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*Transcribed and Edited with an Introduction*

by

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*Secretary of the Bodleian Library, Oxford*



**NOTE.** An index to the whole journal will be found at the end  
of this volume.

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OXON

WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER [1643]. Robert Cox went this day to Cambridge. Robert Pettitt to Buckingham.

John Lane came from Stony Stratford and saith that all the Kings forces are gone from thence to Brackley and hee heares that the greatest part which were at Buckingham are gone from thence to Banbury, and that Prince Robert is comming with 3000 horse from Oxford towards Stone[Strat]ford and that when they are all mett together hee heares they intend to fall upon Northampton. That some of their horse faced Northampton yesterday, where after they had continued some small tyme, they retreated to their quarters at Torcester. That they threaten to burne Northampton and say they hope to have one battaile more with the Parliaments forces.

John Blewett to Bedford with lettres. Joseph Clun came from Newport with lettre from the Maior Generall to his Excellencie.

Thomas Hitchman went to London.

William Harryes came this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and that Prince Robert marcht out on Friday last with 21 collours of foote and 4 small peeces of ordnance, and hee heares their designe is for Alesbury for they threaten mightily and say they will burne downe the towne and not leave man woeman nor child alive in it. That they are making some new workes on the east side of Oxford at a place called Hollywell, and have putt all the inhabitants in the towne into armes to guard the towne in the absence of the soldiers, and they complaine of nothing soe much as the want of match. That hee heares that most of the forces are also gone out of Redding and not above 500 left in the towne but whether hee knowes not.

John Lane went this night at 9 of the clock with lettres to Newport from his Excellency.

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER. Henry Connington came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that hee heares that Prince Robert is at Banbury, and that there is a great party both of horse and foote with 4 peeces of ordnance to march forth this day, and to ioyne with Sir Raph Hopton, and that they designe is to meete with Sir William Waller.

Jeremy Robbins went forth this day.

Henry Connington went this day to Oxford and Buckingham. William Harryes to Newport. Thomas Richardson to Newport. Joseph Clunne to the Maior Generall. William Sherwood came this day from Huntington. Mr. Wigfall went this day to Luton. John Appleby went this day to Redding.

Henry Parneby returned this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Robert is now at Banbury



with a great force which were drawne out of Wallingford, Abbington and Redding, and that there is now great force of horse, foote and ordnance raysing in and about Oxford to march out very speedily, but whither hee cannot learne, onely some report that this preparacion is to meete with Sir William Waller. That they plundered a drapers howse yesterday in Beconsfeild and tooke away as much cloth as 9 of them could carry away.

James Carey went this day to Banbury.

Richard Clun returned this day and saith that there are greate store of the Kings forces at Tositer where they intend to fortify for they have eshewed out warrants into the cuntry thereabouts to warne in the cuntry to intrench the towne and that there is the Lord Wintworth and another lord there and that the Queenes regiment is expected there, and that they have plundered a village neere Winsloe, and that Winsloe hath raised money for the Kinge and doth daily looke for another tax to be layd upon them.

Robert Pettitt came this day from within 2 miles of Torcester and saith that Prince Robert lay on Wednesday night at Eston house 2 miles from Tocester, and sent 6 out of every troope to plunder Sir Richard Samuells<sup>1</sup> howse. That there are 10,000 horse and foote in and about Toster, and 7 peeces of ordnance and they intend to fortifie the towne, and to plant their ordnance upon Hansbury hill a mile from Northampton, and to wheele about by Wellingborrow and to fall suddenly upon the towne. That Sir Lewis Dives went from Buckingham on Tuesday last with a party of horse and 5 peeces of ordnance to Abbington.

Richard Thorneton returned this day and saith that hee sawe the Lord Grandsons regiment and Sir Edward Deerings in Abbington the last weeke, and that they then musterd their men and were resolved to goe for Kent. That hee heard alsoe that Sir Charles Blunt was to goe with some forces out of Oxford and some out of Redding into Lancashire to meet with Collonell Dodden to releevie Thurland Castle and to gaine Horneby Castle if they could.

Robert Pettitt went this night to Newport to Maior Generall. 10s.

Robert Cox to Cambridge 7s. 6d.

William Burgen to Farnham Castle 4s. (12 at night).<sup>2</sup>

FRYDAY 3 NOVEMBER. Nicholas Luke went this day to London with lettres to the Speaker. Henry Parneby went forth this day. Richard Thornton went this day to Oxford.

<sup>1</sup>Sir Richard Samwell of Gayton.

<sup>2</sup>This appears to refer to the time of departure of Pettit, Cox and Burgen.

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER. John Lane went this day to Newport with lettres to Maior Generall. Richard Clun went this day to Buckingham. Mr. Bedford went this day into Bedfordshire.

Henry Connington saith that goeing to Oxford hee was apprehended yesterday morning by the Cavalliers at the Swann at Beconsfeild and tooke away his bootes, horse and mony, and carried him tallmost (sic) to Henley. That there were about 14000 of them whoe were come from plundring of Uxbridge, that they kept their randevous halfe a mile beyond Beconsfeild where hearing of the comming of our forces to the towne they prepared themselves to encounter them, but seeing none approach them the[y] went to Henley and soe from thence to Redding.

Robert Cox went this night at 2 aclocke to Maior Generall at Newport.

Mr. Sherwood went alsoe thither at 7 a clocke.

SONDAY 5 NOVEMBER. John Appleby. That hee came yesterday from Redding and hee saith there are (as hee is informed) 4000 foote and 2 regiments of horse and but 4 peeces of ordnance, and they have finisht all the workes about the towne and drawen upp all the bridges, and there is noe passage eyther in or out but by water. That there [were] about 1500 horse at Stoken Church, and some at Henley and some at Marlow, but what their designe is hee cannot learne. That the King hath issued out a warrant into Buckinghamshire commanding the country to bring in 1200 horse with all speed, and upon refusall to obey the warrant they are threatened to bring them in by compulsion. John Appleby. And hee heares that Prince Robert is upon Salisbury plaine with a great party of foote.

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER. This day Richaard Clunn came from Buckingham and saith that there are two brooken regiments of foote aboute the number of 500 and that there are sune two regiments of horse quarterd thereabouts, and that Prince Rupert lieth within halfe a mile of Toseter. And that they are very much in want of provition in Toster, and that the soldiers are ready to mutony for want of good quarter.

TUESDAY 7TH. NOVEMBER. John Bluett went this day to Bedford.

Henry Parneby retorned this day and saith that hee was att Oxford yesterday and that one Mr. Henry Anderson<sup>1</sup> went from Oxford on Friday the 3rd of November towards Banbury with warrants to raise all the forces they can, and all the forces that can be spared are gone from

<sup>1</sup>Sir Henry Anderson was captured at Leicester while on his way from Oxford with papers which included "pretended propositions" with supposed comments by Essex. (*House of Commons Journal*, III, 305 (8th November), and *House of Lords Journal*, VI, 318).



Oxford and Abington towards Ban[bury.]. And heard that there are foure thousand rebells and armes out of Ireland landed<sup>1</sup> and gone towards the Marquesse of Newcastle. And that it is reported that Prince Robert doth intend to meete with Sir William Waller with 4 thousand horse att the least.

Henry Parneby went this day towards Oxford. This information was not returned till the 12th. of November following.

9 NOVEMBER. Henry Cunington returned this day and saith that hee saw the Kings foote mustered in Oxford on Tuseday last, and that the townesmen kept the guards in the meane tyme. And hee conceives there were neare 3000 foote. That there were 10 drawne out of every company then to goe forth. But they were not yesterday gone. That there went six loads of ammunition out att the North gate of the towne. Its conceived it went to Toster. And that Prince Rupert is about Banbury. They cry out generally of the Earle of Holland and say its pittty but hee should bee hanged.<sup>2</sup>

Henery Parneby went to Oxford. Cunington to London. Cox to London.

John Appleby returned this day and sayth that hee came yesterday about 12 of the clocke out of Oxford where hee saw great stoare of country men and townesmen but very few souldyers, and they reported there was only the Governor's regiment left in towne, but many souldyers both horse and foote in the townes there adioyning. That hee came by Wheatly Bridge where Captaine Digbyes troope lay who complayned much that Northampton forces had tooke 3 troopes of the Kings best horse, and that they would ere long visit Uxbridge and revenge themselves of the trained bands they heard were there. That hee came this day through Chessam where hee found the whole towne in armes under one Captaine Fleetwood who had 200 musketeeres besides others with prongs and bills. The reason of it was some Cavaleeres appearing in a body on Wickam Heath last night, and it was reported, with intent to plunder theire towne. But they resolved rather to dye every man than bee plundered by such rascalls.

Ralph Norton returned this day and sayth that hee came from Sir William Waller who fact (sic) Basin house on Monday, and killd 3 of there scouts. Sir William sent his trumpet to demand the house. The Marquesse answered hee should first fight for it. Whereupon the Marquesse burnt the towne of Basin and his owne barnes and stables

<sup>1</sup>Two English regiments from Ireland landed at Minehead and Bristol late in October.

<sup>2</sup>On 5th November Holland abandoned the court at Oxford and returned to London. His reasons were published in a *Declaration made to the Kingdom*; see Rushworth, *Historical Collections* (1721) V, 367.

which were full of corne brought out of the country. Sir William Waller had some 6 men killd and 30 wounded. Parte of his forces lye about it still, the rest in Basingstoke. Sir Raph Hopton came into Winchester on Monday with 8 peice of ordnance, 1800 Irish rebels and some 3000 horse and foote which marcht towards Sir William Waller on Tuseday. And is thought will be in Kent this day. Sir William Waller sent out his warrants for provision. The country sent in 6 loads. A party of the Cavaleeres tooke it, but haveing an alarm they tooke the horse and left the provision which came safe to Sir William Waller.

10 NOVEMBER. Raph Norton to London. John Lane to London. Jeremiah Robbins to Newport.

11 NOVEMBER. Jeremiah Robbins returned this day. Joseph Clunn to Sir William Waller.

Richard Clunne returned and sayth that he came from Buckingham where he spoke with one Mr. Spicer a cornett of his Majestis army by whom he had intelligence that the Lord Hoppton hath the commaund in cheife of all the forces at of the west, and they intend to set upon Sir William Waller and when he is marched beyond Basinge house they intend to sally out of Basinge house and fall upon the reare of his army and make noe question of routing him as they have done formerly, and that Prince Robert lieth neere Toster and hath a thousand for his guard, and that there [are] warants esued out this week under Prince Roberts name bearing date the 8th. of November to comaund the country to bringe in shovells, mattoks, pickaxes and spads and allsoe men, and in case they send not as many men as they should they are to alowe twelpepence a day for the soldiers that woorke in theire steed, and that they are greatly streighned (sic) for want of quarter both for horse and men, and that thire horse in Toster sume of them doe stand in backsides above the fetlocks in dirt, and that they this day intended to move thire quarters towards Buckingham againe, that there was a man hanged at Toster for sayinge he was for the King and parliament and that they have allmost wearied Buckingham with livinge upon it soe longe and payinge lettle or nothinge for what they have.

12 NOVEMBER. Henry Parneby came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and the Prince, and that there are about 2000 souldyers and townesmen, and some few horse, and that Prince Rupert went from Brackely on Thursday last to Tossiter, and that a great parte of theire horse and foote are gone to Blisworth with intent to set upon Northampton which is but 3 miles from Northampton.



And that they report they have about 15 or 16000 horse and tenne peices of ordinance.

James Carey (not to bee paid for 10 dayes)<sup>1</sup> returnd and sayth that 4 or 500 of the Kings horse were this day about Wickham and Woobarne, and that they expect them this night att Amersam where they stand upon theire guard with 3 scoare musketeeres. And that they have beene this day att Beconsfeild. Richard Clunne. (sic).

Robert Pettitt came this day from Newport and that hee was att Buckingham Saturday night and Sunday where hee saw on Saturday 200 blew coats 200 grey coats and 200 red coates come through Buckingham on Saturday night without any colours, and two troopes of horse with colours. And they quartered that night two miles beyond Buckingham, and on Sunday morning they marched to Bister, some of them said they were to march to Oxford, others said they were to march to Sir Raph Hopton to fight with Sir William Waller. That Prince Rupert faced Northampton on Saturday where hee heard some of theire souldyers say that there were diverse comandars brought in to Toster on Saturday dead and many others wounded. Hee alsoe heard the guide that went with them to Northampton say that Prince Rupert was twice taken and got away.

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER. Raph Norton returned this day and saith that there is a regiment of horse lye at Grafton under the Lord Digby,<sup>2</sup> and about 400 horse at Perry,<sup>3</sup> and saith that Prince Roberts horse fact Northampton on Fryday last and afterwards removed their quarters and are now neerer to Warwicke, and they report that assoone as they have finished their workes at Toster they resolve to goe into the north leaving a considerable party behind to keepe the towne, and that they dayly expect some ayd from the west to goe along with them. That they scoute out every night upon the rodes and apprehend carryers and other passeingers to London and take away their goods, mony and commodities from them.

George Farmer came this day from Oxford and saith that on Fryday last there was a solemne fast and the same day newes came thither from Prince Robert that hee had had a fight about Northampton with the Parliaments forces, but hee heard not of any victory gayned on eyther side, and with all he desired that the foote which were in Oxford might bee sent unto him if they could bee spared. That there came newes alsoe at night that Sir Raph Hopton had raisd the seidge before Basing howse and had cutt off a greene regiment of foote of Sir William Wallers

<sup>1</sup>Marginal note in MS.

<sup>2</sup>The troops at Grafton House were commanded by Sir John Digby, not by George, Lord Digby.

<sup>3</sup>Paulerspury.

forces. That on Saturday morning there came an expresse from Plymouth informing them that the Kings forces had taken a skonce and hoped ere long to take the towne. And hee heard that Sir William Brewerton is gotten into Wales, and by the taking upp some bridges intends to fortifie himselfe there for this winter. That hee heard alsoe that on Saturday last a French lord<sup>1</sup> goinge to Oxford was apprehended at Newbury by the Earle of Stamfords regiment whoe tooke £3,000 from him. That there are but 100 redd coates of the Kings life guard left in Oxford and noe horse at all for service, and never smaller strength in the towne, and never greater want of fewell.

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER. William Goodhall came this day from Redding and saith that there are 2000 foote in the towne, and 6 peeces of ordnance in the markt place and 4 more planted at other places. That all the horse are gone after Sir William Waller whoe they say is gone to meete Sir Raph Hopton. That they have finished all the old workes about Redding and are making more round the towne about a stones cast from the old ones and they keepe strong guards at all the passages into the towne, and keepe the bridge drawne upp constantly at Cawsam. That hee was told by 2 men that live in Basing howse that Sir William Waller had taken an Irish lord on Saturday last at Hungerford comming to Redding and had taken £8000 from him.

Raph Norton went this day to Abbingdon. Jeremy Robbins went forth this day. Richard Clunn went to Buckingham. Robert Cox went to Newport with lettres to Maior Generall and returned att night.

THURSDAY 16TH. NOVEMBER. James Carey came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, but Prince Robert is out with a party about Banbury or Northampton. That there are but few foote soldiers in the towne and noe horse but one troope which came in on Tuesday night last, nor noe horse quartered in any place betweene this and Oxford. That there was some amunition and ordnance to goe forth but whether hee could not learne, which those horse before mencioned came to conduct.

Henry Connington came this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and Prince Robert is with a great force neere Northampton. That Sir Arthur Ashton went out on Tuesday last with a regiment of horse and another of foote towards Banbury,<sup>2</sup> and it is reported that hee is gone to assist the Lord Capill. And hee

<sup>1</sup>Probably Lord Saltoun who, while bringing money and dispatches from France to Oxford, was intercepted at Newbury on 8th November. (G. N. Godwin, *Civil War in Hampshire* (1904), p. 116).

<sup>2</sup>Aston went from Oxford to join Rupert at Towcester on 13th November. (Dugdale, 55).



heares that the Lord Hopton is marcht forth to meete Sir William Waller. And there is great reioycing at Oxford for a victory on Sondag last obteyned against Sir William Waller at Basing howse.<sup>1</sup> That there are but few forces left in the citty and neyther horse nor foote quarterd in any place betweene this and Oxford.

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER. Richard Neave came this day from Reading and saith that most of the forces are drawne out of the towne and not above four hundred left who are foote and most unarmd, and that there are but 4 peeces of ordnance which stand in the market place, none of them being planted, and all the workes are made up except at the north end of the towne. And saith that he heares that the forces that were drawne out thence and from Oxford, Abington and Wallingford are drawne towards Sir William Waller.

17TH. Richard Clunn came this daie from Buckingham and saith that on Wednesdaie last Prince Rupert faced Northampton and drew up nyne peeces of ordnance, and findeing noe opposicion pillaged the countrie and drove away the inhabitants cattell, and that yesterdaie Prince Rupert was at Easton house and in the villages thereabouts. And that there are aboute 300 foote quarterd at Helsdowne and Stiffe Cleidon.<sup>2</sup> And that he hath sent a warrant to Sir Alexander Denton of Stiffe Cleidon to avoid his house, he intending it for his owne quarter. And that they intend to fortifie the towne to the end they may barr Aylesbury garrison of their priviledges. And further saith that this daie three waggons of cheese coming for London, twoe of them were stopt and seized upon by six cavaliers foure miles on this side Newport.

18TH. Ralph Norton came this day from Dorchester and saith that out of Abbington and Wallingford went all the soldiers only five of a company left with the townsmen to keepe the townes and theire designe is to fall on Sir William Waler, and Sir Jacobb Ashly had comand in cheife of all them and alsoe those which marched forth with hime out of Readinge. That there are not above 800 soldiers left in Readinge, Abbington and Wallingford, and that the plague is very much in Oxford and alsoe in Readinge. That Sir Jacobb Ashly is to meete the Lord Hoppton and then either to follow Sir Willyam Waller or else to march for Kent. That Henly Bridge is repaireinge and alsoe Maidenhead Bridge, he asked the workmen the reason and they tould hime they had comaund from his Majestie soe to doe.

