

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 21st 1745/6

D Sir

When I wrote to you last This Country was in the utmost Consternation w<sup>th</sup> the News of the Defeat of our Army. But since the Arrival of the Volunteers and of his Majestys Troops Our Spirits are soomewhat elevated; For tho' the rebels do brag (as I am inform'd) of having gained a compleat Victory if not a rout of his Majestys forces, we are positively assured there was no such thing and that on the Contrary the rebels were so much defeated that tho' they had Wind and Weather for them they durst not venture a second Brush tho' our Army stood a full hour in View of them. In short by all the acc<sup>ts</sup> that I can hear each side affirm they g[a]ined the Day and neither will allow they lost it. Each Side maintain they have kill'd vast Numbers of the Enemy and none will allow they have lost any thing considerable of their own. As Facts therefore are not yet adjusted it is impossible for me to form any Judgement of the Matter. But as affairs of this Consequence must raise in you as it did in us the greatest Curiosity, it would be acting a part to you contrary to what I pride myself in if

*I conceal'd anything that might be, because I was not absolutely certain that it was. I shall therefore give you as acc<sup>t</sup> of w<sup>t</sup> I have heard from Eye Witness' on one Side and from hear say o<sup>r</sup> tother and lastly of w<sup>t</sup> both Sides agree in and leave you to judge which side has the title to claim the Victory.*

*Our Army consisting of 14 Regiments of Foot, of 3 Regiments of Dragoons, of near 1000 west Country Militia, of 1500 Loyal Highlanders from Argyleshire, some Yorkshire Volunteers besides the Volunteers of this Countrey and upwards of 1000 Countrey people arm'd as they best could, for he th had not a sword or Musket had a good stick or a fork in his hand and this last Circumstance I hope will convince our freinds in England th we are not all rebels here. Our Army I say being encamped on Friday last in the low Grounds to the westard of Falkirk spyd the Standards of the rebels on a rising Ground about three miles off and as it appeared by the moving backwards and forwards of their Standards on the same Spot of Ground that they were not intending to come forwards. Our Army judg'd there was no Occasion to move being confident there could be no Engagement till next Day it being*

now past midday. Our people had been viewing before this time the adjacent Grounds and had pitch'd upon a Hill for themselves to draw up on when the Engagement should happen, but the rebels were before hand with them and took Possession of this Hill by a road out of View of our Army whilst they were amusing them with their Colours and a few Men on a different Quarter, as I have mentioned above. When the News of this was brought to the Army and that the rebels were hard by them, an unexpected Drum was beat to Arms and the whole Army run up the Hill like as many Goats. Never was an Army in greater Spirits and so eager to engage. As the Highlanders had taken Possession of the Ground they had intended to form on, In Order to take the next best Ground the three Regiments of Dragoons being swifter of Foot were ordered to the left, the Wing at the greater Distance from whence they set out, to take Possession of a rising Ground towards the South which they accordingly did, Pirce's Regiment, the Royal Scots and Wolphs &c being next to the Dragoons. The Militia, Volunteers, Argyleshire Highlanders &c made a line behind the left Wing. The Army being drawn up, their right to the

North, their left to the South and Front to the West. They marched up in Order & attack'd the rebels. The Day being rainy and a high Wind from the South West the rebels to get the Wind of them turn'd to their own right and came down upon our left Wing with the Wind on their Backs. The Dragoons suffered exceedingly in this attack particularly Cobham's regiment London the Lieutenant Col and many of the officers being kill'd. When the Dragoons fled they disordered and trod down the line that was behind, and in the Confusion the Militia fired upon the Argyleshire Men taking them by their Dress for the rebels. It is confessed th<sup>t</sup> the left Wing the full half of the Army was drove down to the Bottom of the Hill full faster than they came up at least a part of the Way. It is here said that the Highlanders made themselves Masters of the Canon which were but half Way as yet up the Hill. But that Hush [i.e. Hustle] rally'd the foot, but back the rebels and regained the Canon and that the two Armys stood very near one another for a compleat hour without moving till night came on and th<sup>t</sup> our Army retired to Lintithgow and next Day to Edinburgh with the Loss of 300 Men only, 7 pieces of Canon out

