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CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICADILLY.
Carlisle attack'd by the Rebels

(May 1746)
Carlisle attack’d by the Rebels (May 1746)
A letter to a friend, containing account of the march of the rebels into England, a description of the castle of Carlisle, and a different dissertation on the old Roman wall; with respect to the math of it, and the adjacent country, the plan of Carlisle, and the view of its castle, just published in two sheets; the draughts of which were favourably received by the Duke of Cumberland on his forming the attack on Carlisle Castle; and now are dedicated to his royal highness; by G. Smith.

S I R,

So many idle rumours of the march of the rebels into England, had been spread previous to the fact, that to flatter our indolence we presumed it to be impossible, and therefore took no measures to prevent it; we cloister'd up the light horse and militia of both counties within the walls of Carlisle, and left the country to shift for itself; our nobility, except Lord Lonsdale, did nothing, even those whose fortunes depended greatly on the rout of the rebels, raised not a single man in the cause.

By the letters from Scotland on Tuesday, Nov. 5, we began to understand that the long projected expedition was now actually undertaken, and our frontiers quite open and unguarded; the garrison of Carlisle were under no apprehensions, judging that they would march past them as in the rebellion in 1715. We secreted our most valuable effects, and sent the ladies eastward from these miscreants, of whom we had most terrible representations, determined to abide them ourselves.

On Thursday the easternmost column had gained Stangarth side on the English border, and we suspected their intention was to penetrate through the wastes of Beu-castle for Brampton, being the properest place to subsist so numerous a corps; but that night we learned they had turned to the right for Longtoun which gave us hopes that they would continue their march for a Row-cliff and pass the river Eden there, the dryness of this season having reduced that stream to a tolerable fording in several places below Carlisle.

On Friday the middlemost columns join'd them, and on Saturday their hussars advanced to Stanwix bank, to take a view of the city; on which the 8 gun battery at B fir'd from the castle and they disappeared. On Sunday they invested the city on all sides, having passed Eden at several fords below. The marq. Of Tullibardin was driven with his corps from Shaddan-gate by the 4 gun battery at D, and those on the north under the Duke of Perth remained in the village of Stanwix, where some houses received considerable damage from the continued fire of the eight gun battery.

The troops on the south side under the pretender's son were in like manner repulsed by the citadel and turret guns. Being in want of materials for a siege a resolution was that night taken to remove to Brampton, and the quartermasters accordingly came into that place about midnight.

On Monday the 11th the prince's lifeguards, as they were called, came to the Naworth Castle the earl of Carlisle's seat,
and I went to see them, they behaved in general with much complacence and were well-dressed, good-looking men; they were very solicitous to see a map of England, and I carried them one and Tuesday morning, to try if I could penetrate their intentions; but these were inscrutable; only I observed they made great inquiry about Wales, and afterwards about other places, artfully to disguise their aim; which however I am apt to think this case knew themselves.

The same morning capt. Hamilton, quartermaster general of the foot, came to Naworth, demanding billets for 6000 men: the guards looked very blank at the proposal, and began to secure their portables, and I soon found what taking nest of thieves we were going to have.

About noon several hundreds of a wretched, ill-looking, shabby crew passed by armed with targets, broad swords, muskets, etc. And seemed very angry if no deference was paid to their flag: that afternoon and all of next day they spent in shooting sheep, geese, etc. And robbing on the highway: though their chiefs expressed great dissatisfaction at their proceedings, yet they did not restrain them for fear of putting them out of humour. Betwixt that and the 16th, I had some of their hussars, and audacious insolent, lying rabble, and on Saturday the 16th six of the offices of the McPhersons, who were by far the civillest of their foot, and pay'd for what they had in a genteel manner enough; it was not my business to expose their extravagant chimeras, but I found they were kept extremely ignorant of our affairs by the artifice of their superiors. Some of them had their sons in his majesty's army, but were made to believe that all our regular forces were detained by the French in Flanders, and they already possessed London in the elevated imaginations without drawing a sword.

