

SUMMONS OF HEREFORD

Alexander Leslie (1582–1661), **Earl of Leven**

to **Colonel Barnabas Scudamore** (1609–1652), Governor of Hereford

10 o'clock, 31 July 1645

Our appearance before you in this posture is for no other end but the settling of truth with peace in England, without the least desire to shed the blood of any subject in it, our by-past actions may be a sufficient evidence hereof. Therefore this is to summon and require you to deliver up that city unto me, to be kept for the use of His Majesty and the Parliament of England. Whereunto, if you shall be so wise and happy to condescend, you may have conditions honourable and safe, but if otherwise worse counsel shall so far prevail with you as to contemn this offer, I am persuaded all the world, and you also, will acquit me of the manifold inconveniencies which will undoubtedly ensue upon your refusal. Consider hardly of your own condition, and of those now under your charge, whose blood will be laid upon your account, and return an answer within three hours after the receipt of this unto me.

Commissioners to the Scots Army

to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of Hereford

31 July 1645

We, the Commissioners appointed by the Parliament of England to reside in the Scots Army, foreseeing the great miseries and calamities that are likely to ensue to this city of Hereford in the case the summons sent by his Excellency, the Earl of Leven, shall be refused by the Governor, have thought good to give you timely advice to use your uttermost endeavours that a positive and satisfactory answer may be returned thereunto, least that by a willful delay or refusal you bring utter ruin and destruction, not only to yourselves, but to all that are with you, which will not lie in the power of any to prevent.

Your loving friends,

John Corbett, William Pulfrey, Edward Baynton, Humfrey Salwey

Colonel Barnabas Scudamore (1609–1652), Governor of Hereford

to Alexander Leslie (1582–1661), **Earl of Leven**

31 July 1645

I am not to give up the King's garrison upon any summons or letter; neither shall it be in the power of the Mayor or other to condescend to any such proposition made unto him. I was set in here by the King's command, and shall not quit it but by special order from His Majesty or the Prince. And with this resolution I shall persist in Hereford.

John Webb, *Memorials of the Civil War Between King Charles I and the Parliament of England as it Affected Herefordshire and the Adjacent Counties* (London: Longman, Green, and Company, 1879), II:385, 389. [modernized]