of 10 & all their Bagage save w<sup>t</sup> the Men could Carry on their Backs. It is agreed th our right did not engage as no Enemy appeared on that Quarter. Hush & Hawley are both safe, Ligonier is kill'd and Whitney. I think it is allowed they have lost about 8 Captains. Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Monrow and his Brother are said to be both killed. This is the acc<sup>t</sup> th our freinds give of the Matter.

And next you shall have the Story the Jacobites tell me they pretend to have from undoubted Authority viz. They acknowledge the Decay of their Colours on the formentioned Hill. They give out that they had not near 3,000 Men engaged th the party engaged was but an advanced Party sent out to take Possession of the above mentioned Advantageous Post. That they dreamt so little of having any Encounter th Day th above one half of their Army was at Stirling 60 Miles off and th they had some Thousands within two Miles who knew nothing of the Matter and by reason of the Wind being contrary did not so much as hear the fireing, th they were determined at all hazards to maintain the Ground they had occupy'd and finding the Weather favoured them by taking the Wind in their Backs

they were determined not to lose the opportunity tho' they were far from their freinds. They pretend to say that their Leaders was w<sup>t</sup> the Body at two Miles Distance and th<sup>t</sup> none of the horse men w<sup>ch</sup> are called his Life Guards and consist of 500 men there north one [?] of the French Troops th<sup>t</sup> were landed in the North but such as they were that they drove all that oppos'd them to the Bottom of the Hill. They acknowledge th<sup>t</sup> the right Wing of our Army stood whilst they were driving the left Wing before them and give th<sup>t</sup> for the reason of not following further their blow least the right Wing of our Army should turn upon them and attack them in their rear w<sup>t</sup> the Advantage of the hill and Weather o' their side. They doing that they took the Canon or came to far or were beat back again, they acknowledge that Hush [i.e. Huske] rally'd the foot at the Bottom of the hill and that they advanced up again but that the right Wing met them above half Way and that in a very short space, night coming on, they endeavoured to set fire to their Bagage but the Straw being wet it would not burn, that 7 pieces of Cannon were not gained by them but left for them upon the field, that they got their Bagage and pursued them in the Dark

to Falkirk and took several Prisoners. The reason they give for not engaging again was they they never dreamt our Army would march nine long miles in the Dark in a downpour of rain and that as they expected to find them next Morning somewhere thereabouts they thought it better to wait for their friends coming up than to run the risk of losing the honour they had gained. They add further th<sup>t</sup> they marched after them next Morning and th<sup>t</sup> when our Army had heard th<sup>t</sup> their advanced Guard was got o' this Side Falkirk th<sup>t</sup> they made the best of their Way from Lintithgow to Edinburgh 12 miles further, upon w<sup>ch</sup> they returned to Stirling and th<sup>t</sup> they are now laying Siege to the Castle. They pretend to have lost only 30 private Men in this Engagement and th<sup>t</sup> no Officer is kill'd and th<sup>t</sup> only Lochyell and two of his Captains are wounded, that they have kill'd 700 of our Army and have many Hundred Prisoners.