<sup>1</sup>Waller abandoned the siege of Basing House on 14th November, his troops being then mutinous because unpaid.

<sup>2</sup>Hillesden and Steeple Claydon.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH. William Harris came this day from Toster and saith that the towne is entrenched round about but not fortyfied, and saith further that there is in the towne 12 peeces of ordinance, 6 barrells of powder, and 60 round shott, the powder, shott and 6 peeces of ordinance came in upon Friday being the 17th. day of November. Hee also saith that there is diverse fresh forces came to the towne and the old soldiers are removed to Perry, there onely intent is (as they say) to starve and pine out Newport Pannell and Northampton if possibly they can.

NOVEMBER 19TH. Richard Cooke came this day from Grafton and saith that Sir John Digby and Sir John Waycutt<sup>1</sup> are fortifying the Lady Cranes house<sup>2</sup> and he further saith that he was at Toster and there is 12 peeces of ordnance and about 500 foote soldiers in the towne and 5000 horse quartered at the villages round about. Hee also saith that Prince Rupert upon Thursday last being the 16th. of November faced Northampton with all his horse and drove away 2000 sheepe and hogs to Toster and there killed them and further saith that Prince Rupert is gone to Oxford with his owne troope of horse.

NOVEMBER 19TH. James Cary came this day from Buckingham and saith that there is very few of the Kings forces there, but at Toster and the townes adiacent there is about 5 or 6000 horse and foote hee saith that they have intrenched Toster round, but have not as yet finished their works. Hee further saith there bee many laborours there workeing daily, some of them come as farr as Brill, hee also saith that one Mr. Seriant a Buckinghamsheire man stricke up his drum at Buckingham for vollenteares for his Majestye service 11th. day of November, hee also saith that there is 12 peeces of ordinance in Toster, and Prince Rupert is gone with a party of horse to Oxford.

Raph Norton went this day to Oxford. Richard Clunne went to Toster.

William Buttler went this day to Toster.

20TH. NOVEMBER 1643. Henry Cunington returnd this day and sayth that he came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and that there are very few forces there and (that they say that) Prince Robert is with a party neare Northampton and that the Lord Hopton is marched from Basing house (and as they say) towards Kent and that there went out of Oxford one Saturday last 6 loade of amunition out at the south gate (and as they say it is gone) to Basing house.

<sup>1</sup>This probably refers to Sir John Wake of Hartwell, Northamptonshire.

<sup>2</sup>Grafton House.

Henry Cunington went this day to the Lord Hopton. Goodwyn went this day to Oxford. Thomas Hunt went this day to Toster.

John Appleby returned this day and saith that he came from Oxford and that he did see 13 load of amunition goe forth from thence, and (as they say) it was to goe to Prince Robert towards Northampton and that there is but one regiment of foote soldiers in the citie and but a few horse and they scoute up and downe dayly to Wheatly and there about.

22TH. Richard Clunne returned this day from Buckingham and saith that one Fryday last Prince Robert went to Oxford and that he was expected yesterday againe at Heldsdowne or Tositer and that the Kinge is intended to goe into the north. And that there are in Toster 1000 foote and twelve peces of ordnance and that thire horse are quarterd about Toster and up toward Banbury and Dentry and that there are some allwaies at Buckingham and that there is one captaine Spicer raisinge a troope at Buckingham and that there are some 200 foote at Heldsdowne at Sir Alexander Dentons house and in the church they quarter, and that he is warned out of his house and that Prince Robert is to quarter therein, that they report Sir William Waller is quite routed by the Lord Hopton and Prince Morris. And that within short time they make noe doubt but the Lord Hopton will easily subdue Kent.

22TH. Robert Pettit returned this day from Oxford and saith that one Satterday last there came in a regiment of horse and a regiment of foote from Toster with Prince Robert and that there are in the towne aboute 5000 foote and horse. That one Munday last there were a partie aboute 300 drawne out of the Queenes regiment and marched towards Alsbury and that night they plundered a towne within a mile of Alsbury and that yesterday there was a party sent forth of Alsbury and went to Tame where they tooke of the partie that was plundringe the night before some six or seaven men.

John Applebye went this day to Toster. Robert Cox to Newport. Jeremiah Robbins returned this day from the Earl of Manchester.

NOVEMBER 23TH. Henry Cunington came this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Rupert is gone to Banbury, hee further saith that there was 8 troopes of horse drawne out of Oxford upon Munday being the 20th. day of November to goe towards Alesbury, where some of them plundred some townes (upon Tuesday last) neare unto Alesbury. Hee alsoe saith that there is a regiment of horse now in Islapp but whither they are to goe is uncertayne, and further hee saith that there is but a few forces in Oxford.

Hee further saith that there are 3000 of the Irish soldiers landed at Bristow upon Munday last and that they expect every day the rest of the soldiers in Ireland to bee landed at Chester,<sup>1</sup> and hee further saith the Lord Hoppton is at Odium, and the soldiers lye soe on this syde Oxford that there is noe passing thither without greate danger, and hee furthur saith that a party of our horse and a party of the Kings mett in Tame upon Tuesday last, but parted fayrely without the losse of a man on either side.

Robert Pettit went this day to Toster. Richard Clunne went this day to Oxford.

NOVEMBER 23TH. William Butler came this day from Toster and saith that there is 10 peeces of ordnance, and 2 drakes which lye in a karte. Hee saith that Prince Rupert is at Oxford, but is dayly expected to bee at Toster, hee saith that the Kings army consisteth of 6 or 7000 horse and foote whereof 2 or 3000 quarter in Toster and the rest in the townes adiacent. Hee saith that there is 32 waggons and carts loaden with ammunicion in Toster and that the soldiers steale and kill all the sheepe in the country. Hee saith that 3 parts of the works are throwne up and the rest are marked out, but that side of the towne towards Buckingham the works are almost finished. Hee saith that Prince Rupert quarters at the Lady Farmers house<sup>2</sup> a quarter of a mile distant from Toster towards Northampton.

NOVEMBER 23TH. Thomas Hunt came this day from Toster and saith there is 17 peeces of ordinance, and 8000 or nine thousand soldiers in the towne and villages adiacent, the soldiers are under the command of Sir Gilbert Garret, Sir Lewis Dives and Sir Arthur Aston. Hee saith further that Prince Rupert lay at Eason neare Toster upon Tuesday last, the works are all most finished towards Northampton, but towards Buckingham, they are only marked out, hee further saith upon Tuesday last they drove away a 100 beaste from the townes adiacent to Oxford.

Robert Pettit went this day to Toster. Richard Clunne went this day to Oxford. Robert Cox returnd from Newport.

NOVEMBER 24. Henry Cunington went this day to Oxford. William Butler went this day to the Lord Hopton. Thomas Hunt went this day to Toster.

NOVEMBER 24. Richard Clarke returned this day and saith that he came from Reading. The works on the western parte is made very

<sup>1</sup>The best part of these troops from Ireland was put under the command of Lord Byron, now governor of Chester and Shropshire. (Warburton II, 329).

<sup>2</sup>Easton Neston House.



strong, and larger then they were the last yeare, but the north side of Reading is as it were when the Lord Generall left it, only there is 3 gates made at Friers Corner, there is not above 200 soldiers in the towne, and 6 peeces of ordnance. Hee saith that Sir Jacob Ashley is not come back againe, since he went to relieve Basing House, hee further saith that all the townesmen are brought in upon oath to acquaint them what monys they owe to the cittyzens of London and to pay it there to the Committee. Hee further saith that the maior parte of the committee is townesmen. Hee furthur saith that Sir William Waller hath gayned a peece of ground where hee intendeth to intrench him selfe, for there is to bee a feild battail beetweene the Kings forces and ours. Collonell Boules is chosen to bring on the forces that come from Reading.

NOVEMBER 24TH. 1643. John Appleby retorned this day from Toster and saith there are 3000 foote in the towne and 2 regiments of horse quartered in the townes adiacent, there are about 6 peeces of ordnance and 20 or 30 waggons and carts layden with amunition, upon Wedson-day night a party of their horse sallied out from their quarters to Sir Peter Temples house<sup>1</sup> to pillidge it, they compell the country to come in dayly to helpe to make their workes allowing every man 8d. a day, for the foote soldiers are so idle that they will not worke. The Kings soldiers scout every day as farr as Alsbury and plunder the country round about them.

NOVEMBER 24TH. 1643. Ralph Norton retorned this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are at Oxford, upon Wedsonday last there was monys sent from Oxford to pay the soldiers in Abington and Wallingford and new coates for them, and yesterday the drums was bate up in Wallingford for the soldiers to come to receive their pay, there is none of the soldiers have their coats as yet but dragoners, and the foote men are to receive their coats when they retorne from Basing House. The King, Queene and Prince Rupert were invited to supper upon Wedsonday night and for the most part of the night they was danceing, they was likewise invited to supper at another colledge upon Thursday last for it is reported the King and Queene goes a way either upon Saturday or Munday next, but whither, they know not. The country have presented divers petitions to his Majesty concerning their inability to pay their weekly assesments except his Majesty will be pleased to take corne for it or else to lett them have free trade to London to make the best of it, that they may

<sup>1</sup>At Biddlesden, Bucks.

bee the better able to pay him. They dayly expect the Embassadors retourne from London.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Cox went this day to Newport.

NOVEMBER 24TH. 1643. Robert Pettit came this day from Toster and saith there are 3000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and townes adiacent, there is 7 peeces of ordnances 2 of them are planted in the lane that goeth towards Greenes Norton, their horse is quartered at Perry, Greenes Norton and Grafton and the towne is almost fortified.

NOVEMBER 22TH. (sic) 1643. John Lane saith Prince Rupert is at Oxford and hath sent for his sumpter horse and most of his things, all which his soldiers much wonder att, but they say hee is gone to the King to know whether his Majesty wilbe minded hee should fall upon Northampton or Newport. They are intrenching still at Toster, but they know not how long they shall continue there. There are 3 peeces of ordnance in Brackley and 10 or 12 peeces in Toster, but in Buckingham none at all. Some of theire foote which was drawne from Toster lye at Woodstocke, they plundered about Alesbury upon Wedsonday last and tooke away 500 sheepe and cattle, those of them which were fatt was sent to Oxford and the leane cattle they sent to Banbury to bee kept there for the soldiers at Toster. Northamptonshire men say if his Excellency doth not send ayd to quell the Kings soldiers in those parts they are utterly undone, some of them have beene soe much plundered that they have not a bitt of bread to give their children. Upon Tuesday last they had an alarum given them at Toster and the cry was Essex is coming, Essex is within 6 miles of us, some of them began to packe up their baggage, and some of them stood to their armes but they were al of them soe astonished that they are not well yet.

NOVEMBER 25TH. John Appleby went this day to Oxford. Ralph Norton went out this day. Richard Clarke went out this day.

NOVEMBER 25TH. Christopher Goodwine came this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there, and Prince Rupert went out of Oxford upon Wednesday last towards Northampton sheire to plunder. There are a 100 foote soldiers in Oxford and Collonell Garrett came into to Oxford upon Munday last with his regiment of horse. The soldiers brought into Oxford upon Wedsonday last a 100 bease which they pillaged in Barke-sheire, hee saith there were 2 barges loaden with sacke and suger going to Oxford, hee asked them

<sup>1</sup>The French ambassador returned from London to Oxford on 31st December. (Dugdale 57).

where they had it, they said at Henly for it came from London to Henly under Henly mens names. The report in Oxford is the Lord Hopton hath driven Sir William Waller in to Farnom Castle and hath besiedged it.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. Robert Pettit went this day to Oxford. Henry Cunington is gone this day to Oxford. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. Richard Clunne came this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Charles are there and Prince Rupert is gone backe to Toster. The Lord Byron is marched to Woster and from thence to Hereford-sheire and goe then in to the north with a 1000 horse. There are greate provision made in Oxford for their winter quarter, both for wood, hay and corne. There are 4000 horse and foote in the towne. There is a proclamacion comd forth to summon in the wards of this kingdome to renew their ward-shippis that the King may not loose his revennues.<sup>1</sup> There is another proclamacion commaunding all muster-masters to make noe false musters,<sup>2</sup> and that noe trooper appeares att a muster without pistoll or sword and noe foote soldier without musket or pike. Hee spoke with one that came from the Lord Hopton, which saith, the Lord lyeth about Odium and Aulton. And as yet hee stirreth not after Sir William Waller, but intends to fall upon him very speedily. The Lord was like to hopp betweene London and Waller which if hee had, hee made no question but to have routed his army. The report is that Prince Rupert intends to draw out some of his forces to goe and ioyn with the Lord Hopton. Hee saith the captines of the Kings army are to have halfe pay, the inferior officers whole pay and the foote soldiers 4s. a weeke, the other 2s. a weeke which they should have must bee made good to them upon accompt for the better incouragement of the soldiers.

Robert Cox returnd this day from Newport.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. Henry Cunington came this day from Islapp and saith a regiment of horse are quartered in the towne, they expect every day when they should march away, but whither it is uncertaine. There were 2 troopes of horse upon Saterdag last neare Stoken Church which robbed all the travellers they mett with all. Prince Rupert is gone from Oxford to Toster.

<sup>1</sup>Proclamation of 11th November. (Steele no. 2508, Madan no. 1489).

<sup>2</sup>Proclamation of 11th November. (Steele no. 2507, Madan no. 1487).

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. John Appleby returned this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there. Prince Rupert came into Oxford upon Sunday last with 6 troopes of horse. There came a regiment of horse yesterday from Wallingford Castle which pillaged Tame and Hadnam and carried away all the sufficientest men in the townes to Wallingford Castle. The Ambassador is dayly expected at Oxford.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. Richard Clarke came this day from Toster and saith upon Thursday last there came into Toster 4 loades of ammunition. Upon Friday last they robbed all the market folkes which went to Stony Stratford, and upon Saterdag they plundered all the townes about Toster and brought away with them 3 droves of sheepe. They plundered the Lady Longfeild<sup>1</sup> of all her coach horses, yesterday morneing the Lady came upon the bare horse backe to Toster, to see if she could gett her coach horses againe. The report is that Prince Rupert is gone towards Newbury with a party of horse and soe to the Lord Hopton.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. Thomas Hunt came this day from Toster and saith there are 12 peeces of ordnance and 6 or 7000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and townes adiacent. There were a regiment of foote marched out of Toster upon Friday last towards Brackley, but what their designe is, it is not as yet knowne. They have all most finished their workes. The report is Prince Rupert hath taken up his winter quarter at Hilsdowne where hee intendeth a regiment of horse shall quarter. There are some foote to come to Buckingham very shortly.

NOVEMBER 27TH. 1643. William Butler returned this day from Odium and saith there are 9 peeces of ordnance and a box of small drakes, there are 6 or 7000 horse and foote in the towne and townes adiacent. There were greate shooteing this day about Farnom Castle, but what was the reason of it hee knoweth not.

NOVEMBER 28TH. 1643. William Butler went to the Lord Hopton this day. Thomas Richardson went to Sir Thomas Farefax with lettres. Thomas Hunt went out this day. Richard Clarke went out this day. John Appleby went out this day. Richard Clunne went out this day.

NOVEMBER 28TH. 1643. Mr. Tomlins saith the foote that were quartered at Sir Alexander Dentons house at Hilsden neare Buckingham are most of them drawne away to march towards the Lord Hopton but

<sup>1</sup>Probably Hester Lady Longville, of Wolverton, Bucks.

there horse remaine there still. One Mr. William Smith a Parliament man within 2 miles of Buckingham is rayseing a regiment of horse and foote for the Kings service and doth make greate spoyle in that country. Some of Prince Ruperts horse are drawne 4 miles beyond Northampton. They taxe those little townes which refused to bring in provision to them at Toster, they now force them to pay 45 li. a weeke a peece. If they refuse to pay their assesments they threaten to pilledg them. They make more havocke in driveing away mens cattle (in those parts) then ever they did.

NOVEMBER 29TH. 1643. Henry Parneby went this day to Oxford. Robert Cox went this day to Newport with lettres.

NOVEMBER 30TH. 1643. Henry Cunington retorned this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene and Prince Rupert are there. Prince Rupert is drawing some horse and foote out of Oxford, but what his designe is, it is not as yet knowne. There are 5000 horse and foote of the Irish soldiers landed neare to West Chester. The report is the Earle of Newcastle hath besiedged Darby. And all the Parliament forces are gone out of Wales and left their cannons behind them. The Lord Byron is gone 3 dayes march towards Chester with 2000 horse and foote, upon Tuesday last there were 4 troopes of the Queenes regiment in Tame. There they tooke away a drove of fatt bease that were going to London, but the report in Tame is thc owner of the bease hath gott them againe.

NOVEMBER 30TH. Richard Cooke went this day to Newport with lettres.

NOVEMBER 30TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins retorned this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there. There are some horse and foote drawing out of Oxford to goe with Prince Rupert, but whether, it is not as yet knowne, there are 3 drakes that are to goe along with them.

NOVEMBER 30TH. 1643. Ralph Norton retorned this day from Crendell<sup>1</sup> and saith upon Sunday night the Lord Hopton and Sir Jacob Ashley marched towards Farnam Castle, the Kings scouts fought neare the castle all Sunday night upon Munday morneing they drew up their forces within sight of the castle and the scouts on both sides faced one another all the day long. Sir William Wallers army stood on the east side of the castle and the Kings army lay a mille of from the castle towards Crendell. Sir William did expect the Kings army would come nearer to him, but when hee understood they had noe mind to

<sup>1</sup>Crondall, near Farnham.

come nearer to him, hee discharged 3 peece of ordnance against them which did some execucion. At the dischargeing of the first peece they began to retreate, but at the shooteing of the last peece they all began to runne for feare of the bullett. Upon Munday night about 10 of the clocke the Lord Hopton and Sir Jacob Ashley retreated to Crendell where the foote intended to stay all night, but the Lord Hopton and Sir Jacob Ashley forced them to march further to a place called Hooke which is the direct road to Reading and a greate road out of the west towards London. The Lord Hoppton heareing that Sir William Wallers forces was com'd to Crendall to quarter, sent out a party to see if any of Sir William Wallers forces were marching towards them, or not. The Lord Hoppton and Sir Jacob Asley have 8000 horse and foote, for since the Lord Hoppton and Sir Jacob Ashley ioyned forces together they have had 1500 foote soldiers com'd to them from Bristow and other townes in the west. Hee saith as hee came through Basingstoake and there were 200 horse came tyered in which had been in Sussex to relieve a papists house which Colonell Maurly had beseidged. They reported they went 500 out in the party, but by reason of the deepenesse of the way they left 300 horse beehind them, which they feare are all taken slave by the Parliament army. The report is that the Lord Hoppton is to goe to Winchester with the one part of the army and Sir Jacob Asley to Reading with the other part, but as yet they are both together. They report that since the Lord Hoppton drew his forces on from Bristow, hee leaving his garrison so weake that Collonell Massy hath taken up greate soms of mony which was provided for his Majestyes service, and keepeth them so close to their garrison that they dare not stirr out.

NOVEMBER 30TH. 1643. Richard Clunne retorned this day from the Lord Hoptons army and saith upon Munday last the Lord Hoppton faced Farnam Castle but came not on to assault Sir William Waller, after some skermishing on both sides the Lord Hoppton in the eavening withdrew his army towards their old quarters which were about Odium, but now they are marcht to Hooke and some of them lye now at Swallowfeild and Arberfeild. Sir Jacob Ashley is dayly expected at Reading. There came 500 foote from Toster to Reading this weeke. There is 5 or 6 loads of ammunicion brought to the Lord Hoppton from Oxford, where of there are 20 barrells of powder. They report the Lord Hoppton hath sent many challenges to Sir William Waller but hee dare not come out to meete them. They stand in neede of iron, steele, hempe and coale, but have through some meanes or other supply thereof from London. They want hempe to make match, for match is very scarce with them. They report wee lost in the skirmish 16 men and they lost but 2. The country complayneth of Sir William



Waller his soldiers for plundering without commission, for they say there came out 60 men, which were most of them Walloons, which plundered all they layd their hands on.

DECEMBER 1ST. 1643. John Lane saith the Kings forces are still in Toster, but Prince Rupert is not there but they expect him every houre. Upon Munday last there came 10 Irish commaunders into Dayntry which said they must goe to Toster to speake with some officers there and then take post from thence to Oxford for they had some earnest businesse with the King and Queene. They reported there were 4000 Irish rebbells soddenly to bee landed at Learepoole. Sir John Digby is at the Lady Cranes house and hath some foote with him but his horse quartereth at Grafton halfe a mile distant from the house and sendeth out dayly into the country to bring in fether bedds to them. Upon Sunday last Sir John Digby was at Hanslopp (3 miles from Nuport) with a party of horse. There hee layd a taxe upon the towne that they should provid 5li. a day to bee brought in to them every third day. Tuesday last was the day of payment, they being fearefull to stay in the towne, came to Newport.

Richard Clunne went this day out. Ralph Norton went this day out.

DECEMBER THE FIRST 1643. Robert Pettit came from Tame this day and saith there were upon Tuesday last 200 of the Queenes regiment came to Tame and drove away to Oxford all the bease that were in the markt.

DECEMBER 1. 1643. William Butler came this day from the Lord Hopptons army and saith upon Munday last there were a skermish betwixt Sir William Waller and the Lord Hoppton, but Sir William had the better of it, for as they marched up the hill towards Sir William Waller, Sir William dischardged 2 or 3 of his peeeces from the Castle which made them retreate downe the hill faster than they marched up, in their retreate they plucked up too bridges for feare Sir William should pursue them. Upon Tuesday night about 12 of the clocke the enemy marched from Odium to Upton where now they quarter, but they make account to march to Winchester. The Lord Hoppton hath warned all the country from 18 to 60 to come to him to Upton with weapons as they can provide, if they refuse to come hee threateneth to plunder them. The report is after they have beene at Winchester they intend to make a fresh assault upon Sir William Wallers army againe. Hee saith as hee came through the country many of the country men refused to goe to the Lord Hopton, because they knew not whether it was the Kings pleasure for them so to doe or not.

DECEMBER 2ND. 1643. Thomas Hunt returned this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there, Prince Rupert went out yesterday towards Northampton. The King was intended to goe to Reading upon Thirsday last but by reason of the fowlenesse of the way his Majesty went not, but his troope went. They are makeing works without the West gate. There are 3 small peecees of ordnance at the East gate, and one peece at the South gate. Upon Tuesday last there were 80 of the Queenes regiment at Tame. They drove away a greate store of bease from Wickham butchers to Oxford. There are 10,000 horse and foote in Oxford. They report there are greate forces sent from Oxford into Lanchisheire.

DECEMBER 2ND. 1643. Jeremie Robbins returned this day and saith the letters which his Excellencie sent to the Committee at Warwicke and Couentry were safely delivered, but the lettre which was directed to Sir William Bruerton hee could goe noe further with it then Tomworth. But Sir Williams brother in law Sir Richard Skenington and Colonell Barker knowing it were greate danger for me to adventure myselfe to carrye it provided a spetiall messenger which knew how to esCAPE the enemy, to carry it to Sir William. Hee saith he stayd at Tomworth untill hee heard the letter were safely conveyd to Sir William.

DECEMBER 2ND. 1643. John Appleby returned this day from Buckingham and saith there were a regiment of foote and a regiment of horse came in upon Thirsday last, but went away from thence upon Friday towards Newbury. They had with them 4 waggons and 4 carts loaden with ammunicion and 4 small drakes. Hee saith hee was taken prisoner att Winslow upon Wedsonday last by the Queenes forces, and they tyed him at a horse tayle and drove him to Buckingham, but by accident in the night hee gott away from them.

William Butler went out this day. Henry Cunington went out this day. Robert Pettit went out this day. Joseph Clunne went out this day. Henry Hopkins went out this day to Oxford.

DECEMBER 3RD. 1643. Thomas Hunt went out this day.

DECEMBER 3RD. 1643. Richard Clunne returned this day from Buckingham and saith that there are some of the Kings forces scout out dayly there abouts and that the towne is never free of them but as yet they doe not quarter there, but they dayly expect when some of them should come. There are 120 foote soldiers in Helsdowne.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hillesden. For Hillesden House at this period see *Memoirs of the Verney Family* (1904), I, ch. XXII.

They have intrenched the churchyard and doe quarter in the church and in Sir Alexander Dentons house. They are very poorly arm'd and very ragged fellows. There are a greate company of foote soldiers gone from Toster to Reading. The rest of the Kings forces are yet in Toster and the townes there about, upon Tuesday last the soldiers which lye at Toster pulledged greate Horred<sup>1</sup> and tooke from thence 23 horse besides weareing apparrell and diverse other things. They have pillaged some of the inhabitants of Ulverton<sup>2</sup> of some of their cattle, and those that escaped plundering are constrained to drive away their stoare bease into Hertfordsheire and their sell them att an under rate, soe that now a man may travell into those parts and see a 1000 acres of land and never a heard of cattle on it. The Kings forces have a supply of all grocery wares and other commodities by carriers which pretend at the courts of guard at London that they have them out for the Parliaments use.

DECEMBER 4TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins retorned this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Charles are there. Prince Rupert went out upon Thursday last with 3000 horse and foote, but whither it is not as yet knowne. There are 5000 horse and foote in Oxford, and 5000 horse and foote of the Queens forces lye about Wheately and Tame. The Earle of Newcastle beseidged Darby upon Friday last. The report is the Queenes forces are to march downe towards him. There are 10,000 horse and foote of the Irish rebbells landed at West Chester upon Saterdag last. They report in Oxford if they take Darby, they intend to eate their Christmas dinner in London. The Kings forces take all the country mens horses that come into Oxford. Richard Clunne went out this day. Henry Hopkins went out this day to Oxford. John Appleby went this day to Oxford.

DECEMBER 5TH. 1643. Robert Petteet retorned this day from Toster and saith there are 4 or 5,000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and townes adiacent. There are 12 peeces of ordnance in Toster and the towne is fortified round about. They are making a mount on the further side of the towne to plant ordnance upon. There were a skermish betwixt 4 of our scouts and 4 of the Kings in Tony Stradford<sup>3</sup> towne upon Saterdag last, but our men killed 2 of them and wounded the other 2. Hee saith one Captaine Nurse, a Captaine for the King pillaged a towne neare Buckingham upon Saterdag last and upon Munday pillaged Stoke and tould the people of the towne

<sup>1</sup>Great Horwood, Bucks.

<sup>2</sup>Wolverton.

<sup>3</sup>Stony Stratford.

that ere long hee would not leave them a bitt of bread to putt in there childrens bellyes. The report in Buckingham is his Majesty hath layd Sir Lewis Dives in prison for leaveing of Newport when hee heard that our forces were coming against him and that hee must either be beheaded or hanged for it.

Robert Petteet went out this day to Reading.

DECEMBER 6TH. 1643. William Harris returned this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are gone out of Oxford but whether to Reading or Basing-house hee knoweth not. Prince Rupert is marched out of Oxford with all the forces which could be spared towards Sur William Buerton as it is suspected. There is not above a regiment of foote left in the towne, and the townesmen keepe the courts of guard. Hee saith that all commodities which the Cavileers want are sent from London to Wickam under Wickham mens names, and soe sent in the night to Oxford by waggon loads at a tyme. Hee saith hee heareth Henry Cunington Sir Samuell Luke his scout that was misused by the Cavileers when he was taken at Beckhamsfeild was taken last weeke againe at Oxford and was hanged upon Friday last.<sup>1</sup>

DECEMBER 6TH. 1643. Thomas Hunt returned this day from Toster and saith there are 6000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and townes adiacent. There are 12 peeces of ordnance and the towne is intrenched round about. Hee heareth Collonell Garrett were invited to dinner to one Mr. Moures house in Bledlow upon Tuesday last thither hee came with 4 troopes of horse. Upon Tuesday last there were some of the Queenes soldiers came to Tame to seartch for men that have beene in the Parliaments army, and to take them prisoners to Oxford, but they could find none of them. There is a regiment of foote expected to come to quarter at Buckingham this night.

DECEMBER 6TH. 1643. William Butler returned this day from Olton and saith that the Lord Hopton is there. There are 6000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and townes adiacent. They begin to intrench the towne for they intend to quarter there this winter. There are 9 peeces of ordnance in the towne. The Lord Hoppton hath sent his warrants to summon the country people from 18 years of age to 60 to come in to him, with such weapons as they can provide, but as yet very few of them come, for Sir William Waller sendeth a party of horse out dayly to intercept them that goe to him. Hee heareth the King and Queene are at Reading. The Lord Hopptons forces pillidge

<sup>1</sup>An incorrect report.

the country dayly of their bease, soe that the country people say if they continue there long, they shall not bee able to mayntayne their families.

DECEMBER 7TH. 1643. William Harris went out this day. Thomas Hunt went to Reading. William Blewet went to Oxford.

DECEMBER 7TH. 1643. Richard Clunne returned this day from Buckingham and saith there is one Colonell Smith rayseing forces there for his Majestys service, and that he is to have under his commaund a regiment of horse. They plunder all the country there abouts for horses, namely Winslow, Burcut,<sup>1</sup> Stoke<sup>2</sup> and Horrell.<sup>3</sup> They have pillaged one Seyer and Pym of Winslow, and one Peele of Burcutt. There are 500 foote in Toster and 12 peeces of ordnance. There are not about Toster and Buckingham above a 1000 horse, the rest are drawne away towards Reading. One Captaine Nurse riddeth up and downe Buckingham sheire with a party of horse and pillaged the country very much, and threateneth not to leave the country worth anything. That Prince Rupert hath sent out warrants into Buckingham sheire commaunding the inhabitants of the county that they carry noe provision to Alesbury or Layton, or any other towne neare the Parliament soldiers quarters, if they doe hee threateneth to plunder them.

DECEMBER 7TH. 1643. Robert Petteet returned this day from Reading and saith there are 3000 horse and foote in the towne and 4 peeces of ordnance. The towne is fortified round. Prince Rupert went out of Reading upon Munday last with a regiment of horse towards Basing to meete the King and Queene there. The report is the King and Queene are at Basing house with 10000 horse and foote, their designe is either for London or Hampton Court.

DECEMBER 7TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins returned this day from Oxford.

DECEMBER 8TH. 1643. Robert Petteet went out this day to Basing. Richard Clunne to Toster. Henry Hopkins went to Oxford.

DECEMBER 8TH. 1643. Henry Cunington returned this day from Oxford and saith yesterday being Thursday in the forenoone hee sawe the King and Prince Rupert at Martin<sup>4</sup> Colledge in Oxford whoe

<sup>1</sup>Burcott, south-west of Leighton Buzzard.

<sup>2</sup>Stoke Hammond, north-west of Leighton Buzzard.

<sup>3</sup>Horwood.

<sup>4</sup>Merton.

were newly come from the Queene. The King nor Queene hath not beene out of Oxford yet. The towne is very full of soldiers for Prince Rupert hath brought many with him from Toster. There is a greate garrison kept at Wheately Bridge and there are greate store of foote in the towne, and on the north side of Wheatley within 2 miles of it there are 300 horse. There are a 1000 horse and foote came to Abbingdon upon Tuesday last but from whence he knoweth not. Upon Wednesday last there came a party of horse to Hadnam 2 miles on this side Tame, there they tooke a way some horse and some men and a greate parte of their goods and brought them a way to Oxford upon Thursday last. There is greate reioyceing in Oxford for the 2 victoryes they have gott in the north<sup>1</sup>. The report is the Earle of Newcastle hath sent 6000 horse and foote to meete the Scots, and farther hee saith Prince Mauris is alive and Colonell Hurry is recovered of his wounds againe. Mr. Controuler of his Majestys house dyed of the new disease<sup>2</sup> upon Wednesday last. There is greate store of ammunicion and some small peeces of ordnance that is making ready to bee sent out of Oxford, but whither hee knoweth not. Sir Arthur Asson is chose to bee Governour of Toster<sup>3</sup> and the Lord Craford is to bee Governour of Oxford. His Majesty hath given expresse to all the soldiers about Oxford to bee in readinesse at an houres warneing, some of the soldiers say they are to fall upon Alesbury, but hee rather thinketh they intend to come to pilledge some towne or other towards Uxbridge and soe away.

DECEMBER 8TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins retorned this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there. There are 3 regiments of horse and foote in the towne. The report is Prince Rupert is to have a regiment of them and 4 peeces of ordnance to goe out with him, but upon what designe hee knoweth not. The Lord Digby received a letter upon Tuesday from the Earle of Newcastle to acquaint him with the overthrow hee gave to the Parliament forces. There are 2 regiments of horse and foote in Wheatly, there they intend to keepe garrison this winter.

DECEMBER 9TH. 1643. William Butler went out this day to Toster. Henry Cunington went to Oxford. Mr. Nicholas Luke went out with letters to Leicester.

<sup>1</sup>Victories of some of the Earl of Newcastle's forces in skirmishes on the Derbyshire-Staffordshire borders were reported in *Mercurius Aulicus*, under date 2 December.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Peter Wyche died of the new disease, the morbus campestris, then rampant in the army, and was buried in Christ Church. (Wood I, 105; Dugdale 56).

<sup>3</sup>Aston returned to Oxford from Towcester on 10 December. (Dugdale 56). He retained office as governor of Oxford until 1644.



DECEMBER 10TH. 1643. William Bluett returned this day from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there. The King and Queene intended to have gone from Oxford to Basing house upon the 30th of November but what the reason was they went not hee knoweth not. There are 5000 horse and foote in the towne. Hee saith there is a strict court of guard kept at Wheatly Bridge and 200 foote soldiers are in the towne.

DECEMBER 10TH. 1643. Jermie Robbins went out this day to the Earle of Manchester with letters.

DECEMBER 10TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins returned this day from Oxford and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there. There are 2000 horse and foote in the towne. Prince Rupert is to goe ere long out of Oxford with a party of horse and foote, but upon what designe hee knoweth not. There are 300 horse and foote in Wheatly and they keepe a strong guard dayly at the bridge.

DECEMBER 10TH. 1643. Thomas Hunt returned this day from Reading and saith they expect the King and Queene there dayly. There are 2000 horse and foote in the towne and 10 peeces of ordnance. Upon Friday last there went 500 horse and foote from Reading to Grinland on this side of Henly to Mr. Dawleys house,<sup>1</sup> there they seysed upon all his goods, some of his goods they sent to Reading and the rest they keepe for their owne uses for there is 300 foote quarter there this winter and 200 horse at Hambledon. They send for the countrymen to come to helpe to intrench Grinland. Yesterday there came 5 waggons loaden with ammunicon from Reading to Grinland. Upon Wednesday last a party of Reading forces pillaged Sir John Burlacy's<sup>2</sup> house at Bockmore and tooke away all that they layd their hands on. Sir Jacob Ashley sent warrants out upon Friday last into Buckingham sheire to warne the constables, church wardens and overseers of the poore of every parish to come Reading upon Satterday last, but what there businesse was hee knoweth not.

