

To the Right Honourable William Lenthall, Esquire, Speaker of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England; These.

Edinburgh, 11th March, 1650.

SIR,

Having received information from the Mayor and Citizens of Durham, and some Gentlemen of the Northern Counties, That upon their Petition to the Parliament, "that the Houses of the late Dean and Chapter in the City of Durham might be converted into a College of School or Literature," the Parliament was pleased in May last to refer the same to the Committee for Removing Obstructions in the sale of Dean-and-Chapter Lands, "to consider thereon, and to report their opinion therein to the House;" Which said Committee, as I am also informed, have so far approved thereof as that they are of an opinion That the said Houses will be a fit place to erect a College or School for all the Sciences and Literature, and that it will be a pious and laudable work and of great use to the Northern parts; and have ordered Sir Arthur Haselrig to make report thereof to the House accordingly: And the said Citizens and Gentlemen having made some address to me to contribute my assistance to them therein:

To which, in so good and pious a work, I could not but willingly and heartily concur. And not knowing wherein I might better serve them, or answer their desires, than by recommending the same to the Parliament by, Sir, yourself their Speaker,-I do therefore make it my humble and earnest request that the House may be moved, as speedily as conveniently may be, To hear the Report of the said Committee concerning the said Business, from Sir Arthur Haselrig; that so the House taking the same into consideration, may do therein what shall seem meet for the good of those poor countries.

Truly it seems to me a matter of great concernment and importance; as that which, by the blessing of God, may much conduce to the promotion of learning and piety in those poor rude and ignorant parts:-there being also many concurring advantages to this Place, as pleasantness and aptness of situation, healthful air, and plenty of provision, which seem to favour and plead for their desires therein. And besides the good, so obvious to us, 'which' those Northern Counties may reap thereby, who knows but the setting on foot this work at this time may suit with God's present Dispensations; and may,-if due care, and circumspection be used in the right constituting and carrying on the same,-tend to, and by the blessing of God produce, such happy and glorious fruits as are scarce thought on or foreseen!

Sir, not doubting of your readiness and zeal to promote so good and public a work, I crave pardon for this boldness; and rest,

Your most humble servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL.