UNREST IN ENGLAND

Henry Hyde (1710–1753), Viscount Cornbury
to James Stuart (1688–1766), the Old Pretender
Paris, 17 May 1733

Upon the whole, the King’s cause grows stronger in England, though there are some very unsteady to the King’s advantage, and some relations of the King’s friends who are not quite just to the King’s cause. But I think the Parliament has been the King’s friend, for its way of acting has brought the people of England very much more into his interest, put Walpole1 to great straights, quite ruined the Duke of Hanover2 and his government with England, and at the same time taken away (which I am afraid were raised) all hopes from Lord Bolingbroke3 and his few friends to be well with the Court by the means of Lord Scarborough,4 Lord Chesterfield,5 etc. Lord Carteret6 and his set will, I dare say, be determined by interest anywhere but by Walpole, and when they find the King willing to be friends, I guess will be ready to embrace it when they can very safely.

The Whigs are in a great rage, and of twenty minds at the same time. The Tories very consistent, and know their own mind, though they have differences with some of the King’s friends. Mr. Pulteney7 has done everything for the King’s service, in all appearances, that could be with prudence, and some think rather more. So that I am fully persuaded that the King’s own conduct and the French ministry’s friendship will effectually provide for the King’s restoration.

For the Duchess of Buckingham,8 I cannot say enough to do her justice.

What I mentioned once before permit me to mention again—that a letter or a civil message, though in the strongest terms, with an eye to have it immediately made public, addressed to the Duke of Hanover and his lady, offering them safe return to Hanover; expressing that the King has been proscribed and insulted, yet as he despised that treatment at the time, so he abhors it now, and can never forget what becomes him as a prince, even to those who have never considered themselves but as enemies. I think it cannot but have an effect very much for the King’s glory.


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1 Robert Walpole (1676–1745), Whig Prime Minister (1721–1742)
2 George II (1683–1760), King of England and Duke-Elector of Hanover
3 Henry Saint John (1678–1751), Viscount Bolingbroke. He supported the Pretender during the 1715 rising, and fled to France after its failure, there serving as the Jacobite Foreign Minister. In 1723 he received a pardon from George I and returned to England, where he became a leader of the Tory party.
4 Richard Lumley (1686–1740), Earl of Scarborough and Baron Lumley. Though a Whig, Scarborough opposed Walpole.
5 Philip Dormer Stanhope (1694–1773), Earl of Chesterfield. Though a Whig, Chesterfield opposed Walpole.
6 John Carteret (1690–1763), Earl of Granville and Seigneur of Sark, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1724–1730) and Whig politician. Walpole kept Granville politically marginalized.
7 William Pulteney (1684–1764), MP for Hedon (1705–1734) and leader of the Whig opposition to Walpole in the House of Commons
8 Catherine Darnley (1680–1743), dowager Duchess of Buckingham and Normanby, and illegitimate daughter of James II