

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, Thursday, 10 November 1659 [OS]

The general feeling today appears very different to that which I described in my preceding letters. At the beginning of the week the city of London seemed very discontented, and even inclined to press the army for a free Parliament; it had also refused to write the letter to General Monck which it was requested to send, and the people daily insulted the troops, and particularly some regiments of sectaries who went on guard every night. These bad humours are now dissipated, and it is said that the Mayor has promised to permit nothing that may disturb the public tranquility or prejudice the present government, and that this agreement has been made upon condition that those sectaries, against whom the people are greatly enraged, shall no longer be employed to guard the town. The council of citizens adopted this resolution yesterday and having communicated it to the Committee, its terms were agreed to.

At the very moment when the affair was being deliberated, there arrived letters from Monck which caused no less joy; they represent him to be disposed to treat, and he is to send four officers to manage this negotiation, of the success of which no one doubts. There is also news that his troops have not presented themselves before Newcastle, and that those which had approached that town retired to Berwick, where the garrison declared in Monck's favour. As regards Carlisle and Tynemouth, which it was thought had followed the same example, because Haslerigg's regiment was in garrison there, they have not yet declared themselves, and there appears to be complete union among the troops in England, which will doubtless abate the confidence of the others, founded upon the conviction which they entertained that some regiments here were in favour of restoring the Parliament.

Mention has been again made of this, in the Council of War, during the last few days, as a means for settling all differences, and it would have been resolved upon if forty Members of that body had been found well-intentioned towards the army. Now that Monck has changed his views, this idea will be rejected, and the committee will complete the work it has begun.

It is even asserted that it has already determined on a form of government composed of a council of 50, which will summon another of 200 and name the members to the people, leaving them only liberty to choose them out of 400 candidates who will be brought forward. This second body is to be changed once in every three years, and every year ten of the council of fifty will go out of office to make room for ten others to be chosen from among the 200. This plan has not yet been published, and before it appears, there may probably be some changes introduced into it, as the re-union or division of the army cannot but serve as a rule for the resolutions of the present government.

François Guizot, *Monk, or, The Fall of the Republic*, Andrew R. Scoble, translator (London: Bell and Daldy, 1866):I:125–126.