

**THE TEMPLE  
CLASSICS;  
FAMILIAR LETTERS**

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The temple classics; Familiar letters by James Howell

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**JAMES HOWELL**

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THE  
TEMPLE  
CLASSICS

FAMILIAR  
LETTERS  
BY  
JAMES HOWELL

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SECTION VI

I

*To P. W. Esq., at the Signet Office, from the  
English House in Hamburg*

WE are safely come to Germany. Sir John In Ger-  
Penington took us aboard in one of his many  
Majesty's ships at Margate; and the wind stood so  
fair that we were at the mouth of the Elbe upon  
Monday following. It pleased my lord I should  
land first with two footmen, to make haste to  
Glückstadt, to learn where the King of Denmark  
was, and he was at Rendsburg, some two days  
journey off, at a Reichstag, an assembly that cor-  
responds to our Parliament. My lord the next day  
landed at Glückstadt, where I had provided an  
accommodation for him, though he intended to  
have gone for Hamburg, but I was bold to tell  
him, that in regard there were some unbrages, and  
not only so, but open and actual differences betwixt  
the king and that town, it might be ill taken if he  
went thither first before he had attended the king.  
So I left my lord at Glückstadt, and being come  
hither to take up 8000 rich dollars upon Mr  
Burlamach's bills, and fetch Mr Avery our agent  
here, I return to-morrow to attend my lord again  
I find that matters are much off the hinges be-  
twixt the King of Denmark and this town.

## 2 HOWELL'S FAMILIAR LETTERS

In attend- The King of Sweden is advancing apace to find  
 ance on out Wallestein and Wallestein him, and in all ap-  
 Lord pearance they will be shortly engaged.  
 Leicester No more now, for I am interpellèd by many  
 at Ham- businesses. When you write, deliver your letters  
 burg to Mr Railton, who will see them safely conveyed,  
 for a little before my departure I brought him  
 acquainted with my lord, that he might negotiate  
 some things at court. So with my service, and  
 love to all at Westminster. I rest your faithful  
 servitor, J. H.

Hamburg, *October 23, 1632.*

## II

*To my Lord Viscount S. ; from Hamburg*

SINCE I was last in town, my Lord of Leicester hath attended the King of Denmark at Rendsburg in Holsteinlaud. He was brought thither from Glückstadt in indifferent good equipage, both for coaches and waggons; but he stayed some days at Rendsburg for audience. We made a comely gallant show in that kind when we went to court, for we were near upon a hundred, all of one piece in mourning. It pleased my lord to make me the orator, and so I made a long Latin speech, *alta voce*, to the king in Latin, of the occasion of this embassy, and tending to the praise of the deceased queen. And I had better luck than Secretary Nanton had some thirty years since with Roger, Earl of Rutland; for at the beginning of his speech, when he had pronounced *Serenissimo Rex*, he was dashed out of countenance, and so gravellèd

that he could go no further. I made another to Christian the Fifth, his eldest son, king elect of Denmark. For though that crown be purely elective, yet for these three last kings, they wrought so with the people, that they got their eldest sons chosen and declared before their death and to assume the title of kings elect. At the same audience I made another speech to Prince Frederick, Archbishop of Breme, the king's third son, and he hath but one more (besides his natural issue), which is Prince Ulric, now in the wars with the Duke of Saxe. And they say there is an alliance contracted already betwixt Christian the Fifth and the Duke of Saxe's daughter. This ceremony being performed, my lord desired to find his own diet, and then he fell to divers businesses, which is not fitting for me to forestall or impart unto your lordship now, so we stayed there near upon a month. The king feasted my lord once, and it lasted from eleven of the clock till towards the evening, during which time the king began thirty-five healths: the first to the emperor, the second to his nephew of England, and so went over all the kings and queens of Christendom, but he never remembered the Prince Palgrave's health or his niece's all the while. The king was taken away at last in his chair, but my Lord of Leicester bore up stoutly all the while, so that when there came two of the king's guard to take him by the arms as he was going down the stairs, my lord shook them off and went alone.