The facts that they agree in are these, th<sup>t</sup> our left Wing was beat but th<sup>t</sup> our Army offered them battle a second time which the Highlanders declared and wh<sup>ch</sup> plainley proves there was no Victory. It is agreed further th<sup>t</sup> we lost our Bagage and Artillery and th<sup>t</sup> we marched 9

*Miles in the Dark. But th<sup>t</sup> proves nothing  
neither, since no body will chuse to lie in the open  
Feilds in a rainy night rather than be under  
Cover and tho' Falkirk was nearer yet no body  
can deny that Linlithgow was better Quarters.*

*Since writing the enclosed I have convers'd with  
two Persons who give the following acc<sup>ts</sup> Vix. the  
first being an officer of the Glasgow Militia  
affirms th<sup>t</sup> the right Wing gave way tho' not  
engaged as well as the left and th<sup>t</sup> the whole  
Army fled as fast as they could to Linlithgow  
excepting three regim<sup>ts</sup> of foot commanded by  
Kush who run in between and stop'd the pursuit  
of the rebels. The other is a person th<sup>t</sup> went out of  
Curiosity to view the Field of Battle on  
Saturday Morning and convers'd with the  
Cheifs of the rebels at Falkirk as he passed thro'  
who stop't him in his Way. The acc<sup>t</sup> that he gives  
is this viz. that our Army was drawn upon on  
Friday forenoon in the field where their Camp  
was but not expecting the rebels th<sup>t</sup> day they went  
into their Tents again and continued there till 3  
o Clock in the afternoon th<sup>t</sup> Ward was brought  
them th<sup>t</sup> the Highlanders were within a Mile.  
That The rebels had march'd 6 miles in a down  
pour of rain th<sup>t</sup> our Army came dry out of their*

tents th they marched up the Hill safe and  
attack'd the rebels on the rising Ground th they  
stood on. That the rebels purposely retired so as to  
cover themselves from our Army by the Summit  
of the Hill, that so soon as our Men got to the  
Brink of the summit the rebels run upon them  
and gave them a full Discharge, that the rebels  
pressed upon them and fired very regularly and th  
some of the Clans went in among them sword in  
hand th the rebels for the Benefit of the Wind  
were obliged in the pursuit to keep moving towards  
their right which retarded them from following so  
fast as they might have done, th when they had  
got far enough to the right they bore most violently  
upon our left Wing and as they advanced came  
nearer to our right. That our whole Army fled  
and that three Regiments of foot only, and the  
Dragoons run in between the two Armys and  
covered the retreat of those th fled, th this  
Circumstance kept the Highlanders employ'd till  
it was Dark and saved the Army who look'd not  
over their shoulders till they had got to  
Linthgow, that the Highlanders having  
march'd 7 Miles, being all Day in the rain, and  
having tasted no Victuals contented themselves  
with the Tents Covered Wagons Arms, Ball,

Gunpowder and Artillery of our Army and surrounding the town of Falkirk in the night where they expected our Army to have taken up their Quarters, that there were about 6,000 of the rebels at this Engagement, tho' there were not 3,000 engaged, th<sup>t</sup> the pretenders son came up to the Engagement at last and put on his Coat of Mail, th<sup>t</sup> he counted upon the feild of Battle 100 horses kill'd and about 600 Men & that he saw but a Highland man's body dead here and there that they pretend that they have not lost no Men. That there is no officer kill'd of the rebels and only the person called Lord John Drummond wounded in the Leg and Lockyell in the arm and two of Lochyells officers slightly wounded, th<sup>t</sup> he saw the prison and Church of Falkirk full of Prisoners and th<sup>t</sup> some were sent to Stirling, th<sup>t</sup> the prisoners taken are about 600. There were no Canon fired of either side. As to w<sup>h</sup> is here said I pretend to no knowledge of, as I am 300 Miles distant from the place and only relate w<sup>h</sup> I have heard from others th<sup>t</sup> you may be able to form some Judgment of it yourself. But hope Matters are not near so ill as is represented. The Highlanders are in possession of the towns of Linlithgow, Falkirk & Stirling tho' not the Castle w<sup>ch</sup> we

*hope will hold out. We are terribly alarmed with  
the fears of a Visit at Edinburgh.*

*I am I Y most H<sup>le</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Geo. Jonestone*

*Musselburgh the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1745/6*

Dr. Sir

Jan'y 21 1715/6 (MC1720/1)