The fate of Carlisle you must have heard from other hands, we are yet in doubt whether that ignominious surrender was caused by cowardice or treason, or both; I think it most probable that it was lost through a presumption that it would never be attack'd, and for want of a regular discipline among the men. The map exhibits that pretended battery which contributed to this false step, to which I refer you. The pretender's son was proclaimed at the cross, the keys of the city being carried to him at Brampton by the mayor and attendants; it should seem a necessary question how the keys of a garrison town, the custody of which was always till then committed to the governor, nominal or residential, came to be delivered into a mayor's hands for such a use at such a time.

During the pretended siege the garrison had a lad killed on the citadel by a musket shot, and one by the accidental firing of a piece on the walls, which was all of their loss slain or wounded. What the rebels lost is not to be ascertained, a person of distinction was reported to be killed near Harraby, and buried with great solemnity at Wetheral; a principal engineer was seen to fall by a shot from the citadel at the head of their pretended battery: doubtless they lost more, but I am apt to believe not
many, because they kept at too great a distance, and could not be discovered for a very thick and uncommon mist which continued all the time; so that the garrison may be said to have fir’d in the dark, directing their guns only by the sound of their pipes or voices. Their own reports were not at all to be credited, some of them pretending that the cannon balls had hit them without hurting them, credat Judæus Apella.

On Tuesday the 19th, about 100 horse more came to Brampton from Scotland, and the greatest part of the inhabitants of the country, tir’d out with finding subsistence for such a voracious crew, fled. I went to Halt-wesel, hearing the general Wade’s army was in full march for our relief, determining to join him, but the day following that rout was countermanded, on hearing that the rebels were proceeding southward. Such was the position of our affairs, from the 5th till 20th of November; a long period of uneasiness and expence, in carrying off and bringing back effects.

I must do the rebels the justice to say, that they never used so much as a single woman in the whole country with the least indecency, notwithstanding the crimes of that nature laid to their charge: ‘Tis said that their prince had given strict orders to the contrary, and declared that every officer should suffer as the criminal for actions of that nature, committed by any of the ruffians under him; whether true or not I cannot say.

All the time they lay in this neighbourhood they were marching and countermarching constantly, the better to conceal their numbers, which they reported to be 22,000, but were only about one third of that number.

From the time that the rebels left this neighbourhood, every day brought different accounts of them, which were all reported with so many improbable circumstances that they gained no credit. We too plainly perceived that they had many well-wishers, who industriously concealed whatever might be to their prejudice, and exaggerated every circumstance in their favour. Sometimes it was reported that they were defeated, and presently afterwards that they were within a day’s much of London, and that the mob had taken arms to support them: everything began to be in confusion, for those who had nothing to lose were ready to break down the partition wall that separated properties; what contributed greatly to our uneasiness was that we could gain no intelligence that could be relied upon; the intercourse between Newcastle and Carlisle, being in a manner suspended after that city fell into the enemy’s hands. It was not long before several of the inhabitants of that and the neighbouring places, exasperated against the tyranny of an Highland government, began to rouse themselves, necessity inspiring them with courage; associations were formed to regain their liberty, and this scheme laid to storm the castle, and destroy the rebel garrison; chimerical as this project may appear, it terrify’d the governor into an artful invitation of the mayor and aldermen to an entertainment
within his precincts; which they accepted the fear of giving offense; and were immediately secur’d, tho’ soon after released, on parole that they would encourage no such attempt for the future; others were confined on suspicion, and every village in the neighbourhood of the city search’d for arms ammunition by the rebels, who nevertheless were continually deserting as apprehensive of surprize. The governor neglected nothing to keep them in spirits, sometimes flattering them with expectations from Scotland, at other times from France, and when all this would not do, he fir’d the guns around the batteries for the joy of the pretended victory, got I know not where. I didn’t assure you the joy, ill grounded as it was, gave all real well-wishers to their country sufficient uneasiness, especially as no certain intelligence could be obtained.

