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A

LETTER

FROM

Duke Schomberge's

CAMP,

Giving an Account of the Condition

Of the *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* ARMY.

AND

A True Account of all the Papiſts in *Ireland*, their Number and Eſtates, with Reaſons for declaring them forfeited, and the ſeveral Parties amongſt them.

With all the Material Circumſtances that relate to that Kingdom.

From the Camp at *Dundalke*, *November* 4. 1689.

Licenſed according to Order.

LONDON,

Printed for *Tho. Parkhurſt* : And Pub[illegible]
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A Letter from Duke Schombergs *Camp, giving an Account of the Condition of the* Engliſh *and* Iriſh *Army.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your commands, and diſcharge of my promiſe, I will acquaint you with the State of our Affairs on this ſide, to which will be added a diſtinct character and diſcrimination of the ſeveral Parties amongſt the Papiſts in this Kingdom, their ſeveral Intereſts, and the Numbers of them, by which you will be the better enabled to judge how matters are likely to go here.

As to the firſt part; King *James* having had particular Information from the *French* Traiterous Fugitives (of which you have heard) of the condition of our Camp, the ſtrength, and weakeſt parts of our Trenches, where he might moſt eaſily ſurprize Us; and being aſſured by them that they would ſeize one or two of our Poſts, to facilitate his Entrance into our Camp, he adventured to command his Army on the 14th of *September*, to advance within one or two Miles of Us, that he might the better execute his Deſign; his Army conſiſted of about Forty thouſand Men, whereof thirty thouſand were Armed, the reſt had ſuch Arms as the Countrey afforded, Sheans and half Pikes; they intrenched themſelves, and waited for the opportunity wherein to ſurprize Us, but providentially the Traitors were diſcovered, ſeized, and ſix of the principal of them Executed; about Two hundred more are ſent into *England*, where, I hope, they will be dealt with according to their deſerts. The Iriſh being informed that their Plot was diſcovered, their hopes being fruſtrated, they did on the ſixth of

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October ſet fire on their Camp, and retreated four Miles with more ſpeed than they came forward, and poſted themſelves near the Bogg of *Ardee*, being always willing to have ſo convenient a Retreat as a Bogg at hand.

They had not the courage in all that time to make any Attempt on Us. Indeed, ſeldom hath it been known that two ſuch Armies have been ſo long poſted ſo near each other, and no Action happen between them.

The intemperateneſs of the Weather, the great Rains, the Flux and Diſtempers in King *James*'s Camp, hath taken off ſo many of his Army, that he was compelled to ſend his Men into Winter Quarters, a good part of them are at *Drogheda*, and a conſiderable number is ſent to *Athlone*, which is the Center of *Ireland*; ſome are ſent to *Dublin*, and about Five thouſand continue Encamped at *Ardee*.

I ſuppoſe you have heard of the death of ſome of our Soldiers, for 'tis impoſſible for an Army, at this ſeaſon, to keep the Field in any part of the world, and that ſome ſhould not drop off; but the Companies are in ſome meaſure recruited with Northern Proteſtants who are ſeaſoned to and acquainted with the Country.

Since I wrote the former, we have a ſtrong report that King *James* his Forces that Marched towards *Athlone* continued their March to *James* Town and *Sligoe*, and have cut off ſome of our men in each of thoſe places (whoſe loſs we ſenſibly lament) the reſt retreated, ſome to *Ballyſhanon*, ſome to *Eniskillin*.

Our General intended as ſoon as our Forces ſhould joyn us that were detatched towards *Charlemont*, to have marched forward towards *Dublin*. But the wetneſs and immoderateneſs of the ſeaſon will neceſſitate our drawing into Winter Quarters, it being almoſt impoſſible for our men to contend any longer with the Extremity of the Weather.

As to what concerns the ſeveral Parties in King *James* his Army, the whole body of the Papiſts in this Kingdom, their Number, Eſtates, and what may be fit to do with them, and how they may be made to pay the Charge of their Reduction, *&c.* you will find in the Anſwer to the following Query.

An

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An Answer to that Seasonable and Important Question, Which Party of the Irish *Rebels may be invited to Submission by a second Declaration, or Offer of Pardon, with most Advantage to His Majesty, to* England *in respect of Charge, and to the Protestant Interest in* Ireland.

ALL the Papists in that Kingdom, as well those of English Extraction, as the Natives, are joyned in this Rebellion; this being noted, it is expedient (for resolving the Question) to consider the several Parties amongst them, and the distinct Interest of each of these Parties, which will open the matter, so as it will be easie to observe which of them are likeliest to be charm'd to any Advantage.

