

Sir Thomas Salusbury to his
Sister, 27 June 1642

Dear Sister,

I am just now returned from York, my journey thither was soe suddaine & soe resolved for, that I feared least discourse with freinds of a contrarie opinion might have prevaild against my desires & undertakings—grounded upon soe much conscience & reason. When I talk of undertakings I mean noe other then my journey, for I neither received nor sought soe much encouragement from any other, as to bee able to undertake ought in their names or behalfe, but for mine owne part onely, & that with Josuah's resolution, though all Israell should goe aside, yet I & my household will serve the Lord, which I cannot doe truly unles I serve his

Prov. Ch. 24
21, 22, 23 verses. King & meddle not with those that are given to change saith Solomon, & feare God & honour the King saith St Peter in his 1st Epist. 2^d chap. 17 verse: of the same mind was St Paul, & our Saviour himselfe commands Give unto Caesar the things that are Caesars & unto God those things which belong to God. Both Testaments are full of positive precepts to this purpose howsoever the filthie dreamers of these times, that defile the flesh despise dominion & speake euill of Dignities are willing to misunderstand, & being unlearned & unstable wrest them as they doe other Scriptures to their owne destruction. I haue told you what my conscience leads mee to, & how farre it hath carried mee & if all the men of the earth were of another opinion in this I am resolved to liue & die: The arguments my reason suggests unto mee are grounded upon the diuise inconueniences allreadie growne & like daily more to increase since, & by this Government the multitude of schismes crowded, not crept, allreadie into the Church giue us too iust a cause to feare what an Amsterdam or Pantheon of all religions wee are like to make in a little more time nor is it to bee hoped that euer the crackt peace if this Kingdome may be soderd or pecced together if the Regall Power bee rent & diuided into soe many peeces. In one mans breast can bee no faction. In two there may, but in a multitude it is scarce possible but that there must as long as men continue to bee of severall opinions, which

certainly will not bee otherwise in this world. You may haue read of the severall mutinies of the Gantois which grew into a formed & confirmed partie & of the severall indignities by them offered to their Princes in a forme of Judiciall proceeding & what just & fearefull revenge was executed upon them by Charles the fifth. It is but few yeares since their penance of an hundred yeares was expired. Looke but upon other places where they haue shaken of[f] the obedience of their sovereigns as the low Countreyes & Germanie whether euer the sword is like to goe from their doores. Hath not Holland euer bene the stage of warre & as it were the Cockpitt of all Christendome since they withdrew themselves from the obedience of their Soueraigne the King of Spaine, though hee were a Tyrant & an usurper, & doubtless if a King bee oppress by force or the defection of his people it is an injurie that can neuer bee forgotten and they that use that force against him haue need bee very strong to keepe him under by the same force, for they must looke for great & frequent attempts which will neuer bee wanting as long as there is any sparke left in the hearts of the people of respect to Royall Majesty, wch attempts (however it succede) is like to embroyle the Kingdome in perpetuall warre as long as any liues that hath or can pretend a title to the Crowne, which Certainlie will neuer bee shutt out from its legall prerogatives more than the sea from those bounds which God hath sett it. But if it loose in one place it gaineth in another, or will bee allwaies struing & in distemper while the world endureth. Thus you see the firme basis of my resolution are religion & peace, & my addresses to the Court haue not bene out of vanitie or ostentation to make large offers, for I haue made none, nor out of fashion but conscience, which shall euer lead mee till it bring mee out of all trouble to eternall peace. In the meane time in the quiet of that conscience I am merrie & in good health I praise my God & as touching my journey to you in assurance of your promise I am constant in my resolutions. I shall come over the hills by Lloydiart & meeete my Coach at your house. In the interim to all there bee mine & my wifes scruiice & heartie affections present together with our earnest prayers to God for you.

I rest,

Yours

T.S.

June 27
1642.

669. 5
83
1642



HIS
MAIESTIES SPEECH

At *Sbrevsbury*, ou *Michaelmas* Eve last, to the Gentry and Com-
mons of the County of *salop*, there Asssembled. Oct. 6 1642

Gentlemen,

IT is some benefit to me from the Insolencies, and misfor-
tunes which have driven me about, that they have brought
me to so good a part of my Kingdome, and to so faithfull a
part of my people; I hope neither you nor I shall repent
my comming hither, I will doe my part that you may not:
And of you, I was confident before I came; the residence of
an Army is not usually pleasant to any place, and mine may carry more
feare with it, since it may be thought (being Robbed and spoyled of all my
owne, and such terror used to fright and keepe all men from supplying me)
I must onely live upon the ayde and reliefe of my people; but be not af-
raid, I would to God my poore Subjects suffered no more by the Inso-
lence & violence of that Army raised against me (though they have made
themselves wanton even with plenty) then you shall doe by mine, and yet
I feare I cannot prevent all disorders; I will doe my best; and this Ie pro-
mise you, no man shall be a loser by me if I can helpe it; I have sent hither
for a Mint, and will melt down all my own Plate, and expose my Land to
sale or morgage, that if it be possible I may bring the least pressure upon
you. In the meane time I have Summoned you hither to invite you to doe
that for me and your selves, for the maintenance of your Religion, the law
of the Land (by which you enjoy all that you have) which other men doe
against Vs: Doe not suffer so good a cause to bee lost for want of supplying
me with that, which will be taken from you by those who pursue me with
this violence, and whilst these ill men sacrifice their Money, Plate, and ut-
most industry to destroy the Common-Wealth, be you no lesse liberall to
preserve it. And assure your selves if it please God to blesse me with suc-
cesse, I shall remember the particular assistance every man here gives me,
to his advantage: However, it will hereafter (how furiously the minds of
men are now possessed) be honour and comfort to you, that with some
charge and trouble to your selves, you did your part to support your King,
and preserve the Kingdome.

*I desire the Sheriffe, and the rest of the Gentlemen to distribute themselves in that Method, that they may best
receive the expressions which you shall make of your best affections, the which I will have particularly presented
to mee.*

London Printed for H. S. 1642.

Speeches from the rival commanders at the outset of campaigning, September 1642.

The king's speech and protestation made at the head of his army between Stafford and Wellington, 19 September 1642.

[*The Parliamentary or Constitutional History of England* (2nd edition, 24 volumes, 1761-63), volume 11, pp. 434-36.]

Gentlemen,

You have heard these orders read. It is your part in your several places to observe them exactly. The time cannot be long before we come to action, therefore you have the more reason to be careful; and I must tell you, I shall be very severe in the punishing of those of what condition soever who transgress these instructions.

I cannot suspect your courage and resolution. Your conscience and your loyalty hath brought you hither to fight for your religion, your king and the laws of the land. You shall meet with no enemies but traitors, most of them brownists, anabaptists and atheists, such who desire to destroy both church and state and who have already condemned you to ruin for being loyal to us.

That you may see what use I mean to make of your valour if it please God to bless it with success, I have thought fit to publish my resolution to you in a protestation which, when you have heard me make, you will believe you cannot fight in a better quarrel; in which I promise to live and die with you.

His Majesty's protestation.

I do promise in the presence of Almighty God and as I hope for His blessing and protection that I will to the utmost of my power defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant religion established in the Church of England and by the grace of God in the same will live and die.

I desire to govern by the known laws of the land and that the liberty and property of the subject may be by them preserved with the same care as my own just rights. And if it please God by His blessing upon this army raised for my necessary defence to preserve me from this rebellion, I do solemnly and faithfully promise in the sight of God to maintain the just privileges and freedom of parliament, to govern by the known laws of the land to my utmost power, and particularly to observe inviolably the laws consented to by me this parliament. In the meanwhile, if this time of war and the great necessity and straits I am now driven to beget any violation of those, I hope it shall be imputed by God and man to the authors of this war and not to me, who have so earnestly laboured for the preservation of the peace of this kingdom.

When I willingly fail in these particulars I will expect no aid or relief from any man or protection from heaven, but in this resolution I hope for the cheerful assistance of all good men and am confident of God's blessing.

The Earl of Essex's speech and protestation at the head of his army, Worcester, 24 September 1642.
[*The Parliamentary or Constitutional History of England* (2nd edition, 24 volumes, 1761-63), volume 11, pp. 436-39.]

Gentlemen and fellow soldiers,

You are at this time assembled for the defence of his Majesty and the maintenance of the true Protestant religion under my command. I shall therefore desire you to take notice what I that

am your general shall by my honour promise to perform towards you and what I shall be forced to expect that you shall perform towards me.

I do promise in the sight of Almighty God that I shall undertake nothing but what shall tend to the advancement of the true Protestant religion, the securing of his Majesty's royal person, the maintenance of the just privilege of parliament and the liberty and property of the subject; neither will I engage any of you into any danger but (though for many reasons I might forbear) I will in my own person run an equal hazard with you; and either bring you off with honour or (if God have so decreed) fall with you, and willingly become a sacrifice for the preservation of my country.

