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SIR SAMUEL LUKE

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NOTE. An index to the whole journal will be printed at the end of
the next, concluding, volume.

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JOURNAL OF SIR SAMUEL LUKE

THURSDAY THE 1 JUNE. Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that the King is still in Oxford but his forces are very small and weake, being lesse at the last muster by 300 then they were before. That on Tuesday there went a considerable number out of the towne and the places adiacent towards Worcester to releve Sir William Russell¹ against Sir William Waller whoe now lyes before the towne, which is conceived will not hold out longe in regard they are but very weake. That on Monday last there were divers warrants sent out into the country, to come in with mattocks, spades and shovells to make their workes stronger, and to prevent our forces from comming to neere the towne, and all from 16 to 60 were likewise warnd to come in,² but none came in.

Robert Atkins went this day to Oxford. George Mazey went this day to Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that there is a partye of horse of the Kings forces on this side the water, consisting of about 200, which stand there dayly expecting the comming of our forces, and that all the soldiers both in Oxford, Abbingdon and thereabouts have kept their saddles upon their horses backs, ever since Sonday last that they might bee in readynes upon all occasions. That the contry people confesse that they have received some satisfaccion for their goods which have beene taken from them, till Monday last, but since they Cavalleyers have taken their goods without payeing any mony at all and are in great want of money att the leaguer. That Marquesse Hartford hath sent letters to his Majestye signifieng that hee hath taken upp all the armes in the countyes of Wilts. and Dorsett, and hath gott men to weare them, and mony enough to pay them. That the newes at Oxford is that Sir William Waller is beaten backe from Worcester, with the losse of about 100 men. That hee heares there is great want of provision upon Culham hill, insoemuch that the soldiers are constrained to drinke water, and to robb, pillage and plunder all the contry thereabouts.

John Lane came this day out of Bedfordshire.

FRYDAY THE 2 JUNE. William Lowgrove returned this day from Wallingford and saith that there are about 1500 of the Kings forces, and they have made their workes very strong and doble moated the castle, the outmost is fild with water and the innermost dry. That

¹Sir William Russell, of Strensham, (see *D.N.B.*), sheriff of Worcestershire and governor of Worcester.

²These warrants precede the proclamation, issued on 9th June, (Steele no. 2433; Madan no. 1372).

they have 6 small drakes in the castle but none in the towne. That they have pulld downe all the howses on that side of the towne next to Choseley¹ and Brightwell and made the way cleere that they can discern 2 miles forward. That there are but twoe places to come at to shoote at the towne and castle, the one by Crawmarsh, and the other by Brightwell, and at both those places they have sett great basketts and filld them with earth.

Raph Norton went this day to Choseley. Edward Sherwyn, William Richards came this day from Lughton.

James Walter came this day from Abington and saith there are but few horse now in the towne but whither they are marcht hee knowes not, and that Prince Robert² is likewise gone, for hee heard the soldiers this morning cursing of him and wondring what was become on him. There is one regiment of foote and 4 peeces of ordnance in the markett place. That this morning the comandars were exercising their soldiers upon Culham hill, and have the same strength they formerly had, onely many of them dye and some runne away, and the ordnance which lay at Clifton townes end on this side Culham are drawne from thence, but whither hee knowes not.

Raph Norton saith it is credibly reported in Wallingford that Prince Maurice, Marquesse Hartford and Sir Raphe Hopton mett within 7 miles of Exeter, and are now comming towards Oxford with all their forces. That all the trayned soldiers in Devonshire hearing that the Caualliers were comming through the contry, laid downe their armes and every man betooke himselfe to his owne home. That a moneth agoe all the people about Wallingford were in good hope that his Excellency would have marcht that way, and they had a desire to have ioyned with him, and to have beene assistant to him. But nowe their minds are altered and they generally say that the King and Parliament have agreed to undoe the contry.

SATURDAY THE 3 JUNE. George Mazey returned this day from Oxford and saith that on Thursday last there were 3 peeces of ordnance cast in Oxford, one of which carryes a bullett of 16 pound weight, another 12, and another 8. That they have mettall to cast 3 more which they intend to finish the next weeke. That they exspect the Queenes comming to Oxford the next weeke and that they are in great feare of Sir Samuell Lukes comming, because they understand hee hath raised such forces in the countyes of Bedford, Hartford and Buckingham.

John Webb went this night to London. Raph Norton returned this day.

¹Cholsey.

²Rupert marched to Pangborne on the night of 2nd June, returning to Abingdon on the next day. (Rupert's *Journal*).

SONDAY THE 4TH JUNE. Edward Sherwyn went forth this day. Raph Norton, William Richards went forth together. George Mazey went this day to London.

MONDAY THE 5TH JUNE. William Lowgrove went this day to Salisbury. Edward Sherwyn returned this day, and saith that hee was yesterday at Ipsten neere Wallingford and there had certaine intelligence that there are noe new forces lately come into the towne, but all things continue there as formerly they were, onely the soldiers complaine for want of mony and victualls, most of them having not any sustenance for 24 howers together. That there is little speech of any thing intended by them, insoemuch as nothing can now bee learnt from them.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that at Sutton within halfe a mile of Culham the soldiers have attempted for these 4 dayes past to runne away, but they are nowe more stricktly lookt to by the officers. That all the horse in Abbington and there abouts march out every day to Blewbury and other townes, and places and returne at night, insoemuch as they are all quite tyred with service, it is reported that their saddles have not beene taken of since Sonday last was sevenight, and that the carts are warnd in all about Oxford, as is conceived to convey away all the Kings carriages, and that his Majestye intends to goe himselfe to Worcester. That the Kings soldiers take away most of the goods from the contry people thereabouts and say that when Essex comes hee will take all, and that they thinke his Excellency hath beene soe long advancing that hee will never come. That hee had notice by the way that the King hath left some of his forces neere Salisbury and that they are all returned to Salisbury and are expected there this night, and that the contry people there upon the report of their comming backe, having received already soe much iniurye from them are gone from their severall dwellings, some to Bristoll and some to London. That it is reported in Oxford that some of the cheifest townesmen in Bristoll being putt to death by our forces for adhering to the King, they threaten that many thousands of ours shall suffer in the like manner for their sakes. That Prince Robert sent a trumpetter to Bristoll to demand those men which were to suffer, and they deteyned him and imprisoned him, where hee yett remaines. That his Majestye intends to send out a party of horse to Cirencester to fetch away some of the cheife of the townesmen to Oxford, and that they shall bee served as wee used the townesmen of Bristoll. That Sir Edward Hungerford with a small number of men is marcht out towards Exiter. But the Caualliers doe intend to intercept and take him. That the governor of Wallingford was the last weeke knighted¹ by his Majestye and saith that if our forces come that way hee will send them

¹Blagge was not knighted.

backe to Windsor. That the soldiers upon Culham hill are in great want of meate and drinke and it is reported that they have a very dangerous sicknesse amongst them. Robert Cox went this day towards London.

TUESDAY JUNE 6. 1643. Robert Atkins returned this day from Oxford and went out againe the same evening. William Richards went this day towards Wallingford. Raph Norton returned this day. Edward Sherwyn went to Wallingford. This evening the Lord Generall with his forces came to Nettlebed where the Lord Grey¹ mett him, where they quartered that night. William Richards went to Laighton.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7. 1643. . Raph Norton returned and saith that hee was at Sanford within a mile of Wallingford and heard that it was noysed all thereabouts that 1000 of the Parliaments forces were advanced to Wallingford, and that Collonell Hamden² was to follow them with more strength and that his Excellency was gone to London. That the King had sent from Oxford divers loads of hay, powder, shott and ammunition to Culham hill, and that hee and Prince Robert were expected there that day. That the King had beene very sicke but was pritty well recovered.

John Lane returned this day from London. Edward Sherwyn returned that night and saith that many of the Kings forces were come out of Oxford but whither they intended hee could not learne.

John Lane went forth this day. Raph Norton went forth alsoe. Edward Sherwyn went the same day to Wallingford.

THURSDAY 8 JUNE. 1643. John Lane returned from Shotover parke and saith that hee heares that all the forces which lay at Woodstocke, Farrington and all the townes and places where they were quartered thereabouts were come into Oxford, and are to march out of Oxford with the Kings forces and that they upon Culham hill will alsoe ioine with them, and intend to meete his Excellency before his approach to Oxford,³ where they dayly expect him. That there is a watch or guard continually kept upon Wheatley bridge which consist of about 50 or three score men which upon the approach of our forces are to give an alarum to Oxford. That there came in 4 troopes of horse yesternight into Wheatley to guard the towne. Robert Cox returned this day morning from London. Raph Norton returned from within halfe a mile of Wheatley bridge, and heares that most of the Kings forces are marcht out of Oxford, and all those forces which lay at Farrington, Woodstocke and the places adiacent are come into the towne in their roomes, and they all both there and at Abbington and Culham hill

¹Lord Grey of Werke, see *House of Lords' Journal*, VI, 86.

²John Hampden (see *D.N.B.*).

³Essex left Reading on 8th June and occupied Thame on 10th June.

expect his Excellencies comming and have provided for that purpose. That hee heares that all the Kings forces are come away from Worcester to Oxford, and have only left about 140 to keepe the guards about the towne. That hee sawe the soldiers at Wheatley bridge that keepe the gate and conceives them to bee about 50, but hee heares they intend to stay there noe longer then they can espie his Excellency comming.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that hee was this day in Wallingford feild but cannot any way eyther learne or perceive that any of the soldiers there intend to keepe close, and not to stirr out of the castle for feare his Excellency will march to them, having for 3 dayes together expected his comming, and that all the coast thereabouts is soe cleere that one cannot perceive soe much as a passinger on the way eyther on foote or horsebacke.

William Sherwood came and returned with letters to Loughton.

JUNE 9. FRYDAY. Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that some of the Kings forces sallyed out of Oxford the last night towards Milton, and tooke away a great number of sheepe to hinder the Parliaments forces of all they can and make great search after the goods of Dr. Wilkinson of Milton whoe had contributed to the Parliament and for feare of the Caualliers had conveyed them into other mens grounds. That one of the Kings captaines marcht out yesterday with his company pretending to fetch in provision for the army, and had gotten 40 li. to pay his soldiers but returnd not and tis thought hee is run away. That they keepe the bridge drawen constantly, and will not suffer any man to passe. That the King is advised to goe to Wallingford castle for his safety but hee will not hearken unto it.

John Lane went forth this day. Edward Sherwyn went alsoe. Raph Norton went to Wheatley. William Richards returned this day from Loughton. Robert Atkins went this day with letters to Loughton.

John Lane returned this day and saith that hee heares that Prince Robert drew 3000 horse out of Oxford the last night into Tinsell wood¹ 2 miles from Oxford, betwixt Abbingdon and Dorchester to prevent the soldiers upon Culham hill whoe upon the report of his Excellencies comming, were many of them running away, and Sir John Byron with his forces lye at Dorchester and kepe very strict guards. That Captaine Gardner² the Lady Gardners sonne hath raised a new troope of horse

¹Unidentified. According to Rupert's *Journal* he went on 8th June "towards Stoken church, to view the Erle of Essex: returned by night to Abingdon."

²Thomas Gardiner of Cuddesdon, son of Sir Thomas Gardiner, Recorder of London. Both he and his younger brother Henry were captains in the Royalist army. Captain Thomas Gardiner was captured at Chalgrove, (*His Highness Prince Ruperts late beating up the Rebels quarters*, 1643) imprisoned in Windsor castle, then released in exchange, (Warburton II, 212). He was killed in a skirmish at Ethrop in July 1645. (*Memoirs of the Verney family*, (1904), I, 248).

at his owne charge and Captaine Smith another in Buckingham shire, and came both into Oxford this weeke, and 3 loades of wyne came from Southampton on Satturday last.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the King marcht out of Oxford yesterday with all his forces except 1000, with his standard borne before him towards Wallingford, and Prince Robert with them, and lay in the woods and feilds all night, onely the King returned backe to Oxford at night, and that all the forces at Culham hill are to meete with them this day and to march tomorrow to Nettlebed, and to come and fall upon our quarters, by relation of the men that were warnd in with their carts, to goe along with them. That they made 8 peeces of ordnance the last weeke and 4 this weeke, which they have carried with them, and are still making more.

SATTURDAY THE 10TH. OF JUNE. Raph Norton went forth this day to Sanford. Robert Coxe to Wallingford. John Lane to Wattleton. William Richards to the leaguer.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that being this day at Wattleton with Raph Norton, they were informed that 2000 of the Caualliers were comming thither, whereupon they came to the hill topp on this side the towne where they sawe about 60 horse of the Kings forces which came through Wattleton and seemd to march this way, but espyeing a party of our horse going that way, they retreated backe to Wattleton, but what became of them afterwards they know not.

Raph Norton saith that hee was this day at Newelme, where hee sawe about 300 horse of the Kings forces comming to Wattleton, whereupon hee presently went to give an allarum to the Parliament forces, which were then in Wattleton parke, being about 200 which when they heard they went downe the hill to meete them and pursued them as farr as Brightwell, but they all gott away and went into Wallingford, and expect every night when his Excellency with his forces will march thither, and say whensoever wee come against them that Prince Robert will come to helpe them.

William Richards returned this day and saith that being within a mile of Oxford hee sawe about 300 of the Kings forces march into Oxforde and that all those that marcht out of Oxford on Thursday last are come in againe this day. That hee was pursued 8 miles by the Kings scouts untill hee came to Tame where hee heard that the Kings forces in Oxford doe every day expect his Excellencies comming thither, and keepe very strict guards and watches in all places, but there is none upon Wheatley bridge. That hee sent a woeman into Chynner to Dr. Giles¹ his howse, which Dr. is nowe with his Majestye, telling her that

¹Dr. Giles, vicar of Chinnor, was an old friend of John Hampden. (Nugent, *Memorials of John Hampden*, (1854), p. 362).

hee was one of Prince Roberts scouts, whereupon one of his servants repayed to him and told him that the Earle of Essex with his forces lay at Stoughton Church¹ and was said had 30000 men, but hee thought there was not above 15000, and that hee would come to Tame if hee durst, that there were 20 loads of hay sent into the towne by his Excellency to quarter horses there, and for pillaging hee said that they had scaped well hitherto, but hee feared the worst was to come.

William Lowgrove returned this day and saith that Marquesse Hartford and Sir Raph Hopton with their forces are now at Taunton and Bridge water and it is reported there that Marquesse Hartford hath lost halfe of his men and Sir William Waller lay at Bath on Thursday night last, and is preparing eyther to follow them or meet them. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that hee heares that in Abbington and Culham hill there are about 5000 of the Kings forces but soe sicke and weake that if they were putt to march it is thought halfe of them were scarce able to march away, that they have made a new trench round about the hill onely left a passage open to the water side. That on Thursday last 11 of the Parliaments soldiers, very well horst and armd came thither and offered their service and were enter-tayned. That the King came yesterday to Abbington attended onely with a small partye of horse. That all the Kings forces marcht out of Wallingford castle on Thursday night last, leaving a very small guard behind them within an intent to give his Excellency an allarum, but in the morning retreated and continue now in the towne and castle.

John Lane returned and saith that 2 troopes of horse came this day to Tame out of Oxford and tooke 2 carts laden with provision comming to our army, and carryed them backe to Oxford. That 20 Irish commanders came into Oxford the last night and some of them are gone this day to Abbington.

SONDAY THE 11 JUNE, 1643. John Lane saith that they are throweing downe their workes in Oxford, and intend to come all out of towne to meete his Excellency, and the most of the forces in Wallingford are drawn out to ioyn with them, onely a few left to keepe the guards. That Marquesse Hartford and Sir Raph Hopton lay on Thursday night last at Taunton in Somershire (sic), and intend to bee at Oxford this night with 10000 men compleatly armd and most of them are dragoons. Edward Sherwyn saith that hee can say nothing. William Lowgrove returned this day and saith that the greatest part of the Kings forces in Wallingford are drawn out of the towne and intend to ioyn with the forces at Oxford to meete his Excellency.

MONDAY THE 12TH. JUNE. William Richards went out this day. John Lane went forth. Edward Sherwyn went towards Chalgrave,

¹Stokenchurch.

and returned, and saith that the Kings forces lye betweene Oxford and Wheatley and that the King sent out warrants the last night to Chalgrave and other places, to summon in the contry to bee ready at an howers warning to assist his Majestye. That a party of horse of the Kings forces went out this day to Milton and pillaged and returned to Wheatley. That at Thetford one of the carts which was to bee stord with provision for the armye by his Excellencys warrant was taken away by the Caualliers and none at all can eyther bee servd or secured hither without some considerable strength to conduct them.

William Richards saith that hee heares that there are 2 troopes of horse at Wheatly bridge and 2 peeces of ordnances, and that 30 horse are sallyed out this way and that the body of the Kings army lyes now at Bullington greene,¹ and there are 3 troopes of horse in Wheatley towne.

Paule Luke sayth the same onely addeth that there were 3 of the Kings captains which came to Shabbington within twoe miles of Thame, whoe espyeing some of our troopers ran away.

Robert Cox saith that the Kings army both horse and foote are about 10000, and lye betwixt Wheatley and Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that parte of the Kings forces are marcht out of Wallingford to Oxford, and tomorrow they intend all to come forth.

John Lane saith that the forces are drawn from Culham hill to Oxford, and 2 troopes of horse came out and tooke a great many contrymens horses. That a company of foote are appointed to march this night to Wheatley bridge to keepe the guards and the[y] doe expect his excellences coming tomorrow, and have cleered all the ditches about Wheatley bridge to prevent our comming.

TUESDAY THE 13TH. OF JUNE. John Lane went forth this day. Edward Sherwyn went towards Chalgrave. Raph Norton towards Wallingford. William Richards went this day to———². Robert Cox went forth etc.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the Kings forces are removed from their quarters at Bullington greene some to Wheatley and some to Oxford and that they are not halfe soe many as is reported. That they have warnd the contry to come in but they refuse to obey their warrants, and to bring in strawe and victualls, which they did accordingly and brought it within a mile of Bullington, but when they came there were noe soldiers to quarter. That all the Kings forces (except in the north) will bee with the King within these 2 dayes, as is

¹Cf. Wood I, 100; that on 9th-11th June "his majestie's leaguer removed from Abington warde, & was drawn to Bullington greene, & quartered in the villages thereabouts."

²Blank in MS.

reported. That Chistleton¹ bridge is downe, but a man may make shift to passe over with a horse, but there are noe Caualliers nor at the townes thereabouts, but most of them quarter beyond Wheatley.

John Lane saith that the Kings rendezvous was yesterday at Bullington Greene, where Prince Robert tooke away 4000 men and marcht to Hayslipp² 6 miles from Oxford and the King returnd to Oxford, but what became of the rest of the forces hee knowes not. That there are 5000 now in Oxford to guard the towne. Collonel Hurrey³ came in yesterday about 11 of the clocke with about 12 men whereof 4 of them were comandars, that 3 troopes of their horse sallied out this day and came to our centry neere Shabbington and kild one man, and tooke 3 prisoners and retreated into Shottover wood.

Robert Coxe returned with him and saith ut supra.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that it was reported yesterday at Oxford that 200 of our forces were gone to the King, all armd, and they say that the Lord Generall dare not come thither. That they drew all their forces out of Eddington,⁴ Marston and Barton townes neere Oxford into the feild to bee in readynes for that they every hower expected his Excellencys comming and at night retreated into their severall quarters. That 500 of the Kings horse under the comand of the Lord of Andever⁵ were this morning at Horton and enquired after the Parliaments forces, but hearing of none they retreated to Boston⁶ and soe to Islipp to their quarters.

William Lowgrove returned and saith that hee heares that Sir Raph Hopton is in Cornwall and likely there to continue for the contry doe dayly rise against him. That Marquesse Hartford is at Blanford in Somersett (sic) shire 30 miles distant from Sir Raph Hopton and Sir William Waller marcht through Bath on Thursday last with 10000 men, as is conceived, and it is thought hee is gone after Sir Raph Hopton and that Sir Edward Hungerford is in Malmesbury.

WEDNESDAY THE 14TH. JUNE. John Lane went this day to Oxford. Raphe Norton went out this day. Edward Sherwyn went out to Chalgrave. Robert Cox went out this day. William Lowgrove went this day. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that the Kings

¹Chislehampton.

²Islip.

³John Urry or Hurry (see *D.N.B.*) deserted the Parliamentary army and joined the Royalist army at Oxford. He had a large share in the Royalist success at Chinnor and Chalgrove on 18th June, was knighted at Oxford on that day, and on 25th June sacked West Wycombe.

⁴Headington.

⁵Charles Howard, son of the first Earl of Berkshire (see *G.E.C., Complete Peerage*).

⁶Unidentified; if the route from Horton was round the north of Otmoor the informant may have meant Weston.

forces stood last night at 6 oclocke in a full body betwixt Heddington and Oxford expecting our forces, and have eate upp all the corne in the feilds thereabouts. That about 4 or 500 of the Kings men were employed yesterday in cutting downe trees in Shottover wood to make way for their ordnance to play against our forces when they come that way. That noe partye of their forces hath beene discovered to come further this way then Islipp except 2 or 3 of their scouts which ridd about their quarters.

Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that Prince Robert is now at Islipp with 5000 men and 5000 more are drawn out of Abbington, Culham hill and other places thereabouts to Gosland¹ bridge neere Woodstooke to prevent the comming of the Lord Wharton² and Collonel Goodwyn.³ That they drove in at least 100 head of cattle from Wornall⁴ and thereabouts the last night into Oxford and threaten to pillage all the contry before his Excellency come thither, and intend this day being markt day to take all the contry mens corne and other provision from them, and that they report they are provided for halfe a yeare, and intend to fetch in all the horse thereabouts to make all their soldiers horsemen and to tread downe our foote, and that they have made themselves very strong in Shottover wood, haveing planted there at least 30 peeces of ordnance. That the King is 20000 strong. William Lowgrove saith that there were 2 troopes of horse of the Kings force at Rycott 3 miles from Tame, and that about 10 of them were at Shabbinton the other night and all the last night, and are expected this night and lye scouting all thereabouts to make a prey of our forces.

Raph Norton saith that Prince Robert is nowe at Bister with 1000 horse, and betwixt Oxford and that place lye most of the Kings forces, and expect his Excellencys comming that way. That they still cause the contry to bring in victualls and other provision dayly unto them, and hee heares that marching from Bullington greene 200 of their soldiers runne away.

THURSDAY THE 15 JUNE. William Richards went forth. Raph Norton went out this day towards Oxford. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that the last night there were three score collours of foote on the hither side of Oxford in the feilds, and as many horse at Heddington a mile from thence upon the hill, where they lye quartered before the towne, and they give out in speeches that his Excellency dares not advance thither. That a great party alsoe of the Kings forces lye at Sanford about 3 miles from Oxford and more of them at Islipp,

¹Probably a reference to Gosford bridge, four miles south-east of Woodstock.

²Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, (see *D.N.B.*), s.v. Wharton, Philip.

³Arthur Goodwin, (see *D.N.B.*), commander of the parliamentary forces in Buckinghamshire.

⁴A phonetic spelling of Worminghall.

Staunton¹ and other places, and in the woods thereabouts, where they are suspected to lye to betray our forces as they march that way. That where Prince Robert is cannot certainly be knowne.

William Richards returned this day and saith that hee came from Bister where hee sawe Prince Robert and about 2000 of his forces and about 11 of the clocke they sallyed out and a party went to Banbury, but what became of the rest hee knowes not. That there are about 200 of their forces within 3 miles of Tame scouting upp and downe the contry and that they went to Cleydon and tooke away a teame of horse from the townesmen that were there at plow and retreated to Bister.

FRYDAY THE 16TH. OF JUNE 1643. William Lowgrove went out this day to Hedddington. Edward Sherwyn, William Richards, Raph Norton, Paul Luke, went forth this day. Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that Prince Robert was the last night in Oxford, and hee and his forces are quarterd at Islipp. That 300 sick soldiers were carryed yesterday from Gosland bridge to Woodstocke. That Prince Roberts forces brought in 56 horses which they had taken upp in the contry, and are making of great iron chains to shoote out of their ordnance, and that there are warrants sent out into the lower part of Oxfordshire to compell the contry to bring in the 20th part of their estates. That all the Kings forces are to bee ready together at Oxford at an howers warning, and that they have brought backe 14 of the peeces of ordnance which were planted in Shottover wood and have left 14 more there.

William Richards returned this day and saith that there are 5 troopes of horse at Islipp, and sometymes they march to Brill and other places thereabouts, and hee heares that most of the Kings foote soldiers are very sicke, and that hee sawe 2 troopes more within halfe a mile of Wheatley bridge whereof 12 of them came within 2 miles of Tame and tooke away 4 beasts and 20 sheepe, but espyeing some of our horse comming towards them, left the sheepe and cattle and ridd away to Wheatley, and that they hower[ly] expect his Excellencyes comming.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that Prince Robert with his forces are gone from Bister, and the body of the Kings army is now in Oxford, and that 600 of them were this day at Hanson bridge² 4 miles beyond Bister veiwing the river and intend to make bulwarkes upon some part of it immaging (sic) that his Excellency will march that way. That hee was this day in Shottover wood, that there are none of the Kings soldiers there, except 3 or 4 sometymes scouting upp and downe, and not one peece of ordnance eyther in the wood or parke.

William Lowgrove saith that the Kings forces are all drawne out of Shottover, Staunton and Hedddington into Shottover wood, Hendon

¹Stanton St. John.

²Possibly Gosford bridge, being near Hampton Poyle.

wood and Rycott being in all about 3000 and have continued in the woods all this day and as hee heares they intend very shortly to fall upon us at Tame if wee prevent them not, and that most of them are alsoe drawne both out of Oxford and Woodstocke, and the cheife randevous is at Islipp and Bister where Prince Robert now is, but the King is still in Oxford.

SATTURDY THE 17TH. OF JUNE. Edward Sherwyn went forth this day. William Lowgrove went with him. Robert Atkins went to Woodstocke. Raph Norton towards Oxford, returned and saith that hee came from Bister where hee heard that a great number of the Kings forces came this day out of Oxford to meete the Earle of Essex whose advancing was there this day expected and that Prince Robert went towards Newbury with 8 troopes of horse and is returnd to Oxford.

Edward Sherwyn, William Lowgrove, returned this day.

William Richards saith that about 12 of the clocke this afternoone a mile on this side Oxford a partye of our horse mett with a troope of theirs comming from Wheatley to Oxford, whoe upon sight of our forces fled away and our horse pursued them almost to Wheatley townes end, and tooke 16 of them prisoners, with ther horse and armes, kild 2 of their horse, and the rest gott away and fledd to Oxford, and in this skirmish 2 of our men were onely hurt. That there were alsoe 7 troopes of their horse betwixt Ricott and Oxford within 2 miles of our forces, but they onely faced us, and whoe stood upon a hill, and veiwed our forces untill wee marcht away. That our forces tooke away 60 horse as they came along the contry.

John Lane returned this day and saith that the King drew out all his foote this day out of Oxford unto the feilds adioying (sic), where they expected his Excellencies comming with all his forces. That Prince Robert came forth upon the allarum and gave orders for all the horse to march out of their severall quarters, whoe came accordingly. That some of theirs scouts and ours mett neere Shottover hill, and gave fire one at another and retreated. That before all the Kings horse could bee gott ready, newes came to the King that the Parliaments forces were gone backe, whereupon they followed them about 2 miles, and after Collonel Peircey,¹ Sir John Byron,² the Earle of Lindsey,³ and the Lord Wentworth⁴ with their forces repayed to their quarters, and Prince Robert

¹Probably Henry, Lord Percy of Alnwick, (see *D.N.B.*), general of ordnance in the Royalist army since May 1643.

²See *D.N.B.* Created Lord Byron of Rochdale, October 1643.

³The second Earl of Lindsey (see *D.N.B.*, s.v. Bertie, Montague) was taken prisoner at Edgehill, where his father was mortally wounded, and was not released until August. He went to Oxford from London on 12th August. (F. J. Varley, *Mercurius Aulicus* (summarized extracts), p. 47).

⁴Thomas, Lord Wentworth. (See *G.E.C.*, *Complete Peerage*).

with about 3000 marcht towards Wheatley expecting his owne forces from Abbington, but what became of them afterwards hee knowes not.¹ That the Queene is expected in Oxford the next weeke. That there was great reioycing the last night in Oxford for the happie successe of Prince Maurice in the westerne parts² and expect some force and ordnance from him very shortly. That hee heard there that Prince Maurice was hurt. That they sett the schollars dayly to worke and still fortifie the towne, and have built a mount behind Christchurch where they intend to plant the twoe great peeces of ordnance which now lye in the magazine. That they heare of certayne dragoones which lye neere Stoughton Church at Kingston, and intend to come from Wallingford side and beate upp their quarters. That the King sent out more warrants to warne the contry on Monday to bring in provision for 10 dayes, and that upon Monday next the King intends to march and to meete Essex with his forces whoe they take to bee noe great enemy of theirs.

SONDAY THE 18TH. OF JUNE. Edward Sherwyn went forth this day. Raph Norton went alsoe. John Lane went to Chynner and towards Chalgrave.³ William Richards went this day to Chynner, and after to fetch Captaine Smith etc. from their quarters to his Excellency.

William Lowgrove went forth and returned, and saith that Prince Robert with a strong party of horse was gone towards Wallingforde whoe intended to veiw the contryes all thereabouts, and another party was gone to Bister, but neyther of them returned that night to their old quarters or to Oxford or Abbington.

MONDAY THE 19TH. JUNE. Raph Norton went out this day. Edward Sherwyn went alsoe to Chalgrave. John Lane went towards Oxford. William Richards went this day to Wheatley and Shottover. Richard Cox returned this day, and saith that comming out of Oxford yesterday hee mett with about 100 prisoners which were taken at Chynner, and presently after hee mett with Prince Robert and all his forces whoe went into Oxford and parte quartered without the towne. That there are about 5000 in Oxford, but most of them very meanely armd. That all the parishoners are warnd in to digg to strengthen their workes which they doe every parish by turnes. That all the schollers have

¹Rupert left Oxford with about 1,700 men on the afternoon of the 17th to intercept a convoy of money coming from London to the Parliamentary garrison at Thame. (See Gardiner I, 150, and *His Highness Prince Ruperts late beating up the Rebels quarters*)

²The repulse given by Prince Maurice's troops to Waller's army at Chewton Mendip on 12th June.

³In the early morning of this day Luke's own troop of horse was surprised and routed by Rupert at Chinnor and Luke himself fought at Chalgrave on the same day. (See *His Highness Prince Ruperts late beating up the Rebels quarters.*)

listed themselves and undertaken that if the King and all his soldiers desert the towne, they will keepe it for they say they have swords have not seene the sun these 7 yeares.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that 2000 of the Kings forces, being part of those that were at Chynner are now at Gassington¹ a mile from Wheatley on the left hand and that they have beene there all the last night, and the rest that were together yesterday went to Oxford, and that they marcht over Chistleton bridge, where a strong guard is kept. John Lane returned this day.

TUESDAY 20TH. JUNE. William Richards retorned this day and saith that att foure of the clocke this morninge there were sixe troopes of horse att Bister whoe had with them one drake. They sate up all night and stood upon their guard and lye dayly about a towne called Blackthorne twoe miles from Bister and att night retorne to Bister againe. They were taking horse this morninge about 4 of the clocke but knowes not whither they were to march and they say there that his Excellency dare not advance to Oxford and that one of there men will beate ten of his Excellencies.

Mr. Sherwyn went this day to Chalgrave. John Lane went this day towards Oxford. Raph Norton went forth. Robert Cox went forth this day.

John Lane returned this day and saith that he was this day at Wheatley bridge and heard that there were three troopes of horse of the Kings forces there a little before he came thither whoe had beene att Shabbington twoe miles on this side and had there fact our forces, and tooke away from Shabbington and the townes thereabouts some horses and have warned that parte of the country to come in to them otherwise they will fetcht away all their horses and goods and not have them worth any thinge. Hee alsoe heard that most of the Kings forces are gone backe to their quarters and hath onely left some scouts and parties to give notice of his Excellencies comeinge. The Kings troops report in Wheateley that his Excellencie hath laine longe enought att Tame and consideringe the dayly forces that come in to him they wonder hee will not yet give them a meetinge. It is likewise reported that Prince Robert hath gott some hurt and is in Oxford. Robert Coxe retorned this day and saith that he was this day beyond Brill where hee heard there was three troopes of the Kings horse within halfe a mile of the towne the last night when they made strict inquirie for the Parliaments forces and said if his Excellencie did not come on and leave Tame they would fire the towne about his eares, and retorned the last night backe againe towards Oxford. And crossinge into Wheateley rode hee heard there were three troopes of horse of the

¹Garsington.

Kings forces within a mile of Tame and seeinge some of our forces retreated and nowe are about three miles from Tame plundering horses.

Edward Sherwyn saith that a great party of the Kings horse went out of Oxford the last night and that the forces at Islipp, Weston and those parts continue in their severall quarters. That there were warrants gone out into Poffley¹ hundred to warne in the habitants to bring in their carts to convey his Majestyes ammunition and other thing from Oxford, and it is thought that the King will shortly remove but whither hee knowes not.

WEDNESDAY THE 21 JUNE. Edward Sherwyn went this day to Chalgrave. John Lane to Oxford. Raphe Norton, Robert Coxe went forth this day.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the King hath mustred upp all his horse and foote and that a regiment of foote must be speedily horst for the service, and that they have sent out a party to Buckingham to take upp horse for that purpose. That hee heares they are all removing from their quarters but not to depart but to change, and that it is reported that the Earle of Essex is goeing backe with his forces to London, and that the Kings forces come every day and night within a mile and a halfe of Tame, and they likewise say that if his Excellency goe to London they intend to bee there before him. Robert Cox saith that there were 3 troopes of horse this morning at Wornall, inquiring after the Parliaments forces. That the King hath musterd upp his forces. That the Kings horse lye still about Islipp, and in 3 villages thereabouts. That some of the foote are coming to quarter at Water Perry and Holt² 4 miles from Thame. That the King hath sent out warrants into the county of Oxford to warne in all men from 15 to 50 to come in and serve his Majestye.

William Richards returned this day and saith that hee heard that twoe of the Kings captaines talking together this morning at Marston one said that they had given the Parliaments forces an overthrow and the other said that they would give them a bigger eyther this night or tomorrow night. That they intend very shortly to fall uppon the dragoones that lye within 2 miles of Alysbury at my Lord of Carnarvans howse.³ That there are 4 troopes of horse and 500 foote at Marston and they give out that the Earle of Essex is returning backe with his forces to London.

John Lane returned and saith that hee sawe 3 or 4 troopes of horse at Wornall 4 miles from Tame which were watching to make a prey of some small party of the Parliaments forces. That the King musterd

¹Ploughley.

²?Holton.

³Though the distance is inaccurate this presumably means Ascott House near Wing.

upp all his forces both horse and foote yesterday, but what the number were hee cannot learne. That they all say that the Earle of Essex is gone backe to London.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that the Kings forces have broken downe all the bridges betweene this and Oxford vizt. Wheatly bridge, Cudston bridge and Chisleton bridge and keepe centry at every bridge and they continue still in their quarters, that there came a party into little Milton to command provision to be brought into their quarters this morning.

THURSDAY THE 22TH. JUNE. William Richards returned this day and saith that there were 200 horse of the Kings forces this morning at Buckingham and 100 foote which they intend to horse, and goe about the contry and take upp horses for the same purpose and have warnd in carts to bring hay from Buckingham and thereabouts to Oxford, and that some of their forces came within 2 miles of the towne where the inhabitants refusing to pay a taxe laid upon them, they tooke 3 of the best men in the towne and carryed them prisoners to Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that etc. (sic).

John Rose returned this day and saith that hee saw 75 collours march to Abbingdon, and hee conceives there were 6000 of them and the horse went after them the same day. That the King and Prince Robert are in Oxford. That the foote soldiers were mustered yesterday and there were about 500. That they have 20 peeces of ordnance in Oxford and their workes exceeding stronge and not yet finished. A proclamation¹ came forth yesterday to pardon all those that will lay downe their armes and come and serve his Majestye with an excepcion against the Earle of Essex, Collonel Hampden, Sir John Hotham, Mr. Pym and 14 more.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that a regiment of foote with black collours marcht out of Oxford yesterday to Wallingford and a regiment of horse at Marston within 3 miles of Oxford are gone to Abbingdon. That there are a troope of horse which lye constantly at Wheatley, and every night a fresh troope comes and releeves them. That there is a guard at Wheatley bridge consisting of about 28 contry men, which are warnd in dayly for that purpose.

Edward Sherwyn returned and saith that many of the Kings forces which lye at Heddington are very sicke, and that there is a contagious disease through the army, that they are all gone from Chistleton to Habbington² except a guard at the bridge. That they dayly come forth allmost as far as Tame, and divers of them were this day in Wornall feilds, but there are none of the Kings forces eyther at Okeley, Brill or any the townes thereabouts.

¹Proclamation of 20th June. (Steele No. 2440).

²Abingdon.

FRYDAY 23 JUNE. Edward Sherwyn, William Richards, went to Abbington this morning. Robert Cox went towards Oxford.

Edward Sherwyn saith that there are not any new forces gone from Oxford [to] Abbington since the last weeke, nor any at all there but onely those which formerly were in garrison and 1000 horse which hee heares went thither from Chisleton on Wednesday night last, and a regiment of foote the same night to Wallingford. That there are noe forces lye betweene Abbington and Tame, except at Wallingford eyther at Chalgrave, Wattleton or any other towne. That there came a party this morning at 3 oclocke from Abbington or Wallingford to Chisleton, to releve the watch, which is constantly kept at the bridge.

Raph Norton returned this day. Robert Cox returned this day. William Richards returned with Raph Norton. A messenger this day to Cambridge.

SATTURDAY JUNE 24TH. Edward Sherwyn went out this day to Chalgrave. Robert Coxe went with Raph Norton.

Raph Norton to the randevous and returning saith that there are noe soldiers of the Kings forces quartered on this side of Oxford but onely a few at Heddington which come this way scouting, and all the foote that were quartered at Heddington and thereabouts are removed to villages 2 or 3 miles beyond Oxford. That there are but few soldiers now in Oxford, and about 40 men at Chisleton bridge which keepe the guards. That the party of horse that went to Buckingham yesterday are returnd to Oxford and brought with them all manner of cattle, and they say that they keepe centryes 12 miles together upon the water. That Prince Robert went out yesterday morning with 3000 horse towards Basingstoke or Henley and some report towards London, and is not yett returned.

Robert Coxe returned and saith as hee saith ut supra. Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that the forces which were supposd to goe out of Oxford to Abbington on Thursday last went onely to Woodstocke, Hincsey and other places thereabouts to quarter. That there is still a party of horse at Heddington consisting of about —¹ which watch all along by the water side. That they continue alsoe at Islipp in their old quarters, and in all the villages and places thereabouts. That there are about 60 or 100 which keepe a guard upon Chisleton hill the bridge being dayly kept and releevd from the forces in Abbington. That Prince Robert went out yesterday with a great parte of horse towards the west (sic), some report to Redding or Henley but the truth thereof is not certainly knowne, some say hee is gone towards Newbury.

Edward Sherwyn and (sic) towards Buckingham. Robert Coxe went againe this afternoone towards Newbury. Robert Goddard went this

¹Number erased in text and no correction made.

afternoone toward ———.¹ John Brede went this day to Lighton. Mr. Walker went into Bedfordshire. William Richards went towards Newbury. John Lane returned this [day] from Oxford and saith that there came a messinger on Thursday last to his Majestye out of the west and brought word that Sir William Brereton was abroad in those parts with 300 horse, and that Collonel Willis had mett him and had kild 250 of his men and driven him into Nantwich.² That newes came alsoe the same day and heard the messinger relate it to some in the court that Sir Raph Hopton is now against Exiter and in great hopes to take it. That yesterday hee heard that the Parliaments forces which came either from Gloster or Warwicke to Bath where Sir Edward Terrill lay with his forces and fell upon them and tooke both Sir Edward and Collonel Terrill and some other commanders and officers and soldiers prisoners and carryed them a mile from the towne upon which an allarme being given to some other of the Kings forces which lay quarterd neere thereabouts they tooke horse and pursued them and overtooke them and chargd them in the reare and recovered their prisoners. Whereupon they wheeld about and faced and chargd each other and where the Parliaments forces lost 60 men, besides 20 prisoners which were taken by the Kings partye and are to come this day into Oxford, whereof one was Collonel Steephens but few other of quality. That there was a generall muster at Oxford on Wednesday where it appeard that the Kings foote were 8000 strong, but what the horse were hee knowes not. Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford sent this daye to the King to know his pleasure whether they should goe to meete Sir William Waller or else goe and beseige Bristoll. That there came 8 peeces of ordnance this weeke from Worcester and upon tryall of them one broke. That their workes are dayly making stronger and they still expect our comming and intend to give his Excellency a pitcht battell. That Prince Robert was in Oxford this morning and hee neyther sees nor heares of any marching or stirring eyther of Prince Robert or any of his forces.

SUNDAY 25 JUNE. Robert Cox returned this day from Buckingham and saith that all the forces that were returned to Oxford on Friday last by Bister and tooke away divers horses as they went along, and that there are 3 troopes of horse and 100 foote in Bister. That it was reported at Buckingham that the Lord Fairfax tooke yesterday 2000 of the Queenes forces neere Newarke,³ and that the Lord Grey had

¹Blank in MS.

²Probably a reference to the defeat by Lord Capel's forces of a foraging party from Nantwich under Captain Bulkeley, 20 June 1643. (J. Hall, *History of Nantwich*, (1883), p. 152).

³The Queen was at Newark, but the Fairfaxes were at this time being hard pressed by Newcastle in Yorkshire.

taken 14 of her capitaines and commanders of the Queenes army and brought them to Northampton yesterday.

MONDAY, THE 26 JUNE. John Lane went forth this day. Robert Coxe went to Chalgrave. William Rose to Oxford. Justinian Mingam returned from Brill. William Slater with him. John Lane to Wickam. (3 troopes at Bister and 100 foote).¹ William Richards returned this day and saith that hee hath beene at Deddington where there are twoe troopes of horse of the Kings forces, at Adderbury 2 more whereof one is under the comand of Captaine Chamberlaine high sheriffe of Oxfordshire and 200 foote at Bloxam and one drake where they have made some small fortificacions but they intend upon any allarme to remove from there to Banbury where Collonell Hunky² and 3 troopes of horse and 100 foote lye in the castle and they have 3 small peeces of ordnance and that the Kings forces lye quarterd all there betweene Banbury and Oxford.

William Sherwood went this day to Nottingham.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee came from Sanford, and that none of the Kings forces lye betwixt Oxford and Tame onely a small party at Heddington, that hee heares that there are 2000 to march out of Oxford eyther this night or to morrow morning towards the north to meete the Queene, and that shee is within 3 dayes march³ of the towne with 10000 strong. That divers warrants have issued of Oxford not onely to warne in the contry to bring in provision to them but alsoe to forbidd them for bringing in of any to our army. That there was great reioycing yesterday at Oxford at the death of Collonell Hampden, and that they expect 40 prisoners and 200 horse to come this day into Oxford which wer taken yesterday.⁴

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that Sir William Waller advanced with his forces on Satturday last from Bath towards Wells to where Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford lay with their forces and hee heares that the Lord Mohoone and Sir Raph Hopton came and ioynd their forces with them against Sir William Waller whoe as is conceived were eyther yesterday or this day in fight upon a plaine neere Glostonlybury. That Sir William Wallers horse and foote were about 8000 for the present, but hee expected 3 regiments of foote more, one from Borstall, one from Gloster and another from Portesmouth, and that the enymes forces are reported to bee 15000. That on Tuesday last there came 8 of the Kings comandars with 8 servants to Newbury where they tooke a teame of horses from one of the towne and plundred

¹Marginal note in MS.

²Sir Henry Huncks.

³The Queen did not set out for Oxford until 3rd July.

⁴On the 25th a body of cavalry under Urry had swept round the Parliamentary forces and plundered West Wycombe (see below).

severall howses and fild the cart and were about to march away but 2 of the captaines falling out about the goods the one shott and kild the other and the rest being amazed at the suddenesse of the accident, departed to towne and left their prize behind them. That the Kings forces continue still their outrages in all places where they come haveing robd twoe carryers this last weeke, the one at Chilton, the other at Hungerford.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that there went 2000 horse of the Kings forces yesterday out of Oxford towards the north to meete the Queene, and that 8 peeces of ordnance came the last weeke into Oxford from Worcester whereof one of them upon tryall brake. That the forces which were yesterday at Wickam threaten to bee there againe very speedily and intend to plunder both it and Marlow. That there are threescore new wagons now making about Oxford, but are not finisht.

TUESDAY, 27 JUNE. John Lane to London this day. Robert Cox went forth this day. Edward Sherwyn went forth. William Richards went the last night. William Lowgrove to Bister etc.

Robert Coxe saith that there are 500 horse betweene Horton and Brill which came in yesterday which were supposed to meete the Queene, but continue there still, and that the Queene will not advance till some more forces come to her. That the speech is in Oxford that all the Earle of Essex his army are runne away onely a few which hee intends to take with him to Windsor castle where hee is going for refuge, but Prince Robert will meet with him before hee comes to Windsor.¹ William Lograve saith that he was this day at Bister and that here are 2000 of the Kings forces in the towne with 4 peices of ordnance, and they intend to goe this day or to morrough to Newport² as is reported. Edward Sherwyn saith that there came a great party of horse the last night into Bister and continue there still and another party about Lowgeridge³ upon the hill side towards Brill and inquiring after the Parliaments forces. That they report in Oxford, as hee heares, that they intend to come to beseige Tame, hearing that soe many of his Excellencyes forces are gone away that hee will bee constrained shortly to goe himselfe.

William Richards saith that there were 4000 of the Kings forces this day in Bister with 4 peeces of ordnance, and being drawne out into a body in the feilds adioyning the greater part went towards Oxford and the rest over Heyforde bridge towards Banbury, and devided the

¹In the face of constant raids by Royalist cavalry Essex withdrew his headquarters from Thame to Aylesbury at the end of June, and then early in July drew still further back to Brickhill on the borders of Bedfordshire.

²Newport Pagnell.

³?Ludgershall.

ordnance, and tooke them along with them and have left about 100 foot in the towne.

WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE. William Slater went to Brill and Blackthorne.

John Breed, David Clench into Bedfordshire. John Lane to London. Robert Smith to Woodend. Robert Cox. Raph Norton. Edward Sherwyn. William Richards into Northamptonshire. Justinian Mingam went forth this day.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that all the Kings forces that lay at Horton and thereabouts marcht from thence the last night to Islipp. That Prince Robert went out of Oxford the last night with a small partye, and is conceived that hee tooke away those at Islipp and advanct to Banbury, some say that they are gone from thence to meete the Queene, and others that they intend onely to pillage the contry and soe returne. That all the soldiers that were in Bister marcht out this afternoone to Oxford.

William Slater saith that hee was at Brill and Blackthorne but saith that he sawe none of the Kings forces eyther there or upon the way thither. That comming backe hee overtooke a man which had beene in the Kings army, and sett upp his horse in a village on this side Brill and was comming to Tame on foote whom hee tooke and brought along with him.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that there are a great number of soldiers come from Wallingford to Oxford to have new clothes made with the cloth which they tooke from the Wiltshire carriers. That Prince Robert marcht out of Oxford yesterday with 1000 horse and foote towards Banbury, to meete with the forces at Bister, as is supposed, and soe to goe and meete the Queene. That there is a watch kept at Blackthorne Bridge and that Sir John Digby with his troope lyes ———.¹

Raph Norton saith that there are not ani of the Kings forces betwixt this and Oxford nor in the woods on eyther side of the way, onely there came a party out from Oxford the last night and tooke some sheepe and other cattle and returnd this morning. That Prince Robert is gone out of Oxford with 2000 horse, besides some foote and dragoones which were gone before, but what their designe is hee knowes not. That there are some forces this night expected at Oxford to come from Wallingford to supply their roomes that are gone. And that they say they have taken soe much cloth from the Roundheads as will make new clothes for all their soldiers. William Rose saith that there are but few of the Kings forces now in Oxford. Prince Robert goeing out yesterday with most of the horse, but whither hee knowes not. That the King intends very speedily to march out of Oxford with the greatest part of

¹Blank in MS.

his forces to meete the Queene, and hath sent out warrants into Oxfordshire to warne in 15 in every parish to come in and to keepe the towne in his Maiestyes absence. That they kept a fast this day in Oxford, because it began this day twelvemonth though in all this yeare they have not thought of it will now. That their (sic) are still fortifieing themselves and their ordnance planted in the severall places as they formerly weer. And hee heares it reported that Prince Robert intended very shortly to come against Tame, and that they much reioyce at the death of Collonell Hampden. That their soldiers are generally ill armd, and that hee sawe not soe much as a scout betweene this and Oxford.

THURSDAY, 29 JUNE. Edward Sherwyn went this day to Shawgrave. Robert Cox towards Oxford. Raph Norton went to Horton.

William Robinson saith that the Kings forces sett the Parliaments prisoners all the last weeke at worke at the bulwarkes, but gave them noe mony, onely some bread and cheese and a little beere, and when they did not worke they gave them noe susenance, and yesterday there was a trooper refused to worke, and the Lord Dunsmore¹ caused him to bee beaten and tyed with cords, the King, Prince Robert and Prince Charles looking on, but the trooper would not speake to them, but the King came to him and then hee was released upon condicion that hee would worke, but the King sawe him beaten and made him promisse to worke. That they are making a bulwarke in the meadowe over against Kings Colledge.² That they are very weake in foote, and most of them Welshmen, except the regiment of Yorkeshire men which the Queene sent.

That on Sunday the 18th day of this instand after they were taken prisoners³ they were tyed with match two, three or foure together, and that when they had gone five or six miles, they sate downe to rest them but soe soone as they saw the Parliament forces apeare, they then beate them on, and drove them forwards through the lanes with all violence till they came past Chidlington⁴ bridge. And they being extraordinary drye and desyring meate and drinke and sustenance, then they put them into a pound and only brought them a paille full of water, and soe carryed them to Oxford and put them into the castle where they kept them from Sunday till Tuesday without meate or

¹Sir Francis Leigh, Baron Dunsmore, later Earl of Chichester; according to Clarendon (II, 533) "a man of a rough and tempestuous nature."

²Work on the fortifications in Christ Church meadow was started early in June. (Wood I, 100).

³The informant appears to have been a member of Luke's troop captured at Chinnor. For the treatment of prisoners in Oxford Castle see F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, p. 90, and the Castle at Oxford and its prisoners. (*Bodleian Quarterly Record*, VII, 420).

⁴Chislehampton.

drinke, and kept them soe close in a stinking tower that had they not worked, they had beene stifled by this tyme. And when they did worke they were allowed bread and cheese and a barrell of beare amongst 120 men. But on Tuseday last all the beare in the castle was drunke upp, and hee would not suffer any more beare to come into the castle, which made the souldiers feare least they had an intent to starve them.

Robert Atkins returned this day and saith that going to Woodstocke on Saturday last was sevenight, hee was taken prisoner and carryed to Abbington where hee hath continued wer since, till this day the 29th of June where hee could neyther see nor heare any thing.

Robert Cox saith that hee was within a mile of Bister where hee heares that there are 600 horse of the Kings forces in Bister, but neyther foote nor ordnance, and that in Kertleton and 3 other villages neere Bister there are at least 3000 horse and foote, and that Prince Robert is there with them. That a troope of horse went out the last night to Brill and tooke away some horse and returned to their quarters.

Randall Wyatt saith that he came from Woodstocke yesterday and that the towne and parts adiacent are full of the Kings forces, and hee was tould there, that there was many of the Kings forces gone towards Buckingham and Prince Robert and divers lords were come to Bister and Liddington¹ with 6000 foote and horse and that they hoped verie suddenly to hem his Excellency in here att Tame and take him and all his forces.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee was neare Islipp where hee heard that there are but few of the Kings forces and that there are 500 horse at Bister, and about 2000 in the villages and places thereabouts, that all the horse that come towards our quarters march from Oxford and returne thither againe. That Prince Robert is gone towards Buckingham, with 2000 men and that there [are] noe foote nor ordnance in Bister.

Edward Sherwyn saith that there are a great partye of the Kings forces lye quartered at Bolston, Hinksell² and other places 2 miles beyond Oxford, and some at Islipp and other villages on this side, and that there are about 1000 foote which lye at Kirtleton, Weston and other villages neere Bister, and that the horse that quartered there are drawne towards Banbury and Buckingham. That there was a party of horse the last night and this morning at Wotton and Doorton³ and pillaged the contry of their sheepe and horses and returned to their quarters.

FRYDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1643. Edward Sherwyn retorned this day and saith that there are onely three regiments of horse and foote att Abbing-

¹Piddington.

²Botley and Hinksey.

³Wotton Underwood and Dorton in Buckinghamshire.

ton, and that there went out a party on Monday last to joyne with Prince Robert, and they say they was to come to Risborough. Hee cannot heare of any forces that are lately come to Wallingford from Oxford or from any other place. That the speech in Oxford is that Collonell Goodwyn is runne away, and that his excellency would fayne be gone to Windsor if hee could tell howe for beinge hindred by the Kings forces.

Robert Cox saith that Prince Robert is still with his forces within 2 miles of Bister, and that those that were in Bister and the villages thereabouts continue still in their severall quarters, and that they fetch in all the cattle in the contry and give out that they will leave nothing for his Excellency against his coming.

A messenger went this day towards Gloucester.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that most of the forces which quartered at Woodstocke are marcht away this day to Prince Robert whoe with all his forces marcht from their quarters about Bister this afternoone and as it is reported they are gone eyther to meete the Queene ore else to fall upon his Excellencies forces at Tame.

