

26/5/91

Translation  
from  
Old English

R. Natsume.

God forbid that you hate one another, for the very reason that you ought to love the better. And yet that is actually the case. No where do we find such a deadly strife as among those who are bound both by nature and law to agree together. The lust of glory and power is such a venomous serpent that it turns all to mischief with dissension, wherever it once creeps in. Longing first to be the next, then to be the equal and lastly to be the superior, to the best. ~~The~~ ambition knows no bounds. By this illimitable thirst for power and the consequent discord the realm has suffered much within these few years. What sorrow, what loss and what trouble, I pray God to forget <sup>as completely as</sup> ~~and~~ remember ~~so~~ well. By my Lady, I would not have got the crown at the cost of so many heads, if I could have ~~known~~ <sup>preseen</sup> what I have ~~so sadly~~ experienced. But what ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> done can not be undone. Taught by ~~the~~ past experience, we should take care not to fall into the same pickle as before. Thank God, now

a little  
too conventional  
a word

those griefs are passed and all is quiet. My  
 children are likely to prosper under your  
 care if God send them life and your love.  
 Of those two things, however, my children's  
 death, though they now live by God's grace, would  
 be a slighter loss than the other. For the  
 realm can always find a King as good  
 as they. But if you fall into discord  
<sup>among</sup> <sup>his</sup> <sup>minority</sup>  
~~my~~ ~~children~~ reign, many a good man may  
 perish, perhaps he and you also, before  
 peace can again be restored. Therefore  
 in those last words, I exhort you to forget  
 henceforth all <sup>the</sup> <sup>new</sup> grievances and to love  
 one another. For the love that you have  
 ever borne me, for the love that I have ever  
 borne you, and for the love that our Lord  
 bears us all, I entreat you to <sup>attend</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>my</sup> ~~observe~~ these  
 words. And that surely you will, if you  
 have any regard either for God or your  
 King or your country or your safety. With  
 these words, the enfeebled King, unable  
 to sit up any longer, <sup>lay down</sup> ~~fell~~ on his right  
 side with his face towards them. At

all who were present, none could refrain  
 from tears.

A very good paper  
 M.H.