

RISINGS ACROSS ENGLAND

Thomas Pury (c. 1590–1666), M.P. for Gloucester (1640, 1654–1656, 1659)

to William Lenthall (1591–1662), Speaker of the House of Commons (1640–1655, 1659–1660)

Gloucester, 27 July 1659

Upon our coming to Gloucester and conference there with Captain Deale and Captain Crofts, we found that there were very great dangers threatened to this place by the Cavaliers and others, enemies to this Commonwealth, whereof we doubt not but that you have from time to time received from the said Captains full advertisements. But now, upon fresh intelligence, understanding that the enemies are numerous and have resolved to fall upon us as this night, the said Captains, conceiving themselves not sufficient with their forces (being all Horse) to secure this place without the addition of some Foot, have desired our advice and assistance therein, whereupon we have adventured to raise about 300 Foot, completely armed with muskets (there being no pikes in this city), and have putt them the last night upon duty, resolving so to continue them for about [a] week ensuing. We have thought it our duty to give Your Honours this account, and to pray your further orders and directions therein. The soldiers have showed themselves very ready and resolute, leaving their trades and occupations to serve upon this occasion; but they are all poor men and live only by their hands, and if some provision of pay be not speedily made for their encouragement and subsistence, it will dis-hearten them from so free and hearty an appearance upon the like dangers for the time to come. We have been enforced already to engage to the inferior officers and soldiers that they shall forthwith receive a week's pay and we are now making it our care to provide the money accordingly, and therefore we earnestly beg that Your Honours will be pleased to give order that so much money may be paid for the uses above-said as to your wisdoms shall seem meet and necessary, the extreme exigency of the business (according to our best intelligence) enforcing what has been done herein for the service of the Commonwealth by your most humble and faithful servants.

Captain Hugh Jenkins, Deputy-Governor of Hereford Castle

to William Lenthall (1591–1662), Speaker of the House of Commons (1640–1655, 1659–1660)

Hereford Castle, 28 July 1659

I received certain intelligence yesterday about seven o'clock in the afternoon that there was an insurrection already begun within this County, at Pembridge, within ten miles of this garrison, upon notice whereof (with all possible speed) I sent a party of horse, consisting of about forty men, to discover the truth thereof, who returned intelligence about three o'clock this morning that the enemy were gathering together from several parts to rendezvous at Brinsop, within four miles of this city, and took prisoners three persons going towards that place, horsed and armed, being all old Cavaliers. We are setting ourselves in the best posture we can, having only the county troop besides the garrison soldiers. I shall not be wanting in my endeavours to attend and frustrate their design, being first to surprize this garrison. If they should grow numerous, a speedy supply of forces will be needful, for which I refer myself to Your Honours. I hope upon the return of the whole party I shall be able to give you a further account.

Major Lewis Audley

to William Lenthall (1591–1662), Speaker of the House of Commons (1640–1655, 1659–1660)

(Surrey) 1 August 1659

The party from the Life Guard, the party commanded by Cornett Clements, together with our county troop, have been upon hard duty all the Lord's Day, and at night drew into barns and sheds adjoining to Redhill, and kept frequent and diligent scouts all night, and towards day drew out upon the hill, where we continued until about 10 of the clock, but have not found the enemy answerable to his boastings, and indeed our expectation raised in us by the former presages, for, notwithstanding all our diligence, neither all night nor hitherto this day

did we meet with anything like an enemy. It is supposed the enemy was ripe and ready, but our Saturday's night surprisal and the disappointing the enemy all the Lord's Day prevented their meeting us then and growing to a rendezvous as upon this day.

We intend after one of the clock to draw into quarters at Reigate, where we shall continue unless some extremities arise elsewhere or we be commanded otherwise by Your Excellency.

We have received no notice from Major Hubbard, and therefore keep his Redhill as quiet our own. I am in some hopes that Captain Elsmoore may be found either at the Portcullis or White Lion in Lambeth; but if otherwise, I am not much in default for, besides accepting of his engagement to offer himself to the Council of State or Your Excellency, I importuned the officer who commanded the party to have an especial care of him....

Colonel Thomas Birch

to **William Lenthall** (1591–1662), Speaker of the House of Commons (1640–1655, 1659–1660)

Darby, Tuesday, 2 August 1659 [OS]

I could not safely nor sooner give you an account hereof, but being escaped hither with wearied horses, I hope this may wait on you before I can reach London. Sir, I came into the next confines of Lancashire upon Thursday night last, where by a Quaker that followed and called after me I was informed obscurely of great preparation of arms, and that Sir George Booth¹ and some other gentlemen of Lancashire and Cheshire, who live next bordering upon the confines of both counties, were endeavouring an insurrection. At home my wife told me that the same man and some others had been the day before at my house with the same relation, expecting to have found me at home.

Upon the Friday I went to Manchester, where I was much more confirmed in the truth of it. And that night I heard of some cart loads of arms carried towards Manchester to Sir George Booth's house in Cheshire. Whereupon forthwith I sent my man to our county troop and another troop of the army that were about 20 miles off, to give them notice and, the better to avoid a surprise, that they would keep moving and quarter together for their safety. Understanding also that very many Cheshire gentlemen were in the plot, I sent to Colonel Bradshaw, my Lord Bradshaw's² brother, to give notice of it to the sheriff of that county and to Colonel Croxton,³ the Governour of Chester Castle, to look after the safety of that city and to desire them immediately to give the Parliament and Council of State to know, for where I was at home, surrounded with them all about me, it was not possible for me to send to you either by letter or messenger. I sent, further, to our Sheriff of Lancaster and to such gentlemen as I best trusted in other parts of the county to let them know it; but all this while it was but intended.

Upon the Saturday Sir George Booth came to Manchester, where met him Colonel Ireland, Colonel Ashton, Colonel Holland, and diverse other Lancaster men. And then upon the Lord's Day all broke out by public directions in parish churches to call the country into arms, and where Sir George Booth had tenants in either county, they were the first sent unto to come to his house at Dunham, and then followed the ... from several parts...

And upon the Monday they ... up at a rendezvous and so marched away. ... I heard they were put upon the subscription of an engagement, and that declarations were ready to be read unto them of the grounds of their taking up arms, and themselves give it out they will have a King, a House of Lords and of Commons (meaning Charles Stuart, who some that I discoursed with said expressly was undoubtedly their lawful sovereign).

Sir, I stayed at home the longer and to the greater hazard then discretion allowed me that so I might give you the more certainty of their proceedings. When I came from home yesterday at two of the clock, I heard they

¹ Sir George Booth (1622–1684), Parliamentarian officer during the Civil Wars and Member of Parliament for Cheshire (1645–1656)

² John Bradshaw (1602–1659), President of the High Court of Justice and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1658–1659)

³ Thomas Croxton (c. 1603–1663)

were like to be about ... or 1.500, but within this week they ... I believe, 3.000 or thereabouts, which will ... number both of horse and foot when ... most. They take in all Cavaliers. ... Some of them give out that Charles Stuart and General King, but I rather believe Major-General Massie, that is amongst them. They tell much of the expectation they have of other forces out of Wales and neighbouring counties, but I hear of no stirring anywhere else.

C.H. Firth, ed. *The Clarke Papers* (Longmans, Green, and Company: London, 1901), IV:285–289. [modernized]