XIX. *Remarks on the Military History of Bristol in the Seventeenth Century, with a Sketch of the Outworks,* by Edmund Turnor, Esq. F. R. S. and F. S. A.

Read June 11 and 18, 1801.

THE great importance of Bristol, as the second city in the kingdom,—its situation commanding at once the rich county of Somerset, and the chief entrance into Wales, rendered the conquest of it of the utmost consequence to both king and parliament, whose spirits, during their unhappy contests, were alternately elated or depressed as either party succeeded in the siege, or failed in the defence of the town. But the great extension of commerce, and the consequent increase of population, have so much enlarged the circuit of Bristol, that what was only an inconsiderable suburb in the time of Charles the first, is now become a new town, extending over, and in a great measure defacing, the lines of fortification which formed the outworks of the city. An attempt, however, to preserve some idea of the remaining military vestiges, as exhibited by letters patent under the great seal of England, and sign manual of CHARLES THE FIRST, conferring the office of treasurer of the garrison on an ancestor of the author of this communication, may not be foreign to the views of the Society.

The position of the original town was well chosen for strength and security, being built on an eminence rising on both sides from the rivers Avon and Frome, thus guarded by nature against hostilities, whilst it was accessible on every side to the benefits of commercial intercourse. The castle contained within its walls

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an area of three acres, and defended the eastern part of the town. The fortifications were very ancient, and are thus described by Leland. “ There be in some parts of the town double walls, a
 “ token that it hath been augmented. Five inner gates of
 “ the old town, four in the outer walls, and two beyond the
 “ bridge. In the castle be two courts; in the outer is a great
 “ dungeon tower, made, as it is said, of stone brought out of
 “ Caen in Normandy, by the red earl of Gloucester. A pretty
 “ church and much lodging in the second area: many towers yet
 “ standing in both courts; but all tendith to ruin [*a*].” Towards the close of the year 1642, when the civil commotions had assumed a formidable aspect, this fortress and walls were repaired; and for further defence, the fort on Brandon hill, and that on St. Michael’s hill, afterwards called the Royal Fort, were formed with lines of communication.

Whatever might have been the political bias of the place, the surrendering it into the hands of the Parliament is attributed to the intrigue of two ladies, who found means to open the gates to Col. Thomas Essex, on the 5th of December 1642; but scarce had two months elapsed before Col. Nathaniel Fiennes was appointed to succeed him. The conduct of this governor, and the execution of Yeomers and Bouchier, who were hanged for holding a correspondence with the King’s friends, so exasperated the inhabitants, that the King’s army, profiting by the general discontent, were encouraged to lay siege to the town on the 24th of July 1643, and a plan was concerted to seize the shipping in the harbour, which was effected on the same day. Although in the attack on the Somersetshire side, led on by the Marquis of Hartford and Prince Maurice, some of the assailants mounted the wall, yet, by the vigorous defence from within, they were driven back

[*a*] Leland’s Itin. VII. 68.

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with great slaughter; but on the Gloucestershire side, where Prince Rupert commanded, Colonel Washington, finding a weak place in the curtain, between Brandon Hill and Windmill Forts, out of the reach of cannon, entered, and made room for the horse to follow. Thus Prince Rupert pressed forward to Froom Gate, but with the loss of many officers and men, who were shot from the windows. An arrival so unexpected surprised the governor into an immediate capitulation. Clarendon says, "There were in the town 2500 foot, and a regiment of horse and dragoons. The line about the town was finished, yet in some places the graff was wider and deeper than in others. The castle was very well prepared, and supplied with great store of provisions to endure a siege [b]."

After public thanksgiving at Oxford for this great victory, the King went with Prince Charles and the Duke of York to fix Prince Rupert in the government of Bristol [c], and soon afterwards Letters Patent passed the great seal, appointing the military establishment there in the following words [d].

"CHARLES, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To our trustie and welbeloved s̃vant Edmond Turnor, Esq. thẽrer of our garri-fons of Bristoll, Bathe, the Towne and Castle of Berkeley, Nunney Castle, Farley Castle, and Portshall Pointe, lying and being within our severall counties of Som̃sett, Gloucester, and the citie and countie of Bristoll. WHEREAS for the good and safetie of our people, we have thought fitt to place and settle seṽall garrifons in

[b] Hist. Rebellion, II. 295.

[c] Charles I. lodged in the house of Mr. Creswell, in Small Street, which is still remaining, and exhibits a variety of beautiful gothic architecture.

