

will not believe any informations concerning what will content them,
at least better than his who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

LI.

New-Castle, Sept. 21st, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

I never desired, nor was in more expectation of, any man's coming than I am of Montrevil's; in the mean time all that I can tell thee of my business is, that the Scots have not yet fully concluded their bargain with the English, nor have they entred upon any publick debate concerning me; and I am confident that the chief cause which hath made the Scots hinder all this time any sharp declarations against me is, to make the better conditions for themselves; but that which is now the likeliest course that will be taken with me, is to send a kind of summons to me, by commissioners only enabled with some arguments to persuade me to grant the propositions, and upon refusal (which will be so taken if I shall deny any thing, albeit I should consent to most,) to secure me, either by the Scots delivering me to the English, or by sending me to Scotland to be made fast there.

Will. Murray and I have not yet concluded upon our private treaty, but by the next the queen shall hear a particular account of it. In the mean time I have but one thing more to trouble thee with, it is, that I have received lately a letter from my Lady Osbourne, which tells me that her husband,^a who is governor of Gurnsey, is in much want and extremity, but yet without my leave will not yield up his government; wherefore she hath earnestly desired me either to shew him some hopes of relief, or to give him

^a Sir Peter Osbourne. For the transactions in Guernsey and Jersey at this period reference should be made to "Charles II. in the Channel Islands," by Dr. S. Elliott Hoskins. 2 vols. 8vo. 1854.

leave to make his own conditions. To this I have answered, that I would (as I do) recommend his relief heartily to thee, commanding her to direct her husband to observe the queen's orders.

So, praying God to bless thee, and longing to hear from thee, I rest eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

LII.

New-Castle, Sept. 26th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

I have but this day received thy first English letter, of the 21st of September. I hear of Montrevil, Davenant,^a and Lesley; but none of them are yet come. I cannot (as I thought) give thee account of my treaty with Will. Murray, because I have not seen him these four days. Colonel Bamfield is come newly from marq^s Hertford.^b All these will swell my next dispatch, and be a just excuse for the shortness of this.

I hope the queen will easily excuse my many recommendations for servants to the prince, it being all which, for the present, I can do

^a Sir William Davenant arrived soon afterwards. His mission was extremely unsuccessful. He chanced to speak of the church of England as if its establishment were not of sufficient importance to weigh down the benefit which would result from the peace which the king could make by conceding the ecclesiastical question. "His majesty," says Clarendon, "was transported with so much passion and indignation, that he gave him more reproachful terms, and a sharper reprehension, than he ever did towards any other man, and forbid him to presume to come again into his presence. Whereupon the poor man, who had in truth very good affections, was exceedingly dejected and afflicted, and returned into France to give an account of his ill-success to those who sent him." (Rebell. book x.)

^b Colonel Bamfield was the person who in 1649 contrived and effected the escape of the duke of York, who fell into the hands of the parliament on the surrender of Oxford. From the present notice of Bamfield, and the subsequent allusion in this letter to a scheme for the duke's escape at this time, it may almost be inferred that Bamfield was already engaged in this service, and that he was recommended for the purpose by the marquess of Hertford.