'To the Reverend Mr. Hitch, at Ely: These.'

'To Major-General Crawford: These.'

Cambridge, 10th March, '1643.'

SIR,

The complaints you preferred to my Lord against your Lieutenant-Colonel,
both by Mr. Lee and your own Letters, have occasioned his stay here;-my
Lord being 'so' employed, in regard of many occasions which are upon him,
that he hath not been at leisure to hear him make his defence: which in pure
justice, ought to be granted him or any man before a judgment be passed
upon him.

During his abode here and absence from you, he hath acquainted me what a
grief it is to him to be absent from his charge, especially now the regiment is
called forth to action: and therefore, asking of me my opinion, I advised him
speedily to repair unto you. Surely you are not well advised thus to turn off
one so faithful to the Cause, and so able to serve you as this man is. Give me
leave to tell you, I cannot be of your judgment; 'cannot understand,' if a man
notorious for wickedness, for oaths, for drinking, hath as great a share in your
affection as one who fears an oath, who fears to sin,-that this doth commend
your election of men to serve as fit instruments in this work!-

Ay, but the man "is an Anabaptist." Are you sure of that? Admit he be, shall
that render him incapable to serve the Public? "He is indiscreet." It may be
so, in some things: we have all human infirmities. I tell you, if you had none
but such "indiscreet men" about you, and would be pleased to use them
kindly, you would find as good a fence to you as any you have yet chosen.

Sir, the State, in choosing men to serve it, takes no notice of their opinions; if
they be willing faithfully to serve it,-that satisfies. I advised you formerly to
bear with men of different minds from yourself: if you had done it when I
advised you to it, I think you would not have had so many stumblingblocks in
your way. It may be you judge otherwise; but I tell you my mind.-I desire you
would receive this man into your favour and good opinion. I believe, if he
follow my counsel, he will deserve no other but respect from you. Take heed
of being sharp, or too easily sharpened by others, against those to whom you
can object little but that they square not with you in every opinion concerning
matters of religion. If there be any other offence to be charged upon him,-that
must in a judicial way receive determination. I know you will not think it fit my
Lord should discharge an Officer of the Field but in a regulate way. I question
whether you or I have any precedent for that.

I have not further to trouble you:-but rest,
Your humble servant,
OLIVER CROMWELL