

The Benett's & Stuart Relics



Mr V F Benett-Stanford, writing from Pyt House, Tisbury, Wilts, says the following is one of many letters he found in an old trunk in the lumber room at Pyt House, which were written by Charles 1 to his nephew Prince Rupert during the troublesome times of the Civil War.



To my dearest nephew Prince Rupert
Nephew, - Though, I know that, I need not recommend this bearer to you, yet a friends remembrance, at no tyme can doe no harme; & with this occasion I cannot but mention two Oxford discources to you.

First it is saide that it is impossible so to forteffe Tossator that it can be kept without so great a force bothe of Horse and Foote that it will not be worth the paines, & that the Horse wcy lyes there will be continually put to such hard dewty that (in short time) they are lyke to be much wasted.

Wherefor as it is possible that now you may finde this to be so, wch at first you did not belive (no more than I doe yet) & therefor thinke fitt to betake you to some other desyne; So by no means, I would not have you be guyded by our foolish discources heere but doe according to your owen judgement : & certainly that Place is of such consequence that it is not to be quitted but to eschew verrie greate inconveniences wch I hope ye will not finde.

The second is that my Wyfe and I ar treating for a Peace wch you must not heare of : this is a damnable Ley, the ground of it is that the French Ambassador said by way of discourse, not proposition that he hoped I would not shutt my eares to honourable and reasonable propositions if they were ofred me : but protested against treating with those who cal them selves the Parliament though I should desyre him & I against hearing from any of them except from Essex as Queene Elizabeth & my father treated with Tyron being the cheefs Rebell : but upon my credit you shall have notice of the first overtur (of wch yet there is little appearance) & shall have your word about if any such thing be so I rest.

Your loving Uncle & most faithfull frend
CHARLES R
Oxford 12 Nov 1643

Hampshire Advertiser Saturday 17 February 1877

Gifted a Gauntlet and Letter on the Scaffold

The Chancery Division - Mr Justice Parker on the Bench - was asked to decide a dispute between cousins, who are collectors of Stuart relics, as to the ownership of a gauntlet reputed to have been handed by King Charles 1 from the scaffold to an ancestor of the plaintiff, also as to an autograph letter written by his Majesty to Prince Rupert.

The plaintiff was Mr Evelyn Clay Ker Seymer, of 12 Leonards Terrace, Chelsea, and the defendant Mr John Benett-Stanford, of Hatch House, Tisbury in Wiltshire.

Mr Romer said the object of the action was to recover the gauntlet and letter from Mr Benett-Stanford. According to the tradition in Mr Ker Seymer's family, the gauntlet was originally the property of King Charles 1, and was, together with the other one of the pair, handed by him on the scaffold to an ancestor of the plaintiff.

Under his grandfather's will, Counsel said, Mr Ker Seymer became absolutely entitled to the articles in dispute as from 1899. At a time when he was still under age his mother, Mrs Gertrude Clay Ker Seymer, under a mistaken notion as to her rights, exchanged one of the gloves with the father of the defendant for a portrait in oils of Charles 1 and an autograph letter of the King to Prince Rupert.

In the summer of 1906, Mr Romer added, the articles were in the possession of Mrs Ker Seymer, and the defendant borrowed the letter to have it photographed so that he might have a facsimile copy. He was apparently not willing to return it and eventually Mrs Ker Seymer agreed to sell him the gauntlet and the letter for £50. Her son's case was that she had no legal authority to do this.

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