[d] From the Letters Patent under the great seal, penes Edm. Turnor.

our cities of Bristoll and Bathe, the Towne and Castle of Berkeley, Nunney Castle, Farley Castle, and Portshall Point, and for the well ordering, fortifying, manneing, and maynteyning of the said severall garrisons, have thought it likewise fitt, by the advice of our Councell, to cause an establishm^t of contribu^{con} to be made, settled, assigned, and sett out, to and for the mayntenance of the garrisons aforeaid, and the officers and soldiers there. As ALSO an establishm^t of a constant pay and allowances to be made, issued forth, and allowed weekly to such troopes and regim^{ts} of horse and foote, and the severall officers and souldiers of the same, and for divers other ends and purposes tending to our service, the mayntenance and safetie of our said garrisons in such sorte as by one schedule signed with our signe manuell, bearing the same date with theis presents hereunto annexed, doth and may appeare. AND WEE doe further order and assigne two hundred pounds by the weeke to be duely and constantly paid out of such moneys as shall arise and become due out of the customes, by the hand of the officer or officers of our customes, for the use and better mayntenance of our said garrisons. Now, to the end our good intentions for the safetie of our garrisons aforeaid, and all our loving subjects there, may have a good effect, by a due execu^{con} of the said establishm^t in all the partes thereof, as is intended by us, WEE reposeing espi^{all} trust and confidence in your abillitie, integritie, and good inclinac^{on} to our said service, have ordained, constituted, and appointed, and doe by these presents ordaine, constitute, and appointe you, the said Edmond Turnor, to be our Th^{er}er for our said garrisons of Bristoll, Bathe, the Towne and Castle of Berkeley, Nunney Castle, Farley Castle, and Portshall Pointe, giving you hereby full power to acte and p^{forme} whatsoever unto the place of Th^{er}er of our said garrisons doth and may in any sorte belong and app^{tey}ne. And you, the said Edmond Turnor, are to com^{ence} and begine to be Th^{er}er of our garrisons aforeaid, for the receiving, collect^{ing}, and iss^{ue}ing forth

forth all the said seſſall ſomes of money from the firſt of November laſt paſt. And the better to enable you, the ſaid Edmond Turnor for the p̄formance of our ſervice aforeſaid, WEE do hereby will and require all our ſheriffes, commiſſioners, juſtices of peace, maiors, bayliſſes, high conſtables, and petit conſtables, and all other our officers, miniſters, and other our loveinge ſubjects whatſoever, in our ſeverall counties of Som̄ſett, Wiltes, and Glouceſter, and our citie and countie of Briſtoll, to be aidge and aſſiſting to you, your ſufficient deputies, collectors, or aſſignes, and every of you, in receiving, leavying, collecting, and gathering the contribūcons of the ſeverall and reſpective hundreds, cities, townes, villages, and places men̄coned in the ſaid ſchedule hereunto annexed. AND WEE doe hereby further com̄and that all high conſtables, and petit conſtables, and all other p̄ſons whatſoever whome theſe may concerne, doe yield obedience and forthwith execute all ſuch warrants as they, or any of them, ſhall from tyme to tyme receive from you the ſaid Edmond Turnor, as Tr̄er of our ſaid garrifons, or any of your deputies, collectors, or aſſignes, authorized by you, touching or concerning the leavying and receiving all ſuch ſomes of money as ſhall ariſe and growe due by way of contribūcon, which ſomes of money ſe leavied and received by them, they, the ſaid high conſtables, petit conſtables, and all others whatſoever whome it concerned as aforeſaid, are to bring in and convey to ſuch places and to ſuch p̄ſons and att ſuch tymes as you, the ſaid Edmond Turnor, your deputies, collectors, or aſſignes, ſhall appointe and direct, and hereof they nor any of them may att any tyme faile, under ſuch paine and penaltie as ſhall be inflicted upon them by a councell of warre; and for defaulte of paym̄t of the aforeſaid contribūcon, wee doe alſo hereby require and com̄and all our officers and ſouldiers within or belonging to our ſaid garrifons, from tyme to tyme to give their beſt aſſiſtance in ſending forth ſuch parties of horſe or foote as you ſhall think fitt and neceſſary for the due leavying

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and collecting of the contribu^ũcons aforefaid. AND you, the faid Edmond Turnor, are from tyme to tyme to issue forth and pay out of all and every fuch fom^e or fom^{es} of money as fhall be raied and leavied, as well out of the contribu^ũcons as the customes aforefaid, to fuch p^õsons, and according to the order and forme for the paym^t of the faid fev^{all} garrifons expreffed and fett forth in the faid eſtabliſhm^t hereunto annexed. And you are hereby alſoe required to demeane and behave yourſelfe in the faid place of Tr^{er}, and to p^õforme and execute fuch orders and inſtru^ũcons as you fhall receive from us, bearing the ſame date with theis p^õfents, and all fuch further orders and inſtru^ũcons as you fhall from tyme to tyme receive from us. AND for the execu^ũcon of our faid ſervice, wee doe give, grant, and allowe to you, the faid Edmond Turnor, thirteene ſhilling four pence p. diem, to you for your two deputies, to each five ſhilling p. diem, to you for two clerks, to each two ſhilling fix pence p. diem, to you for eight collectors of the contribu^ũcons, to each four ſhilling p. diem, to three keepers of the ſtores or magazines for proviſions and victualls, to each three ſhillings and foure pence p. diem. And likewise wee doe hereby give allowance for books, bagg, paper, inke, pens, and all fuch other neceſſaries as our faid ſervice fhall require; all which faid ſeverall allowances fhall be allowed unto you uppon your accompt; and for foe doing this fhall be your ſufficient warrant. IN WITNES whereof wee have cauſed theis our l^res to made patent. WITNES ourſelfe att Oxford, the fourth day of December, in the twentieth yeare of our Raigne [e], p. ip^m Regem.”

WILLYS.

[e] On the 10th of February in the ſame year, Edmund Turnor, Eſq. was appointed captain of a troop of cuiraffiers, to bring in contributions to the garrifon of Briſtol. At the battle of Worceſter he was taken priſoner; and was knighted ſoon after the reſtoration. He died 1707, aged 88, and was buried at Stoke Rochford in Lincolnſhire, the place of his reſidence.

“ CHARLES

“ CHARLES R.

AN ESTABLISHMENT for Bristol, comprisinge Bath, Berkeley Castle, Portshall Pointe, Nunny and Farley Castles dependent thereof, to comience and beginne the first of November 1644.

Three Regiments of Foote, 1200 in each Regiment, officers and all, each Regiment to bee paid accordinge to theire enfuinge particlrs, viz.

Per Weeke.

To a Colonell	05 00 00	officers, to bee paid according to theire enfuinge particlrs.	
To a Lieutennt Colonell . . .	04 03 04	To a Colonell	07 00 00
To a Sarjeant Major	03 16 08	To a Lieutannt Colonell . . .	06 00 00
To a Captaine	02 10 00	To a Serjeant Major	05 10 00
To a Lieutennt	01 08 00	To a Captaine	05 00 00
To an Ensigne	00 18 00	To a Lieutennt	03 00 00
To a Gentleman of Armes . .	00 08 00	To a Coronet	02 05 00
To a Corporall	00 05 00	To a Quartermaster	01 10 00
To a Drume Major	00 08 00	To a Corporall	01 01 00
To a Drumner	00 05 00	To a Trumpeter	00 17 06
To a Quartermaster	01 00 00	To a Chirurgeon	00 17 06
To a Chaplaine	01 00 00	To a Chaplaine	01 08 00
To a Provost Marshall	01 00 00	To a Trooper	00 10 00
To a Chirurgeon	02 00 00	After which rate one regiment	
To a Carriage master	00 18 00	of horse their pay amounteth weekly to	352 02 00
To a comon Souldier	00 03 06	His Highnes troope of horse,	
After which rate three regi-		their pay weekly	120 17 00
ments of foote their pay			
amounteth weekly to	833 17 00	The chiefe officers of the sevall garrisons	
		to bee paid weekly as followeth, viz.	
A regiment of seaven troopes of horse,		The Governour, the Treasurer	
consistinge of 60 horse to each troope,		to supply his charges.	
officers and all, and his Highnes troope			
of horse, consisting of 200 besides			

The

The Lieutenant Governour .	21 00 00	The Governour of Nunny	
The Deputy Governour....	10 00 00	Castle	05 00 00
The Major	05 00 00	The Governour of Farley	
The Comissary Genall or		Castle	05 00 00
Muster Master.....	03 10 00	The Treasurer	04 13 04
The Quartermaster Genall..	02 06 08	To him for Eight Collectors	11 04 00
The Engineir	02 06 08	To him for Two Deputyes..	03 10 00
The Petardier or Engineir for		To him for Two Clarkes...	01 15 00
Fireworks	05 00 00	To him for Three Keepers of	
The Provost-marshal.....	02 06 08	the Magazine of Victualls	03 10 00
The Keeper of the Stores...	01 00 00		
The Proviant M ^r	01 00 00	To the Gunners and other inferiour	
The Governour of Bathe ...	07 00 00	officers as followeth, viz.	
The Governour of Berkeley.	07 00 00	Master Gunner.....	02 06 08
The Governour of Portshall			
Pointe	05 00 00		

