the charge; but were soon put into disorder by the fire from the enemy's second line. Upon which they turned back and run off in the greatest confusion. This struck a panick into the foot, which was greatly increased by the cries and confusion of many thousands of spectators, and by the violence of the storm, which in a great measure rendered their fire arms useless, so that, in less than eight minutes after the attack began, the whole army was in confusion and flying; whole regiments run off without firing. Those troops which had been last upon the

plains of Tournay, were the first to make their escape. In short, the pannick was generall and strong beyond conception; and, had the rebells known how to have followed up their advantage, they must infallibly have cut the whole army to pieces. But, by some mistake of theirs, the pursuit haveing been for a little restrained, Genl. Husk took that opportunity of rallying a few troops upon the right wing, by which he has had the honor of saveing the King's army with a handfull of men not exceeding 800, mostly of Darrell's, Ligonier's, and Price's regiments; he received and repulsed the repeated attacks of a victorious enemy, and, after haveing kept the field of battle for a considerable time, till the flying troops had got safe to the camp, and were again formed in line of battle, he at length retired in the critical moment, and joined the army at the camp with the loss a very few men. I am absolutely perswaded, if we had known the condition of the rebell army, our people might have continued in their camp, or even on the field of battle, all night. But as our army were in a damnable pannick and consternation, and their arms quite useless by the excessive rain, it was certainly prudent in the Generalls not to run the hazard of being again attacked in these circumstances. This occasioned the retreat to Lithgow, which was attended with the loss of cannon, tents, bread, baggage, and everything else which could denote a defeat. In this action, our whole loss does not amount to more than 200 killed, and about 50 prisoners picked up on the retreat; for no quarter was given upon the field of battle. The rebells, its' said, lost double our number, mostly by the fire from Husk's men. This is the best account I could give you of this memorable battle, at which I was present, and in which about 7000 of the best troops in the world fled like so many children before half that number of undisciplined militia. I say half the number, because, tho' the two armies were near equall in number, yet only the clans (who were in the first line) engaged, the Perth, Athole, Angus, and other low countrey men, haveing fled upon the first attack. As to the

consequences, they have been still more extraordinary than the affair itself.

Before this action, the rebels were confident they would allwise be able with their broad swords to break once through any battalion of men, and most of our military people, both officers and soldiers, seemed to be a little apprehensive that this might be the case. But the glorious stand which Husk made, with such a handful of men, against their whole army, exhibited such a distinct proof of the advantage of fire arms and regular troops against these irregulars and their broad swords, as must certainly have greatly discouraged the rebels; while it has certainly, upon the other hand, augmented the spirits of our men, and their contempt for such an enemy.

There is a sort of enthusiasm arises from his presence in the army, which seems to be diffuseing itself through this whole country. We call him our Deliverer, and the people begin to entertain the greatest conceptions of him you can imagine. And no wonder indeed that it should be so, when we see that very army which a week before had the boldness to attack and defeat Genl. Hawley's, now flying with precipitation, and abandoning their enterprise, at the approach of that same army now headed by the Duke of Cumberland.

We have not yet heard the secret springs of this sudden change. But so it was, that, upon the approach of his Royal Highness to Lithgow upon the first of February, the rebels, that same night, with the greatest precipitation, fled beyond the Forth. Various causes it is said concurred to occasion this retreat. Ld. Jon. Drummond, (who has been bred in a regular army,) told the Chevalier and the other leaders, that, from what happened at the battle of Falkirk, he plainly saw they could not stand before regular troops. Some add that the clans, haveing observed that in every action they were exposed, while the low country people only consulted their own safety, refused to engage any more upon these terms.

The loss of some hundreds of their best troops at Falkirk, and of as many in the mad attempt upon Stirling Castle, may have perhaps also contributed to discourage them from standing another action. But, beyond all these, the presence of the Duke has most contributed to strike them with terror. I was told by a gentleman who was in their army when the accounts came of the Duke's arrivall at Edr. that he never saw such surprise and consternation as appeared amongst them, and that severall of the officers said it was now all over, for that there was no possibility of making their men stand a second engagement.