DECEMBER 11TH. 1643. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford.

DECEMBER 11TH. 1643. Richard Clunne returned this day from Buckingham and saith there are 60 horse or there abouts under the

<sup>1</sup>Sir John Doyley. See also letter of Essex, 14 December 1643, "The enemy is fortifying near Henly at Greenland, which will be a great Prejudice both to the River and Windsor; but by reason of my sending of those Horse [to Sir William Waller] I shall not be able to do that to them which I intended." (*House of Lords Journal*, VI, 347).

<sup>2</sup>Sir John Borlase of Medmenham and Bockmore, Bucks.

command of Collonell Smith which is rayseing forces there, captaine Nurse or captaine Spicer, which scout up and downe the country and pillidge it very much. Upon Satterday night last they plundered out of the parish of Dunton 47 bease and the country doth much complayne for want of forces to resist them, and saith, if there were any forces for the Parliament they would most of them rise to ayd and assist them. The partyes they send out to doe this mischeife are not above 12 in a company. There are not in Toster above 500 foote and not many horse lying there about. They say those that are there are some of Prince Ruperts regiment. They expect dayly more strength to bee sent to them either from Oxford or some other place. There are at Hilsdun 120 foote. There are warrants in his Majestys name come forth into Buckingham sheire as farr as Stutly,<sup>1</sup> commaunding the inhabitants of Stutly to bring in 20 li. for their parte to Buckingham within 3 dayes after the receipt of their warrants, which if they refuse to doe they threaten to plunder them. The inhabitants of the towne are resolved to stand upon their guard hopeing if they stand in need they shall have ayd and assistance from some of the Parliaments forces.

DECEMBER 11TH. 1643. Ralph Norton retorned this day from Wollington neare Nubury and saith there are noe soldiers at Newbury. There is a 100 soldiers at Denington Castle which scout up and downe to take passingers upon the road. The report at Newbury is, some of Oxford soldiers are to come to Reading to ioyn with Reading soldiers and soe to march to the Lord Hoppton. The townes about Newbury have been warned to rise to goe to the Lord Hoppton but they have disobayed the warrants, but now they heare they must goe to keepe garrison at Reading, which if they doe (they say) as soone as they enter the towne they will keepe it for the Parliament. The Kings soldiers report if they cannot overcome the Parliament army the King hath a 100 friends in London which will sett the citty on fire in a 100 places. There are diverse carrieres which come out of the west over Pangburne ferry to Henly and there load their horses with commodities which come from London thither, and soe retorne back into their owne country.

DECEMBER 11TH. Robert Petteet retorned this day from Basingstoake and saith the Lord Marquesse of Hartford is there. There are 900 horse and foote in the towne and Basing house and 12 peeces of ordnance in the house. The report is the Marquesse is to ioyn with the Lord Hoppton and to leave Basing house, for they are almost pined by reason some of Sir William Wallers soldiers quarter to neare

<sup>1</sup>Stewkley, north-west of Leighton Buzzard.

to them. Hee heareth Reading forces are marched from thence towards the Lord Hoppton.

DECEMBER 12TH. 1643. William Bluett went out this day to Oxford. Ralph Norton towards Newbury. Francis Foskett towards Toster. Richard Clunne towards the Lord Hoppton.

George Hamilton came from Ireland<sup>1</sup> and saith since the death of Sir Charles Coote the service of the kingdome being neglected by reason of the covetousnes of the officers, the Irish rebells procured armes and officers from France and Spaine, and moved these Kings to sollicite his Majestye in their behalfe for a peace. Whereupon the Irish papists at Oxford procured a commission from his Majestye to examine the Irish greevances, after the retorne of which greevances his Majestye sent over into Ireland the Lord Teth, Mr. Brent and Mr. Roch, uncle to the Lord Roch to agitate for a cessation on both sides, and alsoe commanded that the said Brent should bee secretary to the Councell of Warr at Dublin, whoe was heard to say at Chester that hee could justice and vniustice<sup>2</sup> whom hee pleasd, and sayed alsoe in Dublin since the treaty of cessation that the Irish had iust occasion to take upp armes by reason that the Papists were debarred from gouvernement, but hee hoped ere long that the Irish Papists should bee the cheife commanders, and that their governors should bee of their owne nation, and that hee hated all Protestants, onely some few hee loved for by respects. (sic) All which sayings were carryed in writing to the Lord Tychborne whoe eyther would not, or darst not move any thing in it. That the said Lord Teth and Brent by their diligence contrary to the meaning of the generality of the Irish (now become strong), procured a meeting at Gigginstone for a treatye of cessation, the contents of which treaty were sent over to his Majestye by Brent and the treaty prolonged till the messinger returned. That since the cessation the protestants over all the kingdome of Ireland are divided, some for the Earle of Ormond whoe approve of whatsoever hee does or saies, and others though they hate the Irish yett were for the King, whoe of late are soe greeved at the cessation that they intend to send commissioners to his Majestye with the rebell commissioners and to this purpose peticoned the Lord Justices to priviledge their sending over to his Majestye, which was altogether refused and they esteemed as malignants for desiring satisfacion for their losses, the liberty of their religion and security of their lives. That the said petition was set on foote lately by the Earle of Kildare, Lord Mountgomery, the Lord

<sup>1</sup>For the "cessation" in Ireland see R. Bagwell, *Ireland under the Stuarts and during the Interregnum*, II, and references given therein.

<sup>2</sup>i.e. unjustice.

Blany and many others of the greatest quality in the kingdome, yett altogether denyed by the Lords Justices whoe answered it was not a fitting tyme to hinder the peace intended, and that they would send over to his Majestye to that purpose themselves. Whereupon the foresaid noblemen and gentlemen did nominate commissioners to goe over to his Majestye, vizt. Captaine Ridgway, uncle to the Earle of Londonderry, Sir Francis Hamilton and Captaine Jones, and affixt 2 coppies of their petition upon 2 emminent places in Dublin, wishing all others to subscribe their names and to ioyn with them whereupon they have obteyned the greatest part of the Protestants to their party, whoe though they are all discountenanced by the Earle of Ormond and others in authority, yett they will bee ready to doe their best service and to spend their lives against the rebells. That the Earle of Ormond intended to come over with 6000 English to land at Neston<sup>1</sup> but by reason of the greate affaires of the kingdome being made Lord Leiftenant Generall of Ireland hee was prevented from comming. That there is a Parliament now in Dublin consisting of rebells and Protestants which was called by his Majestyes speciall commission where the Earle of Ormond must of necessity bee present. But hee intends this spring (as is generally reported) to come for England with a very strong army. That the Earle of Corke is eyther come or comming over with a regiment of horse and Sir Michael Erneley, Collonell Gibson, Collonell Hunkes and Collonell Byron are already in Chester, and are about 2200 strong in foote whoe landed at Mosten<sup>2</sup> in Wales and were brought over in shippes from Barstable and Bristoll which are returned to fetch over more foote and horse, and it is for certaine that when they are all landed their whole strength will bee about 4000 foote and 400 horse. That Sir Henry Tichburne is reported to bee sent over Generall of the forces untill the comming over of the Earle of Ormond. But hee heares since his comming into England that the Lord Byron is gone downe to Chester to bee Commander in Cheife of the Irish forces, and the 2200 which are already come are to continue in Chester untill the rest bee come over.

DECEMBER 12TH. 1643. William Butler retorned yesterday from Toster and saith there are 3000 horse and foote in Toster and the townes adiacent, there are 10 peeces of ordnance and 2 small drakes, which lye in a cart. Upon Sunday last a 1000 horse marched out of Toster to Buckingham. The report is some of the foote in Toster are to march soddenly from thence to Buckingham and the horse that are there are to goe to Oxford.

<sup>1</sup>Neston, Cheshire. The landing of troops at Neston was reported in *Mercurius Aulicus* under date 8 December.

<sup>2</sup>Mostyn, Flintshire.

DECEMBER 13TH. WEDNESDAY. Robert Petitt went forth this day towards Oxford. Mr. Hunt went out this day.

James Carey came from Marlow and saith that there were about 1000 of the Kings horse yesterday, about 40 or 50 of them came yesterday to Wickham and plundered some howses in the towne and carried some of the inhabitants prisoner along with them, and they intend to make a garrison towne of Marlowe and stopp all the passage upon the Thames. That they are making of bulwarkes at Greenland howse a mile on this side of Henley, and have warned in the contry thereabouts to come and assist them, and have planted 3 peeces of ordnance upon them. That the King hath sent out warrants into the 3 Chelton hundreds in Com. Bucks for the raysing of 300 li. a weeke which the constables are now collecting.

John Lane came this day from Grafton and saith that Sir John Digby with his regiment is quartered there, and that there are about 100 musketeers in the Lady Cranes howse. That all the Kings horse now at Grafton and Toster expect dayly to bee drawne away to Oxford, and Sir John Wake (hee heares) is comming to keepe Grafton howse, and that Prince Maurice his regiment of horse is gone to him to Plymouth. That on Monday last the Lord Willmott marcht from Brackley with 11 troopes of horse to Daintry, and hee heard that they were afterwards to goe to Lutterworth.

William Harryes came this day from Wickham and saith that there came about 30 of the Cavaliers thither yesterday, and plundered some howses in the towne and carryed away 4 of the townesmen. That the Maiors wife of Wickham followeing them for her goods, they detainne her as a prisoner and will not release her unlesse they have 45 li. paid eyther by her or some other for her. That they are fortifieing of Greenland howse neere Henley, and the reason is, as it is reported, because they intend to stopp the barges, and prevent them from carrying of billets and faggotts and all manner of tymber to London. That Wickham is assessed at 5 li. a weeke to bee paid every Fryday, and they are to send every day 20 men for 4 dayes to helpe to make upp the workes at Greenland howse.

Joseph Clun came this day from Buckingham and saith that there are 3 regiments of horse in the towne which came from Whittlebury, Perry and Greenes Norton. The commaunder in cheife over them is Collonell Walgrave. There were 300 foote drawn out of Toster on Monday last, whoe marched towards Banbury. Sir John Digby quartereth at the Lady Cranes howse, and hath 100 foote to keepe garrison there, but his regiment of horse quarter at Grafton.

THURSDAY THE 14TH. DECEMBER. 1643.

This day William Harris went forth to Newport, and also William

Blewett. Henry Connington returned this day from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert alsoe, that the towne is very full of soldiers, and on Saturday last a regiment of horse went to quarter at Abbington. That there are some 200 foote at Wheatly, and they keepe a court of guard constantly at Wheatley bridge. That there came 4 troopes to Tame to the townes and on Tuesday last and sent in 3 horsemen to see if any of the Parliament forces were there but being none they returned. That they report in Oxford that Sir Hopton hath taken Arundell Castle<sup>1</sup> in Sussex, and that the Lord Byron hath rowted Sir William Breuerton,<sup>2</sup> and that they expect dayly the comming of Marquesse Hamilton<sup>3</sup> to Oxford. That they say alsoe that there was a great fight at Plymouth on Saturday last where Prince Maurice had taken all their workes and entred the towne, but was beaten backe and lost the workes againe.

That the gouernor of Worcester is remooved from his place and Collonell Jerratt is gone to possesse his roome. And Sir Arthur Ashton is returned againe to Oxford.

Henry Hopkins returned this day from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert and that the towne is very full of soldiers, and diuers are gone from thence to Abbington. That on Tuesday last there came about 30 of them to West Wickham and plundred some howses in the towne, and there are about 300 at Wheatley and Tame, and keepe a court of guard upon Wheatley bridge, and hee heard at Oxford that Prince Maurice had taken Plymouth and lost it againe.

Isaack Smith went this day to Newport. Henry Connington went alsoe. John Lane went to Farneham and from thence to the Lord Hoptons army. Henry Parneby went to Toster. William Harryes went forth this day. Mr. Wigfall went to Maior Generall to Newport.

Richard Cooke came yesterday from Grafton and saith that Sir John Digby is quarterd at the Lady Cranes and his regiment of horse in the towne. That there about 100 foote keepe garrison in the Lady Cranes howse where they have 3 peeces of ordnance. That they keepe centry at Thrupp<sup>4</sup> bridge betweene Grafton and Newport, and 2 troopes of horse come forth every night to see if the contry bee cleere and returne to their quarters.

<sup>1</sup>On 9 December.

<sup>2</sup>Byron's entry into Northwich, reported in *Mercurius Aulicus* under date 15 December.

<sup>3</sup>James Hamilton, first Marquis (see *D.N.B.*) arrived in Oxford on 16 December. Charged with connivance with the Scottish presbyterians he was kept under house arrest in Oxford and on 3 January was sent under guard to Pendennis Castle.

<sup>4</sup>Thorpe.

FRYDAY THE 15 DECEMBER. Richard Clun returned this day and saith that on Wensday last the Lord Hopton was at Winchester and there was a councell of ware sate there to try one Captaine Heyward for plundringe. The cuntry [say] that they doe prese all as the[y] cane come att, they have prest one or two of the aldermen of Salisbury, they have prest out of the parish of Whithchurch some 15 men.

That hee came out of the Lord Hoptons army on Wednesday night last whoe now lye quartered at Winchester, Petersfeild, Arundell and Alsford in the countyes of Southampton and Sussex. That there was a councell of warr called at Winchester on Wednesday last for tryall of on Captaine Hayward, whoe had pillaged and plundered the contry. That they presse men dayly in townes and villages in Hampshire, and prest 2 of the aldermen of Salisbury, constrayned them to goe for common soldiers and pressed about 15 in Whitchurch. That hee heares there are 300 soldiers still in Basing howse. That a great party of the Irish in the Lord Hoptons army are ready to lay downe their armes, sayeing they were sent over thither to fight against Papists and now they will not fight with them against the Protestants. Whereupon the Lord Hopton hath commanded many of them to bee hand-boulted, and some are bound with match. That there were about 4 or 500 of the Lord Hoptons souldiers in Rumsey making bulworkes, hee intending to make it theire winter quarter, and there was a party of Southampton and Portchmont<sup>1</sup> souldiers issued out upon them unawares, killed and tooke the greatest part of them, that they have almost eaten out the county of Southampton and have wearied the inhabitants by their taxes, that they make noe question of getting into Kent, they presumeing of the great strength they shall get in Sussex : that they have drawne the greatest part of their forces out of the west.

Frances Foskett returned yesterday from Buckingham and saith that there are 3 regiments of horse in the towne which came from Toster on Saturday night last, and tis conceived they resolve to continue there some tyme because they have sent for great store of provision into the country thereabouts to bee brought thither. That Collonell Smith is raysing a regiment of horse, and that hee is gone to Oxford for commissions for his officers. That there are not above 200 foote left in Toster and 100 foote at Hilsden, 2 miles from Buckingham, and have entrencht themselves within the churchyard and quarter in the church and in Sir Alexander Dentons howse, and tis thought that those horse now in Buckingham when they have eaten upp the provisions and plundred the contry will not stay long there but march away to Oxford.

Robert Foskett returned this day from Buckingham and saith there are 3 regiments of horse which came on Saterdag night last from

<sup>1</sup>Portsmouth.



Toster, whoe make the country bring them in greate store of provision, espetially the townes of Harrold and Thorneborough, for the townesmen of Harrold upon compulsion brought in upon Tuesday and Wednesday last 20 sheepe readye drest, and a bullocke and a calfe, 2 dozín of hens, 6 quarter of oates, 3 quarter of wheate, 2 quarter of malt, 6 loads of hay and 2 loads of straw. That Colonell Smith, an attorneys sonne of Buckingham, is rayseing a regiment of horse and is gone to Oxford for commissions for his officers. That hee heares there are not above 200 foote left in Toster, and noe horse at all, and the country supposeth that those horse which are now in Buckingham when they have eaten up the provisions and plundered the country will not stay long there but march away to Oxford. That hee heares that one Captaine Stafford<sup>1</sup> sometymes captaine of the trayned bands of Buckinghamshire, is raysing a regiment of foote for the King, and hee saith that there are 100 foote at Hillsden within 2 miles of Buckingham, whoe have entrencht themselves within the churchyard, and quarter in the church and in Sir Alexander Dentons howse.

John Ravenscroft came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the city is very full of soldiers, most of which come thither from Westchester and Bristoll, and they serve to recrute other companies, and some of them are sent to Redding and some to Greeneland howse neere Henley. That there are many dye dayly in Oxford of the new disease (as they call it) and they are very fearfull of the Scots. That hee heares of a proclamation which is to come forth to forbidd them from marching any further, for otherwise, if they presume to come on they threaten the French shall fall upon Scotland. That they talke much of peace and wish for it, and expect very shortly for the French ambassador whoe they hope will conclude all. That they have provision sufficient of all sorts and at indifferent rates, onely fewell is extreame scarce, and their beere is very ill, and saith that if the Scotts doe come, the King will all his strength together and leave Oxford and march into the north to meete them. That the last comander that went out of Oxford was the Lord Byron, whoe is gone to Westchester with 20 collours of horse to meete with the Irish, and that the Lord Caple is goeing after him, and all of them, as hee heares, are to ioyn with the Earle of Newcastle.

William Sherwood went with lettres to the Earle of Manchester from his Excellency this evening.

SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER. Richard Cooke went forth this day to———. <sup>2</sup> Robert Petteet came yesterday from Bister and saith that there were 300 horse in the towne who came from Toster and were to goe

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Stafford, see *Memoirs of the Verney Family*, II, *passim*.

<sup>2</sup>Blank in MS.

to Sir Raph Hopton, under commaunde of Captaine Nurse whoe plunderd Stoke neere Buckingham on Wednesday last. And hee heard that there were about 100 foote whoe are fortifieing a ladyes howse<sup>1</sup> neere Brill and stopp and pillage passengers upon the way. And saith at divers howses where hee hath beene plundering betwixt Buckingham and Layton that hee will make them eate one another before hee leaves them. That hee heard that a party of horse which came from Toster and quartered at Buckingham being 3 regiments went from thence yesterday, and as hee heared they are gone to Oxford and Wheatley and from thence are to goe to Sir Raph Hopton. Isaack Dafforne went this day with Collonell Beare. Robert Cox went with him. Thomas Richardson went to Collonell Beare.

Raph Norton went towards the Lord Hopton, and informed yesterday that at Redding there are 600 soldiers more come from Buckingham and they report they were to march to Raph Hopton very speedily. That hee heares they report at Oxford that they have defeated Sir William Brereton, and they are now pursuing of him. And that they were all Irish soldiers and that they shall have 10000 more come to them from Ireland within 3 weekes. That there are noe soldiers at Henley, but the townesmen and all thereabouts are making of bulwarkes at Greyes and Greenland howse, where there are about 200 men,<sup>2</sup> which cause the contry to bring in mony, and provision. They bragg that they have plundered all the Roundheads in Wickham and carryed them away. That hee heares there are but 500 soldiers in Bristoll and are affraid that the towne will rise for they are all Roundheads (they say) except the maior and 2 or 3 aldermen, and that the townesmen run to Collonell Massey, and acquaint him with all things that happen there. That a party of Welshmen of about 500 came to fetch away cattle from Highnam howse. But Collonell Massey having notice of it, sallyed out with 300 musketeers and one troope of horse, and tooke most of them. That hee heard that Sir Raph Hopton hath lost many taken by Sir William Waller. And saith that since they have fortified Greenland howse, they stopp all passage by water, and will not suffer any fewell to bee conveyed that way to London.

Richard Clun went forth this day being Saturday.

MONDAY THE 18TH DECEMBER. Robert Pettitt went forth this day towards the Kings forces. Henry Connington returned yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Quene are there, and Prince

<sup>1</sup>Probably Lady Denham's house at Boarstall.

<sup>2</sup>Sir Jacob Astley had sent Sir Charles Blunt to view Grays House in October (MS. Rawl. D. 395, f. 144) and in November put 50 musketeers into Grays House and 100 into Greenland House. (Astley to Rupert, 11 November. MS. Firth c. 6, f. 257).

Robert came into the citty on Sattarday last with one troope of horse onely, and continues there still. That there is a great preparacion in Oxford both of horse and foote for some new designe, and great store of ammunition and 8 peeces of ordnance making ready for that purpose, and hee heares that they are to march away to the assistance of the Lord Hopton, and Prince Robert hath drawn out all his forces towards Abbington to goe along with them. That 3 or 4 troopes of horse goe dayly from Oxford to Tame, where they continue an hower or twoe drinking, and returne to their quarters.

Henry Parneby returned this day and saith that on Satturday last hee was in Toster and there are about 1000 horse and foote quartered in the towne and in 3 townes adioyning vizt. Whittlebury, Paules Perry and Parryes Perry, and that that (sic) there are 8 peeces of ordnance in Toster, 6 in the markt place and 2 planted upon a hill towards Northampton. That the workes are all made upp, but more strong at the end of the towne towards London. That Collonell Jerratt marcht from thence on Friday last was sevenight with above 1000 horse and foote and 2 peeces of ordnance, and as it is reported is advanc't to Worcester.

Richard Cooke came yesterday from Toster, and saith there are 1000 Welshmen horse and foote in the towne, which came from Worcester, and some 200 horse quartered without the towne at Whittlebury, Heppencott and Paules Perry, and they have 8 peeces of ordinance in Toster, 6 in the markt place and 2 planted upon a hill towards Northampton. That Collonell Jerratt marcht out of Toster on Friday last was sevenight with 1000 horse and foote and 2 peeces of ordnance, and hee heares that hee is eyther gone to Worcester or else to relieve the Lord Hopton.

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER. Thomas Richardson went this day to Bedford. Richard Cooke to Buckingham.

WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER. Richard Clunne returned this day and saith that on Monday last the Lord Hopton was at Winchester with about 800 foote and 9 peeces of ordnance. And that there are about 1500 horse quartered in the towne and other townes and villages adjacent. That there are 1000 foote alsoe at Rumsey and 2 loades of amunition which the Lord Hopton sent thither on Satturday last to secure the towne. That there are about 500 horse and foote at Arundell Castle under the command of the late Recorder of Chichester. That on Monday last there being about 120 of the Lord Hoptons forces in the Earle of Northumberlands howse at Pettworth and heareing of Sir William Wallers coming to Maidhurst, as hee heares, they deserted the howse and all ran away to Winchester. That there are some of his

forces alsoe drawn to Alsford and intend to keepe garrison there. That they expect Prince Robert at Winchester with a party of horse very suddenly. That a Collonell that brought over 1200 men out of Ireland and had ioyned themselves with the Lord Hopton, the greatest part of them are run away. That there is great store of allum carryed dayly to Redding and other places to make salt peeter withall. That on Sonday last hee sawe 2 barges the one laden with wine and hopps and the other with coles and iron, and as hee was informed were to goe from thence to Henley and soe to bee conveyed in carts to Oxford, and that the last weeke there came 2 cart loades of musketts from Basing howse to Winchester.

Raph Norton returned yesterday from Newbury and saith that there are 3000 horse and foote in the towne where they have beene these 3 dayes expecting both the King himselfe and more forces from Oxford to ioine with them, and soe to march to the Lord Hopton and after to fall upon Sir William Waller. That the King hath granted a commission to certaine persons to search the contry for hempe and flax to make match withall. And iron is soe scarce amongst them that they are faine to take barrs out of the windowes to make horseshoes. That the soldiers in Newbury came most of them out of Ireland and say they will not fight against the Protestants insoemuch as they imprison some, and others they threaten to hang. That they expect the comming of the Earle of Essex at Henley and Wickham, which makes them fearefull to remove thence from their quarters.

Francis Foscett returned this day and saith that hee was in Buckingham on Monday last, and that all the Kings forces are gone from thence to Oxford, being sent for on Saturday last by his Majestye. That before their going they came to the Lady Louetts howse at Liscombe,<sup>1</sup> and tooke away 7 beasts and were alsoe at Berkett<sup>2</sup> and tooke away 3 horses from one Thomas Russell. That there are some 20 in Buckingham under Collonell Smith, whoe went to Stukeley to seeke for one Captaine Shelborne but mist of him, and that Collonell Smith hath not yett gott upp his regiment. That there were 400 in Tame yesterday and they come dayly and returne againe at night to their quarters.

John Lane returned this day and saith that the Lord Hopton is now in Winchester, and hath gathered upp all his forces in Hampshire and thereabouts which are 3000 horse and foote, and intends to march from thence to Arundell Castle where hee is to meete with the Lord Moone, and having ioyned forces they report that they are to fall upon Sir William Waller. That on Sonday last there was a great quantity of powder blowne upp by one of our soldiers whoe was taken a prisoner and comming along in a cart, sett fire on it with a match. That there

<sup>1</sup>Liscombe Manor, Soulbury.

<sup>2</sup>Burcott, near Leighton Buzzard.

is great store of amunition sent lately from Basing howse to Winchester, where they expect the comming of Prince Robert dayly.

William Blewett came yesterday from Buckingham and saith that Sir John Digbyes regiment was to come in that [day] from Graffton and that there were 300 horse there before and that they have warned in the contry to come and helpe to digg and make bulwarks, for they entend to keepe garrison there this winter, and they are to have 2 peeces of ordnance to come in very shortly, and that there are 200 horse alsoe quarterd at Brackley, 4 miles from Buckingham.

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER. William Blewett went this day to Newport. Richard Foscett went with him. Raph Norton went this day to Henley. Henry Parneby to Toster. John Lane went this day to Buckingham. Richard Clunn went forth this day. Francis Coles went this day to Oxford.

FRYDAY 22 DECEMBER. Richard Cooke came yesterday from Buckingham and saith that there bee noe soldiers in the towne, onely a few horse which scoute upp and downe the contry, and that they marcht all away on Saturday last to Bister, and hee heares that they are to goe from thence to Banbury. That they have digged and made some little workes at both ends of the towne, but in noe place else. That a small party of the Cavallyers came to Layton on Wednesday night last and plundred 2 or 3 howses in the towne and returned. That the Lord Digby with his regiment of horse lye still at Graffton but hee heares that they are to march away from thence this weeke.

Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert alsoe, and the towne is full of soldiers, and all Prince Roberts horse (as hee heares) are quarterd at Abbingdon and Islipp, and 200 foote at Wheatley and a court of guard kept upon the bridge. That Marquesse Hamilton came into Oxford on Fryday or Saturday last and assoone as hee came was apprehended and imprisoned and not suffered to speake with the King, and hath since Tuesday last beene kept close prisoner, and his accusers were to bee heard before his Majestye yesterday in Christchurch colledge hall. That the Lord Capell is in Oxford, came in on Tuesday and was appointed that yesterday hee should bee made an earle. That they report in Oxford that about Monday last, their forces tooke Beeston Castle in Chesshire and great store of provision. And they say that Prince Maurice hath had another fight lately at Plymouth and have gotten their workes againe. And the soldiers say they will bee hanged if Sir William Waller take not Arundell Castle because the King doth not send them a speedy supply. That Mercurius

Aulicus came not out this weeke till Wednesday late at night, and that Aulicus lyes a dyeing<sup>1</sup>.

Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert, and there are 3000 horse and foote in the citty and 8 peeces of ordnance. That they intended to marche out on Monday last and hee heares they were to goe to assist the Lord Hopton, but did not. That they report that Prince Maurice hath had another fight at Plymouth and hath all taken all their outworkes, and that they have taken a castle in Cheshire and great store of provision, and that there are 200 foote which keepe garrison at Wheatley.

SATURDAY 23 DECEMBER. William Blewett went this morning to Newport. Nicholas Luke went to Luton.

SONDAY 24 DECEMBER. Mr. Nicholas Luke went this day to Newport and Graffton.

Francis Cole returned yesterday from Oxford where hee saw the King, Prince Charles, Prince Rupert, Duke of Yorke and Duke of Buckingham playing at tennis three houres togeather. Hee alsoe saw Lord Generall Ruven<sup>2</sup> walking in the streets. The towne is very full of people. They report they are 6000 strong in the towne. But hee beleeves there are not above 3000. The Lord Willmott marcht out of Oxford with a party of horse on Fryday to Abbington. That on Thursday night last the governor of Oxford<sup>3</sup> was rideing in the streets, his footman runing by him who jossed a gentleman. The governor bid his footman cut the gentleman. Then the gentleman strucke the teeth out of his head and ran a tilt att the governor and ran his sword against one of his rib. But its likely to proove mortall which the generallity of the city pray for. And who did it not knowne. That Sir Thomas Byron was stabd this weeke by a captaine, but is likely to recover.<sup>4</sup> The captaine was presently shott to death by the King's expresse comand. That the Duke Hamilton is still kept close prisoner, a great guard being continually about the inne where hee lyes. Thursday was appoynted for his hearing, but it was deferred and noe tyme yet prefixed for his hearing. They report they have great forces att Newburye but not yet removved. Hee heard nothing

<sup>1</sup>The author of *Mercurius Aulicus*, Sir John Birkenhead, 1616-79, see *D.N.B.*

<sup>2</sup>Patrick Ruthven (see *D.N.B.*), Earl of Forth and Brentford, Lord General of the King's army.

<sup>3</sup>This incident is briefly confirmed by Dugdale (*Diary*, 57).

<sup>4</sup>Byron was wounded by Capt. Hurst on 7 December. Hurst was shot on 14 December. Byron died on 5 February and was buried in Christ Church on 9 February. (Dugdale, 56, 60-1).

either of Tossiter or Arundell att Oxford. That there are 250 suits to bee made for the Queens servants but they want materials to make them upp.

MUNDAY DECEMBER 25, 1643. Jerremie Robbins retorned this day from Grafton and saith that hee came from thence yesterday at 6 of the clocke and that the house was delivered up to the Maior Generall<sup>1</sup> at 4 in the afternoone upon articles of agreement, but what they were hee knoweth not, further than every colonell and man of quallity in the house was to bee prisoner to men of the like quallity in our party. Hee saith further that Sir John Digby and Sir Edward Longfeild and 4 or 5 colonells more were there with 300 common soldiers. That the house was extraordinary rich of pilledge and they tooke 80 or a 100 brave horses there besides other ordinary horses.

Joseph Clun went this day with letters to Collonel Beare, Sir William Waller, Collonel Cooke and Isaack Dafforne, at Petworth and Arundell.

Henry Hopkins returned this day and saith that goeing towards Oxford on Satturday last hee was stopt and examined at Wheatley bridge and after they had searcht him, hee was committed to safe custody that night but in the morning was releast. That they heard at Wheatly that the Earle of Essex was advanct to Alesbury, gave an allalarme whereupon 5 troopes of horse went presently to Brill intending to take some of our forces which were there and the rest stood upon their guard. That all the foote are goeing from Wheatley, and horse are to come and quarter in their roome. That hee heard at Wheatley that there was a Scottish earle prisoner at Oxford. That the governor was stabbd on Satturday last, and is dead, and that Collonel Byron was stabbd alsoe by a captaine and the captaine was presently after shott to death by his Majestyes command, and hee heares that the King intends speedily to call a Parliament to be kept at Oxford.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that being on Satturday last at Whitchurch, hee heard that Sir William Waller had taken Arundell towne<sup>2</sup> and had planted his ordnance upon the church against the castle, which they said was strong enough to indure a fortnight in regard they had in it both sheepe oxen and other provision. That Sir Raph Hopton is in Winchester and intended to have gone before this to their assistance but onely staying for more forces from Oxford and other places, and they report that their soldiers are quartered round about Sir William Wallers army already. That they presse

<sup>1</sup>Sir John Digby surrendered with his forces at Grafton House to Major General Skippon on 24 December. (Rushworth, *Hist. Coll.* pt. 3, vol. II, 296).

<sup>2</sup>Waller began his siege on 20 December; the castle surrendered to him on 6 January.



soldiers still in the contry and that hee was prest himselfe, but gott of with 2 others which were formerly prest at the Devises. That comming backe hee sawe 12 or 13 collours of horse and 6 black collours of foote under the comand of the Earle Rivers,<sup>1</sup> but hee heares there were about 4000 horse and foote in all marching towards Winchester and that Sir Lewis Dives was commander in cheife.

Henry Parneby saith that goeing to Toster on Friday last, hee was stayed by the Parliaments forces whoe were then marching thither but being released hee went the next day to Graffton where hee sawe our forces lye against the Lady Cranes howse and the church, where unto the Kings forces had betaken themselves, and heared the ordnance discharged. And hee heares that all the Kings forces which quartered at Whittlebury, Paules Perry and thereabouts are drawn from thence into Toster, and that those which ly at Brackley are marcht towards Woodstocke. That hee returned by Buckingham and saith that yesterday there were noe soldiers at all in the towne neyther horse nor foote.

Raph Norton went to Graffton.

MUNDAY DECEMBER 25TH. 1643. Nicholas Luke retorned this day from Grafton, and saith Maior Generall was marching this morneing to Newport with his whole army, hee tooke at the Lady Cranes house 200 prisoners, which are gone to Newport with him whereof Sir John Digby was one. The soldiers had greate store of plate there, the booty did soe incourage them that they were very willing to fall upon Toster, but the reason why they fell not upon it was because they were almost tyred out by reason of their hard quarter. Sir John Digby who was commaunder in cheife would not yeild the house up upon noe condicions but when the Maior Generall had sent for 2 peeeces of ordnance to Northampton and they were come to him, after 2 or 3 shoots they sounded a parly about 2 of the clocke in the afternoone, and betweene 4 or 5 of the clocke in the after noone it was delivered up.

TUESDAY, 26 DECEMBER. Francis Coles went this day to Oxford. Henry Hopkins to Oxford.

Henry Connington returned this day and sayth that the King and Queene and Prince Robert are there, and the towne very full of soldiers, and there is noe talke of the remooving of any of the Kings forces eyther from thence or any other place, onely the Queens owne troope is goeing to bee quarterd at Wheatley. That the governor of Oxford was stabbed the last weeke, which all the citty is extreame glad of. And hee heares a muttering in the towne that Marquesse Hamilton

<sup>1</sup>John Savage, Earl Rivers, colonel of a regiment of foot in the King's army, governor of Donnington Castle. (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

is conveyed away privately to Bristoll. That they report there hath beene lately a great fight at Gloster betweene Collonell Massey and the Irishmen, and that the Irish gott the better. That the Earle of Newcastle hath taken Wingfeild mannor in Derbyshire.<sup>1</sup> That the Lord Caple is made privy councillor. That the Lord Byron has allmost taken Sir William Breuerton and hath taken Lanchier<sup>2</sup> his next commander in cheife. And hee heares that the King is about to call a Parliament<sup>3</sup> to bee kept at Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER. John Lane came from Grafton. Edward Harryes from Newport. William Blewett returned alsoe with him. Raph Norton came from Newport. Richard Cooke went to Luton.

Raph Norton returned this day and saith that since the Maior Generall left Grafton the Cavallyers in Toster begin to scout upp and downe and there are 300 foote more come to Toster on Satturday last and hee heares from Oxford, and expect dayly to bee beseidged by the Parliaments forces. And that all the soldiers that were quartered at Brackley, Buckingham and thereabouts are drawn away to Oxford. And hee heares that ther are 5 or 6 Lords come from the King, vizt. the Earle of Bedford, the Lord Pagett, the Earle of Carlisle and the Earle of Clare.<sup>4</sup>

Robert Cox went this night to Newport with a letter to Maior Generall. Mounseur Sherrat came from Newport.

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER. William Harryes went to Newport. John Lane went to Buckingham. William Blewett went to Oxford. Raph Norton went to Winchester.

FRYDAY 29 DECEMBER. Henry Connington returned yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King, Queene and Prince Robert are there, and the citty full of soldiers there being by report about 3000 in the towne. That Marquesse Hamilton is still in prison in Oxford in a private howse neere the Northgate. That Collonell Hurry and Sir

<sup>1</sup>Wingfield manor was taken by some of Newcastle's forces under Sir Francis Mackworth on 15 December. (*Mercurius Aulicus* for week ending 23 December).

<sup>2</sup>Unidentified.

<sup>3</sup>The proclamation for the assembling of the Members of both Houses at Oxford was dated 22 December. (Steele no. 2517; Madan no. 1504). Writs were dated 24 December.

<sup>4</sup>Of those mentioned only Bedford and Clare left Oxford, on 26 December. For the Earl of Carlisle see p. 229 n. 2. Lord Paget was still in Oxford early in 1644, being one of those who signed the letter from the Oxford Parliament to the Earl of Essex, 27 January. (Rushworth, *Hist. Coll.* pt. 3, vol. II, 573). He eventually "came in" to the Earl of Essex at Plymouth in September 1644. (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

Arthur Ashton are abroad againe, and that there is great sorrow at Oxford for the losse of Graffton howse, but esppecially for Sir John Digby.

Henry Hopkins returned this day and saith that hee was in Oxford yesterday and that the King, Queene and Prince Robert were then there, and that there are about 3000 soldiers in the city, and 200 foote at Wheatly, but hee heares they are to remoove, and the Queenes horse are to quarter there. That Prince Robert marchd away on Sunday last with a great party of horse to relieve Sir John Digby at Graffton, but comming too late hee returned to Oxford on Tuesday, and (as hee heares) told the King that hee would goe out noe more except hee might have power to burne downe all wheresoever hee came. That Sir Arthur Ashton is abroad againe, and Marquesse Hamilton is still kept close prisoner in Oxford.

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER. William Burgen went this morning with letters to London.

John Lane returned this day and saith that hee came from Buckingham and saith that there came 2 troopes of horse the last night thither from Oxford and went this morning to Brackley, and that some of the Kings forces lye at Brill, Blackthorne and Bister. That there lay a regiment of horse on Thursday night last which came out of Derbyshire at Daventry, and the next day marcht to Banbury and afterwards to Oxford. That on Thursday last some of the Cavaliers being at Winchlow, our forces met them and fired each upon another, and both retreated and noe hurt donne, and they threaten daily to plunder Layton. And hee heard that Prince Maurice is come to Oxford. William Burgen came this night with letters from London.

SONDAY 31 DECEMBER. Robert Cox went this day to Arundell with letters to Sir William Waller, Collonell Beare and the Governor of Farneham. Richard Cooke went this day to Newport.

John Blewett returned this day and saith hee was this morning at Slow and heard at Uxbridge that the French Ambassador passing through Uxbridge, the trayned bands of the county of Hartford which quarter there gave him 3 or 4 volley of shott. That there is a regiment of foote and 150 horse in the towne, and some very strong workes at all passages into the towne.

Joseph Clun came from Arundell on Friday last about 12 alocke at noone and saith that Sir William Waller lyes still with his forces against Arundell Castle, and is in hope to take it within a short tyme for on Thursday last in the evening the enemy sounded a parly, and sent out word to Sir William Waller that if hee would give them leave

to march out with their armes, bagg and baggage, they would immediatly surrender upp the castle and march all away, which Sir William Waller refused. That on Friday morning Sir William Waller sent a letter into the castle, and they about 2 howers after they returned an answere but the contents thereof hee knowes not. That they have noe bread left but onely a small quanty of wheate, beife and salt, and noe hay or provander being constrayned to instead thereof to give them ivye leaves which grew against the castle wall. That divers of their soldiers gett out of the castle and come to Sir William Waller, and they report that it is impossible they could hold out above 4 days longer. That hee heard of about 3000 horse under the command of Sir Raph Hopton coming within 14 miles of Arundell to their releife but they can bring neyther ordinnance nor foote by reason of the badnes of the wayes. That divers of the commanders and officers made an escape out of the castle in a lether boate which they had made on purpose, which boate was found the next morning tyed to the shore within a mile of the towne. That Collonell Forde walking the round badd the soldiers not to shoot till hee returned, but hee came noe more to them, and tis reported that hee escaped.

William Blewett retorned yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King Queene and Prince Rupert are there. There are 3 thousand horse and foote in the towne, and 16 peeces of ordnance, hee heareth there are 4 or 5 lords in Oxford which would willingly deserte them and come to the Parliament if they could conveniently gett away. Hee saith the workes which the soldiers make about Oxford in the day tyme are pulled downe in the night, but by whom hee knoweth not. The soldiers are soe affrighted at it that they dare not keepe their guards. It is reported in Oxford that Colonell Hurrey was slayne<sup>1</sup> there the last weeke by one of the common soldiers. Hee saith there are 300 foote at Wheatly and keepe a strong guard at the bridge.

MONDAY 1 JANUARY. [1643/4] Richard Clun went this day to Winchester, and that way. William Burgen went this morning with letters to Maior Generall and to the Committee at Northampton. Richard Evans went to Maior Generall with letters from his Excellency.

2 JANUARY. Henry Hopkins went to Oxford. William Blewett to the townes adioyning. John Lane went to Banbury.

Richard Hunt came from Coventry and saith that on Christmasse day in the morning there went out of Warwicke and Coventry 11

<sup>1</sup>A popular but incorrect report, cf. *Mercurius Aulicus*, "That Colone Urrey was buried at Oxford with a great deal of Popish Pompe (he desires a bill of his funeral expenses)". (*Summarized extracts*, p. 67).

collours of foote and —<sup>1</sup>troopes of horse and dragoones and on Tuesday following came before Sir Thomas Holts howse at Aston<sup>2</sup> where they tooke and kild 20, tooke 100 prisoner, and 60 horse with the losse of 3 men onely, with all their armes and amunition and plundred the howse. That on Satturday in the morning they came to Mr. Sheldons howse at Beely and the next morning they tooke the howse and in it 80 prisoners and beetweene 50 and 60 horse, divers sheepe and cattle, and all the goods in and about the howse without the losse of one man, onely 3 wounded, and afterwards burnt the howse.

Joseph Clun went this day to Arundell with letters to Collonell Beare.

Jeremy Robbins went to London with letters from the Lord Roberts to his Excellency.

WEDNESDAY 3 JANUARY. Henry Parneby returned from Basing and saith that there were 300 men prest the last weeke for the King in Berkeshire, and sent to Redding, and 100 old soldiers drawn out and sent to Newbury [to] Prince Robert on Thursday last to goe along with his forces from thence to Winchester, which by report were 3000 horse and foote, and thence to ioyn with Sir Raph Hopton to march after Sir William Waller to Arundell. That all the men in Hampshire from 16 to 60 are warnd in to guard Winchester till Sir Raph Hopton returned, and hee heares that on Thursday last the Kings forces in Arundell castle sallyed out, resolving to make their way through Sir William Wallers forces or dye, but were all beaten in againe, and in their returne tooke an enginer of Sir William Wallers prisoner. That Sir William Waller and one of his collonells walking together, the collonell (whose name hee knowes not) was shott and kild by one of their owne musketeers, whoe being apprehended and questioned for it replied, that hee was sorry for nothing but that hee had not kild Sir William Waller.

Henry Parneby went this day to Farnham. William Harryes went to Oxford. William Blewett came from Tettesworth neere Oxford where hee mett a man that came from Oxford yesterday whoe told him that there were abundance of the Kings forces both horse and foote in Oxford, where the King Queene and Prince Robert are. That they are in a reddines to but cannot goe out with carriages by reason of the badnesse of the wayes and deepnes of the waters. That the King intended to goe into Kent but feares hee shall not by reason of the Scotts comming into England. That there lyes 60 of the

<sup>1</sup>Figure indecipherable.

<sup>2</sup>A Parliamentary force under Col. Boswell took Aston Hall, Birmingham on 28 December, and the Sheldons' house at Beoley, Worcestershire on 31 December. (Dugdale, 57).

Queene[s] life guard at Wheatley to examine all passengers, and that most of Prince Roberts horse lye nere Oxford.

John Blewett went this day with letters to Maior Generall from his Excellency to Newport. Jeremy Robins came this day from London.

THURSDAY 4 JANUARY. Raph Norton came on Tuesday from Arundell att which tyme the castle was not taken but there came 7 or 8 att a tyme 3 or 4 tymes a day over the castle walls who reported they were almost starved to death. They had but 2 spoonefuls of wheate and a very small allowance of beife in a day. And reported they could not hold out above 3 dayes. Sir Raph Hopton came last weeke with his whole army to assist them in the casle but finding himselfe too weake retreated. But since is come within 5 miles of Chichester where hee lyes expecting some assistance from Prince Rupert. Sir William hath quartered all his horse on the other side of the water for the enemy should have noe advantage to fall upon his quarters. Sir William keepes a strong guard of horse 2 or 3 miles of Arundell to see when the enemy approaches, the souldyers are very willing to fight.

John Lane returned yesterday from Buckingham where there are none of the Kings forces quartered, only some of them are scouting upp and downe thereabouts continually.

That Sir John Wake<sup>1</sup> is quartered at Bister and the Lord Carlile<sup>2</sup> att Windleborough.<sup>3</sup> The Lord Willmott's regiment lyes att Brackelye where they have one drake for theire safe guard. That there are about 700 foot in Toster and provision comes in soe slowly, that its thought they will not stay long there. On that side the towne next Northampton there is a strong guard of horse. Northampton forces came within a mile and a halfe of Toster about Saturday last and tooke a leiuutenant collonell, killd a sergeant maior and his man and some 4 more tooke some fore prisoners. Sir Thomas Holt was taken att his owne house and about 100 prisoners by Coventry forces, and 2 captaines killd. They went from thence and tooke Mr. Sheltons house and some 40 or 50 prisoners. And in the meane whyle the Lord Grey faced Collonell Hastings. That the Earle of Newcastles forces are most of them gone from Derbye to Yorke and hee himselfe upon his march for feare of the Scotts.

Robert Pettitt saith that hee went from St. Albans on Monday was fortnight to goe to Toster, but his horse was taken from him at Marsh<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sir John Wake of Hartwell, Northants. (*Northamptonshire Families*, ed. O. Barron (1906), p. 328).

<sup>2</sup>James Hay, Earl of Carlisle, Colonel of a regiment of horse in the Royal army, 1642-6. (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

<sup>3</sup>Wendlebury, 2½ miles south-west of Bicester.

<sup>4</sup>Marsh Gibbon.

by one Mr. Rawlins. Sir John Wakes soldiers being there tooke him prisoner and forced him to take upp armes under the Earle of Carlile and went from thence to Wellingborough<sup>1</sup> and Bister to meete him at the randevous at Byards greene<sup>2</sup> to goe to releev Sir John Digby, but hee came not till Christmas day, and then hee came within 3 miles of Toster where hee heard Sir John Digby was taken. Whereupon order was given that every man should retreat to his quarter, which was donne accordingly. Sir John Wakes regiment lyes at Bister and the Earle of Carliles at Wellingborough, and both regiments not above 140. Hee heard the Earle of Carlile came to Waddesden to meete the Earle of Bedford, but hee comming too late and the Kings scouts being in the towne they carryed him backe prisoner to Oxford.<sup>3</sup>

John Ranschaft returned yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there, but most of Prince Ruperts army is quarterd within 6 miles of the towne. There are 2000 horse and foote in Oxford. Word came to his Majesty upon Saterdag last that the Lord Strang<sup>4</sup> had routed Sir William Breuerton and taken 1800 prisoners and 6 peeces of ordnance and slayne 800. The Earle of Newcastle hath sent out his warrants into all the townes in Yorksheire to warne the trayned bands to come to him and soe hee intends to goe to stopp the passage of the Scotts. They are very ioyfull of the ambassadors<sup>5</sup> coming to Oxford and the bells rung for ioy, the ambassador intended to have spoken with the King upon Sunday last but hee spoke not with him untill Munday about 3 of the clocke. Many of the soldiers which came out of Ireland runne away from Hoppton. That the[y] presse all the men they can in the west country to goe to ayd the Lord Hoppton against Sir William Waller for they feare him very much. The Marquesse of Hamilton is at liberty againe and walks up and downe the citty under bayle. That the Earle of Carnarvan<sup>6</sup> came from the King to save his estate. And that the Earle of Bedford compounded with the Earle of Essex to give his army a weekes pay.

<sup>1</sup>A mistake for Wendlebury.

<sup>2</sup>Baynards Green, 5 miles north-west of Bicester.

<sup>3</sup>A confused and inaccurate report. Bedford reached Essex's quarters at St. Albans on 27 December. (Dugdale 57; *House of Lords Journal*, VI, 356).

<sup>4</sup>Possibly a reference to James Stanley, Earl of Derby, Lord Lieutenant of Lancaster and Chester, known as Lord Strange before succeeding to the earldom in September 1642. (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*). The news printed in *Mercurius Aulicus* under date 30 December was the defeat of Brereton's forces at Middlewich by Lord Byron.

<sup>5</sup>The French ambassador came again from London to Oxford, 31 December. (Dugdale, 57).

<sup>6</sup>Charles Dormer, second earl, (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*), went from Oxford to London in November and was committed by Parliament to the care of the Earl of Pembroke. (Whitelocke I, 226). The sequestration was taken off his estates on 9 December. (*House of Lords Journal*, VI, 333-4).



Richard Clunne retorned yesterday from the Lord Hoppton and saith that one Tuesday last the Lord Hoppton was at Petersfeild with the Lord Willmott who came thither with a party of horse from Oxford to goe against Sir William Waller. That the Lord Hoppton is dayly expected at Winchester with his forces, which they report to bee 9 or 10000. And that those which they have prest in the country are most of them armed with staves and hoppoles, and are affrayd they shall not bee able to releive their friends in Arundell castle, by reason they cannot passe with their carriages they wayes being soe extreme ill and narrow. That the seidge at Plymouth is rayсед, and Prince Rupert is alive and gone into Cornewall with the Lord Moone, and intend to quarter there this winter. That they report their forces in the west to bee about 8000. That there were 1200 men prest in Wiltshire and brought them to Chipnam and the Devises, but being upon their march towards the Lord Hoppton with their commaunders, they begunne to mutiny amongst themselves, where upon their commaunders left them and they retorned home. That Wiltshire is taxt at 1200 pound a weeke,<sup>1</sup> besides priuee scales.<sup>2</sup> That the inhabitants of Hampsheire doe complayne of the greate charge they are att by payments and giving the soldiers free quarter. That on Satterday last 2 peecees of ordnance and 2 loads of amunition came into Basing house from Oxford. That the Marquesse of Winchester is now there. That Sir Jacob Ashley is in Reading and all the horse are drawne from thence. The Marquesse is in Basing.

SATTARDAY 6 JANUARY. Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Robert went out with a party of horse which came from Abbington, some say to Gloster and some to Toster, on Thursday last, but hee conceives hee went to guard Marquesse Hamilton to Bristoll whoe lay that night at Woodstocke, and went forth at 3 aclocke in the afternoone in the Kings coach, and noe guard then with him but his owne servants, the horses being gone before to waite for him. That hee heares that assoone as Prince Robert returnes, all the horse in and about Oxford are to march away to the assistance of the Lord Hopton under the command of Prince Robert and Collonell Hurrey. And that the Queene is removing to Bristoll with all her traine and servants that her lodgings may be voyd to entertaine the Parliament.<sup>3</sup> That newes came to Oxford on Thursday last that the Lord Hopton had hedged

<sup>1</sup>By the *Agreements made between His Majesty and . . . the County of Wilts*, 1 December 1643, (Madan no. 1496), the county was to pay £1,200 a week for one month.

<sup>2</sup>Writs of privy seal calling on private persons to lend money to the King.

<sup>3</sup>The Queen did not leave Oxford until 17 April.

in Sir William Waller and had given him an overthrow at Arundell,<sup>1</sup> but by the treachery of a Scottish collonell on the Kings side Sir William Waller himselfe made an escape. And saith the Lord Capell is to goe on Monday next to Shrewsbury.

Henry Hopkins returned yesterday from Oxford and saith that that the King and Queene are there, and hee heard Prince Robert was to goe out on Thursday last with a party of horse, but whither hee knowes not, and that Collonell Hurrey is likewise to goe forth with another party, and saith that the towne is full of soldiers, and about 3 a clocke in the afternoone on Thursday last Marquesse Hamilton went out of the North gate in a coach.

John Lane to Buckingham. Henry Hopkins to Oxford. Henry Connington to London and is to begin his journey to Oxford on Tuesday night.

SONDAY 7 JANUARY. William Harryes came this day from Tettesworth, and saith that hee mett there with one that came from Oxford whoe informed him that the King and Queene were there, and that Prince Robert went out on Thursday last with 4 troopes of horse, and as they say hee was to goe to Toster, and that the Queene was to remove to Bristoll that there might bee roome for the Parliament. That they are still fortifeing of Greenland howse neere Henley, and have pulld downe the rooffe of the stables and other outhowes, and are filling them upp with earth, and there are about 200 foote quartered in the howse. That they inquire much about Oxford of the Earle of Essex advancing, and whither hee intendeth to march next, and seeme to bee very fearefull of his goinge to Windsor because they are preparing as hee heares, for Kent, and then they say his Excellency will lye in their way.

That on Friday last about noone being at Wheatley hee was apprehended at the court guard and examined and kept prisoner till the next morning, but upon the intreaty of one Mr. Thomas Abbosse sone of his old maister, whoe by chance came by, was released. That hee heard at Wheatly that the King and Queene were at Oxford, and that Prince Robert went out the last weeke with a party of horse, but whither hee knowes not, and that the Queene is removing to Bristoll to make way for the Parliament. That there are some 300 foote in Wheatly and a strict guard kept upon the bridge.

MONDAY 8 JANUARY. Henry Parneby came from Collonell Jones from Farneham castle, and returned backe in the afternoone thither againe.

Joseph Clun came this day from Arundell with letters.

<sup>1</sup>Arundel castle surrendered to Waller on 6 January.

TUESDAY. William Harrys went towards Oxford.

Richard Cooke came yesterday from Toster, and saith that there are 3 regiment of foote and 3 troopes of horse and 8 peeeces of ordnance and all their provision is spent insoemuch that they are almost starved, and that they have pulled upp all the bridges betweene Northampton and Toster. That he was alsoe at Buckingham and saith that there are none of the Kings forces quarter there, onely some fewe come thither and to Brackely and scoute upp and downe the contry. That a party went from Toster the last weeke to Brackley, to receive mony which they heard was brought thither to pay the soldiers, but failing of it the greatest part of them runne away, some to Oxford and some to Northampton.

Richard Cooke went this day to Newport.

John Lane came yesterday from Buckingham, and saith that none of the Kings forces quarter ther onely some few that come thither and scoute upp and downe the contry thereabouts. That the Earle of Callile (sic) and Sir John Wake marcht out of Bister and Windlebury on Sunday last with a great party of horse, towards Aylesbury, but hee heard that they returned againe to their severall quarters without doeing any thing. That there came a regiment of horse on Sattarday last from Banbury under the command of Captaine Cave to bee quarterd in about Brackley.

Richard Cooke went this day to Newport. John Carter went to Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 10. Raph Norton came from Arundell on Monday last, and saith that there was about 1500 horse under the comand of Sir Raph Hopton betweene Arundell and Fullborrow<sup>1</sup> whoe came with an intent (as hee heard) to rescue the prisoners which Sir William Waller had taken, but they onely appeared and retreated to Winchester. That all the foote which were quarterd at Petersfeild and the villages adioyning are now gone to quarter at Winchester and Alsford. That hee was informed by some of Collonell Beares soldiers that they had noe fresh quarter since their comming thither, and had beene quarterd in noe place but where Sir William Wallers forces had beene before them, and spent and eaten upp all the provision, and that if Collonell Beare did not come away they would come without him, for on Monday last Collonell Beare himselfe said openly that hee had but a little shoulder of mutton and halfe a hanch of venison for him and all his servants and attendants, being above 20 in number. That Sir William Waller went to the rich shipp laden with cloth of silver linnin and other commodities worth 20,000 li. which was lately cast upon the sands, on Sunday last to view the commodities, and to send them and

<sup>1</sup>Pulborough.

ammunition to Arundell castle and was not returned on Monday last in the afternone.

THURSDAY 11 JANUARY 1643. Raph Norton went this day to Redding. John Lane to the Lord Hopton. William Blewett to Toster. William Burgen went this night with letters to Maior Generall. Thomas Hitchman came with letters from London. John Blewett came from London. Mr. William Wigfall went to London.

FRYDAY 12 JANUARY. William Blewett went this day to gett scouts to Dunstable, Bedford etc. Thomas Hitchman went this day to London with letters for his Excellency etc.

William Harryes, that being yesterday at Poscam<sup>1</sup> neere Oxford, hee heard that the King and Queene are there, and that Prince Rupert is in readynesse to march from thence but what his designe is hee knoweth not, some say hee is to goe to the Lord Hopton and that Prince Maurice is to come to help him. The Kings forces are very busie in fortifying Greene land house.

John Carter saith that being betweene Stokenchurch and West Wickham, hee mett with some of the Cavaliers, and was forced to returne backe, that hee heard by the way that Prince Robert with all the forces hee could make was to march away about the middle of the next weeke to the assistance of the Lord Hopton, and it is reported that Prince Maurice is alsoe upon his march to meet Prince Robert and to ioyne with him. That hee heares alsoe that Gloucester is besiedged by the Irish rebels.

SATTURDAY 13 JANUARY. William Buckett went this day to Oxford. Henry Parneby went with him. Henry Conington came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and that the Queene is with child and that [he] sawe Prince Robert ther on Thursday last and they report that Prince Robert is goeing forth with about 4000 horse to Toster, and there are some 4000 horse and foote in the towne. And that they are very sorry for the losse of Arundle castle. And hee heares that Prince Maurice is gone with all his forces to the Lord Hopton. That the Lord Crafford is now questioned in Oxford both for running away at Alton<sup>2</sup> and for not goeing (when hee might) to releevv Arundle castle. That the Lord Hoptons forces doe dayly increase and hee hopes to recover Arundell castle againe. That the Duke Hamilton is close prisoner in Pendennis

<sup>1</sup>Postcomb.

<sup>2</sup>Lord Crawford was surprised by Waller at Alton on 13 December. Most of his foot surrendered and about 500 of them took the Covenant and transferred to the Parliamentary army. (Gardiner I, 254).

castle in castle wher Collonell Arundell is governur and that the Earle of Lanericke<sup>1</sup> his brother is close prisoner in Oxford. That hee heard alsoe that the Kings forces fell lately upon Collonell Crumwells quarters, tooke 900 prisoners 106 horse and rowted his whole party. And that they hope that Gloster will bee taken very shortly, and that they had taken Natwich (sic), and on Thursday night last had entred the towne.<sup>2</sup> And saith that the Lord Capell went out on Fryday last to Bristoll to bee governor there, and that the Lord Byron is made governor of Shrewsbury as the Lord Capell was before him.

SONDAY 14 JANUARY. Robert Pettitt went this day to Arundell. John Appleby to Newport. William Blewett returned yesterday from Toster, and saith that there are 700 foote, and 300 horse in the towne, and 8 peeces of ordnance, and about 300 horse quartered (at Pauls perry) in and about the townes adiacent, under the command of Sir Lewis Dives and Sir John Wake. And that they expect Prince Robert dayly with a great party of horse from Oxford to assist them, being in continuall feare least Sergeant Maior General of the Parliaments forces should fall upon them.

Raph Norton came yesterday from Maple Durham, and saith that there are not above 300 soldiers in the towne with comandars and officers being most of them drawn out before to assist the Lord Hopton. That they have finisht all their workes about the towne, and have diggd holes and made trapps without their works to catch the horse in. And Sir Jacob Asheley the governor<sup>3</sup> is dayly veiwing of the workemen and giveng them directions. That hee came by Henley saith there are neyther horse nor foote in the towne but there are about 200 foote in Greenland howse, where they are still fortifieing, and Sir Charles Blunt (hee heares) is made governor there.

MONDAY 15 JANUARY. William Blewett went this day to Newport. Christopher Granger went this day to Toster. John Carpenter went to Oxford alsoe.

Henry Hopkins came from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that Prince Robert and Collenell Hurrey are goeing out with 7000 horse and foote, and all things are in readynes, but whither they goe hee knowes not. And that hee was taken prisoner at Wheatley and deteyned there 5 dayes, and afterwards at the instance of his brother and other freinds in Oxford whom hee sent for hee was released.

<sup>1</sup>The Earl of Lanark (see *D.N.B.* s.v. Hamilton, William) was committed to custody on 2 January and escaped from Oxford on 17 January. (Clarendon III, 286; Dugdale 58-9).

<sup>2</sup>Three examples of wishful thinking.

<sup>3</sup>i.e. governor of Reading.

Henry Hopkins went backe to Oxford.

John Lane came from Alton and saith that on Sunday last the Lord Hopton was preparing to march away this weeke from Winchester, with 7000 horse and foote to meete Prince Maurice in the west intending as hee heares to quarter there this winter. That a party of horse went from Winchester on Saturday last to Alton resolving to goe against Sir William Waller, but meeting with one of Sir Williams trumpiters and upon some conference had with him, they returned the same day to their quarters. That they have laid a great taxe upon Hampshire and the contry was to bring in a great sume of mony on Thursday next to Winchester. That they report at Alton, and seme to bee very ioyfull at it, that the Earle of Essex lyes sicke at London.

TUESDAY. Mr. Nicholas Luke came this day from London. John Appleby went to Maior Generall at Newport.

WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY. Christopher Granger returned yesterday from Toster, and saith that there [are] about 700 foote and 300 horse in the towne, and 8 peeces of ordnance, and hee heares there are about 1000 more horse more quarterd without the towne in and about Paules Perry under the command of Sir Lewis Dives. That they are all in great want of all manner of provision, insoemuch that every soldier waits but for an opportunity to runne away, and saith that 100 of them runne away the last weeke, but the commanders and officers fetcht them backe againe.

Mr. Nicholas Luke went this day to Oxford.

THURSDAY 18 JANUARY. Christofer Granger went this day to Tossiter.

Roger Connington came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and the towne is very full of soldiers, and that Prince Robert and Collonell Hurrey are very speedily to march out with a great party of horse, but whither hee cannot learne. That there is great preparacion for the new Parliament, and the Queene is to remove this weeke to Bristoll. That hee heares that Prince Maurice and the Lord Hopton are mett, and have ioynd their forces together in the west, but what their designe is hee knowes not.

FRYDAY 19 JANUARY. Roger Connington went to Oxford. Richard Cooke went this day to Bedford and soe to Newport. Edward Wormewell went to London. John Carpinter returned this day from Oxford, and saith, that the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that Prince Robert is gone out of Oxford and is advancing towards Bristoll,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>He marched to Brill, was before Aylesbury on 20th and made his unsuccessful attack on Aylesbury on 21st. (Rupert's *Journal*).

and they report there that Sir Raph Hopton is marching from Winchester to Oxford, and there is great preparacion for the new Parliament, which is to be held the 22th of this instant January.<sup>1</sup>

Henry Parneby came from Tame, and went againe the same day. Mr. John Turner went etc. Thomas Hitchman went this day to London.

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY. John Lane returned this day from Buckingham, and saith that there are none of the Kings forces. That the Parliaments forces came on Thursday last from Newport and Aylesbury to Hilsden where they tooke Sir Alexander Dentons howse which was prepossest by the Cavallyers, and made them runne away to Banbury, being about 100. That all the Kings horse which quartered at Brackley hearing of the Parliaments forces at Hilsden were drawne into a body expecting them that way, and the forces at Toster were alsoe commanded to the guards upon that allarum. That the soldiers runne away dayly from Toster, and they have 10 small peeces of ordnance in the towne, and they report that upon the meeting of a late party they Cavallyers kild one of the captaines of Northampton.

That they expect Prince Robert the next weeke.

SONDAY 21 JANUARY. John Lane went this day to Winchester.

Nicholas Luke to London, and informed yesterday that being at Tettesworth hee heard that the King and Queene were there, and that Prince Robert was gone to Teuxbury, and that the Welsh and Irish rebels had possest themselves of all the townes about Gloucester and intended to obtaine the citty by starving of them out. That Prince Maurice is expected this day at Oxford. That the governor of Oxford by reason of his creuelty is to bee displaced and Leiftenant Collonell Buncle is to bee in his roome.<sup>2</sup> That hee is dayly attended by a guard consisting of 4 men in long redd coates and halberds. That since the death of Francis Coles<sup>3</sup> one of Sir Samuell Lukes scouts whoe was executed at Oxford the last weeke, there is such a strict court of guard kept that not any man can passe or bring in any commodities to the markt but hee is presently brought before the

<sup>1</sup>The Oxford Parliament assembled in Christ Church Hall on 22nd, then the Lords adjourned to the "Upper Schools" and the Commons to the Convocation House.

<sup>2</sup>Another inaccurate report, evidence of Aston's unpopularity. For Buncle see F. J. Varley, Civil War Army List, (*Oxoniensia* II, 147).

<sup>3</sup>For his capture and execution see *Mercurius Aulicus* for week ending 13 January. (*Summarized Extracts*, p. 68).



governor. That hee heares that the Queene with all the ladies of honor to remove about Candlemas last.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Wigfall went this day to Bedford with letters.

MONDAY 22 JANUARY. Robert Pettitt went this day to Aylesbury. William Blewett went alsoe. Raph Norton came this day from Newport, and went to London with letters from Maior Generall to his Excellency.

22TH. Roger Cunington retorned this day from Tame, and saith that there was in the towne and thereabouts 3000 horse and foote under the commaund of Prince Rupert and Collonell Hurrey. Collonell Hurrys regiment lyes at Tame and intend to goe against Alesbury, hee heareth there are greates stoare of horse and foote lye against Gloster and have taken some of their outworkes.

Christofer Granger came from Toster, and saith that Sir Lewis Dives and all the forces which were in Toster and in the townes adioyning march away on Friday night last to Brackley and quartered there that night, being both in great want of provision and in continuall feare of the Parliaments forces whoe had faced the towne the day before. And saith that before their goeing they plundered all the townes theirabouts for horses to drawe away their ordnance.

Robert Pettitt came this day from Aylesbury. William Blewett came the same day. William Blewit retorned yesterday from Alesbury, and saith that the Lord Digby promised Leiftenant Collonell Mosley of Alesbury 2,000 li. if hee would betray the towne to them.<sup>2</sup> Most of the soldiars that were to enter Alesbury were the souldiers which came from Toster, whoe lye pilledgeing the country there abouts. The peeces they had at Toster they sent to Oxford.

Robert Pettitt came yesterday and saith that the Cavallyers came within a mile of Aylesbury, and intended to have taken the towne by treachery, for the Lord Digby promised 2000 li. to Leiftenant Collonell Mosley a comander in Aylesbury to betray the towne, but hee discovered it to the governor and prevented them.

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY. Henry Parneby went forth this day to Tame. Roger Connington to Oxford. William Blewett went this day to Redding. Christofer Granger went to Oxford. Henry Hopkins returned this day from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and there is great ioy and reioicing for the new Parliament, and they say that there are 4 Parliament men come from the parliament at Westminster to Oxford. That the French Ambassador was to goe

<sup>1</sup>The clerk who entered these reports put 'about Michaellmas last' and then changed Michaellmas to Candlemas without deleting the word 'last.'

<sup>2</sup>See p. 162 n. 3.

yesterday for London. That Sir Arthur Aston is putt out of his place of governorshippe and they are about the election of a newe. That Prince Robert hath quitted Toster, and came the last night to Tame. And there is a very strict court of guard kept upon Wheatley bridge.

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford.

John Carpenter came yesterday from Medlow,<sup>1</sup> within a mile of Oxford, and saith that hee heard that the King and Queene are in Oxford and that Prince Robert is returned backe to Oxford, and the forces which came out of Toster onely faced Aylesbury, and afterwards marcht to Brill where parte of them are now quarterd and are making workes and fortifieing the towne. That another party marcht to Banbury, and are all dispart (sic) about Oxford. Mr. Turner went this day to Abbingdon. Joseph Clunne to Farnham.

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY. John Lane retorned yesterday from Aulton, and saith the Lord Hoppton is not there, but they doe looke for him this weeke for as yet he lyes in Salesbury, and the report is Prince Rupert is to come with his forces thither to him for they are to goe upon some spetiall designe but what it is, is not as yet knowne. Hee heareth there is greate store of ammunicion to bee sent very soddenly from Basing-house to Winchester, that there is but a small guard of foote in Winchester. Upon Sonday last Prince Rupert commaunded all the gates in Oxford should be shutt and all the bridges to bee drawne up, for hee was to goe upon a designe which was to Aylesbury (because hee had formerly beene betrayed in the same designe). The citty forces are marched from Gilford to Godlimen,<sup>2</sup> and hee heareth Sir William Waller is gone to London and hath left his forces at Arundell. And when Sir William retornes they intend to march towards Winchester where, they say, there is noe provision carried in but what is forced in by troopers.

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY. William Harris retorned yesterday from Blackwater, and saith the Lord Hoppton is yett in Winchester with 5000 foote and 3000 horse and 7 peeces of ordnance. His army daily increaseth by reason of his pressing the country men. The Lord Hoppton lookes every day when Sir William Waller should come and fall upon his quarters. Hee heareth Prince Maurice lyes at Exiter with 8 or 10000 horse and foote and expecteth dayly when the Lord Hoppton should send for him.

<sup>1</sup>Medley.

<sup>2</sup>Godalming.

Raph Norton returned from Tettesworth, and saith that Prince Robert returned from Tame on Monday night last with about 30 troopers to Oxford, and the horse are upon their march to Ano on the Hill and Kings Sutton where they formerly quartered. That 2 or 300 horse lay in Tame but by this tyme they are gone, and some 1500 foote lye at Brill and Chilton and are fortifieing Brill, which being donne parte of them are to returne to Oxford. That the French Embassadors coach broke at Tettesworth which caused him to lye there on Tuesday night. And some of his servants told him there was a French army comming which would quickly subdue the Roundheads. They report the Queene is goeing into Ireland, but will bee in France assoone as shee can. That Prince Maurice is to come to Oxford with his army, but before hee comes hee is to send out writts into Somersett shire, Devonshire and Cornewall for them to choose new knights and burghesses in the roome of those that are at London, and by the 14th of February they are to bee at Oxford. That Prince Robert was soe private when hee went out upon his late designe from Aylesbury, that hee caused all the bridges to bee pulled upp and noe man suffered to goe out of the city for feare they should give notice to the Parliament. But the contry reports that when hee came backe hee was ashamed and putt his head in a blacke bagg as hee ridd.

