

**SPAIN UNDER CHARLES THE  
SECOND; OR EXTRACTS FROM THE  
CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HON.  
ALEXANDER STANHOPE, BRITISH  
MINISTER AT MADRID. 1690-1699**

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Spain under Charles the Second; Or Extracts from the Correspondence of the Hon. Alexander Stanhope, British Minister at Madrid. 1690-1699 by Alexander Stanhope

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FROM  
THE CORRESPONDENCE  
OF  
THE HON. ALEXANDER STANHOPE,  
BRITISH MINISTER AT MADRID.

1690—1699.

FROM THE ORIGINALS AT CHEVENING.



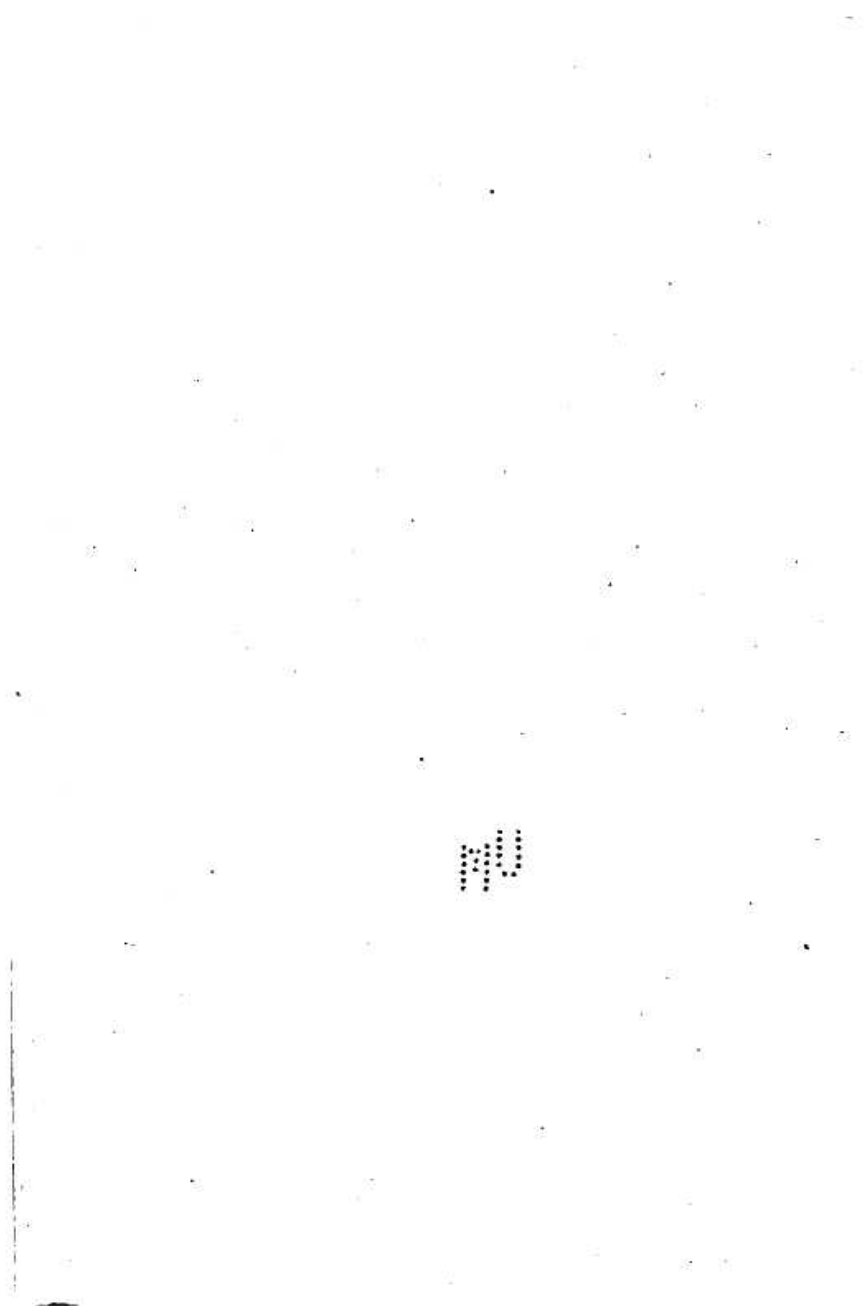
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"Non tamen adeo virtutum sterile seculum, ut non et bona exempla prodiderit."  
TACIT.

