Mrs Strode & Mr Lyre; & yet the Person who used to accompany her, when she went to Parsons Green, also to go & fetch her home, was this very Mr Lyre; this it will be allowd was no conciliating way; & his treatment shews, she was not unreasonably set against him; how shocking was that Speech of his? Dowager, I think the fittest Place for you, wd be a mad house; & this is an Answer to what the Gentlemen said, as to Mr Woods endeavors to prejudice her against him: there was no occasion for it; she Deed persevering in her Sentiments of the Speech being according to his real Intentions, notwithstanding his Apology, Cornforth confirms its being frequent, & the Occasion of her dislike: the Daurs Vizits continued some time after Mrs Gough's going down; she had abundant Provocation, for making the Alteration; yet she provides amply for her daur, tho, not in the Way she wd like. It appears by the Inventory dated Octr 28. 1761. that Lyre was indebted to ye Estate 38/5s/ if therefore he had not so grossly affronted her, if she had no reason to think he wd enjure her daur, (as she more than think, he wd,) the betreying her to lend him more money, & her not looking upon the Debt as secure, wd be full reason sufficient, for altering the Will — All this, I am sensible wd come to nothing, if they cd establish ye Incapacity; But none of the Ws speak to the Point, & Mr Lyre had not seen her, of some time — As to Custody, she managed her own Affairs, gave her own Orders, she was quite at Liberty; to establish a Custody, it must be proved in ye strictest manner: Nothing like it, has been proved; Mr Wood the Master was not there: She cd have left the House whenever she pleased; but it appears, she had a greater Aversion for her own house, else Mr Lyre, Mrs Strode wd have readily afforded her, the Assistance necessary to get away — The Facts deposed to by Haslom contradict her Depon, to a mere Declaration she pretends the Deed made; she left her Daur, the choice of any House but Surry Street — They have pleaded, & the Ws speak to a stricter Custody at P's but even supposeing, they had made out the Endeavor to conceal the Illness; it wd be Custody by a sort of Presumption & Collection: the Servant is not examined; & what methods did they take to conceal it? why, the most unlikely; they sent for Lane, the Apothecary, & the Nurse of the Family; there was therefore the greatest Probability, they wd acquaint Mrs S. with her Mothers Illness; & so they did, Lane went, & Davis sent word; — You will observe, the daur never offered to visit her, for 2 months after she came to Town; it is said Cornforth, or Wood, or both, refused to let her see ye Deed; how was this refusal? why C. desired her to remain in ye Parlor, till he sent up word, she was there; it was very proper, in her weak State, that she shd be apprized of it, & her daurs behavior afterwards, shews how necessary, it was, nay that it wd have been unjustifiable not to let her go up at all — She flew into a violent Passion, & W. said she, shd not see her Mother, till she was cool, wch, when she was a little, she accordingly did; Davis too confirms this, to be the real fact; for ye Words, she deposes, Mr Wood used, are "You sha'nt see your Mother in a passion"; how does she behave, when she is admitted? in a most unnatural manner; she puts herself into a heat, runs up to ye Bed, & tells this poor Woman, "she was come, to carry her home to her own house!" what, remove her in that Condition when the Physician wd have kept her quite still, & said the Jolt of a Coach, going by, might kill her; how then cd she possibly bear the motion of one from Bond Str: to Surry Street? & what made the Speech still more cruel, to a house she had all along, expressd such an Aversion to: They have

called it a master piece of Art, on account of Mrs Strode's age make it unlikely, she shd have Children; I dont know there is any Evidence, of what age she is; they say the Contingency of Children is provided for, not that of Grand Children, perhaps it is not in express words, but I believe the Equity wd extend to them by a liberal Construction of the Bequest, in preference of them to Strangers: But what is the Inference they wd draw? is it an Argument consistent with the other, wch the Gent^n^ made use of? wd they infer, the fortune was given to her Children because it was not probable, she shd have any, & not given to her Grandchildren, because it was probable she shd have such? It is not the Opinion of Ws wch are to be regarded; I will allow, it is not probable, she shd give Legacies to Persons, of whom she had expressd herself so strongly; let them make the most of it; for it is not incumbent on Parties, to clear up every slight presumption; is it such as to overturn the positive proof, we have brought; there is nothing now, I think, but the Recognition, wch they have pleaded differently from what they have proved, from Haslom's account, it is not established, that either C. or W. were present, when Deed delivered her the Penknife, tho, they have pleaded them to have been so: nor does H. say one word of a harsh message, being sent, as they have pleaded, but quite the reverse, as far as it goes, calling her "Dear Child!" What the notice of this odd Transaction, might be, is not at all essential: perhaps, it might be with a View to keep the Daur, a little quiet; she might do it, that she might not think herself quite cut off, as she must be conscious, her behavior had been such, as to deserve it; Mr Lane's Answer to the Interry quite oversets their Plea, of a pretended Republication & Recognition of her former Will, a Day or two before her Death; he is asked, did not she acknowledge the Will of 1760 to be her hand writing, he answers, he heard the Deed say, her Daur had been there with an old Gentleman, & did ask her, wh^t^ a Paper, they showd her, was not of her hand writing? but dont know what that Paper was — This proves ye Capacity beyond all Possibility of doubt — Lane tho, exam: for us, is no willing Witness; the if favorable to either, must be presumed so to Mrs S. being the Apothecary of the Family in Surry Street — The Deed did not say, that was her Will, & this slight acknowledgement merely of her hand writing, cant amount to a Republication or Recognition, therefore &c

Dr Harris .... I am Council for Mrs Strode, & must go into ye History of Mrs Gough as far as the Evidence will justify me; she was left in possession of a very great fortune by Mr Paris, who married her Sister, who on her death Bed particularly recommended Mrs S. to his care, & favor; he promised his Wife to provide for her, cloathed, & treated her as his own Child; he intended his whole fortune for her; she married Mr S. agt P's inclination & clandestinely; he was very much displeased with it, but forgave her many years before his death: his Attention was then diverted to securing the fortune to her, so that it might not fall under the Power of her Husband; it was therefore to be left in trust; P. was desirous of its being a secret Trust, & accordingly at Mrs S's own request committed it to her mother, Mrs G. who ostensibly, Down, by this Will of 1746, has the whole for herself, but by the Letter, it is very plain, she was only Trustee for her Daur; he says, he is sorry he cannot leave Mrs S. a Partner in the Donation: who is to interpret this Letter? Down it is obscure, but it must be all taken together: this alters to her being a feme Covert; "I wish I had more to give" &c Mrs G. at most cd only have had a Moiety to herself; but she was from the whole tenor of the Letter, a mere Trustee to her Daur, of ye whole: P. consulted her before he made his Will; she promised him to fullfill the Trust: P. asked Mrs S. who shd be her Trustee? she proposed her Mother: no Lawyer intervened, no Lawyer can determine the nature of the Trust; none but Mrs G. cd know P's Intention —