Likewise I do promise that my ear shall be open to hear the complaint of the poorest of my soldiers, though against the chiefest of my officers; neither shall his greatness, if justly taxed, gain any privilege but I shall be ready to execute justice against all, from the greatest to the least.

Your pay shall be constantly delivered to your commanders and if default be made by any officer, give me timely notice and you shall find speedy redress.

This being performed on my part, I shall now declare what is your duty toward me, which I must likewise expect to be carefully performed by you.

I shall desire all and every officer to endeavour by love and affable carriage to command his soldiers, since what is done for fear is done unwillingly and what is unwillingly attempted can never prosper.

Likewise it is my request that you be careful in the exercising of your men and bring them to use their arms readily and expertly and not to busy them in practising the ceremonious forms of military discipline; only let them be well instructed in the necessary rudiments of war that they may know to fall on with discretion and retreat with care, how to maintain their order and make good their ground.

Also I do expect that all those who have voluntarily engaged themselves in this service should answer my expectation in the performance of the ensuring articles.

1 That you willingly and cheerfully obey such as by your own election you have made commanders over you.

2 That you take special care to keep your arms at all times fit for service, that upon all occasions you may be ready when the signal shall be given by the sound of drum or trumpet to repair to your colours and so to march upon any service where and when occasion shall require.

3 That you bear yourselves like soldiers without doing any spoil to the inhabitants of the country; so doing you shall gain love and friendship, where otherwise you will be hated and complained of; and I that should protect you shall be forced to punish you according to the severity of law.

4 That you accept and rest satisfied with such quarters as shall fall to your lot or be appointed you by your quarter-master.

5 That you shall if appointed for sentries or perdues [forlorn hopes] faithfully discharge that duty, for upon fail hereof you are sure to undergo a very severe censure.

6 You shall forbear to profane the sabbath, either by being drunk or by unlawful games, for whosoever shall be found faulty must not expect to pass unpunished.

7 Whosoever shall be known to neglect the feeding of his horse with necessary provender, to the end that his horse be disabled or unfit for service, the party for the said default shall suffer a month's imprisonment and afterward be cashiered as unworthy the name of a soldier.

8 That no trooper or other of our soldiers shall suffer his paddee [servant looking after horses] to feed his horse in the corn or to steal men's hay, but shall pay every man for hay 6d day and night and for oats 2s the bushel. And lastly,

9 That you avoid cruelty for it is my desire rather to save the lives of thousands than to kill one, for that it may be done without prejudice.

These things faithfully performed and the justice of our cause truly considered, let us advance with a religious courage and willingly adventure our lives in the defence of the king and parliament.

The antiquarian Richard Gough recalls how a royalist raiding party was surprised by parliamentarians in Myddle, north Shropshire, undated.

[Richard Gough, *Antiquities and Memoirs of the parish of Myddle* (1875), pp. 40-41.]

There happened no considerable act of hostility in this parish during the time of the wars, save only one small skirmish, in Myddle, part of which I saw while I was a schoolboy at Myddle, under Mr Richard Roderick, who commanded us boys to come into the church so that we could not see the whole action, but it was thus. There was one Cornet Collins, an Irishman, who was a garrison soldier for the king at Shrawardine Castle. This Collins made his excursions very often into this parish, and took away cattle, provision and bedding and what he pleased. On the day before this conflict, he had been at Myddle taking away bedding, and when Margaret, the wife of the Allen Chaloner, the smith, had brought out and showed him her best bed, he thinking it too coarse, cast it into the lake before the door and trod it under his horse feet. This cornet, on the day that this contest happened, came to Myddle and seven soldiers with him, and his horse having cast a shoe, he alighted at Allen Chaloner's shop to have a new one put on.

There was one Richard Maning, a garrison soldier at Morton Corbett, for the parliament. This Maning was brought up as a servant under Thomas Jukes of Newton, with whom he lived many years, and finding that Nat Owen... did trouble this neighbourhood, he had a grudge against him and came with seven more soldiers with him, hoping to find Owen at Myddle with his wife. This Maning and his companions came to Webbscott and so over Myddle Park and came into Myddle at the gate by Mr Gittin's house at what time the cornet's horse was a-shoeing. The cornet hearing the gate clap looked by the end of the shop and saw the soldiers coming and thereupon he and his men mounted their horses; and as the cornet came at the end of the shop, a brisk young fellow shot him through the body with a carbine shot, and he fell down in the lake at Allen Chaloner's door. His men fled, two were taken, and as Maning was pursuing them in Myddle Wood Field, which was then unenclosed, Maning having the best horse overtook them while his partners were far behind, but one of the cornet's men shot Maning's horse which fell down dead under him, and Maning had been taken prisoner had not some of his men come to rescue him. He took the saddle under his arm and the bridle in his hand and went the next way to Wem, which was then a garrison for the parliament. The horse was killed on a bank near the further side of Myddle Field, where the widow Mansell has now a piece enclosed. The cornet was carried into Allen Chaloner's house and laid on the floor; he desired to have a bed laid under him, but Margaret told him she had none but that which he saw yesterday; he prayed her to forgive him and lay that under him, which she did.

Mr Roderick was sent to pray with him. I went with him and saw the cornet lying on the bed and much blood running along the floor. In the night following a troop of horses came from Shrawardine and pressed a team in Myddle and so took the cornet to Shrawardine, where he died the next day.

Those two soldiers that were taken at Myddle were Irishmen, and when they came to Wem were both hanged; for the parliament had made an ordinance that all native Irish that were found in actual arms in England should be hanged...

The Commonplace Book
of
SIR JOHN OGLANDER Kt.
of Nunwell

His Observations
PART II

¶ CONCERNING THE STATE OF ENGLAND, 1642.

THOU wouldest think it strange if I should tell thee there was a time in England when brothers killed brothers, cousins cousins, and friends their friends. Nay, when they conceived it was no offence to commit murder. To murder a man held less offence than to kill a dog, and they would glory in their actions as if they had done a pious deed. When thou wentest to bed at night, thou knewest not whether thou shouldest be murdered afore day. To take away other men's goods was held as lawful as to sell thy own, although the former owners went by that means a-begging. Sacrilege was a virtue, and to rail against sovereignty esteemed a high piece of piety.

Think nothing strange in this world, for I have seen such mutations, changes and alterations within the verge of my time as almost no mortal could believe or apprehend. If one should tell thee thy poor scholar would in time come to be Pope, and thy servant a great king, doubt not that such things may be, and have been.

I believe such times were never before seen in England, when the gentry were made slaves to the commonalty and in their power, not only to abuse but plunder any gentleman. No law and government, no assizes, no sessions, no justices that would be obeyed, no spiritual courts. If any notorious malefactor was sent to the gaol, the next soldiers that came released him by breaking up the gaol. We expected better fruits from this Parliament but, as yet, we taste nothing but sour grapes. Our fears are that the worst is to come.

Times are bad—I believe never worse—yet will come, I am confident, to be as good as ever they were, in which the major sort shall receive good content. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamus in illis*—and so for ever.

¶ SIR JOHN OGLANDER IS ARRESTED.

On the 22nd of June, 1643, I was sent for by warrant from the Close Committee of the Parliament for the Safety of the Kingdom as a delinquent. I obeyed, and on that day undertook my journey from London. God send me health to perform it, and His blessing. Then I doubt not, if I may have justice, my own innocency will bring me back again. If not, I commend my soul to my Redeemer.

¶ SIR JOHN OGLANDER'S SECOND ARREST.

That cost me but 2 months in durance but, on the 29th of September, 1643, I was again sent for by the House. How long I shall be banished from my country, the Lord knoweth! My chief comfort is an innocent and clean conscience.

¶ HE IS COMMITTED A CLOSE PRISONER.

The 29th of January, 1643, was to me a day of much sorrow and trouble. *Melius est oblivisci quod non recuperari*. Then I was committed close prisoner.

¶ AN ACCOUNT OF HIS IMPRISONMENTS.

I was a prisoner in London twice; first sent for by the Committee of Safety in June, 1643, and after 8 weeks' attendance I was discharged. In the September following, I was sent for by the House of Commons and in May, 1644, I was by the Committee of both Kingdoms committed close prisoner to the basest place in London, a messenger's house at the farthest end of Cabbage Lane in Westminster, where I stayed 3 weeks.

Then, by the mediation and solicitation of my poor wife, I was released and committed prisoner to my own lodging, the Seven Stars in the Strand, some month longer, then procuring my liberty within the lines of communication.

¶ DEATH OF LADY OGLANDER.¹

My poor wife, overheating her blood in procuring my liberty, got the smallpox and died, making me a worse prisoner than before.

O my poor wife, with my blood I write it. Thy death hath made me most miserable.²

Indeed, greater grief and sorrow could not have befallen any man. No man can conceive the loss, but he that hath had a good and careful loving wife.

¶ STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF SIR JOHN'S BROTHER-IN-LAW.

