

ENDING OF HOSTILITIES

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

Newcastle, 10 June 1646

His Majesty, looking with grief of heart upon the sad sufferings of his people in his three Kingdoms for some years past, and being affected with their distresses and unquiet condition through the distractions about religion, the keeping of forces on foot in the field and garrisons, the not satisfying of public debts, and the fears of the further effusion of blood by the continuance of an un-natural war in any of these Kingdoms, or by rending and dividing these Kingdoms, so happily united;

And having sent a gracious message unto both Houses of Parliament and the Commissioners of the Parliament of Scotland expressing the necessary causes of his coming from Oxford unto the Scots' army (without any intention to make a division where he is in freedom and right capacity to settle a true peace) and containing such offers as he conceived would have been accepted, with a general clause of complying with their desires.

And being impatient of delays, and not acquainted with the particulars which may give contentment to them, His Majesty does earnestly desire that the propositions of peace so often promised and so much expected may be speedily sent unto him that, upon consideration of them, he may apply himself to give such satisfaction as may be the foundation of a firm peace.

And for the better and mote speedy attaining thereunto, His Majesty does further propound that he may come to London with safety, freedom, and honour, where he resolves to comply with his Houses of Parliament in everything which may be most for the good of his subjects, and perfect what remains for settling both Kingdoms and people in an happy condition; being likewise most confident that they, according to their reiterated declarations and solemn protestations, will be zealous in the maintenance of his honour and just and lawful rights.

And as His Majesty desires the Houses of Parliament to disburden the Kingdom of all forces and garrisons in their power, except such as, before these unhappy times, have been maintained for the necessary defence and safety of this Kingdom, so he is wilting forthwith to disband all his forces and garrisons within the same, as the enclosed order herewith sent will evidence:

Newcastle, 10 June 1646

To our trusty and well-beloved Sir Thomas Glenham,¹ Sir Thomas Tyldesley,² Colonel H. Washington,³ Colonel T. Blagge,⁴ governors of Our cities and towns of Oxford, Lichfield, Worcester, and Wallingford, and all other commanders of any towns, castles, and forts in Our Kingdom of England.

Having resolved to comply with the desires of Our Parliament in everything which may be for the good of Our subjects, and leave no means un-essayd for removing all differences amongst us, therefore We have thought fit, the more to evidence the reality of Our intentions of settling an happy and firm peace, to require you, upon honourable terms, to quit those towns, castles, and forts entrusted to you by Us, and to disband all the forces under your several commands.

And if, upon these offers, His Majesty shall have such satisfaction as he may be confident a firm peace shall ensue thereon, His Majesty will then give order for his son, the Prince's, present return.

The Parliamentary History of England from the Earliest Period to the Year 1803 (London: T.C. Hansard, 1803), III:486–487. [modernized]

¹ Sir Thomas Glenham (c.1594–1649), royalist governor of Oxford

² Sir Thomas Tyldesley (1612–1651), royalist governor of Lichfield

³ Colonel Henry Washington (1615–1664), royalist governor of Worcester

⁴ Colonel Thomas Blagge (1613–1660), royalist governor of Wallingford