

'For the Right Honourable Lieutenant-General Fleetwood, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland: These.'

Cockpit, 22d August, 1653.

DEAR CHARLES,

Although I do not so often as is desired by me acquaint you how it is with me, yet I doubt not of your prayers in my behalf, That, in all things, I may walk as becometh the Gospel.

Truly I never more needed all helps from my Christian Friends than now! Fain would I have my service accepted of the Saints, if the Lord will;-but it is not so. Being of different judgments, and 'those' of each sort seeking most to propagate their own, that spirit of kindness that is to them all, is hardly accepted of any. I hope I can say it. My life has been a willing sacrifice,-and I hope,-for them all. Yet it much falls out as when the Two Hebrews were rebuked: you know upon whom they turned their displeasure!

But the Lord is wise; and will, I trust, make manifest that I am no enemy. Oh, how easy is mercy to be abused-Persuade friends with you to be very sober! If the Day of the Lord be so near as some say, how should our moderation appear! If every one, instead of contending, would justify his form 'of judgment' by love and meekness, Wisdom would be, "justified of her children." But, alas! \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

I am, in my temptation, ready to say, "Oh, would I had wings like a dove, then would I," &c.: but this, I fear, is my "haste." I bless the Lord I have somewhat keeps me alive: some sparks of the light of His countenance, and some sincerity above man's judgment. Excuse me thus unbowelling myself to you: pray for me: and desire my Friends to do so also. My love to thy dear Wife,- whom indeed I entirely love, both naturally, and upon the best account:-and my blessing, if it be worth anything, upon thy little Babe.

Sir George Ayscough having occasions with you, desired my Letters to you on his behalf: if he come or send, I pray you show him what favour you can. Indeed his services have been considerable for the State; and I doubt he hath not been answered with suitable respect. Therefore again I desire you and the Commissioners to take him into a very particular care, and help him so far as justice and reason will any ways afford.

Remember my hearty affections to all the Officers. The Lord bless you all. So prayeth,

Your truly loving father,  
OLIVER CROMWELL.

'P.S.' All here love you, and are in health, your Children and all.