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LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

MDCCCL.



*Hist. - English  
Grant  
5-18-31  
23751*

## SPAIN

UNDER

### CHARLES THE SECOND.

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ALEXANDER STANHOPE, the youngest son of the first Earl of Chesterfield, was born in 1689. In 1689, he was appointed British Minister at Madrid, where he continued till 1699, when he was ordered to quit the kingdom; the Spanish Government being deeply and justly offended at the conclusion of the Treaty of Partition. He was then appointed Minister at the Hague, and remained there till shortly before his death in 1707.

He married a daughter of Arnold Burghill, Esq. of Thingehill Parva, in the county of Hereford, and his eldest son, James, was the first Earl Stanhope.

The following Extracts have been selected from his very numerous letters and despatches which are preserved at Chevening. He has also left a MS. work "On the Causes of the Decay of the Spanish Government, under the Kings of the Austrian family,"—and the great Lord Chatham,

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to whom it was shown sixty years afterwards, stated in the letter with which he returned it: "The whole piece is full of sagacity and judgment."

The correspondence now presented to the reader will, it is hoped, in a compendious form, display a vivid and authentic picture of Spain during the ten years, so interesting to all Europe, which preceded the death of the last of the Austrian Kings. — If it should be thought that the Spanish statesmen, or the Spanish generals—their councils or their armies—have been portrayed by Mr. Stanhope in too dark colours, it should be borne in mind, that the period in question was when manifold corruptions, and long-continued misrule, had reduced the Spanish nation to the lowest point of decline which it ever has known, and that it had not then the opportunity, which the War of the Succession so soon afterwards afforded, of evincing anew its constancy and courage.

MAHON.

Chevening, August, 1839.



SPAIN  
UNDER  
CHARLES THE SECOND.

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TO THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

The Groyne (Coruña), April, 1690.

THIS is the first opportunity I have had of writing since we came into Spain, where we were forced into a small port called Ferrol, three leagues short of the Groyne, and by the ignorance of a Spanish pilot our ships fell foul one with another, and the Admiral's \* ship was on ground for some hours, but got off clear without any damage. The storm was very violent. The Queen of Spain † landed at Ferrol, to come by land for the Groyne; she stays by the way at the Conde de Lemos' house, and is expected here this day to dinner, where there is a great concourse of Grandees to

\* Admiral Russell, afterwards Earl of Orford.

† Maria Anna of Neuburg, second wife of Charles the Second of Spain, and sister to the Empress, and to the Queen of Portugal. She was just betrothed, and on her way to her husband.

receive her, and fireworks prepared for her entertainment. . . . The King will be at Valladolid to meet her.

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TO THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY.

Coruña, April 19. 1690.

THE Queen of Spain left this place the 15th, where I am forced still to continue, till the mules which went in her Majesty's train return back from Astorga, which will be about fifteen days. . . . I find the Queen's reception has been much meaner than it would have been, out of a pique the Spanish Grandees have against Count Mansfeld, who was preferred before them all to the honour of bringing her over, by the favour of the Queen Mother, contrary to the advice of the Council of Castille. The officers of our fleet are all dissatisfied, both with their presents and manner of reception, as your Lordship will hear at large from Mr. Russell.

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TO THE EARL OF NOTTINGHAM, SECRETARY  
OF STATE.

Madrid, August 9. 1690.

THE Archbishop of Zaragoza succeeds the Conde de Oropesa in the Council of Castille, but has not the title of *Presidente*, only *Governador del Consejo*.

Oropesa continues in effect *Valido*, though without the name, and is in my opinion the ablest man I have met with in Spain.

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TO THE EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.

Madrid, September 18. 1690.

AN envoy is going from this Court to the King of Marocco, to treat about the redemption of the prisoners taken at Larache, which is the first any King of Spain has ever sent to a Mahometan Prince, since the expulsion of the Moors out of Spain.

The merchants from our ports ply me with complaints of the violences they suffer, contrary to our articles of peace; and I am not negligent in soliciting my *Commissary*, the Marques of Mancera, and the Northern Secretary of State, for redress, by repeated memorials, but have not yet been able to obtain an answer to any one. I know not what any more to do.

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TO THE EARL OF NOTTINGHAM.

Madrid, September 27. 1690.

OUR new President or Governor of Castille shows himself a great Justiciary, obliging the Grandees to pay their debts, and put their mis-