foreign and domestic intrigues of the period during which he held office. No doubt he destroyed his correspondence before he left England, but the few fragments surviving confirm the statements made in this narrative. The original narrative is in the record office.⁷ It is calendared in the addenda attached to the volume of the 'Calendar' for 1670, p. 651. The punctuation has been amended and a few missing words supplied in brackets. C. H. FIRTH.

Mr Scotts Confession & Discovery of his transactions.

After Midsummer 1649,⁸ I was appointed to the trust of Manngeing y^e Intelligence both forraine & domestick, rather I suppose to give mee title to some allowance for my support (who had but a small estate & wasted it by my diligent & dayly [attendance] on y^e service of the publick) then from anie great expectation they had of anie considerable service they thought mee Capable to doe them, who had so little experience in language, Travails or matters of that nature, though some drudgery they might looke for from my knowne diligence & faithfulnessse. I am sure I had no light, assistance, or memoriall transmitted mee, but whosoever had the Cognizance of the secret affairs or intrigues of State during the being of the Committee of both Kingdoms or afterwards y^e Committee of Safety, and were now of the Council of State, did or might keepe them still to themselves, or proceed vpon them as they saw cause. The first business that I remember⁹ to have transacted in, was in relation to the Levellers, who endeavoured to raise disturbances in the Armie and elsewhere, thereby to hinder the then intended releefe and recovery of Ireland, w^{ch} warre was left by Act to ye Parliam^t management, and of which Kingdome they had nothing taken (but two Townes, Dublin & Derry, excepted). Four of that party Lilbourne, Walwin, Prince & Overton were Committed vpon that score; the subsequent actings of the rest I discovered by some Prentices, & young men (whose names I cannot now remember) at a weekly Salary for their expences in keeping them Companie, and other totally compos'd by Conferences with some of the principalls of them, whereof Maxmilian Petty, Robert Cobbett,¹⁰ & I think one Dr Brookes were some. There was no neede of holding particular Intelligence with and in Ireland, for the Army vnder Cromwell was then there, and instead of that worke I held a Careful correspondence with him for the supply of all the Necessitys & Conveniencies of that Armie in a weekly intercourse of Letters,¹⁰ and every dayes care at the Committee of Scottish and Irish affaires. Coll: Hills of Ireland and after M^r Rowe were Secretariys, & providers, yet after I had some intelligence from Dr Jones, sometime Bpp of Cloghitt, then or about that time Scout M^r General of that Kingdome.¹¹ For Scotland I had the service and assistance of M^r Downing who was resident at Edinburgh, from whom I

⁷ *State Papers (Dom.)*, Car. II, 445, No. 59.

⁸ 1 July 1649.

⁹ Scot had previously been appointed to assist in the examination of the duke of Hamilton and other royalist prisoners taken in September 1648 (Cary, *Memorials of the Civil War*, ii. 28).

¹⁰ One of Scot's letters to Cromwell is printed in the *Milton State Papers*, p. 28.

¹¹ See *Clarke Papers*, i. 408. Henry Jones, Bishop of Clogher, William Rowe, and Col. Arthur Hill are the three persons referred to.

