

# SIEGE OF WEXFORD

General Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

to Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (–1649), Commander of Wexford

Wexford, 3 October 1649

Having brought the army belonging to the Parliament of England before this place to reduce it to its due obedience, to the end effusion of blood may be prevented and the town and country about it preserved from ruin, I thought fit to summon you to deliver the same to me, to the use of the state of England. By this offer, I hope it will clearly appear where the guilt will lie if innocent persons should come to suffer with the nocent. I expect your speedy answer.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (–1649), Commander of Wexford

to General Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

Wexford, 3 October 1649

I have received your letters of summons for the delivery up of this town into your hands, which stands not with my honor to do of myself; neither will I take it upon me, without the advice of the rest of the officers and mayor of this corporation (this town being of so great consequence to all Ireland), whom I will call together and confer with, and return my resolution unto you tomorrow by twelve of the clock. In the meantime, if you be so pleased, I am content to forbear all acts of hostility, so you permit no approach to be made. Expecting your answer in that particular, I remain, my lord, your lordship's servant.

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General Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

to Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (–1649), Commander of Wexford

Wexford, 4 October 1649

Having summoned you to deliver the town of Wexford into my hand, I might well expect the delivery thereof, and not a formal treaty, which is seldom granted but where the things stand upon a more equal foot. If therefore yourself or the town have any desires to offer upon which you will surrender the place to me, I shall be able to judge of the reasonableness of them when they are made known to me. To which end, if you shall think fit to send the persons named in your last, entrusted by yourself and the town, by whom I may understand your desires, I shall give you a speedy and fitting answer. And I do hereby engage myself that they shall return in safety to you. I expect your answer hereunto within an hour; and rest your servant.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (–1649), Commander of Wexford

to General Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

Wexford, 4 October 1649

I have returned you a civil answer, to the best of my judgment, and thereby I find you undervalue me and this place so much as you think to have it surrendered without capitulation or honorable term, as appears by the hour's limitation in your last.

Sir, had I never a man in this town but the townsmen and artillery here planted, I should conceive myself in a very befitting condition to make honorable conditions; and having a considerable party with them in the place, I am resolved to die honorably, or make such conditions as may secure my honor and life in the eyes of my own party. To which reasonable terms if you hearken not, or give me time to send my agents till eight of the clock in

the forenoon tomorrow with my propositions, with a further safe conduct, I leave you to your better judgment, and myself to the assistance of the Almighty; and so conclude.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (-1649), Commander of Wexford  
to General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

Wexford, 4 October 1649

I have advised with the mayor and officers, as I promised, and thereupon am content that four, whom I shall employ, may have a conference and treaty with four of yours, to see if any agreement and understanding may be begot between us. To this purpose I desire you to send mine a safe conduct, as I do hereby promise to send unto yours when you send me their names. And I pray that the meeting may be had tomorrow at eight of the clock in the forenoon, that they may have sufficient time to confer and debate together, and determine and compose the matter; and that the meeting and place may be agreed upon, and the safe conduct mutually sent for the said meeting this afternoon. Expecting your answer hereto, I rest, my lord, your servant.

Send me the names of your agents, their qualities and degrees. Those I fix upon are Major James Byrne, Major Theobald Dillon, Alderman Nicholas Chevers, Mr. William Stafford.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (-1649), Commander of Wexford  
to General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

Wexford, 5 October 1649

My propositions being now prepared, I am ready to send my agents with them unto you. And for their safe return, I pray you to send a safe conduct by the bearer unto me; in hope an honorable agreement may thereupon arise between your lordship and, my lord, your lordship's servant.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (-1649), Commander of Wexford  
to General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

Wexford, 5 October 1649

Even as I was ready to send out my agents unto you, the Lord General of the Horse came hither with a relief, unto whom I communicated the proceedings between your lordship and me, and delivered him the propositions I intended to dispatch unto your lordship; who has desired a small time to consider them and to speed them unto me. Which, my lord, I could not deny, he having a commanding power over me. Pray, my lord, believe that I do not do this to trifle out time, but for his present consent. And if I find any long delay in his lordship's returning them back unto me, I will proceed of myself, according to my first intention. To which I beseech your lordship give credit, at the request, my lord, of your lordship's ready servant.

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General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)  
to Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (-1649), Commander of Wexford

Wexford, 6 October 1649

You might have spared your trouble in the account you give me of your transaction with the Lord-General of your horse, and of your resolution in case he answer not your expectation in point of time. These are your own concernments, and it behooves you to improve the relief you mention to your best advantage. All that I have to say is to desire you to take notice that I do hereby revoke my safe conduct from the persons mentioned therein. When you shall see cause to treat, you may send for another. I rest, sir, your servant.

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Lieutenant-Colonel David Synnot (-1649), Commander of Wexford  
to General Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)

Wexford, 11 October 1649

In performance of my last, I desire your lordship to send me a safe conduct for Major Theobald Dillon, Major James Byrne, Alderman Nicholas Chevers, and Captain James Stafford, whom I will send to your lordship instructed with my desires. And so I rest, my lord, your servant.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:168-174.