

obliged to return you my thanks for this great humanity of yours, and to implore the Divine goodness to restore you your health, who am, Rev. Sir,

Yours, &c.

Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle,¹ to John Evelyn.

Welbeck, February, 1670.

HONOURABLE SIR,

I have by your bounty received a book, named a Discourse of Forest Trees: you have planted a forest full of delight and profit, and though it is large through number and variety, yet you have enclosed it with elegance and eloquence, all which proves you more proper to be the head than a member of the Royal Society. The truth is, you are a person of singular virtues, for which all ought, as I do, admire you; and am your humble servant,

MARGARET NEWCASTLE.

My humble service, I pray, to your lady.

The Reverend Nicholas Jameson (of Credwell, Wiltshire) to John Evelyn.

Credwell, 11th April, 1670.

HONOURED SIR,

The delight I take in planting of trees and flowers hath often prompted unto me some little thoughts and designs concerning the raising of mulberries, which thoughts have been very much heightened and animated by the reading of some part of your most ingenious and excellent Discourse of Forest Trees; but by all the enquiry I could hitherto make by my friends about London for some seed of the whiter kind, which your book treats of, I have not hitherto been so happy as to procure any, nor indeed to meet with those who ever heard of any such mulberry or seed. Now, loth as I was to give over my design, and as

¹ See *Diary*, vol. ii. p. 24, 25, 26. The reader need not be reminded that this high, fastastical Duchess was a great favourite with Charles Lamb, who has frequently commended her life of her husband as a perfect "jewel of a book." And see *post*, p. 344.