

LETTER

Officers in England

to General George Monck (1608–1670), Governor of Scotland (1653–1659)

Wallingford House, 3 May 1659

We shall not need at present to enumerate the various dispensations of the providences of God towards us in the management of that great interest of his which He has so signally owned and carried on through all difficulties and against all opposition in these three nations, and how He has made bare His mighty arm and led us on by signs and wonders, affording to us the visible tokens of His presence above our faith and beyond our hope, imprinting the stamp of His own presence upon these transactions when we have been at the greatest stand, that we may with admiration and astonishment say “this has God wrought”. So that we may set up stones of remembrance and write upon them “hitherto the Lord has helped”.

And having been deeply sensible of the great danger the good old cause and interest of the people of God was in in these three nations, not only for our old common enemy, who were grown to so great a height of insolency and confidence that they were ready to triumph, and were in conjunctions in their councils in several parts in the nation, and especially in and about London, but also from many of those who should have been the asserters and maintainers of the cause and interest which is so dear unto us, who instead of taking an effectual course for the great and pressing necessity of the army, or coming to any consistency among themselves for the settling of the nations, nourished jealousies of us and gave great advantages of encouragement to our former-mentioned enemies, whereby our fears were increased and our danger made more visible.

Upon consideration whereof, we thought it a duty incumbent upon us (being in some measure sensible of the great decayings of that good Spirit in us, and the backsliding frame of our own hearts), after serious searching of heart and solemn addresses to the Lord, to meet together and advise what was our duty in such a day as to the security of the cause. And being convinced that it was our duty to appear for the preservation thereof, we met in general council, which produced a petition and representation to His Highness, a copy whereof we have here enclosed, which said petition and representation being presented by His Highness to the Parliament, produced effects much contrary to the hopes and expectations of the army, for instead of considering of ways and means for applying remedies to our just desires, it brought forth a vote for a dissolution of our meetings and dispersing of our officers (though nothing was done effectually for the breaking of the councils of the common enemies by sending away the Cavaliers out of Town), as also another vote requiring an engagement from us, as though we were not to be trusted as friends.

The consideration whereof produced a stable and fixed resolution in us once again to put our lives into our hands and to trust this great undertaking in the hands of our good God, Who we have formerly trusted, and in Whose hands alone are all the issues of councils and actions, we well knowing these great concernements of His cause, interest, and people to be far dearer to Him than any of ours can be to us. It was thought fit to rendezvous that part of the army in and near the city, whereupon the Parliament was dissolved.

And in further prosecution of our duty, we resolved upon some heads (at a general council of officers), in order to the better settling of the discipline and continuing the union of the army (which we have likewise here enclosed sent to you), which were unanimously agreed on, we think it our further duty earnestly to press you that these things may be seriously laid upon your hearts, and that you will not be startled or divided from us by any mis-representations that may be brought unto you, but that the good old cause and interest may be dear unto you, and that both you and we lie low in the sense of our great provocations, and earnestly implore the Throne of Grace that the former presence may return to you and us, and that as our resolutions are to act in the promoting of the same cause, so we may do it with the same spirit of faith and prayer which in these, our days, and former ages have been so successful, and wherein alone our strength lies, our consciences witnessing unto

us that we have no design in our hearts but the reviving and prosperity of that good cause in all its essentials, wherein the interest, liberties, peace, and settlement of these three nations is naturally founded. We are, Your affectionate friends and fellow soldiers

William Daniell
Henry Haynes
J. Biscoe
John Miller
Francis Hacker
Henry Prittie
William Gough
Richard Ashfeild

Charles Fleetwood
James Berry
John Okey
Robert Sawry
John Daberon
John Pearson
Jer. Camfeild
John Mason

C.H. Firth, ed. *The Clarke Papers* (Longmans, Green, and Company: London, 1901), IV:4–6. [modernized]