

**TRANSCRIPTION OF LADY FRANCES BERKELEY'S
LAST KNOWN PERSONAL LETTER,
DATED MAY 31ST, 1695**

Green Spring,
May the Last, 1695

To Sir Abstrupus Danby

Sir Ap,

I believe both our letters miscarried last year, for I wrote two to you about a plantation of your father's called Buck Row which I am sure he never sold, but I am informed that Sir Thomas Danby empowered Mr. William Batt. Here is a friend of mine going home, Col. Hartwell, who is our Counsel (you have seen him in England). I desire when you are in town you will renew your acquaintance with him, and if this affair is worth preserving, you may know who is in present possession and everything that concerns Virginia. [?] named one Mr. Harrison for your attorney And lawyer, and if you proceed in it he will tell you Mr. Harrison's county, which I cannot. I was in hope to have come to you in his and his lady's company, but I could not bring it to pass, Yet it shall be [in the?] next shipping. I have lost my dear brother (*Alexander Culpeper, who died in 1694*), but as long as God preserves your life (which I hope will be to a great age), I shall believe I have a friend who is to be valued as brother, son, and everything that is worthy of the esteem and love of your humble servant and affectionate cousin,

F Berkeley

(Post Script?)

I pray give my humble service to your Lady. I have received no letter from you this year, but I perceive your sister has, and you have good right to be angry and chide her, but she is so grieved for her errors, and so miserable that I cannot forbear pitying her. She must be forgiven for the same reason our savior forgave those that persecuted him, for she knew not what she did. I, therefore [hope?] to give her some consolation by writing kindly to her. But if you had roomfuls of mercy lying by you I do not wish you should give her any unless she should come to want for her own person. And I am sorry that her husband came to the knowledge of that remaining part of her uncle's legacy, for all is thrown into the sea that is joined to that tattered estate. Yet she is worthy of consideration for securing (as far as it is possible for her) her children's estate. Her husband is good natured, but not capable of unwinding such a ruffled skein of thread. Her eldest son is as hopeful a child as I have seen, but is lost for want of education.

Source: ALS, Cunliffe-Lister Muniments, Bundle 69, County Hall,
Northallerton, Yorkshire, U.K.