When I wrote to you last This Country was in the utmost  
Consternation w<sup>th</sup> the News of the Defeat of our Army. But  
since the Arrival of the Volunteers and of his Majesty's Troops  
our Spirits are some what elevated; For tho' the rebels do  
brag for I am inform'd) of having gain'd a compleat  
Victory if not a rout of his Majesty's forces, we are positively  
assur'd there was no such thing, and that on the contrary  
the rebels were so much defeat<sup>d</sup> that tho' they had Wind  
and Weather for them, they dur'd not venture a second  
Brush. Tho' our Army stodd a full hour in View of them,  
In short by all the ac<sup>ts</sup> that I can hear each Side affirm  
they gain'd the Day and neither will allow they lost it.  
Each Side maintain they have kill'd vast Numbers of the  
Enemy, and none will allow they have lost any thing  
considerable of their own. And as therefore are not yet  
adjusted it is impossible for me to form any Judgment  
of the Matter. But as affairs of this consequence must  
raise in you as it did in us the greatest Curiosity, it  
would be willing a part to you contrary to what I find  
my self in, if I cou'd could any thing that might be, because  
I was not absolutely certain that it wou'd, I shall therefore  
give you an acct of w<sup>t</sup> I have heard from Oze M<sup>r</sup> Theop<sup>h</sup>'s  
or one Side and from hear say o' t<sup>h</sup> other and lastly offer  
both Sides agree in and leave you to judge which Side  
has the better to claim the Victory?

Our Army consisting of 14 Regiments of Foot  
of 3 Regiments of Dragoons, of near 1000 west Country  
Militia, of 1500 loyal Highlanders from Goy and  
some Yorkshire Volunteers besides the Volunteers of this  
Country and upwards of 10,000 Country people arm'd  
as they best could for he if had not a sword or Musket  
had a good Stick or a fork in his hand and this last  
Circumstance I hope will convince our friends in England  
if we are not all rebels here, Our Army Day being  
encamp'd on Friday last in the low Grounds to the westward

of Falkirk spy'd the Standards of the rebels on a rising  
Ground about three Miles off and as it appeared by the  
moving backwards and forwards of their Standards on  
the same spot of Ground that they were not intending  
to come forwards. Our Army judg'd there was no Occasion  
to move being confident there could be no Engagement  
till next Day it being now past midday. Our people  
had been lying before this time the adjacent Grounds and  
had pitch'd upon a Hill for themselves to draw up on  
when the Engagement should happen but the rebels  
were before hand with them and took Possession of this  
Hill by a road out of the View of our Army whilst they  
were busying them with their Colours and a few others  
on a different Quarter, as I have mentioned above when  
the News of this was brought to the Army and that  
the rebels were hard by them, an unexpected Drum  
was beat to Arms and the whole Army run up the  
Hill like as many Goats, Never was an Army in  
greater Spirits and so eager to engage, As the  
Highlanders had taken Possession of the Ground  
they had intended to form on, In Order to take the most  
best Ground the three Regiments of Dragoons being  
swifter of Foot were order'd to the left, the King at the  
greater Distance from whence they set out, to take Possession  
of a rising Ground towards the South which they accordingly  
did, Their Regiment the Royal Scots and Malplaquet being  
next to the Dragoons, The Militia, Volunteers, English  
Highlanders &c made a line behind the left Wing, The  
Army being drawn up, their right to the North, their  
left to the South and front to the West They marched  
up in Order & attack'd the rebels, The Day being rainy  
and a high Wind from the South west the rebels to get  
the Wind of them turn'd to their own right and came  
down upon our left Wing with the Wind on their  
backs, The Dragoons suffer'd accordingly in this  
attack particularly Colburn's Regiment, London the

Lieutenant Coll and many of the officers being killed,  
When the Dragoons fled they disordered and tied down  
the shoe that was behind and in the confusion the  
Militia fired upon the the English here then taking  
them by their Drags for the rebels, It is reported of the  
left Wing the full half of the Army was drove down  
to the Bottom of the Hill full faster than they came  
up at least a part of the way, It is here said that the  
Highlanders made themselves Masters of the Canon  
which were but half way as yet up the Hill. But  
that Wash rally'd the foot back the rebels and  
regain'd the Canon and that the two Armies stood very  
near one another for a compleat hour without moving  
till night came on and if our Army retired to Stirling  
and next Day to Edinburgh with the loss of 300 Men only  
y pieces of Canon out of 10 & all their Baggage save w<sup>t</sup>  
the Men could carry on their backs. It is agreed of our  
right did not engage as no Enemy appear'd on that  
Quarter. Muth & Hawley are both safe; Siganier is killed  
and Whitney. I think it is allow'd they have lost about  
8 Captains, Sir Rob: Monro and Mr. Brothers are said  
to be both killed. This is the acct of our friends give of  
the Matter

And next you shall have how they the Jacobites tell  
we they pretend to have from undoubted Authority. They  
they acknowledge the Decay of their Colours on the  
forementioned Hill they give out that they had not near  
3000 Men engag'd if the party engag'd was but an  
advanced Party sent out to settle the Opinion of the above  
mentioned Advantage. But that they dreamt so  
little of having any Encounter of Day if above  
one half of their Army was at Stirling 6 Miles off  
and if they had some thousands within two Miles who  
know nothing of the Matter and by reason of the Wind  
being contrary did not so much as hear the firing, if they  
were determin'd at all hazards to maintain the Ground they  
had occup'd and finding the Weather favour'd them

by taking the Wind in their backs they were deterr'd  
not to lose the opportunity that they bore from their  
friends. They pretend to say that their orders was w<sup>th</sup> the  
Body at two Miles Distance and y<sup>t</sup> none of the horse men  
w<sup>th</sup> are called his High Guards and consist of 500 more than  
nation of the French Troops y<sup>t</sup> were landed in the North  
but such as they were that they drove all that oppos'd  
them to the Bottom of the Hill. They acknowledge y<sup>t</sup>  
the right Wing of our Army stood whilst they were driving  
the left Wing before them and give y<sup>t</sup> for the reason  
of not following further their blow was the right Wing  
of our Army should turn upon them and attack them  
in their rear w<sup>th</sup> the Advantage of the hill and weather  
of their side. They saying that they took the Janin as came  
to sea as were beat back again they acknowledge that  
Hush rally'd the foot at the Bottom of the hill and  
that they advanced up again but that the right  
Wing met them above half Way and that in a very  
short space, night coming on, they endeavoured to set  
fire to their Baggage but the Snow being wet it  
would not burn, that y<sup>e</sup> pieces of Cannon were not gained  
by them but left for them upon the field that they got  
their Baggage and pursued them in the North to  
Tallwith and took several Prisoners. The reason they  
give for not engaging again was that they never  
doubted our Army would march unclasp miles in  
the North in a down-pour of rain and that as they  
expected to find them next Morning somewhere there about  
they thought it better to wait for their friends coming  
up than to run the risk of losing the honour they had  
gained. They add further y<sup>t</sup> they marched after them  
next Morning and y<sup>t</sup> when our Army had heard y<sup>t</sup>  
their advanced Guard was got to this Side Tallwith y<sup>t</sup>  
they made the best of their way from Amithgon to  
Bimburgh 12 miles further upon w<sup>th</sup> they returned to  
Milling and y<sup>t</sup> they are now laying Siege to the Castle.

They pretend to have lost only 20 private Men in this Engagement: and y<sup>t</sup> no Officer is killed and y<sup>t</sup> only Schyett and two Officers (Captains are wounded, that they have killed 700 of our Army and have many Hundred Prisoners.

