

9 16
Oates 24 Nov^r 1704.

Gr.

It being a long while since the date of your
first Letter to me, tho' not very long since I received it, the
High value that I have for the Honour of your Correspondence
makes me fear incurring the suspicion of a neglect I can never
be Guiltie of in your regard, and induces me now to write,
tho' the loss I have but lately had; and since that the sollicitary
Care which attend the first sending an only Child into the World
under his own Conduct, does at present much indispose me.

Your of the 16th of Sept^r came not to my hand,
till our 31 of October: the day wherein was performed the
last Office to one that had been my Friend above half my
life time. ^{Mr Locke I mean.} A Friend, who tho' very Acci-
dentally, and perfectly unknown to my Familie, may supply
to me the Place of a Father, and Brother: and to whose
Direction, next to the Favour of God, I chiefly ascribe it if my
Son (as I have reason to Hope) be Bless'd with a sound Mind
in a sound Body. But this has been but the best Effect
of Mr Locke's Friendship, nor the only one: for he has in his
last Will left to my Son (or, in case of his ^{Death to my self})
a Legacy in money of a value seldom given ^{by any} to such a one
no way related. ^{with} other Gifts to him, ^{among which is the}
of his Librarie betwixt him, and his Kinsman and Executor
Mr Peter King; a man of great worth on many Accounts;
and particularly as a member of Parliament, (wherein
no one is believ'd ~~more~~ more immoveably True to
the Protestant Interest)
In telling you these obligations which I have