The Popish Clergy and Lawyers have a right to the Van, for they are the Contrivers and Incendiaries to Rebellion, sworn Vassals to *Rome* and *France*, restless in their Endeavours for Extirpating the Protestant Religion, and regaining the Church Lands: Should His Majesty offer them any of those Lands, to buy them off, it would be resented worse than the taking away of *Magdalen* Colledge, for our Clergy think them little enough for themselves, and will not consent that a third or half should be given their Brethren of the Church of *Rome*, yet less than the whole (nor that) will not satisfie, for these pant after the Lives as well as the Livings of the Hereticks.

And that this work may be done effectually, both these sorts of men are now commissioned, and actually in Arms: The Bishops, Priests, *&c.* (according to their degrees) are Colonels, Captains, Lieutenants, and Ring-leaders of the People; to the greatest Mischiefs of their Secular and Regular Clergy, there are four Titular Arch-Bishops, 23 Bishops, 2328 Parish Priests.

Next comes the most numerous part of the Gentry and Nobility, who by their Rebellion in 1641. forfeited their Estates, of which the Protestants are seized, these having gain'd some Military Experience in foreign parts, are the flower of the Rebels Army; their condition cannot be made worse by any improsperous event of War; dig they cannot, and they will not easily be perswaded to return to beggary, nothing less than a good part, or the whole of the Estates they forfeited will be a bait for them.

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As to the common Soldiers, part of them have been dragooning the Proteſtants in *France*, the reſidue have from their Cradles lived by Theft and Robbery, are incapable of labour or induſtry; did theſe and the former ſubmit being disbanded, protected and diſperſt, they would be more dangerous than now together in Arms, for they would fill that Kingdom with particular Murders, Rapes and Robberies, render the Planting of it dangerous or impracticable: Theſe cannot be ſaved to any good uſe, nor tranſported, but they'l run to *France*, to ſtrengthen that Enemy of Mankind.

As to the Nobility and Gentry that were reſtored to their Eſtates by *Charles* the IId's Court of Claims, they were as bloody Rebels as the former (ſuch as the Marqueſs of *Antrim*, *&c.*) yet had better luck, for theſe were rewarded with better Eſtates for their Murder's, than they loſt by their Rebellion; And good reaſon, if they were commiſſion'd to that Villany by *Charles* the Firſt, as they alledge, and *Charles* the Second ſeemed to countenance in the caſe of that Marqueſs, who was proved by many credible Witneſſes to have been in the firſt contrivance of the Rebellion in 1641. and to have perpetrated many horrid Murders, yet that King commanded his Eſtate to be reſtored, giving for reaſon that he acted nothing in that matter but by Commiſſion from his Father *Charles* the Martyr, and by order of his Mother, purſuant to the Royal Commands ſhe received from his Father.

Of eight millions of Acres profitable Land in *Ireland*, theſe Popiſh Proprietors poſſeſs about three millions, or a little more than one third of the whole; they are neither perſons of Conduct nor Intereſt; 'tis certain they have little influence on the common people; for by their Oppreſſions and Exactions, they have ſo far loſt their hearts, that where Proteſtant Landlords will receive them, they will not live under thoſe of their own Nation and Religion: 'Tis not there as here in *England*, where Tenants have Leaſes for Lives, long Terms of years, or ſuch Tenures as lays them under many tyes of Intereſt and Obligation to venture for, or be ſwayed by their Landlords, but the quite contrary; for the Popiſh Landlords ſett their Lands but from year to year, that they may the oftner rack their poor Tenants; and hence it is, that tho' thoſe people live in the moſt plentiful

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plentiful Countrey in the world, yet they feed almoſt wholly upon Milk and Potatoes, only now and then, they have a little Barley or Oaten-bread.

This party are as deeply concerned in the Rebellion, diſpoiling and plunder of the Proteſtants as the former, ſhould any of theſe ſubmit, it will be but ſingly, or with very few, probably with conſent of the reſt, that they may ſave their Eſtates, preſerve an Intereſt for the Papiſts in future, that they may give private Intelligences to their brethren, that *England* may be at the whole Expenſe of the War, the diſpoiled Proteſtants of *Ireland* be left without reprize for their Loſſes, and his Majeſty leſs capable to proſecute the War againſt *France*; ſhould theſe be pardoned, they will be in a better Condition for a future Rebellion than yet they have been, being diſciplin'd and now inriched with the ſpoils of the *Engliſh*.