In the mean time the frequent skirmishes happened betwixt the citizens and rebels, in all which the townsmen had the better, and made several prisoners, whom they sent to distant gaols, whilst the governor, to prevent a general defection, seiz’d the fathers of the offenders, as if punishing them would atone for the fault of their sons. He likewise attempted several methods to remove the general odium which his partly lay under, sometimes by fair words, and at other times by menaces, and locking up the gates, all which proved ineffectual; so that the whole extent of his government seemed to be in a state of hostility and confusion. Affairs were in this situation 'till about the middle of December, when the governor being apprised of the retreat of his partisans, seiz’d on the market, and fixed his own price on the commodities, ransacking the country people, under pretence of searching for letters, and impressing beds for the use of his garrison from the inhabitants.

(To be continued.)


Letter relating to the Map and Plan of Carlisle, and the Retreat of the Rebels

(Continued from p. 235.)

THE rebels all this time were making forc’d marches to regain Scotland before his royal highness. The dread of the return of a mob of exasperated ruffians, disappointed of their grand project, and in want of all things, threw us into a general consternation: Penrith beacon was fir’d as a signal of distress and the whole country thereupon flock’d southward to its relief. A party of about 120 rebels, which had been driven from Kendal before the rest came up, were intercepted in their flight, and pursu’d into Orton craigs; but they regain’d their main body, tho’ with great difficulty, and after a very close pursuit, one only being taken.

As there were no officers among them, and the people were very ill-armed, ‘twas judg’d extremely imprudent to hazard an action, especially as the distance of the duke’s army could not certainly be known; so they separated to guard the avenues leading to their respective habitations, and left Penrith to shift for itself.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, about midnight, by an express from his royal highness, we were summon’d to give all the assistance possible, by endeavouring to intercept the rebels, or any part of them, before they regain’d Carlisle. But they kept in so compact a body that we thought the attempt impracticable, especially considering the difference of Weapons and numbers; so they reach’d that city on Thursday night and Friday morning, excepting a few inconsiderable stragglers, who were secur’d.

Had it not been for the surrender of Carlisle where they had now a comfortable retreat, and necessary supplies, they must have been extremely embarass’d, as the rains had now render’d the river Eden unfordable; but on the news of the Duke’s marching from Penrith, they abandoned the city, and left the old governor, with about 400 Highlanders, and the English auxiliaries, to garrison the castle, with a view to retard the pursuit, having suffer’d incredible fatigues in the course of their flight from Derby; in which, had not a halt, of near 30 hours, been unhappily order’d to the king’s troops, on the false notion of an invasion in Sussex they would have been infallibly destroy’d. They forded Esk near Longtoun, but lost some men by the rapidity of the current, seem’d to be in great uneasiness at Graitna, and vented repeated menaces against England for its disloyalty and backwardness in so just a cause, threatening a return after being join’d by the forces which were then in Scotland for the service. As the principal topie of thes rebel conversation, while they prepared to attack Carlisle, was on the beauties of their prince, the valour of their men, the tyranny of the present government, the justness of their cause, and their disregard of death; so now they were always boasting their skill and capacity in making an unparallel’d retreat, and their great prudence in timeing it so as to prevent their being inclos’d between two fires.

(June 1746)
His royal highness arrived before Carlisle on Saturday the 21st, and honour’d Blackball by taking up his lodgings there, at the same house in which the pretender’s son was quarter’d in his march round that city. His royal highness sent notice privately to the well affected citizens to withdraw with their effects, and on Sunday Carlisle was again invested on all sides. On Monday, I sent his royal highness a plan of the city and castle of Carlisle, of which this is a copy, with my humble opinion where the batteries might be commodiously rais’d, to distress the town least, and the enemy most, by firing on the west curtain from Primrose Bank, and endeavouring to break down the arch over the sally-port door, which was accordingly approv’d off, and put in execution.