The Duke is now at Perth with his whole army. He found at Stirling, Down, and Perth, a good many cannon, some baggage, &c.; but as he was stopped some days at Stirling by reason of the bridge's being cutt, he has not been able to get up with any of the rebels. It is certain from all accounts that they are scattering over the whole north countrey. But what conduct the Duke is to observe upon this occasion nobody can tell. For my part I don't see what more he has to doe with them. In a month or six weeks the troops, properly distributed, will be able to pick up abundance for making examples of; and as we have 1740. squadrons both on the east and west coast, their escape may be rendered pretty difficult. I have tired myself with writing, but if it is agreeable to you, I can doe it with the greatest pleasure. All your friends here are well.

I am most sincerely,

My dear Willie Mure,

Your affectionate friend and obedt.
servt.

THOMAS MILLER.

To

Will^m. Mure, Esq^r. Member of Parliam^t for the county of
Renfrew,

London.

XXVIII.

1746.

THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE
PEACE, FREEHOLDERS, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
COUNTY OF RENFREW.⁹

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most gracious Sovereign,

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, beg leave in the most humble manner to approach your Majesty, with assurances of our utter abhorrence of the unnatural rebellion now raised in this kingdom.

As the fate of war has of late deprived us of your Majesty's gracious protection, we now feel with double satisfaction the restoration of that just and mild government whose beneficent influence had by this daring rebellion been for some time withheld from us. Our distance from the seat of Government had no way diminish't our zeal and affection to your Majesty's person; while the happy effects of your royal virtues diffused themselves to the remotest corners of your dominions. Our near neighbourhood to the seat of rebellion increased our horror of such dangerous and traitorous practices; while we saw with greater certainty the arbitrary principles on which they were founded, the violence with which they were conducted, and the anarchy and tyranny which they must necessarily introduce. Our zeal for religion, our affection to the publick, our gratitude to your Majesty, our concern for our own interests and those of our posterity, all combine to give us the strongest attachment to your Majesty's person and Government,—happy that, by your Majesty's permission, we have at least this opportunity of expressing these just and sincere sentiments, but unhappy

⁹ In Mr. Mure's hand, and drawn up by him. See David Hume's remarks upon this address in a subsequent letter, of date 27th Oct. 1775, No. cccv.

that Fortune has hitherto deprived us of any more effectual or more vigorous methods of displaying them!

XXIX.

JAS. OSWALD, ESQ.¹⁰ OF DUNIKIER, M.P. TO MR. MURE.

London, 25 Dec^r 1746.

Dear Willy,

Tho' your passing this winter in the country will deprive your friends here of a pleasure, yet the reasons you give, and others which might be given, can not but meet with their approbation. The rebellion being now happily extinguished, must, as was easy to foresee, be necessarily attended with

¹⁰ The right honourable James Oswald, of Dunikier, represented the Kirkaldy district of boroughs from 1741 to 1747; the county of Fife from 1747 to 1704; and again the Kirkaldy boroughs from 1754 to 1768, when he retired from public life. Throughout this whole period he was an active, useful, and upright Member of the Legislature. Lord Woodhouselee pronounces him a model of a virtuous and enlightened statesman; and David Hume, in several letters in this Collection, speaks of him in high terms of commendation. Even Horace Walpole, with the customary, but here unmerited stigma on his honesty, which seldom fails where a Scotchman is concerned, does ample justice to his talents, he describes him (in 1751) as "a man who was master of a quickness and strength of argument not inferior to any speaker in the House. The rapidity of his eloquence was astonishing; not adorned, but confined to business. He had come into Parliament about the time of Sir Robert Walpole's fall, and had consulted a friend whether the ministry or the opposition were likely to prevail. His friend recommended him to the former; his own sagacity conducted him to the latter; which being soon after victorious, he reproached his friend with the scrape into which he had drawn him. On the change he was made Commissioner of the Navy, which he resigned on the New Place Bill to keep his seat, but, wavering in his connexions, had no new preferment."—Mem. of Reign of Geo. II. vol. i. p. 51. Mr. Oswald afterwards filled several other important offices.

His correspondence, published by his grandson, the late General Sir John Oswald G.C.B. in 1825, contains but a scanty remnant of the many valuable documents formerly in the same repositories.

confidence in a superior degree on the part of Parl^t, which all who are friends to their country may resolve to watch, and give attention to, but which it were certainly vain and fruitless, perhaps imprudent, to oppose.

Our senatorial campaign opened as usual by speech and address, both decent. One thing however happened, which, had it come from any other quarter, must have recalled to every body's mind the ancient senates of Rome, not indeed the ancientest of all, but those however under the first of their Emperours. Sir John Barnard objected to the address as not expressing a high enough approbation of the measures projected, nor expressing sufficiently the just expectations we might form of their consequences. Mr. Pelham opposed the amendment, and showed very clearly the dangerous consequences attending adulation to the Throne. The incident, you will say, was ridiculous enough; and indeed, had the amendment come from any other quarter, I should have imagined it either a piece of factious adulation or jocular humour. But from S^r John it proceeded singly from the high, vulgar, native English expectation, of beating France by every confederacy whereof England is a part. Every winter has its favourite topick of expectation. That of this is the taking of Marseilles by the Austrian army, and laying all Provence and Languedoc under contribution. Was it not that one has the opportunity of observing this folly every season, it would really astonish one to see how this possesses the vulgar of all ranks, from St. James's to the Change. The passage of the Var, the magnanimity and firmness of the King of Sardinia, with his last words to his son, recommending fidelity to his allys, in case the small pox should have cut him off, are in every body's mouths. Within these eight days four Dutch mails were due, and nothing less than the taking of Toulon and Marseilles was expected; the first by the mob, the last by the politicians; for that it seems is the project. The mails are arrived, but contain no particulars worth notice as to the progress of the army in Provence. One thing, however,

they have brought, which may possibly produce strange consequences, and is in itself already a very fatal affair, should it even proceed no further. A dispute having arose in Genoa betwixt the Austrians and the inhabitants, some of the latter having been abused by the former, while drawing some corn to be shipped on board for the coast of France, both sides took arms, and a good deal of bloodshed ensued. Whether this has been the effect of French faction, or a mere Genoa quarrel, is not determined. But t'is certain that great city runs a great risque of being pillaged, or perhaps has already been pillaged, from this accident. The Genoese soldiery was not disarmed, and t'is said has gone to attempt to raise the blockade of Savona; so that the politicians are in high expectation from the consequences of this event, and begin to speculate a good deal upon the character of Mons. de Botta, the Austrian General left in Italy, who some say is of a Genoese family, and has been all along strongly suspected by the K. of Sardinia, whom he has done all he could to set by the ears with his mistress.

War more vigorous than ever is the word here, all but in England. For this purpose we have already had the Budget opened, as far as the supplys go, leaving the project with respect to foreign affairs, as to particulars, still open. The sum intended and own'd by the ministry is about eight millions seven hundred thousand pounds, as follows:— 2,000,000 by the Land Tax; 750,000 by the Malt; 1,000,000 by the Sinking Fund; 4,000,000 by Annuitys, att 4 p. c^t; and 1,000,000 by a Lottery, att 4 p. c^t on Annuitys. The 4,000,000 at 4 p. c^l are raised by open subscription, and allow'd with this bonus of having 110 for 100 subscribers, which makes 4£ 8^s upon the capitall. It is reckoned the cheapest bargain ever has been made for the publick for such a sum, and is the product of Sir John Bernard, adopted by the ministers, who did him the justice to acknowledge it; in return to which he complimented as highly their readiness to receive it.

Such is the confidence, and such the wealth, real and

imaginary, of this countrey, that the subscription being opened in a morning was filled before noon, and had actually gone to 6,000,000 instead of 4,000,000; so that the great complaint is, not having had a large enough share. Ten p. c^t was to be deposited in the Bank before Christmas, and has been already done. It bears now in the Alley 3 p. c^t premium. The other 1,000,000 by Lottery is not yet voted, but will be immediately after Xmas, and is intended for paying so much of the Navy debt; the event of the subscriptions will no doubt with this fill, tho' without any bonus at all. But what is perhaps most surprising, all this is filled without fund for payment, from mere general confidence. The ministry have not yet said what the fund will be, nor is it known. My paper is filled, so I can write nothing of Ld. Lovat's impeachment, nor a good many other things.

But as to what you write of your friend, I'm in good hopes no such bill will be brought in as was once talked of; but if it should, I will do all that friendship can suggest. Strange is well, tho' not yet married.

Sir Hew is not yet come up; all others are well,

And I, y^r faithfull,

JAMES OSWALD.