

For the Governor of Edinburgh Castle: These.

Edinburgh, 13th December, 1650.

SIR,

Because of your strict and solemn adjuration of me, in the fear and Name of the living God, That I gave you time to send to the Committee of Estates, to whom you undertook the keeping of this place under the obligation of an oath, as you affirm,-I cannot but hope that it is your conscience, and not policy, carrying you to that desire. The granting of which, if it be prejudicial to our affairs,-I am as much obliged in conscience not to do it, as you can pretend cause for your conscience' sake to desire it.

Now considering 'that' our merciful and wise God binds not His People to actions too cross one to another; but that our bands may be, as I am persuaded they are, through our mistakes and darkness,-not only in the question about the surrendering this Castle, but also in all the present differences;-I have much reason to believe that, by a Conference, you may be well satisfied, in point of fact, of your Estates (to whom you say you are obliged) carrying on an Interest destructive and contrary to what they professed when they committed that trust to you,-having made to depart from them many honest men through fear of their own safety, and making way for the reception of professed Malignants, both in their Parliament and Army:-and also 'that you' may have laid before you such grounds of our ends and aims to the preservation of the interest of honest men in Scotland as well as England, as will (if God vouchsafe to appear in them) give your conscience satisfaction. Which if you refuse, I hope you will not have cause to say that we are either unmindful of the great Name of the Lord which you have mentioned, nor that we are wanting to answer our profession of affection to those that fear the Lord.

I am willing to cease hostility, for some hours, or convenient time to so good an end as information of judgment, and satisfaction of conscience;-although I may not give liberty for the time desired, to send to the Committee of Estates; or at all stay the prosecution of my attempt.

Expecting your sudden answer, I rest,

Your servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL.

The Governor's reply, No 3 comes out on Saturday:

For his Excellency, the Lord General of the English Forces in Scotland:
These.

Edinburgh Castle, 14th December, 1650.

MY LORD,-What I pressed, in my last, proceeded from conscience and not from policy: and I conceived that the few days desired could not be of such prejudice to your affairs, as to bar the desired expressions of professed affection towards those that fear the Lord. And I expected that a small delay of our own affairs should not have preponderated the satisfaction of a desire pressed in so serious and solemn a manner for satisfying conscience.

But if you will needs persist in denial, I shall desire to hear the information of late proceedings from such as I dare trust, and 'as' have had occasion to know the certainty of things. Such I hope you will permit to come alongst at the first convenience; and during that time all acts of hostility, and prosecution of attempts, be forborne on both sides. I am, my Lord, your humble servant,

W. DUNDAS.