

SIEGE OF DUNDEE

Lieutenant-General George Monck (1608–1670)

to Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

From the Leaguer before Dundee, 28 August 1651

On Sunday last, we got over the River Tay, close by Saint Johnston's, with our horse and foot, but with very much difficulty, our horses being forced to swim over the river; and on Tuesday last we came before Dundee and laid siege at it. I sent in a summons to the governor¹ for to surrender us the town, together with all the appurtenances that belong to war; and withal promising him good conditions for his officers and soldiers, and likewise for the inhabitants. But the governor returned a very uncivil answer, a copy of which I have enclosed and sent Your Excellency.

Yesterday we got intelligence that General Leslie,² with the Committee of Estates,³ together with some lords and gentlemen of quality, were to meet with some forces within twelve miles of us. And within one day's time longer they would have gotten together a very considerable party. They did intend to have raised the siege. Whereupon I ordered Colonel Alured, with 600 horse and four troops of dragoons, to march last night to Alyth in Perth, where I got intelligence they were.

And it pleased God so to bless and prosper our designs that they got to the place where those lords were without any discovery. They killed some upon the place, and took prisoners those whose names I have enclosed and sent Your Excellency.⁴ Truly, it is a very great mercy which the Lord of Hosts has been pleased to bestow upon us, observing the time and season. This is the Lord's work, and therefore He alone ought to have all the praise. He has not been wanting to follow us with mercies continually had we the hearts to give Him the praise that is due unto Him.

I have this night sent out another party to meet with those levies which those lords were going to meet. I hope the Lord will bless their enterprises with success. And after this party is routed, I believe I shall not be troubled with any more levies while I am about the reducing of this town, which I hope will be within these two days.

I humbly desire Your Excellency would be pleased to send down some more horse and foot; for what the garrisons will take up and what of sickness, which is very brief amongst us, we have at this time thirty of a troop sick, whereby we are very weak, and I shall have no considerable strength to keep down the country people, who are very apt to rise upon any occasion almost in every place.

I have sent Your Excellency some papers enclosed which I met with upon my march. I shall likewise desire Your Excellency, if it stands with Your Excellency's liking, to send down a commission for Colonel Morgan to be colonel of the dragoons; likewise a commission for Captain Boone, who was formerly Captain-Lieutenant to my own company, to be captain of the foot company in my regiment, where Captain Rose, deceased, was captain; and a commission for William Powell, formerly ensign to my company, to be captain-lieutenant; and also a commission for one Mr. Francis Kelly to be ensign to my company.

Having nothing else at present to trouble Your Excellency with, only desiring the Lord of Hosts still to guide and direct Your Excellency in the carrying on of that great work which He is pleased to honor you with, I most humbly take leave; and remain Your Excellency's most humble servant.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:345–347.

¹ Robert Lumsden (c. 1629–1651)

² Alexander Leslie (1582–1661), Earl of Leven

³ The Royalist Committee of Estates governed Scotland when its Parliament was not sitting

⁴ The prisoners included the Earl of Leven; John Crawford (c. 1598–1678), Earl of Crawford and Lord High Treasurer of Scotland; and more than thirty other leading Scottish royalists.