

'To Daniel Serle, Esquire, Governor of Barbadoes.'

'Whitehall, October 1655.'

SIR,

These are first to let you know that myself and this Government reckon ourselves beholden to you for the ready expressions of your love in giving assistance to our late Design. Which indeed, though it hath miscarried in what we hoped for, through the disposing hand of God, for reasons best known to Himself, and as we may justly conceive for our sins,-yet is not this Cause the less His, but will be owned by Him, as I verily believe: and therefore we dare not relinquish it; but shall, the Lord assisting, prosecute it with what strength we can, hoping, for 'a' blessing for His name's sake.

You will receive some instructions, with encouragements to remove your people thither. Whereto I refer you: only let me tell you that if you shall think to desire some other things which are not mentioned in those Instructions, 'you may' rest upon my word that we shall be most ready to supply what they may be defective in or you may reasonably demand, when once you are upon the place,-where certainly you may be better able to judge what may tend most to your accommodation than at a distance. Surely the sooner you remove thither, you will have the more time to strengthen yourself, in such place and upon such part as you shall like of. And for your own part, I have named you one of the Commissioners there for managing of the whole affair; whereby you will have your vote and interest in that Government.

Having said this, I think fit to let you know that we have Twenty men-of-war already there, and are sending Eight more, many whereof have forty guns and upwards, and the rest above thirty. We hope the Plantation is not wanting in anything; having at the least Seven-thousand fighting men upon the place: and we are providing to supply them constantly with fresh men: and we trust they are furnished with a twelvemonth's victuals;-and I think, if we have it in England, they shall not want.

We have also sent to the Colonies of New England like offers with yours, To remove thither; our resolution being to people and plant that Island. And indeed we have very good reason to expect considerable numbers from thence, forasmuch as the last winter was very destructive, and the summer hath proved so very sickly.

I pray God direct you; and rest,
Your loving friend,
'OLIVER P.'