

# LETTER

Charles I (1600–1649), King of England, Scotland, and Ireland (1625–1649)

to Henrietta Maria (1609–1669), Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland (1625–1649)

Oxford, 14 January 16<sup>45</sup>/<sub>46</sub>

Because my trumpet is not returned yet, and that it is not unlikely he will bring such an answer as must oblige me to a very harsh reply, I have been therefore this day making a message such as may either cause my journey to London upon those terms that I am confident will be extremely to my advantage (considering my condition, as likewise the unquestionable differences between the Independent and Presbyterian faction), or upon refusal will further my Scotch treaty, or at least breed distractions in London, which possibly might have been hindered, if I had stayed the return of my trumpet by the rebels' insolent demands.

I received yesterday the chearfullest letter from Jermyn<sup>1</sup> that I have seen these many days, and when I see the effects accordingly shall then begin to think well of the Cardinal's<sup>2</sup> friendship, but I must confess that the failing of former hopes and Sabrand's<sup>3</sup> declared neutrality here makes me yet suspect that the Cardinal totally prosecutes Cardinal Richelieu's<sup>4</sup> grounds; and, seriously, the want of assistance from thence has not troubled me so much as the affliction I know you have had, for having been juggled withal in a thing your heart is so set upon for his sake, who is eternally yours,

John Bruce, ed. *Charles I in 1646: Letters of King Charles the First to Queen Henrietta Maria* (London: Camden Society, 1856):9–10.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Jermyn (c. 1604–1684), Baron Jermyn of Saint Edmunds, Secretary to Queen Henrietta Maria

<sup>2</sup> Cardinal Jules Mazarin (1602–1661), Chief Minister of France (1642–1661)

<sup>3</sup> Marquis de Sabran, French Ambassador in England

<sup>4</sup> Armand Jean du Plessis (1585–1642), Cardinal-Duke of Richelieu, Chief Minister of France (1624–1642)