As the army had left their trenching materials behind to facilitate the pursuit, the country were summon’d in with theirs, who with great alacrity flock’d to the place, and cast up the ditch at L, notwithstanding the fire from the garrison, which hurt not a single man, there being an advance’d guard of soldiers to inform the trenchers at every flash. On Thursday the 26th his royal highness went round to visit the works on the North side near Stanwix, and some friends of the rebels having driven a flock of sheep on to the Swifts, the garrison, under favour of some cannon placed on Eden bridge, made a salvo, and brought several head into the castle; flour was also furnish’d them from time to time, notwithstanding the prohibition, which oblig’d his royal highness to cut the aqueducts that drove the mills, to disappoint their supplies; the rebels burnt a barn and house near the English gate the same day. On Friday six eighteen pounders which arrived from Whitehaven were brought from Rawcliff, and planted on the batteries, in order to begin to play on Saturday at day-break, which they accordingly did, 3 against the angle battery at C, and the other 5 against the 4 gun battery at D. ‘Tis to be noted that as the parapet of the castle wall was extremely low, and the gunners on that account greatly expos’d, the inhabitants had rais’d an artificial bulwark of wet turf to a considerable thickness, with proper embrasures for the cannon, before the first march of the rebels out of Scotland, a work sufficient to drown the shot of any pieces which the enemy cou’d bring along with them, the road they came. But these were presently thrown down by the repeated shocks of the eighteen pounders, and the rebels, expos’d to too brisk a fire, abandon’d the battery at D by noon, the army continuing to batter in breach all that afternoon and next day, besides the cohorns which were thrown from the ditch, at the end of Priestbreck bridge, as exhibited in the map, and which greatly incommoded the garrison. The wall by Sunday night began to totter, and three more cannon arriving they were erected on a new battery at H, somewhat nearer, to play on the angle C: the other 5 were to batter in breach (one of the six having burst). At the sight of this new battery the governor hung out a flag of truce, before any breach was effected, subsequent to which were the conditions publish’d in the Gazette, to which I refer. (see p. 81.)
**Description of CARLISLE Castle.**

The castle of Carlisle is built on a rising ground, close to the North-side of Hadrian’s vallum, near the conflux of the Eden and Cauda. It was at first probably one of Agricola’s stations, which Severus remov’d to the opposite bank of the Eden, for the better security of his wall; for which reason it is omitted in the list of Paxeirolus’s garrisons (being none in his time) and Congovata, or Stanwix, substituted in its stead. It continu’d nevertheless a place of note, and is frequently mention’d in the Itinerary of Antonine under the name of Lugo-vallum, ad vallum, deriv’d, as etymologists imagine, from the Celtic word Lugos, a tower, and Vallum, a treneh, or rampart. But I rather conjecture that it was wrote Leuco-vallum, denoting a particular whiteness in the wall of this place, almost all the other walls in that country appearing red from the colour of the stone of which they are built. Egfrid, a king of Northumberland, seems to be the first who built a castle here in the 7th century, but it was afterwards demolish’d by the Danes, and again restor’d by Rufus son of the Norman, for a safe-guard against the Scots. The munificence of succeeding kings added greatly to its strength, so that it was able to hold out a considerable time in the civil war; and might have been an impregnable barrier against the rebels, who could not have lain long before it, even with the garrison of invalids, if they had done their duty. It consists at present of an outer and inner fortification, both together making one triangular building: A figure least susceptible of improvement from modern fortification, but abundant amends is made for this defect by the thickness of its walls, the firmness of its mortar, and the distance of annoying batteries, those of his royal highness being 700 yards (about 100 beyond point blank) and the escalado being impracticable; besides the security of an inner castle of much less compass, of a pentagonal form, and incredible strength, especially against any cannon which the rebels had, or cou’d bring by that road. Nevertheless it surrender’d with the city, or immediately after, at a time when his majesty’s army was within two days march to relieve it. Quis talia fando, &c. For the position of the batteries, and the number of guns, I refer you to the map, and plan.

While the rebels had this castle in possession, a project was formed by some of the city, after a surfeit of a highland government, to seize it by surprize; a scheme feasible enough, as the governor lodg’d in the city, and as it was to be effected on a market day, when a curiosity to gaze drew the rebel garris on, and might have been an impregnable strong hold. But it was unluckily discover’d a little before the time fixed for the execution. Some of the projectors were secur’d, and other precautions taken, which unhappily prevented the entire destruction of the rebels in their flight back, and render’d the loss of the place of so much the greater consequence, and never enough to be regretted.

