

ENDING HOSTILITIES

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

to James Graham (1612–1650), **Marquess of Montrose**, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1645–1650)

Newcastle, 19 May 1646

I am in such a condition as is much fitter for relation than writing. Wherefore I refer you to this trusty bearer, Robin Ker,¹ for the reasons and manner of my coming to this army, as also what my treatment has been since I came, and my resolutions upon my whole business. This shall therefore only give you positive commands and tell you real truths, leaving the why of all to this bearer. You must disband your forces, and go into France, where you shall receive my further directions. This at first may justly startle you; but, I assure you that if, for the present, I should offer to do more for you, I could not do so much, and that you shall always find me your most assured, constant, real, faithful friend.

James Graham (1612–1650), **Marquess of Montrose**, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1645–1650)

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

Strethspey, 2 June 1646

May it please Your Sacred Majesty, I received Your Majesty's by this gentleman, the bearer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ker, Your Majesty being at Newcastle, together with Your Majesty's pleasure for disbanding of all forces and my own repair abroad.

For the first, I shall not presume to canvas, but humbly acquiesce in Your Majesty's resolutions. As for that of present disbanding, I am likewise, in all humility, to render obedience (as never having had, nor having, anything earthly before my eyes but Your Majesty's service, as all my carriages have hitherto and shall at this time witness.)

Only, I must humbly beg Your Majesty to be pleased to consider that there is nothing remembered concerning the immunity of those who have been upon your service; that all deeds, in their prejudice, be reduced, and those of them who stay at home enjoy their lives and properties without being questioned. For such as go abroad, that they have all freedom of transport, as also that all prisoners be released, so that no characters of what has happened remain. For, when all is done that we can, I am much afraid that it shall trouble both those there with Your Majesty and all your servants here to quit their parts.

And as for my own leaving this Kingdom, I shall in all humility and obedience endeavour to perform Your Majesty's command, wishing (rather nor any should make pretext of me), never to see it again with mine eyes; willing, as well by passion as action, to witness myself Your Majesty's most humble and most faithful subject and servant.

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

to James Graham (1612–1650), **Marquess of Montrose**, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1645–1650)

Newcastle, 15 June 1646

I assure you that I no less esteem your willingness to lay down arms at my command for a gallant and real expression of your zeal and affection to my service than any of your former actions. But I hope that you cannot have so mean an opinion of me that, for any particular or worldly respects, I could suffer you to be ruined. No, I avow that it is one of the greatest, and truest, marks of my present miseries that I cannot recompense you according to your deserts, but, on the contrary, must yet suffer a cloud of the misfortune of the times to hang over you. Wherefore I must interpret those expressions in your letter concerning yourself to have only relation

¹ Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Ker (c. 1578–1654), Earl of Ancrum

to your own generosity; for you cannot but know that they are contrary to my unalterable resolutions, which, I assure you, I neither conceal nor mince. For there is no man (who ever heard me speak of you) that is ignorant that the reason which makes me, at this time, send you out of the country is that you may return home with the greater glory, and in the mean time to have as honorable an employment as I can put upon you. This trusty bearer, Robin Ker, will tell you the care I have had of all your friends, and mine, to whom albeit I cannot promise such conditions as I would, yet they will be such as (all things considered) are most fit for them to accept. Wherefore I renew my former directions of laying down armes unto you, desiring you to let Huntly, Crawford, Airlie, Seaforth, and Ogleby² know that want of time has made me now omit to re-iterate my former commands to them, intending that this shall serve for all, assuring them, and all the rest of my friends, that whensoever God shall enable me, they shall reap the fruits of their loyalty and affection to my service. So I rest your most assured, constant, real, faithful friend.

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

to James Graham (1612–1650), **Marquess of Montrose**, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1645–1650)

Newcastle, 16 July 1646

The most sensible part of my many misfortunes is to see my friends in distress, and not to be able to help them. And of this kind, you are the chief. Wherefore, according to that real freedom and friendship which is between us, as I cannot absolutely command you to accept of unhandsome conditions, so I must tell you that I believe your refusal will put you in a far worse estate than your compliance will. This is the reason that I have told this bearer, Robin Ker, and the commissioners here that I have commanded you to accept of Middleton's conditions, which really I judge to be your best course according to this present time. For if this opportunity be let slip, you must not expect any more treaties; in which case you must either conquer all Scotland or be inevitably ruined.

That you may make the clearer judgment what to do, I have sent you here enclosed the Chancellor's answers to your demands; whereupon, if you find it fit to accept, you may justly say I have commanded you. And if you take another course, you cannot expect that I can publicly avow you in it until I shall be able (which God knows how soon that will be) to stand upon my own feet; but, on the contrary, seem to be not well-satisfied with your refusal; which, I find clearly, will bring all this army upon you. And then I shall be in a very sad condition, such as I shall rather leave to your judgment than seek to express. However, you shall always find me to be your most assured, real, constant, faithful friend.

Mark Napier, ed. *Memorials of Montrose and His Times* (Edinburgh: The Maitland Club, 1850), II:277–282. [modernized]

² The Marquess of Huntly, the Earl of Crawford, the Earl of Airlie, the Earl of Seaforth, and James Ogilvy, commanders of Royalist forces in Scotland