The only party that remains to be ſpoken of is the Husbandman and Labourer which conſtitutes the body of that people, and are Nineteen parts of Twenty of the Papiſts in *Ireland*. For the whole of them, Men, Women and Children, are but one Million, of which we ſuppoſe 40 or 50000 in Arms unfit to be pardoned or tranſported (except to the *Eaſt-Indies*) and that theſe ſhould periſh in their Rebellion, and that His Majeſty and the wiſdom of the Parliament think good to ſpare ſuch of the common people as are not guilty of Murder, the body of that people will remain intire tho' all the former parties ſhould be deſtroy'd. Theſe (to ſay the truth of them) are leaſt dangerous, being in themſelves a well-natur'd people, and may by eaſy methods be made uſeful, if freed from their Clergy and great men, the generality of them ſpeak or underſtand *Engliſh*, which the twentieth man did not in 1641. They willingly yield their Children for Servants to Proteſtants, and are content they become ſuch, their Clergy have of late been ſo extreamly burthenſom to them, that they are more than ever diſpos'd to admit a Reformation, and to part with them and their *Iriſh* Landlords, and indeed ſuch is the Aſcendant that the Prieſts have over the Conſciences of that bigotted people, that it will be difficult and very chargeable, if not impoſſible (whileſt theſe remain amongſt them) to keep them from rebellion on the leaſt Forreign incouragement, as 130 years ſad experience verifies beyond Contradiction. They natu-

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rally love Learning for their Children, and were there Free Schools set up to instruct them, they would (without compulsion) insensibly become Protestants. For which great and good works the present Rebellion, and their Reduction will furnish their Majesties with a fit Opportunity.

All that this part of that Nation can expect or desire is Pardon and Indempnity, which His Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, may extend as they think fit, but if any of the former parties be comprehended with them, it will render them dangerous and formidable to the *English* there.

Thus I have set down the several Parties and Interests of the Papists in *Ireland*, whereby it plainly appears that there is danger in sparing any of them, tho' least (according to my sence) in taking the Pesants, or (in that Countrey language) the Skulloges into Protection, as for the Clergy, Lawyers and those who lost their Estates in 1641. we have no bait for them; if they must live, they would be least mischievous in the *East-Indies*; were they charmed at present, these Cockatrices would in a little time bring forth Scorpions; which is true also of their landed men.

The Common Souldiers are less mischievous in open hostility than under our Protection; their Nobility and Gentry who possess about one third of that Kingdom are as deep in guilt and rebellion as the rest, have little influence on the other parties, the receiving them to mercy will not shorten the War, but give heads to, and strengthen the Papists for the future. Subject us to innumerable mischiefs; impoverish *England* by bearing the charge of the War at present, and keeping up a numerous standing Army in future to keep these from rebelling, all which by their Forfeitures may be prevented; the despoiled Protestants in part reprized for their Losses, and His Majesty reimbursed, which money imployed against *France* would expedite the bringing down of that Christian Turk.

Let it not be forgotten that King *James* and the supposititious Prince of *Wales* pretend Title to the Crown. And that both their Titles have been recognized by Act of Parliament in *Ireland*. That not only the Papists in these three Kingdoms, but a numerous party that declare for Passive Obedience and Non-resistance long for and are industriously endeavouring his Restauration, and the destruction of the Protestant Interest, the pardoning

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doning the Eſtated Papiſts in *Ireland* will ſtrengthen and incourage theſe, furniſh the *French* King with the means to diſtract us at pleaſure, intail dangers on poſterity, diſcourage the planting of that Kingdom; for the Proteſtants whoſe houſes and Eſtates are ruined will not in that caſe repair them, becauſe they know that the pardoning of one Rebellion in *Ireland*, is alwaies the *preludium* to another. For *Cambden* truly obſerves, that by long uſe it was grown a miſchievous Cuſtom in *Ireland*, That Rebels might with part of the money they got by Pillage and Plunder, (of the *Engliſh*) procure themſelves pardon and protection, and eſcape without puniſhment, and that the Coſtly rebellions of *Ireland* ſpread under pretext of Religion, were cheriſhed and nouriſhed by contempt, lenity and parſimony in *England*. As alſo that great Sums of money were ſpent about *Ireland*, but to little purpoſe, for that by a certain infelicity, common as well to *England* as to *Ireland*, where for the moſt part to ſuch publick work, ſuch men thruſt themſelves forward, and are admitted, as ſordidly prefer their own private, before the publick good, I hope theſe paſſages were Hiſtorical and not Prophetical.

Five hundred years have not furniſhed one inſtance of the *Iriſh*, being reduced, when in Rebellion, by kind Offers, (unleſs made them at the laſt extremity) but there are innumerable of their growing inſolent, and obſtinate thereby. He that knows not this, underſtands not an *Iriſh* man, nor how rightly to deal with him.

