time of the ſecond Dutch war. About the end of ſummer, however, 1673, the king wiſhing to put an end to the war, ſent for Sir William, and deſired him to go to Holland to negotiate a peace; but powers having been sent from thence at this time to the Marquis de Freſno, the Spaniſh ambaſſador at London, Sir William was ordered to confer with him ; and a treaty was accordingly concluded in three days, and the point carried reſpecting the ſuperiority of the Britiſh flag, which had been ſo long conteſted. In June 1674 he was again sent ambaſſador to Holland to offer the king's mediation between France and the confederates, then at war, which was accepted not long after; Lord Berkeley, Sir William Temple, and Sir Leoline Jenkins, being declared ambassadors and mediators ; and Nimeguen, which Sir Wil­liam had propoſed, was at length agreed upon by all parties to be the place of treaty. During his ſtay at the Hague, the prince of Orange, who was fond of the Engliſh lan­guage, and of the plain Engliſh way of eating, conſtantly dined and supped once or twice a week at his houſe ; and by this familiarity he ſo much gained the prince’s confi­dence and eſteem, that he had a conſiderable hand in his marriage with the Princeſs Mary, daughter of James II.

In July 1676 he removed his family to Nimeguen, where he spent the remainder of that year without making any progreſs in the treaty ; and the year following his son was ſent over with letters from the lord treaſurer, ordering him to return, and ſucceed Mr Coventry as secretary of state. In conſequence of this order, Sir William came over to England in the ſpring of 1677 ; and though the affair of the ſecretary’s place was dropped at his deſire, he did not return to Nimeguen that year. About this time, the prince having the king’s leave to come over, he ſoon after married the Princeſs Mary ; and this gave occaſion for a new coolness between lord Arlington and Sir William, as he and the lord treaſurer Oſborn, who was related to Sir William's lady, were only privy to that affair. After the prince and prin­ceſs were gone to Holland, as the court always ſeemed in­clined to favour France, the king wiſhed to engage Sir William in ſome negotiations with that crown : but he was ſo ill ſatisfied with this propoſal, that he offered to give up all pretenſions to the office of ſecretary ; and deſiring the lord treaſurer to acquaint his majeſty with his intentions, retired to Sheen, in hopes of being taken at his word. Upon a diſcovery, however, of the French deſigns not to evacuate the Spaniſh towns agreed by the treaty to be delivered up, the king commanded him to go upon a third embassy to the states; with whom he concluded a treaty: by which England engaged, in caſe France refuſed to evacuate the towns in forty days, to declare war immediately againſt that nation ; but before half that time was elapſed, one Du Croſs was ſent from the Engliſh court to Holland upon a buſineſs which damped all the good humour excited by the treaty there, and which produced ſuch ſudden and aſtoniſhing changes in this country, as gave Sir William a diſtaſte for all public employments.

In 1679 he went back to Nimeguen, where the French delayed to ſign the treaty till the laſt hour; but having con­cluded it, he returned to the Hague, whence he was ſoon after ſent for to enter upon the ſecretary’s office, which Mr Coventry at length resolved to reſign. He according­ly came over, and went to court, as all his friends hoped, with a full intention of aſſuming his office ; but he ſtarted ſome difficulty, becauſe he had not a seat in the houſe of commons, thinking that, by his not being a member, the public buſiness would ſuffer at ſuch a critical time, when the conteſts between the two parties ran ſo high that the king thought fit to ſend the duke of York into Flanders, and the parliament to put the lord treaſurer Danby into the Tower. After this his majeſty ſtill pressed Sir William to be ſecretary of state ; uſing as an argument for his compli­ance, that he had nobody to consult with at a time when he had the greateſt need of the beſt advice. Notwithſtanding all this, Sir William declined the king’s offer, adviſing him to chooſe a council in whom he could confide, and upon whoſe abilities he could depend. This advice the king followed ; and the choice of the persons being concerted between his majeſty and Sir William, the old council was diſſolved four days after, and the new one eſtablished, of which the latter was a member.

In 1680 the councils began again to be changed, on the king’s illneſs, at the end of summer, and the duke of York*'s,* return privately to court. In this juncture Sir William, en­deavouring to bring to the king’s favour and buſineſs ſome perſons to whom his majeſty had taken a diſlike, if not an averſion, he met with ſuch treatment from them as gave him a freſh diſtaſte to the court, at which he ſeldom made his ap­pearance ; ſo that he reſided principally at Sheen Soon after this the king ſent for him again ; and having propoſed that he ſhould go as ambaſſador into Spain, Sir William conſented : but when his equipage was almoſt ready, and part of the money paid down for it, the king changed his mind, and told him that he would have him defer his jour­ney till the end of the ſession of parliament, in which he was choſen a member for the university of Cambridge. In this ſession the ſpirit of party ran ſo high that it was impoſſible to bring the houſe to any kind of temper. The duke was ſent into Scotland ; but this would not ſatisfy them, nor any thing but a bill of excluſion ; which Sir William ſtrenuouſly oppoſed, ſaying, that “ His endeavour ever ſhould be to unite the royal family, and that he would never enter into any councils to divide them.” Not long after this period, the parliament being diſſolved by his majeſty, with­out the advice of his privy council, and contrary to what he had promiſed, Sir William made a bold speech againſt it; for which he was very ill uſed by ſome of thoſe ſriends who had been moſt earneſt in promoting the laſt change in the miniſtry. Upon this he grew quite tired of public buſiness, declined the offer he had of again ſerving for the university in the next parliament, that was ſoon after called, and met at Oxford ; and ſeeing his majeſty reſolved to govern with­out his parliament, and to ſupply his treasury through another channel, he retired to Sheen a few days after, whence he ſent word by his ſon, that “ he would paſs the reſt of his days like a good ſubject, but would never more meddle with public affairs.” From that time Sir William lived at this place till the end of that reign and for ſome time in the next ; when having purchaſed a ſmall seat, called *Moor Park,* near Farnham in Surry, which he conceived a great fondneſs for on account of its solitude and retirement, and its healthy and pleaſant ſituation, and being much afflicted with the gout, and broken with age and infirmities— he re­ſolved to spend the remainder of his life in this agreeable retreat. In his way thither, therefore, he waited on king James, who was then at Windſor, and begged his favour and protection to one “ that would always live as a good ſub­ject. but, whatever might happen, never again enter upon any public employment ;” deſiring his majeſty to give no credit to any thing he might hear to the contrary. The king, who uſed to say that Sir William Temple’s character was always to be believed, promiſed him whatever he deſired, gently reproached him for not entering into his ſervice, which, he ſaid, was his own fault ; and kept his word as faithfully to Sir William as Sir William did to his majeſty, during the ſurpriſing turn of affairs that ſoon after followed by the arrival of the prince of Orange. At the time of this happy revolution, in 1688, Moor-Park becoming un-