The facts that they agree in are these y<sup>t</sup> our left Wing was beat but y<sup>t</sup> our Army offered them battle a second time which the Highlanders declined and w<sup>ch</sup> plainly proves there was no Victory. It is agreed further y<sup>t</sup> we lost our Baggage and Artillery and y<sup>t</sup> we marched 7 miles in the Dark But y<sup>t</sup> proceed nothing neither, since no body will chuse to lie in the open Fields in a rainy night rather than be under cover and this Falkirk was nearer yet no body can deny that Falkirk was better Quarters.

Since writing the enclosed I have conversed with two Persons who give the following account. The first being an Officer of the Glasgow Militia affirms y<sup>t</sup> the right Wing gave way tho' not engaged as well as the left and y<sup>t</sup> the whole Army fled as fast as they could to Falkirk excepting three regiments of foot commanded by M<sup>r</sup>sk who run in between and stop the pursuit of the rebels. The other is a person y<sup>t</sup> went out of University to view the Field of Battle on Saturday Morning and conversed with y<sup>e</sup> Chief of the rebels at Falkirk as he passed thro' who stop him in his way. The acct that he gives is this viz that our Army was drawn up on Sunday forenoon in the field where their Camp was but not expecting the rebels y<sup>t</sup> Day they went into their Tents again and continued there till 10<sup>o</sup> Clock in the afternoon y<sup>t</sup> Word was brought them y<sup>t</sup> the Highlanders were within a Mile. That the rebels had march'd 6 miles in a down pour of rain y<sup>t</sup> our Army came out of their tents y<sup>t</sup> they marched up the Mill slope and attack'd the rebels on the rising ground y<sup>t</sup> they stood on. That the rebels purposely retir'd so as to cover themselves from our Army by the Summit of the Hill, that so soon as our Men got to the Summit of the Summit the rebels run upon them and gave them a full Discharge, that the rebels press'd upon them and fired very regularly and y<sup>t</sup> some of the Lines went in aiming them sword in hand y<sup>t</sup>.

the rebels for the Benefit of the Wind were oblig'd in the  
pursuit to keep moving towards their right which retarded  
them from following so fast as they might have done &  
when they had got far enough to the right they bore most  
violently upon our left wing and as they advanced came  
near to our right that our whole Army fled and that  
three Regiments of foot only, and the Dragoons run in  
between the two Armys and covered the retreat of those  
of fled & this Circumstance kept the Highlanders  
employ'd till it was Dark and saved the Army who  
look'd not over their shoulders till they had got to Lanlithgo  
that the Highlanders having march'd 7 Miles, being all  
Day in the rain, and having losted no Victuals contented  
themselves with the Scots Covered Wagons Amm. Ball,  
Gun powder and Artillery of our Army and surrounding the  
town of Falkirk in the night where they expected our Army  
to have taken up their Quarters. That there were about  
6000 of the rebels at this Engagement. Tho' there were not  
2000 engag'd, if the pretenders son came up to the Engagement  
at last and put on his Coat of Mail, if he could upon  
the field of battle 100 horse killed and about 600 Men  
& that he saw but a Highland mans body dead here and  
there that they pretend that they have not lost no Men  
That there is no Officer killed of the rebels and only the  
person call'd Lord John Drummond wounded in the leg and  
Lochyell in the arm and two of Lochyells Officers slightly  
wounded if he saw the prison and Church of Falkirk full  
of Prisoners and if some were sent to Stirling if the  
prisoners taken are about 600 There were no Cannon fired  
of either side As to w<sup>t</sup> is here said I pretend to know ledge  
of, as I am so little distant from the place and only  
relate w<sup>t</sup> I have heard from others if you may be  
able to form some Judgment of it yourself. But hope  
Matters are not near so ill as is represented. The Highlanders  
are in possession of the towns of Lanlithgo, Falkirk  
Stirling tho' not the Castle w<sup>ch</sup> we hope will hold out.  
We are terribly alarm'd with the fears of a Visit at Edinburgh  
I am Sir Y<sup>r</sup> most Oble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Edinburgh 4<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Janry. 1746. Geo. Jamstone