

expresses. And certainly, in point of generosity, I am as little obliged to the Irish as I can be to any nation. For all this last year they have only fedd me with vain hopes, looking upon my daily ruin, which they might have daily hindered. But, instead of that, they only trifled with, or at least not accepted, those conditions, which no reason could warrant them to refuse. But it is no wonder that these passages should be misinterpreted to thee, since some have the impudence to tell thee that Marq^s Ormond ^a has declared for the rebels, and the L^d Digby prisoner.

As for my trusting of thee, whensoever there may be occasion for it, I shall run faster to it than thou canst propose; and, howsoever I know not how to apply it to this Irish treaty (thy proposition being grounded upon misinformation), yet, that it may not fail on my part, I send thee herewith a note, which tho' it be not a new thing, but known to the Lord Muskerry,^b yet it is the farthest favour I can shew them in point of religion; giving thee power, if thou find it fit, to promise the performance of it in my name, in case they will conclude the peace before I be further engaged to those at London, of which I believe there is little danger, being certainly informed that they will seek to make me pass seven bills before they will hear of my personal treaty, which I assure thee I will not do, nor anything else that shall make thee ashamed of him who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

IX.

Oxford, Feb. 19, 1645-6.

DEAR HEART,

Albeit that my personal danger must of necessity presede thine, yet thy safety seems to be hazarded by my resolution con-

^a The marquis Ormonde, it will be remembered, was at this time lord lieutenant of Ireland.

^b Lord Muskerry was one of the chief of the confederate Roman Catholics. In that character he was a party to the treaty concluded by Glamorgan.

cerning church government. I am doubly grieved to differ with thee in opinion, though I am confident that my judgment, not love, is censured by thee for it. But I hope, whatsoever thou mayest wish, thou wilt not blame me at all, if thou rightly understand the state of the question. For I assure thee, I put little or no difference between setting up the Presbyterian gover[n]ment, or submitting to the Church of Rome. Therefore make the case thine own. With what patience wouldest thou give ear to him who should persuade thee, for worldly respects, to leave the communion of the Roman church for any other? Indeed, sweetheart, this is my case; for, suppose my concession in this should prove but temporary, it may palliate tho' not excuse my sin. But it is strange to me how that can be imagined, not remembering any example that concessions in this kind have been recalled, which in this case is more unlikely (if not impossible) than any other, because the means of recovering it is destroyed in the first minute of yielding, it being not only a condition for my assistance, but likewise all the ecclesiastical power so put in their hands, who are irreconcilable enemies to that government which I contend for, as I shall never be able to master. I must confess (to my shame and grief) that heretofore I have for publick respects (yet I believe, if thy personal safety had not been at stake, I might have hazarded the rest) yielded unto those things which were no less against my conscience than this, for which I have been so deservedly punished, that a relapse now would be insufferable, and I am most confident that God hath so favoured my hearty (tho' weak) repentance, that he will be glorified, either by relieving me out of these distresses (which I may humbly hope for, tho' not presume upon), or in my gallant sufferings for so good a cause, which to eschew by any mean submission cannot but draw God's further justice upon me, both in this and the next world. But let not this sad discourse trouble thee (for, as thou art free from my faults, so doubtless God hath blessings in store for thee), it being only a necessary freedom to shew thee, that no slight cause can make me deny to do what thou desirest, who am eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

For God's sake, as thou lovest me, see what may be done for the landing of the 5,000 men, at the place and by the time as I wrote to thee the 1st of Feb., and with them as much money as possibly thou canst. I assure thee that the well-doing of this is likely to save both my crown and liberty.

X.

Oxford, Mar. 3, 1645-6.

DEAR HEART,

Amongst all the difficulties against which I have struggled in this unparalleled rebellion, none hath been more prejudice nor of half that vexation to me, as the causeless stumblings and mistaking of my friends; yet whilst I was rightly understood by thee, I despised them all; but, since from whence my chiefest comfort comes, I am now most mistaken, it may easily be judged how my misfortunes are multiplied upon me, and—which is worse—how I am deprived of means for the supporting them; and really I should sink under my present miseries, if I did not know myself innocent of those faults which thy misinformed judgment condemns me off. However, I shall not want a greater affliction than the power of the rebels can inflict upon me, until I have satisfied thee concerning those things mentioned in thine of the 23d of Feb.; wherefore I conjure thee, as thou lovest me, to read what follows, with patience and without prejudice.

I am blamed both for granting too much, and yet not yielding enough, which shows, I confess, to be no contradiction, yet it must be a strange unluckiness for a man to be guilty in both kinds upon one occasion; but I plead Not Guilty to both. For the first, I will not seek an excuse from a clause in thy letter—"Je vous conseille de faire paie [paix] à queleque prix que ce soit,"—for I know it was never thy meaning by it to persuade me either to go against my conscience, destroy monarchy, or forsake my friends; but my ground is, that these foundations being preserved I cannot overbuy