PLANNING THE RESTORATION

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

to Roger Boyle (1621–1679), Baron Broghill, President of Munster (1658–1689)

Whitehall, 7 February 1659/1660

Your epistle of 30 January from Cork came to me yesterday, and I assure your Lordship I shall improve all the interest I have to give the Parliament a just impression of your services, which I must acknowledge have been always very eminent, but more especially in the late transactions in Ireland and particularly in the care your Lordship has taken of that important province of Munster, where you now are.

I doubt not but your Lordship has had by this time my letter, wherein I gave your Lordship an account of my approaching towards this place and some other particulars, in order to your Lordship's desires to me, and also the names of the commissioners that are appointed by the Parliament for the civil government of Ireland, who (I think) are for the greatest part of them very sober, honest men.

And I am very glad your Lordship is so prudently mingled in the management of the military part, which I think to be in as good hands as can possibly be, and I shall endeavour to have them so continued. I have here with me 4.000 of my own foot, and 1.500 horse, besides a regiment which Colonel Morley¹ has in the Tower and a new regiment raised at Portsmouth under Colonel Farley, and they are such as will not dispute the Parliament's orders, or undertake to interest themselves in state affairs (which, your Lordship knows, is a principle of discipline I always exercise, where I have authority to do it), so that I think the Parliament will not have occasion to draw any of the Irish forces hither. Although I cannot but esteem it as an extraordinary effect of your Lordship's care for the public safety and for favour to me that you are pleased to inform me of the assistance that might be had from those parts, and your obliging offer to give me the honour of conducting them.

I must confess I think Sir Hardress Waller² has been a little too remiss in the prosecution of matters with you, but I hope it has been rather in tenderness of mind than otherwise, and when I was within two or three days' march of London, I gave him some smart advice concerning his behaviour to the factious fanatic part of the army.

I shall be careful that Colonel Wallace and Major Deane, who have escaped so unhandsomely from Ireland, be not received into any countenance or esteem here, and your Lordship shall be sure that at least I will not have anything to do with them myself.

I am heartily sorry that I cannot do that service for your Lordship which I desire to do, but I will never omit any opportunity I can have to promote your Lordship's merits, for I am, with much reality, my Lord, your Lordship's most humble servant.

Rebecca Warner, ed. Epistolary Curiosities, Series the First. Consisting of Unpublished Letters of the Seventeenth Century Illustrative of the Herbert Family (Bath: Cruttwell, 1818):53–56.

¹ Colonel Herbert Morley (1616–1667), Lieutenant of the Tower of London (1659–1660)

² The committed republican Sir Hardress Waller (c. 1604–1666) seized Dublin Castle on behalf of Parliament in December 1659