If we imagine that Liberty for their Religion, a ſhare in the Civil Juſtice, will oblige and reſtrain them from violence and treaſon, we ſhall be miſtaken; for in 1641. the Papiſts in that Kingdom had their Titular Arch-biſhops, and Biſhops, their Frieries and Nunneries, their Secular and Regular Clergy, they were Juſtices of the Peace, Sheriffs of Counties, Mayors and Bayliffs of Corporations, *&c.* they were ſeized of three fourths of the Lands there, all the Laws againſt them (which are but few in *Ireland* to what they are in *England*) were ſuſpended, as to their Execution. There was then a Parliament ſitting in that Kingdom moſtly of Papiſts, wherein they remonſtrated all their imaginary Grievances; the Government concurred that they ſhould ſend their Deputies into *England* to repreſent them to the King, whereupon they had many forfeitures (ſome of whole Counties.

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ties) releaſed to them, and all the reſt of their grievances redreſſed, which only put them into a better condition to rebel. For notwithſtanding all theſe Conceſſions, in a few Months after, (being ſtirred up by their Clergy) they broke out into that barbarous and horrid Rebellion, wherein 150000 Proteſtants were maſſacred in cold blood (without any provocation) beſides as many more that periſhed by Famine and Sword, in the proſecution of that Rebellion; which is demonſtration to all the World, that theſe people are not to be retained in obedience by Immunities, Priviledges and Kindneſs, nor reſtrained from Murders and Maſſacres any longer than they are kept under by a powerful ſtanding Army.

In 1650. *Oliver* being in *Ireland* the growth of *Charles* 2d party in *Scotland* calling him into *England*, he was put to it how in a little to divide, and break the power of the *Iriſh*; as the beſt expedient he elected to hold a ſolemn debate for three days ſucceſſively, whether that Nation ſhould not be wholly extirpated, which had the deſired Effect: For on notice thereof they inſtantly were terrified, divided and ſcampered, and many ſubmitted on condition to be tranſported.

Let it be remembred that the Tragedy which for three years paſt, and now is acting in *Ireland*, was intended alſo for the Theatre of *England*, God forbid that by weakneſs, good nature, or out of good husbandry, we ſhould be prevailed on to bring ruin on *England* alſo, by preſerving the Inſtruments of our deſtruction; If they abide among us, they will certainly prove goads in our ſides, and thorns in our Eyes.

The Lives of the Proteſtants in *Ireland* can never be ſecured whilſt theſe remain among the Natives. If (as Sir *Walter Rawleigh* relates) the wiſe State of *Venice*, when their Senate is met, will not enter on any Conſultation, until ſolemn Proclamation be made that all Prieſts ſhall depart (becauſe they know them pernicious Councellors of State, even amongſt thoſe of their own Religion) why ſhould it be thought rigorous, that we ſhould remove ſuch Inſtruments of miſchief, to ſuch diſtance as may ſecure us from dangers by them.

If againſt what has been ſaid, that vulgar Objection be ſtarted, That His Majeſty muſt deal tenderly with the Papiſts at home, elſe he will poſſibly diſoblige his Popiſh Allies: I anſwer, this Objection

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Objection is foppiſh, are not all the Papiſts in theſe Kingdoms in the *French* Intereſt? Have they not contributed moſt to that Kings preſent Greatneſs and Tyranny? Are not all the *Iriſh* and ſeveral of the *Engliſh* Papiſts now in Arms againſt their Majeſties? Therefore the Rooting out or ſuppreſſion of theſe is as ſerviceable to the Confederates (at preſent and in future) as the taking of *Mentz* or *Bonn*, for theſe are they that direct their Majeſties Arms from invading *France*, yet were the Rebels Eſtates in *Ireland* by the Parliament declared forfeited as in 1641. It is demonſtrable that money may be raiſed to reimburſe His Majeſties probable charge in that War, which imploy'd againſt *France*, will ſave much to this Kingdom, gratify the Confederates, and expedite the bringing down that *French* Tyrant.

'Tis certain there is a very ancient Prophecy in the *Vatican* at *Rome*, which ſaith, That that Mother Church falleth when in *Ireland* the Catholick Faith is overcome; if it be duly pondered, there is very much in it; were theſe three Kingdoms once intire, being free'd from the Effects of the Plots and Treaſons of the Papiſts, Popery would ſoon tumble in the World; 'tis pity we ſhould be ſo ſtupid as to ſupport that Chair by cheriſhing thoſe vipers in our boſoms.

May their Majeſties that have been the Inſtruments of ſo much good to theſe Nations, have the Eternal honour to give this blow alſo to that Intereſt!

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