*Description of the Roman wall in our next.*

**Letter of M. D’Argenson, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from the French Camp at Bouchout in Brabant, to M.**
Van Hoey, the Dutch Ambassador, dated May 26, 1746.

SIR,

The king has ordered me to write to your excellency concerning the situation of prince Edward and his adherents, since the advantage gain’d over them by the English troops, the 27th of last month. All Europe knows the ties of parentage which subsist between him and prince Edward. Moreover this young prince is endow’d with all the qualities which might engage those powers to interest themselves in his favour, who esteem true courage; and the king of England is himself too just and impartial a judge of true merit, not to set a value upon it even in an enemy. The character of the British nation in general, cannot likewise but inspire all Englishmen with the same sentiments of admiration, for a countryman so distinguish’d by his talents and heroic virtues.

All these reasons ought naturally to favour the fate of prince Edward, and at the same time we may expect from the moderation and clemency of the King of England, that he will not suffer those persons to be persecuted with the utmost rigour, who, in a time of trouble and confusion, followed the standard which was lately overthrown by the British arms, under the command of the duke of Cumberland.

Nevertheless, Sir, as in the first motions of a revolution, resentment is sometimes carried to a greater height than in more peaceable times, the king thinks proper, as far as in him lies, to prevent the dangerous effects of any too severe measures which his Britannic majesty might take upon this occasion.

‘Tis with this just view, Sir, that the king ordered me to desire your excellency to write to the English ministry, and to represent to it, in the strongest manner, the inconveniencies which must infallibly result from any violent proceedings against prince Edward. The right of nations, and the particular interest which his majesty makes in respect to that prince, are motives that will probably make some impression upon the court of London; and his majesty hopes to find none but noble and generous proceedings from the king of England and the English nation, and that all those who were lately concerned in the interest of the house of Stuart, will likewise have reason to extol the generosity and clemency of his Britannic majesty.

But if, contrary to all expeditions, any attempts should be made, either with respect to the liberty of prince Edward, or the life of his friends and partisans, ‘tis easy to foresee that a spirit of animosity and fury might prove one dreadful consequence of such rigour; and how many innocent people, before the end of the war, might fall victims to a violence which could only aggravate the evil, and would certainly set no good example to Europe.

Nobody, Sir, is more capable than you are to set forth these reasons; your equity, and your love of peace, will suggest to you what is best to say upon this important subject.

Your Excellency must be sensible, that there is not a moment to be delay’d in writing to the ministers of the king of England; and I hope you will do me the favour to communicate to me the answer you receive from them, that I may give an account of it to the king, that he may take such resolutions upon this occasion. as his
Answer to M. D'Argenson's Memorial.

This Letter was preceded in the Daily Gazetteer by the ensuing Remarks.

THE French kings, by the indolence and inattention of their neighbours, are at last grown to that height of insolence, as, in imitation of the old Romans, tho’ without their power, to affect dictating to all the powers of Europe, and without the least regard to right or wrong, to equity, or even common sense, take upon themselves to direct those with whom they are at war, how they shall behave to their own subjects, taken in actual rebellion: to put the war between the two nations, and the operations thereof, on a footing with rebellion; and to threaten a prince, and his people, with destruction, who may if they please, and I hope ever will, be their masters, and always look down on Frenchmen with a contempt due to slaves.

I need not tell my reader, that the reasoning in this letter is as silly as the law of it is false. It is a true French production; and I hope that the insolence contain’d in it, will lay the foundation of that destruction and misery to themselves, which they threaten others with. What the busy Mr Van Hoey has to do to interfere in this matter at all, would puzzle a man of common sense to comprehend. A nation that once submits to be bullied by another, from that moment loses its reputation, and is gradually falling into contempt and slavery. And here is a test for which, I dare say, there is not an Englishman born, who is not a rebel in his heart, that would not sacrifice his last drop of blood to support the dignity of the crown, and reputation of the people. It is not, in this light, a question, whether we wish his majesty to be merciful, but, whether he shall be commanded to be so by a king of slaves; who reasons without reason, and threatens without power; who thinks he is talking to the Dutch, or little princes round him, who fawn at his feet, and tremble at his arbitrary nod; who make a God of a logger-head, and worship a graven image: to such as these a French king may give law; but the minute it is submitted to here, we must date the era of our becoming slaves and Frenchmen.

I would not, by these warm remarks, be understood to presume the limiting his majesty’s mercy, or to inspire my countrymen with any kind of desire to render the unhappy more miserable: but should wish them to have so much regard to their own honour and reputation, that if the French do begin this kind of war, not to end it so long as there is a Frenchman living; till their whole name and nation be blotted out of the annals of time, and their insolence be heard of no more: at least, until the aggressors and authors of such infernal wickedness be rooted off the earth, and the very memory of the race of Bourbon be buried in eternal oblivion.

LETTER from, M. Van Hoey, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in support of the Letter from M. D’Argenson.

My Lord,

I have the honour to send to your Excellency a letter I just now received from M. D’Argenson, in relation to the prefect state of affairs of the pretender’s eldest son, and those of his adherents, since the defeat they have met with from his royal highness the duke of Cumberland. Your Excellency will perceive thereby how
much that court confides in me, what credit I, by my long residence there, have gained, and how far it is inclined to believe that my love of peace and equity will furnish me with arguments to enforce its recommendations. I wish, my Lord, I was master of the greatest eloquence upon earth, and were able effectually to employ my whole life, to convince mankind. That by doing to others as we would they should do unto us, is the foundation of the supreme happiness of states, nations, kings, their subjects, and in general of human kind. This is a duty well known by your Excellency, and Providence expects from you a compliance from the high station she has placed you in, and the great talents with which she has blessed you. May persuasion flow from your lips, like honey, and every one will be convinced, that we are only happy in proportion to the good we do to others. May you, my Lord, banish that pernicious art which Discord has brought into the world, of seducing men to destroy one another. Wretched policy! which substitutes revenge, hatred, jealousy, and avarice, to take place of the divine precept, which form the glory of kings and happiness of their subjects. You know, my Lord, that courage, by way of excellence, is call’d virtue, and that because it is founded on the love of happiness, and directed in all its motions by equity, moderation, and goodness. True heroes make their victories become profitable to those they conquer, and raise for themselves immortal trophies of honour, by subduing resentments and revenge, passions so natural to mankind, and so difficult to get the better of. Thus has clemency been rever’d by wise men in all ages, as the magnanimous, the most useful and the most pious of all royal virtues. I am sensible, my Lord, that I am guilty of an indiscretion in laying before you what wisdom, experience and religion have so strongly impress’d upon your heart. It is not that I presume to add to your conviction; but how is it possible to forbear treating on a subject which we love? To know truth, and be inflam’d with its divine beauties, is, your Excellency well knows, but one and the same thing. May two so great kings never cease to emulate which shall be the highest example of humanity, clemency, and greatness of soul. May their love to mankind increase, and add daily to their glory, and cause it to shine with greater splendour, that their subjects in particular may owe their peace, and all Europe in general the re-establishment of its tranquillity to them; that their wisdom may perpetuate their memories, and be made examples of to posterity to the latest ages: May they long on earth enjoy the just returns of human kind, and more and more secure to themselves eternal happiness hereafter. I have the honour to be, &c.

Paris, June 2, 1746.  
Sign’d.  
A. Van Hoey,

LETTER from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle to M. Van Hoey.

SIR, Whitehall, June 3, 1746.

I did not receive till the day before yesterday the letter which your excellency was pleas’d to honour me with, dated the 2d instant, N. S. in closing one which the Marquis D’Argenson had wrote to you of the 26th of May.

I laid it immediately before the king, who was in the greatest astonishment at the contents of that letter, which, as well in what relates to the subject of it, as to the manner of treating it, is so contrary to his majesty’s honour, and to the dignity of his crown, that his majesty cannot but
consider himself as too much offended by it to make any answer to it.

You know, Sir, (and so do the French ministers) with how scrupulous an exactness his majesty has, on his part, executed the cartel agreed on between him and the most christian king, in its utmost extent, even to the dealing on their parole all the officers in the French service, who were made prisoners within the limits of these kingdoms and who were not his majesty’s natural-born subjects; although the service, on which they were then employ’d, might very justly have excus’d his majesty from it.

It is impossible, alter this, to doubt of his majesty’s sincere desire to do every thing, which the law of nations can require between powers engaged in war with each other, even beyond what is usually practised: But as to what relates to his majesty’s own subjects, neither the law of nations, the cartel; nor the practice or example of any country, authorize any foreign power at war with his majesty to intrude themselves or to make any demand from his majesty, relating thereto, The most christian king knows too well himself the right inherent in every sovereign, to imagine that his majesty can think otherwise.

I cannot conceal from your excellency his majesty’s surprize, to see that the ambassador of a power so strictly united with him, and so effectually interested in every thing that concerns the honour and security of his majesty’s person and government, could charge himself with transmitting to his majesty so unheard-of a demand. And I am very sorry, Sir, to be obliged to acquaint you, that his majesty could not avoid complaining of it to their High Mightinesses the States General, your masters.

I have the honour to be. d&c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

To M. D’Argenson. in Answer to his Memorial. (See p. 302.)

S I R,

I Am one of those unhappy wretches, who, deluded by French promises, follow’d our chiefs into rebellion and ruin.

As I am now a humble and penitent captive, at the feet of offended majesty. I had hopes from his royal generosity, that the ignorance in which we are bred, the vassal-tenure by which we hold ourselves obliged to a blind following of our leaders, would have inclined the king to show mercy to such of us as humbled themselves before him, and gave any sure tokens of sorrow and repentance.

But, I see, the same hand which drew us into destruction, is destin’d to compleat it.

The very reasons you assign for your intercession, demonstrate the insincerity of it: for was it ever a reason for a prince to spare rebels, because they were headed by one who had courage, or by one who was a cousin to that prince’s greatest enemy?

If you had really meant our safety, there were other methods of addressing to the clemency of a magnanimous prince, by promising a return of tenderness to such of his troops as, by the fortune of war, should fall into your hands: but to assign two such wretched reasons, and to think of backing them by menaces, was a method which you knew must be ineffectual, must rather intercept that mercy which might be expelled, and provoke his majesty to a severity which he had never thought of.

But it’s all of a piece:—Your whole design appears to have been the destruction of the Highland race: You felt their bravery at the battle of Fontenoy, and saw how necessary it was to prevent, by any means, the king’s recruiting that formidable body and either to make their
countrymen enemies to the king, or extirpate them.

You look advantage of our home-bred ignorance, and persuaded our simpleness, by the dispersion of pretended protests, and patriot speeches, that the English nation invited us to join them: you engag'd to support us with 16,000 men, whom you never intended to send: You drew us, by these vain expectations, into the heart of a nation so uniformly loyal, that they could have destroy'd us as we pass'd, if we had not prevented it by the quickness of our motions; and then, still you laugh'd in your sleeve at our double disappointment, you still found the way to lead us on, by the assurance of a most powerful assistance upon our return to our own country; instead of which, you supplied us with a few miserable engineers, who pointed the artillery in such a manner, as if they had been bribed by the Campbells and Monroes, and with a few French and Irish poltroons, who in the day of battle were the first that fled out of the field: and thus you left us exposed to the valour and fortune of the never-to-be-conquer'd duke of Cumberland.

And now, to compleat our misery, you intercede for us (forsooth) by menaces; you dare the bravest of kings to do himself justice, and threaten (with an impudence equal to your baseness) that you will revenge the punishment of the guilty, by making victims of the innocent.

But know, vain Frenchman, that the deluded Scots have given up the desperate cause, and long for nothing so much as for an opportunity to wreak their fury and indignation upon a false and treacherous court, which has betray'd them, and plainly design'd the desolation which it has accomplish'd.

If the king's innate mercy should prevail over your attempts to frustrate it; if his majesty will take us into his service, and transplant us, with our families into any of the northern parts of America, Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, or Nova Scotia. (O name of happy omen!) the neighbouring colonies of your perjur'd nation shall, to the latest generations, feel the sharpness of our swords and vengeance.

Yours, Rebel-Penitent.