

# DISCONTENT IN DEVON

Captain Sampson Larke  
to The Council of State

Plymouth Fort, 23 August 1659

May it please Your Honours,

The proclamation declaring Major-General Egerton, etc., rebels and traitors came from the High Sheriff of this County by the constable of this Hundred to a petty constable of this town, who shifted it over to another well-affected constable, who, according to the usual manner, applied himself therewith to the Mayor, craving his countenance and assistance in the publication thereof, who utterly refused to take any cognizance of it. From thence the said constable addressed himself to Mr. George Hughes and Mr. Porter, to the end that it might be read, according to the resolve of Parliament, in their respective churches in this town; but they also utterly refused. Whereupon the said constable applying himself to me, I thought it my concernment to go with him, together with some others, to the Mayor again, where we pressed him with diverse arguments to put countenance upon it, but to no effect, he abiding in his resolutions to have no hand in it; nor could so much as a town sergeant be obtained to read it. However, the said constable, being accompanied by diverse well-affected people, in the market-time by sound of trumpet proclaimed it, not without being scoffed at by diverse merchants and others and raged against by the gentility in general, the said proclamation fixed up, torn down again, and a blank paper set up in the place thereof.

Upon these and other considerations too large to insert, I judge it my duty to offer humbly not only mine, but the sense and desire also of the well-affected, that in order to the preservation of the Lord's and His people's interest in these parts Your Honours take speedy and effectual order to send away or some other where to secure or dispose of the inferior Spanish prisoners, to the end that the castle where they are kept (it commanding the town) may be garrisoned with such well-affected persons as may be judged competent to defend themselves and suppress any attempts of such spirits as wait to take any opportunity to embroil this part of the nation in blood and misery, which might be effected with very little charge and great advantage to the public good if a proposition made last week might take effect.

This, submitted to Your Honours' wisdom as the Lord shall guide you, is all from Your Honours' humble servant.

The good tidings of the routing of Sir George Boothe gladdens many here, but most great ones troubled at it.

C.H. Firth, ed. *The Clarke Papers* (Longmans, Green, and Company: London, 1901), IV:290–291. [modernized]