

ing the queen's freeing me of the oath I did take concerning her religion, which, if thou wilt do, I make no question but to give thee satisfaction, not only in this but also in other particulars, which yet for want of thine answer I cannot.

XVIII.

Oxford, April 2nd, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

I am so surprized with the going of this messenger, that I have but time to tell thee that this day Montrevil goes to the Scotch army to prepare and adjust my reception there, I having resolved (by the grace of God) to begin my journey thither upon Monday or Tuesday next, before when the queen shall have a particular account of all, by his care who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

XIX.

Oxford, April 4th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

This bearer neither gives me time nor room to write much to thee, wherefore this can but only tell the, that my next by the usual way will give thee a full account of my affairs, the sum of which is, that Montrevil and I are agreed. He went yesterday morning to the Scotch army, who are to send their horse to meet me at Harborough, where I shall be on Wednesday next, resolving to go from hence the night before. I will trouble you now with no more cyphers, and the rather (that in case this should be intercepted) to vex the

circumstances that our good fame may procure a better peace to those who succeed us than we were able to procure for them, and ourselves shall be happier than any other condition could render us." (Clarendon's State Papers, ii. 237.)

rebells, by letting them know that no misfortune can take away the contentment of our mutual constant affections, it being, as is thought by many, one of the greatest torments of the wicked, to behold the beauty and reward of virtue, being excluded from attaining to it. Now, because I cannot vex the rogues elegantly, I will say no more, but that thou knowest I am eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

XX.

Oxford, April 6th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

With this thou wilt have a particular account, by secretary Nicholas, of my agreement with Montrevil, the effect of which is, that I shall be received into the Scotch army as their natural sovereign, with freedom of my conscience and honour, and all my servants and followers are to be there safely and honourably protected. Tuesday next is the precise day set down for my parting from hence, so that, by the grace of God, I hope confidently to join with the Scotch, on Wednesday, at Harborough; as for Mountrose, [and] all the rest of my friends, and upon what terms my conjunction with the Scots is to be, I refer thee to Nicholas; yet I must observe to thee, that Montrevil hath freely approved, that before my parting hence I shall impart this business freely to all my councill, which, I believe, (if I miscarry by the way,) will be a means to make the English rebells and the Scots irreconcilable enemies, for then the business will be publick. The message likewise, which upon this occasion I send to London,^a is all his own, save the last words which he also fully approves.

Now I think it not amiss to offer to thee the best ways I can

^a This message, prepared to be sent to the parliament, announcing the king's removal from Oxford to the Scottish camp, will be found in the King's Works, p. 112, ed. 1687. It ultimately bore date the 18th May, 1646.