

For my Honoured Friend, Anthony Hungerford, Esquire: These.

Cockpit, 10th December, 1652.

SIR,

I understand, by my Cousin Dunch, of so much trouble of yours, and so much unhandsoneness (at least seeming so) on my part, as doth not a little afflict me, until I give you this account of my innocency.

She was pleased to tell my Wife of your often resorts to my house to visit me, and of your disappointments. Truly, Sir, had I but once known of your being there, and "had concealed myself," it had been an action so below a gentleman or an honest man, so full of ingratitude for your civilities I have received from you, as would have rendered me unworthy of human society! Believe me, Sir, I am much ashamed that the least colour of the appearance of such a thing should have happened; and 'I' could not take satisfaction but by this plain-dealing for my justification, which I ingenuously offer you. And although Providence did not dispose other matters to our mutual satisfaction, yet your nobleness in that Overture obligeth me, and I hope ever shall whilst I live, to study upon all occasions to approve myself your Family's and yours,

Most affectionate and humble servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL.

My Wife and I desire our service be presented to your Lady and Family.