SATURDAY JULY THE 1. Raph Norton went out this day to Sanford. Edward Sherwyn went to Chalgrave. Robert Cox to Chilton. Barthol[mew] Symons went forth this day. James Sherwood retorned this day and saith that there came about 15 of the Kings forces about breake of day this morninge into Winslowe and inquired of a butcher where one of the Parliaments soldiers had sold his armes yesterday and the butcher telling them hee knewe not, they asked him for the mans house where they were sould and when they had gotten the armes they went away without other hurt onely breakinge the windowes, and there lyes about twoe troopes of horse neere Winslowe, and the wholle body lyes att Buckingham as hee retorned hee heard that there were a regiment of the Kings forces gotten into the wood on the right hand of Ailesbury. And heares they are resolved to goe into Bedfordsheire. And that some few went this day into Bedfordsheire. And heares that the Queene is comeing towards Oxford. William Lowgrove went this day to Wallingford.

Robert Cox saith that there came 2000 horse of the Kings forces this afternoone through Winslowe to Swanburne, and heareing of a party of ours coming from Aylesbury that way they retreated to Winslow, and hee heares that they intend this night eyther to quarter there or else at Buckingham.

John Lane returned this day from London.

Bartholmew Symons returned this day and saith there there was a party of horse of the Kings forces this afternoone at Ickford whoe sent out scouts to discover our forces, and perceiueing our centryes at Long

Crendon they retreated over Ickford bridge towards Wheatley. That hee saw about 40 horse men in Horton Common which came from the guard at Woodbury,¹ chasing and driving away the sheepe from thence [to] Stanton and soe to Oxford. That there [are] noe forces eyther at Wheatley, Hostell, Stanton or any of the townes on this side of Oxford being except one troope at Woodbury, but are all drawn away from thence to Prince Robert whoe now lyes at Buckingham.²

Edward Sherwyn returned this day.

William Lowgrove saith that Prince Robert with a strong party is now at Buckingham and that all the rest of the Kings forces are drawne out of Oxford and Abbingdon, and the townes where they were quartered about it, this afternoone towards Wallingford and intend to fall upon Tame very speedily on that side which goes to Chynner. That there are betwixt 30 and 40 drawn out of very parish neere Oxford, to ioyn with the townesmen to keepe the cittye, and that the King hath given Prince Robert the engine which now lyes in Tame if hee can gett it. That Prince Robert will fall upon on one side of Tame and the forces from Wallingford on the other, very speedily, and that Prince Robert will take Aylesbury in his way.

SONDAY THE 2 OF JULY. Robert Goddard saith that all the horse are gone from Wallingford to Prince Robert to Buckingham, and onely a few foote left to keepe the castle. And hee likewise heares that the Queene will bee in Oxford within these 3 dayes.³

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that there was thirtie of the Kings forces att Shabbington about twelve of the clocke this day and beinge pursued by a party of the Parliaments horse they returned towards Oxford, and that there is none nowe betwixt this and Wheatley bridge.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that betwixt this and Oxford there are not above a troope of horse, and in Oxford there are but fewe horse and foote and the country are this day makinge bulwarks there and that Prince Robert hath ten thousand along with him, and tis reported about Brill and Blackthorne that 200 of the Parliaments forces fell upon the Kings forces and that they tooke and killd them all and that there hath beene about 40 of the Kings souldiers up and downe within two miles of Tame all this day.

Edward Sherwyn returned this day and saith that hee cannot heere of any of the Kings forces betweene this and Abbingdon and that there are about 400 foote in Abbingdon and some fewe horse.

¹Woodperry.

²Rupert went to Buckingham on 30th June. (*Rupert's Journal*).

³The King did not confirm Rupert's decision to go north to meet the Queen until 7th July, the Queen being then at Ashby de la Zouch. (*Warburton II*, 224-5).

Bartholmew Symonds saith that there are noe forces neere Oxford eyther at Cowley, Sanford or any place on this side towards Tame, that 3 regiments of foote were drawn out of Oxford yesterday in the afternoone to march towards Buckingham. And that the King is still in Oxford but noe soldiers but what the townesmen and schollers have raisd among themselves to guard the towne.

MONDAY THE 3RD JULY. Robert Coxe went out this day. Raph Norton to Horton. John Lane to Oxford. Bartholmew Steevens to Wheatley etc. Paule Luke to Ethorpe. William Sherwood went with him.

Bartholmew Symons returned this day and saith that there are 2 troopes of horse at Bister and noe forces in any towne betwixt Tame and Bister, but that all the forces are gone out of all their quarters to Prince Robert to Buckingham and Padbury wood 2 miles from the towne, and that there is a guard kept at Padbury bridge. That 2 regiments of foote marcht out of Abbington yesterday through Oxford towards Buckingham, and that there are noe soldiers left in Oxford, and onely schollers and townesmen to keepe the guards.

Raph Norton saith that there are a regiment of horse at Bister and thereabouts, and none at all (sic) and that there both horse and foote in Oxford, but most of them are men which were warnd in too come and keepe the towne. That Prince Robert hath warnd in all the contry from 16 to 60 to appeare, some of the cheifest to releve them with mony and the rest to assist them with their armes. That Prince Robert intends before hee comes to Oxford againe to bring the Queene along with him. That there came out a proclamacion on Satturday last to releve all ministers that had absented themselves for feare of the Parliament to have their livings restored and repayracions for their losses.¹

Paul Luke retorned this day and saith that there are 24 colours come from Oxford since the last night to Prince Robert att Buckingham, and they say they threaten Bedfordshire. That Prince Robert is about 5000 strong horse and foote.

TUESDAY 4TH. JULY. Raph Norton went this day towards Oxford. Edward Sherwood went this day towards Buckingham. Bartholmew Symonds went and returned. Robert Cox went and returned. Raph Norton went and returned.

WEDNESDAY 5TH. JULY. Bartholmew Symonds saith that there was a regiment of foote with yellow and black collours marcht the last night from Oxford to Prince Robert and 6 troopes of horse, and heard for

¹No proclamation in these terms is recorded at this period by Steele or Madan.

certaine at Wornall that there are 4 troopes of horse comming from Wallingford towards Tame, to take such soldiers as are there left behind.

—¹ Saith that hee was this day at Padbury and that there are 120 of the Kings forces keepe watch there every night and that the greatest parte of the Kings forces lye at Buckingham and Bister and thereabouts. That they say at Padbury that there were but very few of the Parliaments forces slaine on Sondag last,² and that there was a collonell and a captaine slaine on the Kings side and buried at Buckingham, and some found since in the pease feild. That the Kings forces intend to stay at Buckingham till his Excellency comes and then to give him battle, and would have him come with all his forces that they may make an end of the busines and threaten to drive his Excellency into his owne contry.

THURSDAY 6TH JULY. Bartholmew Symonds went and returned this day. Robert Cox. Raph Norton went and returned.

FRYDAY 7TH. JULY. John Lane came from Buckingham and informed his Excellency that Prince Robert was gone out of the towne the night before with a small number and that this all the forces were gone after him, and that they intended that night to quarter at Brackley.

Raph Norton went forth and returned. Robert Coxe went. Bartholmew Symonds. William Sherwood went and returned.

SATURDAY 8 JULY. John Lane went into the country with warrants.

John Blewett went another way with warrants. Bartholmew Symonds saith that Prince Robert sent 3 regiments of foote to Woodstock from Brackley and thereabouts to guard his Majestye to Oxford and that Prince Robert and the rest of his forces are advanced from their quarter at Brackley towards Banbury,³ and it is reported that they will goe to Northampton to meete the Queene whoe the next weeke is expected at Oxford and great preparacion made for that purpose.

Robert Cox saith that the King and all the noblemen are marcht from Woodstocke and that the King himselfe marcht before 3 regiments of foote out of the towne towards Oxford which had beene sent unto him the day before by Prince Robert, and whoe with all his forces was gone away alsoe from Brackley, and that hee heard that they all intended to ioyn their forces together and march away northward, and that the Queene is very speedily expected and much preparacion for her entertainment.

Bartholmew Symonds returned this day.

¹Blank in MS.

²Sir Charles Lucas's defeat of a Parliamentary force under Col. Middleton.

³Rupert went to Sir Rowland Egerton's house at Farthinghoe on 7th July, to Daventry on 8th July, to Lutterworth on the night of 9th July, and met the Queen at Stratford on Avon on 11th July. (Rupert's *Journal* and Warburton II, 227).

SONDAY THE 9 OF JULY. William Sherwood went forth this day. Bartholmew Symonds went alsoe. Robert Coxe went to Farthingoe, Brackley etc. Raph Norton returned and saith. (sic).

John Blewett saith that being yesterday at Brackley hee sawe some of Sir John Byrons regiment march out of the towne to the randevous 2 miles beyond Brackley, and from thence hee heard they intended to march with their whole body to Daventry, having sent a party of horse of 1500 before towards Northampton then they intended to goe from thence to Holmeby and there to continue till the Queenes forces come and ioyn with them.

Robert Cox returned and saith that Prince Robert marcht yesterday from the randevous neere Brackley with 2000 of his prime horse towards Leicester to meete the Queene and was mett this day beyond Northampton, and the rest of his horse and foote lye at Weeden, Daventry and Holmeby, where they still remaine. But as hee heares the King is still in Oxford.

William Sherwood returned this day and saith that the Kings forces quarterd the last night at Weeden and Daventry, and marched this day towards Whatshawcallum (sic) Ashby de la Zouch in Leister-shire, where (hee heares) that the Queene is.

MONDAY THE 10TH JULY. William Richards went forth this day. John Blewett went alsoe. William Sherwood to Northampton. John Lane went etc. Raph Norton went forth and returning saith that this day there went some of the Kings forces out of Banbury after Prince Robert whoe as hee heares is marcht further towards the north, and that 500 soldiers came the last night into Oxford from Prince Maurice and that hee himself is expected there very shortly.

Robert Cox saith that the King marcht out of Oxford on Saturday last¹ to Woodstocke with 2000 horse and 3 regiments of foote and tooke with him all the ordnance except 3 peeces and hath left some 200 soldiers in the towne besides townesmen and scholers to keepe it. That there dyes about 40 a weeke of the plague² in Oxford, besides many of other diseases.

John Blewitt returned this day and saith that Prince Roberts forces which lay at Holmeby and Daventry are gone from thence towards Newarke and that Prince Robert is following after and lyes this night at Harborow, and that some of them quarter at Litterworth and other places thereabouts. That they pillaged the contry as they went along, there being this morning about 100 men following them to Litterworth for their goods, and likewise have robd most of the carryers upon the highway.

¹The King met the Queen at Edgehill on 13th July and returned to Oxford on the following day.

²The morbus compestris, see F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, chap. XVII.

TUESDAY THE 11TH. JULY 1643. Robert Cox returned this day and saith that in the feilds a little on the right hand Buckingham there were this morning three troopes of the Kings horse whoe tooke him and Raph Norton prisoners and tooke from them all their money but 13d. and tooke alsoe iis. 6d. from a Buckingham man and take all mens money they meete with and after they had taken their money they lett them goe. The tooke alsoe one whoe came from London with the Lord Maiors tickett and carryed him to their guard att Daventry. It is there reported that Prince Robert and the Queene mett the last night att Asby de lazouch, and they say they heare that his excellencie will march to Cambridge, but Prince Robert intends to prevent him for he wilbe there before him.

Raph Norton went this day.

WEDNESDAY THE 12TH. JULY. Robert Cox went this day etc. Mr. Paule Luke went forth alsoe. Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the King with about 2000 horse and 3 regiments of foote lyes still in and about Woodstocke, and as heares (sic) they have 25 peeces of ordnance and that hee is expected to come to Banbury, and that quarters were taken upp the last night for him at Deddington but hee came not. That there were 30 carts full of maymed soldiers came on Monday last into Oxford from Prince Maurice out of the west.¹ That some of the Kings horse should have quarterd at Bister but the plague being there prevented them.

Bartholmew Symonds saith that on Monday last in the afternoone there marcht 17 collours of foote out of Oxford towards Prince Robert and that 12 peeces of ordnance are ready mounted and fitted to march after on Fryday next. That there was a party of horse yesterday of about 60 at Tame where they searcht the towne for armes and found halfe a loadie which our soldiers had forgotten and left behind them. That the King is now in Oxford and hath not beene out but one night this moneth.

Robert Blewett returned this day and informed his Excellencie. Robert Cox returned and saith that the King is now in Oxford being seene at a sermon yesterday in Christchurch. That Prince Maurice came alsoe into Oxford about 12 of the clocke and tooke away what forces could well bee spared, and returned in the evening to meete Sir Raph Hopton whoe (as hee heares) comes into Oxford this night being pursued by Sir William Waller.²

William Sherwood returned this day and saith that the Queene is gone from Ashby de la Zouch to Litchfeild and Prince Robert is

¹Presumably those injured at the battle of Lansdowne on 5th July.

²Hopton was then hemmed in by Waller at Devizes. The reinforcements sent from Oxford led to the defeat of Waller's army at Roundway Down on 13th July.

returned with all his forces as farr as Lutterworth. That the inhabitants of Shawell withstood Prince Roberts passage through the towne whoe thereupon caused it to bee burnt, and a very honest man in the same towne to bee hangd at his owne dore for having warrants found about him from the Lord Grey for the raysing of forces for the King and Parliament. That others were apprehended and threatend to bee hanged insomuch as the contry is much trobled at it and mightily incensed against Prince Robert.

THURSDAY THE 13TH. JULY. Robert Cox went forth this day. Raphe Norton went the day before with letters from his Excellency to Sir William Waller. William Sherwood with letters to the Lord Grey, Sir John Meldrum and others at Leycester, Nottingham etc. from his Excellency. Mr. William Wigfall came yesterday from London. Patrick Dudgeon from the Con. of Cleveland.¹

George Holdway from Sir William Waller eodem die and saith that on Wednesday the 5th. of July Sir William Waller, Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford etc. mett on Lansdowne neere Bath where there was a great fight betwixt them from 9 in the morning till 10 aclk at night at which tyme Sir William Waller drew his forces into Bath, whereupon the Caulyeres said that they had routed him and had the pillaging of the feild. But the next morning Sir William Waller came upp againe and at the same place fell upon them and gave them such an overthrow as forced them all to fly being totally rowted, Prince Maurice and Marquesse Hartford betaking themselves to Trowbridge where heareing of Sir William Wallers comming they durst not continue there but fledd further to Melsom,² and hee heares that they intended to drawe all their scatterd forces together and had appointed their rendezvous at Chipnam. That a servant of the Lord Beachampes comming to see Sir William Waller from his lady at his departing Sir William desired him to remember his service to her and withall bidd him to tell her that within 5 dayes hee hoped to sett all their hearts at quiett.

Bartholmew Symonds went this day to Oxford.

Robert Cox returned and saith that it is reported about Oxford that the King is marcht forth towards Banbury with above 2000 horse besides foote and 8 peeces of ordnance, having left the cittye to the safeguard of the townesmen and schollers, and that it is likewise conceived there that his Excellency intends very suddenly to advance that way. And that his Majestye sent a post this day to Prince Robert to hast away and meete her.

¹Patrick Dudgeon, normally employed as a messenger, went into Bedfordshire on 20th April, and this cryptic reference may relate to business arising from the Bedfordshire estates of the Earl and Countess of Cleveland (see *D.N.B.* s.v. Wentworth, Sir Thomas).

²Melksham, Wiltshire.

William Richards saith that Prince Robert is gone to Stratford upon Avon to meete the Queene, and her Majestye is expected at Banbury eyther this or tomorrow night.

That the forces lye at Daventry, Shagborough and the townes adiacent and pillage and plunder the contry and are to advance after Prince Robert very suddenly. That the Queene is 8000 strong, horse and foote.

John Blewett returned this day etc.

FRIDAY 14TH. JULY, 1643. Robert Cox went out this day. William Richards. John Blewett.

15 JULY. William Richards went out and returned this day, that all the Kings forces which lay quartered at Adderbury and Deddington are advanct to Banbury. That it is certainly reported that the King is at Banbury and if the Queene come not this night the King intends to goe to Stratford upon Avon to her, and that the greatest parte of the Kings forces are there.

William Sherratt.

John Lane went this day to Buckingham by command from his Excellency. Bartholmew Symonds saith that on Wednesday last Prince Maurice came into Oxford and tooke with him 2 regiments of horse and one of foote and returned westward. That upon Prince Roberts comming in on Thursday morning the King and the Prince went out of Oxford with a small attendance out of the North gate towards Banbury to meete the Queene, that they mett and lay the last night at Banbury and come this night to Woodstocke where there is great preparacion for that purpose and that hee sawe 10 loades of faggotts prepared to make boonefires at Oxford for ioy of the Queenes comming.

John Lane returned from Buckingham.

William Sherratt returned this day from Leycester, Nottingham etc. and saith that the Queene was yesterday at Stratford upon Avon and that some of her forces lately came to Burton upon Trent and fell upon the townesmen and drove 30 of them into the church whoe defended themselves bravely and kild many of the Cavallyers but at last were glad to demand quarter, but they refused to grant it but came in the night and cutt all their throats, doing great spoile in the towne, ravishing the woomen, forcing many of them to take the river where they were drownd insomuch that above 20 were found and taken upp dead this weeke, and they dayly find more.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that the Queene lay at Stratford upon Avon the last night, and it is reported that the King intends to sett forward this day towards that towne eyther to her or to meete her on the way.

John Blewett returned this day and saith that the Kings forces are gone from Banbury, some of them to Woodstocke and some to Worcester, and that the Queens forces are gone from Stratford upon Avon to Worcester alsoe where Prince Robert now is.

SONDAY THE 16 OF JULY 1643. John Lane went this day towards Prince Roberts forces. Bartholmew Symonds went this day to Oxford. Robert Cox went forth alsoe to Bister. John Blewett went alsoe to Banbury. William Sherratt and Robert White went towards Banbury.

Robert Cox returned and saith that the King and Queene were at Woodstock on Friday night, and that the King left the Queene there and went yesterday to Oxford, and that the Kings forces lye at Bleachingdon betweene Wodstocke and Oxford and other places thereabouts and that the nerest of the Kings forces to this place, Stony Stratford, are at Largison¹ about 9 or 10 miles of, which are not above one troope of horse and that Sir William Waller was defeated the last weeke by Prince Rupert. Thomas Wilkinson went forth this day.

MONDAY THE 17 JULY. P. Luke went forth this day. Job Murcott went with him. Richard Coxe to Buckingham. Nicholas Luke went this day towards Oxford. Thomas Wilkinson returned this day and saith that are but fewe of the Kings forces in Banbury and hee heard there that after the King and Queene mett at Edgehill they lay at Roxton² on Thursday night at Sir Thomas Popes house and after that both their forces were ioyned together, there were 5000 horse sent immediatly to Prince Rupert towards the Bath whoe was then gone to Prince Maurice to assist him against Sir William Waller, and hee alsoe heares that there was a fight betwixt them on Friday or Saterdag last but what was donne therein hee knowes not. That the King and Queene are at Woodstocke and that hee mett this day about 20 wagons and carts which had brought the Queens carriages from Banbury to Woodstocke. John Blewett saith hee came from Banbury and there are none but the Lord of Northamptons regiment of horse and about 4000 foote, and a regiment of horse at Kings Sutton and another at Ano on the hill under the comand of Sir John Byron and they expect to advance away this day from their severall quarters to Woodstocke, and hee heares that the King and Queene went from Woodstocke on Saturday last to Oxford, and are there still, and that there are 800 which came along with the Queene are to returne into the north againe.

Robert Whitehead returned and saith that goeing towards Banbury hee was taken by a partye of Kings scouts and carryed to Brackley where hee continued this day till about one of the clocke at which tyme they

¹ ?Ludgershall.

²Wroxton.

discharged him and went themselves to Oxford. That hee heard that the King and Queene are at Oxford and have beene there since Satturday last, and that Prince Robert is come unto them. And that they intend to ioine their forces together being about 30000 as is credibly reported and to advance towards London, and in the meane tyme to make a mutyney in the citty that they may effect their purpose with lesst difficulty. That hee heares alsoe that Prince Maurice hath rowted Sir William Waller and Prince Robert upon Friday last marching from Edgehill with divers of the Kings forces marcht from thence northwards towards the Earle of Newcastle, hearing of it comanded divers of the Kings forces being appointed and ready to march after him, hee sent them word backe that they should not trouble themselves but that every man should returne to his quarter for the worke which hee should have gone about was donne. And that if they could not effect their purpose upon London by a muteny they intended to fire it.

Stony Stratford. William Sherratt returned and saith that there are none of the Kings forces at Buckingham, nor any neerer this place then Brackley, and hee heares that Prince Maurice hath rowted Sir William Waller.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that the King and Queene are in Oxford and that Prince Robert went out yesterday with a party of horse as was supposed towards Aylesbury. That hee heares that the King and Queene with all their forces intend very speedily to advance towards London and that their forces quarter in all the townes about Oxford. Nicholas Luke returned this day.

TUESDAY THE 18 OF JULY. Robert Cox went forth this day.

John Blewett, Robert Whitehead went forth towards Banbury together. Nicholas Luke returned and saith that hee was at Bister and that there came in 5 troopes of horse to Bister on Sunday night last to rayse a summe of mony for the King and returned the next morning to Cowley and quarter there. That the King and Queene are in Oxford and Prince Robert, and hee heares that they intend very speedily to goe and beseige Gloster. That there were 500 prisoners expected yesterday to come into Oxford which were taken on Friday last when Sir William Waller was defeated. That the Queenes forces are to remaine in and about Oxford to secure it, and that those that were in it before under Prince Robert are to goe to Gloucester. That the Lord Grandison hath taken upp his winter quarter at Water Eaton yesterday within 3 miles of Oxford. That they have clothed all their foote soldiers in redd and blew having all of them moneroes, coates and briches.¹

¹Cf. Wood I, 103, that on "Saturday (15th July) all the common soldiers then at Oxford were new apparrelled, some in red, coates, breeches, and mouteers; and some all in blewe." (Mouteer or montero, a cap with spherical crown and ear-flaps).

Mr. N. Luke went forth this day towards Oxford.

Bartholmewe Symonds returned this day and saith that the King, Queene and Prince Robert are in Oxford, and on Sonday morning there were sent out a regiment of horse, 2 companies of dragoones and 3 peeces of ordnance into the west towards Prince Maurice. That it is credibly reported in Oxford that the King and Queene intend on Thursday next with all their forces to march towards London, there being already 300 carts warnd in for that purpose. And they are above 20000 strong in and about Oxford and that the Queene brought 4000 horse and foote with her and 8 great peeces of ordnance having 20 horses a peece to draw them. That there is a generall rumor of the defeating of Sir William Waller but the certainty hee cannot learne.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that upon Sonday last Prince Maurice and the Earle of Hartford, the Earle of Carnarvan and all their forces marcht from the Vyes to the Bath and on Monday advanced towards Bristoll. That yesterday 4 miles from Marleborough he sawe betwixt 3 and 4000 more of the Kings horse goeing after the other forces towards Bristoll and as it was reported to beseige both Bristoll and Gloster, but if they could not encompass both, however they resolved to goe against Bristoll where Sir William Waller was then with all his forces.¹ That the Queenes forces which came along with the Queene being most of them eyther Walloones or Frenchmen lye in readyness in and about Cicester to assist Prince Maurice if occasion bee. That on Thursday last Sir William Waller lyeing neere the Vyes with his forces Prince Maurice came upon him unawares and tooke 7 peeces of ordinance, 200 prisoners and kild about 10 of our men and rowted the whole armye and soe hee and the rest that escaped betooke themselves to Bristoll. That our foote first of all rowted them twice and kild about 30 of them but having not horse to helpe, and the enymies forces coming thicke upon them out of the towne forced them to fly and leave their armes behind them. And it is the common report in the west contry that the Lord Generall hath undonne them all. And that there is noe passage for any provision to Bristoll the enemy lyeing in all parts about it, and if his Excellency come not speedily to releve them it is impossible they should subsist any longer.

Mr. L[uke] returned this day and saith that hee heares that the King and Queene are at Woodstocke and that the King hath drawne all his forces towards Edgehill and expects his Excellencies comming thither to give him battell. That the contry wonder much at the lyeing still of our forces and that if his Excellency doe not speedily advance they are all utterly undonne, and that rather then they will continue in this sadd

¹After his defeat at Roundway Down Waller abandoned Bath and made his way to Bristol and then to London.

condicion they will goe to the King that there may bee a quicke dispatch of the busines.

William Richards saith that the King and Queene were yesterday at Woodstocke with about 2000 horse and foote and that Prince Robert marcht towards Bristoll with 2000 horse and foote more on Satturday last. And that divers of the Kings forces lye at Tizur¹ in Warwickshire and a troope of horse at Adderbury and 300 in Banbury and 4 drakes, and all the townes betweene Banbury and Stratford upon Avon are full of the Kings soldiers.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that the King and Queene are in Oxford, and that Prince Robert drew his forces yesterday from Bister and other places thereabouts into a feild nere Oxford, and is marcht forth this day westward, and as hee heares it reported is gone to beseidge Gloucester. That a great partye of the Queenes forces are quartered at Cowley within 2 miles of Oxford, and that they are to continue and rest themselves in and about Oxford untill Prince Robert hath cleered the west contry, and then they are all to ioyne together and advance to London. That there were 20 of the Kings scouts this afternoone in Thorneborough feild 3 miles from Stony Stratford and tooke away 2 or 3 horses and returned backe by Buckingham towards Bister.

Raph Norton saith that on Thursday last Sir William Waller lyeing neer the Vyes with his forces and having beseiged it 4 or 5 dayes, Sir Raph Hopton came against him and upon a treaty offered him 60 thousand pounds to leave the seidge that they should all march peaceably away. But in the meane tyme Prince Maurice came in with 3000 horse and some foote and 3 peeces of ordnance and fell upon him unawares and tooke 200 prisoners, 7 peeces of ordnance besides some caryages and killd about 10 of our men and rowted the whole army, and Sir William himselfe and the remainder of his forces betooke themselves to Bristoll where hee how remaynes. That our foote rowted them at first 2 or 3 tymes but wanting horse to r[e]leeve them they were constrayned to leave the feild and most of their armes behind them. That on Sonday last Prince Maurice, Earl of Hartford, the Earl of Carnarvan and all the rest of their forces marcht from the Vyes to Bath and on Monday advanced towards Bristoll. That in the afternoone as hee was returning by Marleborough hee saw betweene 3 and 4000 horse of the Kings forces marching after them and that they intend this day to beseige both Bristoll and Gloster, but if they cannot compasse both they resolve to goe against Bristoll. That about 1500 of the Queenes forces being most of them Walloones and Frenchmen lye ready in and about Cicester to assist Prince Maurice if there bee any occasion and that hee conceives that the forces which are gone

¹Tysoe.

against Bristoll and those that quarter by the way are in all about 12000. And saith that there is noe passage for horse or man or for any provision to Bristoll the enemy lying in all places upon the way and in all parts about.

WEDNESDAY THE 19TH. OF JULY 1643. Robert Cox went forth and returned, et nihil dixit. Nicholas Luke saith that the King and Queene are in Oxford and that Prince Robert went out of Oxford yesterday with 15000 horse, 60 carriages and 15 peeces of ordnance towards Gloster and intend to bee there this night. That there came in 500 prisoners and 42 collours of horse which were taken of Sir William Wallers forces on Friday last. That the Queenes forces lie quartered all about Oxford and keepe very strickt guard. That the King hath warnd in 5 out of every adiacent towne to come and secure Oxford. And that they are come in accordingly. That above a dozen of our men runne the last weeke to the King and that there were 3 entertayned there yesterday. But they have a strickt order amongst them that noe soldier shall stirr from his quarter but upon spetiall command.

William Sherratt returned this day and saith that hee was this day at Bister and that all the Kings forces which were there are drawn from thence to Oxford and that some of them are gone into Berkshire and soe towards Bristoll to besiege Sir William Waller, and that there are but few left in Oxford but onely the townesmen and schollers and a few soldiers which keepe the guards.

THURSDAY THE 20TH. OF JULY. William Richards went out yesterday and returned this day and saith that hee came from Wickham where hee heard for certaine that Prince Robert with his forces was marcht out of Oxford on Tuesday last and was gone to Bristoll to besiege Sir William Waller and that the King himselfe marcht out yesterday morning after them with his guard to attend him. That all their forces in the west are gathered together for the besieging of Bristoll, and that they threaten to pull Sir William Waller out limbe by limbe.

Robert Cox went forth this day. Nicholas Luke went this day into the west contry. William Sherwood went alsoe. William Richards went forth this day to Aylesbury.

Batholmew Symonds saith that hee [came] from Oxford and that the Queene are (sic) both there, and that Prince Robert marcht forth on Tuesday last with above 12000 horse and foote to besiege Gloucester, whereof one regiment of horse and another of foote were the Queene[s] forces and that all the carts which were reported to bee warnd in for London went along with Prince Robert and 15 peeces of ordnance. That there are in Oxford 3 regiments of foote and one regiment of horse quartered without the towne and about 12 peeces of ordnance.

Robert Cox returned this day from Okeley and heares the King and Queene are both in Oxford and that most of the Queenes horse are quartered in the villages about Oxford, 3 troopes att Hedington and 3 troopes att twoe townes called Cowleyes and one troope att Islipp and my Lord Grandison lyes att another village neere Oxford with some horse, but could not learne howe many. And that most of the Queenes foote are in Oxford. And they have warned five of every towne neere Oxford to come in to guard the towne and they are gone in accordingly.

Yesternight a messenger came to Brickhill to bring notice that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice were marcht from Oxford the day before with the greatest strength the King had and that there was noe foote left behind but those which came with the Queene. And further declared that both Oxfordshire and Glostershire would now rise if his Excellency would approach with his army. That they intended as was reported to besiege both Gloster and Bristoll at once.¹

FRYDAY 21TH. OF JULY. Bartholmew Symonds went to Oxford, and a stranger with him. William Sherratt and William Richards into the west contry to Sir William Waller. Mr. John Turner, Robert Cox went alsoe this day towards the west with lettres to Sir William Waller from his Excellency.

James Cary saith that there were 3 troopes of horse this day at Bosdon² betweene Tame and Oxford and 3 drakes with them and a party went out towards Reading, but it is conceived that their intencions were onely to pillage and plunder the contry.

John Blewett from Mr. Meads.

Nicholas Luke saith that on Tuesday last Sir William Waller (as hee heard) gave a great overthrow to Prince Maurice, tooke a great many of his commanders prisoners, and rowted his whole army. That Prince Robert lay the last night at Warberton within 5 miles of Redding with 15000 horse and foote and tis thought hee is goeing with his forces towards London. That the prisoners which came into Oxford on Monday last are sett to digg and worke in the trenches, and some of them have taken upp armes for the King. John Youle went this night to Coventry.

SATURDAY THE 22 OF JULY. James Youle went to Oxford the night before.

Raph Norton returned from the west and saith that there are 3000 of the King's foote in Bath, and 1000 horse at Chipnam, and none nearer Bristoll then the Bath, neyther are there any gone against Gloucester. That there is a regiment of horse at Marleborough which expect dayly for 7000 from Oxford to goe along with them to besiege Bristoll and

¹Rupert left Oxford on 18th July and began the siege of Bristol on 23rd July. He made no move on Gloucester until after the fall of Bristol.

²?Boarstall.

Gloucester. That it is there reported that the King and Queene with their forces intend to goe to Reading and to leave a garrison there and from thence to march through Hampshire towards London.

Nicholas Luke returned and saith that there is 2 troope of horse of the Queens forces which lye at Iffley and 3 troopes at the twoe Cowleyes and 2 at Heddington 1 at Barton of the Queenes 2 at Islipp under the Lord Grandison and himselfe and the rest of his regiment lye at Water Eaton. That there were 3 troopes of horse and 2 troopes of dragoones on Thursday last within 3 miles of Windsor. That there are 5000 horse comming out of Kent to assist his Majestye. And that it is reported that they expect his Excellency to advance towards Oxford, and this night hee was expected at Bostall¹ 6 miles from thence.

Mr. Dudgeon went this day to Bedford. Mr. P[aul] L[uke] to Woodend in Bedfordshire.

SONDAY 23 JULY. Mr. Nicholas Luke went this day towards Newbury. Raph Norton went to Buckingham with lettres to Collonel Dalbier and returned the same day.

MONDAY 24 JULY. James Carey returned this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are still in Oxford and that the Earle of Carnarvan is come thither to them, that there are 3000 horse and foote in and about Oxford, the greatest part are foote. That they report in Oxford that the Earle of Essex is putt from his place, and Sir William Waller made Generall of the Parliaments forces. That hee heares of a proclamacion² to bee published this day to prohibit carryers from goeing to London, and that noe fatt cattle shall be sent or driven thither. That hee heares that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice are at Worcester, Gloucester or in some of the parts thereabouts.

William Sherratt returned out of the west contry.

TUESDAY THE 25 JULY. Bartholmew Symonds returned this day and saith that the King and Queene are in Oxford, and that Prince Robert is before Bristoll with all his forces, and Prince Maurice with his. That 4 troopes of horse and one regiment of foote went on Saturday last from Oxford to Wallingford. And hee heares that Prince Robert is returning into out of the west. (sic).

Nicholas Luke saith that Prince Robert hath beseiged Bristoll and Prince Maurice went from Bath on Friday last to beseige Gloster, and that the Lord Grandison³ is comming to keepe his randevous at the Earle of Pembrookes howse⁴ to prevent all passage to London.

¹Boarstall.

²Proclamation of 17th July prohibiting all trade between London and other parts of the kingdom. (Steele no. 2455).

³Grandison was wounded at Bristol on 26th July and brought to Oxford.

⁴Presumably Wilton House in Wiltshire.

Raph Norton returned from Oxford. James Carey went forth this day. John Youle went and returned sed nihil dixit.

WEDNESDAY 26 JULY. Raph Norton went this day to Oxford. Bartholmew Symonds went forth. John Youle went out. Mr. Nicholas Luke to Newbury.

John Blewett returned this day and saith that hee came from Oxford and that the King and Queene are both there and 3 regiments of foote and one regiment without and 2 regiments of horse which horse are this day to advance towards Prince Robert to Glouster and Bristoll. That Collonell Peirce with a regiment of horse, a regiment of dragoones and a regiment of foote are gone towards Maydenhead¹ with an intencion as it is reported to apprehend the Earle of Northumberland whoe lyes nere thereabout and it is said alsoe that hee is willing to bee taken and expected their comming. That on Monday last there came into Oxford about 100 of the Kings soldiers which had been maymed and hurt by Sir William Wallers forces in the west.

William Sherratt went this day with lettres to Stamford, Coventry and Nottingham to Collonell Crumwell etc.

James Carey returned this day and saith that yesterday there was a troope of the Kings horse were att Maydenhead, and that there appeared under the Arson Croell and Kingston Hills² a great body of the Kings horse and that they were 8 or 9000 as hee heard whoe came to plunder the contry, and that they were pulling downe the works at West Wickham.

Bartholmew Symonds went out this night to Hempsted with orders.

THURSDAY 27 JULY. James Carey went forth this day. Bartholmew Symonds went alsoe. John Youle returned this day and saith that there were 4000 horse of the Kings forces went by Redding on Tuesday last about towards Lindsey Castle and intend to crosse Sussex and soe to goe into Kent and take upp all the horses in the contrey as they passe along.

James Carey returned and saith that was (sic) at Marlow and heard there that a great party of the Kings forces went on Wednesday last by Redding and soe to Hampton Court, but they are not yett returned. That hee heard alsoe at Aston neere Chynner that there was a troope yesterday at Aston, and fetcht away a gentleman coach in the towne and tooke away horses in the contry and returned to Oxford. That they reported themselves that there were 9 or 10000 comming after them to goe to Alsbury, but none came that they could eyther see or heare of, which was reported by the Kings owne forces.

¹Cf. letter from the King to Rupert, 24th July: "We have lately sent the Lord Percy's regiment into Hampshire." (Warburton II, 243).

²Aston Rowant, Crowell and Kingston Blount.

SATURDAY THE 29 JULY. William Sherwood returned this day from Coventry etc. and saith that Prince Robert is at Buckingham¹ and hath warnd in all the contry to appeare there this day but to what end hee knowes not. That the people are in great feare and expect dayly when they shall bee ruined and undonne with (sic) some speedy helpe. That Prince Robert kept a sessions yesterday and this day at Buckingham.

George Westwood saith that there are 10000 of the Kings forces gone to beseidge Exiter, 10000 to Bristoll and as many to Gloster and that there are 5000 left for a flyeing army and 8000 in Oxford and Abbingdon.

That ther are 10000 rayzed in Kent and they have 6 brasse peeces mounted beside 60 iron peeces and they feare nothing but that they shall want assistance from the King hee having soe many against Bristoll, Gloster and Exiter. That the Kings forces comming yesterday to Basingstoke the townesmen gave them 500 li. that they might not bee plundered. That the contry afterwards hearing of their being there went after them and pursued them but whether they went hee cannot learne. That our horse that went from Windsor quarterd the last night at Hartford Bridge.

Bartholmew Symonds saith that hee came from Oxford where hee heard that the Kings forces have taken Bristoll and that Prince Robert is now before Gloucester. That Prince Maurice tooke 7 shippes neere Bristoll laden with broode cloth,² and that 30 cart loads came into Oxford yesterday in the afternoone. That 37 carts are warnd in to Oxford out of Bullington hundred, but to what end hee knowes not.

Robert Cox returned this day. John Blewett returned and saith ut supra.

SONDAY 30TH. JULY. John Blewett towards Bristoll.

MONDAY 31 JULY. Raph Norton saith that Collonell Norton and Collonell Harvey falling upon the Marquesse of Winchesters howse at Hackwood to take away some armes that were taken out of the contry were prevented for a tyme but after sending to the howse to demand possession, they had word sent that they had the Lord Generalls protection. That there is to bee a garrison at Redding.

William Lowgrove saith that Bristoll is taken and the Castle allsoe and that they were promised free quarter, but they were stript of all. That they intend to goe speedily against Gloucester. That there were 1500 of the Kings forces the last night at Newbury and were appointed to march this day into Hampshire.

Robert Cox that hee heares that there were 1000 of the Kings forces at Wooborne yesterday and were expected at Layton, that some are

¹Rupert was at this time at Bristol which had been surrendered by Nathaniel Fiennes on 26th July.

²A number of ships were captured or surrendered to the King when Bristol was taken (Warburton II, 263-5), and were put under the command of Sir John Penington (see *D.N.B.*).

alsoe at Buckingham, that there are 7 troopes at Marlow. That it is feared that the Cavallyers should come and take away the amunition there.

TUESDAY 1 AUGUST. Robert Cox went to Collonell Middleton. George Westwood went into Bedfordshire. Thomas Hitchman to London.

Raph Norton went and returned and saith that hee was at Nettlebed and that there are none of the Kings forces at eyther there or Henley Redding or at any other place betwixt this and Oxford only yesterday morning there were some yesterday within 2 miles of Marlow and plundred Mr. Doylyes¹ howse at Greenland and returned to Oxford. That there are 400 foote in Wallingford and about 50 dragoones, and a party of horse went from thence to Basingstoke. That there came yesterday into Oxford about 500 horse to guard some goods which came from Bristoll. That the King and Queene are still in Oxford but intend suddenly to march forth but whither hee cannot learne. That hee heares that the Queene is soe very sicke that her doctors and phisitians have given her over.

Bartholmew Symons returned this day and saith that hee came from Oxford and hee heares there that the Kings forces have taken Exiter, and on Saturday last three regiments of foote and one of horse went out Oxford towards Gloucester being sent for thither by Prince Robert. That the Lord Grandison was very sore wounded before Bristoll with drake bullett and that there are not above one regiment of foote and the Kings owne troope of horse left in Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 1643. Raph Norton went forth. Robert Cox went alsoe. William Lowgrove to Newbury. Bartholmew Symonds went with him.

Nicholas Luke returned and saith that the King went out of Oxford yesterday morning attended onely with some few gentlemen of his guard towards Bristoll to settle governement in the towne. That they report there that Sir John Pennington hath seizd upon 30 shippes neere Bristoll for the Kings use and that his Maiesty is expected backe the next weeke. That there are sixe regiments of foote and 2000 horse in and about Oxford and Abbingdon. That 80 of our men which were prisoners in the towne exchanged and released on Monday last, and that 300 have taken upp armes for the King.

James Carey returned and saith that there was a troope of horse of the Kings forces at Tame on Monday last, where they pillaged the contry and tooke beene (= ? being) about Layton divers horses from the contrymen thereabouts.

William Sherratt returned this day from Gainsborough² and saith that the Earle of Newcastle came before the towne the last weeke and

¹Sir John Doyley.

²Gainsborough capitulated to the Earl of Newcastle on 30th July.

on Saturday last upon parley had betweene him the Lord Fairfax¹ and the Earle of Lincolne² they were promissed free quarter and that they should depart with bagg and baggage but they withstanding him after they had sett fire on the towne and taken it, pillaged and plundered the whole towne and tooke away all their armes and amunition. That Collonell Crumwell is now at Huntington an raysing 3000 foote.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that there are not above 700 foote left in Oxford and 100 foote in Abbington, that there about (sic) 30 dragoones in Abbington and a regiment of horse about Oxford and some of them are gone towards Newbury. That the King went yesterday morning to Bristoll, and intends to stay there till Gloucester bee taken and afterwards they resolve to goe against London.

Robert Cox returned this day with him. Thomas Hewett went this day towards Lincolnshire. John Ravenscroft went forth this day.

THURSDAY AUGUST 3. Raph Norton went forth this day. James Carey went towards Newbury. Patrick Dugdion was this day paid and soe discharged. Bartholmew Symonds went to etc. Nicholas Luke returned this day from London and went after to Oxford.

FRIYDAY 4. 1643. Bartholomew Simonds returned and saith that the King went into Bristoll on Wednesday night, that the Kings forces are returned from beseiging Exiter, and that Prince Maurice, Marquesse Hertford the Lord Moore and Sir Ralph Hopton kept there randevous upon the hill above Marleborough on Wednesday last, and are since gone to meete Prince Rupert to beseidge Gloucester where they began theire seidge yesterday. That they have remooved noe cannon towards Gloucester. And that they have taken many of the merchants shippes to keepe the seas thereabouts.

SATTURDAY, AUGUST 5. Mr. Tomlins went forth this day to Buckingham, Banbury, Brackley and the places adiacent.

James Carey returned this day and saith that the King is still at Bristoll, and the Queene at Oxford, and that a troope of ther forces went out this weeke to attend the King, and returnd on Thursday last and are quarterd at Woodstocke. That there are 2000 horse and foote in and about Oxford and they are all to goe very speedily to helpe to beseige Gloster, and afterwards they say they intend to goe against London where they hope to bee lett in without much cost or troble, because they conceive they have more in the city for them then against them.

¹Fairfax was appointed governor of Hull on 22nd July. Lord Willoughby of Parham was in command of the forces at Gainsborough.

²Theophilus Clinton, Earl of Lincoln (see G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*) raised forces in Lincolnshire for the Parliament, and served as a colonel in Essex's army.

Bartholmew Symons was this day discharged and paid.,

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that there are 200 foote soldiers in Abbingdon and that the King is expected eyther this night or tomorrow at Oxford, that on Thursday there were divers private posts went to Bristoll, that hee heard it reported his Maiestyes comming hither is to treate with the Parliament about some new proposicions of peace, which they say are now offered unto him in a more submissive way then ever any were heretofore.¹ That there [are] at least 20 a day which come from London and they usually come eyther to Maydenhead by water, or else to Staynes by land, and that hee mett this day at least 40 men and woemen goeing thither, betwixt Uxbridge and Henley. That there was a difference on Tuesday last betweene Prince Maurice and Sir Raph Hopton at Bristoll, for that Sir Raph was denyed to bee governor of the towne but the King coming in on Wednesday quieted the busines² and now they are marcht from thence towards Gloster, and have sent 2 or 3 great barkes laden with granadoes and other amunition thither before them.

James Carey went forth this day.

Mr. Tomlins returned and saith that on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the Cavalliers have beene at Buckingham and the townes adjacent taxing the inhabitants and pressing them to bring in mony, provander and other provision to Buckingham, and pillaged some particular men thereabouts that had beene wellwillers to the Parliament, whereof one was a carryer, for offering some trunks to London which were the goods of some well affected to the Parliament, and one minister because some of the officers of our army lay at his house where formerly they had beene and keepe the people in great subiection for want of assistance. Hee heares that they intend to keepe the assizes at Buck[ingham] the beginning of the next weeke.

SONDAY 6 AUGUST 1643. Raph Norton went this day towards the west. Mr. Bedford to London. Robert Coxe went forth alsoe. William Sherwood went with Raph Norton.

James Carey returned and saith that there were 6 of the Kings scouts within a mile of Wickham, and at Bledloe ridge tooke 2 horses and went towards Oxford. That this day there were 30 more 2 miles beyond Tame whoe came from Winslowe and tooke onely one horse, and went afterwards to Bister and hee heares that there is onely one troope of horse of the Queenes forces at Woodstocke and about 60 at Buckingham.

¹The Lords at Westminster drew up propositions for peace on 3rd August, but these were rejected by the Commons on 7th August.

²The difference at Bristol was between Rupert and Hertford, who had named Hopton as governor without consulting Rupert. (Clarendon III, 121).

MONDAY 7 AUGUST. James Carey went forth this day. Mr. Tomlins went out this day to Buckingham.

William Sherwood saith that all the blacke collours are marcht from Wallingford towards Bristoll in regard they heare that Sir William Waller is comming backe, that there are 400 left in the towne. That they pillaged at Cawsam on Satturday and 6 of them were in Redding but did nothing. That on Thursday last the King sent to Gloster on Thursday last to demand the towne, but as yett hath received noe answere. That they doubt not of gayning the towne and then they resolve to goe against London. That the Queene is in Oxford and very sicke and that they dye 20 a day of the sicknesse. That there are 500 howseholds gotten into Basing howse where they are fortifieing themselves and have gott 8 peeces of ordnance.

Robert Cox saith that therre are 500 in Basingstoke and have brought in goods and mony to the value of 50,000 li. and have made themselves very strong. That the King hath sent to Windsor, Henley and divers other places to desire all his freinds to leave their howses for hee intending to come upon those places if hee found them there, they must bee forced to share with his enemyes.

John Ravenscroft returned and saith that Prince Robert is now before Gloucester and that the townesmen have offered him 40,000 li. not to pillage the towne, that hee makes noe doubt of taking it, and having fortified Bristoll intends to goe against London. That the Lord Percy with his forces intends speedily to goe into Kent. That there was a difference betweene Prince Maurice and Sir Raph Hopton which the Kings comming appeased. That they laid their forces all about the contry betwixt Oxford and Newbury, and that they pillaged the contry and tooke away homes, money and other goods. That hee heares that Sir Raph Hopton shall bee govenor of Bristoll.

TUESDAY 8 AUGUST. John Ravenscroft to London. Robert Cox towards Newbury. William Sherratt went alsoe.

William Lowgrove returned and saith that this day the Kings forces have beseiged Gloucester with 10000 men, and that since the takeing of Bristoll they have hung the Maior and it is thought that Collonell Fynes is hangd alsoe,¹ because hee could not bee found. That after they had promissed free quarter to the soldiers they compelled them to take upp armes for the King and wounded and beate them that would not. That the King is returning from Bristoll towards Oxford and is expected this night at Marleborough.

James Perry returned this day and saith that hee heares that the Lord Moone with divers of the Kings forces are now before Exiter and

¹Fiennes was tried by a council of war in December, sentenced to be beheaded, but afterwards pardoned by Essex.

have diverted the watercourses and cutt the pipes which should supply the towne with water insoemuch that they are in danger to bee starved.

WEDNESDAY 9 AUGUST 1643. James Perry went this day towards Gloucester. William Lowgrove went this afternoone. Mr. Bedford went this day.

James Carey returned this day and saith that there were about 30 of the Kings forces yesterday at Tame and tooke away all the horses they could find, and pillaged onely one mans howse because when some of the prisoners which were taken on the Kings side at Chinner were brought thither hee wisht them all hangd and Prince Robert alsoe. That there were 9 or 10 more neere Stoken Church where they robbd one man and one of their scouts was shott with a brace of bulletts by one of ours in the towne. That hee heares that Gloster is not yett besiged and they say that it is impossible for them to take it unlesse they fire the towne. That they are now before Exiter where the townesmen are in good hope to keepe them out a moneth longer, but they intend not for ought hee heares to come against London till they have taken both Exiter and Gloucester, and they doubt not but Exiter will bee yeilded upp very shortly upon some reasonable condicions. That the Queene is in Oxford and the King was expected there the last night and preparacion made accordingly. That hee lost his horse and 7s. in mony betwixt Oxford and Tame by the Kings forces.

Nicholas Luke saith that Sir Raph Hopton is made Governor of Bristoll and Collonell Bellasis¹ of the castle. That the King granted commissions to 6 captaines whoe were to warne in men within 20 miles of the towne to serve under them for his Majestye. That they are making a blockhowse 6 miles from the towne to examine all shipp that passe that way. That they presented his Majestye with 10000 li. at Bristoll on Monday last and are to pay the 150000 agreed on by 10000 li. a moneth. That the King lay at Cicester the last night and comes this night to Oxford. That Prince Robert comes this night alsoe before Gloster to besiege the towne. And the Queene intends to goe to Bristoll and to continue there all this winter. That Sir Charles Lucas is going into Kent with 7000 foote and some horse and the Lord Willmott came and mett his lady at Stoken Church this day about noone. And lastly hee saith that the Maior of Bristoll is not yett hangd but saith that the Kings partye confesse that they lost neere 2000 men and that the soldiers mutyned that soe many gallant men should bee lost and the towne not pillaged and they would not bee satisfied till Prince Robert had given the foote 5s. a man and promissed the horse liberty to plunder any man whersoever they came of any mony, goods or cattle that had downe anything for the Parliament.

¹John, later Lord Bellasis. (See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Belasyse, John).

THURSDAY 10 AUGUST. John Ravenscroft went this day to the west. Roger Connington went with him. James Carey went forth alsoe. Mr. Wigfall went this day to London etc. George Westwood went with him. Nicholas Luke went forth this day.

Thomas Gardner returned this day and saith that on Thursday last the Cavalliers came to Henley and apprehended one Mr. Freeman a shopkeeper in the towne at whose howse Collonell Holborne lay, and tooke him upp behind one of their troopes and threatened to carry him away, but for 10 li. they released him at the townes end. That on Saturday last most of the forces which were in Oxford marcht from thence towards Gloster, and a great party towards Whitchurch which they said were to goe into Berkshire. That there are noe forces left eyther in Abbington or Wallingford, onely Collonell Blakes¹ regiment in Wallingford.

Mr. Tomlyns returned and saith that all the foote forces that could bee spared went out of Banbury on Tuesday last towards Gloster. That they come still to Buckingham, and taxe and plunder the contry, and lay doble taxes upon them which before were assessed for the Parliament. That there are 3 troopes of horse lye betweene Oxford and Buckingham, one whereof is under the Lord Digby and another under Captaine Sandes. That Captaine Franks under sheriffe of the county of Bucks is now raying a company of dragoones thereabouts for the service of the King, having beene there these 8 dayes for that purpose. That they came within 4 miles of Alesbury on Tuesday night last and tooke away the minister of Waddesdon and carryed him to Oxford.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that there are 4 troopes of horse of the Kings forces lye at Thacham 3 miles from Newbury which sometymes goe to Redding and other places thereabouts and stopp the passage betwixt Bristoll and London, and some other forces lye at Basing to stopp the passe to Andever and all that rode to Bristoll. That there was a proclamacion proclaimed at Okingham on Tuesday last requiring all wellwishers to his Majestye in that and other townes to leave their dwellings, but espetially in Windsor and the castle for that he intends to come with fire and sword (as it is said) and beate downe the castle. That the King was expected at Oxford on Saturday last but came not, and hee heares that hee come thither this day.

FRYDAY 11 AUGUST. Robert Cox went this day towards Kingscleere. Mr. Tomlins went this day to Alesbury etc. William Sherratt returned this day and saith ———². Thomas Gardner went forth this day.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the Kings forces have beseged Gloster and have layne before it since Wednesday night last,

¹Blage, governor of Wallingford.

²Blank in MS.

onely once they retreated, but upon the coming of more forces from Oxford they went on againe, and because they have small hopes of taking it hee heares they intend to leave the seige, and goe presently against London for they say themselves that the Roundheads will dye every man of them before they yeild it upp. That there are 200 soldiers in Bath which lye there to fetch in the mony which is taxed upon the contry thereabouts. That there are about 200 more in Malmesbury, and 4 peeces of ordnance which stopp passaiges and keepe the contry in feare. That there are about 1000 horse quartered in Cicester because provision is scarce about Gloucester, that many dye in all townes and villages in the contry and many infected with the new disease. And lastly hee saith that the King is come to Oxford to meete the new proposicions from the Parliament concerning peece.

William Lowgrove saith etc.

SATTURDAY THE 12TH. OF AUGUST. William Lowgrove went to Aylesbury. Raph Norton went to Banbury. George Farmer went to Oxford.

Thomas Shilborne saith that there were about 80 of the Kings forces at Buckingham on Thursday last and tooke 3 of our dragoones at Padbury, and after Captaine Pollard and Captaine Shilbornes dragoones having notice of it pursued them and tooke some of theirs. That there are some at Bister some at Lamton,¹ and divers other places betwixt Buckingham and Oxford, and it is feard that they intend to fall upon Alesbury where they are very sicke, weake and in great want both of men and mony.

Thomas Shilborne returned backe the same day.

SONDAY THE 13TH. AUGUST. Robert Cox returned and saith that there are 200 horse of the Kings forces at Newbury, and 400 at Basing howse whoe continue their pillaging of passingers and plundering of the contry all thereabouts. That hee heares that Gloster is still beseiged and finding the townesmen and soldiers within soe obstinate, every man resolving to dye before they yeild, the King is resolved that they shall fire the towne but hee will have it. That hee heares the King came to Oxford on Thursday last.

MONDAY 14TH. AUGUST. Robert Cox went out this day towards the west. James Garrett went with him.

John Ravenscroft returned this day and saith that the Kings forces have not as yett beseiged Gloster, but lye about the towne and onely stay for armes and amunition from Bristoll, and then they intend to fall upon it for the soldiers have once sallyed out and caused the Kings forces to retreat. That they are not as yett in a body but lye

¹ ?Launton.

scattered up and downe the contry, and they say there that all this while they fight gold against brasse, that there are about 3000 horse and foote in Oxford, and the Queene is still there, and the King was expected on Satturday night. That they Kings forces came yesterday morning within 2 miles of Aylesbury and tooke away divers mens horses and pillaged the contry and returned to Wheatley.

James Perry, that being 5 miles beyond Cicester and 10 on this side of Gloster amongst the Cavallyers hee heard that Prince Robert on Tuesday night last besiedged Gloucester, but the next morning were forced to retreat and afterwards gayning new forces and being supplied with armes and amunition from Bristoll, on Friday followeing the[y] fell upon the towne againe and hee thinks have continued the seidge ever since for on Satturday last when hee came away about noone hee left them fighting.

TUESDAY 15 AUGUST. James Perry went this day towards Oxford and the west contry. John Taylor went to Abbington. Roger Connington to Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the King came to Oxford as hee heares on Satturday last, and that before his comming his Majestye had some conference with Collonell Massey,¹ governor of Gloucester, wherein the King told them if they would not deliver upp the towne hee would both fire it and destroy every man and woeman, but they are all resolved to die before they yeild, saying further that they should not find such soldiers of them as they found at Bristoll. That there were about 400 of the Kings forces went from Banbury on Thursday last to Worcester and there ioyned themselves with about 800 more which quartered in the towne and all tooke water together and landed at Gloster on Satturday. That the governor fearing that the enemy might fire the suburbs of Gloucester sett fire all those parts himselfe, but the Cavallyers are resolved not to leave it till they have taken it, and then toe goe for London. That there are about 9 troopes of horse and dragoones came yesterday out of Abbington and Oxford to Wheatley where they keepe centry, and hee heares that they are comming to give his Excellency an allarme. That hee sawe divers soldiers which were come away from the seidge at Gloucester by reason of the hott service there of whom hee had this intelligence and say they will bee soldiers noe more, and hee alsoe saith that on Sondag last they tooke away 27 of the cheife men of Newbury and carried them away but whither hee knowes not.

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST. Raph Norton went this day to Oxford.

James Carey returned this day and saith that being at Chessouer within 4 miles of Gloucester hee heard that the Kings forces came

¹Edward Massey. (See *D.N.B.*).

below Gloucester on Wednesday last in the morning and were since forced to retreat whereby they lost neere a whole regiment of horse but on Sonday last they fell on againe and that day sent 25 carts to Oxford for powder, bulletts and amunition which on Monday night toward¹ Gloucester. That there went yesterday out of Oxford a granado which they had alsoe sent for with which they intend to fire the towne if it bee not speedily delivered upp. That the King is still at Bristoll and will not goe to Gloster because hee is loath (as hee saith) to see the ruines of soe brave a citty. That hee sent the governor word that if hee would delivered it upp quietly there should noe hurt bee donne to man, woeman nor child, but hee utterly refused to doe it, saying that hee would neyther take nor give quarter. That the King intends assoone as Gloucester is taken to send for the Queene and the Prince to Bristoll, and afterwards to goe with his forces against London. That there went 9 or 10 troopes of horse on Monday last from their quarters about Oxford, and it was thought that they intended to goe against Alesbury, but they are all returned backe to Oxford.

Robert Cox saith that being neere Newbury hee heard that the Kings forces were still before Gloucester, and that many hundreds of them were slaine, and soe many wounded that the surgions in the army were not sufficient to cure them, but that the King had sent for all that were in Oxford whoe went accordingly on Friday last. That the King sent to the governor of Gloucester to demand the towne but hee wholly refused and said before it would yeild it upp hee would live and dye in it. That a party of horse of the Parliaments forces came to Theale on Sonday last where they found a troope of the Kings and fell upon them, kild 2, wounded 3 and tooke 25 prisoners, and brought them that night to Windsor Castle.

John Lane returned this day and saith that hee went from Stonny Stratford on the 16th. day of July last to Banbury where hee lay sicke 3 weekes together. (Memorandum that Lane was absent sicke from 16 July till 16 August being a month).²

James Garrett returned this day and saith that being at Pepper Greene hee received intelligence from a carpenter of Wallingford that the Kings forces had beseiged Gloucester and were beaten of by the soldiers in the towne, but were fallen on againe, and that the King had sent to Oxford for 4 cart loades of wildfire to burne down the citty. That there was a troope of horse of the Kings forces this morning at Nettlebed, and they lye upon all the wayes that there is scarce any passage betwixt this and Gloster. And further saith that there are 200 in Banbury but many of them sicke, and 3 troopes of Prince Charles his regiment at Adderbury, and a troope of horse keepe a constant centry

¹The word 'returned' has been crossed through in the MS.

²Marginal note in MS.

upon Edgehill to prevent any forces that may come from Warwicke and Coventry. That a party of horse came on Friday last to Toster¹ to pillage, which Northampton forces having notice of, fell upon them, kild 8, tooke 7 prisoners and wounded most of the rest. The cheife that was slaine was Captaine Chamberlaine² whoe was releast out of Windsor Castle but the weeke before. That ther is a troope at Ano on the hill under Captaine Walker, and some at Brill and some at Bister which pillage the contry dayly an on Monday last caryer of Northampton, his horses and goods and carryed them to Banbury. That Collonell Hastings³ and the forces at Leycester mett on Sunday last at Bagworth heath where there was a short skirmish betwixt them, and that they tooke 30 of them prisoners where one was a leiftenant collonell and some other officers, and brought them to Leycester.

THURSDAY 17 AUGUST. John Lane went this day to Collonell Aldridge with lettres from his Excellency and soe into the west contry..

James Carey went this day to Gloucester.

John Taylor saith that the Earle of Holland⁴ is now at Wallingford and sent for some of the Kings forces to meet him at Henley and the Lord Pagett with 300 horse and foote came and conducted him to Wallingford. That 2 knights and a collonell prisoners in Windsor Castle broke out and came to Wallingford where the Earle of Holland received them and gave them 60 peecees and five good horses for themselves and their servants and sent them to Oxford. That the Kings forces are still before Gloucester, but have lost many of their men and they say they must bee constrayned at last to fire the towne.

Mr. Tomlins returned this day and saith that they are still in fight at Gloucester where the Lord Caple hath lost his whole regiment except 4, and Collonell Russell most of his, and another regiment almost cutt of insoemuch that it is reported that there have beene slayne above 2000 of the Kings forces, and that there is small probability of taking the citty, for they are both resolute and the malignants in the towne are resolved to sticke close to them. That they are beating upp drummes about Bister and Kingham for solderiers to come in to serve for the King under one Collonall Terringham and make proclamation

¹Towcester.

²This skirmish, in which Captain James Chamberlain was killed, took place on 4th August. (See *Mercurius Aulicus* for that date, and A. Beesley, *History of Banbury*, p. 350).

³Henry Hastings, later Baron Loughborough (see *D.N.B.*), sheriff of Leicestershire, raised and commanded royalist troops, with headquarters at Ashby de la Zouch.

⁴The Earl of Holland (see *D.N.B.*, s.v. Rich, Henry), and William Russell, Earl of Bedford abandoned the Parliament in London, reached Wallingford on 15th August and were allowed to come to Oxford on 20th August, where Bedford lodged in Magdalen College and Holland in Balliol "where he had a daughter who spared him part of her lodgings." (Clarendon III, 146).

that they shall onely keepe garrison att Buck[ingham] to defend the towne and contry against the Parliaments forces, but it is conceived that if they rayse any they will carry them to Gloucester.

Thomas Gardner returned this day and saith that being at Wallingford hee heard that the Earle of Holland and the Earle of Bedford were in the towne, and that they came from Herbert howse on Monday last. That hee heares that the Kings forces are before Gloster, and have lost divers of their comandars and many hundred of their soldiers, and that the King is not yett returned to Oxford, but continues still at Bristoll.

FRYDAY 18 AUGUST. Mr. George Tomlins went forth this day. Robert Cox went forth alsoe. Mr. Wigfall to London. Mr. Henry Langdon.

William Sherrwood returned and saith that on Sunday last some of the Lord Greys¹ forces comming from Manchester where they had beene with ammunition, were intercepted by the way by Collonell Hastings, where after a short skirmish they kild 4 of Hastings his men, wounded 30 and brought them prisoners to Leycester whereof 14 were commanders and officers. That the Earle of Newcastle is retreated into the North, and that the Lord Fairfax hath broke downe all the bridges to prevent his goeing eyther to Yorke or Newcastle. That the Earle of Manchester was on Wednesday night last at Cambridge, and was expected the last night by Collonell Crumwell at Huntingdon, and is goeing to Peterborough with 1500 horse to meete the Lord Grey, and soe to march after the Earle of Newcastle. That Collonell Hastings sent to demand Leycester but upon sumoning of the towne and tryall of their afections they found many willing to yeild it upp, all which they presently expeld the towne, whereof 2 were ministers.

SATTURDAY 19 AUGUST. George Fermer returned this day from Oxford and saith that the Queene is still in Oxford and the King and Prince Robert came thither on Thursday last and Prince returned at night, and the King stayed till yesterday morning and returned to Gloucester. That Sir Raph Hopton came to Oxford on Thursday night and upon his comming. (sic). That there went 18 carriages from Oxford on Tuesday last towards Gloster with 2 peeces of ordinance and a morter peece. That hee came alsoe from the leaguer at Gloster where they continue still to fight etc. That the seidge continues still at Gloucester where on

Wednesday ²	}	last was a skirmish betweene
Thursday		

 the towne and the Kings forces for halfe an hower upon the townes salying out, and that there were some kild then an both sides but how

¹Thomas Grey, Baron Grey of Groby (see *D.N.B.*), governor of Leicester. He joined Essex at Aylesbury on 29th August for the march on Gloucester.

²Wednesday is written over Thursday in the text, but neither is deleted.

many hee knowes not. That they day (sic) come forth and beate them out of their workes but for want of shelter are constrayned to returne and that on Satturday last there was another skirmish wherein the Kings forces lost one of the cheife comandars but his name hee cannot tell, and hee thinkes that they have lost about 100, and very few kild in the towne. That hee heares it generally reported that they hangd the Maior of Gloster out of some iealousye they had of him. That sallying forth this weeke, upon their retreat they were forced to leave one drunken man behind them whoe they tooke and upon his examinacion being sober, hee discovered unto them the strength of the towne and their resolution, and where their cheife comandars keepe their constant watches. That there is in the Kings magazine at the leaguer 70 collours, 12 boates, 3 peeeces of ordinance and 11 planted, 12 waggons, 7 carts loads of ladders and about 20 carts, and that they are making tents and hutts to lye in. That hee heares that Sir Jacob Ashley is very sore wound and that little Jeffrey the dwarfe¹ is shott through the arme.

John Blewett went this day towards the west.

Robert Cox returned this day and saith that hee was told at Aylesbury that there was about 3000 of the Kings forces slaine at the seige at Gloucester, and that they are all gone to Bristoll to recrute their army, and then they intend eyther to goe against Gloster or else against Coventry.

SONDAY. Raph Norton sayth that they have not fought these 4 dayes att Gloucester, only the Kings horse scout upp and downe neere the downe. They intended to sett desperately upon the towne last night to make some speedy end. That the Kings great mortar peece was broken on Monday last. They wish they had never sett upon Gloucester, then they say they might have taken Aylesbury before this tyme. That the Kings foote lye 4 miles off of Gloucester. That the governour of Gloucester sent out all the old men, woemen and children on Wednesday last. The Kinges forces say they have noe want of ammunition in the towne and say they never shoot outwith they doe execution. That 3 captaines that lost all their men are sent to meet the prisoners that came from Windsor for to lead them to Gloucester. That there is not 100 souldyers left in Abington and not 700 souldyers and countrymen to keepe the towne.

James Carey returned and saith that the King and Prince Rupert came into Oxford on Wednesday last to see the Queene, and Prince Rupert went out on Thursday, and the King went out on Fryday morneing with 10 out of every company to assist them att Gloucester. That they have not fought these five dayes att Gloucester, and they

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Hudson, Jeffery (1619-1682).

intend if they cannot take it within 2 or 3 dayes to fire it. That they have lost many comandars but will not lett theire names bee knowne.

MONDAY 21TH. AUGUST. Raph Norton went toward Gloucester. James Carey went to Oxford. Robert Cox went with lettres to the Lord Willoughby. Henry Parneby went to Oxford. Thomas Wadden to Gloucester. Henry Connington towards Aylesbury.

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST. George Farmer went this day to Oxford.

Nicholas Luke saith that hee came from Gloucester where they still continue the seidge, and that they have not lost above 300 men, whereof 2 were collonells, Sir William Munsor and another, 4 cannoneers, and every day some captaines. That there came 5 peeces of ordnance from Worcester whereof one was sunke, and the biggest mortar peece was broken on Monday was sevenight last. That on Thursday last there came a great mortar peece from the Queene to Gloucester and the same day 16 lodes of amunition. They are now soe neere that they are building galleryes neere the walls. And that the townesmen doe great hurt in throweing stones into the trenches. The townesmen have made many sallyes upon them, and every tyme beate them out of their trenches. On Friday night last they sallyed out on both sides, and had hott service and did much execucion. That they shott 60 cannon shott some dayes at the towne. That Gloucester men left the vyneyard, and the Welsh are in it. That one Whitneyes howse in Frampton 6 miles from Gloucester was plundred because hee was in service in Gloucester. That the King came to Oxford on Wednesday last to meete the 6 lords¹ that came from the howse, and they say there is noe Parliament now because all the Lords are come away except one, and hee is comming. The King returned againe on Fryday and all the sicke soldiers that were left in Oxford and able to goe, are come to the leaguer. That the Lord of Carnarvan came from Exiter with one troope to Gloucester, and said hee had left Prince Maurice and his forces before Exiter, where they had hott service. That the Prince and Duke of Yorke went with the King to Gloucester, but returned with one troope of horse. That the Queene regiment lay last night at Burford and this night at Oxforde, they say to remove the Queene to Yorke, shee being very fearefull of the new desease because a lady of honour dyed of it in the next chamber to her. That 50 were kild at one sally and they would have made them believe they lost but one man. That there came a canoneere and 15 musketeers to the King with their armes, and they told them there would more come when they see opportunity. And that the canoneere hath discovered the weaknesses of the towne and told them they wanted bread, and if they held on

¹Seven peers abandoned the House of Lords in London; the King went to meet Holland and Bedford at Oxford.

fighting 3 dayes longer they would want amunition. That they shott one cannon over the towne and kild a man and a horse on the other side the towne. That many dye of the new disease at Oxford, and there are not above 300 soldiers left in the towne. That the King had a shipp of wynes and sweete meates came to him on Tuesday last. That the King hath given comand that noe howse shall bee plundered nor goods taken without payment. That they keepe guards in every towne to watch the soldiers that if any runne from their collours they are carryed to the Lord Generall and are hangd. That hee saw a butchers man hangd by Prince Ruperts comand for refusing to say God blesse the King. That a soldier under the command of Collonell Lunsford refusing to march without pay and raying a muteny was committed to the marshall, and tis said, hee is to bee hangd. And saith that the Queene gave a boone of 4s. a peece to every soldier upon Friday last.

WEDNESDAY 23TH. AUGUST. James Carey returned this day.

Mr. Tomlyns came this day from Aylesbury and saith that all the forces that lay betweene Oxford and Buckingham are gone to Gloucester. That they lye pillaging all the contry over, and take away mens horses and goods within 5 miles of Aylesbury. Nicholas Luke went this day to Gloucester.

James Carey saith that the Queene is to goe this day from Oxford and that carts were pressed to carry ammuniton and that 2 troopes were yesterday at Tame and tooke away all the fatt cattle from the butchers coming to London.

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST. Richard Gregory went this day to Collonell Harvey to Guilford with lettres to his Excellency.

William Sherwood returned this day and saith that the Earle of Newcastles forces was at Bourne on Sondag last being 7(?) troopes of horse and 7 companyes of dragoones, where Collonell Crumwell faced them with 7 troopes of horse and both retreated. That the Earle of Newcastle is gone to northward Yorke hearing that the Scotts are landed at Newcastle and Collonell Crumwell to St. Edmonds Bury wher the Earle of Manchester alsoe is. That the Earle of Newcastle hath assessed 42000 li upon the countyes of Lincolne and Notts. which they refuse to pay unlesse his Lordshippe will continue there to secure them. That the Lord Fairfax hath 4000 foote and is soe strong in horse that hee offers to assist Collonell Crumwell with 5 troopes.

FRYDAY 25 AUGUST. Job Murcott went to Warwicke this morning to Collonell Purrfye with lettres. William Sherwood to the Lord Grey with lettres from his Excellency.

Henry Parneby returned this day from Oxford and saith that the Queene, Prince and Duke of Yorke are all in Oxford and that many

dye still of the new disease, and that they are making new bulwarkes on the northside of the cittye. That there went to Gloster from Oxford on Wednesday 12 cart loades of clothes and 6 loades of stockings for the soldiers, and that they tooke away all the horses in the towne, and his amongst the rest. That the governor of Oxford Sir William Pennyman dyed on Tuesday last and his brother is in his place.¹ That hee heares that the Kings forces are still before Gloucester, and that they had a great overthrow on Monday last for they say there were above 500 slaine. That there are in Oxford 16 peeces of ordnance and that it is not above halfe of it entrencht about, and the best way to come into the towne is on the north side.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee came from Malmesbury where some of the Kings forces quarter and hee heard it there reported amongst them that they are still as farr from taking of Gloster as they were at they first, onely they in the towne are in great want of victualls and other necessaryes, and the poorer sort almost ready to starve, and that unlesse they have a speedy supply from (sic) they cannot long subsist. That the enemy hath attempted divers wayes to stopp the passage of the water, but cannot, and hee heares that there have beene divers sallyes made out of the towne and divers assaults made upon the towne, and they say that ever since Satturday last there have beene slaine about 30 a day of the Kings forces, whereof divers were commanders. That hee mett divers men and woemen by the way goeing to Oxford where there are many gallants but few soldiers. That the Earles of Holland and Bedford doe usually come to the Earle of Berkshire howse neere Henley² and returne to Wallingford, leaving their servants thereabouts to hearken after the proceedings of the Parliament. And hee heares it alsoe reported that his Excellency is advancing towards Oxford and that if hee come the Cavalliers intend to leave the seidge to meete him by the way.

Robert Cox returned this day with a lettre to his Excellency.

Thomas Warden returned this day from Gallington 15 miles from Gloucester where hee heard that the Kings forces are still before Gloster and discharge their cannon dayly at the towne espetially on Satturday last since when about 60 of the enemy were slaine, and that they resolve not to leave of till they taken of it. That they are raising of their workes to plant their ordnance higher. That the King lyes a mile and a halfe from Gloucester, and hath not beene away but once to Oxford since the seidge began.

SATURDAY 26 AUGUST. Raph Norton went this day towards Oxford. Robin Cox went the same day.

¹Pennyman was succeeded by Sir Arthur Aston on 23rd August. (F. J. Varley, *Siege of Oxford*, p. 72).

²Ewelme Manor.

Henry Connington saith that hee came from Oxford and the Queene, Prince and Duke of Yorke is there, and that Collonell Feilding went thence to Gloucester with very few forces, the rest which were intended to goe along with him being stayed upon the report of his Excellencyes advancing that way, and have 2000 horse neere Oxford to meete his Excellency. That the Kings forces are still before Gloster, and have undermynd the walls, and threaten to blow upp the towne, but they say they will hold out longer yett. That 3 canoneers came to the King and one hath discovered a place where they may make a breach, whereupon they have removed 4 cannon to that place. That the King hath not lost above 100 men, whereof some were commanders, esppecially for which they make a great lamentacion. That the soldiers in Oxford wish that the Parliaments forces were but at Tame againe, and that the towne is very full of gallants and soldiers whoe say that his Excellencyes army is not above 5 or 6000 strong.

SONDAY 27 AUGUST. Henry Conington went forth this day to Gloster. John Sell went to Gloucester alsoe.

James Carey returned and saith that hee was at the seidge of Gloster on Friday last wher the were digging and shooting against the towne, but there was noe possibility of taking it. That they say they must dispatch presently for if they cannot take it presently they must bee compelled to leave the seidge and meete with his Excellency whoe they heard was advancing eyther to Oxford or to the releife of Gloster.¹ That hee heard alsoe that the King intended speedily to goe eyther to Bristoll or Oxford but which hee knowes not, and the King hath given the towne to the soldiers if they can take it which makes them goe desperatly on and divers of them are kild dayly in their workes comming to relevee each other. That on Friday there came 20 carts loades of amunition from Oxford besides 8 or 9 loades of armes. That the Cavallyers came within 4 miles of Aylesbury to Hinton² and plunder men for refusing to pay their monethly taxes. That they say that the new forces from London are compelled to it. And the Lord Generall doth but bring them along for their use for when they come into the feild they all intend to runne to the Kings side.

—————³ went to Warwick to Maior Bridges with lettres from his Excellency.

MONDAY 28 AUGUST. James Carey went this day to Oxford. Raph Norton to Gloucester.

¹Essex left London on 26th August to relieve Gloucester, but the Royalist army there "suspected rather that he would give some alarum to Oxford." (Clarendon III, 170).

²Dinton.

³Blank in MS.

Roger Mun came to Missenden and informed that he had beene at Oxford where they are making great works upon the northeast side of the towne, and strengthening all their other works, and that they have made a new worke on the south east side and planted 2 small peeces against which is a hill to plant ordnance to beat them out of their workes, and have made a new drawbridge over those workes. That there are 8 troopes of horse lye betweene Oxford and Bister, one troope at Islipp, and 2 more at Bister and noe foote soldiers without Oxford. That hee heard them say that Gloucester was taken and that the Earle of Essex was advancing towards it but they thought hee would doe them noe great harme, and that the Queene hath beggd his pardon.

TUESDAY 29 AUGUST. John Sell went this day towards Gloucester.

Henry Parnby returned this day from Oxford and saith that the King was there on Sonday last, and Prince Robert, and that they were there when hee came away, and that they are drawing upp some part of their forces to Wallingford and making their workes stronger and greater espetially on the northeast side, and that they have about 16 peeces of ordnance. That hee heard at Oxford that there beene a great fight at Gloster before the Kings comming away where they say a great many of the Kings forces were slaine whereof 2 were commanders, Collonell Garrett and another, and that Gloster is not taken, but rather intend to leave the seidge for they say they are divells in Gloucester. That all the constables in Oxfordshire were warnd in on Satturday last but to what end hee knowes not, and that hee met by the way 2 of our foote soldiers going to Oxford, and said that they came from Aylesbury.

James Carey returned his day and saith that the King went yesterday out of Oxford about 11 of the clocke and they say that the seidge continues still at Gloucester where there are 9 or 10000 foote and about 10 troopes of horse, and have diggd 4 wayes to enter it, and that they expect to take it this night. That there was an allarum this day at Oxford, and that they had notice that our forces were past Tame which caused them to draw out a body of horse to prevent them. That hee heard them alsoe say that they expected 100 collours of horse this night into Oxford from Gloucester.

James Carey went this night with lettres to Collonell Meldrum with lettres from his Excellency. Daniell Morton returned this day and saith. ———¹ Returned from Warwick with lettres.

Thomas Hitchman went this day to Collonell Harvey with lettres from his Excellency.

WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST. Daniell Morton returned yesterday and saith that the Kings forces were before Gloster on Satturday last and on the

¹Blank in MS.

Monday before there came to the leaguer divers carts with timber, hurdles and boards for the trenches which the towne sett fire on. That on Tuesday the Kings forces assaulted the towne and were beaten backe with the losse of many men and they say their owne horse kild 100 of their owne men. That they tooke 2 of their drakes and wanting power to carry them away strooke nayles in the touch holes. That on Thursday they tooke a peece of ordnance and carryed into the towne and on Friday shott wild fire which did little or noe hurt. And on Friday night came out and wher they had a skirmish of an hower long, kild a great many of their men and retreated. (One of my lords guard went.)¹

Daniell Morton returned the same day to Gloster.

THURSDAY 31TH. OF AUGUST. George Gardner returned this day and saith that they continue the seidge at Gloucester and on Tuesday last was sevenight there was a skirmish and about 30 of the Kings forces slaine. On Wednesday they sallyed out of the towne and fell upon Collonell Sandes his quarters and slew a captaine a serjeant and 20 common soldiers and shott a gentleman through the foote and about 20 more that day slaine. That on Thursday the King came to Robin Hoods Hill to see wildfire and hott bullets shott. That news comming to the King that Sir William Waller was comming, all the Kings horse were summond together and made stand in the raine all Thursday night. That on Friday and Saturday little was donne but onely delivering out of soldiers coates. And on Tuesday last the Earles of Holland and Bedford came into Oxford with about 20 horse and 2 sumpter horses, but had but small entertaynement. That Sir William Killigrew² came alsoe and all the newes hee brought was that Gloster would bee taken as hee thought within a weeke.

James Carey returned this day and saith that hee went with lettres to Collonell Harvey, Collonell Meldrum and Collonell Middleton and came from Henley with the new forces whoe are now at Tame being 4000.

James Carey went this day to Gloster. Roger Mun went alsoe.

Robert Cox returned on Wednesday morning and now saith that hee heard that the King went from Oxford on Monday towards Gloster, and that there are 500 foote in Oxford and keepe very strict guards. And hee heares alsoe that the Kings forces continue the seidge at Gloucester.

John Webb went forth yesterday and returned. William Sherwood went this night with lettre to Captaine Abercromy from Sir Phillip Stapilton.

¹Marginal note in MS.

²See *D.N.B.* He commanded a troop of the King's bodyguard.

FRYDAY 1 OF SEPTEMBER. Lewis George went forth this day to Gloucester. John Webber went this day alsoe.

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER. John Lane returned this day from Gloucester and saith that on Saturday last the King and Prince Robert went from thence to Oxford and after their going Gloster men sallyed out and sett a great deale of hay on fire which made the contry runne in thinking the towne had beene taken, but there was a little skirmish and soe retreated. That night the enemy shott 3 granadoes into the towne, but tooke noe effect. On Sunday little or nothing was donne. On Monday the King returned to the seidge with Prince Charles, the Duke of Yorke, Prince Robert and the Duke of Buckingham.¹ On Tuesday there were half a score of those men sent for which undermined the works at Litchfeild to have them undertake this worke, but they would not performe it. That the same day there were about 100 Welshmen came in and entred themselves in the Kings service. On Wednesday Prince Robert dind in my Lord Generalls tent and after dinner there was a councell of warr upon a serjeant that went into Gloster, give them notice of their strength, but was taken returning. That they have underminde almost to the south side of the gate and hope to come under the gate by tomorrow night.

John Sell returned this day and saith that hee came yesterday from Gloucester, where hee saith that the Kings forces continue their seidge still, and hee heard that Prince Robert had laid 5000 li with the King that hee would take Gloucester before Wednesday night last. That they shott on both sides all Wednesday and Wednesday night and that Gloster men kild a great many of their forces. That they quarter in severall places farr remote from the seidge where they may easily bee surprizd. That they in the towne are in great want of provision, the Cavalliers having stopt not onely all meanes that come to them by land, but have stoppt the passage of the water. And hee heard a captaine of theirs say that their men did goe well to worke for hee thought there were neere 2000 of them slaine since the seidge began.

SONDAY 3. SEPTEMBER. John Lane went forth this day. Raph Norton went alsoe.

James Carey returned this day and saith that hee came the last night from Gloucester where the King is with his forces and have gott within 3 yards of their firstworke, and have almost dryd upp the moate on the hither side of the towne, and that they doubt not but to gaine the first worke within 3 dayes. That they heard of the Earl of Essex his comming and they say they will provide sufficient forces from Oxford and Gloster to hinder his march for 3 or 4 dayes, that they take the towne in the meane tyme.

¹See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Villiers, George.

That they say that the feare not his Excellencies comming for they say hee hath not above 2000 horse and 5 or 6000 foote. That theare are about 6000 foote before the towne, and some 6 troopes of horse, but there many going thither from Oxford for hee mett 60 Welsh foote men and 5 collours of horse of the Queenes regiment going thither whoe lay the last night at Burford. That the contry is very much opprest by them, and are exceeding glad to heare of the Parliaments forces advancing that way. That on Friday last there was a skirmish betweene them, where the King lost about 80 men, and that they broke one of their cannon the last weeke. That there came a canoneere out of the towne whoe swam over the river, and is now imployed by his Majestye, and placed 2 peeces of ordnance and shott a redd hott bullett thinking to have fired the magazine, but it was removed before and that they shoot such bulletts dayly, and hath a furnace constantly by him for that purpose. That hee overtooke a traveller on the way whoe told him that hee had beene a servant to the Earle of Essex these 17 or 18 yeares, and that he thought that his Lord would come to the King if hee could gett away. That the townesmen putt out some cattle on Tuesday last in a meadow to feed and planted some ordnance to defend them from the enemy, but they Kings forces shott at them and gott some few of them.

MONDAY 4TH. SEPT. James Carey went forth this day. Raph Norton went alsoe. Richard Minsham returned this day and saith that the kings forces quarterd the last night at Burton on the Water, after they had kept their randevous at Fyfeild feild, and intend to quarter this night at Andeuer forde¹ and to face us this morning upon the downes, and stopp us at Wollpitt hill foote 5 miles from Gloster and say they will make us goe away back faster then wee came.

TUESDAY 5. SEPT. Roger Mun came to Non² and returned the same day.

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPT. Nicholas Luke returned this day and saith that since the King began to beseidge Gloster, hee hath lost 700 of his forces, and on Monday last there were above 400 sicke, lame and maymed men sent from the leaguer to Bristoll by water, and 4 demy culverins were sent alsoe from thence by water to Bartle³ Castle betweene Bristoll and Gloster and 3 peeces of ordnance to Woster, notice being given that the Earle of Essex was goinge to beseidge it. That on Satturday last the townesmen putt forth some cattle to grease in the meadowes thereabouts and the Welshmen indeavoured to take them away in the night, the towne sallyed out and rescued their cattle and slew 200 of them. That order was given on Monday night last

¹Andoversford, east of Cheltenham.

²Probably Naunton, north-west of Bourton on the Water.

³Berkeley.

for the drawing of the ordnance from their workes that they might ready (sic) to march at halfe an houre of warning which was donne accordingly. That Prince Robert with 3 troopes faced the towne yesterday in the afternoone, while the seidge was raysed and the randevous for carryeages and foote was afterwards at the court, and that they all marcht away this morning about 6 aclocke towards Bristoll, and that the randevous for the horse was this day at 11 a clocke upon Burlipp¹ hill, 3 miles from Cheltnam. That many of the Kings officers are now sicke and many of them lately dead. That hee heares that Prince Maurice is comming from Exiter and is to take 2 regiments of foote from Bristoll, and the Earle of Newcastle from Warwicke and 3000 from Oxford, and they intend to encompassse our army and they say that noe man shall goe backe alive.

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 1643. John Blewett went forth this day. Roger Mun went alsoe. John Lane went to Bristoll. Nicholas Luke went alsoe.

Henry Cunington returned from Oxford and saith that the Queene was there on Tuesday in the afternoone, and that morning there came away from thence 10 peeces of ordnance and 22 other carriages to the Kings forces which now lye quarterd on the topp of a hill 13 miles hence with the rest of the Kings forces and that there came alsoe 4000 foote and 1000 horse, and are now all ioyned together. That hee heares Prince Maurice is come to them alsoe, and that hee came from Oxford along with the forces and carriages that came from Oxford. That 10 comandars went to raise forces in Kent, whereof one was Sir Edward Deering.²

Roger Mun returned this day and saith that hee was this afternoone in the enemyes quarters and that they are all gone as hee thinks to Sherborne Castle.

Edmund Robinson went this day to Worcester. 2 sent out this day from Gloster. William Leach sent from Wolstam³ 7 miles of.

FRYDAY 8 SEPTEMBER. Thomas Hollis went out and returned and saith that hee was within a mile of Stowe in the Wold where there lay the last night 300 of the Kings horse which went this day towards Oxford, and that there are noe horse quarterd betweene that and Winchcombe.

Henry Connington went forth. Raph Norton went alsoe. Nicholas Luke returned. James Carey returned and saith ———.⁴ John Webb returned and went out the same day with a guide.

¹Birdlip.

²The antiquary, of Surrendean, Kent. (See *D.N.B.*, s.v. Dering, Sir Edward).

³Probably Woolstone, between Winchcomb and Tewkesbury.

⁴Blank in MS.

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER. Thomas Hollis went out this day. John Edwards to Exiter. Raph Norton saith that the King, the Prince, the Duke of Yorke and Prince Robert are now at Chewdley¹ Castle and the Kings forces which in all as they say themselves, are about 20000. That divers of their carriages have lately broken and some of them lye upon the wayes, and that a great party of their horse lye now betwixt Tewxbury and Winchcombe, and it is thought they will fall upon our quarters.

John Webb returned and saith that the King, the Prince, the Duke of Yorke and Prince Robert with all the Kings army lye now at Chewdley Castle. That 200 Welshmen came yesterday to them from Worcester. That they intend to continue there till they see which way his Excellency marcheth, but provision growes soe scarce that they cannot stay long there. That the newes amongst them is that Exiter is taken,² for which there hath beene great ioy, but at first reioycing was amongst the Welsh that understood not English that Essex was taken, and after it proved to bee Exiter. That the number of our men which they tooke the other night were 19, and some 6 kild. That they make such slaughter of sheepe that tis thought they kill 3000 each night, which rather spoild then eaten. They tooke 160 weathers the last night from one of their owne side and got upp all the horses they can come at and deale soe roughly with their owne men that yesterday they hangd a carter and a Welshman for runing away.

Richard Edwards saith that hee was told by a carryer that there were but 200 soldiers besides the townesmen in Bristoll on Wednesday last was sevensnight, and that the plague begins to bee very hott in Bath, and that they are mutenous and threaten to burne the towne of Bristoll if they bee not supplied with necessaryes.

Edward Taylor came in and informed that the King is now at Shewdley Castle with all his foote and carriages, and that the horse are quarterd at Cicester, Daglingworth and about there in the contry. Yesterday they were all drawn into a body and marcht towards Stow in the Wold, and returned the last night into their severall quarters. That divers of their carriages are broken and they say they continue there to give his Excellency battaile.

Edmund Robinson sayth that hee came this day from Worcester where the Lord Capell sent in 300 souldyers into the city this weeke. And Sir William Russell sent in 200 souldiers that hee had lately drawne out. And that Sir William Russell sent out his warrants on Thursday last into the country for them to bring in great stoare of all manner of provision, they expecting to bee besidged very suddenly by his Excellencye. Hee saw but 3 peeces of ordinance in the city, one att

¹Sudeley.

²Exeter surrendered to Prince Maurice on 4th September.

Sudbury gate, one att the Severne betweene St. Joneshis and the city, and other small peece in a loft in the gate house. And there are some peices of ordinance placed upon the mount by the colledge. They alsoe feard least Sir William Bruerton should come upon them. The King alsoe sent to the country neare Worcester to gett theire corne into the barnes as fast as possibly could bee.

Henry Mason, that hee came from Cheltnam where hee saith there have beene noe cavaliers since his Excellencyes goeing from thence, nor heares of any nearer then the randevouz at Chewdley Castle.

SONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER. Mr. Nicholas Luke went to the Kings army. Edward Taylor went forth alsoe. Henry Connington to London.

MONDAY 11 SEPT. James Carey went forth this ———.¹

Daniell Morton went and returned and saith that the King and his forces were this morning upon the hills neere Shewdley with their carriages and were all drawen into a body, and hee heard the soldiers say that they were marching towards Oxford having intelligence that Sir William Waller was come from London and was advancing thither. That they sent a strong party of horse being about 1000 this morning to Esam,² but to what end hee knowes not. And that there lay divers other parties of horses betwixt Tewexbury and Shewdley, and a great number in Winchcombe, and that they report that they are 10000 stronge. Raph Norton returned and saith that the King, the Prince and Prince Robert with all their forces are marcht away from Shewdley Castle to Esam where they say they shall stay all day tomorrow. That hee was taken prisoner by the Kings forces at Cheltnam, and carryed to Shewdley Castle where hee continued all the last night, and discharged him this morning, having first taken away his horse and all his mony from him.

John Webb returned.

Mr. Nicholas Luke returned and saith that hee came from Esam hill where the randevous for the Kings forces was 2 howers agoe and that the King and most of his forces quarter at Esam this night and hee heares they intend to goe to Worcester, that a party of horse are come from thence within this hower and some of them are gone towards Cheltnam, and some others are scouting about this towne. That the Kings foote consist of 132 collours and that they have 19 feild peeeces, 2 mortar peeeces and all of brasse. That there were about 300 sicke soldiers carryed from Shewdly on Saturday and Sunday last to Cicester and thereabouts in 40 carts, which carts returned yesterday in the afternoone laden with beere, bread, cheese and other provision, and that 10

¹Blank in MS.

²Evesham.

collours of horse went alsoe to Cicester on Satturday last, but to what purpose hee knowes not.

John Webb saith that the Kings forces kept their randevous neere Esam and hee heares they quarter there this night, and that Prince Maurice with his forces quarterd the last night at Cicester, and is expected to bee tomorrow with the King, and when they have drawen all their forces together they intend to give us battaile.

Thomas Baker returned this day and saith that hee came from Hampton within a mile of Esam, where hee sawe the whole body of the Kings army march towards Esam, and that the King, and many of his cheife officers quarter at Esam and the rest at Hinton, Ashton, Brodway and other townes thereabouts, and hee heares that they are makeing great provision at Woster for feare the Parliaments forces should beseidge it. That a gentleman came this evening to one Mris. Savages post within 3 miles of the towne and left his horse and tooke a fresh horse and returned.

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER. Daniel Moreton went. Raph Norton went forth this day. John Webb went forth. Nicholas Luke went alsoe. John Blewett went to London. Thomas Baker went this day to Esam.

John Lane returned this day and saith that hee came from Bristoll and that there are about 1000 of the Kings soldiers, besides the townesmen whoe say that they will raise and provide 4000 men at any tyme for his Majestye upon any occasion. That soldiers and townesmen keepe watch by turnes. That Captaine Slingsbly putt forth to sea on Satturday last with 6 shippes, and is gone to take what prizes hee can light on, and that Sir John Pennington hath given over his office and is now in Bristoll. That there was great ringing of bells and making of bonfires on Friday night last at Bristoll for ioy that Exiter was taken. It is reported that Prince Maurice is upon his march with 4000 Cornishmen coming to his Majestye, and they say that Prince Robert and Prince Maurice intend to follow his Excellency, and the King to go to Bristoll. That there are 2000 horse in Cicester, whereof one regiment is under Collonel Sandes and another under Sir John Byron. That there are many sicke soldiers quartered in and about Cicester, which were brought from the Kings army on Satturday last. That hee mett divers contry people yesterday with provision in carts and walletts whoe said they were goeing to Esam, and that the King was to lye there that night. That they report in Bristoll that the Kings forces have hemd in the Parliaments in the vale of Esam, and that it is not possible for one of our men to passe throught them. That there was a great quantyty of amunition sent yesterday to Bartley Castle, for feare his Excellency shall fall upon it in his waye to Worcester. That a captaine of the Kings army having received an affront from a carryer of Tedbury,

a partye of horse went out of Cicester yesterday to plunder the towne but the townesmen agreed to pay them 300 li. with a short tyme to secure themselves and there goods, whereupon they retreated.

John Webb went out and returned the same day and saith that the King with his forces is still at Esam, and that parte of his horse are returned to Shewdley Castle, and that they lye all upp and downe the hills thereabouts, and as they say, it is to keepe the cittizens here, for they say they will keepe his Excellency now they have gott him, and make the cittizens repent their comming. That the King sent out warrants the last night into the contry charging every yardland with 7 dozen of bread and 4 weigh¹ of cheese. That the contry people hereabouts say that except his Excellency helpe them they shall be all undonne. And hee heares that Sir William Waller is marcht from London and is at the 7 downes. Raph Norton saith that the King is still at Esam, with the greatest part of his forces, onely about 2000 horse and foote went this day to Worcester, and that great party of horse is likewise come from thence to quarter in villages upp and downe the hills. That they send out warrants dayly into the contry to bring provision unto them, and that 20 loades of cheese came in this day out of the west guarded with 9 troopes of horse. That they have some horse alsoe at Cicester which fetch in provision also dayly unto them, and lye there to prevent the comming of any forces to assist us, and they say that his Excellency would goe to Warwicke, butt they have blockt him upp.

Thomas Baker returned and saith that being neere Esam hee heard that Prince Robert went yesterday to Worcester with a great partye of horse and that 8000 men are come out of the contry thereabouts into Worcester, and have brought such quantities of provision as will serve the towne this halfe yeare, and hee heares alsoe that the Earle of Newcastle is comming with all his forces out of the north, and that Prince Maurice is marching to the King with all his strength, and that there are 7000 lye upon the hills about Shewdly Castle and other places toward Stow to keepe his Excellency from marching that or any other way. That Prince Robert is goeing into Wales to raise all the forces hee can there and that hee saw this morninge 3 troopes of the Kings horse at Breedon and Kemberton² within 2 miles of this towne where they tooke away mens horses and afterwards sold them to the owners againe.

Edward Roston came in and informed this day and saith that hee was yesterday at Esam where the faire should have beene kept but the King,

¹For a "weigh" see *O.E.D.* s.v. weight, "used in various localities as a name for a customary unit for weighing particular commodities . . . the quantity denoted differs greatly in different places."

²Bredon and Kemerton, north east of Tewkesbury.

Prince Robert and their forces coming in about 12 a clocke spoild the faire, and that the Queene came in in a coach to Esam about 3 a clocke as hee heard a gentleman say the Prince coming before her in the Kings coach, that hee heard this morning by one that overtook him on the way that the King and Queene weere at Esam.

WEDNESDAY 13 SEPT. Raph Norton went forth this day. Thomas Hollis went alsoe. Edward Roston went to Esam. Thomas Baker went to Warwicke. William Turbett went this day to Worcester.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that the King and his army weere this morning at Parsia¹ and marching towards Worcester, and they report that Sir William Waller is come as farr as Alesbury, and that they tooke a post of his yesterday and hee heares alsoe that Prince Maurice and the Lord Moone with their forces are coming to the King. That hee heard that the King marcht all the last night and about 8 a clocke this morning hee heard about 12 peeces of ordnance goe of in or neere Worcester.

Edward Roston returned this day and saith that the King marcht yesterday from Esam with 20000 men to Parsea, and that there are 1000 horse and foote lye within 3 miles of this towne. That there are a great party of our horse which lye at Upton which they intend to fall upon this night, and to gett betwixt them and our army. That hee heares that the King hath given a protection to the townsmen of Esam to secure them from plundring. That they presse all the men in Worcestershire and charge them upon paine of death to bring in all the armes and provision they can gett into Worcester. That Prince Maurice is marcht as farr as Bath with 4000 Cornishmen and parte of the Queenes forces, besides his owne strength. That Prince Robert went on Monday last to Worcester with 1000 men and hee heares that hee is since gone towards Ludlow. And hee alsoe saith that they tooke yesterday 14 of the citty soldiers as they were goeing to London.

William Payne went this day to Bath.

John Edwards saith that hee was neere Cicester, where hee certainly heard that Exiter is not taken and that Prince Maurice is come from thence with all his forces and lay the last night at the Bath, and that there dye 100 a weeke of the new disease at Bristoll.

THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton went forth this day. John Webb went alsoe. William Sherwood to Upton. John Edwards went to Cicester.

James Carey returned this day from Oxford and saith that the Queene is there and that the Prince and the Duke of Yorke came thither on Monday night last, and there are very few soldiers in the towne except the townsmen, and many of them sicke. That yesterday hee mett 5

¹Pershere.

carts laden with sicke men and some on horsebacke goeing from Cicester to Oxford. That they report in Oxford that the Earle of Essex dares not fight, but staves for the helpe of Sir William Waller, and that Prince Robert followes him whersoever hee goes.

Roger Mun went out this day.

Raph Norton saith that the King is still in Worcester and that his forces quarter in and about the towne, and hee heares that they have sent out a party of horse to Shrewsbury to conduct more forces to them. That the King sent out warrants this day to warne the contry to bring both armes and amunition into Worster, and that if his Excellency come that way the whole contry will rise to assist his Majesty against him.

William Turbett returned from Worcester and saith that the King lay the last night at Pershur and intends to lye this night at the howse of one Mr. Harwood at Rowse Lench 5 miles from Worcester. That there were 5 collours of foote marcht out of Worcester this morning towards Bewdley. And that the towne is soe full of soldiers that there is not roome for any more to quarter there.

Abigall Steevens returned this day from Pershur and saith that the King lay at Pershur the last night, and kept his randevous this morning upon the hill side adioyning to Harrell wood. That the Kings forces marcht yesterday towards Worcester but having some notice of Sir William Wallers coming retreated backe to Pershur. That the King had a purpose to march this night to Worcester, and heares that they are much stronger in foote then in horse. That there were 11 of our soldiers taken yesterday by the Kings forces, and that a troope of the Kings horse were eyther taken or ran away the last night. That there are 2 places of great danger of which wee are to take heed of in our march to Worcester, the blocke howse and the castle hill.

Thomas Baker returned this day from Warwicke and brought a lettre from Maior Bridges declaring the defeate given to the Cavallyers at Northampton and of them at Warwicke, and of Sir William Wallers march towards us, and that as hee came neere Esam hee heard the Cavallyers say that the greatest part of his Majesties army was come backe to Esam this night.

FRYDAY THE 15 SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton went out and returned. John Webb went alsoe. Thomas Hollis went towards Esam.

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER. That hee came from Esam where hee saith that this morning betweene 7 and 8 a clocke the King was there and intended not to stirr all this day, that hee veiued the towne yesterday and hee heares hee intends to keepe a garrison there and that Prince Robert lay at Carleton.¹

¹Charlton.

3 more went out this evening. A sadler.

David Moreman returned and saith that hee came from Cicester and 3 or 4 miles beyond towards Esam, and alsoe towards Stow ith Wold and can heare of noe forces stirring that way neerer then Esam, Charle-ton and Stowe.

Raph Norton saith that ————. ¹

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.

SONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER. James Carey went this day to Oxford. Peter Street went out this day.

David Moreman went forth this day. Raph Norton went out alsoe. John Webb went to Marleborough. James Carey returned and saith that hee came from Farrington where there are some of the Kings forces, and they lye in all the townes betwixt Farrington and Oxford, and that a company of foote lay at Hyeworth the last night, and went this morning to Farington. And hee heard that Sir William Waller was neere Redding, and that hee had sent out warrants to the towne for the raising of 2000 li. and that if they refusd hee would plunder the towne. That they Cavalliers as they run away by Highworth reported that the Roundheads had stolen upon them at Cicester in the night and cut 150 of their throates.

Raph Norton saith that hee was this day at Cicester and Stow ith Wold, that the King with his forces and about 500 carriages marcht from Esam the last night and came to Shewdley Castle this morning about 8 of the clocke and kept their randevous upon the downes, and are marcht this day towards Oxford. That 4 troopes of the Kings horse came this day to Cicester and tooke 40 of our men prisoners and carryed them to Shewdley Castle, and it is reported that his Majestye quarters this night at Stow ith Wold.

FRYDAY 22TH. OF SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton saith that hee came from Moultsford and Choseley where some of the Kings foote lye which ran away from the fight at Newbury.² That there came 200 foote yesterday to Wallingford without commanders, which were stragled from their collers whoe said they were first warnd in by the contry to keepe Oxford, but were after sent to Newbury upon the forlorne hope. That the King is gone to Oxford with the most parte of his army, and Prince Robert lyes betwixt Newbury and Oxford and hath sent to divers men in Redding to give him notice of the Earle of Essex his departure

¹Blank in MS.

²The battle of Newbury was fought on 20th September and Essex entered Reading on 22nd September.

thence, that hee may fall upon it. That there went yesterday 30 cart loades of maymed men from Newbury to Oxford.

FRYDAY 22 SEPTEMBER. Richard Cloun saith that he was neere Oxford where hee heard that the Earle of Holland,¹ the Lord Falkland and the Lord of Carnarvan were slaine at the fight at Newbury, and one collonel slaine and another wounded, 2 captaines slaine, and that the King was hurt in the face with a bullet, and Prince Robert cutt over the nose with a sword, and that there were about 2000 slaine of the Kings forces. That the King was to dyne this day at Abbington and intended to lye at Oxford. That some of their horse are already come into Oxford and preparacion is making for the rest. That many of the foote ranne from the fight to their severall quarters before it ended. That they drewe all the forces they had from Abbington and left onely the townesmen to keepe it. That the King is sicke as hee heares.

Mr. Wigfall went this night to London.

SATTURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton went forth this day. William Sherwood went forth this day and returned and saith that the King with the most parte of his horse lyes at Newbury, and that there came 1000 horse the last night to Theale and plundred the towne and returned to Newbury. And that all the contry about Redding, Wallingford and Abbington carryed in great store of provision yesterday to his Majestye. And hee heares that the Kings army is in a very sadd condicion, and that all their foote and the rest of the horse are gone to Oxford.

John Webb returned and saith that hee heares that the Kings forces are drawn all away from Newbury to Oxford, Abbington and Wallingford, onely the Lord Shandos² is gone to Shewdly Castle with 400 foote. That this day alsoe they carryed away all their maymed soldiers to Oxford, and many of the cheifest noblemen were up and downe the feilds this moring to veiwe the dead men and to seeke for some lords or earles which they had lost. That they have pillaged all the contry about Newbury and within 4 miles of Redding.

Nicholas Luke returned this day and saith that hee came from Oxford where hee heard that the King marcht 6 miles on foote on Tuesday last to encourage his soldiers, and it is reported that on Wednesday last at the fight at Newbury the Parliaments forces lost 1000 men and the King 800, wereof 200 were comandars and gentlemen of quality, that they say alsoe that the Earle of Carnarvan, the Lord Falkland and the

¹Holland was not killed at Newbury.

²George Brydges, Baron Chandos of Sudeley (see G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*), lord lieutenant of Gloucestershire and colonel of a regiment of dragoons in the King's army.

Earle of Cleveland¹ are slaine and the Lord Spencer² dangerously wounded, and that most of the Kings officers that came on in the service were eyther slaine or wounded, and that they are in great want of amunition, and saith that hee heard Sir Lodwick Dyer say that hee had a commission from his Majestye to raise forces in Bedfordshire and Huntingtonshire,³ and that hee expects daily to goe about it.

SONDAY THE 24 SEPTEMBER. Richard Clun saith that the King with about 20 horse to attend him went yesterday through Wallingford to Abbingdon and soe to Oxford. That there were alsoe some 3 troopes of horse marcht yesterday to Abbingdon from the army, and that the body of the army lyes at Newbury, Wantage, Hungerford and the villages thereabouts. That a great number of sicke, maymed and other soldiers have beene for these three dayes stragling from the army to their severall quarters, besides many cart loades which have beene brought from Newbury to Oxford and Abbingdon.

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER. Peter Street went this day towards Gloucester. Raph Norton went this morning with a warrant from the Maior Generall to Great Marlowe. John Webb went forth this day. Nathaniell Sharpe went to Northampton. Richard Clunne went forth this day. Nicholas Luke to Oxford. Richard Hutchins, Captaine Mathewes his servant. John Cooke went this day at Gloucester.

TUESDAY THE 26 SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton went this day towards Newbury. Robert Cox went with him. Thomas Hitchman to London. Raph Norton saith that hee was at Blewbury, Wallingford and all thereabouts and heard that his Majestyes foote were all returned to their garrison quarters and that the horse for the most parte were the like, one (= ?and) some troopes of about 5 or 600 horse which were stragling about the contry in troopes to gleane upp such stragling soldiers of ours as were left behind and that they had order to enter into Redding soe soone as his Excellencyes forces should be removed and then to give notice to Wallingford and Abbingdon from whence they should have more strength sent them to make good the place.

WEDNESDAY 27TH. SEPTEMBER. Robert Coxe returned this day and saith that the King and all his forces which were at Newbury are gone to Oxford and Abbingdon to take upp their winter quarters, and that

¹Cleveland was only wounded, cf. p. 157.

²Henry, Baron Spencer of Wormleighton, created Earl of Sunderland, June 1643, was killed at Newbury. (See G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

³Commissions were issued in September to Sir Lodovick Dyer, Sir Lewis Dyve, the Earl of Cleveland and Thomas, Lord Wentworth, to enquire into the estates of Parliamentarians in Bedfordshire. (H. G. Tibbutt, *Life and Letters of Sir Lewis Dyve*, p. 43).

there 2 regiments of foote are to quarter at Habbington more then were the last winter, that there are 2 regiments of foote at Wallingford, that on Sondag last there was great praise given to God for the victory which his Majestye obtayned neere Newbury against the Parliaments forces, and that there were 10 Cavallyers at Sir Humfrey Forsters¹ the last night supper and 10 more this day at Redding to see if none of the prisoners were left behind.

Richard Clunn returned and saith that the King and his forces are come from Newbury to Oxford and Abbington and thereabouts, and onely Sir John Byrons regiment continue still betweene Newbury and Oxford. That the King left 2 peecees of ordnance at Dunnington Castle nere Newbury with some 200 men to keepe garrison there, and that since the fight till yesterday they have beene conveying maymed and sick soldiers from Newbury to Oxford. That there ley about 10 of them in the Crosse at Abbington. That Sir Lewis Dives lost a great parte of his men, that the soldiers seeing the ill usage they have threaten to leave their armes for feare they should bee used in the like kind. That the King, Queene, Prince and the whole court is at Oxford, and that the carters were all dismist on Tuesday last and had their horses away and that they say that they lost but 300 men and wee 3000 at the late fight neere Newberye, and that some men were come upp from Marquesse Hartford as farr as Hungerford and other places adioyning.

THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER. Richard Wheeler came this day and informed that yesterday morning the King gave order to have 15 men drawn out of every troope and it was reported that Prince Robert was to march westward with them, and that hee mett a great number of foote neere Water Eaten which were bent for Chipping Norton and they saye that the number of them was 4000. That the Earle of Cleveland is cutt over the thigh and that the Earle of Carnarvan, the Lord Sunderland and the Lord Falkland were slaine. That the King, Queene, Prince, Duke, Prince Robert and Prince Maurice were all in Oxford yesterday morning and the most ingeneous men in Oxford confesse that their losse was greater then ours and much lament it.

Nicholas Luke returned and saith that there came 30 carts loden with maymed soldiers from Newbury to Oxford since Monday last. That on Tuesday night order was given for the drawing out of 10 musketeers out of every foote company, which immediatly marcht away and as hee heard eyther to Aylesbury or Redding. That Prince Robert marcht out Oxford the last night with a great party of horse which was to overtake the foote beefore the[y] came to the end of their intended journey. That there is a great expectacion at Oxford for an

¹At Aldermarston, Berkshire.

ambassador lately come from France and that St. Johns Colledge is taken upp and making ready for his entertaynement.¹

Christopher Goodwyn returned this day and saith that hee came from Aylesbury where they expected an allarme the last night, but none of the Kings forces as yett have appeared, onely hee heard that some of the Queenes forces are come to Brill to take upp their winter quarters, and saith that the contry is very quiett all thereabouts.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that being within 4 miles of Oxford hee met with 2 regiments of the Kings foote soldiers whoe inquired the way to Brill whoe came Dorchester (sic), and caused him for a mile together to guide them on their way, and that their pikes and musketts were in carts followeing them. That there are some taken out of every regiment in Oxford, Wallingford and Abbingdon, and hee heares they are goe towards the west. That hee heares alsoe that there 2 regiments to quarter in Abbingdon more then did the last winter, and that there are 10 loads of provision come weekly from London to Henly by water and soe from thence in carts to Oxford.

Robert Cox went this day to London.

FRYDAY 29 SEPTEMBER. Raph Norton went this day to Aylesbury and Northampton. Nicholas Luke went this day to London. Henry Connington to Abbingdon.

Henry Parneby went this day to Oxford and they both say that they are very joviall and merry at Oxford, and bragg that they gott the day at Newbury, onely they confesse they have lost 4 lords whereof one was a French marquesse,² and hee heares that they Lord of Newcastle is sent for and that they are gathering all their forces together and intend very suddenly to goe for London.

Christopher Goodwyn went this day to Wickham.

James Carey returned this day and saith that some of the Kings forces are at Brill and some beyond it, and that hee heares they intend to goe for Alesbury. That the King and Queene were yesterday in Oxford. That the Earle of Carnarvan dyed at Newbury and was brought to Oxford and buried there³ and that the Lord Digby is sore wounded.

James Carey went out this day to Tame.

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER. James Carey returned this day and saith that yesterday in the morninge there was 10 or 12 of the Kings scouts

¹Le Comte d'Harcourt reached Oxford on 18th October, and lodged in St. John's College. (Dugdale 55). For his mission see Gardiner I, 272.

²Le Marquis de Vieuville was granted a pass to go to Oxford on 29th July, (*House of Lords' Journal*), and was killed in the skirmish at Aldbourn Chase, 18th September. (Clarendon III, 173).

³He was buried in Jesus College chapel, but his body was moved in 1650 to the family burial-place at Wing.

came in to Thame but went away presently and about an houre after a troope of the Parliaments souldiers came in and stayd an houre and carried twoe men prisoners away with them towards Ailsbury. That the Kings forces continue still at Brill and intend to keepe theire winter quarter there.

John Sell returned this day and saith that there is 30 or 40 peeces of ordinance in Oxford besides those that are planted upon the workes, and that they are nowe digginge of newe trenches about the towne and are in feare to be beseiged by his Excellency.

John Lane went this day to Basinge Stoke. Robert Cox went forth this day with warrants.

SUNDAY 1. OCTOBER, 1643. John Lane returned this day and saith that there were this day three troopes of horse att Winbury whoe had beene conductinge some amunition to Basinge house and they lye every day scoutinge upon the roades to watch for his Excellencies comeinge thither. And he heard there was a greate party of horse to come this night to Readinge. And they are fortifyinge themselves att Basinge house and intend to keepe it against his Excellencie and give out they feare him not, and beleve his Excellencie will not come thither in respect they say he hath taken up his winter quarter but expect Sir William Waller. And they force the country to bringe in provision unto them.

MONDAY 2. OCTOBER, 1643. Roberte Cox went this day to London. John Lane went this day to Oxford. Christopher Godwin returned this day and saith that there is a report att Wallingford that the Kings forces intend suddenly to fall upon Ailsbury or Northampton,¹ and that there are some of the Kings foote and some horse quartered att Tetsworth. And itt is reported that there were 5 lords slaine att the fight att Newbury and the Queens forces are makinge up theire workes att Brill and intend to keepe theire winter quarter there.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that some of Prince Roberts forces are to come to quarter att and about Banbury and that there are 30 or 40 out of some troopes to the quantitie of 700 gone away from the Kinge to their owne homes towards the north and say they will fight noe more against the Parliament, and the Northampton forces tooke 15 of them. And we heares that the Earle of Newcastles forces are raised from before Hull² and that there was 1000 of them drowned in the sea. And that the Earle of Newcastle intends to fight with Collonell Cromwell this weeke. And was told by two of the Kings troopers that the Kinge hath sett out a proclamacion that whosoever shall say that the Kinge had any losse att Newbury or talke of noblemen or men of

¹Royalist troops occupied Reading on 3rd October.

²Newcastle did not raise the siege until 12th October.

qualitie to be slaine there or would fight noe more hee should presently be hanged without mercy. And saith that there lyes about 200 of the Kings forces neere the bridge att Nottingham and keepees all provisions from goeing thither but the townesmen are verie resolute to stand out against them and if the[y] come to approach neere or into the towne they will goe into the castle for their safety.

TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 1643. Joseph Clun returned this day and saith that yesterday about 12 of the clocke hee came from Oxford, and all the Kings forces thereabouts except 3 regiments of foote are marched from Oxford, Abbingdon and Wallingford towards Readinge and hee overtooke the foremost of them att Dorchester, about three of the clocke and they say they intend to keepe garrison there this winter. And heard that there were some to goe towards Shrewsbury. And his Majesty hath caused printed papers to be sett upp upon the posts in Oxford that every captaine of every foote company should presently pay to every soldier a monethes pay beforehand and saith that the Lord Grandison was to be buried there yesterday. And that there came sixe of the Kings forces yesterday into Readinge and there came foure of the Parliaments forces beinge well mounted and shott one of them and then both parties ridd away. And the regiment of Welchmen that came from Wallingford were to quarter the last night att Benson.

Henry Parneby returned this day and saith that itt is reported in Oxford that Hull is taken by the Earle of Newcastle and there are 30 thousand Frenchmen well armed come over with the Earle of Newcastle and that Prince Robert is gone out towards the west country with 500 men. And after the battle att Newbury there was three weekes tyme given to gather all their forces together which lye nowe dispersed in severall places and they say they will then march towards London and make noe question but to take the same in a short tyme, and that the Kinge, Queene, Prince and Duke of Yorke are nowe in Oxford.

Joseph Clun went this day to Readinge.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that about foure of the clocke this day hee was in Readinge and sawe eight troopes of horse and foure regiments of foote comeinge thither and they intend as they say to keepe garrison there this winter. The foote regiments were redd coulours blewe yellowe and blacke and divers of the townsmen went to meete them att Cawsam and they say there shall as many more come to Henley. That they are pressinge souldiers in Readinge and the country thereabouts. And the pressed soldiers they say shall goe to keepe Wallingford Castle. And Sir Jacob Ashley shalbe governor of the towne of Readinge.

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 1643. Henry Parneby went this day to Oxford. Joseph Clun went this day to Readinge.

Henry Conington retorned this day and saith that the Kinge, Queene, Prince and Duke of Yorke are all nowe att Oxford and it is reported there that they will march towards London within ten dayes att the furthest. And that there are about 4000 of the Kings forces, foote and horse in Readinge, and intend to make itt a garrison towne this winter. And saith that Sir Arthur Aston is to come from Oxford to be governor there for that Oxford townesmen have petitioned against Sir Arthur, that hee might be noe longer governer there.¹ And they say there that there are 20000 armed Frenchmen landed att Newcastle. And att Brill there are 3000 men and they are fortifyinge the same for a winter quarter. And the Kinge hath sent to Shrewsbury to fetch all his forces there and thereabouts from thence to Oxford. And they say they will march to London with 100000 men men att least.

John Lane retorned this day and saith that hee came from Islipp where a regiment of the Lord Andevers² horse doe quarter, and they have there twoe drakes and dragoones are quartered in the villages neere thereabouts, and that there are about 200 hurt men lye att Islipp and Blechingdon. And hee heard an officer say that they lost in the fight att Newbury 250 comandars and it is reported that Sir John Byron lyes verie sicke att Islipp beinge dangerously wounded att Newbury. And that Captaine Chatterton was yesterday att Chynner and all the townes thereabouts gatheringe upp money taxed for his Majestie and att Chynner because they could not pay him presently hee tooke away theire clothes and lynnens.

Joseph Clun retorned this day and saith that hee was att Twiford this morning and there came thither a company of dragoones and said they were to quarter there this night and heard them say that the townsmen of Readinge began to make up the workes about the towne the last night and they have made warrants to all the townes within foure or five miles to come in and helpe to make up the workes. And he heares that some of the Kinges forces are alsoe come to Henley.

William Lograve retorned this day and saith that there are about 2 or three thousand foote and horse of the Kings forces come into Readinge and presse men in divers places in the country for the Kings service and force the towne and country to come in to helpe to make up theire workes. And saith that the soldiers report that Prince Robert intends to quarter this winter in Cambridgeshire. And saith that there are some of the Kings forces alsoe in Henley.

¹Aston, who retained the governorship of Oxford until December 1644, was throughout unpopular at Oxford. According to Clarendon (III, 406), Aston "had the fortune to be very much esteemed where he was not known, and very much detested where he was."

²Charles, son and heir of Thomas Howard, first Earl of Berkshire. (See G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

Henry Parneby returned this day and saith that hee was neere Redding where hee heard that there came into the towne this night 16 peeces of ordnance 16 loades of amunition and 8 loades of bread and cheese, and that there were 7000 horse and foote in Redding, and more were coming thither, and more to Henley.

Mr. John Turner went this night to London with lettres to his Excellency from the Maior Generall.

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER. Henry Parneby went forth this morning. Henry Connington went. Raph Norton to Henley. Joseph Clunne went to Redding. John Lane to Oxford. James Carey returned this day and saith that there are 1000 of the Kings horse nowe at Bister, and a great number of horse and foote at Brill, and some at Buckingham, and hee heard that the Lord Digby¹ dyed on Satturday last, and that there are proclamacions newly come out at Oxford to comand all tennants that hold lands under the Parliament shall pay their rents to the King.² That the Kings forces intend to fetch away all the cattle from Tame and therebouts and stopp the passage of any provision to Aylesbury.

Christopher Goodwyn returned this day and saith that the King, Queene, Prince, Duke, Prince Robert and Prince Maurice dyled yesterday in Wallingford and were afterwards to goe to Harlington and were attended with 3 collours of horse. That there are not above 500 soldiers left in Oxford being all gone to Redding, Brill and Bister, and that there are about 1000 in Wallingford, and that they presse men dayly in Oxford and Wallingford for the Kings service. And hee heares that the Kings forces are very speedily to goe against Aylesbury, and that a captaine in the towne hath promised to betray it unto them.³

Justinian Mingam went with lettres to London. James Carey went to Aylesbury.

John Scott saith that hee heard that on Monday last was sevenight the Kings forces had an intencion to have fallen upon Alesbury, and

²George, Lord Digby, became one of the principal Secretaries of State at the end of September (*vice* Falkland) and High Steward of Oxford University in October. He died in 1677.

³Proclamation issued on 27 September. (Steele no. 2481, Madan no. 1455).

⁴For plots to betray Aylesbury see *Hist. MSS. Commission Report, Portland I* and B. M. Gardiner, *Secret Negotiation with Charles I (Camden Society Miscellany VIII, 1833)*. Sir John Byron wrote to Col. Aldrich, governor of Aylesbury on 16th October and went on to suggest the betrayal of Aylesbury in later letters. (*Portland I*, p. 139 *seg.*). Aldrich reported this negotiation to Parliament and was rewarded for his fidelity. Thomas Ogle's plot began with a letter of 17th October addressed to the Earl of Bristol, sent on through Lt. Col. Mosely of Aylesbury late in November. This, too, was fully reported to Parliament and led to Rupert's abortive attack on 21st January 1644. It is interesting to find rumours of the betrayal of Aylesbury as early as this date.

make noe question but to take it within these few dayes, and that it is to bee betrayed by one of our captaines and that hee heard there (sic) provost marshall say they intend assoone as they have taken Alesbury to goe against London. That hee heard alsoe that there are 800 barrells of powder come into Bristoll out of France and a great many armes.

Raph Norton returned and saith that there are 4000 of the Kings forces now in Redding, and that they have pulld upp Twyford Bridge and burnt the mills at Twyford and Sanford and will not suffer any man to passe that way to London and presse all men they can lay their hands on, and that hee sawe some of their dragoones this afternoone in Maydenhead thickett, and sent 2 of their company into Maydenhead privatly to see if any of the Parliament soldiers were there, and they report that they will give our men an allarme at Windsor this night, and that they are fortifeing both Redding and Newbury, Donington Castle,¹ where they intend a great parte of their horse shall quarter this winter.

William Lowgrove came from Henley and saith the forces which were there are gone to Redding, and that there were 20 warnd out of Henley to helpe to make upp the works in Redding and some went and those that did not sent mony to hire others in their roomes. That the Cavalliers have burt downe Samford mill and pulld upp the bridge, and charged the miller upon paine of death to suffer none to passe that way to Okeingham, and that there are 500 horse to come this night from Redding to keepe court of guard at Twyford.

FRYDAY THE 6 OCTOBER. Raph Norton went forth this day. Henry Parneby went to Redding.

James Lavall came this day and saith that on Sunday last the maior of Redding sent to his Majestye to desire him to send a governor into the towne because hee that was to succeed the place was unwilling to bee the Kings leiftenant and that hee would take it into consideracion that the towne being left open they should all suffer both by the Kings and the Parliaments forces, and that they would maintaine 2500 men at their owne charge. Whereupon his Majestye sent about 5000 men suspecting that Sir William Waller would have fallen upon them, and seeing none come they intend to make a bulwarke at Mr. Vachills howse to comand both the feilds and the bridge at Cawsam, and burnt downe the mills and pulld upp the bridges both at Sanford and Twiford, and resolved to have more forces sent to Basing House to make that stronger fearing alsoe that Sir William Waller might come thither.

John Lane saith that the Kings forces are still in Reading and are very strongly fortifeing this side of the towne towards London, and

¹Donington Castle is written over Newbury in the text.

there are some ordnance to bee drawn thither this day from Oxford, and they looke for ammunition this day from Oxford. That the King hath warnd in all in Oxfordshire to bring in eyther mony or provision into Oxford, whoe returned answere that they were unable any longer to contribute. Hee sent them backe word that suddenly hee wold see all remedied. And that the King intends assoone as the workes are finished at Redding to march towards London.

Richard Cooke returned this day from Gloucester.

Raph Norton returned this day from Henley and saith that there are none of the Kings forces there, and that those that came to Redding on Tuesday last are there still, and expect a great many more to come to them, and that the King himselfe is expected there tomorrow, and that they presse soldiers dayly in every place whoe are to bee sent to Oxford and Wallingford, and the old soldiers are to come from thence to Redding where hee heares they have finisht their workes already, sufficient to keepe out, as they say, to keepe out all the Parliament forces.

SATURDAY 7TH. OCTOBER. John Lane went forth. Raph Norton went alsoe.

Christopher Goodwyn returned this day and saith that hee heard that divers prisoners which were taken on the Kings side and putt into Newgate have lately made an escape out by ropes downe into the Presse yard, and that more ropes were carryed in and many more prisoners intended to gett out if they were not prevented. That the King and Queene is come to Oxford againe and that there are not above 500 soldiers in the citye. And that some of the Kings forces were yesterday at Henley, and hearing that the Parliaments forces were coming that way, suddenly retreated.

James Carey returned this day and saith that hee was at Alesbury where they are digging trenches to lett the water about the towne, and that they nether heare nor feare the comming of the Kings forces thither. That hee was alsoe at Tame where hee heard that a great partye of the Kings forces were gone from Oxford to Basing Howse and that 14 of them came yesterday to Bledlowe and plundered some howses in the towne and tooke 10 horses and returned backe to Wallingford and they reported that they must come againe and make up these 100.

Joseph Clunne returned this day and saith that hee heares at Oxford that the Kings forces intend to keepe garrison this winter at Salisbury. That the King and Queene are all in Oxford and that Prince Roberts regiment is in Redding. That hee heard by the carryer of Salisbury that the Kings forces had taken the captaine of Wardor Castle, and that there are but 3 regiments of foote in Oxford whose collours are greene, redd and blew.

Henry Connington returned this day and saith that hee came from Oxford where hee saith the King and Queene are. That Prince Robert went out of Oxford on Tuesday and Wednesday last with 10000 horse and foote and 15 peeces of ordnance, and on Thursday last came to Bedford and hee heares that they intend to march from thence to Cambridge, and soe to meete the Earle of Newcastle with his forces out of the north. That they intend to fall upon the east side of London.

David Jones saith that hee was told this day that there were 3000 of the Kings forces in Redding and 12 peeces of ordnance and they presse men dayly in the towne and contry thereabouts, and have almost finisht all their workes.

Robert Goddard went this day into Bedfordshire. Robert Coxo came from London. Henry Connington went this day to London with lettres from Maior Generall to his Excellency.

SONDAY 8 OCTOBER. John Lane returned from Redding and saith that there are 12 peeces of ordnances, 3 peeces planted on this side of the towne towards London and 2 at the west side, and the rest at the streets end and the markt place, and they intend to fortifie about Harrisons Barne and doe intend to drawe upp 2 peeces thither. That the King was comming to Redding but hearing that the Queene was sicke returned backe, and that they heare that Sir William Waller is expected there, onely they heare that hee is goeing to Bedford to his winter quarter. That the King hath prest 300 Welshemen which are to come to Oxford, and hee heares that some of them are to stay there and some to goe to Sir Raph Hopton. And hee heares alsoe that the Earle of Berkshire dyed¹ the last weeke at Oxford.

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER. Henry Parneby returned this day and saith that hee came from Newbury where there are about 100 of the Kings soldiers and about 500 in Dunington Castle, whoe stay there till they have gott more forces together, and then they all are to march to Henley to keepe garrison there. That they keepe a court of guard nere Henley, and take all the horses that passe that way and send them to Wallingford. That they warnd in the contry to bring in bedding to Dunington Castle, and that they brought in 8 cart lodes full on Saturday last and divers lods of provision of bread and cheese.

Christopher Goodwyn returned this day from Redding and saith that there are 4000 of the Kings forces and 3 peeces of ordnance planted on this side of the towne, 2 on the west side and 6 about the markt place and they have warnd in 1000 people out of the contry thereabouts to helpe to make upp the fortifications, and they report that Sir Raph Hopton is comming thither with 6000 horse and foote to quarter there

¹Incorrect.

this winter. That the comming of the Kings forces thither was occasioned by the petition of 5 men in the towne, Mr. Bunbury, 2 clothiers and 2 brewers.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that there came 1600 li. this day from Marleborough which had beene collected thereabouts into Oxford, and about 500 horse and some prisoners which they say came out of Bedfordshire, and that there went alsoe about 300 old soldiers out of Wallingford to Redding where there are 4000 of the Kings forces already, and 12 peeces of ordnance and that they make bulwarks both there and at Henley which they intend to finish the next weeke at Henley.

James Carey returned this day.

TUESDAY 10TH. OCTOBER. Raph Norton went out this day. Henry Parneby went alsoe. Christopher Goodwyn went to Oxford. Raph Norton saith that hee came from Redding, and saith that they have made upp all the workes on this side of the towne, but have done little on the other side, and they say that if the Parliaments forces come before they have finisht they intend to leave the towne. That there are none in Newbury, but onely some warrants sent out to bring in bedding to Dunington Castle, and that they have brought 2 peeces of ordnance thither and that the King hath chosen one Cox to bee maior of Newbury.

David Jones came this night from Wallingford.

WEDNESDAY 11 OCT. Robin Cox went this morning to London with lettres to his Excellency and to Sir Samuell Luke.

Raph Norton went this day towards Redding and Wallingford.

John Lane came from Oxford and saith that the King, Queene and Prince Robert were in Oxford yesterday, but hee cannot heare of Prince Maurice, for some report that hee is sicke, and some dead. That they all dynd at Wallingford on Monday last where there was a great christening for one of Collonell Blakes children, and the Queene and Prince Robert were 2 of the gossipps. That there are 600 in Oxford, and 150 at Wheatley Bridge, and they expect 3000 this weeke at Oxford and prest men out of Wales, and that they send his Majestye word that if hee want as many more they shall bee ready for him. That their quartermasters for the horse came the last night to Grindon,¹ nere Tame, and tooke upp for 16 troopes of horse which hath putt the contry thereabouts into a great fright. And that there are noe forces at all in Brill, and hee heares that they are gone to Redding. That the King hath sent out warrants into Oxfordshire to bring in more mony, and they say that they will keepe a court of guard at Wickham. And hee saith that there is great hopes of peace in Oxford betwixt the King and Parliament which makes them reioyce greatly there. That hee

¹Long Crendon.

heard also that a new collonell¹ in Banbury sallyeing out this weeke to fetch in provision, some of the forces of Northampton having notice of it fell upon the collonell and his company, killd 60 of them and tooke some prisoners, and redeemed a great number of oxen and shepe which they had taken.

Joseph Clun returned this day and saith that the King and Queene are at Oxford, and about 500 soldiers in the towne and some at Wheatley where they keepe a court of guard upon the bridge, and that hee heard at Maydenhead that they expected some of the Kings forces to come and keepe garrison there this winter.

James Browne came from Redding and saith that there are about 2000 of the Kings forces and 2 peeces of ordnance on that side of the towne towards Sunning, 4 peeces in the markt place, and one peece lyes on the topp of St. Maryes church, and have fortified all that side of the towne towards Cawsam, and Prince Roberts regiment lyes at Cawsham, and that the Lord Grandison² is gone with his forces to Banbury to keepe his winter quarter there.

James Carey saith that hee came from Tame, and that hee heard there that the Kings forces are all gone from Brill, and hee heard alsoe that there are divers horse quartered at Long Crandon within a mile of Tame, and that the King, Queene and Prince Robert are in Oxford, and that there are great number of horse at Islipp and other places about Oxford, and hee heares alsoe that they intend to draw their forces this way and to place garrisons both in Henley and Maydenhead.

THURSDAY. 12TH. OCTOBER. James Peirson. Mathew Godscott.

Henry Connington returned this day and saith that hee came from Oxford where there is the King and Queene, the Duke and Prince Robert, and on Tuesday last there was a generall muster, and on yesterday divers carts were warnd in for the removing of the carryages, but whither hee knowes not, onely hee heares since that Prince Robert is goinge forth with 8000 horse against Aylesbury.³

Raph Norton saith that hee came from about Oxford, and that hee heares that there was a generall muster on Tuesday last, and that Prince Robert is goinge out with his horse and they say against Aylesbury. That they are all warnd in this day from their severall quarters about Oxford for the same purpose, and that there is a generall pay to all the foote soldiers whoe hee heares are immediatly after to come for Redding, and saith that hee mett 500 of the Cavalliers in Tame whoe had beene

¹Probably Anthony Green, lieutenant governor of Banbury, see p. 72 n. 3.

²John, third Viscount Grandison.

³There was a general rendezvous at Banbury on 13th October of forces from Oxford, Banbury and adjacent villages. These marched from Banbury on 14th October to Daventry, and were joined by Rupert at Long Buckby on the following day. (A. Beesley, *op. cit.*, p. 352).

pillaging (sic) of divers people goeing to London, and were returning to Oxford, and hee heares that there is an ambassador comming thither and that there are divers of the noblemen appointed to meete him tomorrow as farr as Wickham.

James Steevens came from Redding and saith that there are about 5000 of the Kings forces, and that one Harryes a brewer in the towne hath undertaken to find 500 men in armes for the Kings service, and that they heare that they Earle of Essex was comming with 10000 men, which made them drawe upp 200 soldiers to Harrysons barne, and hee heares that there are some forces in Henley under the command of one Captaine Snelling.

OCTOBER 13. FRYDAY. William Goswell went this day to Oxford. Robert Petwood went this day to Redding. James Steevens went to Abbingdon. William Harryes went out this day to Redding.

James Carey came from Tettesworth, and saith that hee heard that there are 1000 of the Kings forces come out of Oxford to Wheatley, and they keepe a strong guard upon the bridge. That there were 25 of the Kings forces at Sidnam to meete some of our scouts which came from Alesbury, but they were gone before they came. And saith that there are none on this side of Oxford, nor any as yett goeing against Aylesbury.

Henry Parneby returned and saith that hee came from Henley where hee heard that there are 500 of the Kings forces to bee quarterd this night at Twyford, and that they have finished all the workes on this side of Redding, and that there are 16 peeces of ordnance in the towne to bee planted upon them, and that there are more forces comming from Newbury which were prest in the contry thereabouts, and some forces in Henley, but now (sic) garrison to bee kept for ought hee can heare.

14 OCTOBER. SATTURDAY. Christopher Goodwyn came from Abbingdon and saith that there is a regiment of foote quarterd under the comand of the Lord Dives¹ and hee heares that hee is goeing with his regiment to keepe his winter quarter at Bedford. That a regiment went on Wednesday last from Dorchester to Redding, and on Thursday last hee heard there was a skirmish neere Banbury where the forces at Northampton mett with the Cavallyers and kild about 60 and tooke some prisoners. That the King is raysing forces to bee sent into Norfolk. That there is noe ordnance in Abbingdon and that the Lord Sherley lyes there very sicke and dangerously wounded.

Henry Parneby went forth this day. James Carey went alsoe.

Robert Petwood returned this day from Henley, and saith that there are above 100 of the Kings forces under Captaine Snelling whoe take

¹Sir Lewis Dyve. There were many rumours at this time of his being made a lord. (Cf. H. G. Tibbutt, *op. cit.* p. 50).

away divers goods out of the towne and send it away to Redding, that 3 drakes went into Redding on Tuesday last which hee heares came from Oxford.

Raph Norton saith that there are about 400 soldiers in Wallingford, and that there came 400 from Dorchester and 3 peeces of ordnance which went to Redding on Thursday last, and that there are not above 12 peeces of ordnance in Redding, and that there great store of wood carryed from Marlow, Hurley and other places about the Thames side to Redding for fewell for this winter. And that there are warrants sent out for the bringing in of wheat and other provision, and that they have provided granaryes for the receipt of it.

John Webb that hee came from Alesbury and that there were divers appearances of the Kings forces that way by lighted matches¹ which shewed unto them on Thursday night last, and they conceived that they would come upon the people at Layton faire, but upon notice that his Excellency or William Waller was coming towards Aylesbury they all Prince Robert as hee heares returned. And hee saith that the soldiers are very mutenous for want of pay.

SONDAY. 15 OCTOBER. John Lane went forth this day. Raph Norton went. Robert Pettitt went alsoe.

William Harryes returned from Redding and saith that there are about 9000 of the Kings forces, 3000 foote and 6000 horse, and 6 peeces of ordnance, whereof 5 stand in the markt place, and one in the East Gate towards London, and the workes are all finisht on this [side] of the towne but none on the other side. ²(That there are 3000 foote and sawe twoe troopes of horse but heard that there are 3 or 4000 horse).²

Mathew Godscott came from Redding and saith that there are about 800 foote soldiers of the Kings forces and 4 troopes of horse and 4 peeces of ordnance in the markt place, and that the workes will not bee finished these 3 weekes.

Nicholas Luke came from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there and that divers of the Kings forces are lying out already as far as Buckingham and Newport, and more are to march out tomorrow under the comand of Sir Lewis Dives, Sir Charles Lucas, Sir Ludwicke Dyer and others, and that they are resolved to goe into the counties of Bedford, Huntington and Cambridge. That there came into Oxford this last weeke 600 barrells of gunpowder, 10000 case of pistolls and 30000 musketts, and as hee heard they came out of France. That there are divers Londoners come dayly to Oxford, and that they are all compelled to take upp armes for the safeguard of the

¹Slow-burning hemp ropes, steeped in a solution of salt-petre, used for firing the charges of powder in fire-arms.

²⁻²This phrase is separated from the rest of the report by a line.

towne. That they have sent all the sicke soldiers which were at Bister to Buckingham, and that divers carte loades of salt peter doe dayly come into Oxford from Blackthorne. That the comandars in Bedford warnd all the townesmen in from 16 to 60 to appeare in the feild on Fryday last whoe mett accordingly but to what end hee knowes not. That the Cavallyers in Kent desire his Majestye but to furnish them with 500 horse and they will bring all that contry into their subiection.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that hee was in Henley where hee heard that they in the towne having notice that the Parliaments forces were comming they all left the towne and went to Redding.

John Lane saith that hee came from Redding, and that they had an allarme this afternoone which caused them to draw upp 2 peeces of ordnance to the hither side of the towne, and putt all the contrymen from their workes, and that his Excellency was comming with his forces which made them send out their scouts, but it appeared otherwise. That they report that Sir William Waller hath laid downe his commission, and that his Excellency intends to lay downe his alsoe.

James Carey returned from Redding, and saith that there are betweene 5 and 6000 horse and foote, and hee saw 12 peeces of ordnance, 3 in London streete, 2 at the end of Fryers streete, 2 in Brode street and 5 in the markett place, and they have almost made upp all their workes within 2 dayes, and that there are at least 1000 at worke every day, and they intend to finish all about the towne within these 2 dayes.

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER. John Lane went out this day. Raph Norton went alsoe to Oxford. James Carey went with him.

Peter Street came from Redding and saith that there are about 5000 horse and foote and 12 peeces of ordnance, 5 in the markett place, 3 in London streete and 4 at the end of 2 severall streets. That all the workes are finished on this side of the towne towards Twyford, onely in some places towards Sunning and Theale they are now about them, will bee all donne within this weeke. And then hee heares they intend to build skonces and make other out workes, and to withstand the Parliaments forces if they come thither. But they report that both his Excellency and Sir William Waller have laid downe their commissions.

Robert Pettitt came from Redding and saith that there are about 4000 of the Kings forces and they are still making of their workes and hope to finish all within these 10 dayes or soomer if the weather held faire. That they heare that there is great variance betweene the Earle and Sir William Waller and that they have laid downe their commissions, and that the reddcotes of London had sufficient that they thought noe more durst come out of that citty.

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER. Robert Pettitt went this day to Redding. David Jones went to Wallingford.

Henry Parneby returned this day and saith that hee came from Redding where hee was one whole day and vewed the towne and sawe all the workes and was entred for a soldier under Captaine Stampe and received 12d. for presse mony and had white and blacke collours given him and helpt to digg in the workes, and saith that there [are] about 5000 horse and foote and hee sawe 4 peeces of ordnance, 4 in the markt place and 6 altogether by the Abby, and are planted towards Twyford, and that the works are all made upp from the Abbey to the gate that goes to Twyford and halfe a furlonge further, but none made upp in any place else, nor any working but on this side of the towne towards London, and hee heard there that there are 2000 comming to keepe garrison at Henley.

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER. Christopher Goodwyn came from Tettesworth where hee saith hee was informed yesterday by one that came from Oxford that Prince Robert was marcht out with about 4000 horse and hee thought they were gone towards Worcester, and that at his returne by Wickham hee sawe 2 horsemen come into the Antilopp, to take upp quarter for the Earle of Carnarvans horse and they told the host of the howse in his hearinge that there were 500 horse comming to quarter there that night, but they thought they would not tarry there long, and that a regiment of foote quarter the same night at Stoken Church which were to follow after them.

Peter Street returned alsoe and saith that being yesterday at High Wickham hee heard that their were 500 of the Kings horse at West Wickham where to come and quarter there that night, and that a regiment of foote which were under the Earle of Carnarvan were to quarter that night at Stoken Church and to march after with what speed they could to Wickham.

Robert Cox went this day to London. Mr. Wigfall came from London. Christopher Goodwyn to Wickham. Robert Pettwood returned this day.

James Carey returned from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert went out with about 5000 horse on Monday last towards Northampton but he———. ¹ That hee was neere Oxford where hee had intelligence from a spetiall freind whoe came out of the citty that Prince Robert went to Northampton on Monday last, but being yesterday at the stationers shopp to buy diurnalls hee heard a captaine tell the maister of the shoppe that Prince Robert was beaten of from Northampton and that hee had noe good successe that way and therefore intended to march some way else, which some say is to Bedford and some to Aylesbury, and saith that comming this day through Wickham hee was told that there was quarter taken upp the last night for 500

¹Blank in MS.

men, but there came but 40 whoe tooke away horses and pillaged some of the towne, and returned the same night to Oxford.

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER. Richard Bligh went this day to Redding.

Harry Connington returned from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Robert went into Bedfordshire on Friday last with a great party of horse and on Monday a party of horse and dragoones followed. That on Sunday last there came into Oxford 10 loades of musketts and pistolls, which as hee heard came from Bristoll, and that the carters told him there were 18 loades more of ammunition comming.

Raph Norton came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Robert is gone to Bedford to keepe garrison there, and that all the soldiers in Bath and Bristoll are to come thither. And hee heard that the last weeke there came great store of armes and amunition to Oxford. John Lane came from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there and that Prince Robert went into Bedfordshire the last weeke with a great party of horse to keepe his winter quarter at Bedford. That there came into the citty the last weeke divers cart loades of ammunition and hee heard that there are divers prest men comming out of the west to Oxford, and hee heard that all the foote are drawne from Wheatly to Abbingdon.

Peter Street came this day from Stoken Church and saith that the King and Queene are in Oxford.

FRYDAY THE 20TH. OF OCTOBER. Peter Street went this day to Oxford. Henry Parneby went alsoe. Raph Norton. John Lane.

Joseph Clunn saith hee came from Redding and was yesterday in the towne and vewed both the towne and the workes about it, and saith that there are about 2000 of the Kings forces, horse and foote, and but 4 peeces of ordnance, which stand in the markt place, and that the workes are all made upp on this side the towne, and they are now at worke on the other side, and alsoe at Harrisons barne, that there is a regiment of horse at Sunning and Sir Jacob Ashleyes regiment of foote quarterd at Cawsam. That they keepe a court of guard at Twyford Bridge and more soldiers are expected dayly to come into the towne. And hee saith that there was a howse yesterday shutt upp in the markt place of the sicknes.

William Harryes saith that Prince Robert went out of Oxford on Sunday last and came into Bedford on Tuesday in the afternoone with about 1500 horse and that a party of horse lyes at Dunstable, and hee heares that on Wednesday last they plundred Laughton Bussard in Bedfordshire.

Edward Deverill went to Redding.

John Lane came from Okeingham and saith that hee sawe about 30

of the Cavalliers there this afternoone, whoe came in to warne the townesmen to make ready their hay, firewood and bedding for there were 80 carts comming which were warnd in the last night to fetch it away, and that hee sawe 3 troopes of their horse 2 miles beyond the towne, and hee heares that they threaten to burne the towne this night, and have forbid all the villages thereabouts to bring in any provision into the towne. And that divers of the inhabitants are forced to leave their dwellings, and with what good they can convey away to betake themselves to the townes neere Windsor.

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER. Richard Clunn went forth this day.

David Jones came from Wallingford and saith that on Thursday last there were 9 peeces of ordnance which were all discharged upon the comming in of the French Embassador, but since that 5 of them are drawn away to Redding, and many soldiers goe dayly both from thence and Oxford to Redding, and 4 troopes of horse went alsoe from thence to quarter at Shefford.

Raph Norton came from Dorchester where hee heard that there but few forces in Oxford, and that some of the horse which quarterd thereabouts are gone to Bristoll, and about 300 in Abbingdon, that there is great reioycing in Oxford for the coming of the French Embassador, and they say hee hath brought a great deale of gold, silver and other treasure thither. That hee heard that there is a party of horse quarterd at Dunstable where they intend to continue all this winter to take such things which passe that way from the Parliaments forces and to conduct their owne to Oxford.

Nicholas Luke came this day from Oxford and saith that the French Embassador came in on Wednesday night last and on Thursday dyned at St. Johns Colledge, and after dinner the King and Queene came to visitt him, where they stayed about 2 howers and they say that the Queene returnd weeping, and on Friday the Embassador was enter-tayned at Christchurch.

That there are 4000 horse going into Bedfordshire, and they intend to keepe their randevous on Monday next at Buckingham, and that Sir Lodwick Dyer is to raise a regiment of foote in Bedfordshire, and that they are raysing newe forces to goe into Kent, which they report will bee ready to march very speedily.

Richard Bligh came from Redding this day at 10 of the clocke and saith that there [are] about 4000 of the Kings forces and 4 peeces of ordnance, but they expect this night 10 more from Oxford and Wallingford, and that they made account this day to make upp all the workes about the towne as strong as they were before, and alsoe at Harrisons barne. That they keepe 4 centryes in the towne and a guard at Twyford bridge. That they have pillaged Twyford, and drove away

all their horses and cattle, and threaten this night to burne the towne that there may bee noe releife or shelter for the Parliaments forces whoe they heare are speedily to come thither.

SONDAY THE 22 OCTOBER. Raph Norton went forth.

Henry Connington returned from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert whoe musterd 4000 horse and 2000 foot yesterday on the north side of the towne, and hee heares that they are to goe speedily to Bedford to Newport Pannell where they are fortifieing the towne, and the governor of it is appointed to bee Sir Lewis Dives. That all those forces which were quartered on the west side of the city are to march away tomorrowe, and as hee heares to Redding. That on Friday last at 4 of the clocke in the afternoone the French Ambassador was in very triumphant great state conducted to Christchurch where hee had audience, and afterwards hee had reposd himselfe about an hower and refresht himselfe with a banquet which was prepared for him, returned in the same state to his lodgings. And hee heard that Collonell Hurrye was run through both his cheekes upon Bedford Bridge with a sword when the Kings forces entred the towne.

Edward Deverill came from Redding and saith that there are 13 regiments of foote and one regiment of horse quartered at Sunning and 4 peeces of ordnance in the markt place, and that all the workes both on this side the towne and at Harrisons barne are finished. That Collonell Zouch was buried yesterday in Redding. That hee sawe the Kings forces plunder Twyford and they reported that they would burne the towne, and as hee returned hee sawe 4 howses burnt downe in Oke-ingham, and that they had sett fire in 3 places more, and hee heard that the reason was because they had refused to obey some of their warrants.

James Peirson came from Oxford and saith that hee heares that Prince Maurice is come to Oxford very dangerously sicke, and that there divers of the gentry there sicke alsoe. That Prince Robert went out on Thursday last with 3000 horse to Bedford and it is reported that hee intends to goe after into Suffolke and soe into Essex, and that they threaten to plunder all the townes as they goe along, esppecially the 3 Wickhams.

Peter Street returned from Redding and saith there are about 4000 horse and foote and 4 peeces of ordnance, and that the workes are finisht on this side of the towne, but none on the other side towards Theal and Pangborne. That they dayly expect the comming of the Parliaments forces, and are resolved to fight with them to the last man.

Thomas Goswell returned from Oxford and saith that Prince Robert went out on Saturday last with 3000 horse and foote to Newport to keepe garrison there this winter. That on Sunday the Lord Byron and Sir Gilbert Gerrard with about 1200 more to Winchindon 3 miles from Alesbury and they continue there still. That on Thursday last

Prince Robert came into Oxford with 3 troopes of horse, and brought newes that the Parliaments forces were come out of London, and intended to fall both upon Redding and Henley, and thereupon sent to Henley to bidd them eyther repaire to Redding or else returne to Oxford, and sent also to Redding to acquaint them therewith and to advise them to bee carefull and keepe good watches and strong guards, and returned backe with 5 troopes of horse on Fryday to Newport.

23TH. OCTOBER 1643. Robert Pettit retorned this day and saith that there are fewe of the Kings forces in Abington, and some of them are marched towards Winchester and Sir Lewis Dives is gone into Bedfordshire and they report there is that hee shalbe Governor of Bedford and yesternight Prince Roberts quartermaster came to Henley to take up for him there, and there are nowe three troopes of horse in Henley and they force the towne to pay a monethes pay to every soldier there and £15 a weeke to the Kinge. That there is a greate party both of horse and foote gone towards Winchester. And they have burnt parte of Okeingham.

Henry Parneby retorned this day and saith that the Kinge and Queene are in Oxford, and upon Saturday last Prince Robert mustered betweene foure and five thousand men upon the north side of the towne and hee heares that they were to march either to Readinge or into Bedfordshire.

24 OCTOBER. TUESDAY. Richard Clun came this day out of Bedfordshire and saith that most of the Kings horse which were at Newport marcht to Bedford, and that there was about 200 horse at Stony Stratford and 3 companyes of foote at Newport, and they have not a quarter finished the workes, and that they expect Prince Robert this night at Newport or tomorrow, and that a party of horse is gone from thence to meete him.

WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER. Mr. Robinson went this day with lettres to Huntingdon. William Rogers went alsoe with lettres to Northampton. Robert Cox went this day to London. Joseph Clun to London this night.

Nathaniell Sharpe came this day from Northampton and saith that there were 11 troopes under the command of Collonell Purefie and Sir Edward Hartopp which were come from Warwick, Coventry, Leicester and Rockingham, and stayed there to wayte his Excellencies comands, whither they should march fourther, and that there is noe foote in the towne but those which belong to the garrison.

Thomas Hitchman went this night to London.

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER. Richard Clun went forth this day.

John Lane came this (sic) from Winchester and saith that there are

about 2000 foote and 2000 horse of the Kings forces and hee heard there were 3 drakes, but hee sawe none, and they report that they will fortifie the towne and keepe a garrison there this winter. That there are 1000 horse alsoe quarterd at Andever and Whitchurch and 7 collours of horse at Alston, and that on Tuesday last they were to have their randevous at Wallers Ashe in Hampshire, and expect dayly the comming of the Lord Hopton and the Lord Moone and tis thought that they intend eyther for Chichester or Southampton, and that the hearts of the people had much hardned against them for burning of Okeingham, and hee heard that the Cavalliers threaten to burne Farneham, and on Monday last 4 troopes of their horse faced Farneham Castle which putts the contry thereabouts in great feare.

Henry Connington came this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Robert went out on Tuesday last with a great party of horse to Newport to meete the Earle of Essex whoe they heard was marching that way, and that Collonell Urrey hee heares is recovered of his wound he received at Bedford.

Raph Norton came this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and about 600 foote, and hee sawe 3 peeces of ordnance goe downe in a barge from Oxford, and great store of amunition on Monday last to Redding, and a post came in yesterday and informed them that the forces at Bristoll were gone from thence to Winchester and Basingstoke, and alsoe there are severall messingers came in and acquainted them that the Earle of Essex was marcht towards Cambridge with all his forces, and that [they] intend to keepe a garrison at Winchester and soe to gett downe into Kent. That hee heard alsoe that the Lord Hopton was come from Bristoll with his forces.

John Lane went out this day with lettres to Dunstable.

FRYDAY 27 OCTOBER. Edward Deverell came this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that the towne is very full of soldiers, and they expect 1500 very speedily at Wheatley to come from Brill and other places thereabouts, whoe are from thence to march to Redding, where they dayly expect the comming of Sir William Waller.

Robert Pettitt came from Newport and saith that there are 1600 foote in the towne and 7000 horse quartered there and in other townes thereabouts, and that Sir Lewis Dives is comander in cheife, that there are 3 peeces of ordnance and have fortified the towne on that side towards Bury Feild and were at worke in severall other places, and they keepe a very strong guard upon the bridge, and a mile further this way there is a horse guard.

Mr. Sherwood went this day with lettres to Huntingdon. Raph Norton went to Newport. Henry Connington went this day to Oxford. Robert went this day with lettres to Maior Generall. Edward Deverell to Oxford.

James Carey returned this day and saith that goeing to Oxford on Tuesday last 8 of the Cavallyers mett him at Ashton under hill to Princes Risborough and after they had searched him and taken away his mony lett him goe. That endeavoureing to goe againe on Wednesday hee mett with 2 troopes of them upon Chinner hill, whoe were wayting for carryers, and stopt all manner of passage that way soe that hee was forced to returne home.

SATURDAY 28TH. OCTOBER. William Burgen came this day from Cranfeild 3 miles from Newport and saith that all the Kings forces which were eyther quarter in Newport or in any of the townes adioyning marcht out on Thursday night last about 10 of the clocke, and lay in a feild a little beyond the towne, and hee heares that they are since removed to Buckingham.

John Lane returned from Newport and saith that all the Kings forces are gone from thence and went on Thursday night last about 6 of the clocke and drew away their ordnance (being 6 peeces as hee heard) and marcht after to Stonystratford and intend to march from thence eyther to Northampton or Buckingham. That there came a party yesterday to Lughton and tooke 2 of our men and they report that the[y] plundered the towne.

William Burgen went forth this day. Robert Cox went to Brickhill post with lettres to Maior Generall. John Lane went forth this day to Bouckingam. George Hawkins came this day from London. Robert Pettitt came this night from Newport. Robert Cox came with him. Richard Clun came in alsoe.

SONDAY 29 OCTOBER. Robert Cox went to Newport. Robert Pettitt to Newport. Richard Clun to London.

Henry Connington saith that hee came from Oxford, where there are about 2000 foote and that Prince Robert went out with about 1000 on Fryday night but the bigger party went on Thursday night, they report that the King sent word to the Governor of Newport to keepe the towne till Prince Robert came to assist them, but the message was mistaken.¹ That they report they intend to goe to Banbury to ioyne with Collonell Hastings to follow the Earle of Manchester.

John Lane came from Thornebury and saith there were about 2000

¹Cf. letter to Rupert from Oxford, 28th October: "What was done by Sir Lewis Dives [the evacuation of Newport] was done, as appears, upon Sir Frederick Cornwallis's mistake of his Majesty's directions, whereof his Majesty is sensible, and will for the future be more careful by whom he conveys his orders." (Warburton II, 322).

foote in Buckingham, and that they intend to send parte of their foote to Oxford and parte to Banbury, that there are 6 or 7 troopes of horse quarterd under the command of Sir Thomas Byron at Winslowe. That there quarters about 2000 horse at Brackley and thereabout.

Nicholas Luke returned this day.

MONDAY 30 OCTOBER. William Burgen went this day to Maior Generall with lettres. Edward Deverill came from Redding and saith there are 8 peeces of ordnance in the markt place, and they reported that there were 4 more in the Forbury¹, but hee could see none, but thinkes they are drawn into the Abbey barne. That on Satturday last 4 regiments of foote marcht out of the towne over Cawsam bridge but whither hee could not heare.² That they report there are 6 regiments of foot still in Redding but they are very small ones for hee sawe the streets very thinne of soldiers. That the workes are made upp next Cawsam bridge and a doble gate sett up there, and a doble gate at ever[y] passage in the towne, onely a drawbridg next Twyford. That as yett they have made noe workes at Harrison's barne, but they intend to make outworkes next Twyford and Cawsam. That there are 30 howses and outhowes burnt in Okeingham and almost all in Twyford.

Nicholas Luke saith that he was stayd by the Kings forces at Newport on Thursday last and had his horse, sword, mony and pistolls taken away, and that night they all marcht away to Stony Stratford. That on Friday night the randevous was in a feild neere the towne, and on Satturday they had an allarme whereupon they drewe 10 out of every regiment, and expected the enemy from Fenny Stratford, but it proved false, and soe that night they marcht towards Buckingham within 2 miles of Blechington.

TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER. Robert Petitt came yesterday from Buckingham and saith that there are about 6000 horse and foote in the towne, whereof parte are those which came from Newport, and a regiment of redd and another of gray came thither on Friday last to secure them, and brought some ordnance along with them, and hee saith hee saw 13 peeces of ordnance in the towne, that they keepe very stronge guards at all passages both horse and foote and expect the dayly comming of the Parliaments forces.

Edward Deverell went forth. John Lane went to Newport.

¹An open space near the town wall (Cf. faubourg), on the north-west side of the Abbey.

²These troops were probably those sent to Rupert; see letter to Rupert from Nicholas, 27th October: "Order is sent to Reading for the fifteen hundred foot to march presently thence towards Newport-Pagnel." (Warburton II, 321).

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EARLY, J. H.	Newland, Witney, Oxon.
ESHER, THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT	9, North Audley Street, London, W.1.
EVANS, MISS E.	Somerville College, Oxford.
FROST, REV. M.	Deddington Vicarage, Oxford.
FURNISH, F. G.	Berrymore, Banbury.

FYNMORE, A. H. W.	..	By-the-Sea, 119, Sandgate High Street, Folkestone, Kent.
GALBRAITH, PROFESSOR V. H.		1, Garford Road, Oxford.
GILKES, R. K.	..	66, Bath Road, Banbury.
GILLAM, S. G.	..	29, Stratford Street, Oxford.
GOOD, A. P.	..	Glympton Park, Woodstock, Oxon.
GRAHAM, BRIG. GENERAL C.		Denton House, Cuddesdon, Oxford.
GRAHAM, MISS ROSE	..	29, Ladbroke Grove, London, W.11.
GRAYSON, H.	..	Monkery Farm, Great Milton, Oxon.
GUTOWSKI, S. A.	..	41a, Radnor Street, Hulme, Manchester, 15.
HARCOURT, THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT	..	Nuneham Courtney, near Oxford.
HASSALL, DR. W. O.	..	Manor House, Wheatley, Oxon.
HINDLE, C. J.	..	12, Winchester Rd., Oxford.
HOBSON, MISS M. G.	..	16, New High Street, Headington, Oxford.
HOLLINGS, MISS I. M.	..	Hazeldean, Charlbury, Oxon.
HURST, CYRIL W.	..	47, Oxford Road, Banbury, Oxon.
JANCEY, MISS E. M.	..	Frankhurst, Sutton St. Nicholas, near Hereford.
JENKINS, REV. DR. CLAUDE		Christ Church, Oxford.
KINCH, CYRIL H.	..	8, The Causeway, Bicester, Oxon.
LEGG, L. G. WICKHAM	..	Manor House, Bodicote, near Banbury.
LENNARD, REGINALD	..	Lower Heyford, Oxon.
LLOYD-JUKES, REV. H. A.		The Rectory, Tingewick, Bucks.
LOBEL, MRS. M. D.	..	16, Merton Street, Oxford.
LOVEDAY, DR. T.	..	Williamscote, near Banbury.
MCCLATCHY, MRS. D. M.		Socotra, Central Avenue, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.
MACCLESFIELD, RT. HON. THE EARL OF	..	Shirburn Castle, Watlington, Oxon.
MACCLESFIELD, THE COUNTESS	..	Shirburn Castle, Watlington, Oxon.
MACKAY, MISS C. H.	..	55, High Town Rd., Banbury, Oxon.
MAJOR, REV. DR. H. D. A.		Merton Vicarage, near Bicester.
MAJOR, MISS K.	..	21, Queensway, Lincoln.
MARSHALL, MISS R. M.	..	47, Chalfont Rd., Oxford.
MARTIN, REV. CANON R. R.		1, Wellington Place, St. Giles, Oxford.
MIDGLEY, MISS M.	..	White House, Conduit Head Road, near Cambridge.
MILNE, MRS. M. L.	..	C/o Mrs Jardine, Rosehill, Lockerbie, N.B.
MITCHELL, MISS L. R.	..	Mill House, Mapledurham.
MITFORD, HON. MRS. BERTRAM	..	Old Westwell Rectory, near Burford, Oxon.
MORRIS, F. W.	..	10, Market Place, Chipping Norton, Oxon.
MYRES, J. N. L.	..	The Manor House, Kennington, Oxford.
NICHOLAS, DONALD,	..	Gatehampton Manor, Goring-on-Thames.
OAKELEY, MAJOR E. F.	..	Tremaines, Woodstock Rd., Oxford.
OXFORD, THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF	..	88, St. Aldate's, Oxford.
PANTIN, W. A.	..	C/o Oriel College, Oxford.
PARKER, HON. HENRY	..	The Hays, Ramsden, Charlbury, Oxon.

PHILIP, I. G.	.. ..	28, Portland Rd., Oxford.
PHILLIPS, MISS M. G.	.. ..	Granville Court Hotel, Bournemouth.
RAMSBOTHAM, R. B.	.. ..	Cromwell House, Woodstock, Oxon.
RASHDALL, MRS.	.. ..	105, Banbury Rd., Oxford.
RICHARDSON, H. G.	.. ..	High Barn, 14, Sheridan Rd., Merton Park, S.W.19.
ROBERTSON SCOTT, J. W.		Idbury, Kingham, Oxon.
ROCHE, THE RT. HON. BARON		Chadlington, Oxon.
RUFFER, MISS V. I.	.. ..	12, Stanley Rd., Oxford.
SALTER, REV. H. E.	.. ..	Broad Oak, Sturminster, Newton, Dorset.
SHARPE, FREDERICK	.. ..	Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxon.
SPOKES, P. S.	.. ..	59, Five Mile Drive, Oxford.
STAYT, MRS DOUGLAS A.	.. ..	Greenfields, 27, Stanton Harcourt Rd., Newland, Witney, Oxon.
SUTHERLAND, D. M.	.. ..	C/o Taylorian Institute, Oxford.
THACKER, PROFESSOR T. W.		The Green, Adderbury, near Banbury.
TODD, REV. JOHN	.. ..	Waterstock Rectory, Oxon.
WALL, THE VERY REV.		
CANON A. G.	.. ..	St. John's, Banbury.
WATTS, M. B.	.. ..	Dean Manor, Charlbury, Oxon.
WATNEY, OLIVER,	.. ..	Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxon.
WHITAKER, MAJOR G. C.		Britwell House, Watlington, Oxon.
WHITE, MISS H. P.	.. ..	Salle Park, Reepham, Norfolk.
WICKHAM STEED, MRS V. S.		Holly Bank, Wootton, Woodstock, Oxon.
WRIGHT, SYDNEY A.	.. ..	16, Friars Street, Reading.
WILLIAMSON, DR. A. R. H.		The Green, Nettlebed, Oxon.
WYNDHAM, COL. THE HON.		
E. H.	Caversfield House, Bicester, Oxon.

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