

# ROYALIST NEWS

Sir John Berkeley (1602–1678)  
to Sir Edward Hyde (1609–1674)

Paris, 23 November 1649 [OS]

I received at Jersey yours that was dated between Blois and Bordeaux, and am sorry my friend and you parted no better, the rather because I have taken some pains he should be yours and that I am resolved to be an humble servant to you both, neither am I subtle enough to discern in him anything but value and kindness of and to you. We must expect no degree of perfection in this world, and if we dismiss our friends for every failing we shall be left alone.

I believe if some of those paragons<sup>1</sup> now at Jersey were well examined by an exact lapidary, they would be found with their flaws; but they have learnt a rule which the Spaniard has turned into a proverb: *procura buena fama y échate a dormir*.<sup>2</sup> In such a slumber I left some of them, who to my seeming did things the most like dishonest men, in so much I should have sworn it, if they had been done by any less fallible than themselves; and this I shall interpret unto you when we meet.

For the present, let us return to the subject of your letter, wherein you say you doubt P<sup>3</sup> will cozen us. I am glad we are cozenable; I had thought we were in so desperate a condition as whosoever had to do with us were in danger to be losers by us, and that the diurnal the last week summed up the matter not very ill by saying if the King join not with the Scots he is undone, and if he do, they are. I do believe we have been, and are still, deceived, but trust me I think it is by ourselves by never allowing any expedient conducing to our recovery lawful until it be ineffectual—by not enduring to swallow bitter pills till they would not work; by losing what we might have had because we could not obtain what we wished to have; by being of the opinion of some of your friends now at Jersey that it was happy for Crown and Kingdom that Hamilton<sup>4</sup> did not prevail in England, and that we ought not to wish that nation engaged against the murderers upon the same terms they were then (which some believe we might have obtained of them); and in the meantime propound no means for our recovery but such as would not acquit one before an honest jury from being not *compos mentis*.

And for my part, I will deal freely with you that I think we shall never be undeceived until our eyes are open so as to be able to see that we ought to give one hand to the Catholic Roman and other to the Presbyterian, and join with them both to the destruction of our common enemy as far as we can do *salva consciencia*, and that not scrupled with scholastic notions, but such as become a sober Christian. That done, I take this following rule to have no exception *redime te captum quam queas minimo*,<sup>5</sup> but this is too much.

I came from Jersey about eight days since, and left all well there. An express two days before came from Lord Ormonde,<sup>6</sup> of 3 weeks' date, since which time Wexford and some other places are lost. My Lord Marquis presses earnestly His Majesty going thither, which His Majesty concurs in. Mr. Long<sup>7</sup> being required to give his opinion in council by the rest of the council did it affirmatively, whereupon the rest suspended theirs. Prince Rupert<sup>8</sup> was then upon the coast of France, and expected there. I met with Harry May<sup>9</sup> at the seaside, who speaks

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<sup>1</sup> Referring to those Royalists who opposed negotiations with the Scots

<sup>2</sup> Achieve fame and go to sleep

<sup>3</sup> The Presbyterians

<sup>4</sup> James (1606–1649), Duke of Hamilton, invaded England at the head of Scottish royalists in July 1648. Cromwell defeated Hamilton at the Battle of Preston (19 August 1649) and Parliament executed Hamilton on 9 March 1649.

<sup>5</sup> Buy yourself out of bondage as cheaply as you can (*Taming of the Shrew*, Act I, Scene I)

<sup>6</sup> James Butler (1610–1688), Marquess of Ormonde, Royalist commander-in-chief in Ireland (1641–1647, 1649–1650)

<sup>7</sup> Sir Robert Long (1600–1673), Secretary of the Council of the Prince of Wales (1644–1649)

<sup>8</sup> Rupert (1619–1682), Count Palatine of the Rhine and Duke of Bavaria, nephew of Charles I and at this time commander of the Royalist fleet returning from Ireland.

<sup>9</sup> Harry May, Messenger of Charles II

magnificent things of Montrose,<sup>1</sup> and that he will be within ten days of this date in Scotland with 3000 foot and 800 horse. He has had a great opportunity upon the disbanding in Germany, yet I cannot but doubt whether these numbers will be transported, as I shall do their success when they are, and shall never expect a great effect from Scotland unless it can be united.

My Lord Duke of Buckingham<sup>2</sup> is in Flanders. I send him this day his commission for the Guards of Horse. My Lady Morton<sup>3</sup> is well recovered.

I shall go back within this fortnight. I had forgot to tell you that Windram<sup>4</sup> was expected at Jersey before my coming from thence. I believe he will think he has made a good voyage if he escape with a broken pate. The gallants talked before I came away of throwing him over the wall, even before the tidings of Montrose came.

You will be much to blame if you present not my most humble duty and service to my Lord Treasurer.<sup>5</sup> God in Heaven preserve you both.

Samuel Rawson Gardiner, ed. *Letters and Papers Illustrating the Relations Between Charles the Second and Scotland in 1650* (Edinburgh: T. Constable, 1894):1–3.

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<sup>1</sup> James Graham (1612–1650), Marquess of Montrose, commander of Charles I's army in Scotland (1644–1646)

<sup>2</sup> George Villiers (1628–1687), Duke of Buckingham

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Douglas (c. 1610–1654), Countess of Morton and cousin of the Duke of Buckingham

<sup>4</sup> Major George Windram

<sup>5</sup> Francis (c. 1579–1652), Baron Cottington, Lord High Treasurer (1643–1646)