

THE INVASION OF ENGLAND

John Maitland (1616–1682), Earl of Lauderdale

to Anne Home Maitland (–1671), his wife

Carlton, near Penrith, 8 August 1651

I wrote unto you at length by Sir William Bellenden, and gave you notice of a hundred pounds sterling which is sent over to you by bill. I was ashamed it was so little, but I could not help it. I have now made a bargain with a noble friend of mine, my Lord Wentworth,¹ for another hundred pounds sterling to be paid to you by Mr. William Crofts,² who was His Majesty's ambassador in Poland.

I am sure Mr. Crofts has all the King's money (that he received there), at least the far greatest part of it, in his own hand; and I am certain the King has given a warrant to pay more money to my Lord Wentworth; therefore, if this letter come safe, I do not at all doubt of the payment of the money to you.

My greatest doubt is the safe conveying this letter to you, but I am resolved to adventure it, and some others to this purpose many ways, 'ere it come not. Your cousin Schomberg³ will inform you for certain where Mr. Crofts is, and then you are to advertise him where you will have the money paid, and he will pay the money as soon as my Lord Wentworth's letter comes to his hand; this enclosed writ, directed to Mr. Crofts, which you are to be careful that it come to his hand.

I have written to my Lord Balcarres⁴ to pay punctually to my Lord Inchiquin⁵ the hundred pounds sterling upon sight of your order that you have received; as also, if his credit can reach so far, to send you another hundred pounds. This is all that a ruined, plundered man, without an estate, can do. If I were able to provide you better, truly I should do it; and, as I wrote often, it is my greatest private trouble you should have been so ill-provided.

As for news, I can tell you little. His Majesty is thus far advanced into England with a very good army, able, by the blessing of God, to do his business. They are, I dare say, near double the number of those that the King of Sweden entered Germany with, if they be not more. As soon as we came into England, His Majesty was by an Englishman (whom he made king-at-arms for that day) proclaimed King of England, on the head of the army, with great acclamation of the army, and shooting off all the cannon of the army. Then, yesterday, he was proclaimed here in Penrith, and will be in all the market towns where we march.

Never was an army so regular as we have been since we came into England; I dare say we have not taken the worth of a six-pence. And whatever you hear of our misfortunes in Fife, or whatever our enemies print or write, trust me this is the best Scots army that ever I saw, and I hope shall prove best. All those that were unwilling to hazard all in this cause with their King have on specious pretence (most of them) left us. This is a natural purge, and will do us much good. Nothing of action yet, except the driving of some small parties, with which I will not trouble you. One thing I cannot forget—this morning, my Lord Howard of Escrick's son⁶ came in to us from the enemy, with his whole troop. His Majesty received him graciously, and immediately knighted him. He is the first, but I am confident few days will show us more that will return to their duty.

This letter is to go tonight, and a great way through the enemies' quarters. It is odds of lay if ever it come to you. I shall therefore say no more. Remember my service to your noble cousin Schomberg. I am now ashamed

¹ Thomas Wentworth (1612–1665), Baron Wentworth (eldest son of the Earl of Cleveland)

² William Crofts (–1677), Charles II's ambassador to Poland (1649–1652)

³ Frédéric-Armand (1615–1690), Duc de Schomberg and Marshal of France

⁴ Alexander Lindsay (1618–1659), Earl of Balcarres

⁵ Murrough O'Brien (1614–1674), Earl of Inchiquin

⁶ Cecil Howard (–), third son of Edward (–1675), Baron Howard of Escrick

to write to him till I can tell him some extraordinary good news, which I hope shall, by the grace of God, be shortly. He may be assured none alive is more his servant than your own kindest, Lauderdale.

My blessing to Mary, and my service to all other friends. I have no time to write; neither is it pleasant when it is likely others may see my letters before my friends. I am ashamed to write to Mr. Crofts myself, seeing it is when money is desired at the same time to be paid to you.

Of Cromwell's motions you will hear better from Scotland. I have also written to my Lord Balcarres to send you a copy of the King's declaration to the Kingdom of England. I cannot get it sent herewith.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:306–309.