

of any thing in this world, in their hands sooner then in any else. Sooner then of those into whose Society hee was here incorporated & from whom hee had received all demonstrations of a most affectionate civilitie because hee judged the Seat of Science to bee fixed there & that the members of it did embrace & promote Philosophy not for interest, not through ambition or a vanity of excellling others not through fancy or a variable curiosity, butt out of naturall principles of generosity, inclination to Learning & a sincere Respect & love for the truth, wich made him Judge that their constitution would bee therefore *more* durable because their designes & aimes were soe honourable & that God almighty would give a great stability & blessing to their Labours because hee had inspired them with soe Worthy desires.

Whereas hee said hee did foresee the dissolution of this academie because it was mixt with tinctures of Envy because it was supported upon suppositions of profit because it wholly depended upon the Humour of a Prince & the favour of a minister, either of wich coming toe relent in their Passions the whole frame & Project of their assembly cometh to Perdition. There hee proceeded to name severall of the Royal Society for whom hee expresst a singular esteeme the Bishop of Sarisbury <sup>21)</sup> Doctor Wren, Mister Hooke hee termd a man, of a Vast invention & the Bishop of Chester <sup>22)</sup> of a most elevated Judgement & a most profound witt, you Mister Oldenbourg and all the whole Society in generall for a most chearfull & unanimous agreement & harmony in the advancing of knowledge without which hee said it was impossible for the most selected body or the most chosen witts long to subsist.

Here hee fell into a digression concerning their Judgement about some things wich hee had written & hee said you had intimated to him as if one of the Society in his experiments made about Pendulums had iudged them variable & subject to the alterations of Weather <sup>23)</sup>. this Person hee conjectured to bee Mister Mercator. however, hee said notwithstanding the great ability & capacity of that Person who made those experiments hee durst assure him that a Pendulum was a machine the equality of whose motions one might safely relye upon & if it did not appeare soe to him the defect was either in the Artificer who made it or else that his Pendulum was without a cyclois wich corrects its anomalies or else hee said hee did not Putt weight enough & that hee repeated againe I believe in England they doe not hang weight enough to their Pendulums & soe the air governes their motions butt the great secret to master the air is to hang weight enough & use a cyclois of which the severall experiences of the Pendulums here in Paris have soe convinced mee that of that I make noe longer doubt.

This is the summe of what hee then discoursst & of wich I promised to bee a most

<sup>21)</sup> Seth Ward.

<sup>22)</sup> John Wilkins.

<sup>23)</sup> Consultez la Lettre N°. 1794.