

for such who have freely suffered for me; but my meaning was not to burthen thee with more charges, but that most of them should only have the honour of waiting upon him, and that they might be favoured by thee as occasion shall serve.

I have not told thee, nor had yet but that the French ambassador tells me that he hath acquainted the cardinal, of my design to send the Duke of York to thee, for things of this nature if they hit are ever well, and I was loath to make thee expect so uncertain a business, the secrecy of which is earnestly recommended to thee by him who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

LIII.

New-Castle, Oct. 3d, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

I must needs begin by telling thee that kindness came never more seasonable to man than thine to me this week, by thy dispatches (sent by Montrevil, Lesley, Davenant, and Moubray), the various expressions of thy love clearly shewing the excellency of thy affection; and at this time, when I am generally condemned of wilfulness, and even by thyself, yet to be still the same to me doth infallibly demonstrate the excellency of thy affection; and I hope to make it evident to thee, that I am neither faulty nor singular in my opinions, except other men's base fears be a good argument against me (I do not by this mean any who are with thee), and I am sure the queen will not like me the worse, that threats have no power to persuade me against my reason or conscience.

Now, as for my answer to thine by Montrevil. First, I thank thee for taking the pains to put it all in cypher thyself, then I give thee order to treat for any of those three marriages for Prince Charles which you mentioned, as thou shalt find best for my business, upon consultation with Jermyn, Culpepper, and Ashburnham. Next,

whereas the queen says, “I assure you, mon cher cœur, que si ri estoit [n'estoit?] la passion que j'ay pour vous, I should desire to retire myself from all business, estant trop franche dans mes opinions, but I will endure all if you think it for your service,” these being the queen's own words, I do not only thank thee for the kindness of them, but must also bind thee to the promise in them, for I assure thee, both I and all my children are ruined, if thou shouldst retire from my business; wherefore I conjure thee, by thy love to me (if I knew a greater I would name it), that thou wilt never retire thyself from my business, so long as I have a child alive, whatsoever becomes of me; and that thou wilt give me the contentment to be confirmed in the assurance of this by thy next letter to me. As to the latter part of it, I remit thee to this inclosed note, which I desire thee to decypher thyself.

Prince Charles hath desired me to make Sr Geo. Carterett his vice-chamberlain,^a which I think reasonable if thou dost; so give order for it; otherwise it shall pass in silence for me, because of thy desire that I should put none about the prince without thy advice. Before the next I cannot give thee my particular resolution concerning the great business, but thou shalt have it several ways from him who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

LIV.

New-Castle, Oct. 12th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

Not having been able before this day to make Will. Murray's dispatch, I cannot, until the next post, send thee my answer to the propositions. Will. seems to me to be very right set concerning all my friends in general, and even to those who he conceives have not

^a Sir George Carteret had the command of Jersey under lord Jermy. He defended it bravely until 1653, when the valour of Blake annexed all the Channel Islands to the dominions of the protector. (Dixon's Life of Blake, pp. 178—184.)