

HUMBLE PETITION

The Gentry and Inhabitants of Holderness

Sir John (-1645), Baronet Hotham, in January 1641/1642 received an order from Parliament to seize the city of Hull, England's major arsenal in the north. When Charles I attempted to enter the town in April, Hotham refused him entry. The leading residents of Holderness, a town about 10 miles north of Hull, supported Charles and sent him this protest against Hotham's behavior.

Holderness (Yorkshire), 6 July 1642

To the King's most excellent Majesty. The humble petitions of the gentry and inhabitants of Holderness.

We, Your Majesty's most loyal and oppressed subjects, having for the space of four months (with much patience and prejudice) endured great and insupportable loss by Sir John Hotham's taking into Hull (a distinct county from us) part of the trained bands of Yorkshire—contrary to law, Your Sacred Majesty's right, and express command—by detaining our arms, destroying our trade and markets, with many more pressures upon us than we are willing to repeat.

Howbeit this last attempt of cutting our banks, drowning part and endangering the rest of the level of Holderness, is a presumption higher than was ever yet attempted by any subject to our knowledges. As if Sir John Hotham at once intended to destroy our freeholds and proprieties, and for no other cause, as we conceive, but for serving Your Majesty according to our allegiance and the known laws of the land.

Our most humble prayer therefore is that Your Majesty will vouchsafe speedily to take the premises into your gracious and tender consideration for securing our fears. And Your Majesty's petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for your happy and glorious reign over us, etc.

Subscribed by Robert Milliard, Christopher Holme, Matthew Wentworth, Francis Cobb, Leonard Robinson, James Cave, Christopher Hilliard, Gilbert Gower, and near three hundred others, and delivered to His Majesty at Beverley, the sixth of July 1642.

Sir Lucius Cary (1610–1643), **Viscount Falkland**, Secretary of State

York, 6 July 1642

His Majesty has commanded me to give this answer to this petition.

That he, with just commiseration and all possible compassion, considers the miserable condition of the petitioners and will, both by publishing his proclamations and by drawing such forces together as he shall be able to levy, endeavour the petitioners' relief in their present sufferings, and prevention of their future, with any hazard that may befall his own person.

In the meantime His Majesty hopes all his good subjects do plainly discern how impossible it is for their interests to be preserved when his just rights and power are taken from him.

“The Humble Petition of the Gentry and Inhabitants of Holderness, With His Majesties Answer”
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