

CHARLES II IN EXILE

Walter Montague (c. 1603–1677), Chaplain to Queen Henrietta Maria (1647–1669)

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

Bordeaux, Tuesday, 25 November 1659 ^[NS]

Yours of the 22nd, from Auch, was received on our arrival at Bordeaux on the 25th, the bad weather and the roads not permitting us to make greater speed. The King received here letters from England which give nearly the same news as the letter of de Bordeaux; but the resolution to reduce Monck by force was one of the best pieces of news we could expect in order to begin to work in consequence.

I could not adequately express to you the joy which the King manifested at your letter, for he said immediately that the proof it afforded him of the interest which you take in his affairs was even more valuable than the news it communicated; for the success of these petty movements is uncertain, but the good effect of your interest is infallible. He has therefore commanded me to inform you that, from tomorrow, he will begin to follow your views and will take post to proceed to the frontier as quickly as possible, after having seen the Queen, his mother, at Colombe.

He has already commenced overtures to Monck, and he is assured that he can send messages to him in safety. But besides the person whom he has on the spot, who will not fail to act according to his first commission, he will dispatch an express and will begin also to have Lambert sounded by an envoy whom he thinks sufficiently trustworthy to be able to make overtures to him without their ever being turned to his prejudice. At the worst, he will inform us of the result of all to communicate it to you, protesting to you that he shall do nothing without your concurrence, or otherwise than in conformity with your advice, which he urgently begs you to be so kind as continue to him, assuring you that he will keep the secret so well that appearances shall always accord with your sentiments, and that he will derive all the advantage from this correspondence, without the possibility of any inconvenience occurring to you.

This is what he has commanded me to tell you and beg of you on his behalf, expressing to you all possible gratitude for this very opportune proof of your friendship. And I assure you that from day to day I become more bold to offer myself as a guarantee for all that he promises you, for I am more and more persuaded of his talents and ingenuity; and as for the Marquis of Ormonde, he seems to me a man of great probity and virtue, and remains very well satisfied with the conversation which he had with you.

François Guizot, *Monk, or, The Fall of the Republic*, Andrew R. Scoble, translator (London: Bell and Daldy, 1866):I:128–129.