had Account of all the transactions of that people with his Ma^{tie} our now Sovereigne, I think when at Jersey, but am sure at Breda. But when ye Army marched in thither in 1650 that business ceased. And after that the respective Commanders in Cheafe there, would sometimes give the Council of State, & sometimes my self an Accompt of what occur'd, and towards the later part of the time of my Employment I had some things of a General nature out of the Highlands & y^e Royal Presbytereans from Coll: Bampfild. All that wee did by the advantage of Intelligence in relation to Jersey, and after Scylly, as to regaining them, was from Major Carter and Major Purling who had been comorant sometimes vpon y^e respective places. I sent another express, but he fell into ye hands of some of his Ma^{ty} partie and so never did anie service, he was a poore man a Chyrurgeon about this Towne, but his name I cannot recollect.¹² For France there was one who went by the name of N. N., who had for a long time before (as I vnderstood from M^r Frost) given Intelligence to the Committee of both Kingdomes, and after to the Committee of safety at Derby House, which I saw was satisfactorie, but when the King came thither wee added, and by the meanes of Father Creely¹³ an Irish Abbott, knowne here by the name of Capt. Holland, got something more in relation to his Ma^{ties} affaires and from about y^e Queene his Mothers Court. But the principall intelligence came from Coll. Werden, who having relation to his highness the Duke (as hee informed) had meanes to know much of his Ma^{ty} affaires, and I beleieve what ever he could come to the knowledge of he communicated with as much advantage as he could, & with some impressions concerning personal things which might have been spar'd.¹⁴ Some other Intelligence members of the House & others would give mee from thence, whereof I made my best vse by comparing them with our more standing Intelligence, but their names it concern'd mee not to know, nor did they generally afford them to mee. At the later part of the time, when France began to be a declared Enemy vpon their owne Accompt, I had some few things from M^r Waller a while before his returne from Exile¹⁵ (and which I moved the Parliament to), and for which hopes sake besides his Love to his Country vpon a National Accompt I suppose hee so communicated wth mee.

At that time I sent one Lewis de Bourgoigne (retained by mee as a Domesticke to have helped mee for y^e French tongue) into France to view and returne mee the strengthe of all the ports vs ward. Hee began at Callis and went through all the Wash¹⁶ to Bourdeaux, and there staid some time to dispose that people who then favoured the Prince of Conde's Interest in contradistinction to the Crowne of France, and likeliest to have given a footing to the English had there been occasion ministred of attempting them by land. Wee had some correspondence with the Prince

¹² Thomas Ridghill (*Cal. State Papers (Dom.)*, 1651, p. 254; *Milton State Papers*, p. 27).

¹³ The 'abbot Crelly,' or 'Crilly,' often mentioned in Gilbert's *Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland*, 1641-52.

¹⁴ See Scot's letter on behalf of Werden, Thurloe, iii. 350. Werden played a double game, *Eng. Hist. Rev.* 1889, p. 531.

¹⁵ Edmund Waller was granted leave to return, 27 Nov. 1651 (*Commons Journals*, vii. 44).

¹⁶ This appears to mean the sea coast, the line washed by the sea.

of Condee by credentialls to Monsieur Barriere, and from Bourdeaux by some Commissioners they sent over Express, who came but a few weekes before our interruption 1658; but that which to me look'd most hopefull & important, I was just then beginning a Correspondence with Cardinall de Retz, commonly called the Coadjutor, Mazarines Rivall & antagonist, who pretended to fancy & favour the Commonwealth of England, as so; some lres past, but not much donne beyond mutuall Credence, and that also perish'd after Bourgoines returne from Bourdeaux. Coll. Saxby¹⁷ (y^e old Agitator) was sent to Bourdeaux on the same Errand by Gen. Cromwell & my self vpon joint Advice, with good summes of money, but what harvest hee made of his negociations G. Cromwell or his Ministers could only tell who overturn'd vs and succeeded in those concernm^{ts}. By the hand and instrum^{ts} Employ'd by y^e same Father Creely wee had ye generall affaires of Vienna, a place farr enough from us to be concerned in our good or hurt much. And Madrid, whose King was then so avowedly our friend as that wee did not suspect any harme theare, and whose friend^{sh} wee deserved for doeing so much of his worke in fighting the Portuguees and helping him to men from Ireland and the Towne of Dunkirke from the French by intercepting their men of warr designed for the releefe of that place. Flanders afforded us more worke by dayly alarmes wee had of the Duke of Loraines pretentions to assist the Irish.

