

XXVI.

New-Castle, Wed. May 20th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

Albeit I may well hope that Ashburnham (who this morning went to sea) may be with thee before this letter, and therefore need say little to thee at this time, he being fully instructed in all things which concern my business, yet I must not let this occasion pass without giving thee a short account of my condition. Upon what terms I went from Oxford,^a and how I came to the Scots' army, I shall leave totally to Ashburnham's report, and likewise the barbarous usage I have had ever since. First, then, know that every one here (both of the committee and army) flatly disavows any treaty, and threatens the punishment of all those who have had any hand in it; and now I can assure the queen, there is nothing the Scots apprehend more than breaking with the rebels. Of many, I will give thee but two clear evidences; and first, the Scots have quit their pretended part in the English militia; and then the Scots have hindred, by proclamation, all men to come near me who have borne arms for me, whereas I did find many of that kind protected in their army. Next, it is more than apparent that the Scots will absolutely hinder my being any more king in England than they have made me in Scotland. For this there needs but one proof, the Scots having declared that the militia should not be in the king alone, but that the two houses of parliament are to have an equal share in it; and, for my friends, I need say no more than that they declare to adhere closely to their covenant.

Thus have I given thee a short but true account of the Scots' intentions, which also shews thee clearly what my present condition is, desiring the queen to consider that her trouble for it will much

^a The king quitted Oxford very early in the morning of the 27th April, accompanied by Ashburnham and Dr. Hudson. After wandering about for five days, apparently in a state of entire irresolution, he entered the Scottish camp on the 5th May. Hudson's account of their course is printed in Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa*, ii. 350.

hinder her endeavours to bring me out of it. For which I offer the queen no opinion until Ashburnham hath made all things known unto her, only I believe that what heretofore thou judgedst me wilful in, will be found the best (if not only) means for my restitution. As for my messages, both south and north, I remit to Montrevil, promising thee hereafter a weekly account from him who is eternally thine,

CHARLES R.

XXVII.

New-Castle, May 28th, 1646.

DEAR HEART,

I have found it most necessary for my service that Montrevil should carry this dispatch, because I am confident he will have that credit to make clearly appear the false juggling of the Scots, and the base usage that I have had since I came to this army, which 'tis not to be expected that anybody else can have, and I desire thee to avow that the queen of England concurs with me in this advice, which is Montrevil's desire.

It were a wrong to this trusty bearer to tell thee anything of fact, wherefore I shall at this time only make my observation to thee, and the grounds of my resolution. It is daily more and more evident to me that the Scots resolve to clipp the king's power in England, just answerable to what it is in Scotland, to which end (it is vissible) they can never attain without the settling of Presbyterian government in England, for the obtaining of which the Scots care not what they quit of your [their?] particular interests, as they have begun in that concerning the English militia, and I doubt not but they will go on, by abating the greatest part of their arrears. Wherefore, as my constancy to episcopacy is best to my conscience, so, believe me, it is more counsellable in point of politice [*sic*]; for, as I formerly told thee, the difference in point of church government is not that which the Scots look more at, although they make it their great pretence, but