

APPEAL

Committee of Safety

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

Whitehall, 29 October 1659

This Committee being acquainted with the letters to my Lord Fleetwood, wherein you have expressed your dislike of some late actions here relating to the Parliament, and have declared yourself in such a way as gives an apprehension of some mischiefs which may arise thereby to this Commonwealth, unless timely prevented, and may be laid by our common enemy as a ground of a civil war (which God divert) amongst us, this Committee as they find the present posture of affairs, being trusted with the care of preserving the public peace and resisting the enemies thereof, are most unwilling to entertain any thoughts of your having the least intentions of becoming one of that number, as giving a rise to those sad miseries which a new civil war would bring upon our native country at a time when it has pleased the Lord to bestow full peace and quiet upon us, which we all believe will be esteemed worthy the preservation, and we are not apt to think that a person of your honour, merit, and affection to your country will be the occasion of disturbance thereof.

This Committee have therefore thought fit hereby to desire you to forebear anything which may tend to the interruption of our present peace, and that you keep the forces under your command free from acting anything which may cause disquiet in these nations, or the hazard of that country where you command by the enemies rising there.

The committee suppose your want of a right information of the peaceable and quiet posture of affairs here, and of the great unity among the officers and soldiers of the army, and of the present proceedings here tending to the settlement of this Commonwealth (which yourself and all good men so much desire), did occasion the restraint by you put upon diverse officers of the army there, and the cashiering several of them, with those extraordinary expressions in your letter. But, upon this information from hence, they desire and expect that you forthwith give order for the release of those officers by you committed, and the restoring of them to their commands who have been lately put out, and that you observe the discipline of the army, that none be put out of his command but by a court-martial, and that you give a full conformity to what they now desire.

Which being submitted unto by yourself and those under your command, this Committee do hereby assure you that both you and all those who have acted hitherto in this business by your order, shall be wholly freed and indemnified from any question or trouble for those past actions. But in case you shall persist in your former mistakes, and break the peace of this Commonwealth, you will bring the blood and miseries which may be caused thereby to cry for vengeance against you as the author of them, and this Committee will not be wanting through the assistance of the Lord to make use of such means as He shall put into their hands for the prevention thereof.

We being here upon the place, and having our own concerns in the public welfare of the Commonwealth as well as others, hope you will have so much charity of us as to think we understand reasons for our actions, and shall be as tender of the peace of our own native country as yourself or any others, and therefore desire you would not be too precipitant, least upon better information your repentance may be too late.

Sir, we leave these matters to your serious consideration, desiring your answer thereunto.