I knew some of his Councils by the meanes of that Creely, and after by one Coll. Ryley,¹⁸ but hee was most to be met with at Rome, from whome that Duke expected more than a spirituall benediction; money, or the Engagement of some other Catholicke Princes to his assistance or support. In that Court my instruments had a great interest with some Cardinalls (himself being an Abbott), and had oft been at Rome, and especially with the Secretary called de propaganda Fide; they were led to beleeeve that G. Cromwell was much disposed to a liberty of Religion, if not formall tolleration of Popery, and would much incline the Parliament thereto, and therefor that it was not safe to provoke either; besides that, though the Duke pretended in that vndertaking a service to the King of England, there were grounds of jealousy that hee was like to love himself best, & serve himself most; as appears by some treaties with the Irish Com^{rs} about his Title, his Cautionary strength etc., and therefore that ought to be very well clear'd, or at least the disposition of the people of Ireland as to complying with his demand first knowne. No benediction or assistance were granted, and which went so far, as that a privat Nuncio or messenger was sent to Ireland from Rome,¹⁹ and wherein the matter was so carried as that he was ordered to meete my Instrument the Abbot in Flanders; and to take instructions from him for the governing himself to the two dissenting parties in Ireland, that of the Nuncio, and y^e Kings friends; if he returned it must be after the period of our interest in the state, but wee beleeeve he dy'd there. For John Lilburnes designs in Holland against the then Government in England, I had one Ryley, but John's genius was

¹⁷ Edward Sexby, *Cal. State Papers (Dom.)*, 1654, p. 160.

¹⁸ Hugh Riley is mentioned by Lilburne as one of Scot's 'great agents and negociators beyond seas' (*Defensive Declaration*, p. 6. Cf. *Cal. State Papers (Dom.)*, 1652-3, p. 102).

¹⁹ Anthony Geoghegan (Gilbert, *Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland*, 1641-52, m. xvi).

too mighty for him, and to set him going one Captaine Oxford voluntarily sent mee over many stories concerning his printing there and practizing in England, but it came to nothing and operated only as against G. Cromwell & Sir Art: Haslerigg vpon personall quarrells, & my self in scandalous reports.²⁰ Hee pretended to have had the Duke of B.²¹ in his correspondences, but if so it was to fish him and discover if hee could serve the King, and I understood that he boasted to the Duke that with tenn thousand pounds hee could bring in the King, by first preparing the minds of the Soldiers by such bookes as hee could write and send amongst them, and after by the seasonable distribution of the summe amongst them; but his mountains did not bring forth suitable births. The affaires of Holland and that warr was served with some considerable advantage, by my gaining the minutes or heads of every nights debate in their Closet Councillis, and the whole Resolutions in terminis as often as was possible at least every Post, and that by means of a Bpp employed by my Captaine Holland amongst those of place and quality, and by one Bolton engag'd by S. Bradshaw and Capt: Bishopp²² transmitted afterwards to mee. One Mr Cheshire, an Englishman who had lived long in Holland, gave some generall knowledge of their affaires, but was forc'd to run for it being discovered.²³ The Kings transactions with the Presbytereian Ministers here, in & about London by their Commission²⁴ at Breda, I meane Lord Willoughby, Coll. Graves, Alderman Bunce etc. were made knowne to mee first by one Mr Harvy, since dead, and after by Major Adams who kept them daily Company here, but very much more by lres intercepted which commonly were every word & syllable in Cypher, and decyphered by a learned gentleman incomparably able that way, Do^r Wallis of Oxford (who never concerned himself in the matter, but only in ye art & ingenuity); it is a jewell for a Princes vse & service in that kind.²⁴ The sad effect it had vpon some persons interested therein I endeavoured by my faithfull advice and votes to have prevented, the respect whereof Mr Love acknowledg'd to mee vnder his hand yet to be showne, but some less friends to the Ministry were less exorable. I had much to doe and much of time was spent (besides that I was allwayes or for the most part, one in the Treaties with forraigne Ministers) in suppressing the swarming number of pamphleteers, which sooner or later I always got into my power, but never caused to be punished. There were likewise informacons brought mee of several persons designing the Carrying away of shippes and vessels, for which the Informants got money and wee lost no vessels, but whether they were really designed vpon I cannot say. When wee had some apprehensions from Denmark of prejudice I sent one Isaack Birkenhead thither, who

²⁰ See *A Defensive Declaration of Col. John Lilburne to the Lord General Cromwell*, 1653, pp. 5-17.

