

**N.D. [?August - December 1658<sup>1</sup>], Katherine née Boyle Jones (1615-1691), Viscountess Ranelagh to her sister-in-law, Margaret née Howard Boyle (1623-1689), Lady Broghill** (West Sussex Record Office, Chichester. Orrery Papers, MS. 13219, folder 24). Autograph. For my Lady Broghill [/] At Ballymaloe.

My Deare Sister

At length I have gotten the sperit of wormewood<sup>2</sup> & Plaister of Caranna<sup>3</sup> ^\for my brother/ which I rather Chuse to trouble you with than [illegible] him, beCause I know you by Experience to be more Careful of that health of his in order to which it is sent you he is & yet he has made me a promise of leting me see, he hates the goute worse than Phisick<sup>4</sup> against it , & that promise I must beg you to pleade with him , As I bribe him to let me receive the benefit of it, by not givinge him the trouble of a letter of myne by this bearer & soe not tempting his civility to think him bound to give me an answeare , til his Elbows are in Case to let him doe it with ease , [/]

The Black thing on the top of ^\it/ is the Chiminal[chemical] oyle 2 or 3 drops of which upon a good lumpe of sugar taken in a morneing fasting & fasting an houer or 2 after is what I hope wil help his stomack against the Clogg<sup>5</sup> of Fleam<sup>6</sup> that now oppresses it , provided he doe it for a good many days together , the plaister is but to be warmed & layd to his stomack & if to the use of these two easy things , he would , but adde , a Constant Care, of his diet, & exercise that , in never eateing any thing hard of digestion (as al strong meates must be to him, that is soe seldom able to use exercise,) & in rather Chuseing to eate oftener in a day & \a/ litle at a time than one ful meale & noething else , I hope he might ^\by the blessing of god/ reCover to himselfe & his friends a freedome from those torments which he Can't keepe himselfe under without givinge them also a share of them & to ^\bee/ ill natu[?red]<sup>7</sup> to himselfe that he may be soe to his friends is soe ill < a humor, as I hope he wil never let be his his, [/] I send you Dr Boates<sup>8</sup> Booke to write out for your owne use but must beg you that noe Doctor nor Apothecary<sup>9</sup> may have any thing out

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<sup>1</sup> August 1658-December 1658, based on the following factors. Katherine Jones was in Ireland between November 1656 and 15 February 1659, and on 24 September 1657 she travelled from Dublin to Cork. See travel licence, *Calendar of the State Papers, Domestic Series, 1649-1660*, ed. M.A. Everett Green (London, 1875-1886), p.583. Roger Boyle was granted Ballymaloe in June 1657, see further details in fn.11 below. Roger Boyle and his wife Margaret travelled to England on 24 December 1657 and returned to Cork on 14 August 1658. Richard Boyle describes only four occasions when both he and his wife along with Katherine Jones visited Ballymaloe: 2 and 28 September 1658, 1 November 1658, and 31 December 1658, see Burlington Diaries, 1657-59. Elizabeth Boyle recorded Katherine Jones's departure for England on 15 February 1659, see Memorandum Book, f. 2v.

<sup>2</sup> "The plant *Artemisia Absinthium*, proverbial for its bitter taste. The leaves and tops are used in medicine as a tonic and vermifuge [---.] It yields a dark green oil" ("wormwood, n." 1.a. *OED*).

<sup>3</sup> "A resin obtained from a West Indian tree, *Bursera acuminata* (family Amyridaceæ)" ("caraña | caranna, n." *OED*).

<sup>4</sup> "Medical, curative, and extended uses" ("physic, n. 1," *OED*).

<sup>5</sup> "[---:] a block, clump" ("clog, n. 1.," *OED*).

<sup>6</sup> "In ancient and medieval physiology and medicine: one of the four cardinal humours, described as cold and moist, and supposed when predominant to cause constitutional indolence or apathy. Now *historical*" ("phlegm, n. 1.a." *OED*). Wormwood was used to discharge phlegm.

<sup>7</sup> Text close to the edge of the manuscript, possibly three letters missing.

<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Baigent, "Boate, Gerard [formerly Gerrit Boot] (1604-1650), physician and natural historian," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [ODNB].

<sup>9</sup> "One who kept a store or shop of non-perishable commodities, spices, drugs, comfits, preserves, etc." ("apothecary, n. 1." *OED*).

of it ,beCause he has a sonn of his owne that is studdying towards being of his fathers proffesion, & therefore for him I would reserve the assistance of his fathers Experiments from al other Doctors but our selves yet to further your practise I hasten it to you. Though I hope in my brother & sister Corkes<sup>10</sup> Company to have the> [f.1v] satisfaction of wayteing upon you at Ballymaloe<sup>11</sup> sometime this weeke . I beg to know how you al doe in the meane time & to have my affectionate service presented to my deare Brother & al the young tribe, ~~And must~~ As I must present you al with the service of my Sister Corke in obedience to her Comand layd upon

Madame

Munday

Your very affectonate Sister &

Obliged faythfull servant

KRanalaugh

<My girles<sup>12</sup> are humble servants to you my brother & their Couseins , My brother Corke now returned from hunting presents his humble service to you & my brother & desiers my brother may know that a fat Buck in Kilhodden wood<sup>13</sup> killed by any hand wil doe very wel in his opinnion>

<The inClosed papers I received from Will Tynnte<sup>14</sup> when I payd him mony by my Brother's apoyntment as I did yesterday from him a very earnest desier to make his excuse to you & my brother for his not wayteing upon you, his late troubles haveing he says put him into a posture unfit to doe it in>

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<sup>10</sup> Richard and Elizabeth Boyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> earl and countess of Cork (later, earl and countess of Burlington).

<sup>11</sup> Margaret and Roger Boyle's home, Ballymaloe, County Cork which was granted to them on 5 June 1657 as part of a larger land settlement, see Patrick Little, *Lord Broghill and the Cromwellian Union with Ireland and Scotland* (Woodbridge, 2004), p.217.

<sup>12</sup> Katherine and Arthur Jones's two younger daughters, Elizabeth (b.1635) and Frances (b. 1639). At this time the eldest daughter Katherine (b.1633) was married to Sir William Parsons, 2<sup>nd</sup> baronet (d.1658) with whom she had one son, Richard (c.1656, d.1702/3), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Rosse. For more see Terry Clavin, "Montgomery, Hugh (d.1663)," *Dictionary of National Biography [DIB]*.

<sup>13</sup> Not identified. The inference here is that a buck, sourced from Broghill's woods, should be sent as a gift to an unmentioned individual.

<sup>14</sup> William Tynt was married to Kate Boyle, a cousin of the Boyles, see Townshend, *Life and letters*, p. 299. Tynt had lent Roger Boyle various sums which debt was gradually being paid off, see Little, *Lord Broghill*, p.212, 217.