My Brother Button³ denied me to set his hand in approving of my release from close imprisonment, if so the Committee was pleased with it, and fell out with me for saying they were not in the same mind both in and out of the House. Then he asked Jack Kempe¹ whether I was mad.

¶ SIR JOHN OGLANDER'S SAD HOMECOMING.

My son William's second daughter, Frances, was buried the 7th of April, 1646, being but 6 weeks old, and his son, George, a week after. I came from my imprisonment but the 25th of March, 1646, and before the 20th of April following I had buried these two grandchildren. A very sad welcome home. *Spero meliora*, for I profess his son, John, is as hopeful a boy as I could wish, and endued with as good naturals.

¶ THE EFFECT OF THE CIVIL WAR UPON THE GENTRY.

From Anno Domini 1641 till Anno Domini 1646, in our unnatural wars, no man understanding the true grounds of it, most of the ancient gentry were either extinct or undone. The King's side were almost all gentlemen and, of the Parliament's, few. As one said, "The King shot bullets of gold for lead."

And, if what I heard be true, you may judge *ex ungue leonem*. There were in Yorkshire a hundred families extinct or undone, so that none of them could appear again as gentlemen. Death, plunder, sales and sequestrations sent them to another world or beggar's bush, and so all—or most—shires. I verily believe that, in the quarrel of the Two Roses, there were never half as many gentlemen slain, and so many base men, by the others' loss and slaughter, made gentlemen.

¶ TEMPORA MUTANTUR.

This Island was beyond compare, Anno Domini, 1630 : so full of knights and gentry that I have seen 12 knights at the Ordinary at Newport. It was the Paradise of England and now, Anno 1647, it is just like the other parts of the Kingdom, a melancholy, dejected, sad place—no company, no resort, no neighbours seeing one of the other.

Would I could write, or that I could be permitted to write, the history of these times from 1640 till 1647.

¶ THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

But we had a thing here called a Committee, which over-ruled Deputy-Lieutenants and also Justices of the Peace, and of this we had brave men : Ringwood of Newport, the pedlar : Maynard, the apothecary : Matthews, the baker : Wavell and Legge, farmers, and poor Baxter of Hurst Castle. These ruled the whole Island and did whatsoever they thought good in their own eyes.

¶ COLONEL CARNE AS DEPUTY-LIEUTENANT OF THE ISLAND.

Colonel Carne got well in our Island in 5 years. He was not thought to be worth £2000 when he came into our Island, 1643, to be my Lord of Pembroke's Lieutenant, and now, 1647, he is thought to be worth £10,000. I yearly lost £100 *per annum* by the place.

I can say this truly and without ostentation, and I believe few can say as much, that in all the time I was a Justice of Peace and Deputy Lieutenant—36 years—I never took a chicken, or the worth thereof, without paying for it. Most of my warrants I wrote myself : for all such I never took a penny, nor suffered any of my men.

¶ TAXES LEVIED BY THE PARLIAMENT.

Besides Excise, Customs, Tonnage and Poundage, all the King's lands, delinquents' lands under sequestration, all the King's goods, subjects that have been plundered, the Bishops' lands, the Deans' and Chapters' lands, all the Prince of Wales' estate and the tin and lead mines, the Parliament lays a tax on the Kingdom of £90,000 for the Army. Of which the Isle of Wight pays every month £305, and the parish of Brading pays every month £21/10s, and of this Sir John Oglander payeth £3/10s, and every week 18s. I believe few princes in Christendom have such a coming in.

¶ STATE OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT, 1650.

What an Island we had from 1643 till 1650, how governed and by what means, it breaks my heart to tell you, or so much as to think of it. Nay, every trooper, of which we had 80—nay, every soldier, of which we had 300—would command more service than any former Commander.

How is this poor Island altered in all things from better to worse! For our Captain we have now a Governor, as if we were slaves. And instead of our former joy, comfort & true liberty we have now as bad as Egyptian slavery. This Island was once a pleasant happy place, and men envied our happiness, but now we are slaves to mean soldiers, which formerly lived on our charity.

Take heed of innovation, of bringing in any new device into our Island. How willing were we to have soldiers brought in to us, and to have new forts built at Bembridge, Cowes, Nettlestone, etc., till now our Island being all made a Garrison, we now too late repent us, as being made slaves to our slaves.

¶ VALE!

Oh, that man had but that happiness annexed to his nature that, without offence to God's or man's laws, he might depart from the world when he is willing! Then should I be a happy man.

I hate the world and yet cannot leave it.
I desire death, yet cannot have it.

O miserable man, that hath outlived himself.