

L. Hooker

Though I dare be confident that yr L^{ts} noble disposition, will
afford a good interpretation to my longer silence, and forbearance
to present my services to yr L^{ts}, yet I could not forsake myselfe
so much, as not to make a right use of my just excuses. for
my cautious laminge stayd mee in England some months after
I had the honor to see yr L^{ts} last, and beinge retarded in my
way in France, till my poore house at Amiens were put into
some fitness, yet y^e not new a fortnight since I began to rest
here. And though next this thys place, not so shorte tyme, present
any thinge, that I could forgive myselfe to trouble yr L^{ts} withall,
yet I hope y^e will make thys an argument, that next this my
former abstinence was out of neglect negligence, not that
any distance shall slacken in mee those affection, and devotion,
w^{ch} I bear towards yr L^{ts}, &

Yr L^{ts} 

P A labour, least my longer abstinence from giving you an account of myself
might be subject to misinterpretation, and appear like a negligence,
which we take the first occasion of presenting my true excuses.
I was by many business held in England four months after my purpose
of a present coming away: and in my way in France I met at some
necessaries of spending more time than I expected: so that in this,
not yet my first resting place, I have not yet had a fortnight.
And from hence, and in so short time, no man can be present^{ed} but
thy poor testimony, that in all places I shall ever retain the same
disposition of doing you service, and the same desire of being
confered in your good opinion; ~~as~~ of w^{ch} I cannot receive a better
fruit and effect than that you would be pleased, at your best
commodity to present my humble service, to his highness, and to let him
continue him in an assurance, that he hath in these parts a servant
that desires nothing so much, as to have the honor of his commande-
ments.

My Lord Rochefort
and C. D. Murray