

# AFFAIRS IN ENGLAND

Antoine de Bordeaux-Neufville, French Ambassador to England (1652–1660)

to Jules Mazarin (1602–1661), chief minister of France (1642–1661)

London, Monday, 24 October 1659 [OS]

It remains for me, in order to satisfy the wish that Your Eminence has to be exactly informed of the state of England, to report to you that the principal officers of the army and some ministers of the Council of State, after different propositions and overtures of accommodation with the Parliament, which met with no success, have at last resolved, on the day before yesterday, to establish a council of twenty-three persons, of whom ten are colonels, three citizens of London, and the rest members of the preceding council or of that of the Protector.

Lieutenant-General Fleetwood, Lambert, Desborough, and Sir Harry Vane are the most distinguished members of this body, and those who apparently will have all the authority, the others being persons neither possessed of a talent for governing nor even summoned for that purpose, but only to make up the number.

It is said that their establishment is merely provisional and until they have chosen a larger number. This small body might easily continue to govern, if it is approved of by all the troops; it was to be recognized today by the Council of War of the officers who are in London, and in all probability the others will follow this example, although Monck, who is not one of these new ministers, has latterly again renewed the assurance of his fidelity to the Parliament, which he believed still existed, and at the same time replied to Major-General Lambert that he could not make the officers under his command subscribe to the propositions which those in England had presented to the Parliament, as they were more fitted to cause division than to maintain union in the army.

His letters were immediately published, and seem to have hastened the establishment of this Senate, in order that the officers in Scotland, seeing a government constituted and the Parliament dissolved, may give up the idea of taking its part....

François Guizot, *Monk, or, The Fall of the Republic*, Andrew R. Scoble, translator (London: Bell and Daldy, 1866):I:118–119.