

# LETTER

John Thurloe (1616–1668), Secretary of State  
to General George Monck (1608–1670)

Whitehall, 24 February 1656

The alarm of Charles Stuart's landing his forces does somewhat cool, the Spaniard not as yet making good his supplies; however, it will be good to have an eye unto his party, and as I receive any intelligence concerning him, I shall be sure to let you know it.

Yesterday we fell into a great debate in Parliament. One of the aldermen who serves for the City of London brought in a paper called a remonstrance, desiring my Lord Protector to assume kingly power, and to call future Parliaments consisting of two Houses, as also that their Members who are chosen to serve in Parliament may not be excluded to sit and serve there but by judgment of the House whereof they are Members. It is also desired that no person should be desired to sit and serve in Parliament that has been of the malignant party, or is not fearing God and of a good conversation.

The same qualifications are put upon the other House also; and those my Lord Protector by that paper is to name for the first time, and then none to be admitted but by the consent of the House itself; and some think that this will be very good to preserve the good interest against the uncertainty of the Commons' House, which is to be chosen by the people. Yet upon these also there is a bar for a committee of a precedent Parliament is to join with the Privy Council to examine whether the Members of the succeeding Parliament be chosen according to the qualifications, yea or not, and to exclude those who are not until the House shall judge their cases.

His Highness is also desired to nominate his successor in his life, to prevent the uncertainty of an election after his death. Provision is likewise made for raising a constant revenue, for mustering the army. The delinquent party are declared incapable forever of any trust in these nations, and an oath of abjuring Charles Stuart's title is to be put upon them under a forfeiture of part of their estates. Provision is likewise made for liberty of religion.

I have written most fully to you in these particulars because you might satisfy any other who may have scruples about this business. I do assure you it arises from the Parliament only; His Highness knows nothing of the preambles until they were brought into the House, and no man knows whether, if they be passed, but that His Highness will reject them. It's certain he will if the security of the good people and cause be not provided for therein to the full.

It is good that you inform yourself concerning the posture of the army with you, because some unquiet spirits or other will take this or any other occasion to put the army into discontent by false reports. Provision is likewise made for confirming the sales of the King's, Queen's, and Princes' and other lands sold by the Parliament.