

ARREST OF THE FIFTH-MONARCHISTS

Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), Lord Protector (1653–1658)

to Lieutenant of the Tower of London

3 February 1657/1658

I desire you to seize Major-General Harrison, Mr. Carew, Portman, and such as are eminent Fifth-Monarchy Men, especially Feake and Rogers. Do it speedily and you shall have a warrant after you have done.

Whitehall, 3 February 1657/1658

Whereas We are given to understand that several persons have been of late endeavouring, inasmuch as in them lay, to asperse, reproach, withstand, and subvert the governors and government of this Commonwealth as it is now established, and have been at work and sought by all means to disturb the public peace, raise seditions and commotions, seeking to dis-affect and exasperate the hearts and spirits of the people, so that thereby they might bring the nation again into blood. And whereas some of the contrivers and actors are made known unto us to be Hugh Courtney, John Rogers, and John Portman, who obscure themselves in and about Our City of London. These are, therefore, to will and require you to make, or cause to be made, strict and diligent search for the said persons, and them and every of them to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended and brought into Our Tower of London; and that you keep them there in safe custody until you shall receive Our further order therein concerning them, every or any of them respectively.

And We do also hereby authorize and require you to seize, or cause to be seized, all books, writings, letters, and papers as shall by you be found requisite; as also all such weapons, arms, or any dangerous things to them or any of them belonging or that are in their custody.

And for the better execution whereof, you are hereby authorized to break open any doors, locks, boxes or bolts, trunks, chests, boxes, or other places. And herein all Our officers, as well civil and military, are required to be aiding and assisting you; and for which this shall be warrant.

Edward Rogers, *Some Accounts of the Life and Opinions of a Fifth-Monarchy-Man* (London: Longmans, 1867):313–314.