

# 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)

Newcastle, 5 August 1646

Upon Saturday last I received yours of 2 and 3 August, in answer to which I dispatched Montereul<sup>1</sup> with full instructions Monday last, but the wind yet staying him, I will mention some things. I find the Queen<sup>2</sup> is informed that the Scots will be content with Presbyterian government without pressing the Covenant, which may be true; that is to say, for my personal signing and sealing it. But if ever they were, or will be, content without having my consent for the forcing it upon all my subjects (until they see a powerful-formed party for me to make them hear reason), say that I abuse you or that (upon my faith to you) I shall be able either to make them serve me without extirpation of episcopacy in England, for less will not serve them than the establishing of the Covenant in all my kingdoms (which, if it be, will ruin this monarchy), desiring you to believe that I would not (for all the world) thus positively affirm this to you unless I knew it to be assuredly true.

For this French ambassador,<sup>3</sup> as the Queen did warn me of him, so I must now do the same to you, for I suspect that he has given hope of procuring you to persuade me to grant most of these damned propositions, the which if either the Queen or he do (but formally), I am ruined. Wherefore, as I am confident that the Queen will not, so I desire you to take care that the Cardinal<sup>4</sup> not only refuse to persuade me, but also send brisk instructions to this French ambassador in case either of the nations declare against me, or put affronts upon him who is eternally yours.

If you see Prince Rupert,<sup>5</sup> tell him that I have recommend him to you, for albeit his passions may sometimes make him mistake, yet I am confident of his honest constancy and courage, having at least behaved himself very well.

I have dispatched to Ireland as the Queen desires.

Newcastle, 26 August 1646

I cannot but give you the continual trouble of recommending everyone to you whom I send to wait upon my son Charles, and therefore I advise this, my honest and faithful servant, Doctor Stewart unto you, desiring you to command that he be admitted to wait on my son in the same place as he did on me (which is Dean of the chapel) until I may recall him to wait upon me, and that you will protect and countenance him, because I believe few about my son knows him and that now-a-days churchmen are despised by most. For I assure you he is a discreet, good man and much esteemed by him 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):57–58, 61.  
*[modernized]*

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<sup>1</sup> Jean de Montereul (c. 1613–1651), French envoy at the court of Charles I

<sup>2</sup> Anne of Austria (1601–1666), Queen regent of France for her son, Louis XIV

<sup>3</sup> Pomponne de Bellièvre (1606–1657), French representative to the English Parliamentary government

<sup>4</sup> Jules (1602–1661), Cardinal Mazarin and chief minister of France (1642–1661)

<sup>5</sup> Rupert (1619–1682), Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria, nephew of King Charles I