

STORMING OF DUNDEE

Lieutenant-General George Monck (1608–1670)
to Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658)

Dundee, 1 September 1651

Since it has pleased the Lord to bestow upon us the mercy of the taking of the lords, a copy of their names I sent you in my last, we have by storm taken the town of Dundee. There was in it about eight hundred soldiers, besides the townsmen. We lost in the storming about six officers and about twenty private soldiers. It was a very great mercy that there was no more killed, in respect of the disadvantage we met withal and of the numbers which we were to deal with, they being as many in Foot as we were. There was killed of the enemy about 500; and 200, or thereabouts, taken prisoners. The governor was killed. Sixty sail of ships in the harbour, and about forty iron guns in and about the town. The stubbornness of the people enforced the soldiers to plunder the town.

I humbly desire to know whether it be Your Excellency's pleasure that this place be fortified otherwise than it is. It will not be tenable unless, without a great deal of charges.

Saint Andrews is come in, whom I ordered to pay £500 for refusing the first summons and, I believe, a town called Montrose will likewise come in upon summons, which place I intend to make it our winter quarters. Truly, my Lord, I know not what I shall be able to do only for want of more forces, being so weakened by reason of sickness that I march not above 1200 Foot, and in case it be Your Excellency's pleasure that this place be made a garrison, I conceive I must almost leave all the Foot in it. I humbly refer this to Your Excellency's consideration.

And withal, I humbly beg your Lordship not to be unmindful in the sending of some more forces, and that likewise there be care taken in the sending down of more biscuit and cheese to Leith. So desiring the Lord to protect you in all your proceedings, I humbly take leave.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:351–352.