

LETTER

TO THE

REV. THOMAS JOLLIE,

Prefixed to this Volume

AS THE FAC-SIMILE OF AN AUTOGRAPH IN THE POSSESSION OF
THE REV. T. RAFFLES, LL.D.

Reverend }
and dear } Brother,

June 12, 1700.

YOUR letter by your maid I received yesterday, am glad to hear from you, but sorry for your bodily infirmitys, and desire to sympathize with you, god will gradually wean us from and weary us out of the world that heaven may be more welcom, that rod which drives, or that love which draws us, to god, makes us meet for heaven. I am heartily sorry for that unhappy fraction amongst our friends in Craven, a sad comment upon the 3d of James—*tantæne animis cælestibus ira!* that, with the like in some other places, bodes ill to the nation, and our liberty and if my ink, or breath, or blood would afford a plaistre, I should rejoyce, for they have been, and are dear to me, but what can man doe? I am very jealous that Mr. K hath missd it various ways, and he must either seriously repent, and solemnly declare in a publick professed way, or he cannot expect that either god or man will be reconciled to him: Sin will bring shame, and shaming ourselves is the best fruit of it. I purpose (if the Lord will) to write home to him, to which I have some peculiar obligations: I am glad you have so far concern'd yourself in this affair, and have been faithfull to him and them, and that he shews any relentings, but thats not enough; them that sin, rebuke before all, 1 Tim. 5. 20: especially preachers: and I think a time of probation of the truth of Repentance may be fit: I am troubled for his prejudices agt you, and silence to your lettres: I am far from palliating, extenuating, or excusing any ones faults, *nugæ in laicis nugæ sunt, in clericis Blasphemæ*; yet its frequently observed that when men begin to draw up Articles they oft run far back, make worst constructions of tollerable actions, aggravate things to the height; new prejudices are raised, fomented,

severall will bring storys out of ill intents, and desire to perpetuate dissensions: I wish there had been more caution and moderation used by our Christian brethren, had they advised with some of us at first before matters came to this head and height who knows but much scandall had been prevented? and yet for all this if both sides would lay aside bitterness, and quietly state their case, methinks something might be done by the ministers of Christ at a distance, for I must confesse I am not capable of reaching them or conversing personally with them; nor is it fit for them to come, but some proposals of generall termes of accommodation subscribed by 3 or 4 of us, and presented to them, might make an experiment, how far that may goe before there be a totall rupture, for I should be sorry Dr. Stillingfleet should be a true prophet 20 years; let the dissenters alone and they will destroy themselves; gods way hath its authority as much as their Apocalyptical courts: you that live nearer may have fairer opportunity to help them, and the deference they have for your person, gifts, gravity, age and graces, is as likely to put an end to the matter as any I know; and I shall contribute the best assistance that lyes within my power, if you or they shall signify what procedure is made therein, and methinks there seemes some necessity of their reuniting, upon severall considerations, but I cannot inlarge, however I must make it matter of my poor prayers, that the god of all grace would humble and soften their hearts, that they may walk in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy ghost may be edified.—Dear Brother, we have not many steps to our father's house; where our soules shall unanimously sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, with our godly friends and brethren. now

at rest, where he longs to be who is
 your endeared anciently obliged
 brother, OL. HEYWOOD.

Accept this little treatise as a viand.

END OF VOL. IV.