The next morning I went to court for some dispatches, but the king was gone a hunting at break of day; but going to some other of his officers, their servants told me without any appearance of

Howell's  
State  
Orations



**Danish** shame, that their masters were drunk overnight, and  
**Hospitality** so it would be late before they would rise.

A few days after we went to Gothorp Castle in Sleswickland to the Duke of Holstein's court, where, at my lord's first audience, I made another Latin speech to the duke touching his grandmother's death. Our entertainment there was brave (though a little fulsome). My lord was lodged in the duke's castle, and parted with presents, which is more than the King of Denmark did. Thence we went to Husum in Ditzmarsh, to the Duchess of Holstein's court (our Queen Anne's youngest sister), where we had also very full entertainment. I made a speech to her also about her mother's death, and when I named the Lady Sophia, the tears came down her cheeks. Thence we came back to Rheinsburg, and so to this town of Hamburg, where my lord intends to repose some days. After an abrupt odd journey we had through Holsteinland, but I believe it will not be long, in regard Sir John Pennington stays for him upon the river. We expect Sir Robert Anstruther to come from Vienna hither to take the advantage of the king's ship.

We understand that the imperial and Swedish army have made near approaches one to the other, and that some skirmishes and blows have been already betwixt them, which are the forerunners of a battle. So, my good lord, I rest, your most humble and faithful servitor,

J. H.

Hamburg, 9 October 1632.

## III

*To the Right Honourable the Earl R. from  
Hamburg*

MY LORD,

THOUGH your lordship must needs think, that in the employment I am in (which requires a whole man) my spirits must be distracted by multiplicity of businesses, yet because I would not recede from my old method and first principles of travel, when I came to any great city, to couch in writing what is most observable, I sequestered myself from other affairs to send your lordship what followeth touching this great Hans town. The Han-  
seatic  
League

The Hans, or Hansiatic League, is very ancient, some would derive the word from hand, because they of the society plight their faith by that action; others derive it from *Hanta*, which in the Gothic tongue is council; others would have it come from *Hander see*, which signifies near or upon the sea, and this passeth for the best etymology, because their towns are all seated so, or upon some navigable river near the sea. The extent of the old Hans was from the Nerve in Livonia to the Rhine, and contained sixty-two great mercantile towns, which were divided to four precincts. The chiefest of the first precinct was Lubeck, where the archives of their ancient records and their prime chancery is still, and this town is within that verge; Cullen is chief of the second precinct, Brunswick of the third, and Dantzic of the fourth. The kings of Poland and Sweden have sued to be their protector, but they refused them, because they were not princes of the empire.

The Old Hans Towns They put off also the King of Denmark with a compliment, nor would they admit the King of Spain when he was most potent in the Netherlands, though afterwards, when it was too late, they desired the help of the ragged staff; nor of the Duke of Anjou, notwithstanding that the world thought he should have married our queen, who interceded for him, and so it was probable that thereby they might recover their privileges in England. So that I do not find they ever had any protector but the great Master of Prussia; and their want of a protector did do them some prejudice in that famous difference they had with our Queen.

The old Hans had extraordinary immunities given them by our Henry the Third, because they assisted him in his wars with so many ships, and as they pretend, the king was not only to pay them for the service of the said ships but for the vessels themselves if they miscarried. Now it happened that at their return to Germany, from serving Henry the Third, there was a great fleet of them cast away, for which, according to covenant, they demanded reparation. Our king in lieu of money, amongst other acts of grace, gave them a privilege to pay but one per cent., which continued until Queen Mary's reign, and she by advice of King Philip, her husband, as it was conceived, enhanced the one to twenty per cent. The Hans not only complained but clamoured loudly for breach of their ancient privileges confirmed unto them, time out of mind, by thirteen successive kings of England, which they pretended to have purchased with their money. King Philip undertook to accommodate the business, but Queen Mary dying a little after, and he retiring, there could be nothing done. Complaint