²¹ The duke of Buckingham.

²² Captain George Bishopp. A letter from him to Scot is printed in the *Milton State Papers*, p. 89.

²³ A letter from Thomas Cheshire to Sir W. Strickland, dated 17 April 1651, is in Rawlinson MSS. A. 2, 163.

²⁴ A volume containing intercepted letters decyphered by Dr. Wallis is in the Bodleian Library. Major Thomas Adams was one of the witnesses against Love, and was rewarded by a grant of Irish lands worth 200*l.* a year *Commons Journals*, vii. 141, 163, 160.

ran some hazard, and gave some Intelligence, and so did Mr Bradshaw resident for the Parliament at Hamborough.²⁵ One Mr Benson was at Dantzieck,²⁶ who observ'd chiefly the disposition of the English Merchants there and the Scottish people, whereof Poland and those parts had manie, but they were too poore or too Cold to doe anything against vs, and my Correspondents did little but informe common newes from Swede, Poland, & Muscovia and fitt to helpe to fill the Gazette.²⁷ I did vpon my examination acquaint Mr Secretary Sir William Morrice and Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper with the offer made mee when the King was in France by one Mr or Doct^r Jansen of having the king brought into my power; which whether it were practicable or no, or how it could have been attempted I cannot tell, because abhorring the thing as unsuitable to Christianity I peremptorily and in few words renounc'd it; but that such a proposition was really made to mee, and not now coined to purchase a favour (if I should want credit), will be evidenc'd by Mr John Davis who married Mr Barclay, whom I acquainted with the offer hee made manie yeares since in some occasional discourse with him, when I had little apprehension of his Ma^{ty} probable accession to the Government.

My Employment since May 1659 (when the Armie were pleas'd restore the Parliament) was so ambulatory & transitory that I had almost forgot to say anie thing of it, which with the best help of memory will not be much. As to my particular, the business of Intelligence being by the then Council of State committed to five hands, viz^t S. H. Vane, L. Gen^l Fleetwood, Coll. Sydenham, Major Solway and my self, what they did is vnknowne to mee, save that I vnderstood that Secretary Thurlo communicated with them, who had the last hand in management of that affaire, and I do find that they were instructed by him to examine some persons taken vpon suspicion of Sir George Booths design, to whom only I served as an Amanuensis or scribe sometimes. The first thing I did [was] with the privy of some of them to send & furnish Peter Talbot to the interview at the Frontiers to observe the transactions of the two Crownes in relation to vs, and to keepe them as well hee could from uniting to any dangerous Engagement against vs, or to acquaint vs timely there with, but he did vs no other service than to help vs of with fifty pounds.²⁸ My next was to endeavour a good vnderstanding, and some overtures of a Treaty of Peace with Spain, to which both parties seemed inclinable enough, but both [had] a delicacy where & with whom it should begin. Coll. Bampffield embarqu'd himself vpon that affaire, and with him one Mr White, who brought thence some proposals for Redemption of the Spanish prisoners, which was entertained as a good expedient to draw on the other more important negociation; that exchange of Prisoners was within a minutes perfecting the night before the Secluded Members came into the House & Councell & wee out.²⁹ I had from all places heard sayes & alarmes of Sir Geo. Booths business but could fix no where, and some from

²⁵ Richard Bradshaw.

²⁶ John Benson (Thurloe, I. 555).

²⁷ Cf. a letter from Michael de Lauwerin to Scot (Thurloe, v. 711), and other letters from the same person to Thurloe and Bradshaw.

