

'For my worthy Friend, Richard Mayor, Esquire, at Hursley: These.'

'London,' 14th March, 1648.

SIR,

I received your Paper by the hands of Mr. Stapylton. I desire your leave to return my dissatisfaction therewith. I shall not need to premise how much I have desired (I hope upon the best grounds) to match with you. The same desire still continues in me, if Providence see it fit. But I may not be so much wanting to myself nor family as not to have some equality of consideration towards it.

I have two young Daughters to bestow, if God give them life and opportunity. According to your Offer, I have nothing for them; nothing at all in hand. If my Son die, what consideration is there to me? And yet a jointure parted with 'on my side.' If she die, there is 'on your side' little money' parted with: 'even' if you have an heir male, 'there is' but 3,000l., 'and' without time ascertained.

As for these things, 'indeed', I doubt not but, by one interview between you and myself, they might be accommodated to mutual satisfaction; and in relation to these, I think we should hardly part, or have many words, so much do I desire a closure with you. But to deal freely with you: the settling of the Manor of Hursley, as you propose it, sticks so much with me, that either I understand you not, or else it much fails my expectation. As you offer it, there is 400l. per annum charged upon it. For the 150l. to your Lady, for her life, as a jointure, I stick not at that: but the 250l. per annum until Mr. Ludlow's Lease expires, the tenor whereof I know not, and so much of the 250l. per annum as exceeds that Lease in annual value for sometime also after the expiration of the said Lease,-gives such a maim to the Manor of Hursley as indeed renders the rest of the Manor very inconsiderable.

Sir, if I concur to deny myself in point of present monies, as also in the other things mentioned, as aforesaid, I may and do expect the Manor of Hursley to be settled without any charge upon it, after your decease, saving your Lady's jointure of 150l. per annum,-which if you should think fit to increase, I should not stand upon it. Your own Estate is best known to you: but surely your personal Estate, being free for you to dispose, will, with some small matter of addition, beget a nearness of equality,-if I hear well from others. And if the difference were not very considerable, I should not insist upon it.

What you demand of me is very high in all points. I am willing to settle as you desire in everything; saving for maintenance 400l. per annum, 300l. per annum. I would have somewhat free, to be thanked by them for. The 300l. per annum of my old land for a jointure, after my Wife's decease, I shall settle; and in the meantime 'a like sum' out of other lands at your election: and truly, Sir, if that be not good, neither will any lands, I doubt. I do not much distrust, your principles in other things have acted you towards confidence.-You demand in case my Son have non issue male but only daughters, then the 'Cromwell' Lands in Hantsire, Monmouth and Gloucester-shire to descend to

these daughters, or else 3000l. apiece. The first would be most unequal; the latter 'also' is too high. They will be well provided for by being inheritrixes of their Mother; and I am willing 'that' 2,000l. apiece be charged upon those lands 'for them.'

Sir, I cannot but with very many thanks acknowledge your good opinion to me and of my Son; as also your great civilities towards him; and your Daughter's good respects,-whose goodness, though known to me only at a distance and by the report of others, I much value. And indeed that causeth me so cheerfully to deny myself as I do in the point of monies, and so willingly to comply in other things. But if I should not insist as above, I should in a greater measure than were meet deny both my own reason and the advice of my friends; which I may not do. Indeed, Sir, I have not closed with a far greater Offer of estate; but chose rather to fix here: I hope I have not been wanting to Providence in this.

I have made myself plain to you. Desiring you will make my Son the messenger of your pleasure and resolution herein as speedily as with conveniency you may, I take leave,

And rest,
Your affectionate servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL.