

SA Ball
BINFIELD



THE OXFORDSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY



PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

1950.



The Oxfordshire Record Society

JOURNAL OF
SIR SAMUEL LUKE

Volume I.

Issued for the year 1947

NOTE. An index to the whole journal will be printed at
the end of the final volume.

CHENEY & SONS
BANBURY
OXON

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTION | v |
| JOURNAL OF SIR SAMUEL LUKE | i |



SIR SAMUEL LUKE

(By Cornelius Jansen)

From a block.

*presented by Miss Ethel B. Risley in memory of
her sister (d. 1949.)*

INTRODUCTION

Sir Samuel Luke, eldest son of Sir Oliver Luke, of Woodend, Bedfordshire, is probably best known as the supposed original of Butler's *Hudibras*, and is referred to in the key to *Hudibras* attributed to Roger L'Estrange as "a self-conceited commander under Oliver Cromwell." But Luke, whose reputation has suffered from this attribution, was neither a foolish nor an ineffectual figure.¹ He represented Bedford borough in the Short Parliament of 1640 and in the Long Parliament, and then when Civil War broke out, as a member of the Presbyterian party, he joined the Parliamentary forces. From 30th July 1642 he was captain of a troop of horse and fought with his troop at Edgehill. Then on 4th January 1643 he was commissioned by the Earl of Essex to raise a troop of dragoons in Bedfordshire. With this troop Luke accompanied Essex from Windsor to Reading, was present at the siege of Reading, 15th-25th April,² and then moved to the region of Thame where Essex established his headquarters in June. Here, at Chinnor, on 18th June Luke's troop was routed by Prince Rupert, but Luke himself, who was absent from the Chinnor fight, fought with Hampden at Chalgrove field on the same day, and distinguished himself by his courage. Luke was at Essex's headquarters in July, first at Aylesbury, then at Great Brickhill, accompanied the main army on the march to relieve Gloucester at the end of August, and was engaged in the first battle of Newbury. In October he assisted in the capture of Newport Pagnell, and became governor of that town when it became a permanent garrison.³ From Newport Luke co-operated with Cromwell in the capture of Hillesden House in Buckinghamshire on 4th March 1644, and on 26th May 1644 surprised Fortescue's regiment of Royalist horse at Islip. The victory of Naseby, however, saved Newport Pagnell from attack, and diminished the importance of Luke's command which was finally ended on 26th June 1645 by the operation of the self-denying ordinance. Luke's later career is undistinguished. As a staunch Presbyterian he was distrusted by the Independent party in the army; on 1st August 1647 he was seized by a party of soldiers on suspicion that he was raising the forces of Bedfordshire to assist the City against the army, and he was again arrested on the occasion of Pride's Purge, but he was speedily released on both occasions. During the Commonwealth and Protectorate Luke took no part in public

¹For Luke's career see *D.N.B.* (article by C. H. Firth) and authorities quoted therein. For records of his military career see P.R.O. Commonwealth Exchequer Papers, S.P.28.127.

²Luke's diary of the siege of Reading is printed in Charles Coates, *History of Reading* (1802), p. 31 seq.

³For Luke's services as governor see Rev. H. Roundell, Garrison of Newport Pagnell (*Records of Bucks.* vol. 2, 1870).

affairs ; at the Restoration he sat in the Convention Parliament of 1661. He died in 1670.

During the Civil War, in addition to his services as captain of a troop of horse and governor of Newport Pagnell, Luke also acted as scout-master general to the Earl of Essex, and in this capacity appears to have acquired a great reputation for efficiency, at least among his parliamentary contemporaries, as we may see from the glowing tribute paid to him in *Mercurius Britannicus*, "This noble commander watches the enemy so industriously that they eat, sleep, drink not, whisper not, but he can give us an account of their darkest proceedings."¹ The manuscript here printed,² being a record of the reports made by Luke's scouts from 9th February 1643 to 29th March 1644, goes some way towards justifying this tribute, at least to Luke's industry, for although the information he obtained is very variable in quality, it is unusual to find a detailed day-to-day record of this particular side of military organisation at this period. The manuscript is not written by Luke himself, but is in the same hands as his surviving letter-books³ which cover the period 19th February 1644 to 12th July 1645 and include some reports in the same form as those in the journal.

Luke's commission as scout-master general was dated 14th January 1643. This is established by a document⁴ dated 12th November 1646 presented to the Committee of Accounts which was then concerned in settling the payments still due to retired officers. Luke's letter (13th November, 1646) to the Committee of Accounts explaining his inability to produce his own commissions as evidence throws an interesting light on his experience in the field, for he says "that for my horse (i.e. his commission as captain) it bore date with the first but was lost at Edgehill and I canne not finde any record of it. There I lost my sumpture and many horses and had my waggon plundered but my officers and others are ready to testifie it uppon oath, for that for my

¹*Mercurius Britannicus*, p. 218, quoted *D.N.B.*

²Bodleian Library, MS. Eng. hist. c. 53. On the fly-leaf is the signature "Olr. Luke, 1679, Dec. 8," and on the inner front cover is the signature of John Nichols (1745-1826) who also at one time owned the diary of the siege of Reading printed by Coates (*op. cit.*). Later the manuscript was in the collection formed by Frank Kyffan Lenthall, recorder of Woodstock, and was presented to the Bodleian by his brother E. K. Lenthall of Besselsleigh manor in 1905.

³Five of Luke's letter-books are in the British Museum, MSS. Egerton 785-787, Stowe 190 and Egerton 3514. Thirty-six of Luke's letters from Egerton MSS. 785-787 were printed by Sir Henry Ellis, *Original Letters*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, pp. 217-67. These letter-books were also used by Alfred Beesley, *History of Banbury* (1841) and by Rev. H. Roundell, *op. cit.* Luke's correspondence with Cromwell is printed from the B.M. manuscripts in Carlyle's *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell* (ed. S. C. Lomas, 1904).

⁴This and the two following documents are in P.R.O. Commonwealth Exchequer Papers, S.P. 28. 127.

scoute masters place it was lost at Newbury where I lost both waggon and horses." The detailed accounts considered by the Committee of Accounts in 1646 are thus conveniently summarised: "Due to Sir Samuel Luke for intelligence as Scoutt Master Generall to the Army under his Excellency the Earl of Essex from the 14th January 1642 [i.e. 1642/3] until the 4th of January 1644 [i.e. 1644/5]¹ being in all 720 daies, at seven pounds per diem, being for Sir Samuel Luke himselfe, with 20 scoutts, and twenty shillings per diem alowed to a Gentleman and servants resideing at court, both are 8l per diem which amounts to the summe of £5760." In addition, other payments were made "to provide necessaries for the scouts" and it appears from the journal that scouts received payment for expenses on their longer journeys, when frequently they carried letters and dispatches to and from the Earl of Essex and his senior commanders. Their normal pay was five shillings a day, but there is evidence that they sometimes received gratuities.² The reference to a gentleman residing at court (i.e. at Oxford) is interesting, for it is one more example of a form of espionage common in the early days of the Civil War³, but no information from this source appears to be recorded in Luke's journal.

It may at this point be convenient to summarise the military position during the period covered by Luke's journal.⁴ The royalist headquarters were at Oxford, and Luke was mainly concerned in obtaining information about the garrison there and the movements of royalist

¹But Luke continued to act as a purveyor of intelligence up to June 1645. In a letter dated 6 June, 1645 the Committee of Both Kingdoms requested him "to procure what active intelligence he is able, and communicate it to this Committee, and Sir Thomas Fairfax, for the charge of which he shall be reimbursed by this Committee." (*Cal. State Papers Dom.* 1644-5, p. 570).

²See journal entry: "Richard Clun was employed at Swynden the 17th day of September 1643 and continued in the service untill the 5th day of January following being three monethes and 18 dayes which at 5s. per diem comes to 25.10.0." For gratuities cf. *Cal. State Papers Dom.* 1644-5, p. 594, under date 15th June 1645, £10 given "to Sir Samuel Luke's man for his pains."

³According to Warburton (II, 4) Prince Rupert's secretary was paid £200 a month by Parliament for intelligence, and Sprigg (*Anglia Rediviva*, p. 52) records a spy in the pay of Fairfax's scout-master general being employed unsuspectingly by Nicholas, Secretary of State, at Oxford. T. W. Webb, (*Military Memoirs of Col. John Birch*), (Camden Soc. 1873, p. 205) prints an interesting letter (MS. Carte 103 f.138) from a parliamentary agent lodging "at the Maidenhead over against Lincoln College" in February 1643. This letter is unsigned but the endorsement "C.P. 1642" appears to be in the hand of Arthur Goodwin, then commanding the parliamentary troops at Aylesbury. For an interesting brief note on the use of spies by both armies in the Civil War see T. W. Webb, *op. cit.* p. 167-9.

⁴For an account of troop movements in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties see C. H. Firth, "Chronological Survey of Oxon. Berks. and Bucks, 1642-6" (*Proceedings Oxford Arch. and Hist. Soc.*, 1890, N.S. 5, p. 280 seq.).

troops in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties.¹ Royalist efforts were, at the beginning of 1643, mainly devoted to securing communications with the north and west; on 2nd February Prince Rupert captured Cirencester and garrisoned it for the King, in March he threatened Bristol, then in April took Birmingham and Lichfield. Meanwhile, Oxford was slowly being fortified, but there were no military operations in the immediate neighbourhood from 20th March, when the Parliamentary Commissioners came to Oxford to treat with the King, until 13th April when negotiations finally broke down.² Then on 15th April Essex laid siege to Reading, the Royalist attempt to relieve the town from Oxford was repulsed at Caversham on 25th April, and the garrison capitulated on the following day. Finding that Essex made no attempt to advance on Oxford or to seek any engagement with the royalist army, Charles, on 2nd May, established his main forces at a "leaguer" near Abingdon, referred to in Luke's journal as the camp on Culham Hill. Then, with Essex inactive, the royalist position improved. On 6th May the Earl of Northampton defeated the Northamptonshire parliamentarians at Middleton Cheney, and on 13th May a much needed convoy of arms and ammunition from the Earl of Newcastle arrived at Woodstock. Not until June did Essex begin to move on Oxford; on 10th June, advancing through Nettlebed and Ewelme, he took up his headquarters at Thame, and on the 17th made an unsuccessful attack on Islip.³ In reply Rupert made a sally from Oxford, beat up Essex's quarters at Postcomb and Chinnor and defeated Hampden at Chalgrove Field on 18th June. A week later Sir John Urry plundered Wycombe and on 1st July Sir Charles Lucas defeated a force under Colonel Middleton at Padbury.

Intimidated by these checks Essex retreated from Thame and established his headquarters first at Aylesbury and then, about 9th July, at Great Brickhill. His retreat enabled the King to move more freely and to send considerable forces from Oxford without danger. Rupert, going north to Stratford, met the Queen there on 11th July, and escorted her into Oxford on 14th July with the convoy of arms and ammunition which she had brought from the north. Lord Wilmot left Oxford to relieve Hopton, besieged by Waller at Devizes, and on 13th July defeated Waller at Roundway Down. This victory opened the

¹His scouts range further afield on occasion and report in some detail the Royalist sieges of Bristol 23rd to 26th July and of Gloucester 10th August to 5th September.

²On at least one occasion during this uneasy truce Essex sent troops against Oxford in a half-hearted attempt to divert the Royalist army from attacking Sir William Waller in the west.

³Firth, *op. cit.*, says that Essex's forces occupied Wheatley on 12th June, but no such occupation is mentioned in *Mercurius Aulicus*, and Luke's journal leaves no doubt that Wheatley was occupied by Royalist forces at that time.

way to a major campaign in the west. On 26th July the Royalists captured Bristol, thus enabling the King to bring supplies from the continent to Oxford, and on 10th August they laid siege to Gloucester. This at last caused Essex to move and he started from Colnbrook on 26th August. Lord Wilmot commanded a strong body of Royalist horse stationed round Banbury to prevent this advance but Essex passed through Aynho, Adderbury and Chipping Norton with little opposition and so on by Stow in the Wold to Gloucester where the King was forced to raise the siege on 5th September. On Essex's return march to London, Charles tried to bar his way at Newbury on 20th September, but Essex forced his way through to Reading and reached London on 25th September. Reading, however, again changed hands, for the Parliamentary forces evacuated it on the march to London, and on 3rd October a strong Royalist force under Sir Jacob Astley garrisoned the town.

Essex had thus lost again the only territory gained during the year's campaign and Charles tried to take advantage of this withdrawal by further advances towards London. Thus, in October, Sir Lewis Dyves began to fortify Newport Pagnell in order to disrupt communications between London and the eastern counties. Dyves, however, withdrew when Essex advanced against him and although the Royalists immediately garrisoned Towcester, any further advance in that direction was prevented by the establishment of a strong Parliamentary garrison at Newport under Luke.

The general result of the 1643 campaign was that Oxford was in every way in a better position. Communications with the north and west were established, and outposts had been pushed into territory formerly held by Parliamentary forces. But this success was short-lived. In the rest of the period covered by this journal, one outpost, Hillesden House, was lost to the Royalists, and Fillis Court, near Henley, was garrisoned by Parliamentary forces to keep in check the Royalist garrison at Greenland House. Then at the end of March 1644 Waller's defeat of Hopton and Forth at Cheriton forced the Royalists onto the defensive again.

Luke's activities as scout-master to the Earl of Essex do not appear to have had any effect on operations during this period. This was no doubt mainly due to Essex's disinclination to take any major action, but it is also apparent that Luke failed to get information of immediate tactical value. This was a common failing in both armies. Clarendon quotes the preliminaries to the battle of Edgehill as a classic example of this failure: "the two armies, though they were but twenty miles asunder, when they first set forth, and both marched the same way, gave not the least disquiet in ten days' march to each other; and in truth, as it appeared afterwards, neither army knew where the other

was."¹ Similarly Hopton's Royalist army advanced to within two miles of Okehampton (April 1643) before Chudleigh realised their presence and blamed "the intolerable neglect of the lying Deputy-scoutmaster."² That Luke failed in the same way is apparent not only from the evidence of his journal but still more from the ease with which Rupert surprised and routed Luke's own troop at Chinnor in June 1643. Rupert's sallies from Oxford were indeed always an incalculable element to the enemy, and Luke's scouts, relying on current rumour for knowledge of Rupert's intentions, were frequently misinformed, and in any case moved too slowly for their information, even if correct, to be of any practical value.³ For instance, on 4th March 1643 Rupert left Oxford and marched through Cirencester, Malmesbury and Chipping Sodbury (6th March) to Bristol (7th March). On 8th March news reached him of the failure of the Butcher and Yeoman plot, and Rupert retraced his steps, reaching Oxford on 10th March. Yet, although Luke's scouts gave detailed daily reports on Rupert's movements, all the major reports made up to the time of Rupert's return to Oxford mentioned Gloucester as his objective. The first substantial mention of Bristol is in a report received on 11th March, and not until 12th March is a fairly accurate report received of Rupert's plan in advancing on Bristol. This inadequate reporting by Luke's scouts is particularly striking since Essex himself had already reported to the House of Commons on 9th March that Rupert, with 6,000 horse, had marched against Bristol.⁴ Similarly, concentrating on Royalist troop movements in Wallingford and the Abingdon area, Luke's scouts failed to get any first hand information about the approach of the convoy of arms and ammunition from the north in May. This convoy, of great importance to the garrison at Oxford, reached Woodstock on 13th May and was brought into Oxford two days later, but not until 19th May did Luke receive any news and then it was only a vague and inaccurate rumour "that the Queene would bee at Oxford the next weeke and will bring great store of gold and silver along with her," this being followed on 20th May by a report "that the King expected a great army from the Earl of Newcastle, but there came 400 men which lye quartered at Woodstock and twoe carriages and one great peece of ordnance which are now in Oxford." Once again this is of interest as an illustration of Luke's meticulous

¹Clarendon (ed. Macray) II, 356; cf. Ludlow, *Memoirs* (ed. Firth), p. 41, that the Parliamentary scouts did not report the appearance of the enemy until the morning of 23rd October, the day of the battle at Edgehill.

²M. Coate, *Cornwall in the Great Civil War*, p. 62.

³The reports received by Luke on Rupert's movements may be checked with the "Journal of Rupert's Marches, 1642-6," ed. C. H. Firth (*E.H.R.* XIII, 1898, p. 729 seq.).

⁴"Report from House of Commons to House of Lords" (*Lords' Journal* V, 643).

care in recording all the reports he received although their inadequacy must have been obvious, in this case noticeably because a specific report of the arrival of the convoy at Woodstock had been published in *Mercurius Aulicus* for the week 7th—13th May, and its arrival in Oxford in the *Mercurius* for the following week.¹

But though there is much that is inaccurate in Luke's journal, it does as a whole provide a vivid and detailed picture of the impact of civil war on the English country-side, and supplements the accounts in Clarendon and Wood² of conditions in Oxford and of troop movements in the surrounding district. Much of this information was obtained at first hand, for many of Luke's scouts passed unscathed in and out of the Royalist lines. Samuel Brayne, for instance, returned to Luke's headquarters on 13th February 1643 after spending two nights at the White Swan in Oxford, and Richard Shawe returned on 16th May from a barber's shop in Wallingford. It seems, indeed, that many of his scouts were natives of the district in which they mainly operated,³ and that their being known locally made them not only successful informants but also helped to allay suspicion when they were captured, as they frequently were, and questioned. James Carey, returning from near Oxford, "had intelligence from a spetiall friend who came out of the city"; William Richards was taken prisoner at Oxford but "by help of some friends was enlarged"; William Harris, taken at Wheatley, was released "by entreaty of Mr. Thomas Abbosse, sone of his old master"; and Henry Hopkins, also taken at Wheatley, was released by his brother and other friends in Oxford. On 22nd April John Webb reported "that there is news daily carryed out of Reading to Oxford by such whoe pretending themselves sorry country fellows doe not onely give notice to Oxford but also to Reading, of our proceedings here." The description "sorry country fellows" must equally well have fitted Webb and most of his companions in Luke's service, for there are many instances of their being taken by Royalist troops, and released after being deprived of their horses and money, or else pressed to serve in the Royalist army. As one of them complained, Rupert's activities meant that "a man cannot passe the contry but both his horse and his money is taken from him." Others had opportunities for espionage

¹F. J. Varley, *Mercurius Aulicus* (summarized extracts), ed. 1948, p. 27.

²Twyne's *Musterings*, printed in the *Life and Times of Anthony Wood*, ed. A. Clark, cover the period 9th August 1642 to 15th July 1643. Thereafter, as Madan (*Oxford Books*, II, 293) pointed out, Oxford news becomes scarcer, particularly as by the autumn of 1643 *Mercurius Aulicus* reports less and less of events in Oxford.

³There is one clear instance in a report on the garrison at Reading (21st February 1643) made by Richard Clerke "of Reading." Some of the scouts were primarily members of Luke's troop of horse; there are references to their being discharged, as scouts, and sent to the troop. Others appear to have been recruited and employed solely as scouts.

thrust upon them, as when Henry Parneby, sent to get news of the Royalist garrison at Reading in October, viewed the town and all the works and was then pressed to serve under Captain Stamp, for which he received a shilling press money, had white and black colours given him, and helped to dig in the works. Incidents of this kind illustrate the ease with which information could be obtained and the difficulty with which both sides were faced in detecting spies when all had a common background and when it was "not discernable who is a soldier and who is not."¹ The lack of uniforms meant not only confusion in the field, but led to many soldiers becoming willy-nilly spies in the enemy's camp.

In such ways these scouts or spies of Luke's contrived to see a good deal of the conditions in Royalist garrisons, and their reports of what they actually saw are full of interest. There are, for instance, detailed reports of conditions in Reading, particularly in February and March 1643, and of the making of the Royalist encampment at Culham in May. There are numerous references to the progress of the fortifications at Oxford,² occasional references to the use of the upper Thames for barge traffic,³ and more information about the mint in Oxford in which one of the scouts, Samuel Brayne, seems to have been specially interested, since he reports on it on several occasions in February and March 1643.

Comparison with Clarendon and the reports in Wood shows that Luke's scouts operating in Oxford reported pretty faithfully both the observable events and the inaccurate rumours which were current in the town, and they add many particulars to accounts already published. A general and sometimes a detailed confirmation of their reports on the movements of men and ordnance can be obtained from other unpublished sources such as the warrants⁴ for the issue of ordnance from Oxford. There are, for instance, two warrants dated 20th and 21st May 1643 for the dispatch of ordnance from Oxford to Wallingford. The first for which Blagge, the governor, signed a receipt on 21st May, is for two carts laden with ten hundredweight of powder, ten hundredweight of match, ten hundredweight of musket shot, thirty shovels and

¹A comment by the Earl of Essex (*Lords Journal* V, 1643) quoted in Prof. G. Davies, "The Parliamentary Army under the Earl of Essex, 1642-5," (*E.H.R.* XLIX, 1934, p. 32).

²Some of these supplement accounts of the fortifications at this period in F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford* (1932) and R. T. Lattey, E. J. S. Parsons and I. G. Philip, "A Contemporary Map of the Defences of Oxford in 1644," (*Oxoniensia*, I, 1936, p. 161 seq.). See also further notes on this subject in *Oxoniensia* II, 207, III, 175, 177.

³See "River Navigation at Oxford during the Civil War and Commonwealth" (*Oxoniensia*, II, 1937, p. 152 seq.).

⁴P.R.O. WO. 55/459. I have to thank Lt. Col. P. Young, D.S.O., M.C., for drawing my attention to this source.

twenty spadés. The second, received at Wallingford on 22nd May, is for one cart laden with seven hundredweight of match. Of this traffic Luke received one report on 23rd May that "there was yesterday a load of powder, match and bullett carried from Abington into Wallingford guarded with about 30 men." This is admittedly a very partial account but there are more accurate and detailed reports of ordnance going to Reading in March 1644. Thus, on 7th March a scout from Oxford reported that "on Sunday night last (i.e. 3rd March) there were 6 brasse peece of ordnance and a great number of pikes, musketts and ammunition conveyed from thence to Redding by water." And on Wednesday following (i.e. 6th March) he "sawe 2 great iron peecees and as much ammunition as a barge could carry loaded for Redding, which (as hee heares) were afterwards to bee sent to Greenland howse." Two days later another scout coming from Oxford reported in similar terms of "8 or 9 peecees of ordnance and great store of ammunition" sent to Reading on Monday (i.e. 4th March) and "2 great iron peecees and a whole barge full of ammunition" on Wednesday. That these were fairly accurate descriptions is shown by the original warrants. One, dated 4th March, is for iron ordnance (five minions and one falcon) with shot, musket etc. to be sent from Oxford to Reading by water, and the other, dated 6th March, is for one iron minion and one falcon with shot etc. to be sent by the same route and to remain in Reading until Lord Hopton should send for them. Evidence of this kind shows that at least some of Luke's scouts may be relied upon as eye-witnesses, and gives some ground for regarding their reports of what they saw, if not of what they heard, as generally trustworthy.

Recurrent scarcities in Oxford are illustrated by such reports as those of Samuel Brayne who complained, in February 1643, that on one occasion he had to pay two shillings a night for his horse's hay, and a week later that he could get nothing but straw for his horse. Another scout reported in the same month that Rupert had taken 2,000 horses out of Oxfordshire with the result that "the inhabitants are constrained to ioyne 3 or 4 of them to make upp a teame of horse." Even more interesting than these notes on the lack of supplies, of which Clarendon frequently complained, is the evidence of continued trade between London and Oxford. As early as January 1643 the House of Commons issued orders prohibiting carriers and waggons going from London to Oxford or elsewhere without special licence from Parliament, and by his proclamations of 17th July and 17th October issued from Oxford,¹ the King prohibited all trade with London. Unfortunately for the Royalists such attempts at curtailing communications with the rebellious city merely meant reduction of supplies for the court and garrison in Oxford and greater difficulty in collecting assessments even from

¹Steel nos. 2455, 2502; Madan nos. 1414, 1480.

those counties under the control of the garrison there. One of Luke's scouts, returning from Oxford on 24th November, reported that "the country have presented divers petitions to his Majesty concerning their inability to pay their weekly assessments except his Majesty will be pleased to take corne for it or else to lett them have free trade to London to make the best of it, that they may bee the better able to pay him." Those responsible for provisioning court and garrison and those concerned only in private gain must have been equally tempted to maintain some limited trade with London, and reports in Luke's journal show how some of the difficulties were overcome. Thus on 3rd December, Richard Clunne reports that "the King's forces have a supply of all grocery wares and other commodities by carriers which pretend at the courts of guard at London that they have them out for the Parliaments use," and William Harris adds (6th December) that "all commodities which the Cavileers want are sent from London to Wickham under Wickham mens names, and soe sent in the night to Oxford by waggon loades at a tyme."¹ Evidence of a different form of trade, between London and the west of England, which gave rise to so many marauding expeditions by Royalist cavalry from Oxford, is provided by Ralph Norton's report (11th December) that "there are diverse carrieres which come out of the west goe over Pangburne ferry to Henley and there load their horses with commodities which come from London thither, and soe retorne back into their owne country."

The fact that the Town as opposed to the University of Oxford favoured the Parliamentary cause probably accounted for the ease with which Luke's spies managed to pass in and out of Oxford almost daily, despite the precautions taken by the Royalist garrison and the threat of extreme penalties. In March 1643 it was reported that a great gate was erected on Wheatley bridge, and "none hardly suffered to passe without a ticket from Sir Jacob Astley" (the governor). Both sides condemned captured spies to death by hanging, one of the earliest examples being the hanging of Mr. Boys, a citizen of London and eminent dealer in strong waters, by Sir Arthur Aston at Reading in December 1642,² and Bulstrode Whitelocke³ refers to Rupert hanging a man as a spy "upon the great elm near the Bell in Henley" as justifying the hanging of Royalist agents seized in London. The feeling on both sides with regard to spies is summed up in Major-General Brown's letter from Abingdon, 19th December 1644, to Lord Digby, "My Lord, you have hanged a spie (as you say) of mine, whom I know

¹This traffic may be evidence of licences granted by the King, despite the general prohibition. All such licences were revoked by the King's proclamation of 10th December 1643 (Steele no. 2515; Madan no. 1550).

²*Special Passages*, Dec. 1642, quoted by T. W. Webb (*op. cit.* p. 50).

³*Memorials of the English Affairs* (ed. 1853), I. 227.

not, but you may be ballanced in this also ; this very morning I will caused to be hanged one of yours, condemned by our counsell of war six weeks since, according to an ordinance of Parliament, resolving never to be outdone by you, either in civility or justice."¹ Luke's scouts must have been particularly well-chosen, for in the whole period covered by this journal, despite the many captures, only one, Francis Coles, was detected and executed. Coles had reported to Luke on 24th December 1643 the affray in which the governor of Oxford was wounded, and returned to Oxford on 26th December. He was then apprehended, examined on 6th January and hanged.² Nicholas Luke reported on 21st January that "since the death of Francis Coles one of Sir Samuel Luke's scouts who was executed at Oxford the last weeke, there is such a strict court of guard kept that not any man can passe or bring in any commodities to the market but hee is presently brought before the governor." Yet still Luke's men passed in and out of Oxford, bringing out with them a good deal of that type of information which Twyne had ceased to record and which *Mercurius Aulicus* had by now become too discreet to publish.

¹*The Lord Digbys Designe to Betray Abingdon* (London, 1644).

²See F. J. Varley, *Mercurius Aulicus* (summarized extracts) p. 68.

In the text here printed the original punctuation and spelling have been retained but modern usage has been followed in the use of capitals. Dates in the text, but not in the introduction or notes, are Old Style ; distances given in the journal are often inaccurate but this may be partly due to reckoning in the old British mile of 2,428 yards.

Some notes have been given from other contemporary sources for comparison with reports made by Luke's scouts, but no attempt has been made at complete annotation of all the incidents and names mentioned, many of which are not primarily of local interest. The following abbreviated references are used in footnotes :

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Clarendon | <i>Clarendon's History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England</i> , ed. W. D. Macray, 1888. |
| Dugdale | <i>Dugdale's Diary</i> , ed. W. Hamper, 1827. |
| Gardiner | S. R. Gardiner, <i>History of the Great Civil War</i> , (revised ed.), 1897. |
| Madan | F. Madan, <i>Oxford Books</i> , II, (1641-1650), 1912. |
| Rupert's Journal | <i>Journal of Rupert's Marches</i> , 1642-6, ed. C. H. Firth. (<i>E.H.R.</i> XIII, 729). |
| Steele | R. Steele, <i>Bibliography of Royal Proclamations of the Tudor and Stuart Sovereigns</i> , 1910. (<i>Bibliotheca Lindesiana V</i>). |

- Warburton E. Warburton, *Memoirs of Prince Rupert*, 1849. The transcripts of Rupert's correspondence made for Warburton have also been used and are referred to by their Bodleian shelf-mark MSS. Firth c. 6-8.
- Wood *Life and Times of Anthony Wood*, ed. A. Clark, *Oxford Hist. Soc.* 1891-1900.

Events in Oxford in this period are covered by F. J. Varley's *Siege of Oxford* (1932) and *Supplement* (1935), and events in the county are summarized in C. H. Firth's "Chronological Survey of Oxon, Berks and Bucks, 1642-6," (*Proceedings of the Oxford Arch. & Hist. Soc.* 1890). Mr. E. T. S. Parsons' "Some Proclamations of Charles I" (*Bodleian Quarterly Record Supplement*, 1936), a valuable introduction to the use of proclamations for a study of Oxford and the Royalist army during the Civil War, includes the text of proclamations not recorded in Steele and supplements Madan. Further information on the Royalist officers in Oxford is printed in F. J. Varley's "Oxford Army Lists for 1642-1646" (*Oxoniensia* II, 141) and other Royalist officers are noted in Lt. Col. P. Young's "King Charles I's Army of 1643-5" in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, vol. 18 (1939). Notes on some of the Parliamentary officers mentioned in Luke's journal are given in Professor Godfrey Davies' article on "The Parliamentary Army under Essex, 1642-5" (*E.H.R.* XLIX, 32), and in C. H. Firth's *Regimental History of Cromwell's Army*, 1940. The fullest list of officers in both armies is to be found in Edward Peacock, *Army Lists of Roundheads and Cavaliers* (1874).

JOURNAL OF SIR SAMUEL LUKE

FEBRUARY 9TH. 1642¹. William Boston came from Oxford on Thursday the 9th day of February and informed that yesterday the 8th of the same moneth Prince Robert² did march from Oxford towards Alisbury but knoweth not with what number of men, and saith hee had onely two small peeces of ordinance with him and doth intend to fire the towne. There were yesterday likewise appointed tenne out of every company to march towards Brill.³ Prince Robert when hee marched towards Cicester⁴ pillaged all the contry as hee went, and tooke 2000 horse out of Oxfordshire, by reason whereof the inhabitants are constrained to ioyne 3 or 4 of them to make upp a teame of horse. Yesterday alsoe about 2 or 3 of the clocke the Caualliers brought into Oxford seaven carts laden with armour and 4 or 5 carts laden with brode cloth and other wares which were taken at Reading. Prince Robert hath placed a strong guard about Cicester, the soldiers complaine that they want mony most of them being seaven weekes and some more behind of their pay. As they went to Cicester they pillaged his excellencies howse⁵ in Oxfordshire, and tooke away all the provision that was in the howse, and carryed it to the next towne, and there spent it but the name of the towne hee knoweth not.

FEBRUARY 10, 1642. Christopher Woodhowse came to Eaton Colledge⁶ on Friday the 10th of February and informed that about a moneth before there were 3000 men in Reading, but of late there are many of them dead, and many run away soe that there are not above 2000 left in the towne, many whereof want armes. The last Saturday Leiftent Collonel Peirce⁷ and some other commanders went to Oxford for 6 peeces of ordinance to make good a barne a little without Reading. They likewise went thither for ammunition for Leiftent Collonel Peirce hath but halfe a barrell of powder to serve his whole regiment, the other commanders have the like quantity and have received none

¹1643 (new style).

²Rupert, commonly referred to as Robert.

³Cf. Essex to Goodwin, 9th February, "I have received letters from Aylesbury . . . importing Prince Rupert's arrival at Brill the last night which I much doubt, but that which most troubles me is that they write that they are not able to defend the garrison alone one day." (MS. Carte 103, f. 100).

⁴Rupert took Cirencester on 2nd February.

⁵The Earl of Essex, (See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Devereux, Robert), is referred to throughout these reports as His Excellency. Rupert's forces were accused of pillaging his house at Chartley, Staffordshire; cf. Rupert's Declaration (Warburton II, 122). The reference to a house in Oxfordshire is possibly an inaccurate version of this incident.

⁶The Earl of Essex had his headquarters at Windsor at this time.

⁷Possibly a reference to Henry, Lord Percy, later General of Ordnance in the Royalist army. (See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Percy, Henry).

since and therefore it is supposed they all want ammunition. The townsmen if they may but know certainly when the Parliaments forces will but march towards the towne with resolution to come on they resolve to doe the best they can both to overturne these ordinance that stand at the place where they make the breach and likewise cutt of the court of guards with such weapons as they have. They doe expect the ordinance and ammunition from Oxford upon Saturday the 11th of this moneth. There is not above two compleat troopes of horse whereof many want armes, the horses being many of them taken away from contrymen and carryers, and if it please his Excellency to grant a commission to goe on, Reading men will bee the first that will give the onsett, and are resolved to spend their lives in the cause.

FEBRUARY 10. 1642. William Tudman came this day to Eaton Colledge and informed that on Friday the third of this moneth Prince Rupert and his forces marched towards Cicester and before hee came to the towne hee sent his trumpeter to know whether they would lay downe their armes and yeild unto him, which they refusing hee assaulted the towne and fired it and tooke it, and stayed there till the 7th of February and then returned to Oxford with some of his forces and 4 peeces of ordinance, 3 of them being his owne, and one of them he tooke there, and brought with him 1100 prisoners and 15 collours¹. Hee further informed that Mr. William Cumberford of Morehall in Tamworth in Com. Stafford within a mile of Drayton Mannor being newly made high sheriffe of that county, was by his Majestie sent downe, whoe removing into the contry hee sent for all the freeholders thereabouts to come to him to Stafford on Tuesday the 19th of January, but when they came there they could not come into the towne for Sir William Bruerton² had beseiged it with 4 or 5000 men whoe tooke away their horses and sent them home againe for they did not know for what they came. This Sir William Breuerton being before chosen high sheriffe by the county, and it is hoped that they will take Mr. Cumberford very shortly, hee being one that hath donne great mischief to the Parliament.

This day asoe (sic) the said William Tudman went towards Oxford.

FEBRUARY 10. 1642. Richard Pitts went this day to Reading being Friday the 10th day of February.

Stockwell went alsoe this day towards Reading.

Readbeard went alsoe this day to Reading.

¹Cf. Wood I, 88, "Mundaye, the 6 of February, about 6 of the clocke at night the prisoners captives, to the number of above eleven hundred, with some twelve or 14 culours, taken at Cicester by prince Robert . . . were brought in to Oxford."

²Sir William Brereton, (See *D.N.B.*), commanding the Parliamentary forces in Cheshire and neighbouring counties to the south.

FEBRUARY 10. 1642. Mr. Spratt went from Eaton Colledge on Friday the 10th day of February towards Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

FEBRUARY 10. Patricke Dudgeon went from Eaton Colledge on Friday the 10th day of February for London.

FEBRUARY 10. Henry Garlingstocke went from Eaton Colledge to Luton on Friday the 10th day of February.

And on the same day one went to Layton.

Westwood returned from Lincolne the same day.

FEBRUARY 10. Collonell Foxe came from Oxford the same day with informacion.

FEBRUARY 11. 1642. Samuell Brayne went towards Oxford on Saturday morning being the 11th day of February.

FEBRUARY 11TH 1642. George Westwood went towards Cambridge with a packquitt from his Excellency on Saturday morning the 11th of February.

FEBRUARY 12TH 1642. Edmund Morris came from Reading on Sunday the 12th of February and informed that———¹

FEBRUARY 12TH 1642. John Webb came to Windsor this day and informed that the high sheriffe of Wiltshire was sent with a commission from Oxford to Shrewsbury, to raise that county. Wee had informacion from a gentleman that came from Sir Raph Hopton,² who sayes that if Sir Raph can hold these 10 dayes hee shall have helpe enough from the high sheriffe. It is credibly reported that hay and salt is soe scarce at Oxford that they cannot continue long. His Majestie sent downe into Wiltshire for salt, and that county seized upon 2 waggons of salt, and twoe of wyne that was goeing to his Majestie. It is reported if hee cannot get supply suddenly hee will eyther breake through Gloucestershire, or else goe downe into Wiltshire. Collonell Fynes is about some designe. Hee tould mee hee hoped to send away within twoe dayes to his Excellency with some good newes. Hee is advanced from the Vies to Chipnam onely hath left a garrison to secure that towne.³ Gloucestershire men intreates his Excellency to send them downe some more helpe. They are very ready to rise, but they have lost many armes at Cicester and Marleborough which weakens their contry. The Welchmen would bee with his Majestie if they could get through Gloucestershire.

¹Blank in MS.

²Hopton (See *D.N.B.*), was then besieging Plymouth.

³Col. Nathaniel Fiennes (See *D.N.B.*), was ordered to Bristol to arrest the governor, Col. Thomas Essex, suspected of treachery; see S. Seyer, *Memoirs of Bristol* (1821) II, 322 seq. Devizes is commonly referred to as the Vies.

12 FEBRUARY, 1642. Job Murcott went this Sonday morning being the 12th of February to London with a pacquett of letters from his Excellency to Sir Phillipp Stapilton¹ by his excellencies special command.

John Webb went alsoe this day with letters from his Excellency to Collonell Fynes.

George Stockewell went this day to Reading.

Greenecoate went this day to Reading and to Hartley Rowe to apprehend a prisoner by his Excellencies speciall command.

FEBRUARY 12. Edmund Morris went this day towards Oxford.

MONDAY, (sic) FEBRUARY 12TH. 1642. George Peppitt and John Downes with one more Hartfordshire men tooke Dr. King and one other prisoners neere Dunstable and brought them and their horses to Windsor on Sonday the 12th of February and returned backe on Monday followeing.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13. 1642. Spicer went from Windsor with letters on Monday the 13th of February to Collonell Middleton, and alsoe with letters to Layton for the stopping and apprehending of some prisoners that had broken out of the Fleete. Henry Garlingstocke returned this day from Luton with letters from the cornett, and other dispatches from the high constables of the county of Bedford. Job Murcott returned the same day with letters from London.

Greenecoate returned from Reading and Okeingham² this day being the 13th of February and informed———³

George Westwood returned this day with letters from Cambridge to his Excellency and Commissary Copley.⁴

Samuell Brayne returned this day from Oxford and informed that hee quartered for 2 nights last past at the White Swann at Oxford⁵ and that hee sawe Prince Rupert gathering his body of horses and dragoones together intending to march to Henley, and from Henley to Maydenhead with an intent to take those townes, and that my Lord of Dorsett⁶ intends to march to Manchester to take that. His day appointed to sett out is Thursday. That hay is very scarce there, and that hee paid 2s. a night for his horses hay. That at Court twoe gentlemen fell out and fought for a horse that was given betweene them, and one of them runne the horse through, and that Prince Rupert came forth with a poleaxe and

¹Stapleton (See *D.N.B.*) was commander of Essex's Life Guard and colonel of his regiment of horse.

²Wokingham.

³Blank in MS.

⁴Lionel Copley, muster-master general in Essex's army.

⁵Probably the Swan Inn near what is now King Edward Street. (See Wood's *City of Oxford*, ed. Clark, I, 81).

⁶See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Sackville, Sir Edward.

parted them. That hee went into the mynt,¹ were there were about 30 men at worke, and that as hee coniectures, there was not above 200 waight of plate to be coyned. And further saith that hee sawe Prince Rupert and a lady in a coach together whoe went into the Court with him, and that shee had a round black velvett cap on, and a long white feather with a redd tipp at the end of it. And that shee went in with her arme akimboe, like a commander.

This night William Owen, Justian Mingam and another redd coate went about 10 of the clocke with letters by his Excellencies speciall command to Okeingham, Maydenhead and Henley.

The returnes from the high constables in the county of Bedford² which were brought thence by Hen. Garlingstocke were as followeth.

Mancett Hundred the high constables, Tho. Potts, gent. William Ellingham, Woodboorne Abbotts parish constables, Tho. Hebbs, Hen. Hill.

Refuse to pay towards the dragoones Tho. Tymes, Edward Slingsby, Francis Lawsonne, Wm. Partridge, Richard Hutton, Thomas Wood, Robert Wright, George Robinson, Tho. Scott.

Fleet hundred the high constables names, John Feild, John Sheppard.

The parish of Sondon Wm. Ivorye, Robert Lane, constables.

Lent noe money on the propositions Wm. Iuory, Jo. Duncombe.

Refuse to pay towards the dragoones, Sir Thomas Murray kt., Thos. Cheney Esq., The Lady Cheney, Rotherham Cheney gent., Sanders Potts viccar, John Duncombe, Tho. Same junior, Bernard Holt, Cuthbert Cutlett, Tho. Lilborne, Edward Cooke, Wm. Gregorye.

The parish of Haynes.

Refuse to pay towards the dragoones, Richard Wheeler, Henry Warren, Henry Seybrooke, Thomas Hare.

Redborne Stoke hundred, high constables, John Warner, Mr. Garway.

Marston Morton parish. Constables, John Bedcott, Richard Segar, Mathew Franklin, Edw. Martin.

Refuse to pay towards the dragoones. Sir John Saunders, knight, Wm. Gostwicke, gent, Henry Edwards, Tho. Fuller, William Impie.

Those that are behind in Luton for the raysing of dragoones.

¹For the mint in New Inn Hall, see F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, chap. IX.

²Luke was commissioned (4th January) to raise a troop of dragoons in Bedfordshire.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----|---|---------------------|----|----|---|
| Sir Robert Napper | £14 | 0 | 0 | James Waller ... | £0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mr. Tho. Rotherham | £8 | 0 | 0 | Elias Kittson ... | £0 | 4 | 0 |
| Sir Francis Crawley | £0 | 15 | 0 | Elizabeth Dobson | £0 | 10 | 0 |
| William Winch ... | £1 | 10 | 0 | James Napper ... | £0 | 3 | 0 |
| Rubin Browne ... | £1 | 0 | 0 | Robert Steevens | £0 | 2 | 0 |
| Thomas Winch ... | £1 | 0 | 0 | John Crossley ... | £1 | 10 | 0 |
| Anthony White ... | £0 | 5 | 0 | Alice Cooper widdow | £0 | 3 | 0 |
| George Winch ... | £0 | 8 | 0 | Thos. Crawley gent | £0 | 10 | 0 |
| John Bird viccar ... | £2 | 0 | 0 | Elizabeth Winch | £0 | 5 | 0 |

Colmett parish constables, Richard Moore, Richard Barnett.

Refuse to pay to the dragoones, Henry Bourden.

TUESDAY 14TH OF FEBRUARY 1642. Thomas Hitchman went to Oxford on Tuesday the 14th day of February 1642.

This day William Owen and Justinian [Mingam]¹ returned from Henley, Okeingham and Maydenhead.

This day Patrick Dugdion returned from London with letters. Steeven Spratt reported the newes this day from Reading.

WEDNESDAY THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY 1642. John Pidgion servant to Capitaine Symons came to Eaton Colledge this day and informed that hee spoke with one Robert a yong man that was yesterday at Reading, whoe tould him that since Saturday last there came in 140 prisoners taken by the Kings army at Cicester, whoe were sworne to fight for the King against the Parliament, and that Prince Rupert sent for soe many soldiers out of Reading in their roomes and they are to continue there still. That there are noe greate ordinance at all brought into Reading, and there are now but 12 peeces which were there before. And that it is reported that Sir Arthur Austin Governor of Reading² doth usually frequent the house of Sir Charles Blunt³ at Maple Durham 4 miles from Reading on Sondayes and other dayes, and that he might bee easily taken eyther there or in the way, or else at Mr. Englefeilds⁴ house at White Knights. And that both the foresaid places are papists houses, the last whereof is 3 miles from Twyford or thereabouts, and that the best way, is to goe from Okeingham to White Knights and from Henley to Maple Durham, with a troope of horse which might easily effect the busines. And that if hee were taken the towne would quickly bee surprized.

¹Blank in MS. but this name may be assumed from other entries.

²Sir Arthur Aston (See *D.N.B.*), a Roman Catholic, later governor of Oxford.

³Blunt was a captain in the Royalist army at Reading after the first battle of Newbury. Early in 1644 he commanded the garrison at Greenland House (see later), and was scout-master general to the Earl of Brentford (Clarendon III, 350). He was killed in a quarrel at Oxford at the beginning of June 1644 (*Cal. State Papers Dom.* 1644, p. 200).

⁴Anthony, brother of Sir Francis Englefield.

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY. Christopher Woodhouse and James Lavall came to Windsor this day and informed that they were at Bagshott, Hartley Row¹, Okeingham and Arberfeild Bridge all the last night, and from thence went neere unto Reading, where they had certaine intelligence from some of the townesmen that noe forces have come into Reading this fortnight but 8 out of every company are gone forth to guard the prisoners that were brought thither from Cicester to Wallingford, and that the forces there are now very weake consisting in number not above 1200 foote and 100 horse, and most of them without armes compleate. And further say that the townesmen of Reading are very willing and forward to the indangering both of their lives and fortunes to assist the Parliaments forces if they may have but certaine intelligence of their comming and resolutions to goe forward in the service. And if they doe not advance suddenly the towne is ingaged instead of finding one horse for the Parliament, they must be constrayned to find twoe for the King, and pay alsoe doble both in mony in plate, and that for non-payment of great taxes layed upon them, they are imprisoned, and those men that are gone they imprison their wives in their stead. They alsoe informe that it is certainly reported that Prince Rupert is gone to besiege Gloucester.

Concerning Oxon.

FEBRUARY 15, 1642. Edmund Maurice saith at Marlin² Bridge there lyeth 2 great peeces, and it is reported that Prince Rupert doth intend to gather all his forces together and to goe for Gloucester, and doth intend to take all the horses that bee in the contry and say that they will serve Gloucester as they did serve Cicester and when they have donne there they will come for Henley.

Edmond Picatt the same day informed that hee was stayed at Marlin Bridge by the centry and had to the maine guard before the Collonell and hee committed him to prison in Giles his church whereupon I made some friends to have myselfe knowne and was found to bee noe false messinger, and soe I was released and passed to his howse in Sunning.

Steephen Spratt the same day informed that on Friday last upon Bagshott heath hee mett twoe of the Kings servants goeing to Reading and understood by them that that was the common way where the malignants make their rode from London to Reading and alsoe to Oxford.

On Satturday, upon Salisbury plaine hee [saw] about 10 or 12 of the Kings scouts marching towards Salisbury, but they heareing that the Parliaments forces which were at the Vies, were gone thither, they retreated back againe and it being demanded of them by some that were

¹In Hampshire, 9 miles east of Basingstoke.

²Magdalen.

at plow in the feild, whether there were any more forces comming they answered yes, three thousand, and that they were goeing for Salisbury, but the Roundheads were gone thither before, and afterwards hee was told by the contry that there were but 800. And hee further informed that that night two messingers came to the Vies from Gloucester to informe one Edward Hungerford¹ that a great army of the Welsh were within tenne miles of the towne and that all the county of Hereford doth ioyne with them. And that Glocester, Chipnam and the Vyes are all in great feare.

On Saturday fowerscore of the Cavallyers came out of Malmesbury towards Chipnam, and tooke twoe of their scouts.

The Cavallyers lye in Cicester, Malmesbury, Tedbury and Tuexbury all which places are neere to the Vies, and to Chipnam, but Collonell Hungerford and Collonell Fines are in Salisbury farr from them.

On Monday followeing being the 13th day of February a thousand horse came into Reading, the contrey generally crye out against Collonell Essex, and say that hee will betray the towne of Bristoll, and then all their contry is undonne, and that they fall of very much from the parliament in those parts.

THURSDAY, 16TH. FEBRUARY, 1642. Edmund Morris returned this day from Oxford and at his goeing out hee had 25s.

John Pigeon went forth this day the 16th. of February.

Spicer returned yesterday the 15th. of February. Henry Garlingstocke went this day with letters unto the Committee at St. Albons upon his Excellencies commands. William Sharpe went this day to Marlow and Stokenchurch and returned backe that night. Guy Williams went this 16th. of February to Henley. George Westwood went this day to Cambridge and Lincolne with letters upon his Excellencies commands, and another to Cambridge and another to Northampton. Justinian Mingham went this day to Oxford.

This day a warrant was directed to Sir Samuell Luke from his Excellency in hæc verba. These are to will and require you forthwith out of the store remayning in your hands to deliver unto Sir Samuell Luke knt., or some other whom hee shall appoint 2 sakers,² 5 barrells of powder, twoe hundred shott and 5 barrells of key shott to bee employed for the service of the state, for the delivery whereof these shall bee your warrant. Dated 16 February 1642. Essex. To Collonell Middleton, etc.

FRIDAY 17TH. OF FEBRUARY, 1642. Henry Garlingstocke returned this day from St. Albons being the 17th. day of February, 1642.

¹Sir Edward Hungerford, commanding the Parliamentary forces in Wiltshire, with headquarters at Devizes. In this month he evacuated Devizes and retired to Bath. (See *D.N.B.*).

²A gun of 3½ inch bore. For further specifications of ordnance see Lt. Col. W. G. Ross, *Military Engineering during the Great Civil War (Occasional Papers, Corps of Royal Engineers, 1887)*.

FEBRUARY 17TH. 1642. John Pigeon returned this day from Reading with informacion that hee was at Theale 4 miles from Reading and that there was neyther foote nor horse billited there, nor had beene there all the last weeke, and that there were none of the Kings forces came all the last weeke into Reading. And that there was a generall muster in Reading on Thursday last, causing the townesmen to bring forth their horses and to muster with them. And that the Governor caused 2 barges loaden with goods to bee carryed from then to Abbington and that there are 500 men in the towne that have vowed to venture their lives for the Parliament if their forces will but advance with a resolution to goe on.

Captain Frances Seares the 17th. day of February, 1642, by way of informacion sayed that hee heard twoe of his soldiers that were in the company of those that went to Kempson¹ to Mr. Yarwayes, say and affirme that they went in a very quiett and peaceable manner by direction and desire of the collector of the proposition mony, to his howse. And that upon their comming Mrs. Yarway seemed to bee affraid, but they desired her to forbear her feare for they told her they came not to doe her any wrong, but to desire her husband that the proposition mony might bee sent in in convenient tyme to the collector. Whereupon shee desired them to come into the howse, and offered them beere, but they rather desired meate for their horses, and asked her if shee had any oates but shee told them shee had beanes, and gave them some, and in leiw thereof gave to the servants pence a peece and departed quietly. And further heard them say that at their departure they were sett upon by Mr. Yarwayes means by a multitude, their horses spoiled and their lives endangered, being sett upon and shott att and many threatening speeches used against them, and they on the other side carryed themselves very fairely, not giving to them the least offence.

SATURDAY, 18TH. OF FEBRUARY, 1642. This day John Lane went to Reading. William Braine went this day to Oxford. John Webb returned from Oxford this day being the 18th. day of February, 1642, and informed that hee is certainly given to understand by good intelligence that the Kings forces are very stronge, and that since the taking of Cicester, they doe mightily triumphe and make noe question but they (sic) day will be theirs. Onely Wallingford is weake, consisting most in foote and unarmd men. And further saith that Prince Rupert hath sent many of those poore men taken at Cicester, without hatts, shooes or almost any clothes being 140 in number or thereabouts from Oxford to Reading, and appointed Sir Arthur Aston governor of the towne to putt 5 into every company, and to take 5 of the best soldiers in their stead to sent unto him. But the governor would not

¹Kempston, Bedfordshire.

receive them but sent them back againe with a guard to Oxford, they making miserable complaints for bread and other necessities in their journey, which make the contry stand much in feare of him. The King sent out a commission yesterday into Berkshire for that county to come in, every man that was worth 100 li. per annum and the contry doth iudge it to bee to raise a troope of horse, there being some commanders come downe into that county. And that hee finds all the counties where hee goes in great distraccion and for want of supplye are dayly falling of from the Parliament to the Kings side.

Guy Williams returned this day being the 18th day of February and saith that hee was at Henley, and from thence went to Stirmouth¹ neere Stoken Church, where the Cavallyers being 60 in number were, and tooke only diett, hay and provender for themselves and their horses, and soe went againe to Oxford saying that they were Parliament soldiers, and that one of their names was Mason.

Concerning Reading.

On Wednesday night last there came away about 50 men, and they doe sett at the Brewers Barne a strong guard upon the hill, and on Tuesday night last there was a sentry sett, and they did all run away for want of pay and on Monday last there did goe twoe troopes of horse to Prince Rupert to hunt a buck and are not yet returned yett as I can heare of.

On Tuesday in the afternoone twoe troopes of horse went out of Reading, on Tuesday night there run away thirty men, the whole centry that was in the barne is run way. Sunning men desires his Excellency to come forwards and they will doe the best service they can, the gunner that shott the peece of is dead, and the peece is tore, some of the soldiers say they can get noe pay nor noe foode in the towne.

John Jennings on Saturday the 22th. of January informed that about 6 of the clocke in the morning twoe regiments of foote marched out of Oxford towards Woodstocke, and about 12 of the clocke Prince Robert and Prince Maurice (as hee was told) marched to meete at the same place with two regiments of horse and from thence to Chillington Greene and there they summoned the contry to appeare in armes both horse and foote with all the ammunion they could gett. These thought to bee for Cicester, and hee was alsoe told by one that belonged to a great man that the King is not above 8000 strong. They want both powder and shott, and the King, Prince and Duke were yesterday at Oxford. Not many ordinance to bee seene in the City. Some trenches at the townes end.

Maior Gawdye. That he was a captaine of dragooners in the

¹Skirmett (?).

regiment of Collonell Usher that hee was shott at Kenton¹ with 2 shott in the thigh, that hee gave upp his commission 3 months since, but because hee was affraid hee should not gett home quietly hee saith hee was continually in the army where that regiment lay, and soe was a[t] Wantidge when wee were there and saith that wee might with great ease have taken them all.

He further saith that hee sent his man before through the contry with a brave horse and came thus meanelly attended without spurrs or swords, because he would not be suspected. Hee further saith that hee knoweth his Majesties intencions were to have his horse to march to Norfolke and Suffolke and that about 3 weekes since his Majestie made him maior of a regiment of horse and gave him a troope of horse which were to be rayسد in Norfolke by severall knights and gentlemen and they were to have 2 monethes pay aforehand, and to this purpose hee had his Majesties letters and commission to divers gentlemen whoe had sent word the horses were ready. Hee saith he beleeveth by the number of regiments every regiment consisting of 5 troopes that his Majestie hath 4000 horse and not above 6000 foote besides those of Newcastle. Hee further saith that the Lord Digby² hath a regiment of horse and that his owne troope consists all of schollars, and that hee lyeth at Wheatley, noe other troope neare him, that they are very negligent in their troopes, and may easily be surprized, Digby himselfe being constantly there 3 tymes a weeke, but his wife and family live in one of the colledges.

1642 FEBRUARY 19TH. SONDAY. Patrick Dugdion went this day with letters from his Excellency into the countyes of Bucks. and Bedford. John Webb went the same day with letters to Alton. William Sharpe went this day being Sondag in the afternoone with letters into Hampshire and Wiltshire. Steeven Spratt went this day alsoe to London with letters upon his Excellencies spetiall commands. George Westwood returned this day with letters from Lincolne from Collonell Ballard³, etc.

William Wigfall came this day from Bury with letters from Captaine Crumwell⁴ and returned at night with letters to London.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH. 1642. John Lane returned this day being Monday the 20th. February and informed that hee had beene at Barkham 4 miles from Reading and understood by good intelligence from one Joell Steevens a grocer and inhabitant in Reading that there are noe forces come into Reading of late, nor any other works made or cast upp

¹Kinton, i.e. Edgehill.

²George, Baron Digby, son of the first Earl of Bristol (See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Digby, George).

³Thomas Ballard, commanding the Parliamentary forces in Lincolnshire.

⁴Oliver Cromwell was by now colonel of a regiment of horse, (see Carlyle's *Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell*, ed. Lomas, I, 117).

at Cawsam Bridge,¹ nor noe forces eyther at Theale or in any place neere Reading, and that there are not 2000 soldiers in the towne, and many without armes. And further saith that there is a great distracion amongst themselves by reason that the Governor doth abate them out of 6s. the weeke 3s., whereupon there was a mutiny amongst them and they had a determination to have killed one Tetttersall the under Governour and that upon this uprore 100 of them ran away. And that there is masse constantly in the towne in severall places². And saith that one Mrs. Blower an apothecaries wife is eyther to bee banished or hangd for having a little quantity of powder found in her howse. And that one Mrs. Curtis is distracted by reason that the Governor seizd upon all her goods because her servant went to Henley to see his father and mother without her knowledge. And that there are 600 men now in Reading at the least that have bound themselves by oath to take and surprize the magazine there and to performe any other service for the good of the Parliament if their forces would but speedily advance and goe on with resolution to fall upon the towne and assist them. And further sayth that he heard that those prisoners which came to Reading from Cicester are some of them releast and others sent to Blewbury and other places to bee quartered on purpose to have them runne away. And that upon the sending of the foresaid prisoners to Reading the Governor sent to the King that hee needed not to have sent him more enymies for hee had enowe already. And that the peeces of ordinance which were intended to come from Cicester to Reading are carryed to Wallingford to make a garrison there. And lastly it is reported that Prince Rupert is now at Oxford.

Justinian Mingam returned this day from Abington.

TUESDAY THE 21TH. FEBRUARY. 1642. Samuell Brayne returned this day from Oxford being Tuesday the 21th. of February, and informed that Prince Robert is now there and that hee called all his regiment together on Saturday and Monday last and putt them into a body and intends to march tomorrow being Wednesday or the next day, but tis not certainly knowne whither. That Sir Raph Hopton came towards Oxford on Friday last but the King would not suffer him but intends that his forces shall goe to meete him, and soe hee returned backe againe as they report. That there is a proclamacion³ newly printed at Oxford to make all those traytors that take upp armes against the King in the countyes of Kent, Essex and Suffolke. That there are 4 newe peeces of ordinance made and upon tryall of them yesterday one of them broke

¹Caversham.

²A report caused by Sir Arthur Aston's Roman Catholicism.

³Possibly a reference to the King's proclamation of 16th February forbidding the counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire to raise any forces without the King's consent. (Steele no. 2368).

in peeces and the other were unusefull. That all the plate in Oxford is coyned and there is onely some small quantity of silver now in the mint which came out of Wales, and that there is more dayly expected. That horsemeate, fewell and other provision is very scarce, insoemuch as the said Sam. Brayne could gett nothing but straw for his horse. That hee came from Reading where there was a strict watch kept at the bridge and 2 works made between twoe bridges and saw great store of soldiers up and downe the towne and the guards very strictly kept.

John Webb went this day to Oxford. Henry Garlingstocke to St. Albans. Patrick Dudgeon returned this day from the countyes of Buckingham and Bedford. Richard Clerke of Reading that on Tuesday last being the 13th day of February instant, the regiments of foote and troope of horse there were mustered in the said towne of Redding, and divers of the well affected men of the said towne tooke speciall notice of the numbers there upon the said muster, and by their relation there cannot be above 1400 men both horse and foote. He saith that there is five troopes of horse but there are not above 30 tie. in a troope, some 25, others 20 ; in all there is but 1400 hundred at most, as before hee doth informe. And he further informeth that the people of the towne in Redding sent him to informe this. And that they are willing to give assistance to his Excellencies forces whensoever they shalbe sent. And he further saith that there is neither worke nor cannon upon any parte of the ditch which is cast about the towne from the Fryers Corner to St. Lawrence Church, and at Cawsam bridge there is a worke made by the side of the bridge. The minister of the towne was put out of his house on Saturday last and a papist one Mr. Plowden put into ytt. The people of the town desire that some forces may be sent to surprize the towne, and they will assist them to the losse of their lives.

They cast 3 peices of ordnance but one of them so soone as it was tryed burst in peices, and the other towoe are unusefull.

WEDNESDAY. 22TH FEBRUARY, 1642. Samuell Brayne went this day being Wednesday to Oxford. Henry Garlingstocke returned this day from St. Albans.

John Pigion informed this day that hee heard on Satturday last that the Kings scouts doe usually come out of Reading to Sir William Zouches howse at Ocking¹ where they commonly lye, and that they come through a village called Coue, and soe by Hartley Rowe, and that the best way to take them is to lye at Coue which is 6 miles from Okeingham. Henry Garlingstocke returned this day from St. Albons.

WEDNESDAY 22TH. OF FEBRUARY. Thomas Hitchman returned this day from Oxford and informed that on Thursday last as hee went to Wheatley

¹Woking, Surrey. The route from Reading would be to Hartley Row and then through Cove, which lies 8 miles S.S.E. of Wokingham.

hee went to Tettesworth where hee sawe noe guards, from thence hee went to Wheatley, where there lay in guard the Lord Digbyes regiment, but as hee came back this day, it was gone along with Prince Robert, and there was noe guard at all. Soe soone as hee came to Oxford hee was apprehended by the court of guard and there kept in custody for a spie where hee lay all night. Next day by the meanes of my Lord Scudamore¹ hee was releast, and hee being in the garden where his Majestic and the lords were when the newes was brought them from London of a present cessation² that was voted by the Parliament hee sawe the King in a very great fury and much disconted and it was reported then that neither hee nor the lords would admitt of any cessation. At Oxford hee saith there are great store of horsemen and horses very fatt and faire liking but most of them lame and the horsemen want both saddles and pistolls. On Sunday hee went to Abbingdon where hee saith lyeth 500 foote and 2000 horse at the least. Prince Robert prepared for goeing out both on Saturday and Monday but it was Tuesday in the afternoone before any went out of the towne and on Wednesday morning at 4 of the clocke went out and his randevous was said to bee at Abington. Hee carryed along with him 2 little brasse peeeces upon one carriage drawne onely with twoe horses and the canoneer riding upon one. Whither they went noe man knowes, but some in private say it was for Gloucester.³ Hee further saith that the Lord Lanericke⁴ arrived there on Monday in the afternoone, and that hee heard then his Majestic seemed to bee very well satisfied with the cessation, and by the perswation of the other Scottish councillors would yeild unto it though Prince Robert and all the commanders much stormd against it. Hee saith likewise that the salt peter troughe worke a pace soe that they hope in very little tyme to have good store of powder, which as yett they are in great want of. They likewise cast ordinance there and had two loade of pikes brought in on Tuesday last but they are extraordinary brittle and worth nothing. At Habington⁵ they tooke a prize oxen out of Buckinghamshire and those parts, which the captaines sold but have not yett devided the mony amongst the soldiers, soe that there was much murmuring amongst them, and they resolved not to stay except they could have it.

THURSDAY THE 23TH. FEBRUARY 1642. Patrick Dudgeon went this day to

¹John Viscount Scudamore (See *D.N.B.*). After the outbreak of war in the west he went to Hereford in April 1643 and was captured by Waller.

²The cessation of hostilities proposed by the Lords on 16th February was carried, by a majority of three, in the Commons on 17th February. (Gardiner I, 93).

³Rupert marched from Oxford on 22nd February to Lambourne, Berks, and on to Newbury and Basing. (Rupert's *Journal*).

⁴William Hamilton, Earl of Lanark, see Wood I. 88 and *D.N.B.*, s.v. Hamilton, William.

⁵Abingdon.

London with letters and returned backe at night. Thomas Hitchman went this day to London. Richard Clerke went this day to Reading.

24TH. FEBRUARY FRIDAY. John Webb returned this day from Oxford being Friday the 24th. of February and saith that Prince Robert hath drawne away both his Majesties forces and his owne out of Oxford, Abington, Wheatley, Cowley, Marston and Woodstocke whis is reported to bee in number 12000 foote and horse and is gone towards Gloucester or the Vies. And since the Lords and some of the howse of Commons were there they have made songes of them in a disgracefull manner in contempt of religion and the Parliament, intimating therein that the Parliament and those that side with them are all undone for that they seeke to the King for a peace. And further saith that Sir Robert Pye¹ hath taken Collonell Chamberlaine and Captain Chamberlaine with some other Cavallyers, about 16, and their horse and armes, three miles beyond Brill and brought them to Alesbury the last night and killed twoe others of their company.

John Lane went this day to Reading. George Powell and another went this day towards Gloucestershire. Raph Norton went this day into Wiltshire and Gloucestershire. Richard Emmerton, Nathaniell Mosse went this day being Friday into Wiltshire. Theophilus Hinchliffe went this day to Chipping Norton. William Sharpe returned this day from Winchester being Friday the 24th. of February, 1642. Steeven Spratt came this day from London.

Ferdinando Atkins gent. informed this day being the 24th. day of February, 1642 that in the towne of Bristow there is Collonell Essex with his regiment which ought to bee 700 men and officers, but hee hath not much above 600. There is alsoe Collonell Pophams² regiment wherein there is the like number, but his regiment ought to bee 2000. There is alsoe Collonell Hungerford his regiment which is 500 which came in upon Monday last. There is likewise Collonell Cole whoe hath one troope of horse there. There is a third troope likewise and Collonell Fynes with 4 troopes of horse and one troope of dragoons. They began about 10 dayes since to fortifie one of

¹Sir Robert Pye, junior, son of the M.P. for Woodstock, raised a troop of horse for Essex's army and was later a colonel of a regiment of horse in Fairfax's army (See *D.N.B.*). The Chamberlains may be Sir Thomas Chamberlain of Wykham, Banbury, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, and his youngest brother Capt. James Chamberlain. In a letter (10th March) to Goodwin, commanding at Aylesbury, Hampden writes "My Lord General have bene sollicit for Coll. Chamberlain liberty by a friend that he is willing to gratify. Tis to be upon 12000 li. baile and confinement to Holborne." (MS. Carte 103, f.140). According to a report made by one of Luke's scouts on 16th August 1643 a Captain Chamberlain was released from Windsor Castle at the beginning of August, and was killed in a skirmish "on Friday last," i.e. 11th or probably 4th August. Sir Thomas Chamberlain died in Oxford on 6th October 1643. (Dugdale, 55).

²Perhaps Edward Popham (see *D.N.B.*).

the three hills that command the towne and to make outworkes without the towne and upon Tuesday last they began to disarm the malignants of the towne which are very many, and more than three parts of them. All the seamen and watermen being wholly averse to the Parliaments proceedings, and the Kings forces appearing within 10 miles of the towne, Gloucester being begirt round with them, and the river of Seuerne soe possest by them on both sides, that little can come in by water, and the forces of the enemy lye soe strong about them, that they have ventured to appeare within a mile of the towne, soe that both Bristow and Gloucester are upon indifferent termes, for though Bristow bee the greater parte malignants, yett they have the sea open, and can have releefe at all tymes brought in and out unto them. And Gloucester on the contrary though it can have noe releefe, yett they are all for the Parliament and at unity amongst themselves, and both soldiers and townesmen united, soe that whether of these Prince Robert will attempt is uncertaine. Prince Roberts approaching made the towne of Bath and other townes that were possest with the Parliaments forces were in such a fright that they invited him to come and possesse their townes, which made Sir Edward Hungerford withdrawe from the Devizes, and Collonell Essex to sende tenne commanded musketteers out of every company to the Bath for to fetch some peeces of ordinance from thence, which were carried thither heretofore for the service of the King and Parliament, and Sir Edward Hungerford was to meete him there with the rest of his regiment to assist him for the safe conducting of him thither. Collonell Popham whoe hath beene with his regiment beaten into the forrest division by the Welsh, together with his father Collonell Cole begin now to gett heart againe and are getting upp dragoones, to avenge their old quarrell. Our forces have quitted the Devizes, and they were noe sooner gott out, but the Kinges forces entered with 200 dragoones.

SATURDAY. 25. FEBRUARY. Mr. Ferdinando Atkins went this day into Gloucestershire. Corporall Dudley went this night to Uxbridge. Hewett went to London.

Euerard came from Reading this day and informed that all the horse are gone out of Reading, the horse went out yesterday in the afternoone and the dragoones this morning. That there are not in the towne above 1600 men, and 400 of them at the least are unarmed. That there were 2 peeces of ordinance lately cast, one of them was tryed and provd to bee worth nothing, and the other is thought to bee worth as little. There is noe peece of ordinance at Cawsam bridge nor noe worke but a halfe moon onely. Prince Robert with many of his forces lay upon Thursday last at Pangborne, 6 miles from Reading, and it is sayed his intencions are to

cutt of Sir William Wallers troopes whoe they beleeve are goeing to transport some treasure out of the west.¹

SONDAY THE 26TH. FEBRUARY, 1642. Thomas Bevington went out this day towards Newbury. Justinian Mingam to Farneham. William Boston, Thomas Bennett to Okeingham, Basingstocke, etc. George Westwood, James Lavall, Henry Spott, John Male went all forth this night being Sondag the 26th. of February to Newbury, Basingstoke, and to other adiacent places. William Boston returned this day and informed that hee came from Farneham and sayth that Prince Rupert with about 8000 horse and 8 peeces of ordinance is within 8 miles of Farneham, and intended to bee there this night.

MONDAY THE 27TH. OF FEBRUARY, 1642. This day being Monday the 27th. of February 1642. Richard Feild and Robert Grove went towards Basingstocke and Newbury. John Male returned this day from Reading. John Male returned this day and informed that hee together with one Henry Spott were at Bagshott and Basingstone (sic) and that they understood by some of the townsmen there that Prince Roberts forces laye at Hartlow nowe,² and that hee intended to bee at Basingstoke the last night but of that they heare nothing this morning.

George Westwood and William Boston returned allsoe this day from Basingstoake and saith that Prince Maurice came the last night from thence the last night and marcht towards Reading with 3000 men and that there are 16 peeces of ordinance lately sent from Oxford to Reading as is reported. Samuell Brayne returned this day and informed that Prince Robert marched out of Oxford on Satturday last with all his forces towards Gloucester and the King sent after him the next day being Sondag that hee should not goe on, but to stay till hee had further order from his Majestie. The King hath mounted 4 peeces of ordinance (2 upon the drawbridge and 2 upon the bulwarke) one of 1200 waight, another of 1000 waight, another of 8 and another of 6, and twoe more are making ready. Mr. Henry Peircy is goeing downe into Cheshire and Lancashire to gett his troope together and renew his forces. That the King hath commanded the constables inhabiting within 17 parishes next adioyning to Oxford to bring in straw, hay, oates, corne and all other provision whatsoever to bee employed for his Majesties service. And that there are eight troopes of horse now remayning in Oxford as hee is informed. And that there is 600 waight of silver come out of Wales and lyes now in the mint.

¹Cf. Wood I, 90. Rupert returned to Oxford on 28th February having been in Hampshire and Surrey and at Basing "as it was thought to intercept a great deale of money in Windsore Forrest that was sent from London to the earle of Essex at Windesore, and so to be conveyed westward to paye the parliament soldiers that were that waye." This attempt failed. See further report by James Lavall and Rodert Pigeon, below, 28 February.

²Hartley Row.

TUESDAY 28 TH. OF FEBRUARY, 1642. James Lauall and Robert Pigeon returned this day from Reading and say that the Governor of Reading¹ came in on Sondag in the afternoone with those forces that hee went out of Reading with to meete Prince Maurice, which were about 200, and that hee is marching towards Salisbury or Bristoll. In Reading there is noe peece of ordinance gone out, nor any come in, nor any more strength then hath beene. The people are generally fearefull in the contry that wee will stay soe long before wee sett upon Reading that they shall have noe provision left to entertaine us. The governor sends daily to the country for provision to every one that hath 3 flitches of bacon to send them one. And that there is neer 100 Jesuits and preists in Reading. That the reason of Prince Maurice his comming to Basingstoke and those parts was as they understand to intercept such mony as was gathered in the contry for the releife of Portsmouth; and other great summes of mony which were comming from London thither to pay the arreares there but they were prevented of their purpose.

TUESDAY. Nathaniell Mosse returned this day and sayth that on Saturday last hee was at Basingstoke where hee sawe a great number of horse of the Kings forces, about 400, and sayth as hee was goeing out of the towne hee saw 300 horsemen were marching out of the towne, and that they plundered all the contry as they came along and tooke a great number of horses from contry men, and intended to have come againe on Sondag night, but they did not, but retreated to Andever.

John Webb went this day to Oxford. William Wigfall sent this day to London and backe againe. Mr. Hewett returned this day from London.

MARCH 1, 1642. WEDNESDAY. Samuell Brayne went this day to Oxford. Richard Feild and Robert Grove returned this day, and say that they were yesterday in Hampshire at Hartley Rowe and other places thereabouts, and that they heard for certaine that Prince Robert was at Hockwood on Monday last, and dyned at the Marquesse of Winchesters², and from thence went that night to Mr. Harrisons house to a counsellor at Beech hill 5 miles from Reading where hee continued all night but would not goe to bedd. That on Tuesday hee retreated and marched with his forces towards Andever. John Lane went this day to Reading. William Wigfall to Uxbridge etc. Justinian Mingam returned this day and saith that on Sondag last hee was at Basingstoke and the Kings forces did the same day march to Hungerford 7 miles beyond Newbury, and that hee went after them on Monday morning within 3 miles of

¹Sir Arthur Aston co-operated with Rupert and Maurice in the attempt to intercept the money going from London to the Parliamentary forces in the west.

²John Paulet, fifth marquess of Winchester, the defender of Basing. (See *D.N.B.*)

Hungerford, and that they pillaged and plundered the contry as they went along, and tooke away above 400 horses, and such armes as they could any where find, and on Tuesday morning they marched away from thence towards Oxford. That there was about 5000 horse, but never a peece of ordinance amongst them. And that there was for the conducting of these forces, Prince Robert, Prince Maurice and the Lord of Carnarvan¹.

MARCH 1. Thomas Bevington and Thomas Bennett returned this day and informed that Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice marched from Newbury on Satturday morning last to Basingstoke with 3000 horse or thereabouts, and as they were informed their intencions to stopp some money that was to bee rayseed in the contry, to bee carryed to Portsmouth and 10,000 li. they heard was to bee brought to Farneham Castle to Sir William Waller,² but missing of their purpose they retreated to Hungerford where Sondag and Monday night lay Prince Robert, Prince Maurice, the Lord Digby and the Lord Grandison,³ and some certaine troopes marched from thence on Tuesday towards Cicester, and from thence were to goe (as they were informed) to give on onsett to Gloucester on Satturday next, and some other troopes the same day attended Prince Robert to Oxford, that their whole forces consisted of about 7000 horse. From Reading they heare that they are not above 1000 or 1200 strong. The governor went out to meet Prince Robert with 4 troopes of horse and returned againe on Sondag in prayer tyme. That Pince Roberts forces plundered all the contrye and tooke away all their horse, sheepe and lambs and all other provision in the country as they marched along.

MARCH 2ND 1642. THURSDAY. Justinian Mingam, William Boston went this day towards Oxford. Thomas Hewett went to London this day with letters. Patrick Dudgeon went into Bedfordshire.

Richard Emmerton returned this day and informed that hee and one Nathaniell Mosse were at Basingstoke on Satturday last and that there they found the Kings forces, about 3 or 4000 horse, and that they came that day from Speenam land adioyning Newbury, being 12 miles, and that Prince Robert and his brother Prince Maurice, the Lord Digby and the Lord Grandison or some of his company were there at the same tyme. And that they lay at Hungerford (as hee heard) at one Mr. Chockes howse on Sondag and Monday night, and that Prince Robert indended to march to Andever but on Tuesday hee went to Oxford,

¹Robert Dormer, Earl of Carnarvon; killed at the first battle of Newbury 20th September, 1643. (See *D.N.B.*).

²See *D.N.B.*

³William Villiers, Viscount Grandison, lieutenant-general of a regiment in the Royalist army; he was wounded at Bristol, 26th July 1643, died of his wounds on 29th September following, and was buried in Christ Church, Oxford.

that the[y] plundre the contry and tooke away 1000 horse and that their forces were 5000 horse or thereabouts. That hee was at Marlborow and Newbury and understands by them all that they stand well affected to the Parliament, and from thence went on Monday to the Devizes where they conceive most of the towne are malignants and reioyce that they are fallen into the Kings hands, but upon the yeilding up of the towne Sir Edward Hungerford carryed away all their 4 peeces of ordnance [and] other armes to Bath and left [not] soe much as a sword or a muskett that hee knew of and there hee remaines with it himselfe.

John Pigeon went this day to Marleborrow and Henly. Robert Goddard went the same day with him.

John Webb returned this day from Marleborrow and saith that Prince Robert (as it is reported) hath taken away 1000 horse out of Berkshire, and hath likewise taken 5 waynes and 11 horses laden with very rich wares comming from London towards Bristoll and 100 li. in mony and that the whole losse amounted to 2500 li. They have soe scowred all the contry wheresoever they came that in many townes and villages they left not a horse but what was lame. When they advanced into the contry at first, it was reported they were to take upp horses for the releefe of Sir Raph Hopton, but the King hearing of the Lord Brookes¹ comming into Warwickshire hee presently sent post to Prince Robert to retreat into his quarters. It is alsoe reported that when they were at Basingstoke there was thought to bee 8000 horsemen, whereof one in three had no armes, nor soe much as a sword.

MARCH 3. 1642 FRIDAY. William Tudman returned this day, and saith that hee hath bene at Oxford at severall tymes for this fortnight past and that Prince Roberts his forces marcht out yesterday being Thursday towards Gloucester as hee was credibly informed, and that all his forces are gone out of Woodstocke and that some other parte of them intends very shortly to goe against Alisbury. That Prince Robert is yett in Oxford, and as hee heares will not march till hee hath both his ordinance and his whole strength together.² That hee was at Stratford upon Avon on Friday last where hee sawe Collonell Croker and Leiftenent Wagstaffe with 400 men whoe intended to have fortified the towne and chargd all the towne to aid and assist him, if any of the Parliament forces came. And on Saturday morning the Lord Brook and his forces came and defeated them, and beate them out of the towne and tooke away their armes and slew and hurt a great number of them and tooke some of them prisoners whereof one was a man of great quality, but knows not his name. And that upon my Lord Brooks entrance into

¹Robert Greville, Lord Brook, commanding the Parliamentary forces in Warwickshire and Staffordshire; killed at Lichfield 2nd March 1643 (see *D.N.B.*).

²Rupert left Oxford on 4th March for Bristol.

the towne the markt howse being stord with gunpowder for the Kings service was blown upp but by which side is uncertaine.

John Lane returned this day from Reading and saith that there are noe new works made at Cawsam bridge, but what was there before, onely there is a little trench to defend the towne from Henley forces. That there are noe forces come into the towne of late, and that all the horse that are there at this instant are not above 140, and many of them soe ill armd that 60 good soldiers would doe better service and not above 1200 foote which are in the like manner. That the twoe peeces of ordinance which laye in the markt place are removed and carried upp to Harrisons barne. That all the Kings forces that were at Basingstoke and thereabouts are all retreated and gone westward, but cannot certainly learne whether for Bristoll or Gloucester, but the generall report is for Bristoll. And that Prince Robert, Prince Maurice, the Lord Digby and the Lord Grandison were together about Basingstoake and Newbury on Satturday, and on Sonday last went from Basingstoke to Newbury. That the Cavallyers at Reading say that they neyther feare nor care for the Earle of Essex, for they know hee will not hold upp his hand against them any more, and that Prince Robert will order the Roundheads. That the townesmen are growne weary with expecting releefe from the Parliament, and that they thought his Excellency would not have lett such a towne as Reading lye soe long under that tyrannical slaverie, being a towne of soe great consequence, and soe many well affected men in it towards the Parliament whoe will doe they best they can for the good of the Parliament if his Excellency will please to give an onsett on the towne with a resolucion to take it, which to performe they have ingaged themselves by oath.

SATTURDAY MARCH 4TH. 1642. Richard Emmerton went this day to Gloucester. William Tudman went this day to London, and after his being there hee was to goe into Oxfordshire. William Wigfall went this day to London. Thomas Bennett went this day to Bristoll.

Robert Goddard returned this day from Wallingford and saith that there are 3 regiments of the Kings forces, and about 2 miles of at Morton, Chowlsely and Hackborne lye 600 of Prince Roberts forces, but whither they intend to march hee cannot learne. That they are fortifieing the castle and making very strong bulwarks for defence of it, and have made a drawbridge over the river. That Prince Robert hath beene at the Devizes and was marching westward but the King sent for him back to Oxford whither hee came on Tuesday last and is there at this present, and it is generally reported thereabouts that hee is to goe to guard the Queene in her iourney through the north, and that Prince Maurice hath beseiged Gloucester.

John Webb returned this day and saith that hee was the last night at

Wallingford and there are in the towne and adiacent place a great number of the Kings forces about 1500 horse and foote, but they have very few armes amongst them. That they have fortified the castle very strongly with doble bulwarks, but they have but 2 drakes¹ in the towne. That hee heard that Prince Robert intended on Thursday last to goe with his forces against Henley, and drew out them that way, but for some cause or other he himselfe retreated on Friday being sent for by the King to Oxford, and left 6 troopes of horse at Abbington. And it is reported that Prince Robert is to goe downe into the north to meete the Queene, and in the meane tyme keepe his forces together in their severall quarters. And that Prince Maurice is gone to Gloucester, but with what strength hee cannot certainly learne. That the Kings forces both at Oxford and Wallingford have some designe in hand but dare not adventure forth for feare the Lord Brookes forces should fall upon them. Richard Webb went this day to Walgrave.

SONDAY 5 MARCH. Richard Webb returned this day from Walgrave. Justinian Mingam and William Boston returned this day from Oxford.

MARCH 6. John Webb went this day to Oxford (10s.). Edward Sherwin returned this day and informed that hee hath beene at Malsm-bury and Bristoll and that Collonell Fynes being at Bath and understanding that Collonell Essex governor of Bristol had not performed the trust which was reposed him by the Parliament and that hee had sent to Prince Robert 2 hogsheads of wyne and other comodities to Cicester, but knows not the particulers, and that hee had an intencion to deliver upp the towne to the Kings forces upon any attempt to be made by them, whereupon Collonell Fynes by the advice of a Councell of Warr went with a 100 horse having notice that Collonell Essex was invited to one Captaine Hills howse to dinner a mile and a halfe from Bristoll, about 3 of the clock in the afternoone pursued him, besett the howse and tooke him and the next day carryed him prisoner to Bartlett² Castle. That they heare that Prince Maurice with his forces hath layne against Gloucester for the space of a weeke past, and on Thursday last there was a fight between the towne and his forces, and that they were beaten backe from the towne with the losse of 20 men on both sides, and that Prince Maurice himselfe with some others of his soldiers were taken prisoners. That they say that at Cicester all the high wayes are cast upp with trenches, and the walls beaten downe that stand without the towne and that there are onely 2 peeces of ordinance, and some 600 foote, and about 50 dragoones. That at Wallingford there are 1000 of the Kings forces horse and foote, and have very strongly fortified the Castle, and furnisht themselves with great store of provision, that they have

¹Small cannon

²Berkeley.

onely 2 peeces of ordinance and those are placed in the Castle and have made a great draw bridge over the Thames, and that there is but one way to enter the towne which is upon the south side thereof. That hee was at Oxford on Satturday last, and that they are very strongly fortified and that there are 6 peeces of ordinance lye all a brest at the entrance into the citty, and that by relation there was about 3000 of the Kings forces in and about the towne, at (sic) that it is generally reported that in regard Sir William Waller is marcht from Winchester westward towards Gloucester, that Prince Robert will bee againe very shortly at Basingstoke.

Robert Coxe went out this Monday the 6th. of March, 1642. James Lavall went out this day. Edmund Morris went out this Monday.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7. Robert Goddard went this day to Abbington and Oxford. Samuell Braine returned this day from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert with 5000 horse and 800 foote marcht out of Oxford on Friday last towards Gloucester and tooke with him 9 peeces of ordinance and 4 wagons full of armes, mony and other provision and since his goeing hee heares that Prince Robert and his forces have beseiged the towne, and fired it in three severall places, and that there are onely 2 peeces of ordinance now left in the towne, and a very small strength onely consisting of 9 foot companyes to keepe the guards and watches. That hee heares for certaine that Prince Robert upon his goeing forth told his Majestye that if hee spedd well at Gloucester¹ hee would goe speedily for London, and if hee did not hee would returne to Yorke. That the Queene is landed and is at Newcastle² or thereabouts, and that the King hath sent 400 horse to meete her and guard her Majestye to Oxford. Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that hee was at Alisbury on Satturday and from thence to Buckingham and into divers other places in Oxfordshire and heard that Prince Robert was in Oxford but his forces consisting of about 8000 horse and foote lay at Chipping Norton, Banbury and Burford and many other places up and downe the contry neare Oxford, and that on Satturday hee went to his forces and gathered them into a body and marcht with them to Gloucester but what is yett donne against the towne hee cannot certainly learne. That hee heares it reported that Prince Robert is gone with an intencion to seize upon the dead corpes of the Lord Brooke, with a purpose to bring them to Oxford, and hang them on the gates as a traytor.

Theophilus Winchcliffe³ returned this day.

¹Rupert had advanced on Bristol, but on 8th March, hearing of the discovery of the Bouchier (or Butcher) and Yeomans plot, returned again to Oxford.

²Cf. Wood I, 90. "Monday 27 Febr. in the evening word was brought to Oxford & to the court that the queene was landed at Newcastle." The Queen actually landed at Bridlington on 22nd February; this news was published in Mercurius Aulicus for the week 26th February/4th March.

³Presumably Hinchliffe, as elsewhere.

TUESDAY NIGHT. Samuëll Braine went to Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH. Steeven Spratt went this day to London.

William Wigfall to London. William Wilson went forth this day.

Richard Emmerton went this day towards the Devizes. James Lauall went this day to Reading. Thomas Bevington went this day.

Robert Cox returned this day from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert marcht out of Oxford on Sattarday last with great store of horse and foote towards Gloucester, and that there are now very few soldiers left eyther in Oxford or neare it, being but one troope of horse in the towne, that Magdalin Bridge at the entrance into Oxford is drawne upp¹ that soe there is only passage for footemen but none for horse. And that there is a greate gate made upon Wheatley Bridge and none hardly suffered to passe without a tickett from Sir Jacob Ashley.²

Edward Sherwin went out this day towards Bristoll.

Thomas Hitchman returned this day from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert with 5000 horse and foote or thereabouts marcht out of Oxford on Satturday last towards Gloucester, and carried along with him 8 peeces of ordinance, 12 wagons full of all manner of provision, and great store of wild fire. That they have taken the bells out of the steeples and are casting more peeces of ordinance with them. That all the forces are likewise gone out of Abington except 2 troopes of horse and 2 companyes of foot, and that the forces are very few in Oxford. That the Queenes lodgings are taken, and are making ready for her comming, and hee heares that the Kings forces are in Wallingford Castle and have very strongly fortified it, and have now finished their workes. And that there is a troope of horse come to Wheatley upon the allarum given to Oxford on Tuesday last in the afternoone and that hee heard say Prince Robert was sent for backe to Oxford.

THURSDAY THE 9TH. MARCH. Thomas Hitchman went this day to London. Robert Coxe went this day to Abbington. Patrick Dudgeon went this day into Bedfordshire. Edmund Morris returned this day and saith that hee was yesterday in Reading and that there are 1200 foote soldiers, and 50 of them sicke and lame, 2 troopes of horse, which with dragoones are but 120. That there are 12 peeces of ordinance, and that they have taken in 5 wayne loade of cheese, a butt of oyle and other provision on Satturday last and brought in 30 fat oxen.

¹This presumably refers to a drawbridge on the approach road to Magdalen bridge. Drawbridges were later erected on other roads into Oxford; *cf.* the description of drawbridges over trenches cut in the roads leading to Reading (p. 25).

²This may have been partly an attempt to exclude spies and partly an attempt to enforce the terms of the proclamation of 18th January (Steele no. 2352a) that a list of newcomers to Oxford should be sent daily to "Sir Jacob Ashley the Governour of the City."

FRIDAY THE 10TH. MARCH. George Westwood went this day to Salisbury. John Webb to Oxford. Robert Pigeon to Reading. Samuell King went with him. William Wigfall to London. Theoliphilus (sic) Hinchcliffe to Bristoll and one to Alesbury. Robert Goddard returned this day and informed that on Tuesday last there was great reioycing in Oxford for that Prince Robert (as was then reported) had taken Gloucester and Bristoll, but on the next day newes came to the contrary, that Gloucester was onely beseiged. That on the same day being Wednesday there marched 300 horse out of Abington, and went to Wheatley and Cudsden and there quartered that night, and on the next day there came into Great Haisley and Little Haiseley, Great Milton and Little Milton 500 of Prince Roberts forces, which is thought lye there to ayde him when hee returnes to goe against Henley. That there are very strong works in Oxford, and a drawbridge at the entrance into the towne by Magdalen Colledge. That there is a gate over the bridge at Wheatley and Chistleton¹, and noe passage eyther for man or horse but on markett dayes and sometymes in the day tyme, and that all the wayes and fordes ar (sic) blockt upp. And that Prince Robert is daily expected by the soldiers to come for Henley, being lookt for on Wednesday last.

Patrick Dudgeon returned this day out of Bedfordshire.

SATTURDAY 11TH. OF MARCH. Robert Goddard went forth this day towards Oxford. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and the same day went to London. William Walls [?Wills] came this day from Okeingham and saith that hee hath beene within halfe a mile of Reading and sawe the workes there made about the towne which are very strong and heares for certaine by Thomas Belchamber and William Greenway twoe of the inhabitants of Reading that all the strength of the towne consists of about 1500 foote and 100 horse, but are very defective in their armes and that the greatest part of them are Welsh and Irish. That the bridge called Cawsam Bridge which lyes on the further side of the towne towards Oxfordshire is quite taken downe and flung into the river. That in the high ways from Twiford to Reading and from Pangborne to Reading there are very deepe trenches cast upp, and bridges made over them for carts and horses to passe over in the day tyme and in the night they draw them upp and locke upp the gates which they made besides the trenches over the highwayes.

Edmund Morris returned this day from Reading and saith that there are about 1200 foote and many of them sicke and lame and about 140 horse which are divided into 3 troopes, and they daily expect more to come in, that the drawbridge at Cawsam is throwne into the river and that they make shift with planks to goe over this day being markett day, but as soone as the markett is ended they intend to pull it all quite

¹Chiselhampton.

upp. That they have puld downe the wharfe howse at Sonning nere Reading because there should bee neyther passage by water nor harbour for our soldiers in case they should come that waye.

Joseph Stockwell went towards Reading on Monday the 6th. of March and returned the next day being Tuesday. William Weekes returned this day from London. John Melson returned this day from Henley. William Weekes went this day to Henley. Raph Norton to Oxford. Edmund Morris went towards Oxford this Satturday, and was paid for it. Steven Spratt went to London. Thomas Bennet returned this day and saith that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice marcht on Satturday last with 4,000 horse and 7 peeces of ordinance through Farrington in Berks and from thence to Cicester where they lay that night. On Sunday hee went to the Earle of Barkshires¹ howse at Charlton, where hee, Prince Maurice, the Lord Grandison and the Lord Digby lay that night. On Monday all the forces mett at the radevous 3 mile from the Earles howse where they then were about 9 or 10000 horse and foote and that they had 15 peeces of ordinance with (sic) they had brought along from Cicester and other places by the way and from thence they marcht to Wotton Underedge, and there and thereabouts they quarterd that night. On Tuesday they marcht till they came within 3 miles of Bristoll and there drew all their forces into a body expecting to have mett with Sir William Waller whoe as they had intelligence was coming to the releife of Bristoll or Gloucester and to cutt him and his forces of as they should march that way, or else to fall upon Bristoll or Bath. That on Thursday the second of this moneth there was a skirmishe betweene the soldiers in Gloucester and the Welsh which lay before the towne which continued till Satturday, where there were 500 of the Kings forces slaine and 5 wagons full of maymed soldiers were sent to Cicester for releife. That there are 3000 soldiers in Gloucester besides Sir Edward Hungerford whoe is lately come thither with his forces which consist of about 400 men, and that they have 18 peeces of ordinance in the towne. That one Mr. Sadler of Chilton in the county of Wilts for giveing some certaine horses and lending some mony to the Parliament, is fyned 500 l. and imprisoned at Oxford. And Mr. Jenner of Widdell in the same county for contributing to the Parliament they have taken away from him 16 fatt oxen, some horses, 120 sheepe, plundered his howse, spoild and carryed away his hay, corne, wood and other goods to the value of 800 li. That on Wednesday and Thursday last the King commanded all the trayned bands in the lower parte of Wilts, some parts of Berkshire and a great parte of Gloucestershire to come and bringe in their armes, which as soone as they have performed they are commanded depart and leave their armes, which some have

¹Thomas Howard, Baron Howard of Charleton, Wilts., first Earl of Berkshire of the creation of 1626.

donne accordingly and they that refuse are pillaged and plundred and their goods taken from them and that there are divers troopes of horse now raying in those countyes for the Kings service.

SONDAY THE 12TH. OF MARCH 1642. Thomas Bennett went this day to Gloucester. Richard Mountague went with him. Patrick Dudgeon went into Bedfordshire. William Wigfall went this day to London. George Powell went to Gloucester.

Robert Billett went to Aylesbury on Friday and returned on Saturday. ———¹ with a letter to Gloucester to Sir Robert Cooke. Robert Cox returned this day from Abbingdon and saith that there are 8 troopes of horse, a regiment of dragoones, and twoe regiments of foote, but most of them want armes, and that there are 3 drakes and some works about the towne, but not very stronge. That hee was nere unto Wallingford and heard that there are a few soldiers, some foote and some horse consisting in all not about 1500. And as hee came along this day, being Sunday, the Parliaments forces being 2 regiments of foote, 8 troopes of horse, and about 200 dragoones marcht out of Alisbury towards Thame. And hears that Prince Robert hath lost 1000 men at Gloucester, and being defeated is returning backe to Oxford.

Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that on Friday night last hee was at Marleborough where hee had certaine intelligence from some of the inhabitants of Bristoll that the citty was to be delivered upp to Prince Robert on Tuesday last by treachery² contrived by some marchants and others ill affected in the towne, by setting fire on some partes of it and thereby to bring all into a confusion and then the gates to bee flung open for his entrance, which plott being discovered by the intercepting of a letter sent from some of the malignants of the towne to Prince Roberts army, there was nothing at all effected, and thereupon hee retreated, and lay that night at the Earle of Somersetts³ howse called Babbington howse 14 miles from Bristoll and the next day being Thursday hee and his brother Prince Maurice with their forces marcht to Malsmbury, and there quarterd that night, and the next day went to Cicester, and his forces lay scattered about the contry, and as it is thought intends to draw them backe to Oxford, or Abbingdon. That the inhabitants of Marleborough for their forwardnesse in contributing to the the Parliament have extreamely suffered, and are now assoyed by the King to pay 20 nobles weekely, which small sume they are not able to pay having 60 of their howses burnt, and the rest plundred. That the

¹Blank in MS.

²For the plot by Bouchier and Yeomans see S. Seyer, *op. cit.* II, 431 seq. and the "Short narration of a bloody conspiracy" recorded by Luke on 23rd March (p. 40).

³See G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*.

Earle of Worcester¹ (as hee heares) hath had a great overthrowe at Gloucester and hath lost 1500 men, or thereabouts, and that Sir William Waller is very strong in the contry, having 5000 horse, 6 peeeces of ordinance and 20 wagons with provision, and lay at Farley² Castle on Thursday last, 3 miles from Bath.

Edmund Morris saith that on Satturday last there came into Reading one troope of horse, and great store of wheate, beefe and other provision and on the same day 3 troopes of horse marcht out of the towne towards Twyford and shewed themselves to our forces and retreated backe to Reading. And that there were 300 foote soldiers all the after-noonne upp and downe about Reading in Earlely field setting upp iron engines to spoile horses that come that way in the night.

MONDAY THE 13TH. OF MARCH. Robert Cox and Richard Emmerton went forth this Monday to Abbington, Oxford and the townes adiacent and had 10s. a peece. James Lauall returned this day, and saith that Prince Robert with his forces went within 3 miles of Bristoll on Tuesday last, where hee expected to have beene entertayned by some of the malignants of the towne, but faileing of his purpose by the miscarriage of a letter which was intercepted, hee retreated backe and lay at Cicester on Friday night last, and his forces were quarterd upp and downe the contry, and on Satturday hee came to Oxford.

William Weekes returned this day from Oxford.

Edward Sherwin returned this day and informed that hee was within 10 miles of Bristoll on Friday morning last and heard that Prince Roberts forces lay then within 3 miles of the towne, and should have taken it by treachery by the ringing of a bell, of which hee being prevented, hee retreated and as hee heares is come backe to Oxford, and his forces lye scattered upp and downe the contye of Gloucester, and other countyes adioyning to Oxfordshire, and saith in effect as Richard Emmerton hath already informed.

William Wigfall came this day from London.

William Tudman returned this day from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert came into Oxford on Satturday morning last with very small forces and it was supposed hee came for some ordinance, which proved otherwise, for hee intends to stay there till hee goes into the north. Hee hath had a very ill journey for hee made accompt to have taken Bristoll, but the contry rising upon him made him to fly as his owne soldiers report. His retreat alsoe from Gloucester made his men very sad, many of his forces thinke hee will goe away and quite leave them because hee gathereth upp all the gold that can bee had whether waighty or light. And soe soone as hee goes away the King intends

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Somerset, Edward.

²Farleigh, Hungerford.

to goe for Yorke. There are noe forces at Woodstocke, onely the Lord of Carnarvan lyes at the lodge, and Mr. Abraham of that towne informeth that there is 8000 li. in the towne, and will give directions how to take the mony. And that on Thursday last the Lord of Northampton¹ went towards Staffordshire with 7 troopes of horse, and the contry is very strong and come into the forces in Lichfeild dayly.

TUESDAY THE 14TH. MARCH. Edward Sherwin went this day to Gloucester. William Tudman went this day to Oxford. Thomas Naylor went into Bedfordshire. George Westwood returned this day. Raph Norton returned this day from Oxford and saith that there was great expectacion on Sondag last of the Parliaments forces to come against Oxford,² and there was reported to bee 1000 horse and foote, whereupon divers of the townesmen that could, gott away, and a post was presently sent to the constable and other officers of Weately to make strong the bridge, and on the same night the Kings forces marcht out towards Brill to meete with our forces, but in regard they were disappointed of their expectacion they retreated backe to Oxford. That Prince Robert is now in Oxford, but as it is reported intends very shortly to goe to Gloucester to aid the Welsh forces that lye before the towne.

Robert Goddard returned this day and saith that Prince Robert with his forces marcht out of Abbington yesterday towards Tame intendeing to have mett the Parliaments forces which they heard were comming that way, and 18 troopes of horse were to meete him there out of Oxford, and that hee mett them betwixt Tame and Abbington. That at Chisleton Bridge the Kings forces made great preparacions to prevent them. That there was a generall command in the towne for every howsekeeper to bring in a hatchett into the Guildhall, upon paine of a fine, which many of them did accordingly, but for what use hee knowes not. And that there were 5 troopes of horse left in Abbington whilst the rest went out to guard the towne, and there are only 2 peeces of ordinance with stands in the markett place. Steeven Sprat from London.

George Holdway came this day to Windsor.

Thomas Bevington returned this day and saith that there were 3000

¹Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, captured Banbury for the Royalists in October 1642; he was killed at Hopton Heath on 19th March. (See *D.N.B.*).

²On 9th March Essex ordered Goodwin at Aylesbury to prepare for an attack on Oxford. On 11th March he sent 500 mounted musketeers and some troops of horse, "these are to meet att Chynner in Oxfordshire tomorrowe being Sondag the twelvth of March by ten of the clocke in the forenoone, before which time I would have you with your whole partye to bee att Thame." It was then left to Goodwins' discretion to attack Oxford, Brill, "or any other of the enemyes quarters." (MS. Carte 103, ff. 147, 151). Essex's intention was to divert Rupert from attacking Waller in the west, and he withdrew Goodwin's forces on hearing that Rupert had returned to Oxford. (Warburton II, 141). (For Arthur Goodwin see *D.N.B.*)

of the Kings forces slaine at Gloucester about a fortnight since and 18 waine loade of maymed men were brought to Oxford. That Prince Robert came before Bristoll the last weeke with his forces, and that upon the tolling of a bell hee was to enter the towne, but being disappointed of his purpose hee retreated backe to Oxford, where hee now remaynes but intends very speedily to bee there againe. That his army increaseth much and the generall parte of the county is for the King, and that hee hath taken upp all the horses both in that and other countyes as hee goes alonge, and that a man cannot passe the contry but both his horse and his mony is taken from him. That on Sunday last there was a proclamacion¹ read at Basingstoke in the church that whosoever owed any mony to him that had contributed to the Parliament should never pay him any, and that those that could bring any of the Parliaments scouts or other officers to Oxford shold have large satisfaccion for their paines.

William Weekes went out this day. William Wigfall went this day to London.———² went this day to Reading.

That a roand stond horse was given to a minister about the 12th of February last by his Excellencyes command. Richard Barrett went this day to Reading.

WEDNESDAY THE 15TH MARCH. Edmund Morris went forth this day. Richard Barrett returned this day and saith that hee was yesterday at Arberfeild 3 miles from Reading and understood by one Richard White and other inhabitants of the towne that all things in Reading stand in the same condicion in which they have beene for these 3 weekes past, and noe new forces come in and that they are very much affraid of our armye, and doe dayly expect their comming, that they are very strongly fortifyeing parte of the towne which lyes from Fryers Corner to the Abby, and that Cawsam Bridge is not as yett pulld downe, but remaines as it did. That there are some 1500 men in the towne, but they are soe sicke, lame and defectave in armes that the comandars are faine upon trayning dayes to hire the townesmen to supply their places ; and that there are 12 small peeces of ordinance in the towne and that it is very full of gold, silver and plate which (as they say) is brought in by the papists.³

¹Probably the proclamation of 8th March "forbidding all assessing, collecting and paying of the twentieth part." This includes warning tenants of rebels not to pay their rents, but makes no mention of Parliamentary scouts. (Steele 2384).

²Blank in MS.

³But see letter from Henry Sherburne at Reading to Lord Percy at Oxford, 9th March, "the proportion of cannon and ammunition I have received and have land the cannon and mounted of them, the other 6 I have not, as yett, but shall by the first. I thought fitt to informe your Lordship that there are many defects here, which will be a lett to the speedy mounting of the rest, as axetrees, axtree-bands, and much iron worke, which indeed may be had heere, but not without present monies." (MS.Rawl.D.395, f.119).

The names of such as have not contributed to the setting forth of soldiers in Com. Bedford.

Hoton Conquest.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Sir Richard Conquest | Mr. Edward Redderish |
| Mr. Richard Conquest | John Risley |
| Mr. Lane (?) Conquest | William Hone |
| Mr. Mathew Denton | |

Hockley.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mr. Slingsby | John Punne |
| Thomas Punne | William Webb |
| Pavenham, none. | |
| Felmersham and Radwell, none. | |
| Calton and Chelveten, none. | |
| Podington and Farendish, none. | |
| Turvey and Steffenton, 2 dragoones. | |

Barford hundred.

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Comard, 2 dragoones. | |
| Renold, 1 dragoone, 1 foote. | Wilden, 1 dragoone. |
| Boxen, 2 dragoones. | |
| Dunstable Houton | } All footemen. |
| Thomas Norman | |
| Robert Rawlins | |
| Peter Eaton | |

Stanbridge.

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Abraham Batre | William Hill |
| Henry Whitebread | Edward Silby |

Clifton hundred.

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Earsely, 3 dragoones. | |
| Shittlington, 3 dragoones, 7 foote and 2 foote at Nether Hundon. | |
| Henley, men and dragoones. | Compton, 4 dragoones. |

Redborne Hundred.

Marston Moreton, 6 foote.
 Steepingley, 1 foote.
 Kempton, 5 horse and their riders.
 Malden, 2 horse and their riders.
 Ridgmould, 2 horse and 2 foote.
 Houghton Conquest 3 horses and their riders.
 Wilhamsed 4 men. Milbrooke 1 man.
 Wotton 4 horses and their riders.

Stoden hundred.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bulhurst, 1 foote, 1 horse. | Deane, 6 dragoones. |
| Keasho, 2 dragooneers. | Okeley, none. |
| Melch Baron, 2 dragoones. | Petenhall, none. |
| Shelton, 2 dragoones. | Tilbrooke, none. |
| Clapham, 1 dragoone. | Stoughton, none. |
| Risley, 2 dragoones and 2 foote. | Milton, none. |
| Knotten, 1 foote. | |
| Yelden, 2 dragoones. | |

Willy Hundred.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Bletsoe, 2 dragoones. | Hagdon, none. |
| Soldrope, 1 foote. | Harold, none. |
| Thurley, 2 dragoones. | Sharmbrooke, none. |
| Bednam, none. | Odelle, none. |
| Bromham, none. | Wimmenton, none. |

Robert Pigeon and Samuell King came this day from Reading. William Wigfall and Samuell Braine came this day from London. Patrick Dudgeon came this day out of Bedfordshire. John Webb sent a messenger this day from Northamptonshire with a letter from Collonell Barker, and at Coventree all the newes was that Coventry and Lichfeild would afford. His owne letter was thus, vizt. I intend, God willing to goe for Gloucester, Sir, as I went through Northamptonshire on Sondag I tooke upp this man being both trustye and very fitt for a scout, and as wee went through Northamptonshire the Cavaliers came from Banbury to Buckby, and tooke betwixt 20 and 30 horse. Wee with the county pursued them, but they gott into Banbury. Then wee ridd to Rugby, and the constables came to us to talke with us, in the meane tyme my Lord of Newport¹ came into the towne and I knoweing of him they tooke him and sent him away to Coventry. Hee said his name was Cradocke of Northampton and was goeing to Coventry. Sir, I pray order it soe that this man may come thorow Northamptonshire to bring his horse back. I pay for the horse 2s. 6d. a day. I pray send him forth againe hee is very fitt for this worke as any man you have. Soe I rest.

Your obedient servant,
John Webb.

William Richards came this day from John Webb in Northamptonshire.

¹On 11th March the Lords at Westminster sent for Newport as a delinquent. On 15th March it was reported that "he was stayed at Coventry." On 28th March he surrendered himself and was committed to the custody of the Gentleman Usher of the House of Lords. (See *House of Lords Journal*, 15th, 21st and 28th March, 1643 and *D.N.B.*, s.v. Blount, Mountjoy).

MARCH 16TH. THURSDAY. George Holdway went forth this day from London. William Richards informed this day that hee came out of Northamptonshire on Tuesday last and on the Sunday before, passing through the countye with one John Webb betweene Northampton and Rugby, theyr were by breake of day about 50 cavalliers at a place called Buckby, where they tooke away betweene 20 and 30 horses, whereupon the contry did arise and pursued them, but they all fledd into Banbury, whereupon the said Richards and John Webb went the same day to Rugby and being at the bayliffs howse of the towne, the Earle of Newport came through the towne all alonge having left his servants behind to stopp a bridge to prevent the comming of those that pursued after him. That Webb knoweing him caused him to be stayed and upon his apprehension hee told the bayliffe, constable and others that his name was Cradocke and that his busines was to Coventry, whereupon the officers of the towne sent to Coventry for a troope of horse, which came that night and guarded him along to Coventry, and there hee now remaines.

Robert Pigeon and Samuell King informed this day that Prince Robert came from Gloucester to Oxford on Saturday last, and gave command that his forces should repaire to their severall quarters, whereupon the townesmen of Marleborough expected the Lord Moone¹ there but hee went to Oxford, and as it is sayed there, hee is to goe along with Prince Robert downe into the north to guard the Queene to Oxford. That there are 2000 of the Kings forces lye before Gloucester and have entrench themselves in Sir Robert Cookes howse,² soe that noe man can passe upp and downe the contry without pillaging having both his horse and mony taken from him, and compelling men both in their persons and estates to serve the King. That on Wednesday last was sevenight, the last weeke, there were 400 dragoones went out of Reading with mony, plate and other commodities to Oxford, and upon Monday last they sent to Newbury for mattockes and shovells, and have diggd great holes in the streets within the towne to spoile horses, and ever since have expected the comming of our forces against them. That there are about 2000 men in Reading, horse and foote, but have not soe much powder as will serve them above 3 howers in fight, and it is verily thought that if our army would come and beeseige the towne it would bee delivered upp in 3 dayes.

Samuell Brayne went this day to London. William Richards to Oxford. Steeven Spratt went forth this day to London.

Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that hee was yesterday at Abbingdon, and that neyther the forces in the towne nor the workes and trenche about it are strong, onely there is a strong gate made over the bridge and a crosse barr of iron to lift up to lett in horsemen, and a

¹Warwick, Lord Mohun of Okehampton (See G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*.)

²Highnam House.

passage for footemen by it, and 2 little drakes in the markett place lye upon carriages, that there are 2 regiments of foote consisting of about 12 or 1300 and 3 troopes of horse. That in Wallingford there are 3 regements of foote which consiste of about 1000 men, and 3 drakes in the castle, and have fortifyed it very strongly. That yesterday Prince Robert was at Oxford and his forces lye scrambling about the contry betweene Tame and Milton and about Abbington other places and townes adiacent.

Robert Billett returned this day and saith that hee came from Abbington, and saith that there under the comand of the Earle of Northampton 6 troopes of horse, or thereabouts, and Collonell Feildings¹ regement which lay there are gone to quarter at Reading on Tuesday last, that there are 3 small peeces of ordinance in the towne, and the way into the towne over the bridge is chaynd, but the other workes about the towne are but weake. That it is now reported about Oxford that Prince Robert with his forces intends shortly to goe againe for Gloucester. That the Kings forces in Oxford kept very close on Sondag, and on Monday in the afternoone Prince Maurice drew out about 2000 horse and marcht between Wheateley and Tame and onely shewed themselves and retreated to Oxford.

Informeth that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice came into Oxford on Friday last with about 50 horse and that since his comming thither there is a great difference betweene Prince Rupert and the Councill of Warr, first because hee did not fall upon Bristoll according to his instruccions, and secondly because hee did not follow Sir William Waller in the countye where Sir William Waller was, whoe hath donne greate execucion upon the Cavalliers. The rest of Prince Roberts forces lye at Abbington and Prince Maurice at Cicester. On Friday night there was an allarum that the Parliament forces were comming, whereupon they were in armes all that night. The like on Saturday night, whereupon Sir Jacob Ashley went out of Oxford to Wheateley Bridge with one small peece of ordinance and about 60 horse to see if they were comming that way for feare they should take the hill right against Magdalen Colledge and soe batter downe the towne. On Saturday night when the allarum was there were not above 500 armed men in all places of the towne. Att Oxford they beleevd the Parliament forces designe was onely upon Brill. The workes about the towne against New Colledge are finished and made wonderfull strong.² There is a mount made in the Colledge, about sixe score within the

¹Richard Fielding, commander of the Royalist garrison at Reading.

²For the fortifications of Oxford see F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, chap. XIX; E. J. S. Parsons, *Some Proclamations of Charles I (B.Q.R. Supp. (1936), p. 3)*; R. J. Lattey, E. J. S. Parsons and I. G. Philip, *A Contemporary Map of the Defences of Oxford in 1644 (Oxoniensia, I, 161)* and further notes by Messrs. Varley and Lattey in *Oxoniensia* II, 207; III, 175).

workes. Against Waddam Colledge there is a mount cast upp where there is 2 peeces of ordinance, but the workes are not finished. Att the next church to Gloster hall the workes are not finished, and there is a very easie entrance. Betwixt that and Gloucester hall there are 5 or 6 places¹ where people ride in and out into the feilds, neyther posts nor chaynes at any of those places, nor noe gate at the Northgate to bee shutt Att Chileston Bridge there was a troope of horse lay yesterday, which knew not that the Parliaments forces were nigh them. There lay another troope of horse within 4 miles of Chileston Bridge, there were not in all the guardes of the towne above 250, and at the Kings court about 50 which is more then usually except on Friday and Saturday night last.

The contry generally cryes out against the Parliament, because they plunder and take away horses and mens goods, and will not agree to a peace when the King desires it, the Lord Gray² hath taken the citye of Norwich which the King and Councell are much discontented with now wishing they had sent downe ayde according to the desires of the gentlemen of that countye, for they feare by the taking of that cittye it will be the losse of Norfolk, Suffolke and Cambridgeshire because there is in these contries already a great party for the Parliament and Essex generally for the Parliament. The reason why the King sent noe force downe was that because hee would not parte with his forces till the Queene was come to Oxford, and had ioyned his army with Newcastle and Sir Raph Hoptons. The county of Oxford intend generally to rise when the King desires them.

William Wilton returned this day from———. ³ John Webb returned this day.

FRIDAY THE 17 MARCH. Robert Goddard went this day to Oxford. Joseph Stockewell, William Everard, George Westwood to Cambridge. John Webb informed this day the the Caualliers have beleagured Mackstocke Castle betweene Coventry and Lichfeild, and that they sent out for all the millers boates to goe over the moate to scale the walls if it bee possible, but the Parliaments forces in Coventry issued out on Wednesday to releve them but how they speed hee knowes not. That the Caualliers are within 3 miles of Couentry, the Earle of Northampton hath blockt upp the roades betwixt Warwicke and

¹In the waste ground known as Broken Heys, between Gloucester (now Worcester) College and the church of St. Mary Magdalene.

²William, Lord Grey of Werke, commander-in-chief of the forces raised in the eastern counties, (See D.N.B.). The city of Norwich, which was mainly sympathetic to Parliament, was not attacked by Grey; he merely arrested an unco-operative Royalist mayor.

³Blank in MS.

Lichfeild, and Collonell Hastings¹ betwixt Couentry and Lichfeild, soe that our men at Litchfeild can not bring their prisoners to Couentry, neyther can they come to their quarters from whence they were drawne out. That some letters being intercepted by Serieant Maior Bridges at Warwicke which were sent from the King to the Earle of Northampton, there was therein discovered that the Kings forces intend very speedily to fall eyther upon Couentry or Warwicke, they being somewhat weake there in regarde the Lord Brookes drew away parte of their strength from thence to Lichfeild. The Lord Grey² is come from Liciester to Northampton for some ordinance to bee conveyed to Lichfeild having sent 12 troopes of horse thither already.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18. Robert Billett went this day to Bristoll and Gloucester. William Wigfall to London. A post went out yesterday with a paquett of letters from his Excellency to the Lord Willoughby³ and the Committees at Lincolne. Greenhill Dudley went this day to London. This day letters were sent to Sir William Waller. To Sir Robert Cooke at Gloucester. To Collonell Walter White. To Captaine John Harvey. Steeven Spratt came this day from London. Raph Norton came this day from Maydenhead. Richard Mountague returned this day and saith that the last weeke Prince Robert lay with his forces against Bristoll but missing of his purpose retreated backe to Oxford with all his forces, driving along with them about 60 head of cattle, and by the way lay one night at the Earle of Barkshires, and his brother Prince Maurice lay at Farrington, whoe hearing that his Excellency had removed his forces which were comming towards Oxford on Sondag last they withdrew their forces into their old quarters, some at Cicester, some at Brinchworth, some at Marleborrough, at Roton, Marleborough and all the parts of Wiltshire, and have taken upp all the horses in that county, that within these 10 dayes they have plundred one Mr. Martins⁴ howse knight of the shire for the county of Berkes, and have not left soe much as an iron barr in the windowes. That there were divers printed bookes⁵ read in seuerall churches in Hampshire on Sondag last to this effect that those whoe had taken upp armes against the King in Essex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire were declared to be rebels, but if they would lay downe their armes they should bee pardoned, if not whoesoever owed them any mony should not pay them

¹Henry Hastings, first Baron Loughborough (October 1643), colonel-general of Leicestershire. (See *D.N.B.*)

²Thomas, Lord Grey of Groby, commander-in-chief of the forces raised for Parliament in the midland counties. (See *D.N.B.*)

³Francis, Baron Willoughby of Parham. (See *D.N.B.*)

⁴Henry Marten, the regicide, M.P. for Berks, lived at Becket, Shrivenham. (See *D.N.B.*)

⁵Presumably the proclamations of 16th February and 8th March, see pp. 12 & 30.

any. That betweene Basing and Basingstoke there lye certaine scouts which call themselves the Marques of Winchester men, and take all the horses that passe by that way, and when they have taken them they sell them. That they beate upp drummes dayly in seuerall townes in Wilts and raise soldiers, and offer them 18d. per day and 2s. at their entrance, to serve his Majestye, and that yesterday they tooke away 30 carryers horses going into Wiltshire, and 3 waynes with 18 head of cattle and carryed them to Reading. That hee heard there were above 1500 men slaine at Gloucester, all which hee heard at Marleborough and other places both in Hampshire and Wiltshire.

SONDAY. 19 MARCH. Edmund Morris returned this day and saith that on Wednesday last hee was taken prisoner at Wallingford, and that they are making very strong bulwarks and other fortificacion both about the castle and the towne. That there are one regiment of foote under Collonell Blake¹ and 2 pieces of ordinance. That hee heares that Prince Robert intends very shortly to march out with all his forces but whither hee cannot learne. That there are great store both of horse and foote in Oxford, Abbingdon, Brill and Wheatley, and all the contry over thereabouts, that noe man can passe to any place safely. That they are still fortifieing of Reading, and have fetcht in divers contry people from Sonning and other places to defend themselves, and to beate downe Twyford if they can possible. They have 12 peeces of ordinance in the towne and every day they carry in great basketts and sacks full of pipple stones² but for what use hee knowes not.

Robert Goddard returned this day and saith that hee was in Oxford yesterday and sawe a great many of the Kings forces and that they are very strong both in horse and foote, and that Prince Robert is upon a new march, some say hee intends to goe against Gloucester and Bristoll, and that hee will fire the townes before hee comes backe, but it is since reported that hee will speedily bee at Henley or Reading to unite his forces, but whither hee will march then, hee cannot learne.³ That the Lord Herbert came to Oxford the last weeke with 2000 Welshmen,⁴ but all unarmed, save onely that they had every one a Welsh hooke. That there are 11 peeces of ordinance in Oxford, and it is reported that when

¹Thomas Blagge, governor of Wallingford.

²Pebblestones.

³Rupert marched to Abingdon on the 18th, to Tetsworth on the 19th, to Denton, Bucks., on the 20th, skirmished before Aylesbury on the 21st, and back to Oxford that night. (*Rupert's Journal*).

⁴The majority of the Welsh forces of Lord Herbert of Raglan (see *D.N.B.*, s.v. Somerset, Edward) were defeated and captured by Massey and Waller at Highnam, near Gloucester, on 24th March, see page 51. Cf. Clarendon II, 483, "This was the end of that mushrump-army which grew up and perished so soon that the loss of it was scarce apprehended at Oxford, because the strength, or rather the number, was not understood."

Prince Robert is gone with his forces out of the cittye, there will bee left as greate strength as is now at Windsor.

Richard Barrett returned this day and saith that hee was informed by one Mr. Richards of Shinfeild that there are not above 140 horses in Reading, both troopers and dragoones, and that yesterday the Governor of Reading went to his Majestye, and there are not above 1000 able soldiers in the towne. The townes men of Reading are soe much opprest by the malignants that if the Parliaments forces would but come on and give an onsett, they would combyne with them, and venture their lives before the towne should bee lost. That yesterday the malignants tooke 5 wagons goeing to London and some to Cicester, which was a very rich prize and valued to be worth above 30,000 li, soe that the honest men of the towne will lay downe their lives in the busines, and turne the peeces in the towne against them. And that they will find good store of musketts hidden under ground, which will helpe whensoever there shall bee occasion, which was certified by Roger Ive sericant to Captaine Jo. Andrews and Willian Kneller a howsekeeper at his court of guard.

George Westwood returned this day from Cambridge.

MONDAY. MARCH 20TH. 1642. William Owen went this day forth to Marlowe. Justinian Mingam with him. John Webb to Beconsfeild with a warrant from my Lord Generall for Collonell Mills to march presently. George Westwood to Maydenhead and Henley. Samuell Bedford to London post. Henry Lee, Patrick Dudgeon, Richard Mountague, Thomas Tulley, Richard Goddard, to severall places. Thomas Knight to London. Thomas Hewett went this day with letters to Collonell Cromwell and to Norwich. Joseph the groome to Henley. Samuell Braine to Oxford. William Euerard to Henley. Richard Barrett to Okeingham. Steeven Spratt to Bristoll. Justinian Mingam to Gloucester. William Owen, Justinian Mingam, George Westwood, Joseph, Richard Mountague, William Euerard returned all this day, and gave their seuerall informacions, and Thomas Tully returned this day. Allens man went out this night.

TUESDAY. THE 21TH. OF MARCH. William Wilson went forth this day. William Euerard to Oxfordshire. Richard Mountague returned this day from Windover. Edward Sherwyn to Gloucester with letters from his Excellency unto Sir William Waller. Samuell Bedford from London. Robert Goddard returned this day.

WEDNESDAY. 22TH. OF MARCH, 1642. William Wigfall went this day to London. Robert Goddard went this day to Ailesbury. Richard Barrett went this day to Reading. Richard Mountague went this day to Oxford. Richard Greenwaye informeth and saith that all the horse in Reading except one troope went out of Reading on Monday last.

over Cawsam Bridge towards Oxfordshire, and noe new forces were come in yesterday. That victualls and other provisions are very scarce, and they have laid the bridge for the contry to bring in such things as they want. It was reported that the King would bee there on Sunday last, but came not. That the King hath commanded that all the townsmen in Reading that are able shall beare armes, and those that are not shall hire others in their stead. That the townsmen of Reading humbly beseech his Excellency to releve them, and they will both bee willing and ready to assist his forces to the utmost of their power.

George Holdway returned this day from London.

James Lauall went forth this day to Aylesbury. Richard Greenway went to Henley. John Webb returned this day and sayth that the Kings forces that lay before Aylesbury on Monday and Tuesday last have devided themselves into 2 parts, one part whereof went through Tame towards Oxford, and the other to Brill where they quarterd the last night and pillaged all the townes thereabouts, and drove away oxen, cowes and calves and sheepe, horses and tooke away all their howsehold stuffe. That hee tooke a quartermaster prisoner and carryed him to Aylesbury whoe confesseth that a Capptain Ellicott that runn away from Aylesbury to the Kings side enformed the King and Prince Robert that they had not above 7 or 800 horse and foote in the towne and many of them for the King, and if their forces would but come and face the towne they would eyther muteny or else turne to the King, and enformed them on which side to come upon the towne, but all thinges proving contrary to what hee had sayed¹ they lay hovering about the towne 2 dayes expecting to have seene the issue according as Ellicott had declared but they retreated, and that parte of them that went through Tame (as hee beares) hath this day sett upon Twyford. And hee conceives that that parte which lyes at Brill have an intencion to goe northwards towards Couentry and those parts.

William Richards returned this day and sayth that hee was at Banbury on Saturday last, and the next day goeing towards Oxford hee mett with Captaine Chamberlaine² with a troope of horse which examined him and tooke him prisoner and carryed him backe to Banbury, where hee laye twoe dayes, and having his horse, coate sword and ros. in mony taken all from him hee broke the prison and ran away. That on Sunday night Captain Chamberlaine with 2 troopes of horse marcht to Long Buckby in the county of Northampton with an intent to pillage the towne, but they understanding of their comming did rise and withstood them, not suffering them to come into the towne, and in this skirmish wee lost 2 men and tooke 2 of theirs prisoners, but how many

¹Sir John Culpepper wrote to Rupert on 19th March to warn him that his intention to attack Aylesbury was already known. (Warburton II, 142).

²But see p. 15 n. 1 on the capture of the Chamberlains by Sir Robert Pye.

were kild on their side hee knowes not, soe the contry rising upon them they fledd backe to Banbury. There are 200 foote soldiers under Collonell Hunkes¹ in Banbury which keepe the castle, and some 200 horse more and 4 small peeces of ordinance.

Joseph Pigler returned this day from Henly. James Bevington went to Wickham. Raphe Norton to Aylesbury. Robert Goddard returned this day.

THURSDAY. THE 23TH. OF MARCH. Richard Greenway returned this day from Henley and went out againe.

A short narration of a bloody conspiracy against the citty of Bristoll as appears by the examination of the partyes thereunto.

A malignant partie within the citty having long endeavoured to bring in the enemy into this towne they hoped they had gott an opportunity to effect their desire on Tuesday night being the 7th. of March, when by their invitation Prince Robert having drawen his partye of horse and dragoones with some foote, of Durdam Downe within 2 miles of the citty, the evening before that night the treacherous partye in the towne had framed a partye to fall on the guards to cutt them of and soe to lett the enemye in upon the ringing of twoe bells (to witt St. Johns and St. Michaelles, the ringing of those twoe bells being a comon signe to them both within and without the towne, for the better effecting of this wicked conspiracy the cheefe heads thereof had that night assembled themselves in their howses with divers saylors with all sorts of armes vizt. musketts, pistolls, swords, clubbs and barrells of old nayles to charge the ordinance withall after they had surprized them, and those severall companies under their severall leaders were to have fallen upon their severall guards. Mr. Robert Yeomans the head of this conspiracy whoe pretendeth a commission from his Majestye for what hee hath donne being to fall on the maine guard, and Mr. George Batchers² was to fall on the guard at Frome gate, and to have opened it for the enemy to enter by. Others noe doubt had their parts to play and the better to distinguish betweene themselves and us those of their party had a word which was (Charles) and white tape in their breasts and hatts and those which were to bee spared had certaine marks sett upon the inside of their dores, for the rest if wee may beleieve the speeches of an officer among the enemies forces one of them was heard to say that Prince Robert commanded them to give noe quarter but to kill man woeman and child that had not those markes upon their howses, and the same tyme that the enemy was to fall upon the towne the saylors were to sett the towne on fire in severall parts which is conceived should have beene Captain Bonds parte, but God of his mercy hath delivered us by some notice wee had of their

¹Sir Henry Huncks, governor of Banbury.

²Butcher or Bouchier.

meeting at Yeomans his howse an hower or twoe before the plott was to be putt in execucion having seized Mr. Robert Yeoman with his company and after Butler with his company the necke of the plott was broken within the towne, the enemye without having shewed themselves upon the Downe, the next morning after wee made 2 or 3 shott of cannon against them from our worke on Branden hill, they wheeled about and soe God putt a hooke into their nostrills and turned them backe, for which great deliverance from a dangerous invasion of the enemy from without and from a damnable conspiracye within the citty, both this towne and the whole kingdome soe farr as it is conserved in the preservation of the citty hath great cause to give thankes to Almighty God unto whom alone the glory thereof is due.

James Lauall returned this day from Henley.

Raph Norton returned this day. Thomas Hewett returned this day. Richard Barrett returned this day. Thomas Hewett from Cambridge.

24 MARCH 1642. FRIDAY. Friday the 24th. March. William Wigfall went this day to London. John Webb went this day to Aylesbury. William Richards went with him. William Euerard returned this day and saith that hee hath beene in divers places in Oxfordshire and heares that there are of the Kings forces in Abbington and thereabouts 800 horse and foote and in and about Oxford there is now both Prince Robert and his whole company which is conceived to bee about 7000. In Wallingford 1000, in Reading there are 5 regiments of foote and 5 troopes of horse and that their works about Reading are very strong, and a forte built on the south side of the towne over against Dowles Greene from which there is a brestworke which is made along to Harrisons barne, and divers centry howses built upon it to hinder the passage from Shinfeild to Reading, and that there are 12 peeces of ordinance, 2 whereof are planted in Harrisons barne and the rest in and about severall places of the towne.

24 MARCH. ———¹ Informeth that Prince Roberts forces tooke up horses yesterday, and some of them marched last night, and some of them this morning, some of his forces tooke horses from Tameside but they have got them againe by reason they contribute weekly to the Kings army, the forces are marched towards Cicester hearing that it is either taken or beseiged by Sir William Waller,² and tomorrow Prince Rupert intends himselfe to march after them, and if there be no need of service there then he intends to horse all his foote in Warwickshire, and

¹Blank in MS.

²Waller took Malmesbury (not Cirencester) on 21st March, see p. 42. The news reached Oxford on 22nd. Rupert left Oxford on 24th, was at Cirencester on 25th, re-occupied Malmesbury, abandoned by Sir Edward Hungerford, (see *D.N.B.*), and returned to Oxford on 27th. He began his march north to Birmingham and Lichfield on 30th March. (Rupert's *Journal*).

so to march towards Glocester or Yorke. Oxford is very weake not above 4 or 500 men lefte in the towne, most of the forces are gone from Wheatly, Brill, Abington and all the townes thereabouts. This day there were 4 soldiers presented themselves to the King, that came from Windsor, they were Germanes. The King entertained them kindly and gave them his hand to kisse. They are much affraid that some of the souldiers in Cicester are not right to them, and so wilbe a meanes to betray the towne. The King hathe given Prince Robert leave to deale with all prisoners that he shall take, as he thinkes fitt himselfe, who sayes he will give quarter hereafter to none.

On Sunday last in the evening Sir William Waller went out of Bristoll (as I am informed by an eyewitnesse thereof, with about 3 or 4000 horse and dragoones, and 2000 foot accompanied with Sir Edward Hungerford and great store of gentry of those parts. In the evening they came to a towne called Chelston¹, where they surprized a whole troope of horse of his Majestyes, killing onely the 4 centryes, taking all the rest prisoners without the losse of one man on our side.

On Monday in the afternoone they marched towards Malsbury where they arrived on Tuesday morning early, where about 10 alocke they girt the towne round, and sounded a trumpett to them requiring them to deliver upp the towne for the use of the King and Parliament, to which they replied with a great deale of scorne and disgrace that they would not doe it, and thereupon hung out the 4 bloody flaggs upon the castle which stayed not there above 4 howers. Upon this refusall Sir William Waller began to fall to worke, and within a few howers made himselfe maister of their cannons, towards the evening they offered a parley which Sir William Waller at that tyme refused, soe on Wednesday morning they laid down their armes and rendred themselves to his mercy. Whereupon hee gave them all quarter, and entred the towne about 8 of the clocke that morning, sending away to Cicester 1000 horse, and commanded all the rest that stayed behind upon paine of death not to preiudice any townesman. The comander in cheefe in the towne was Collonell Lunsford² whoe was hidd 4 howers in the towne before they could find them (sic), which much discontented the people fearing least hee had escaped, but in the end finding him, they fell a ringing of bells and many expressions of joy and gladnesse, with him they tooke many other commanders but not above 3000 common soldiers with 14 collours and some 30 troopers. Captain Carson with his troope hearing of his approach tooke their heeles and runne away. Before hee came neere all the commanders were sent to Bristoll and the common

¹Possibly a reference to the attack made by Sergeant-Major Burghill on a Royalist troop at the village of Sherston, Wiltshire. (Vicars, *Jehovah-Jireh* (1644), p. 293).

²Lt. Col. Herbert Lunsford.

soldiers were putt into a church, the skirmish lasted some 20 howers, very hott and furious, very few were killed on both sides, the number of the dead on both sides were 11 whereof 8 of theires and 3 of ours. Maior Douglass on our side was shott in the knee. After Sir William Waller had reposed himselfe being very much tyred for want of sleepe, marcht with his forces towards Cicester, and intended that night to quarter at Tudbury being within 4 miles of his randevous next morning. George Westwood returned this day. Richard Greenway came from Twyford. Justinian Mingam returned from Gloucester. William Wigfall returned from London. Robert Pellett from Malmesbury. Thomas Hewett informed this day that on Tuesday last he was at Cambridge and there are some 5 or 6000 horse and foote under the command of Collonell Crumwell which lye quartered in and about the towne. That they have pulld upp all the bridges thereabouts, and have made very strong bridges upon the Hill and about the towne.

That the countyes of Norfolke and Suffolke are very willing to assist the Parliament onely they want armes, but dayly come in to Cambridge and other places.

That the Kings scouts were as farr as St. Neets and Huntington, and all about Bedfordshire, and that hee heard of them in divers places as hee went along.

That the King hath divers soldiers lye neere Bedford which are constantly upon the roade betwixt Cambridge and Oxford, and uppon all occasions give intelligence to Oxford of the businesses and affaires of that county.

William Weekes returned this day from Oxford. Patrick Dudgeon returned this day from Wendover. Joseph Stockwell returned this day from Oxfordshire.

SATURDAY. THE 25TH. OF MARCH. Richard Barrett went out this day. William Wigfall went this day to London. Richard Emmerton to Bristoll. James Lauall into Wiltshire and Glostershire. Thomas Hewett with divers packetts of letters from his Excellency and others. Justinian Mingam to Aylesbury. Richard Greenway returned yesterday and now saith that hee was at Okeingham with Sir John Meldrum¹ and that hee went with Sir John out with a party of horse and foote towards Twyford intending to cleere the towne and contry of the Caualliers, and they tooke one man and 3 horses and carryed them to Okeingham the same day. That there was a report that the Kings forces had surprized Twyford, but they onely appeared and brought with them 5 carts to carry away such goods as they thought fitt to plunder, and wild wire (sic) to burne the towne, but they were compelled to retreat to their quarters by the forces that lay at Henley. That the

¹See D.N.B.

people of the towne and all thereabouts are in great distresse and want, by reason they have noe ayde to releve them, and being dayly subject to bee plundered, and their towne fired by the enemye.

Richard Weekes went out this day.

SONDAY THE 26. MARCH. John Morris returned this day and saith that hee went with a letter from his Excellency to Captaine Draper on Friday morning to Guilford, and not finding him there hee went to Casshalton 7 miles from London where hee found him and delivered it unto him, and that himselfe and his troope came from thence yesterday morning and quartered at Staynes the last night.

Thomas Bennet returned this day and saith that on Sonday last Sir William Waller marcht out of Bristoll with some 7000 horse and foote and at a towne by the way, the name whereof hee hath forgotten, they tooke a troope of horse of the Kings forces, and kild one man. On Monday hee marched to Tidbury 4 miles from Malmesbury, and quartered there that night. The next morning hee came before Malmesbury, and having drawne his forces into a body about 11 of the clocke, assaulted the towne. The fight continued all that day and night following and till about 6 of the clocke the next morning, at which tyme they yeilded upp the towne. Before his entrance they threw away all their musketts into a moate. That they took a peece of ordnance and 400 prisoners and sent to Bristoll the cheif whereof were Collonell Lunsford and Collonell Cooke. That in this skirmish wee lost onely 3 men, and as hee heares, 9 on the other side. On Wednesday night hee sent from thence 4000 horse and foote towards Cicester, where hee mett them himselfe on Thursday morning and having putt them into a body about 7 of the clocke hee gave an onsett on the towne and they held him in play till 5 at night, by which tyme hee having broken into their workes, and they within having both spent themselves and their ammunition, yelded upp the towne. That he tooke 300 prisoners being Prince Maurice his dragoones, and 2 peeces of ordinance, and sent the chiefe of them to Gloucester. That there were slaine 5 on our side, and 8 or 9 on their side, but a great many hurt and wounded. That Sir William Waller at his entrance made proclamacion amongst the prisoners that whosoever would serve under him should have 4s. 8d. per weeke, and shooes and shirts at their entrance in, and many of them came in and accepted of the service. And lastly saith that hee was present at the taking of both the aforesaid townes.¹

Captaine Cockaines man went out with letters into Bedfordshire on Satturday last. William Owen went this day to Aylesbury. Thomas

¹Despite this assurance the report is false. Waller did not capture Cirencester but returned to Gloucester, routing Lord Herbert's Welsh forces at Highnam on 24th March. See the more accurate report by Richard Emmerton, p. 48.

Skarlett went with them the same day with letters to Collonel Middleton.

MONDAY THE 27 OF MARCH. Thomas Bennett went this day to Gloster. George Bennett went to Henley with letters with him. William Sharpe to Staynes, John Morris went with him, and returned the same day. Thomas Beuington went to Okeingham. Joseph Pegler went to Henley, and returned the same day. William Richards returned this day, and saith that hee was at Woodstocke on Saturday last, and there are about 400 of the Kings forces, but there is neyther ordinance nor any workes made about the towne, that hee was at Buckingham the same day, and there are noe forces at all onely hee mett some of the Kings scouts whoe examined him and lett him goe. On Sonday Collonell Godwins forces marcht out of Aylesbury, and lay at Tame that night. Collonell Goodwyns with a great number of horse and foote and 2 peeces of ordinance marcht out of Aylesbury within 4 miles of Oxford and by the way having taken away horses from the malignants and 30 fatted cattell, cowes, calves and sheepe from the malignants in the county of Oxford, retreated backe the last night to Aylesbury, but the reason or occasion of their soe suddaine returne hee knowes not.¹

John Webb returned this day and saith that hee went to Tetesworth on Saturday last, hee saw 2 coaches and some 12 men attending them, and 2 hampers of plate passing through the towne to Oxford, and as hee ridd along with them they affirmed unto him that they passed from London thither without the sight of a soldier or without any examination. That hee hearing that Princes Robert and all his forces (except some few which are left to keepe the guards) were marcht out on Thursday last towards Cicester, hee repayred to Aylesbury to Collonell Godwyn and acquainted him therewith, and on Saturday night and Sonday morning hee drew all his forces out of Aylesbury and marcht till they came within 4 miles of Oxford, but the weather falling out to bee extreame wett, they wheeld about by Brill and taking away many fatt cattle, and divers horses from the malignants as they went along, the last night retreated to Aylesbury.

William Wigfall went this day to London and returned backe at night. Joseph Pegler returned this day and saith that hee was this day at Henley and delivered a letter to Collonell Langham, and saith that the said Collonell could not returne an answer in writing for that he was going about earnest busines and that hee was with all speed to draw out some soldiers out of every company there to march to Twyford in the

¹See letter from Essex to Goodwin, 24th March, "I have received an advertisement of the enymyes advance into the west, with a considerable party and doe therefore desyre that you march forthwith with all the horse and dragoones now att Aylesbury and such convenient number of mounted musketyers as yow shall thinke fitt towards Oxford . . . it beinge maynly intended for a diversion of the enimy from any designe in the west upon Sir William Waller." (MS. Carte 103, f. 159).

afternoone, and hee sawe the horses and armes making ready for that they heard that a great army of Caualliers were come thither. And that the soldiers were very willing and forward in the busines, and seeme to be very joyful of their goeing forth.

MARCH 28. TUESDAY. Joseph Stockwell went to Basing with letters from his Excellency. Thomas Knight went this day to Aylesbury. William Richards went with him. Joseph Pegler went this day to Twyford. Steven Spratt returned this day. Thomas Bevington returned from Okeingham. Joseph Pegler returned this day from Twyford, and saith that hee was this day at Twyford and that Caualliers were there yesterday but went backe and having throwne downe the workes, retreated to Reading at night upon the approach of our forces from Henley. That there are now not above 10 dragoones in the towne which lye about the bridge, where upon notice of the Caualliers comming that way presently give intelling (sic) to our forces at Henley to prevent them.

James Lauall returned this day from Malmesbury.

WEDNESDAY THE 29TH. OF MARCH. Justinian Mingam went this day to Aylesbury. George Westwood to Cambridge. William Tudman returned this day from Oxford, and saith that Prince Robert came into Oxford on Monday last with 6 troopes of horse from Cicester to defend the towne against the Parliament forces, whoe lay within 3 miles of Oxford the day before and retreated to Aylesbury on Sondag night. That Prince Robert intends to continue at Oxford till hee can gett more strength, mony and ordinance and to that purpose one Anthony Carter a brasier by vertue of a warrant to him granted by his Majestye went through the towne yesterday to every howse and tooke upp all the potts panns kettles and skelletts they could find to make ordinance withall. That during the cessation of armes they intend to make use of that tyme for the better strengthening of themselves and their workes. That they are in very great hopes in Oxford that the Earle of Northumberland¹ will continue there, and not repaire to London any more. That they are mightily deieted at the death of the Earle of Northampton and the great overthrow they received at Stafford.² That Prince Maurice is now with his forces at Cicester or thereabouts, but they have spent all their provision that it is not possible they can subsist much longer. It is credibly reported that the King will goe away from Oxford privately if hee could but have an opportunity to the Earle of Newcastle where hee

¹One of the Parliamentary commissioners sent to Oxford to negotiate a treaty. For the prospects of winning over Northumberland see Clarendon III, 10, and *D.N.B.*, s.v. Percy, Algernon, 10th Earl of Northumberland.

²The battle of Hopton Heath on 19th March.

conceives hee can bee safer then at Oxford¹ because his forces are greater then those now with his Majestye.

Richard Barrett returned this day and saith that all things about Reading and in the townes adiacent stand in the same condicion they formerly did onely there were 7 Caualliers taken yesterday at Twiford comming from Reading by Henly forces and carryed the last night to Okeingham.

Samuell Brayne returned this day and saith that there went 600 horse out of Oxford on Monday last in the morning, for to bring the Queene thither and that Prince Roberts forces at the battaile at Stafford tooke 600 of the (Caualliers)². That on Monday last there marched out of Oxford 800 horse and foote towards Tame to cleere the contry, that the King is gathering upp his forces but whither hee intends to goe knowes not. That there came a troope of horse yesterday from Shroosbury and 600 foote and brought in 800 waight of silver into the mint at Oxford. And for their forces they are in the same condicion as they formerly were. And went to Oxford againe on the same day.

William Tudman went out this day to London, etc. Justinian Mingam returned this day. Robert Coxe returned this day.

THURSDAY THE 30TH. OF MARCH. John Webb went this day to Gloucester. William Wigfall to London. Justinian Mingam to Aylesbury.

Robert Cox informed this day that on Wednesday last was a fortnight goeing betwixt Long Wittnam and Newbury hee was taken by the Caualliers and carryed to Abbington where they kept him close prisoner till Monday last and tooke away his horse, gloves, knife and sheath and 11s. in mony, and at the last being entred a soldier under the Governors command, watch his opportunity and runne away. That on Sunday and Monday last there went 8 troopes of horse from Abbington to Oxford, and left noe forces at all in the towne save onely Sir Lewes Dives³ his foote company to keepe the guards, and 2 drakes which stand in the markt place. That generall allowance for the troopers is 4s. per weeke and their horse meate found them, and that the foote soldiers are very pore and wanting in armes, and have an allowance onely of 3s. 6d. per weeke.⁴ That some of them say that except they have better

¹Cf. Clarendon III, 14 on the weakness of Oxford "wherein, at this time, there was not above one hundred barrells of powder, and in no one place match proportionable to that little powder."

²A line is drawn through the word Caualliers, but there is no further amendment.

³See H. G. Tibbutt, *Life and Letters of Sir Lewis Dyve*, (Beds. Hist. Record Soc. XXVII).

⁴Rates of pay ranging from 6s. to 17s. 6d. a week for volunteers in the Royalist army are set out in the proclamation of 3rd December 1642 (Steele no. 2316; Madan no. 1101), but the pay for common soldiers in 1643 seems to have generally been 4s. a week (see proclamation of 11th November 1643, Steel no. 2507; Madan no. 1487; and E. J. S. Parsons, *op. cit.* p. 13).

allowance they will come to this army, saying they care not for whom they fight soe they have but mony.

Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that Sir William Waller and Sir Arthur Haselrigg¹ marcht out of Malmesbury on Thursday morning last with some 5000 horse and foote towards Cicester leaving Sir Edward Hungerford and Captaine Audrey with some 400 men to keepe the towne, but Sir Edward being gone to Bristoll with the prisoners which Sir William had taken, and Captaine Audrey left alone with about 100 men, Prince Maurice his forces came on Friday and tooke the towne, and are now in possession of it. That Sir William Waller in his march towards Cicester mett with a post at Tedbury comming from Gloucester, whoe gave him intelligence of the Welshe that they were coming to Gloucester, whereupon hee presently diverted his course, came over the river Severne and went into Wales to prevent their comming, and is eyther there or else returned to Gloucester, and that on Sunday last (as hee heares) hee gave them a great overthrowe. And that hee intends to have another recourse to Malmesbury, and to repossesse himselfe of the towne. That Prince Robert lyes now before Gloucester with some 7 or 8000 horse and foote, but the common report is that his designe is for Bristoll.²

Mr. Grant with a letter to Okeingham to Sir John Meldrum from his Excellency.

FRIDAY THE 31TH. OF MARCH 1643. George Westwood went out this day to St. Needs.

John Morris went this day to Gloucester. William Russell went alsoe towards Gloucester.

Richard Sturges saith that hee mett yesterday with a Reading man in London whoe affirmed that there are 3000 horse and foote in the towne, 12 old peeces of ordinance, and that they have made one new one lately of the pillage they tooke in the contry, and are now making another. That the last weeke the King sent for the Governor and some others and gave them order to throw downe the workes, because they should bee noe defence for our forces, his Majestye intending to drawe them all from thence for some other employment. But the Governor at his returne acquainting the towne with his Majestyes command, they proffered to raise 1000 foote and horse to defend the towne against our forces, soe that they are now both raying the men, and making their works stronger. That hee likewise was informed that notwithstanding all this if his Excellency would but send his forces against the towne they were not able to withstand them 2 howers, both for want of powder,

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Hesilrige, Arthur.

²Rupert left Oxford on 29th March, reached Stratford on 31st March, took Birmingham on 3rd April and went on to besiege Lichfield. (*Rupert's Journal*).

armes and other amunition,¹ that when Prince Robert marcht out of Oxford towards Aylesbury, they drewe out 2000 men out of Reading, that the Kings forces sending out their scouts to discover which way our forces were gone, and finding that they were not gone from Henley, they all retreated to Reading. That the Kings forces took 6 of our scouts neere Henley and carryed them to Reading where they now remaine prisoners. That if any considerable strenght would but advance to Reading, stopp upp the passages and hinder the comming in of their provisions, the towne could not possibly hold out 4 dayes.

Thomas Knight returned this day. William Richards returned with him. Thomas Hewett returned this day.

SATTURDAY, APRILL 1. 1643. William Wigfall went this day to London. Thomas Knight to London. Steeven Spratt to Gloucestersheire. John Webb to Northampton—10s. war. & S.²

William Richards to Oxford—5s. John Morris into Gloucestersheire after Prince Robert. Robert Coxe with him.

Theophilus Winchcliffe³ returned this day and saith that hee was at Gloucester on Monday was sevenight and stayed there 3 dayes and in goeing was taken in Somerton feilds, and his horse and mony, and being at Gloucester Capt. Fynes sent his trumpett with him to Sir Robert Cookes howse to see how the Welshmen lay there where hee sawe some 200 whoe shott at them but they came of cleere. That Sir Robert Cook was raysing of a regiment and had gott upp some 200 men that afternoone, from thence hee went to Bristoll and stayed there 3 dayes. And comming hither was taken by the Caualliers neere Andover about Mr. Philpotts howse where hee had another horse taken from him, and there heard that Sir William Waller had given a great overthrow to the Welsh, kild 400 and taken the rest prisoners. That coming by Basing hee heares that Prince Robert is to dyne tomorrow at the Marquesse of Winchester. That hee heard first that Sir William Waller was kild by his owne servant, and afterwards heard that hee was poysoned. That hee heard at Bristoll that our forces had left Malmesbury and 400 of the Caualliers were entred into it, that 21 of the Kings collours came on Sunday last within 10 miles of Bristoll. And that there weere 2 alarums given by the Caualliers at Bristoll, one on Sunday night and another on Monday. That Collonel Fynes being informed that Prince Robert

¹Clarendon (III, 13) says that there were above 3000 foot and nearly 300 horse in Reading, that the fortifications were not intended to withstand a siege and that they had not 40 barrels of powder "which would not have held a brisk and a daring enemy four hours." He affirms that before Essex advanced on Reading it had been resolved at a council of war at Oxford that the fortifications at Reading should be destroyed before the end of April and the garrison drawn off to the King.

²An abbreviation presumably meaning that the scout carried warrants.

³Presumably Hinchcliffe, as elsewhere.

would speedily bee there sent out his warrants to call in the contry to ayde him. That hee heares that Sir Hugh Cholmeley¹ is gone to the Queene with 100 horse and 400 foote. And that the Earle of Newcastle hath lately given a great overthrow to the Lord Fairfax.² That the Kings forces in and about Oxford and the townes adiacent and those that are marcht out with the Prince Robert are not above 12 or 13000 both horse and foote as is credibly reported.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day, and saith that riding post to Bristoll on Tuesday last was sevenight with a letter from his Excellency was stayed at Warmister and had his post warrant taken from him whereby hee was constrayned to take the same horses which hee had ridd before soe that it was Thursday morning before hee could come to Sir William Waller to Malmesbury, where hee delivered his letters from his Excellency, and Mr. Spratt being there hee dispatcht his answere back by him. That Sir William commanded him to march along with him and his forces out of the towne intending to goe for Cicester, but some accident happening by the way, hee diverted his course and marcht towards Gloucester, and by the way they came to Sir Richard Ducyes howse, and having entred and made search thoroghout the roomes, they found a peece of ordinance which they brought away, and with some 20 musketts and what other armes they could find, and arristed Sir Richard along with them to Gloucester, and from there marcht to the forrest of Deane where they intended to have quartered that night by the water side, and passing over the river by a bridge made over with boats carryed upon carriages and was sent by his Excellency comand the last year to Gloster for the same use, and brought thither at that tyme on purpose for Sir William Wallers passage whereof they gave to him notice by Sir Robert Cooke whoe being sent on purpose to him mett him by the way and brought him and his forces that way intending to have beene at Highnam on Friday, but the unaccessiblenesse of the wayes by reason of uphillles and downehills tooke them upp soe much tyme in their march that they could not come so soone at the tyme apponte, soe that they were forced on Friday night to quarter at Michell Deane, and sent out twoo troopes of horse to provide necessaries for that night whoe metting nere Newnam about 30 of the Kings scouts, of which they kild 6 and tooke 4 prisoners, one a captain and another an ensigne which prisoners they brought to Sir William Waller, and in their way to Michell Deane they mett with a man and searching him found a letter directed to one Mr. Mosse from my Lord John³,

¹Governor of the Parliamentary garrison at Scarborough, declared for the King on 25th March. See *D.N.B.*

²Lord Fairfax and his army were being driven back from Selby to Leeds. (See *D.N.B.*, s.v., Fairfax, Ferdinando).

³Lord John Somerset, commanding the cavalry in the force raised by his brother, Lord Herbert of Raglan.

conserning 910 li. which hee was to collect thereabouts for the maintenance of the Kings army, and thereupon Sir William went to Mr. Mosse, howse himself and demanded the mony which hee had collected according to the contents of the letter. Hee answered that hee had gathered but 700 li., Sir William Waller then replied to him that Round-headed Waller was comming that way whoe might mis-employe it if it was not delivered to him, and that it was fitt that what hee had received should bee employed for the Kings service, whereupon Mosse delivered him the mony, than Sir William Waller told him his name was Waller and that hee must goe along with him to Gloucester, and carried him away with him.

And arriving at Highnam¹ to Sir Robert Cookes howse on Saturday hee found that about 1500 of the Welsh were quartered there and were very strongly fortified and that our forces in Gloucester were in fight with them from Friday morning till Saturday at noone and about 8 or 10 killd on their side and 3 or 4 of ours, and Sir William Waller comming with about 3000 horse and foote to releve them without their expectation, hee discharged a peece of ordinance through the howse against the Welsh beefore they had knowledge of his comming whoe hoped before that there had beene some forces comming to aid them, which caused such reiocyng that they would neyther give nor take quarter. That about one of the clocke after Sir William had discharged his peece of ordinance hee sent a trumpitt to demand 2 of our soldiers that were supposed to have beene executed, but being satisfied that they were safe, hee sent the second tyme to demand Sir Robert Cookes howse to bee delivered upp to him and forthwith to lay downe their armes post or else hee would have noe more mercy on them then hee would have on the divell. Whereupon they then began to hang out a white flagg and desired a treaty, but in this meane tyme our soldiers had gott one of their skonces, and possesst themselves of it, and then Leiftenant Collonell Wigmore came to Sir William and offered to leave the howse soe that hee would give them free quarter and suffer them to march away with their armes, to which hee would not yeild, but after further parley they yeilded themselves to his mercy and thereupon hee entred the howse with as many soldiers as were convenient for the binding and sending away of the prisoners which were about 1500, soe that before hee could perfect the agreement and gett to Gloster with parte of his forces, and some of the cheifest prisoners, and secure the others which were left behind in the quarters together with their baggage and ammunition it was 11 of the clock at night, and that the 2 next dayes were spent in conveying the prisoners and their armes and ammunition to Gloucester, where hearing of many insolencies committed by some

¹For Waller's attack on Lord Herbert's Welsh forces at Highnam House on 24th March see *Bibliotheca Gloucestrensis* (1825), p. xxxvi.

broken forces that escaped in the forrest of Deane and thereabouts Sir William Waller sent out Maior Burrell with a force to subdue them. That hee stayed till Thursday followeing by command from Sir William Waller to bring his letters to Windsor, and after hee was dispatcht there hee went that night to Bristoll, where speakeing with Leiftenant Collonell White hee by his intreatye and in regard hee told him hee had urgent occasions of sending hither, hee stayed there till Friday night, and having received letters from Collonell Fynes, Sir William Waller, Leiftenant Collonell [White ?] and others to his Excellency, hee came backe post to Windsor on Saturday the 1 of Aprill, 1643.

APRILL 2. SONDAY. Edward Sherwyn went to London. George Holdway to London. Samuell Brayne returned this day and sayth that he way (sic) at Oxford yesterday morning and that Prince Robert came thither on Friday with a very small trayne and went out againe yesterday to his forces, which as hee heares are gone after Sir William Waller. And that the 2 long brasse peeces which lay upon the bulwarkes are sent out, and 2 lesser planted in their roome. That Prince Robert forces are about 6000 horse and 200 foote as hee heares are not as yett gone farr from Oxford. That hee carryed along a great store of ammunition out of the magazine and hath taken his leave of the King, and Prince Maurice intends to follow after, but whither hee cannot learne. That there is but small store of silver in the mint, and not above 8 men at worke, and that now their officers are by spetiall command searching in the colledges to see what plate and mony is there left. That hee heares of a great man that is gone with 600 horse to meete the Queene and helpe to guard her to Oxford, but his name hee knowes not. That hee verily beleeves at this present there are not in Oxford nor within 3 miles of it above 100 soldiers horse and foote, that at Abbington there are 100 dragoones and a foote company within 2 miles of it. That there is a troope of horse at Wheatley under the command of Captaine Morgan, and the fortificacions and works are now in the same manner as they formerly were. And that during the tyme that Mr. Peirce was at Oxford hee heard masse dayly at his lodgings with others that came to see him.

George Holdway returned this day from London.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that on Tuesday last was sevenight riding post to Bristoll with a letter from his Excellencye hee was stayed at Marmister¹ by———² and had his post warrant taken from him, and thereby constrayned to take the same horses which hee had ridd on before soe that it was Thursday morning before hee could come to Sir William Waller to Malmesbury, where hee

¹Warminster. What follows is a slightly revised account of the report on pp. 50-1.

²Blank in MS.

delivered his letters, and Mr. Spratt being there hee dispatcht his answer backe by him. That hee was commanded by Sir William Waller to march along with him and his forces out of the towne intending to goe for Cicester but some accident happening by the way they came to Sir Richard Ducyes¹ howse, where they came in and having searcht all the roomes in the howse they found one peece of ordinance which they brought away with some 20 musketts and other armes, and carryed Sir Richard Ducey along with them to Gloucester, and from thence they marcht to the forest of Deane where they intended to have quartered that night by the river side, passing over the Severne by a bridge made over with boates carryed upon carriages which was sent by his Excellencies commaund the last yeare to Gloucester for the same use and brought thither att that time on purpose for Sir William Wallers passage, whereof they gave notice to him by Sir Robert Cooke who being sent on purpose to him mett him by the way and brought him and his forces that way intending to have been att Highnam on Friday but the unaccessiblenesse of the wayes by reason of up hill and downe hills, tooke them up soe much time in their march that they could not come thither soe soone as the time appointed soe that they were forced on Friday night to quarter at Michell Deane and sent out two troopes of horse to gett provision for that night who meeting about 30 of the Kings scoutes neere Newnam they kild 6 and tooke 4 prisoners whereof one was a captaine and another an ensigne which prisoners they brought to Sir William Waller. That in their way to Michell Deane they mett a man with a letter directed to Mr. Mosse of Michell Deane from the Lord John concerning 910 li. which he was to collect thereabouts for the maintenance of the Kings army and thereupon Sir William went to Mr. Mosse his house himselfe and demaunded the money which he had collected who answered that he had gathered but 700 li. Sir William Waller replyed to him that it was fitt that what he had received should be imployed in the Kinges service and that Roundheaded Waller was coming that way, who might misimploy it if it was not delivered unto him, whereupon Mosse delivered him the money, then Sir William told him that his name was Waller and that he must goe along with him to Gloucester and carryed him away with him. And arriving att Highnam Sir Robert Cookes house on Saturday he found that about 1500 of the Welsh were quarterd there and were very strongly fortified and that our forces att Gloucester had bin in fight with them from Friday morning untill Saturday att noone, and about 9 or 10 kild on their side and 3 or 4 on ours, having bin sorely put to it to defend themselves against their adversaries all that night, and that very morning our horse which lay quarterd in Sir Roberts parke were putt into some disorder by the enemy and in that disorder Captaine Edward Cooke

¹Sir Richard Ducey of Tortworth, Gloucestershire.

was shott into the arme below the elbow with a loggett¹ which was cutt out above but they hope in no dainger, the very same time also they sallyed out upon the cannon and sorely endaingerd it but was very well defended by a few. By this time Sir William Waller having plac'd his cannon and shott one shott through the topp of the house which made the Welsh looke about them and seing Sir William Wallers body marching towardses them thought them to be some of their freindes comming to relieve them, whereat they much reioyced and made a declaration that they neither would give nor take quarter, but after this, Sir William Waller sending a trumpett to demaund two of our souldiers that were supposed to have beene executed, much amazed them, returned to Sir William Waller, presently after they sent backe another trumpett to him, and excused the souldiers carriage to his messenger, assuring him that the Blew Coates which he demaunded were alive and safe. Thereupon, he sent the second time to demaund the possession of Sir Robert Cookes house to be delivered unto him and forthwith to lay downe their armes or otherwise he would have no more mercy on them then he would have on the divell, they then began to hang out a white flagg and desired a treaty and att the same time Lieutenant Collonell Wigmore came to Sir William and offered to leave the house soe that he would give them free quarter, and suffer them to march away with their armes to which he would not yeeld (for by this time his souldiers had made themselves maisters of one of their sconces. Soe after a little further parley they yielded themselves to his mercy and he entered the house with as many souldiers as was convenient for the binding and sending away of the prisoners which were about 1500. Soe that before he could perfect the agreement and gett to Gloucester with part of his forces and some of the chieftest prisoners and secure the others which were left behind in the quarters together with their baggage and ammunition it was 11 of the clocke at night. The two next dayes were spent in conveying the prisoners, and their armes and ammunition to Gloucester where hearing of many insolencies committed by some broken forces that escaped in the forrest of Deane and thereabouts Sir William Waller sent out Maior Burrell with a force to subdue them. That on Tuesday the townesmen of Tuexbury sent to Sir William Waller to desire some forces declaring unto him that all the enemies forces had left the towne. Whereupon Sir William dispatched Captaine John Fynes thither with one troope of horse 100 dragoones and 100 foote. That he stayed till Wednesday following by commaund from Sir William Waller to bring his letters to Windsor and after he was dispatched there, he went that night to Bristoll where speaking with Lieutenant Collonell White at his intreaty and in regard he told him he had urgent occasions of sending

¹A heavy wooden ball or perhaps the wooden ball with a handle used in the game of loggets.

hither, soe that he staid there till Friday night. In which time there came another post with letters both to Bristoll and Windsor who brought newes that Captaine John Fynes comeing with those forces neere Tuexbury sent a forlorne hope with a trumpett to the towne before which comeing thither mett with the enemy there with a greater force soe that they were forced to retire, the enemy pursueing soe close that they tooke two of them prisoners and forced a trumpett and some others to swym twice over the river to save themselves, whereupon Captaine John Fynes and the rest of his company retreated to Gloucester. And he returned to Windsor where he arrived on Saturday night following about 9 of the clocke with letters from Sir William Waller, Collonell Fines and Lieutenant Colonell White to his Excellency and others.

MONDAY THE 3RD OF APRILL. George Holdway went this day to Nottingham post to Leycester, Northampton, etc. Thomas Hewett went along with him. Robert Coxe went the same day. Robert Goddard went this day to Abbingdon. William Richards returned from Oxford yesterday and saith there are not above 2000 armed men, both horse and foote in the towne, and that all their ordnance is gone out of the towne for hee sawe none there, onely 2 peeces at the bridge and 2 drakes at the back side of Magdalen Colledge. That Prince Robert went out of Oxford on Wednesday last about 2 of the clocke with 3000 horse and 4 peeces of ordinance, and 2 mortar peeces, and marcht from thence to Stratford upon Avon where hee lay 3 nights together. That hee heares that Prince Roberte is marcht towards Lichfeild¹ with the Lord Capell² to ioyn with the Lord Comptons³ forces, and Collonell Hastings, to goe after Sir William Waller.

Tuesday. William Wigfall returned this day from London. Samuell Brayne went on Monday to Oxford.

TUESDAY THE 4TH. OF APRILL. George Bennett returned this day and saith that there are 1500 prisoners in Gloucester which Sir William Waller tooke on Tuesday last, and 2000 armes, at Sir Robert Cookes howse, 2 miles from Gloucester. That all his forces are now in Gloucester being 7000 horse and foote, onely 2 regiments lye neere the towne and that Sir William Waller and Sir Arthur Hasilrigg⁴ quarter together in one howse in Gloucester. That on Friday last there marcht 2000 horse out of Tuexbury to meete Prince Robert and his forces at a place 7 miles distant from Cicester, but whither they intended hee knowes not.

William Richards went this day to Oxford.

¹Rupert was at Lichfield 8th-21st April. (Warburton II, 161).

²Capel, Arthur, Lord. See D.N.B.

³James Compton, later third Earl of Northampton. (See G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*).

⁴See D.N.B. s.v. Hesilrige, Arthur.

WEDNESDAY THE 5TH. OF APRILL. Patrick Dudgeon went this day to London. Richard Emmerton went this day to Gloucester. George Westwood returned this day from St. Needs. Henry Lee returned this day. Job Murcott went this day to Basingstoke, and returned again at night.

THURSDAY 6 OF APRILL. George Westwood went this day to Cambridge with letters from his Excellency. John Webb returned this day and saith that on Monday last in the afternoone Prince Robert and his forces came before Brimtingham in Warwickshire being 1200 strong and after hee was repulsed hee burnt the towne in 3 or 4 places, and tooke it and afterwards hee marcht northwards. That Collonell Hastings and the Earle of Northampton have drawen their forces to Ashby de la Zouch in Leicestershire, and are about 1500 strong. That the Lord Grey hearing of his comming sent for some aide out of Leicestershire whoe came in very willingly, and are now fortifieing the towne of Leycester very strongly. That Serieant Maior Bridges hearing that Prince Roberts forces were comming within 3 miles of Warwicke saylyed out with a party of horse and fell upon the rere of his men and tooke 2 carryeges laden with provision and tooke 6 commaunders, and some other common soldiers which are now prisoners in Warwicke.

Robert Goddard returned this day and saith that at Abbingdon there are onely 2 regiments of horse and 2 of foote. That Prince Robert at his last marching out on Wednesday last was sevenight tooke away all their ordinance soe that all their cheife strength consists in their courts of guard, and that upon the bridge there is a gate with 7 rowes of iron pikes in it, to prevent the comming in and goeing out of horsmen. That the King is dayly expected and (sic) Wallingford and great preparations made there for his comming. And the contry people have wayted these 3 days to see him march into the towne.

Henry Perryman, Edward Sherwyn, went forth together this day to Lughton, Coventry etc. William Richards returned this day and saith that Prince Robert and his forces (as hee heares) are now in the north and that there not above 2000 soldiers now left in Oxford, horse and foote, and 4 great peeces of ordinance and 4 small ones, and that Prince Robert tooke out the rest with him when hee marcht out last. And hee heares it reported that assoone as his Excellency marcheth forth, there are 20 of our commanders expected to come to Oxford to turne on the Kings side.

APRILL THE 7TH. FRIDAY. William Wigfall went this day to London. Joseph Quash went this day to London. Thomas Bennett returned on Tuesday last, and this day sayth that the Welshmen that lay in Sir Robert Cookes howse 2 miles from Gloucester made an attempt upon the towne on this day fortnnight, whereupon Sir Robert Cooke sent for

Sir William Waller to releve him, whoe came over the Severne and arrived at Sir Robert Cookes howse on Saturday morning, where hee found about 1500 Welshmen and 140 woomen with long knives about them, all which he tooke prisoners and sent away to Gloucester, and that since their comming thither a great number of them have bound themselves by an oath to serve under Sir William Waller. That hee tooke 2000 armes, powder, shott and other ammunition, and 6 peeces of ordnance. That there are now in Gloucester and neere adioyning to it 20,000 horse and foote and twoe and forty peeces of ordnance, and the workes about the towne very strongly fortified. That on Friday last newes came to Sir William Waller that 2000 horse were marcht out of Teuxbury to meete Prince Robert and his forces at a place 7 miles distant from Cicester, but whither they intended to march then was unknowne. That every weeke there are about 20 horses, which constantly goe from South Campton¹ to Oxford, through Andever loaden with wyne, (as they say) and other goods, the passing whereof might bee easily prevented, and the commodities apprehended by the way.

APRILL THE 8TH. SATURDAY. William Wigfall went forth this day to Colchester with letters by spetiall command from his Excellency. John Chaplin went this day to Northampton, Coventry etc. William Sharpe went to London.

Robert Coxe returned this day and saith that Prince Roberts forces lye 10 miles beyond Leycester, and that Collonell Hastings and the Earle of Northampton are at a place called Ashby de la Zouch. Thomas Hewett returned this day. Barnard Leadman informed this day and saith that in Reading at this present there are about 120 horse and 6000 foote, that they are dayly making their bulwarks stronger and greater, and have sent out warrants to the townesmen adioyning to bring in their carts to helpe them to carry turnes², stakes and other necessaryes for defence of the towne. That the townesmen of Reading are now raysing a troope of horse amongst themselves by comand of the Governor, and have charged all the libertyes of the country of Berks. to bring in their horses. That all the horse went out this morning towards Basingstoke and pillaged the contry as they went. That there was a proclamation³ read in the towne this day from the King, prohibiting all men upon paine of death which eyther had beene formerly or lately taxed, from the payment of any mony to the use of the Parliament. That his Majestyes pleasure was that the Governor of Reading should beate downe the

¹Southampton.

²These may be turne-engines, a form of windlass used in the 17th century for lifting heavy weights. See *O.E.D. cit.* Holme, *Armoury*, 1688.

³Steele no. 2404. Proclamation of 7th April "forbidding the assessing, collecting or paying any weekly taxes . . . of one or both Houses of Parliament."

workes and leave the towne and repaire to Oxford to strengthen that place, but hee refused and his reason was for that hee intended (as hee said) to keepe it as a garrison towne against the next winter.

William Owen went this night to Lughton.

SONDAY THE 9TH. OF APRILL, 1643. Patrick Dudgeon went this day to London. William Richards went this day. Samuell Brayne returned this day and saith that his Majestye intends tomorrow to march out of Oxford, and hath all his carriages and other necessaryes ready to goe along with him, and hath taken forces from Cicester, Reading and the townes adjacent into Oxford, and yesterday hee musterd all the men in the towne which in all with those which came from Cicester and Reading are about 6000 horse and foote, and that hee intends to leave a considerable number of men in the towne to keepe it in his absence. And it is generally reported there that his intencion is to meete the Queene. That on Thursday last therewent out of Oxford 3 wagons full of powder, shott, bullets, match and other ammunition which (as they said) was to follow after Prince Robert. That there are 4 peeces of ordnance and daily working upon the bulwarks, and making themselves stronger in their fortifications.

George Westwood returned this day from Cambridge. William Wigfall from Colchester. Robert Billett went this day to Gloucester. Justinian Mingam returned this day. James Lauall to Captaine Mathewes to Twyford.

MONDAY THE 10TH. APRILL. Fulke Eslwicke came this day from Gloucester and sayth that hee was att Monmouth on Tuesday, and that Sir William Waller was comeing with 4000 horse and foote, the Welsh which had fortified the towne ran before him to Ragner¹ Castle, and left the towne, with 2 peeces of ordinance newly made and 3 murdering peeces, and as many new pikes as are worth 20 li., there were 2 molds for ordinance each of them 10 foot long. On Wednesday hee marcht from Monmouth to Chepstoo, which the Welsh had fortified, but on Thursday Sir William tooke that, but the mainer of it knowes not. And that hee was att the takeing of Highnam house where they tooke 16 or 1700 prisoners, 20 whereof had 1000 li. yearely rents, there were in all about 120 commanders, one troope of gentlemen and gentlemen sonne, under a Serient Maior which Serient Maior was in his chamber drinking all the while Sir William Waller was fighting. Its reported in Wales that the Earle of Worcester², Sir John Winter³, with 3

¹Raglan.

²Henry Somerset, fifth earl and first marquis. (See *D.N.B.* s.v. Somerset, Edward, sixth earl).

³Sir John Winter of Lydney, Gloucestershire (see *D.N.B.*), lieutenant-colonel of the Welsh forces raised by the Marquis of Worcester to oppose the Parliament's forces in Gloucestershire.

more of that quality have got upp all the money they could together, and are gone to Cardiffe to take shipping for Ireland. And that Mr. Mosse of Michell Deane is raying the money to pay his fine Sir William Waller hath sett upon him which is att least 500 some say 1000 li., Mr. Hall of High Meadow is raying 3000 li. for Sir William Waller. And that the country come dayly in to Sir William Waller in great abundance especially out of the forrest. And that Sir Robert Cooke, Collonell Stevens, Collonell Ferbs¹ are raying theire regiments which are by this tyme compleate.

George Holdway returned this day from Lughton. Patrick Dudgeon from London. James Lauall returned this day.

TUESDAY THE 11TH. OF APRILL. George Holdway went this day. Patrick Dudgeon to Northampton. William Wigfall to London. Theophilus Hinchcliffe returned this day and saith that on Saturday last it was reported at Gloucester that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice² lyeing within 6 miles of the towne on Friday were absolutely resolved to take it on Sonday morning, but nothing was donne. That they are very strong in Gloucester being about 8000 horse and foote, and their works are still dayly fortifieing, but the trenches and workes which were made by the Cavalliers about Sir Robert Cookes howse are all levelld, and pulld downe. And that there weere 3 troopes of horse of the Kings forces came on Thursday night to veiwe the place againe whereof one of the commanders was Captaine Kerle. That hee leaves that the Earle of Newcastle³ is marching this way with a great strength and was on Thursday last within 20 miles of Cambridge.

John Chaplin came this day from Coventry with letters.

WEDNESDAY THE 12TH. Barnard Leadman came this day from Reading and saith that Sir Arthur Aston, governor there, is determined to march tomorrow to Oxford with 3 regiments of foote and 3 or 4 troopes of horse, and that this day the contry is warnd to bring in their waggons to convey his ammunityon thither. That they (sic) Cavalliers tooke 24 horses yesterday goeing to Okeingham markett and carryed them to Reading, and intends to leave 4000 men in the towne to guard it in his absence. That ther are 18 peeces of ordnance and their works are still in the same condicion as they formerly were. That there came yesterday into Reading from Oxford 2 horse loads of mony, the one of gold, the other of silver.

Theophilus Hinchcliffe went this day to———. ⁴ Robert Cox went this day to ——-. ⁴ Richard Greenway with him. Richard

¹? Forbes.

²Rupert was still at Lichfield. Maurice had been sent to attack Waller in the rear, Waller having then taken Monmouth and Chepstow.

³See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Cavendish, Charles.

⁴Blank in MS.

Emmertton returned this day. William Richards to Oxford. Thomas Hewett to Oxford, with a boy.

THURSDAY. 13TH. OF APRILL. Joseph Stockwell, Richard Barrett, went out this day upon spetiall command from his Excellency. William Tudman returned this day and saith that the King is still at Oxford, and it is reported that if the Lord Generall advance thither the King will desert the towne and goe privately to the Earle of Newcastle, but will leave a garrison behind him and sufficient strength to keepe the citty. That they are making 3 new peeces of ordnance, and there weere 7 in the towne before. That Prince Robert was much condemnd at Oxford for burning of Brimingham, and since a post brought newes thither that the townesmen burnt it themselves to prevent him and his forces from pillaging, but hee insisted the contrary for hee was present at the taking of it and sawe it sett on fire by Prince Roberts men in 6 places, and would not suffer any one to quench it. That there are 2000 horse and foote in Oxford, and have cast deepe trenches¹ and made drawbridges at every entrance into the towne.

Cox and Greenway went and returned.

Richard Emmertton informed this day that Sir William Waller came on Saturday last into Chepstow in Com. Monmouth with 14 troopes of horse, a regiment of dragoones and a regiment of foote, 4 peeces of ordnance with carryegges where hee continued all Sondag, and on Monday drew all his men into a body to march forth but whither hee could not learne. That hee tooke 9 peeces of ordinance out of a shipp that ridd before the towne and 2 hee found planted in the towne all which hee sent to Bristol.

Richard Greenway and Robert Cox returned this day and say that the Governor of Reading was determined to have marcht towards Oxford on Tuesday last, but having notice of his Excellency advancing from Windsor continues in Reading still and is 4000 strong, having 14 peeces of ordnance and the bridges and workes about the towne are still dayly fortifieing.

Job Murcott went out this night post with letters to the Lord Grey by spetiall command from his Excellency.

Richard Barrett went alsoe with a letter to Sir John Meldrum² to Okeingham.

FRIDAY THE 14TH. OF APRILL. Richard Brickett went this day to Chepstow with letters to Sir William Waller from his Excellency.

George Holdway brought a letter this day to Collonell Hampden.

SATURDAY THE 15TH. APRILL. George Holdway returned this morning

¹Cf. Wood (I, 96), that in this week a deep ditch was dug from the corner of Merton College wall to the Physic Garden.

²See *D.N.B.*

with an answer from Collonell Hampden. Joseph Stockwell went this night to Newbury. Robert Goddard went out this day with warrants to Tilehurst etc. Job Murcott returned this day from Lord Grey. Steeven Spratt returned this day out of Glostershire from Sir William Waller.

SUNDAY THE 16 OF APRILL. Richard Barrett went out this morning with warrants to Shinfeild etc. Another with warrants to Pangborne, Englefeild etc. A messinger went with a letter from his Excellency to Captaine Hales. Thomas Hitchman returned this day from Oxford, and saith that at his first comming to Oxford the constable seized upon his horse for his Majestyes use, and himselfe taken as a spie and kept prisoner 2 dayes. That hee was at Hereford where the Kings forces are about 400 horse and foote and 2 peeces of ordnance, and 2 more were comming from Ludlowe and alsoe 4 cart loads of ammunition were expected there that night and are fortifeing the towne and making a new drawbridge over the River Wye. At Worcester there are 2000 horse and foote and 8 peeces of ordnance and 4 more making ready. That the report is that the King is goeing thither¹ to meete the Queene, and that there are great preparacions for her entertainment, and that shee hath 20,000 horse and foote attending in her journey whereof 800 are commanders and that shee hath great store of armes and ammunition and is expected the next weeke. That the King is now at Oxford and is 3000 strong which were mustrd on Friday last, and hath 6 small peeces of ordnance with them, and in the magazin there are 8 great peeces of ordnance, and are making a new drawbridge towards Woodstocke which is almost finished and 2 peeces beside which lye at the bridge at this end of the towne. And saith that Sir Jacob Asheley² hath deserted the place of governor of Oxford, and Sir William Pennyman is appointed to bee in his stead.

Thomas Hitchman went this day to Maydenhead.

MONDAY THE 17TH. OF APRILL. Twoe men went out this day into Bedfordshire with letters to Bedford, and the other with letters to the Lord Grey. Richard Greenway and Richard Emmerton went to Wallingford and Oxford this afternoone. William Everard, Raph Norton, went out to Abbingdon etc. Robert Goddard went forth this day towards Oxford, and one with him. Josua Grey with letters to Oxford and Wickham.

TUESDAY THE 18TH. APRILL. Raph Norton returned this day and saith that yesterday in the afternoone there lay about 5000 of the Kings forces

¹Many similar rumours were then current in Oxford, *cf.* letter from Mason to Legge (11th April), "the Queen intends to march on Monday next . . . it is said that she will come to Shrewsbury or Chester, but this is not believed by many." (Warburton II, 165).

²Sir Jacob Astley (see *D.N.B.*). For governors of Oxford see F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, chap. XIV.

upon Benson Greene a mile from Wallingford, whereof 500 were taken from thence, and that they are all come out of Abbington thither and not a soldier left in the towne, and it is reported that they are comming for Henley, but tarry upon Benson Green on purpose for Prince Robert and his forces to march along with them, whoe is expected there this morning. That the constable of Chosely¹ going yesterday to serve certaine warrants for the bringing in of provision for the Parliaments use was apprehended by one Mr. Whistler and carryed prisoner to Wallingford and his warrants taken from him. That yesterday about 3 of the clocke in the afternoone there came a poste from Reading to Commissary Willmott to Benson Greene whose affirmed that the soldiers in Reading were able to hold out a fortnight longer.²

Francis Tuckenell went to Oxford. Thomas Charleton was paid and discharged after his return from Maydenhead.

Robert Goddard saith that at this instant there are 7000 of the Kings forces comming this way within 4 miles of Cawsam, whereof there are 30 troopes of horse, and that there are as many to meete them on this side the water. That they intended to come this morning but the drawe bridge being upp prevented them. That comming along a village called Pepper Green,³ and being demanded whose forces they were, it was answered that there was their Generall, their Leiftenant Generall, the Earle of Carnarvan, Collonell Bell, Collonell Howard and divers other officers whose names hee remembers not, and being demanded alsoe why they came not by Henley they answered because there were noe soldiers to oppose them. That they have noe ordnance, but say they intend to have some of ours backe with them.

Richard Emmerton returned this day. Robert Billett returned this day. Josua Grey went to Wickham. William Everard [and] Richard Greenway say that Sir William Belfores⁴ sonnes servant suffered a coach and 4 horses and a gentlewoman with a sword by her side and 6 pistolls in the coach to passe yesterday through Newberry to Oxford. That on Sonday last 9 collours marcht out of Abbington and came the next day to Dorchester and Benson, and for ought they heares his Majestye is still at Oxford, and intends not as yett to stirr from thence.

WEDNESDAY THE 19 APRILL. William Everard, Richard Greenway, Robert Coxe, went all forth this afternoone several wayes. Richard Emmerton went out to Newberry and other places. Edward Sherwyn

¹Cholsey.

²Essex began the siege of Reading on 15th April. Henry Wilmot, (see *D.N.B.*), Baron Wilmot of Adderbury and later Earl of Rochester, was Commissary-General of Horse in the Royalist army.

³Peppard.

⁴See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Balfour, Sir William.

returned this day from Staffordshire and saith that on Satturday last they were exceeding hott in fight at Litchfeild and continued soe all night. And on Sunday the enimye attempting the scalling the walls but from within they threw over the wall a mighty peece of tymber which broke their ladders, and slew many of them. Whereupon they ceased their assault for the present. But on Monday morning they fell on afresh but cannot tell the issue thereof. Our forces resolve not to yeild soe longe as the have life, for when Prince Robert made his first demand of the close they answered that they had taken that hold for the defence of the King and contry and that they had a little victuall and when that was spent they had twoe troopes of horse, they would eate them before they would ever yitt¹ to the Caualliers. That the county of Stafford is generally very ill affected to the Parliament, and that he was forct to fly from Henley the towne where hee was borne (where hee intended to lye at his brother howse) but the townesmen searched for him intending to have taken him suspecting him to bee for Parliament.

THURSDAY THE 20TH. APRILL. Francis Symons returned this morning and saith that this last night 10 of the Kings scouts came out of Wallingford to Sonning and tooke a horse from thence which they had left there when they brought the amunition to Reading, and another horse from a widdow in the parish of Cawsam and carryed them along with them. That one Mr. Dolmer a papist in the parish of Cawsam doth constantly harbour the Caualliers and that three of them quarterd there the last night and their horses which were iudged to be worth 50 l.

Samuell Bedford went this day to London. Patrick Dudgeon into Bedfordshire. Edward Sherwyn went this day into Gloucestershire with a letter from his Excellencye. John Turner went this day to London. William Morryson went this day to Oxford. William Tudman returned this day and went out againe.

FRIDAY THE 21TH. APRILL. George Holdway went this day into Bedfordshire. John Webb went out this day. Richard Greenway went out and returned this day. Owen Christmasse came this day out of Lincolneshire and informed that on Satturday last was sevenight the Earle of Newcastle beseeged the towne of Leeds in Yorkeshire wherein was the Lord Fairfax² with a considerable strength of about 5000 horse and foote. That their ordnance played on both sides from that tyme till Tuesday following in which space there were 1000 of the Earlesmen slaine and 2000 wounded and ran way from him being terrified with the slaughter of the others. That hee tooke 8 peeces of ordnance and 4 carriages. After all which the Earle with his forces that remayned retreated to Yorke. That on Friday following having refresht himselfe

¹Yield (?).

²See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Fairfax, Ferdinando.

and augmented his forces by compelling the contry to come in to releve him (as formerly hee had donne) hee came the second tyme against Leeds with 20,000 men and hath beseiged it round about insoemuch that the Lord Fairfaxe is now much streightened for want of a supply to releve him. Hee having scarce any victuals or ammunitiō to susteine his necessities.

John Chaplin saith that the last weeke Prince Rupert with 3000 horse and foote came before Litchfeild, and fell upon the towne with 4 peeces of ordnance which hee brought along with him and playd upon them till Thursday night. On Friday hee caused the contry to bring in gorse, broome and faggotts to make a bridge over to the wall, but hee was beaten of and they in the Minster sett fire on the faggotts which burnt a dwelling howse of a justice of peace inhabiting neere the place. On Satturday hee caused a great number of collyers to come in and undermyne the ground, intending to blow upp parte of the Minster, and soe to gaine the rest which they did accordingly, but the instruments wherewith they should have effected this worke failing in the execucion recoild upon them and kild above 30 of their owne men. That Prince Robert was with a generall consent invited by the woemen of Litchfeild some day the last weeke to dinner, where was great preparacion of which the soldiers in the Minster having notice sallyed out and tooke away all the meate provided before it was scarce ready and carryed it away by violence to the Minster, and soe disappointed the woemen of their expectacion and Prince Robert of his dinner. That yesterday was senight there sallyed out of Coventry about 40 dragoones, and having entred lodge of the Lord of Dunsmores¹ standing by it selfe on Dunsmore heath they tooke and carryed away into Coventry as much mony and goods as weere esteemed to bee worth 1000 or 1500 li. and 100 loads of corne and hay whoe sent them word by his man that now they had taken away his goods, they might burne the howse too.

Raphe Norton returned this day and saith that there are noe forces now in Abbington, onely a few pikemen, which are to march from thence very speedily to Oxford. That in Oxford alsoe there is but small strength for hee heares that most of them are marcht from thence to Brightwell and Wattleton² and lye quarterd thereabouts within 4 miles of Henley where there are about 3000 horse and foot under the comand of Commissary Wilmott. And that Prince Roberts forces are dayly expected to come unto them. That it was reported in Abbington that the governor of Reading had brought unto him on Tuesday last 700 musketeers and cart loads of ammunitiō,³ and that hee sends

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Leigh, Francis.

²Watlington.

³*Cf. Mercurius Aulicus*, "This day (17th April) H.M. sent to Reading 700 musketeers with six cart-loads of powder, match and other ammunitiō." This force went under the conduct of Sir Lewis Dyve. (See H. G. Tibbutt, *op. cit.*, p. 32).

spies dayly into our army which give him full intelligence of whatsoever happens here.¹

Richard Emmerton went towards Newbury. Robert Goddard to Oxford. Henry Perryman went to Wattleton, Newhelme² etc. William Sharpe went this day to Windsor with letters to Collonell Ven at 12 of the clocke at noone. Robert Pidgeon went forth this day to Pangborne, Englefeild and returned. Robert Billett went forth this day towards Oxford and returned. George Westwood returned this day. Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that it is reported at Wallingford that there are 5000 foote of the Kings forces but hee hath since more credibly heard that there are not above 2000 and all pikemen and twoe troopes of horse and that in Abbingdon there are not soe many left as will keepe a guard, but compell the townesmen to doe it. And the contry all thereabouts report that all the musketeers in Abbingdon and Wallingford are marcht towards Reading to relevee it, and the pikemen stay behind till Prince Robert comes to conduct them, or else that they may gett other armes, musketeers (as they conceive) to bee most necessary for that place. The King still remaynes in Oxford, and intends not to remove suddenly.

Robert Cox returned this day.

SATURDAY THE 22TH. APRILL. Richard Emmerton returned this day and saith that hee was the last night and the greatest parte of this day at Wickham, Wender, Wooborne and Marlow and that none of the Kings forces are there or thereabouts. Onely hee heares that there are some stragling companies that lye plundering about Britwell, Newelme and other places adioyning, but they are noe considerable strength.

Raphe Norton returned this day and saith that this morning early hee was at Cayne end, Exlade and Woodcott, and in divers places round abouts but neyther sawe nor heard of any forces being there or comming thither, but they say that the Kings forces doe dayly march out of their quarters at Newelme and Benson, and returne backe againe at night.

Francis Symons returned this day and saith that hee was credibly informed that yesterday there went out of Reading a post to Oxford whoe horst himselfe in the contry 7 miles of to avoide suspition, and that it is supposed hee will returne this night back and bring great store of ammunition into the towne.

John Webb saith that those forces which were drawn out of Oxford, Abbingdon and Wallingford are retreated back to their severall quarters

¹At Fielding's trial after the fall of Reading it was objected against him that "he gave his pass to a woman to go out of the town, who went into the earl of Essex's army and returned again." Fielding replied that "the woman to whom he gave a pass was one he often employed as a spy with good effect, and he did believe the advantage he received by it was greater than she could carry to the enemy by any information she could give." (Clarendon III, 28-9).

²Ewelme.

and by the way tooke all the horses they mett withall. That on Wednesday last a partie of them were gathered together at Benson neere Wallingford but hee heard not of their approach any neerer this way. That hee heares that they expect Prince Robert to come speedily unto them at which tyme they intend to come and beate us out of our quarters. That there is newes daily carryed out of Reading to Oxford by such whoe pretending themselves sorry contry fellowes doe not onely give notice to Oxford but alsoe to Reading, of our proceedings here. That his Majestye sent out a warrant lately to command all persons of what degrees soever betweene the age of 16 and 60 to bring in both their persons and estates into Oxford for the defence of the Kings person, and upon refusall to forfeit both their lands and goods to his Majestye.

Raph Norton —————¹

TUESDAY THE 25TH. OF APRILL. Richard Emerton went to my Lord Grey with a commission. Raphe Norton went this day towards Oxford. Robert Goddard went this day to Nettlebed. Henry Perryman to Chesham, Wickham etc. Edward Sherwyn returned this day from Gloucester. Polly and his brother, Glover alias Harrison, went all three this day beyond Cawsam. William Everard went forth this day. Sam Braine returned.

WEDNESDAY 26TH. APRILL. Richard Emmerton went out this day to Pangborne etc. Sam Braine went this day to Oxford. Richard Emmerton returned this day.

THURSDAY 27. Richard Emmerton went to Blewbury and Hackborne, Robert Cox to Wallingford, and both returned. Robert Goddard to Nettlebedd.

FRYDAY 28 APRILL. Robert Goddard returned this day. Robert Cox went to Wallingford and returned and saith that all the forces that marcht from hence yesterday are now at Wallingford. That his Majestye the Prince and Prince Robert are eyther there or thereabouts, and that they and all their whole strength intend to bee here² againe very speedily (as is generally reported). And that there are 4 troopes of horse gone to Brill to kepe a garrison there.

Brickett returned from Gloucester. James Lauall went this day. John Morris went alsoe. Henry Perryman went towards Nettlebed and soe to Oxford.

SATURDAY THE 29TH. APRILL. Mr. Snape, Job Murcott, William Morrison, went to Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee was this last night at Hackborne and Blewbury where hee heares it reported by honest

¹Blank in MS.

²Reading. The Royalist garrison capitulated on 26th April and marched out to Oxford on the following day.

men that there are warrants come forth from his Majestye or some of his cheife comandars to search all the howses in the contry thereabouts for all manner of armes, pikes, halberds, musketts, birding peeces and to bring them into Wallingford Castle, that all the ovens thereabouts are employed in baking of biskett, and that they intend to pull downe all the workes about the towne and many as possibly can to betake themselves to the Castle and the rest to march to Oxford, where it is reported his Majestye intends to have a pitcht feild. That the King went yesterday to Oxford, and that Prince Robert with 2 troopes of horse is still in Wallingford, and the rest of the horse are in there severall quarters thereabouts.

John Webb returned this day from ———.¹ William Richards from Oxford. George Warner went this day to London. Cox and Emmerton went out this day. Henry Perryman returned this day. William Richards saith that it was reported at Oxford that the Kings forces had beaten our men at Reading, and had kild 400 of them. That both the King, Prince, and all their forces intend speedily to march out of Oxford towards the north to meete the Queene, and the Earle of Newcastle.² That they have but little ammunitiion in the towne, onely they have 8 new peeces of ordnance, and 7 with Prince Roberts forces brought in on Thursday last, which forces consisted of about 3000 horse and foote. That hee was taken prisoner at Oxford and stayed there 10 dayes, and at last by the helpe of some freinds was enlarged.

SONDAY THE 30TH DAY. APRILL. Duke, Owen Brownesell, Peede, Metcalfe, Langford, Robert Hanscombe, Thomas Hanscombe and Mathew Elsam.

John Morris went out this day to ———.³ and returned at night with informacion. Raph Norton went with him. Hinchliffe went out this day to ———.³ John Lane went out this day to London. Richard Emmerton, Richard Greenway, went out to Hackborne. Thomas Hitchman came from London this day, and Jo. Gardner with 5 horses.

MONDAY. MAY 1. Raphe Norton went this day to Oxford. Richard Greenway returned this day and saith that the last night there were 20 of the Kings scouts at Hackborne and Streatley 3 miles from Wallingford. That the King was yesterday at Oxford, and the common report

¹Blank in MS.

²*Cf.* Clarendon (III, 31): "It is most certain that the King himself was so far from believing the condition he was in to be tolerable, that, upon the news of the Earl of Essex his advance towards Oxford within four or five days after the loss of Reading, he once resolved, (and that by the advice of the chief officers of the army) to march away towards the north, to join with the Earl of Newcastle."

³Blank in MS.

is that hee intends to march forth this day but whither it is not certainly knowne. That the contry people thereabouts were to bring in provision yesterday into Oxford and Wallingford, but resolved to bring in none, whereby it is conceived they will bee in a great streight for want thereof.

John Webb went this day towards Oxford. Henry Perryman with him. Henry Pratt went this day to Coventry with letters to Collonell William Purifye¹. William Richards went the same day to Northampton. John Gardner was this day discharged and went backe to London. Thomas Hitchman went this day to London. Job Murcott returned from Oxford.

MAY 2. TUESDAY. Richard Emmerton returned this day. John Webb, Henry Perryman went both forth together this day. John Turner went this day to Abbingdon. George Warner and his sonne returned this day from London. John Lane returned this day from Wheatley, Wattleton etc., and Theophilus Hinchliffe returned the day before being Monday.

WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 1643. Edward Sherwyn went out this day to ———.² John Lane saith that hee was yesterday at Wheatley and hears that a regiment of foot marcht from thence to Wattleton and were to goe from thence to Wallingford. That 7 troopes of horse lay at Wattleton the night before which were alsoe to goe to Wallingford. That the King and prince Charles were to lye at Woodstocke the last night and from thence were to goe towards the north to meete the Queene and the Earle of Newcastle. George Holdway went this night to Newbury to the Leiftennant with a letter.

THURSDAY 4TH. MAY. Nicholas Blackman went this morning to Oxford. Richard Garland went this day towards Oxford. John Webb and Henry Perryman returned this day and saith that they were the last night at Wheatley with Mr. Bulmer where they tooke away halfe the gate and threw it into the river, and comming after to West Wickham they mett with a traveller which they searcht and found divers letters about him which they brought to his Excellency which discover all the busines now in agitation both at Oxford and Abbingdon, and left the man prisoner at West Wickham. And further say that upon the taking upp of the gate at Wheatly Captaine George Bulmer was slaine with a pockett pistoll by a gentleman that had mett with them before, and returned back to Wheatly Bridge, whoe afterwards gott into the towne where as they heare were 2 troopes of horse, and that they left him by the way side at a sheppards howse to be buried.³

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Purefoy.

²Blank in MS.

³For the Royalist account of this incident see F. J. Varley, *Mercurius Aulicus (summarized extracts)*, 1948, p. 24.

Raph Norton returned this day. Justinian Mingam went this night to London. Henry Perryman went to Wickham.

Raph Norton saith that hee was at Culham hill¹ nere Abbington and that the Kings forces are making tents of bords and hurdles and have fetcht all the bedds out of the contry. That there was a proclamation² sent to Tame, Wantage and Farrington that they shall keepe noe marketts but shall bring all their provision thither, and they are to keepe a markett there every day, and intend to lye there till the Earle of Essex comes to give them battell. That their forces lye some of them 5 miles beyond Oxford and 5 miles on this sides, and that hee heard that there were 5 troopes of horse in Habbington and that 20 more were to come in that night. And that order was given for the bringing in of hay, oates and other provision, and that the foote are encampt in a corne feild. The river of Thames runnes on the left side, and Oxford lyes the right side and this feild is 3 miles beyond Dorchester.

FRYDAY THE 5 MAY. 1643. John Webb went this day to Oxford. Raph Norton went with him. Robert Cox returned this day.

Nicholas Blackman returned this day and saith that hee was the last night at Oxford, and that the King was then there, but hee intended to goe into the north. That there are great store of cattle, corne and other provision brought into the towne, and all the bakers imployed in making of biskett. That halfe of the forces that went from Reading are in Oxford, and the other halfe in Wallingford, and divers troopes of horse (as hee heares) come in dayly from Cicester and other places. That the governor of Redding and 3 or 4 more whose names hee knows not, are in prison in Oxford, and there is great controversie about the manner of their execucion.³ Prince Robert would have them shott to death, which if it bee not soe performed, hee will desert the busines and goe into his owne contry. That they have brought in great store of cattle into Wallingford, and have taken downe a great part of the castle and made it lower, and planted their ordnance on the toppe, and it is reported by Collonell Blake and other comandars that beefore they will yeild upp the towne they will fire it, and burne it to the ground. Robert Goddard went out this day towards Oxford. Edward Sherwyn went with him towards Oxford the same tyme.

¹Clarendon (III, 32) records that as Essex did not advance from Reading, Charles remained in Oxford, "and in the meantime, encamped his foot upon the downe about a mile from Abington which was the headquarters for his horse." Wood (I, 99) describes the encampment as about Abingdon and about Newnham (2nd May).

²Warrants would be sent out for this purpose. There is no record of a proclamation in these terms.

³Fielding, on his return to Oxford after the capitulation of Reading, was twice condemned to death and twice reprieved. Rupert appears to have favoured clemency. (Gardiner I, 130; Clarendon III, 26 seq.).

MAY THE 6TH. SATTURDAY. Nicholas Blackman went out this day to Oxford. Henry Perryman returned this day and saith that hee was at Newelme, Warborough, Brightwell nere Wattleton and that all the Kings forces went from thence yesterday, and hee heares they went to Oxford there to bee mustered. That the King was in Oxford yesterday at 10 a clocke where hee stayer to have the contry come in to assist him. That on Thursday last there was a great appearance both at Aylesbury and Wendover and great store of mony and ammunition was brought in for the use of the King and Parliament and that there is another meting there this day for the same purpose.

George Holdway went this day to Chichester with letters. Job Murcott went this day to Gloucester and to Sir William Waller. John Webb returned saith that all the Kings forces are gone from Oxford and all the parts adioyning to Abbingdon and that they are making workes and entrenching themselves at a place but hee remembers not the name of it, within 2 miles of Abbingdon. That many of the Caualliers runne away for want of provision, that all the contry is warned in to come with their carts to furnish them with provision but some cannot, and some dare not, and others will not, soe that they are still destitute. That upon a warrant sent by his Excellency to the cheife men of Chipnam to provide necessaryes for the army, they provided great store which assone as they had donne they gave notice to his Majestyes forces thereof whoe came and fetcht it all away. This day they alsoe fetcht 5 quarters of wheate, 5 of oates and 5 loads of hay from Blewbury and carryed to the Kings armye. That they have sent alsoe to Newbury and Hungerford and other places to bring in provision by Monday next. But the townesmen of Newbury have sent to his Excellency to desire him to send a party of horse to prevent the goeing of it thither. That the Beard at Newbury is an inne that commonly harbours malignants whoe there receive intelligence and carrye to Oxford.

7 MAY SONDAY. Hugh Kettle came this day from Hungerford and informed that there were about 12 troopers, whoe mett with a post (and 3 men riding post) comming from Newbury, tooke the post prisoners, and brought them backe to one Mr. Brownes howse of Denverd¹ neere Hungerford and sent backe the post-boy to bring some of their company which were left behind which hee brought back accordingly.

William Richards returned this day from Coventry and saith that on Wednesday last Collonell Hastings forces which were come to Nuneaton, 8 miles from Coventry, intending to have pillaged the faire which was then kepte there and to have driven away the horses and cattle, the Lord Grey hearing of them came with some of his forces, and beate them backe, shott and hurt divers of them and tooke 30 prisoners and their

¹Denford.

horses and armes. That 6 troopes of Caualliers coming on Friday last into Northamptonshire to plunder and pillage the contry, the peple understanding of it did rise, and sending to Northampton for some aid, beate them out of the contry, and pursued them as farr as Brackley, and have taken 6 peece of ordnance out of the towne of Northampton and intend to goe to take Banbury and to pull downe the castle.¹ That at Cleydon 6 miles from Aylesbury there was a skirmish between the Caualliers and the contrymen whoe were under the command of Captaine Sayers of which the soldiers in Aylesbury having notice, a regiment of foote issued out of the towne to releeeve them, but before they came the contrymen had beaten them away. That in this skirmish Captaine Sayers was slaine and not one soldier beside.

John Webb returned this day from Newbury.

Raph Norton returned, and went the same night to Newbury.

MONDAY 8TH. OF MAY. Robert Goddard saith that hee was at Tame, Milton and Wattleton and heard there that the Caualliers have sett upp the gate againe at Wheatley bridge which Mr. Bulmer and the rest pulld downe. That the Kings forces came to Long Crendon in Buckinghamshire and Moreton in Oxfordshire to plunder and pillage, but the contry arose and beate them all away onely in Buckinghamshire they tooke away some of their cattle, but if any come that way againe they have conceuid to ring the bells backward and to come in and ioyne together and take them. That one Thomas Fletcher a hemp dresser in Tame whoe useth to carry hempe to the Kings army to make match withall and if any man speake of the Parlyments side hee brings warrants from them along with him and makes him fly the towne. That the Cavalliers have planted 8 peeces of ordnance on both sides of the way to Crawmarsh and Wallingford, and hidd them in the banks to cutt of our men as they passe alonge. That Collonell Blake hath sent out warrants into the contry to bring in all manner of provision whoe is greatly assisted by one Mr. Fettiplace² a papist liveing at Cookley within 10 miles hence whoe not onely perswades the people to contribute but helps them with carts and horses to carry in provision and lends the towne mony alsoe upp (sic) all occasions.

William Richards went this day to Oxford. Thomas Knight returned from Oxford. Edward Sherwin returned this day from Oxford. Samuell Brayne returned this day from London. Hugh Kettle went this day to Newbury, and the day before returned from thence, and saith that being at Hungerford the Satturday past in the afternoone, hee heard that there were 11 or 12 troopers which they supposed to be the

¹This incident is reported in *Continuation of Special and Remarkable Passages 4th-11th May*, (see A. Beesley, *History of Banbury*, 345).

²Francis Fetyplace of Swyncombe. For this branch of the family see H. A. Napier, *Historical Notices of Swyncombe and Ewelme*, (1858).

Kings forces whoe meeting with a post and 3 horsemen riding from Newbury tooke them prisoners and carryed them backe to Mr. Brownes howse at Denverd neere Hungerford, but what became of them afterwards hee knowes not.

TUESDAY THE 9TH. MAY. Hugh Kettle returned this day and saith that Prince Robert with above 2000 of the Kings forces was yesterday at Newbury, and pillaged divers (4)¹ howses in the towne. That about 40 of the Parliaments forces hearing of their being there came by Crookam heath to Newbury to oppose them, whoe ridd feircely amongst them and kild one of their men and tooke away a captaines horse, skarfe and armes, and brought them away, that afterwards the (sic) beat them away and tooke 6 of our men prisoners, and carryed them to Abbington, whereof one had his horse kild under him. Raph Norton went this day to Abbington. John Webb went this day to Newbury. Edward Sherwin to Wallingford. Samuell Braine went this day to Oxford.

Nicholas Blackman returned this day and saith that the King was yesterday in Oxford and that there are about 2000 horse and foote, that the workes are very stronge and severall drawe bridges made upon the high wayes and have built a great sconce in the open feild on this side the towne.² That there was a skirmish on Saturday night last at Banbury betweene the Kings forces and ours where the governor was taken prisoner, having formerly sent away his goods to the Parliament, and carryed to Oxford.³ That there was a petition preferrd yesterday to his Majestye by the cittizens of Oxford to desire him to continue there because they thought the Parliaments forces would not come asslong as Majestye stayed there. That there was a breife read in all the churches in Oxford on Sonday last for a colleccion for mony for the maymed soldiers that were hurt at Redding. That they are dayly making of powder. That there is great preparacion alsoe at Abbington and dayly expectacion of our forces to advance that way. George Holdway came this day from Chichester and Portsmouth. Edward Shirwin returned and saith that hee came from Wallingford and that they

¹The figure 4 is written over "divers" in the MS.

²The great sconce at St. Clement's, guarding Magdalen Bridge, was started in the first week of May. (Wood I, 99).

³Cf. letter (2nd May) from the Earl of Northampton at Banbury to Prince Rupert (MS. Firth c.6. f.171), "there is a great suspicion of my Lieutenant Governor, Sir Henry Huncks, grounded upon his correspondence with the rebels." Huncks was sent to Rupert to defend himself, and Sergeant Major Green was to succeed to his command. Beesley (*op. cit.*) quotes a report in *Special Passages*, no. 39 that the commander at Banbury had maliciously set fire and burnt a great part of the town "even at a time when no enemy approached it." Anthony Green continued to hold the post of Lieutenant Governor at Banbury and was knighted for his services in November, 1644. (Dugdale, 75).

expect every hower when his Excellency will come thither, and keepe their bridges drawne to continually that their soldiers may bee prevented from coming away which they much feare, there are about 1000 soldiers in the towne and 6 peeces of ordnance in the castle, and that there was a partye of dragoones were scouting forth at his comming away.

Thomas Knight to Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 10TH. MAY. John Webb returned this day. Henry Perryman went to Wantage this day.

Edward Sherwyn returned and saith that on Tuesday last Collonell Blake sent out severall warrants to Nettlebedd and other places for the bringing in of divers loads of lyme towards the builing (sic) of a bridge on the south-east side of Wallingford towards Barkshire and there they intend to plant 2 peeces of ordnance. The strength in the towne is but small being at this present not above 300, and round about the towne and in all theire workes there are but twoe peeces of ordnance and 2 drakes, and the ordnance are planted to command Crawmarsh hill, and the 2 drakes stand in the castle gate. That they have taken upp 4 barnes about the towne for the soldiers to quarter in whoe lye there expecting dayly for more to come thither of their owne forces, but from whence hee knowes not.

THURSDAY 11TH. MAY. Humfrey Haynes went this day to Oxford. John Webb went this day to Brightwell.

FRIDAY 12TH. MAY. Raphe Norton returned this day and saith the King came yesterday to Abbington with Prince¹ and the Duke of Yorke where a councell of warre was called for that it was credibly reported that Sir William Waller with all his forces is marcht from Glocester as farr as Malmesbury, and is advancing towards them. The Prince Robert and Prince Maurice are alsoe in Abbington and Prince Maurice is returned with 500 horse and foote to Culham hill where they are building divers howses with turfe, timber and boards and are dayly enlarging their workes and making their trenches deeper, and have built it like a towne and given severall names to the streetes, and that one of the streets called London Streete was lately burnt by accident. That they having intelligence of his Excellencyes comming towards them, they sent 4 captaines with their severall companies, being most of them sicke and lame, to Wallingford to helpe to strengthen the towne, and to waite his Lordshippes comming, and that they brought 2 peeces of ordnance along with them, and both the men and ordnance continue still in Wallingford. That the maior of Newbury writ a letter lately to his Majestye without the knowledge of his brethren intymating, as it seemes, his desire to serve his Majestye which one of the secretaries reading, the King

¹Charles, Prince of Wales.

replied I am glad there is one righteous man left in Sodom. That the townesmen of Newbury whoe had beene lately plundred by Prince Roberts forces repaired to Prince Robert to desire him that they might have their goods restored, hee told them it was unknowne to him, but if they could find the men hee would punish them, and further said that if any tyme afterwards they sent any thing to the rebbell at Redding hee would burne down the towne.

George Holdway went out this day to Bedfordshire. John Webb went forth this day. Raphe Norton went to Newbury. Humfrey Haynes returned this day and saith that hee was yesterday at Lutner¹ 6 miles from Wallingford and heares that most of the Kings forces are drawen out of Oxford to Cullham hill neere Abbington, and that they have spoyled divers corne feilds with making trenches, and other workes and bring provision to Abbington. That there are 2 troopes of horse in Wheatley, and drive all the sheepe and cattle thereabouts into Wheatley, Wallingford and other townes where their soldiers lye quartered. That this morning hee was besett and pursued by 4 of the Kings scouts betweene Lutner and Whitfeild² and thereby constrayned to returne backe, and had much adoe to escape away from them without being taken.

Thomas Knight returned this day from Oxford.

SATURDAY. 13TH. MAY. John Webb went out this day to Nettlebed etc. Edward Sherwyn towards Wallingford etc.

Robert Goddard returned yesterday and informed this day that there are 2 regiments of foote in Wallingford and great store of horse which lye quartered about the towne. That a partye sallied out on Thursday last and came to Pepper Greene and Bledlow and other places adioyning and tooke and drove away all their horses, and carryed them to Wallingford. They have 6 peeces of ordnance 4 in the castle and 2 without in the towne. That assoone as our forces advance they soldiers intend to compell soe many of the townesmen as can beare armes to goe into the castle. That the soldiers dayly pray for our comming thither being (as they conceive) soe well provided, and having soe many of the Kings forces round about to assist them.

Hugh Kettle returned this day and saith that hee was yesterday in Abbington and Milton, and at Culham hill, where hee sawe Prince Robbert and Prince Maurice, and there are about 5000 foote as hee conceives, and that all the horse lye in Abbington, and they are still fortifieing themselves very strongly and wish that that Roundheaded rouges would but once come and meete them in open feild for they say they lye in townes and will not nor dare not come and meete them. That they have a saying amongst them that the Parliament had the best

¹Lewknor.

²Wheatfield.

at first but the Prince shall have the best at last meaning Prince Robert. Edward Sherwyn returned and saith that at Wattleton there were this day 100 horse of the Kings forces which came from Wallingford to fetch hay and other provision from Golder and Wattleton, that they had seaven carts along with them, and inquired which were the Roundheads howses, but what they intended to doe unto them he knowes not.

SONDAY THE 14TH. OF MAY. John Webb and Raph Norton returned this day and say that in Wallingford there are onely a few dragoones and 2 regiments of foote in the castle which in all are not above 400 and many of them sicke and without armes and 4 small peeces of ordnance, and the soldiers there say they thinke they must bee forces to come hither, for they see noe body come against them, they alsoe give out that most of the Lord Generalls forces are run away for want of their pay. That the governor of Wallingford sent out warrants to all the townes thereabouts as farr as Newbury to command them to bring their monethly pay thither which they usd to pay to Redding, and that Newbury is 25l. behind and tomorow is their last day, and that the contry is alsoe warned to bring in 100 loads of hurdles betweene this and Thursday next. That there is a great reioycing at Wallingford for that they heare that the Earle of Newcastle hath sent 4000 soldiers to Oxford, and expect some there, whereby they hope to keepe both the towne and the castle. That Captaine Chester one of the captaines in Wallingford told the high constable of Cholesley that hee was at Oxford and heard Prince Robert tell the King that hee had driven all the Roundheads out of their quarters betwixt Redding and Newbury and had kild and taken 30 of their men. That the King hath given power to the Earle of Carnarvan to plunder the towne of Newbury if any tyme hereafter they or any of them lend or give any thing to the Parliaments forces.

MONDAY 15TH. MAY. Robert Goddard went this day towards Oxford. John Turner went this day to Abbingdon.

16 MAY TUESDAY. Hugh Kettle came this day from Newbury and saith that hee was yesterday in Wallingford where they have made very stronge workes about the castle, and a doble drawbridge at the entrance into the castle and 2 drakes planted there upon one carriage. They have pulld downe about 20 howses over against the castle to make bulwarkes, and to strengthen themselves and made trenches round about the towne. That the governor hath comanded the constables thereabouts to bring in victuall and other provision because they know not how soone the towne may bee beseiged and say they hope to have the upper hand of their enemyes the Roundheads. That on Wednesday last the Prince, Duke, Prince Robert and Prince Maurice with 3 lords and a countesse, but what countesse hee knowes not, were on Wednesday

last at Culham hill, and the Prince spoke to the soldiers, and told them that his father owed them now but 10 dayes pay, but they report themselves to be 7 or 8 weekes behind, and about 2 of the clocke the same day all the soldiers received pay but how much hee knowes not. That the soldiers in Wallingford report that there is a new booke come forth made by Mr. Prynn (as they say) which declares that Christ shall come into the world and destroy King Charles and that the Earle of Essex is accounted for St. John Baptist.

Edward Sherwyn went this day to Newbury.

Robert Goddard saith that hee spoke with one which came yesterday out of Wallingford, whoe affirmed that there is such store of all manner of provision brought into the castle, as is conceived will serve them this 12 moneth. That the forces now lye still and goe not out to plunder as formerly they did, but expect ours dayly to come thither, and have provided themselves of all things for that purpose. That his Majestye (as is supposed) being to be iealous of the governor, and feares hee might prove false and when they soldiers are paid Prince Robert, Prince Maurice or some others are appointed by the Kinge to over see him.

John Webb went this day to ————.¹

Hugh Kettle went this day to Newbury and from thence to Abbington etc. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that yesterday there went out of Oxford and Abbington 4 troopes of horse with some dragoons to Wallingford to helpe to strengthen the towne against my Lord Generalls comming and 6 troopes of horse and dragoones went alsoe from thence to Farrington intending to march to Highworth to prevent the coming of Sir William Waller whoe is suspected to come that way, and as occasion serves to retreat backe to Farrington. That hee heares that Sir Edward Hungerford hath taken a castle² but the name and place hee knowes not, and alsoe great store of armes, and 4000 l. in mony and plate.

Richard Shawe came this day from Wallingford and saith hee being at one Edward Collyers howse a barber in the towne one of the officers of the Kings army came to some soldiers that were in the shopp and commanded them to make their horses ready, and to meate them well for they were all to march away that night, and hee heard some of the soldiers afterwards say that Prince Robert with all his forces was to come that evening to Wallingford. But what their designe was, or whither they were to goe hee could not learne. That some of the soldiers runne away every night, and that 30 which kept the centryes ranne away the last night, and the reason is as hee heares for want of pay.

Richard Emmerton went this evening to Basingstoke. Robert Cox this evening to Hungerford. Job Murcott went this night at 12 a clocke

¹Blank in MS.

²Wardour Castle, taken on 8th May. (Ludlow, *Memoirs*, ed. Firth I, 51).

to London with letters to his Excellency from Serieant Maior General.¹

WEDNESDAY 17 MAY. Richard Shaw went this day to Wallingford. Robert Cox returned and saith that hee was within a mile of Wantage where hee was certified that the Caualliers are in Farrington, Swynden, Baydon, Hyworth, Wantage and Lamborne and all thereabouts consisting in all about 8000 horse and foote. That they tooke divers cattle yesterday from the butchers of Newbury, and that one man bought them all for tenne pounds, and when they had his mony kept it, and tooke the cattle againe from him.

Robert Coxe returned this day from Wantage and went the same day to Newbury. John Lane came this day from London and returned to London the same day.

Raph Norton came from Abbington and saith that there are 1500 of the Kings forces removed out of Oxford and Abbington to a place called Woodhill 2 miles beyond Abbington where they are fortifieing themselves and intend to lye there expecting Sir William Wallers comming. That the Earle of Marleborough² with 800 men went to meete Sir Edward Hungerford, and when they had marcht 2 days some of the Parliaments forces mett them and made them all run backe againe and now they lye quarterd at Swynden 10 miles from Newbury. That Collonell Duncombe whoe lay about Farrington with 500 men which hee had a long tyme maynteyned at his owne charge, for want of mony to pay them both himselfe 40 of his officers and 80 of his soldiers are gone quite away, and the rest were eyther lost, kild or run away before. That hee was told by a servant of Collonell Spencer Lucyes that for the good service his master had donne, Prince Robert had bee soe favourable unto him as that hee still had 40 loads of hay and great store of corne at his howse at Hicleere.³ That the butchers which were wont to kepe their marketts at Highworth and other places thereabouts cannot now passe without having both their oxen and sheepe taken from them by the Caualliers. That there were Sir John Millicent and another nobleman were this weeke slaine at Oxford, and that tomorrow the King and Prince intend to bee at Abbington. That those forces which went yesterday to Farrington are gone this day to Swynden.

Richard Emmerton returned this day from Basingstoke.

Thomas Hitchman came this day from London with letters from Collonell Martin.⁴

THURSDAY MAY 18. William Wigfall went this day to London. Thomas Hewett into Bedfordshire. John Webb returned this day and

¹Philip Skippon, Sergeant-Major General in the army of the Earl of Essex.

²See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Ley, James.

³Highclere, Hampshire.

⁴See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Marten, Henry.

saith that those troopes of horse which lay at Wheatley, Holton, Stanton, Bister and all thereabouts being about 1000 in all are removed from thence and came yesterday to the randevous at Culham hill. That the Cauallyers on Monday last pillaged the towne of Winchloe and some other villages adioyning and made an attempt upon Shernborne in Bucks shire¹, but they withstood them and dreove them backe and kild 3 or 4 of their horses, and the night followeing they came againe and sett the towne on fire and burnt a great parte of it. That the King hath sent out proclamacions² yesterday purporting that if the Earle of Essex will lay downe his armes and disband, hee will doe the like upon the same propositions which were propounded at the last treaty. And hath likewise sent out warrants into the contrye for the bringing in of spades, mattockes and shovells to entrench the trayne of artillery at Oxford and for bringing in of troope horses at the rate of 8l. a horse. That his Majestye is much deieted ever since the fight at Cawsam, and soe much trobled at it that hee will not bee comforted with any thing. That there was a muteny this weeke at Blackheath³ nere Oxford amongst the Kings soldiers, where divers were kild, and many of them gentlemen of quality. And saith that the forces which were plundering in Buckinghamshire are returnd alsoe to Culham hill.

Thomas Hitchman went this day to London with letters to his Excellency from Sergeant Maior Generall Skippon.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day, and saith that it is reported at Oxford that Sir William Waller with his forces is now before Worcester and in great hopes to take it, which will bee a very considerable thing. That the Earle of Newcastle mett with Captaine Hotham⁴ at Grantham where they had a skirmish and Newcastle, whom they reported dead, kild 60 of his men and tooke 100 prisoners. That there were 1000 horse and 1200 foote gonne out of Oxford to the westerne parts 2 dayes since, under the command of Marquesse Hartford⁵ whose this day went after them, but to what certaine place or upon what designe hee cannot learne. That 3 troopes of horse went out of Wallingford into Buckinghamshire on Tuesday last and came to Loughton and drove 500 head of beasts out of the towne being markett day, and comming backe againe they fell upon Swanburne in the same county where finding some opposition they sett fire on the towne and burnt to the ground (as hee heares) 30 howses, and tooke away some 40 armes out of the towne and

¹Winslow in Buckinghamshire and Shirburn in Oxfordshire.

²The King's proclamation for disbanding both armies was published on 12th April (Steele no. 2407) and is cited in his next proclamation on this matter, 20th May (Steele no. 2427).

³No place of this name near Oxford can be identified.

⁴See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Hotham, John.

⁵See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Seymour, William, first Marquess of Hertford.

contry as they came along. Justinian Mingam went this night to London and returned againe the same night.

FRYDAY THE 19TH. MAY. Edward Sherwyn went this day to Newbury. Raph Norton went to Marleborough. Henry Perryman saith that on Wednesday last the Kings scouts came into Oxford and brought intelligence that Sir William Waller was advanc't towards Worcester, and it was thereupon ordered that Prince Maurice should goe out and meete him. That the King was yesterday at Shottover Hill in Wheatly rode and there they make new workes, and have drawne all their forces towards Culham expecting my Lord Generalls comming.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that yesterday a great ricke of hay was burnt at Abbingdon being about 300 loades. That betwixt Newbury and Abington at a place called Isley¹ hee mett that party of the Parliaments forces which conveyed the sickes to Newbury which was taken from the Caualliers, about 10 of the clocke and 2 howers after hee mett with the Kings forces pursuing after them but mist them, and on the south side of Abbingdon there is a great drawbridge made, where ther are 5 peeces of ordnance planted, and 2 more in the markett place and hee understood by their discourse that their intencions are to come and take Redding againe. And that the Queene with the Earle of Newcastle and their forces are advancing towards Oxford and when they are all ioyned together their designe is for London. That this day there was a rumour in Newbury that there were a great army of the Kings forces comming within 3 miles of the towne which provd afterwards to bee the Parliaments forces which were riding upp and downe in and about the towne and contry. Raph Norton returned this day and saith there are 2000 of the Kings forces at Marleborough, 5 drakes and 2 peeces of ordnance and that they intend to march from thence to Salisbury leaving behind them a considerable number to keepe the towne. That they have stayed all the waynes which usually came that way out of the west contry with chese and other things and have taken all their commodities and take away sheepe and cattle from butchers and others all thereabouts the contry, as they were comming from thence to our army. That it is there reported that the Queene will bee at Oxford the next weeke, and will bring great store of gold and silver along with her.²

SATURDAY 20 MAY. Edward Sherwyn went out this day to ————.³ Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that hee heares there are 20 thousand of the Kings forces which lye upon Culham hill, and have

¹Isley.

²The convoy of arms and ammunition from the Queen reached Oxford on 15th May. The Queen herself was then in York; she arrived in Oxford on 14th July.

³Blank in MS.

pitcht about 500 tents, and there keepe their randevous, and have made 700 caves or hollow places in the wheat feild on this side the hill which some conceive is for their safeguard, others suspect that it is to destroy our forces as they march that way. That there were about 300 loades of hay burnt yesterday at Abbington by accident. That they are still fortifieing themselves in Oxford espetially about Magdalen Colledge. And that the forces which went out of Milton and Wheatley on Tuesday last are now returnd thither againe.

Mr. Robert Cox went this day to Newburge. Raph Norton to Wallingford. Robert Atkins went this day home and was the next week to goe to Oxford. Samuell Brayne returned this day and saith that there are about 80 of the Kings forces which lye in the hutts upon Culham hill and have entrencht themselves round and about 13 collours which they have brought from Abbington, and stucke upon the hill which stand there day and night, and there are 2000 horse and foote in the towne. That in Wallingford there are but small forces not above 400 men both in the towne and castle, and 4 peeces of ordnance, but very strong workes, and they are making a new drawbridge and a gate-house at the entrance into the castle. That at Oxford there are about 2000 horse and foote, and 12 peeces of ordnance in the magazin, and 8 peeces which lye upon the centryes, and that they have turnd a river which encompasseth the towne and are making a new trench between the river and the towne.¹ That the King hath sent out warrants to Shrewsbury and divers other places to cause the contry people to come in with spades and mattockes to helpe to make strong the workes. That the King expected a great army from the Earle of Newcastle, but there came but 400 men which lye quartered at Woodstocke and twoe carriages and one great peece of ordnance which are now in Oxford.²

John Webb returned this day from Newbury.

SONDAY 21 MAY. Thomas Browne, John Lane went forth this day to Bister, Banbury, etc.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee heares that all the horse which lay at Marleborough on Friday night last are now in Salisbury and the foote lay quartered in villages neere thereunto, and it is reported that they are going further into the west contry to take a castle, but the foote can not march further for want of mony. That the maior of Salisbury and one of the high constables in com. Wilts. were taken prisoners by the Kings forces, whoe upon payment of severall sumes of mony were yesterday releast by the Marquesse Hartford. That

¹The Cherwell bank was cut in the middle of April in order to flood Christ Church meadow. (Wood I, 97).

²According to *Mercurius Aulicus* 40 cart-loads of arms and ammunition from the Queen reached Woodstock on 13th May and were brought into Oxford on 15th May.

Prince Maurice, Marquesse of Hartford and the Lord Seymor¹ marching with their forces 4 miles beyond Marleborough espyed a party of the Parliaments forces which they suspecting to bee Sir William Waller stayed about 2 howers and drew their forces into a body and sent out a forlorne hope whoe at length perceving they were not above 40, they valiantly marcht on and the party went towards Bath. That the people are much affread of their returne backe because they did soe much iniury and wrong to the contry as they went along.

MONDAY 22 MAY. Raph Norton went with the letters to Bristoll. William Logrow went with him. Edward Sherwyn to Chessam. John Webb to Newbury.

TUESDAY 23 MAY. John Webb and Raphe Norton returned this day and saith that all the Kings forces are gone out of Abbington except some 60 to keepe the gates and looke to the ordinance, but there are about 3000 upon Cullam hill and 3 peeces of ordnance and expect dayly when his Excellency will advance. That there was yesterday a load of powder, match and bullett carryed from Abbington to Wallingford guarded with about 30 men,² and many of the papists and rich men in the contry are gone into Wallingford castle and carryed their goods mony and plate along with them. That Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford are marcht away from Salisbury and intend to goe for Dorsett, because they heare there is much armes and ammunition, and that the King and Prince Robert are now in Oxford.

THURSDAY 25TH. MAY. Raph Norton returned this day and saith that at Oxford there are many soldiers but the towne is more populous by reason that all the gentry in the contry are come in. That there are no soldiers quartered at Dorchester, onely some come thither from the leaguer to refresh themselves, and returne againe. That the soldiers at Culham hill have no provision but what is brought into them dayly by the contry. That in Abbington there are very few of the Kings forces, being all gone to Culham hill, and all the contry thereabouts are ready and willing to ioyne with his Excellency if hee will but advance thither. Att Wallingford the water nowe runnes round the towne, and they have made the gates soe that noe cart can come in but att one place but a little wickett dores for a horse to goe in att. Alsoe the brooke which runnes round about the towne which is verie deepe (which comes from Blewbery and Marton³) fills the moates about the castle full of water, and there is a place a mile beyond the towne called the locke that the

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Seymour, Francis.

²Two convoys from Abingdon reached Wallingford on 21st and 22nd May. The first was two cart-loads of powder, match and shot, the second one cart-load of match (P.R.O., W.O. 55/459).

³Moreton.

sluce may be pulled up and they cannott have any water but what they have from the Thames and by that meanes the river may be made drye. From Salisbury Prince Maurice hath sent letters to the Kinge in comendacions of the country and that his Majestye never desired any thinge of them but hee had itt and that they have beene verie well used and have sent in all theire armes for his Majesties service. That there was a collonell thereabouts that raised a regiment of foote for his Majestie, and most of them are runne away. Soe that there are about 500 foote left and it is reported that there is about 2000 horse. Georg Mazey went this day to Oxford.

Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that hee was the last night in Oxford, and that the King is in Oxford, but Prince Robert is gone into Glostershire to assist the Earle of Darby¹ whoe hath lately had a great overthrow here by Sir William Waller,² and hath lost all his men except 300 or thereabouts. That on Monday last an ensigne went out of Oxford privately with an intent to sett fire of West Wickham and High Wickham, but was prevented by a coachman whoe overheard his designe and caused him to bee apprehend[ed] on Monday by Mr. Bulmer and his servants, and sent to the Parliament on Tuesday last. That they have pulld downe almost a whole streete in Oxford on this side the bridge in St. Magdalens parish³ that their ordnance may have the freer play against any that shall come against them and that there are 300 Welshmen came in on Moday (sic) last into the towne, but have very few armes amongst them. Thomas Knight went this day to Oxford, on foote backe. Richard Emmerton, Hugh Kettle returned this day from Gloucester and saith that there are 5000 of the Kings forces at Salisbury under the command of Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford and that they have 12 peeces of ordnance, 6 they carried along with them, 3 they found in the towne, and 3 at Wilton. That they have sent for all men from 16 to 60 to come in to assist them in the countyes of Devon, Dorsett etc.

SONDAY 28TH. MAY. Edward Sherwyn went and returned this day from Wallingford and saith that the forces continue there still as they were yesterday and that the soldiers are in greate feare of the Lord generalls approaching thither, and that the skouts keepe watch con-

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Stanley, James, seventh earl.

²A very distorted rumour. A force under the Marquis of Hertford and Prince Maurice left Oxford on 19th May to go towards Hopton, then advancing from Devonshire. Waller, making an unsuccessful advance against Hopton, was compelled to abandon Hereford on 20th May. The Earl of Derby, after his defeat at Whalley, had retreated to York.

³This must refer to St. Clement's parish (i.e. on this side of Madgalen bridge) and antedates Twyne's evidence, cf. Wood I, 100, for the week beginning 12th June, "the houses at St. Clement's parish, as many as were without the works, were pulled downe."

tinually in the feild neere Crommarsh, and that the country thereabouts are forced to bringe in provision or money dayly for horse, as he was certified by a tithingman whoe carried in his money thither the last night.

Richard Emerton went and returned this day and saith that the Kings forces are still att Salisbury and on Saterdag last twoe troopes came to Marlebrough and tooke away from the carriers and markt folkes ten loads of cheese with divers other goods to the value of ten more and carried it to Oxford¹ and lye still about the roade waitinge for more, and it is conceived they intend to surprise eight loads of cheese which is to come from Tidbury and those partes to the towne of Readinge to be sent to the cittie of London by water.

29TH. MAY. MONDAY. Roberte Atkins returned this day.

John Webb returned this day and saith that all the Kings forces are still in Abbingdon with 7 peeces of ordinance, 4 in the towne and 3 at Clifton townes end and the rest at Culham hill which were formerly there. That they have made upp the stacke of hay which was lately burnt. That the Lord Digby with 7 troopes of horse sallyed out and come towards Nettlebed and tooke 9 of our troopers, kild 2, and one ran into the wood, and that upon their bringing in, the Caualliers abused them, and tooke away their clothes. That in Wallingford there is come into the towne a regiment of foote. That Maior Hide went out of Oxford with a party of horse to Marleborough with 20 emptye carts, and tooke away 20 loads of cheese, 5 loades whereof the townesmen redeemed for 21 li.

TUESDAY THE 30TH OF MAY. Samuell Brayne went this day to Oxford. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that all the contry within 7 miles of Wallingford are in great feare of the Caualliers comming to plunder them whoe having already taken away their goods, and imprisoned their persons, and that they greatly desire that our forces would advance that way to secure them. That on Sondag last a party of the Kings forces came to Nettlebedd and tooke 11 of our men and kild 2 of them. That none of the Kings forces sallyed out of Wallingford or any other place yesterday at 6 of the clocke at night towards Nettlebed or any lyeing in the woods or high wayes.

WEDNESDAY. Raph Norton returned this day and saith that all the Kings forces are gone from Salisbury to Blanford, and this day they intend to march to Dorchester and if they cannot take the towne they intend to fire itt. They never paid any quarter since they came out of the Kings army and notwithstanding have laid such a taxe upon the

¹Cf. *Mercurius Aulicus*, 28th May, "This day came into Towne five cart-loads of Cheese, two of wines, several loads of broad fine cloth, which being taken by H.M. Forces as they were going to the Rebels, were conveyed hither to be disposed of for the use of H.M.'s army."

country as they are noe wayes able to beare, Salisbury having paid 1000 li. already, and the comon soldiers have soe buffeted and beaten the maior of Salisbury that they thinke hee cannot escape death. They alsoe force the poore men in the country to come in and serve them whether they will or noe. They have warned in all the trained bands and have taken all the musketts in the country from them and have made the pikemen to paye 30s. a peece and the musketeers foure nobles. They have alsoe forced a great many of the country to goe alonge with them and have taken all such comodities as any carriers or others have brought this way and sent them to Oxford and it is reported att Marleborough that Sir William Waller is comeinge up to them and Collonell Popham and that there wilbe a greate fight this day.

WEDNESDAY 31TH. MAY. Robert Coxe returned this day and saith that Sir William Waller is advanced from Gloucester, and on Saturday last came before Worcester with 3000 men, and as it is generally reported hee tooke the towne on Sondag last.¹ That the Kings forces which lay Salisbury are gone to Dorchester and Sir Raph Hopton is to meete them there with his forces, and that they now lye before the towne but tis thought they will not gaine it, in regard the forces and works are so strong in the towne. That on Thursday last there came a vessell into the port at Bristoll taken by the Earle of Warwicke,² laden with tobbaeco 4 peeces of ordnance, wherein were 30 men which now are prisoners in towne which vessell and commodityes is valued at 3000 li. Thomas Knight went this day to Oxford. Richard Emmerton returned this day.

¹Waller's attack on Worcester (29th May) failed.

²See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Dudley, Sir Robert.