²⁸ Many of Peter Talbot's letters are in the third volume of the *Clarendon State Papers*. Cf. *Rebellion*, xv. 19, 75, 133.

²⁹ See *Commons Journals*, vii. 653. Ignatius White's pamphlet gives a full account of the affair of the Spanish prisoners.

Coll. Bampffield, which I suppose hee got by his generall acquaintance amongst the Presbyterians. I had some from one called by Lady Willoughby, a Catholick, by the meanes of Coll. Sydenham. Shee spoke very exactly of the intended day of Rising, and of some meeting the Kings party had neare Grayes Inne, and that Sir Rich. Willis was one, but suspected by them. Sir Samuel Moreland brought three of Mr Thurlos instruments into my correspondence by feigned names; they spake or rather wrote high, but it signified little, and had more money than meritt. Something I vnderstood from Coll. Barkestead, who told mee hee had them from some servants to some of those Gentlemen who had been his prisoners in the Tower vpon the Kings score in the pretended Protectors time. I had also by the same Coll. Bampffield's meanes begun a Correspondence in Paris with one Monsieur Mariemburgh³⁰ (I think he was called an Intelligent Protestant), sensible of the dangers of that interest there, and fitt, if Providence should introduce an occasion for England to espouse that quarrell, to be vsed, in the mean time I humbly conceive and [desire he] may be conceal'd.

In Bruxelles I expected some Intelligence from Coll. Werden, who in London promis'd mee to renew his correspondence & discoveries.³¹ One Major Henshaw was also sent thither,³² but had not well entred himself into the way, or else (as I thought some time) was scarcely sincere to vs, for wee had but little. At the time of the Armyes defection from the Parliament about November, discoursing with Coll. Bampffield about y^e improbability of settling a Commonwealth I left it to him to thinke of some meanes of making my peace with his Ma^{ty}. Why he did it not, or whether hee did attempt it or no, he best knows, but I hearing nothing from him, and the Parliament being recomposed, I returned again to my former Capacity.

I pray to be vnderstood, that when Sir William Morrice requir'd mee at the entrance of my Examination to be free and ingenuous, and that I answered I would discover any thing that I could in consistence with Conscience & reputation, that I had no reason at all as to any matter or thing to be conceal'd, but only that I had a scruple of specifying names, whereby others that had trusted mee might be brought into trouble, and principally that Janson; but vpon his representing to mee that hee who once would, might againe betray his Ma^{ty}, and so vpon a due consideracon of my duty and his Ma^{ty} danger, I did then, and now doe, freely & faithfully give an Accompt of all that I know considerable in any kind (if not more then is considerable for knowledge). The posture of my writing this vnder an Overseer, without conveniency to digest, correct, or transcribe will I hope be pardoned, & purchase mee excuse for failings either in matter (which are not knowingly) or manner by them that know the Condition I am in.

This is as much of my transactions in the Execution of my trust not at all sought for, and which I often desired and press'd to be quitt of, as at present by the help of a bad memory, and with a spirit so much dis-

³⁰ Perhaps Marigny, Thurlow's correspondent.

³¹ Instead of doing so, Werden was one of the leaders of Booth's rising.

³² Major Thomas Henshaw, arrested for plotting against Cromwell in June 1654 and a prisoner in the Tower from December 1658 to February 1659.

compos'd by my present condition I can recollect; with this, that if I know or could remember anie one person of persons or thing which could in humane probability, or to my judgement might endanger his Ma^{ty} Government or Person, I take the æternall God to record, that I would, and that I doe hold my self obliged in duty and conscience to doe so, and in prudence & preventing gratitude for his hoped mercy I should discover it, or him, or them to his Ma^{ty} with all clearness, readiness, and sincerity.

Concerning this Narrative, If I have not been too copious & particular, and yet at all considerable & satisfactory, I have my End and vtmost wish. If it appeare triviall and inconsiderable I hope I my self may also be so esteemed and not worthy the high displeasure of his Ma^{ty} or the Parliament; but whether it turne to my prejudice or advantage (for as our Proverbe has it, Everything has two handles) I have faithfully accompted my knowledge & remembrance to the utmost of persons and things, leaving the Candid & gracious interpretation hereof to his Ma^{ty}, who (vnder God) has the issue of my life and death in his hands, and concerning which, if the hand that this shall happily fall into shall please to put himself to the trouble & patience of a few words he shall find them on the next side.

Only to remember vpon the former score that my disbursements for intelligence, mine own Salary included, sieldome exceeded £2000 p Annum or 2500 at most, which could not purchase anie greate matter, or dive very deepe; and for the Salary which I had, I may say 'tis most restored, being laid out in the repairing and improveing my interest in Lambeth house³³ (all purchased with money borrow'd); excepting one £500 which I gave with my daughter for her marriage portion, and have lately againe borrowed of her since her widowhood,³⁴ towards some other purchases, which now fall also into the Ocean of the publicke with out anie meanes left mee to repay her, or support her and her 8 children from ruine, if some speciall grace be not afforded.

*For my owne individuall Capacity I humbly offer to Consideration.*³⁵

How the Quarrell betweene the King & Parliament [began] was stated by Remonstrance, Declarations, Messages, Propositions, and other publick Expresses. How farre the Warr was carryed on. How the conduct of the Army was altered, and the preservation of the Kings left out of the Commission (as I have heard). How the Royall power was assumed into the two houses, and exercised by them in making a New great Seale, by issuing Commissions for Judges, Militias, Ordering Executions, Seizures, Sequestrations, Sales, Charging Assessments, and doeing generally whatsoever the King formerly did by his ordinary authority, or ye Houses sieldome (if ever) did without him. After that they had also declared that the King's taking vp Armes against the Parliament tended to the dissolution of the bands of Government, and all these before Mick[le]mass

³³ A letter from Scot to Thurloe on his pecuniary affairs is printed in *Thurloe Papers*, v. 711.

³⁴ Scot's daughter Alice married William Rowe, mentioned above, p. 118.

³⁵ Another petition of Scot's in vindication of his conduct is calendared in the *Domestic State Papers* for 1660-1, p. 309.

1645, (at which time I first came into the Parliament), are things so generally knowne, and yet so fitt to be forgotten, that they should never have been remembered by mee in so manie words, did there not a necessity lye vpon mee thereby to show :—

First, that I was not amongst the first in the unhappy feud.

And after that and whilst both houses sate. The Resolucons of both Houses (vpon the Kings refusing the foure Bills sent vnto him) of making it Treason to have or hold any Correspondency with him, with a declaracon of the Reasons for such Resolucons And the Parliament was not withstanding that Resolucon induced to Entertaine a Treaty at ye Isle of Wight. That y^e Parliaments cause was altogether asserted by themselves, and so far by the King as that in the preface to that Treaty hee acknowledged their taking vp of arms to be just & lawfull in their just & necessary defence.

And the manie troubles within and invasions from abroad that befell duringe his Ma^{ty} Restraint, and what tendency these things might have to the great Action that followed, and how farre alleviate & qualifie the offences thereof are humbly submitted to tender & charitable consideration & consciences. But as to myself it may I hope be enough to cleare mee in the second place from being (as one of the first so) one of the designers or principalls in that sad worke, when I shall doe & may truly (the searcher of all hearts bearing mee witness) profess & protest that I knew nothing (ab ante) of the Armies Councils and Resolutions of fetching the King from the Isle of Wight, or of the secluding of the members, both which I ever did and still doe looke vpon as irregular & unjustifiable & sinfull actions, contrary to the faith and duty they owed to the Nation & to the privileges of Parliament, whose servants they were and whose protectors they should have been. And though the remaining members in Parliament (after they had several times but without effect demanded there brethren and fellow members from the Army), the Lords declining to sit (there being no other Civill authority in exercitio) voted themselves in the right and behalf of the people of England the supreme power of the Nation. Though they were thereupon own'd as such [not only] by the Army, but in all the Courts of Justice, and by ye body of the people then and for divers yeares after. Though they reduced and recovered Ireland under that authority to ye condition it is now in. Though these members (who had been so as above said secluded, or withdrew themselves) vpon their late coming into that house did owne them as a Parliament & supreme authority, not only by holding it necessary to repeale such Acts as they judged fit to be adnull'd by Act, but themselves proceeding to those Acts of Repeale, and to make other Acts to bind the people both in purse, person & Religion, which only the Supream power is capable to doe.

