

To my noble Friend Colonel Cromwell at Huntingdon: These.

Boston, 5th August, 1643.

NOBLE SIR,-Since the business of Gainsborough, the hearts of our men have been so deaded that we have lost most of them by running away. So that we were forced to leave Lincoln upon a sudden:-and if I had not done it then, I should have been left alone in it. So that now I am at Boston; where we are very poor in strength;-so that without some speedy supply, I fear we shall not hold this long neither.

My Lord General, I perceive, hath writ to you, To draw all the forces together. I should be glad to see it; for if that will not be, there can be no good to be expected. If you will endeavour to stop my Lord of Newcastle, you must presently draw them to him and fight him! For without we be masters of the field we shall be pulled out by the ears, one after another.

The foot, if they will come on, may march very securely to Boston; which, to me, will be very considerable to your Association. For if the Enemy get that Town, which is now very weak for defence for want of men I believe they will not be long out of Norfolk and Suffolk.

I can say no more: but desire you to hasten;-and rest,

Your servant,  
FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY.