

To the Honourable my honoured Friends Robert Jenner and John Ashe, Esquires, 'at London:' These.

Knottingley, near Pontefract, 20th November, 1648.

GENTLEMEN,

I received an order from the Governor of Nottingham, directed to him from you, to bring up Colonel Owen, or take bail for his coming up to make his composition, he having made an humble Petition to the Parliament for the same.

If I be not mistaken, the House of Commons did vote all those 'persons' Traitors that did adhere to, or bring in, the Scots in their late Invading of this Kingdom under Duke Hamilton. And not without very clear justice; this being a more prodigious Treason than any that had been perfected before; because the former quarrel was that Englishmen might rule over one another; this to vassalise us to a foreign Nation. And their fault who have appeared in this Summer's business is certainly double to theirs who were in the first, because it is the repetition of the same offence against all the witnesses that God has borne, by making and abetting a Second War.

And if this be their justice and upon so good grounds, I wonder how it comes to pass that so eminent actors should so easily be received to compound. You will pardon me if I tell you how contrary this is to some of your judgments at the rendition of Oxford: though we had the Town in consideration, and 'our' blood saved to boot; yet Two Years perhaps was thought too little to expiate their offence. But now, when you have such men in your hands, and it will cost you nothing to do justice; now after all this trouble and the hazard of a Second War, for a little more money all offences shall be pardoned!

This Gentleman was taken with Sir Marmaduke Langdale, in their fight together:- I presume you have heard what is become of him. Let me remember you that out of the 'same' Garrison was fetched not long since (I believe while we were in heat of action) Colonel Humphrey Mathews, than whom this Cause we have fought for has not had a more dangerous enemy;- and he not guilty only of being an enemy, but he apostatised from your Cause and Quarrel; having been a Colonel, if not more, under you, and 'then' the desperate promoter of the Welsh Rebellion amongst them all! And how near you were brought to ruin thereby, all men that know anything can tell; and this man was taken away by composition, by what order I know not.

Gentlemen, though my sense does appear more severe than perhaps you would have it, yet give me leave to tell you I find a sense among the Officers concerning such things as 'the treatment' of those men, to amazement;-which truly is not so much to see their blood made so cheap, as to see such manifest witnessings of God, so terrible and so just, no more revered.

I have directed the Governor to acquaint the Lord-General herewith and rest,

Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
'OLIVER CROMWELL.'