Though this present Parliament sate downe first, and Acted, and invited in his Ma^{ty} by a Call and authority derived from that of the House of Commons so become legislators. And though at the beginning of the Parliam^t the taking away the Bpps votes and Session in the Lords House, (who were allwayes before accounted an essentiall part thereof, and in some Acts they are reckned as one of the Three States, viz^t The Lords Spirituall, Lords Temporall, and Commons) was not judged any such

maime or wound to the Peers House as to disable or invalidate it, and that the Bishops so pretending were charg'd with high Treason. Yet I must thinke the number of the Remaining members in that Parliament very small and their authority Verie Low for such high actinge as that of judging the King, and some other that preceded and followed it. And yet I hope though the present Parliament may be pleased to testifie their abhorrence of those actings by their exception of some persons from pardon and indemnity, that his Ma^{tie} will not be pleas'd, and that the Parliament will not be offended if his Ma^{tie} be pleased not to proceed so far in retrospect or Revenge as to blood, but in consideration of his peaceable and unbloody accession to the Crowne shed no more, but rather stanch that issue which has runne but too long, and carry his Courage, his Counsailes, and his Conquering warlike people (the excepted persons if he please amongst them) to some enemy or malevolent neighbours Country, whereunto he cannot want a Title (the same as his Royal predecessors had), aggravated and improved by personall indignities vpon Cromwell's score, or vpon the Accompt of protecting the poore perishing Protestant interest in the world, the Crowne of England being by a better right then what the Pope could give, and deserving still to be, the Defender of the Faith. And in particular, that he will be pleased to pardon his poore supplyant, the rather because in truth (what ever may bee suggested to the Contrary) hee cast himself at his Ma^{ties} feete for it, in resolution and promise, when hee was under some threatening indeed but no danger (from which he was guarded), and executed that Resolution after hee had been eight days in a free Country alone and in freedome, and by meanes whereof hee was actually come in within foure dayes after the Proclamation of Summons was dated,³⁶ and therefore ten dayes within the time limited, as by comparing Sir Henry de Vic his intimation thereof to Sir William Morrice or Secretary Nicholas with the Proclamation herewith annex'd may appeare.

Besides that tis generally knowne, that as I held it my duty being under the Conscience of an engagement to be true to the Commonwealth without a King or House of Peeres (and which by the way lay vpon vs to the time of Election into this present Parliament by an unrepeal'd Act) to oppose his Ma^{ties} accession, so I all wayes with a greater zeale and faithfulness opposed the usurpation of Cromwell (one of the greatest Tyrants England ever saw or felt), though before that hee had been my particular friend, and with the like endeavour and indignation the presuming Arrogance of the Army and the pretended Committee of Safety. And as to some rash and over lavish language in Parliament justifying my self in my highest transactions, I humbly pray that the erroneous petulancy of an intemperate tongue and a misguided Conscience, which I heartily repent of, may not bee charged vpon mee, but according to ye vndoubted priueledge of Parliament put in perpetuall oblivion, being humbly confident it will be his honour & Interest as King & Christian to shew mercy, for which as in duty bound etc.

THO. SCOTT.

³⁶ The proclamation summoning the regicides to surrender themselves was dated 6 June 1660.