Waterfort, Ordinance	John Greenfield, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
7.	Richard Abbot, Mate	00 14 00
	To Three Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	01 10 00
Brandon Hill Fort,	Francis Pitt, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
Ordinance	Hen. Goffe, Mate	00 14 00
6.	To Two Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	01 00 00
Greate Forte,	John Skinner, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
Ordinance	John Sherland, Mate	00 14 00
22.	To Six Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	03 00 00
	Comissary of Victualls.....	01 10 00
Redoute, Ordinance	Walter Daniell, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
7.	John Gilburte, Mate	00 14 00
	To Two Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	01 00 00
Prior Hill,	Joseph Tucker, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
Ordinance	Will ^m Howlett, Mate.....	00 14 00
13.	To Three Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	01 10 00
Lafford Gate,	John Simonds, M ^r Gunner	00 17 06
Ordinance	John Jones, Mate.....	00 14 00
7.	To Six Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	03 00 00
	Temple,	

Temple, Ordinance 14.	James Fuller, M ^r Gunner	00	17	06
	John Scott, Mate	00	14	00
	To Five Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	02	10	00
Redcliffe, Ordinance 15.	John Sterrey, M ^r Gunner	00	17	06
	Richard Hamans, Mate.	00	14	00
	To Four Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	02	00	00
Castle and Newgate, Ordinance 16.	John Robert, M ^r Gunner	00	17	06
	John Warden, Mate	00	14	00
	To Eleaven Gunners, each 10 ^{sh}	05	10	00
	Comissary of Victualls	01	10	00
Froome Gate, and Pithay Gate, Ordinance 2.	William Purfer.	00	14	00
	William Crookebank	00	14	00

For makinge of Armes and Am- mun ^{con}	350	The Hundreds of Som ^{sets} , beinge the East Division to bee established for the severall garrisons aforesaid.
For finishinge the Workes	219	Bartcliffe cum Bedminster
Which is to be raised upon the Assign ^{cons} following, viz.		Portbury
Out of the Hundreds of Som ^{set} hereunto annexed, rated weekly att may yield	850	Brent cum Wreinton
Out of the Hundreds of Wil ^{tes} hereunto annexed, rated weekly att may yield	500	Bempston
Out of the Hundred of Gloucester, being the whole Division of Berkeley, rated weekly at but may yield	300	Winterstoke
Out of Bristol, hereunto annexed, rated weekly at	150	12 hides cum Glaston
Out of the Customes	200	Welsford cum Burgo
		Whitston
		Chew
		Chewton
		Keynesham
		Bathford cum Burgo
		Hainxton cum Claverton
		Wilbey cum lib ^{tate} Hofethorne
		Froome cum lib ^{tat}
		Almerfdon cum lib ^{tat}
		Catfash
		Norton Ferryes
		Brewton cum Burgo

The

The Hundreds of Gloucester, being the whole Division of Berkeley, to be established for the garrisons aforesaid.	Langley cum Swinshed Hundred
Berkeley Hundred	Thornebury Hundred
Crumbaldash Hundred	Henbury Hundred
	Puckle Church Hundred
	Barton R's Hundred."

BY this establishment the treasurer had full power to demand such force as he might judge necessary to compel the payment of contribution to the garrison, subject only to his Majesty's directions: thus the commission was held independent of any intermediate authority.

The sums which were payable in each county appear already in the schedule; the only particulars which the author of this communication is possessed of, are as follows.

" Hundred of Radcliffe [f] cum Bedminster payeth £.200 per month.	Long Ashdon	-	-	40	0	0
	Bedminster	-	-	40	0	0
	Barron	-	-	20	0	0
	Batcombe and Rigilberry			20	0	0
	Backwell	-	-	33	6	8
	Chelby	-	-	6	13	4
	Winford	-	-	40	0	0
				£.200	0	0

" Portbury Hundred [f].	Wraxall and Foyland	-		25	0	0
	Naylfie	-	-	18	15	0
	Broxton	-	-	6	5	0
	Walton	-	-	7	2	4
	Portbury	-	-	31	0	6
	Abbots Leigh	-	-	16	10	8
	St. George's	-	-	16	17	0
				£.121	10	6"

[f] MS. penes Edm. Turnor.

