

CAMPAIGN IN SCOTLAND

Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

to John Bradshaw (1602–1659), President of the Council of State (1649–1651, 1653)

26 July 1651

I am able to give you no more account than what you have by my last; only we have now in Fife about 13.000 or 14.000 horse and foot. The enemy is at his old lock, and lies in and near Stirling, where we cannot come to fight him, except he please, or we go upon too, too manifest hazards, he having very strongly laid himself, and having a very great advantage there, whither we hear he has lately gotten great provisions of meal and reinforcement of his strength out of the north under Marquis of Huntly.¹

It is our business still to wait upon God to show us our way how to deal with this subtle enemy, which I hope He will. Our forces on this side the river are not very many, wherefore I have sent for Colonel Rich's; and shall appoint them, with the forces under Colonel Sanders, to embody close upon the borders and to be in readiness to join with those left on this side the Firth, or to be for the security of England, as occasion shall offer, there being little use of them where they lie, as we know.

Your soldiers begin to fall sick through the wet weather which has lately been. It is desired therefore that the recruits of foot determined may rather come sooner in time than usually, and may be sure to be full in numbers, according to your appointment, whereof great failing have lately been. For the way of raising them, it is wholly submitted to your pleasure; and we hearing you rather choose to send us volunteers than pressed men, shall be very glad you go that way.

Our spades are spent to a very small number. We desire, therefore, that of the 5.000 tools we lately sent for at the least 3.000 of them may be spades, they wearing most away in our works, and being most useful. Our horse arms, especially our pots, are come to a very small number. It is desired we may have 1.000 backs and breast, and 1.500 pots. We have left us in store but 400 pair of pistols, 200 saddles, 600 pikes, 2.030 muskets, whereof 30 snaphancies. These are our present stores, and not knowing what you have sent us by this fleet that is coming, we desire we may be considered therein. Our cheese and butter is our lowest store of victual. We were necessitated to pay the soldiery moneys now at their going over into Fife; whereby the treasury is much exhausted, although we desire to husband it what we can.

This being the principal time of action, we desire your lordship to take a principal care that money may be supplied us with all possible speed, and these other things herewith mentioned, your affairs so necessarily requiring the same.

The castle of Inchgarvie, which lies in the river almost in the midway between the north and south ferry, commonly called Queen's Ferry, was delivered to us on Thursday last. They marched away with their swords and baggage only, leaving us sixteen cannon, and all their other arms and ammunition.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:288–290.

¹ Lewis Gordon (c. 1626–1653), Marquess of Huntly