

NEWS FROM HOLLAND

Henry Nash

to William Edgeman, Secretary to Sir Edward Hyde, Ambassador at Madrid

Antwerp, 2 June 1650

For want of portage this enclosed has lay a while, though I suppose the bad news will arrive with you too soon. Since I received it, the Lord Hopton¹ is retired to Utrecht with those that relate unto him, and some others are ready to follow in discontent of the agreement with the Scots, though I hope the breach is not so great but may be reconciled upon any advantage to the general cause.

The Scots continue Scots still, as insolent as they are poor, having scarce yet gained any reputation of honesty or so much credit as to take up the £25,000 upon public faith which they first promised to the King. They confidently give out that David Leslie has much defeated the Lord Montrose; it is also believed, which cannot but make them the prouder.

Also the last week (as I hear), they delivered private papers to the King against the employing several eminent persons in his affairs of England. You may presume they are such as they dare not confide in for their own interest, and they press underhand that the affaires in England may be in pupilage to those of Scotland, to be advised and ordered by their power or council; or at least by such as they must approve on and of all other. I think this insolence the greatest, and of the greatest danger if it be granted. And what the event will be, I am rather amazed to think of then to guess at.

I presume you have already heard how much ado the Prince of Orange has had with the Hoogenmogende States about disbanding of soldiers; only the last week he prevailed with advantage and reputation, and now of that business all is referred for four months. The States are so little friends to monarchy that they denied our King shipping to transport him, and have also the last week dispatched an ambassador to their brethren of England. Whether it be to advance or credit their rebellion I know not, but fear it, and therefore do almost wish that as birds of a feather they may all be hanged together.

After all this, if anything comfort us, it is from Ireland. The rebels themselves confess they lost 700 men on the place where they fought, and were defeated; some say they were Huson's men, others that they were Sir Charles Coote's.² Or, if the French report be true, we hope since that 1500 more of them are cut to pieces, with loss of some places of consequence.

Sir, I can think of nothing more to inform you, either from England or elsewhere, of any concernment, only to assure you I am your ready and faithful servant.

Samuel Rawson Gardiner, ed. *Letters and Papers Illustrating the Relations Between Charles the Second and Scotland in 1650* (Edinburgh: T. Constable, 1894):115–116.

¹ Ralph (1598–1652), Baron Hopton, retired as Royalist commander as the King increasingly rejected his advice against compromise

² Charles Coote (c. 1610–1661), Parliamentary commander in Ireland