It does not appear from the annals of Bristol, that any thing particular occurred there during the government of Prince Rupert, which lasted little more than two years; for, in September 1645, the parliament army, under the command of Fairfax, approached the city. Col. Weldon sat down with his brigade at Pile Hill (near Pile Street) within musket-shot of the walls on the south side. Fairfax took his quarters at Stapleton, on the north. Lawford's Gate, where there was a double work, was taken possession of by Colonels Mountague and Pickering; who, being seconded by Major Desborough's horse, advanced to the city walls, where they became masters of the gate against the castle. Sir Hardress Waller, with his and Fairfax's regiments, entered between Lawford's Gate and the Avon, and joined the rest of the brigade. Prior's hill fort, being exceeding high, was attacked with great disadvantage by Colonel Rainborough, who fought near three hours, but could not enter, until Col. Hammond, with Major-General Skippon's regiment, having forced the line towards the From, came up within side the works, and stormed Prior's hill fort on the part which was inward; by which means they took possession of that fort. Thus the line from Prior's hill fort to the Avon was in the possession of the assailants [g]. The Royal fort, which had the reputation of strength, lay open to Brandon hill fort, which, if taken, would, from its height, have commanded the whole plain within the Royal fort; added to which there was a total deprivation of water. These considerations, together with the raging of the plague in the city, which had reduced the establishment from 3600 to 2800 effective men, and a scanty provision of powder in the magazines, induced Prince Rupert, contrary to all expectation, to surrender the city to Fairfax [h]. The king, buoyed up by the fullest af-

[g] Sprigge's *Anglia Rediviva*, p. 113.

[h] Prince Rupert's declaration and narrative, as quoted by Barret.

furance from the Prince, that he could defend the place four months, was forming schemes and collecting forces for its relief, when the fatal news arrived. Full of indignation, his Majesty revoked all Prince Rupert's commissions, and directed him to leave the kingdom !

Description of the Sketch of the Outworks[i], accompanying this Paper.

The Outworks, beginning from the Water fort above the Glass-house in Limekiln Lane, are plainly discernible up to Brandon hill fort, and thence to the south-east corner of Berkley Square. From thence the line continued by the west end of Park Street (the precise spot where Washington made his breach) to the Royal fort, now the seat of Thomas Tindale, Esq. From thence to Mr. Carden's garden, near the Mountague tavern, where remains of the redout, or Colston's fort, are yet visible; and so on to Prior's hill fort, near the north ends of St. James's Place, and Somerset Street; then by Stoke's Croft gate across the river From to Lawford's gate, and so to the Avon opposite Tower Hazzard, from whence the wall is visible by Temple and Redcliffe gates to the Avon again. Prince Rupert states this line to have been four miles in circumference, the graff not exceeding seven feet wide, nor five feet deep. The works from Prior's hill fort to Lawford's gate, not five feet high; and the highest work of the Royal fort not quite twelve feet [k]. The city, within the walls, is distinguished by being shaded; and the gates and forts, with the number of ordnance provided by the establishment, are specified in the plan. The new town extends beyond the line of the outworks, and those streets only are described which intersect that line.

[i] Pl. XXXIV.

[k] Declaration and narrative, ut supra.

NB. The Figures denote the Number of Ordnance
at each Battery, in 1644.

SOUTH

Wm. Turner, F.A.S. del. 1801.

Sketch of the Outworks of Bristol in 1644.

J. Basire sculp.

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Short notices respecting the Garrisons subordinate to Bristol in 1644.

BATH was garrisoned in the early part of the civil wars for Charles I. and 7000*l.* was expended on its fortifications; but it soon became one of the principal posts of the parliamentary forces. Sir William Waller lay here a considerable time with his whole army: but after the battle of Roundway down in 1643, the king's troops retook possession of this garrison without difficulty. It was then included in the Bristol establishment; but was given up by Sir Thomas Brydges in July 1643, previous to the surrender of Bristol [1].

Berkley Town and Castle in Gloucestershire, the chief strength of which consisted in the outworks and church, was delivered up to the parliamentary forces by the gallant Sir Charles Lucas, the 25th of September 1645, after a vigorous defence of nine days [m].

Nunney Castle, three miles S. W. of From in Somersetshire, had in it a large magazine; but was taken by the parliamentary army after a siege of two days, and burnt, to prevent the possibility of its future service to the king, Sept. 8, 1645 [n].

Farley Castle, Somersetshire, surrendered to the parliamentary army, Sept. 15, 1645 [o].

Portshall, or Porthead Point, in Somersetshire, a fortification commanding the King's road in the Bristol Channel, surrendered to the parliamentary army on the 28th of August 1645, after six days resistance; and thus the communication with the channel, by water, was cut off, previous to the siege of Bristol.

[1] Collinson's Somersetshire, I. 30.

[n] Collinson, II. 217.

[m] Anglia Rediviva, ut supra.

[o] Anglia Rediviva, ut supra.