Robert Pettitt came this day from Aylesbury, and saith that some of the Kings horse were yesterday at Hartwell, Stone and Etheropp within 2 miles of Alesbury, and dlundred (sic) the contry of their horses and cattle and drove them along from thence to Brill. That the foote marcht thither on Monday last, where they are fortifieing and making upp the old workes which were formerly thrown downe by the Parliament forces.

Henry returned this day. John Lane went to Buckingham. Raph Norton went forth alsoe. Henry Parneby went this day to———. <sup>1</sup> John Carpinter went to———. <sup>1</sup> William Blewett returned this day from Redding, and saith that there about 2000 horse and foote and 8 peeces of ordnance in the towne, and 2 troopes of horse are quarterd at Sunning under the command of Sir Charles Blunt, and they keepe very strong guards about the towne. That there is a troope of horse alsoe in Henly, and about 100 foote in Greenland howse, and have fortified it, but they have not above 30 musketts amongst them all. That the Cavalliers threaten to plunder and burne the town of Wickham if they bring not in 40 li. tomorrow, which they have assessed them to pay. That a troop of horse marcht this day through Missonden and intended to quarter at Chessam, but the townesmen arose and beate them out, whereupon they returned to their old quarters. And

<sup>1</sup>Blank in MS.

that companies of dragoones under the command of Captaine Aldridge and Captaine Fleetwood were in pursuit of them.

FRYDAY 26 JANUARY. William Blewett went this day to Oxford. Robert Pettitt went this day to London.

SATURDAY. Henry Hopkins returned yesterday from Wheatley, where hee was stayd by the court of guard and not suffered to passe to Oxford, and saith that hee heard there that the King and Queene are in Oxford, and that they are very busy at the Parliament all this weeke. And they report that Prince Robert is goeing out againe very shortly with greater forces against Aylesbury.

SUNDAY 28TH. January 1643. Joseph Clunn returned this day from Farnum, and saith that on Thursday last there was a party of the Cavalieers within halfe a mile of Farnum castle, that tooke away 2 carts laden with corne that were coming for Farnum, and carryed them to Basin-howse, that he heares Sir Raphe Hopton is at Winchester, and hath warned in all the county of Hamshire from 16 to 60 to be at Winchester on Fryday last to take upp armes against Sir William Waller.

Henry Parneby went this day to Oxford.

John Lane returned yesterday from Ano on the Hill and saith that there are 3 troopes of the Kings horse quarterd in the towne, and three troopes at Kings Sutton under the command of the Lord of Andever, and Prince Charles his regiment<sup>1</sup> is quarterd at Adderbury and Deddington, and saith that 7 collours of horse were drawn out on Friday last to Hilsden where they mett with Captaine Sheborne and Captaine Crumwell, with 200 dragoones and troopers whoe fell upon them kild 4 of them and tooke some 20 prisoners and brought them to Aylesbury, and the rest runne away to their quarters, and saith that the forces in Aylesbury resolve eyther to keepe Hilsden howse or else to burne it, to prevent the enemy from harbouring there.

John Appleby went forth this day.

William Blewet returned yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there and that Prince Rupert is goeing out with a greate party of horse against Alesbury. That Prince Maurice is in Oxford and the King went to the Parliament on Monday and Thursday the last weeke with 80 Parliament men. That they pull down some of their workes and place botles and jugges filled with white powder upon them, to blow up the Parliament forces if they should come

<sup>1</sup>For an account of this regiment, which was quartered in Oxfordshire and supported by levies on the county see P. Young, *The Prince of Wales's Regiment of Horse, 1642-6*. (*Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XXIII, 107 and XXIV, 125).

against the citty and they are in greate feare of Sir William Waller. That there is a regiment of foote quartered at Wheately and they keepe a strong court of guard upon the bridge. That the forces which came from Toster are gone to Wattleton where they are fortifying and intend to keepe a garrison there, consisting of 7 troopes of horse and 400 foote under the commaund of Sir John Wake and Sir Lewis Dives.

MONDAY 29 JANUARY. William Blewett went this day to Oxford.

John Carpenter retorned yesterday from Bledlow, and saith hee heard the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are in Oxford. Hee heares Prince Rupert is about to lay downe his armes and to retorne into his own country. And that Sir Lewis Dives<sup>1</sup> is imprisoned in Oxford for refusing to bee Generall over the Irish rebels. Hee heard at Barkamsted that a party of the Kings horse came this morneing from Henly to Amersam, where they plundered a captaines house of this side, and diverse other houses in the towne and set fire one wone (sic) end of the towne, and an other party of the Kings horse at the same instant were plundering at Missenden.

Raph Norton came on Saturday last from Whitchurch, and saith that the Lord Hopton is at Winchester, with his forces which are not above 4000 horse and foote but hee dayly expects 2000 prest soldiers to come out of the Southampton, Wilts and Somersetshire. That divers of Sir Raph Hoptons forces have beene executed for running away, and for the same fact 6 have beene hangd at Basing howse within this fortnight.

TUESDAY 30 JANUARY. Raph Norton went this day. John Lane went alsoe. Thomas Thredder went to Bedford. John Appleby returned this day.

JANUARY 31TH. WEDNESDAY. Henry Hopkins retorned yesterday from Wheately, where hee heareth the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are at Oxford and that Prince Rupert and Collonel Hurry are going out againe with a greate party of horse and foote against Alesbury. That there about 400 foote quarter at Wheately, and keepe a very strong guard both in the towne and at the bridge.

James Tuterell came this day from London.

THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY. Mr. Wigfall went this day to London.

John Lane came yesterday from Hilsden, and saith that the party of horse and dragoones which came thither the last weeke from Aylesbury

<sup>1</sup>Dyve was Governor of Abingdon from January until Royalist forces withdrew from the town in May 1644. (H. G. Tibbutt, *op. cit.* pp. 51-2).

under the command of Captaine Shelborne and Captaine Abbercomway retreated on Monday last from Hilsden howse having notice that Prince Maurice was marcht towards them as farr as Bister, with 3000 horse and foote. And saith that the Parliaments forces were noe sooner retreated, without doing any hurt to the howse, by reason of Sir Alex Dentons children being there, but some of the Kings forces came to Hilsden. That on Sondag last there was a little skirmish wherein Sir Alexander Dentons sone was shott in the backe and dyed. That the Kings forces lye now quarterd at Bister, Stratton Audley and Brill, expecting Prince Robert to goe upon some new designe, and that there are 1000 horse quarterd in Buckingham, Brackley and thereabouts.

Christofer Granger came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and about 3000 foote and 200 horse in the citty. That Prince Robert is there alsoe, and hee heares that they intend not to stirr till March next. And then assoone as they can draw away their ordnance, they resolve to advance to London. That there are 400 foote quarterd at Wheatley and strong guards kept both in the towne, and upon the bridge. That the Parliament sitts close every day in Oxford and they sweare they will putt all the Roundheads in a bagg very shortly.

FRYDAY 2 FEBRUARY. Christofer Granger went this day to Brackley.

Raph Norton came this day from Twyford, and saith that hee heares there that there are about 400 of the Kings foote soldiers in Redding and that Sir Jacob Ashley is gone from thence to Oxford and is to bee governor there and Leiftenant Collonell Lisle is made governor of Redding. That the King sent this weeke to Wallingford for 200 soldiers to march with the Irish forces to Gloucester or some place thereabouts. Whereupon the governor went to his Majestye and told him that there were soe few in the towne that hee could not spare any, being most of them run away for want of their pay, where at the King was very angry and strucke him twice over the head with his caine. That Sir Arthur Aston the governor of Oxford is confined to his chamber for beating the Maior of the Towne, and the Queene is now upon her journey to Bristoll. That there are 3 troopes of horse in Henley, which are not above 60 in all, under the comand of Maior Hewes, and 100 foote at Greenland howse comanded by Sir Charles Blunt. That they expect his Excellency againe at Redding this spring, with his old forces and 8000 out of the citty of London, which they heare are to ioyn with him, and therefore prepare for him accordingly and pull downe all the villages and howses without the towne to keepe him and his forces from their old quarters.

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY. John Lane went this day to Winchester. Raph Norton went to Henly. John Appleby went home this Saturday, not having beene employed since his last returne on Tuesday last.

Henry Parneby retorned yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there. Prince Rupert and Collonell Hurry are to goe very suddenly out of Oxford with a party of horse and foote, but whither hee knoweth not. The Parliament sitts close every day in Oxford, and they sweare they will putt all the Roundheads in a bagg very shortly. The speech at Oxford is that 12000 Hollenders and Irish are to come in to England very shortly, to helpe his Majesty against the Roundheads. There is greate sadness in Oxford for the overthrow Sir William Breverton and Sir Thomas Fairefax hath given to the Irish forces under the commaund of the Lord Byron.<sup>1</sup> The report is there are 7000 horse and foote in Oxford and Abbingdon.

Henry Cunington retorned yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King, Queene and Prince Rupert are there, and the towne is very full of soldiers, and they sitt every day in the Parliament house at Oxford, and there was greate ioy all the city over for the letter<sup>2</sup> which was sent to the Earle of Essex concerneing peace, which was turned into as greate a sorrow on Thursday night last, at the newes which was then brought in by his trumpiter. That on Tuesday last Prince Rupert made a speech in the Parliament house where in hee protested and vowed, that if god blest him, hee would make the cittizens of London know that hee had not layd downe his commission. And there upon order was given that hee should march out the 3<sup>d</sup>. of this month with his forces and (as it was reported) all the foote in and about Oxford belonging to him, should march away yesterday, and all his horse should follow this day, but what his designe is or whither they are bent, hee cannot learne and that they will bee about 10000 horse and foote but most of them horse. That Maior Ogle is committed to prison who was the cheife plotter in the businesse of Aylesbury. That they are extreamey greived for the greate overthrow which the Lord Byron lately received at Nantwich, but they say the losse was not soe greate as is reported, for the King was certified the first day of this month that hee had lost but 300 men. That on Thursday last, newes came to the King from Chester that there were 2000 Irish soldiers landed there and armes for them and 1000 more, and that the Lord Byron had recrutaed his army and was ready to march againe into the feild.

<sup>1</sup>At Nantwich, 25 January.

<sup>2</sup>The text of the letter, dated 27 January, and of the reply, 30 January, is given in Clarendon III, 296-8; Rushworth, *Hist. Coll.* pt. 3, vol. II, 566-8.



Henry Connington, Henry Parneby, Henry Hopkins went all this day to London.

SONDAY 4 FEBRUARY. William Blewett came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and Prince Robert and Prince Maurice alsoe. And that there was a proclamation made yesterday for all the soldiers both horse and foote (except the King and Queenes life guard) to depart the citty into severall other quarters provided without the towne. That they are very busy at the new Parliament dayly and hee heares that there are eighteene earles and 42 lords in their upper howse and about 100 knights and burgesses in the lower,<sup>1</sup> and that the Lord Digby is lately made Lord Chamberlaine. That there is a regiment of foote quartered in Wheatly, and a strong guard kept upon Wheatley bridg.

Henry Hopkins came from Oxford on Satturday last, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that there is great preparacion for a party both of horse and foote to goe out very suddenly under the command of Prince Robert and Collonell Urrey, and it was reported they wer all to march away on Satturday last, but whither, hee knowes not.

MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY. Christopher Granger came yesterday from Buckingham, and saith there are 300 horse there but they intended this day to march from thence to Banbury, being in continuall feare of the Parliament forces from Northampton. That there 200 horse quartered in Brackley, but they are to march away very soddenly for the reason aforesaid.

Jo. Turner retorned this day, and saith that on Friday last hee came from Abington and that there are verie fewe forces either in Abington or Wallingford for that they are drawne forth and some report they are gone towards Gloucester for that they expect dayly it wilbe delivered unto them, others say they are gone towards Shrewsbury to bringe some forces from the Lord Capell. It is likewise reported that Sir William Bruerton had taken 1700 of the Irish, but they said hee lost many men before he tooke them, and that there would a supply be sent thither verie suddainely. They alsoe say that Prince Maurice and the Lord Hopton intend this spring to imploy both their armyes against Sir William Waller and for the cleeringe of the west. It is alsoe reported that Warwickshire and the three other associated countyes with itt doe intend shortly to raise 6000 souldiers out of

<sup>1</sup>The letter to Essex was signed by 43 lords and 118 commons. (Rushworth, *op. cit.* p. 573).

their countyes to convoy the amunition from Leicester to Gloucester, and they threaten to lye in wayte to surprise or prevent itt.

Mr. Wigfall from London. Mr. Hitchman from London.

TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY. Henry Parneby went this day to ———.<sup>1</sup> Christofer Granger to ———.<sup>1</sup> William Blewett went forth alsoe.

John Carpenter came yesterday from Wheatley, and heares that the King, Queene and Prince Robert are in Oxford, and that Gloucester is againe besiedged, and divers great parties both of horse and foote are drawne out of Oxford, Abbingdon and Wallingford on Friday last, and marcht away the next day towards Gloucester. That there is a regiment of foote in Wheatley and a strong guard kept upon the bridge.

John Lane came yesterday from Whitchurch, and saith that the Lord Hopton marcht from Winchester on Satturday last with all the horse hee could gett, to meete Prince Robert, and it is reported that assoone as they are mett they are to march to Gloucester. That they are very sorrowfull at Winchester for the late overthrow which Sir William Brereton gave to the Lord Byron at Nantwich. That there are about 700 foote in Winchester, which keepe the towne. That a party of horse and dragoones marcht from Basing howse on Sondag last to meete some ammunition coming to them from Redding and to guard it along.

Raph Norton returned yesterday from Culham, and saith there are not above 400 soldiers in Abbingdon and Wallingford, and most part of them are townesmen, for all that can well bee spared are drawn from Oxford, Abbingdon, Wallingford and Redding, and as it is reported are marcht towards Gloucester which they hope to starve within a moneth. That the Embassador is to returne this weeke to France, and that at severall tymes many letters are dayly sent from Oxford to London to severall merchants, which are to convey them into France by the Embassador or some of his servants, from whence they expect a great supply very speedily. That the soldiers run away dayly from Redding, Wallingford and Abbingdon and the common sayeing amongst them is, "What Roundheads, you thinke the Papists will bee overthrowne." That Sir Henry Samburne of Moultsford having collected divers sumes of mony to send privately to Parliament was discovered and accused on Satturday last by one Woston<sup>2</sup> the parson of Choseley, whoe was presently clapt upp in prison in Oxford, and they threaten to hang him.

John Carpenter went this day to Oxford.

<sup>1</sup>Blank in MS.

<sup>2</sup>Cholsey vicarage was sequestered in 1639 because of the absence of John Weston, vicar. 'Woston' may be a reference to William Wotton who was presented by the Crown to Cholsey at the Restoration on the death of John Weston but may have held the living from an earlier date.

WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY. Raph Norton went this day to ———.<sup>1</sup> John Lane went forth alsoe to Stow ith would. Henry Connington to Oxford. Henry Hopkins went alsoe to Oxford.

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1643. William Bluett came yesterday from Oxford, that the King and Queene are there, that Prince Rupert is gone out of Oxford with about 4 or 5000 horse and foote towards Nantwich and 7 peeces of ordnance. That Prince Maurice is gone towards Northumberland with about 4000 horse and foote to meete the Scotts and that there is about 6000 in and about Oxford. That they keepe a very strong court of guard at Wheately. William Bluett ———.<sup>1</sup> Henry Parneby. That hee came from Oxford and saith that the new Parliament sitts dayly, and there is a great disturbance in the citty betweene the Protestants and the Papists, insoemuch that twoe of the Protestant howses were plundred this weeke in the High streete and they say there is a great falling out betweene the Lord Duke<sup>2</sup> and the Governor of Oxford, and the report is, that if there bee not some speedy course taken, the Duke will forsake them. That hee heares that Gloucester is againe besiedged and Prince Robert and Collonel Jerratt were to march thither with 4000 men, but this falling out causeth them to stay still in towne.

FRYDAY 9 FEBRUARY. Robert Pettitt went this day to London with letters to his Excellency. Mr. Wormewell came from Newport with letters to London and to the Earle of Manchester. Jo. Turner went this day.

Christofer Granger came yesterday from Padbury, and saith there are 3 troopes of horse in the towne which are to march from thence to Hilsden howse, where there are 200 horse and foote of the Kings forces. That 100 men were commanded from Buckingham to Hilsden howse<sup>3</sup> to intrench there, and 100 bedds were brought thither from Buckingham for the soldiers to lye upon. That hee was betweene Buckingham, Brackley and Banbury this day, and saith that there are not any horse left thereabouts in any of the out townes.

<sup>1</sup>Blank in MS.

<sup>2</sup>Probably a reference to the Duke of Richmond who became one of the commissioners for the defence of Oxford in this year and may have come into conflict with the governor.

<sup>3</sup>Parliamentary troops had quitted Hillesden House on 2 February and it was garrisoned by Col. Smith with a detachment of Royalist troops on 5 February. (*Memoirs of the Verney Family*, (1904) I, 314). An unsuccessful attack by Parliamentary troops was made on 27 February, and on 4 March it was captured and burnt by a force commanded by Cromwell and Luke. (See Luke's letter to Essex, 4 March, describing the assault, in T. L. Sanford, *Studies and Illustrations of the Great Rebellion*, App. B).

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY. William Burgen was discharged this day and went to the troope.

John Lane came yesterday morning from Stowe in the Old, and saith that there lyes the regiment that was Sir William Penningtons, that there lyes one Sir Thomas Biron's regiment at Chipping Norton. That there is noe horse quartered within 10 miles of G[lou]oucester, onely about 800 foote of the Irish rebells att Tewsbury commanded by the Lord Biron, that it is reported Collonell Massey sallied out of Gloucester uppon Thursday last, and tooke about 100 horse and foote. That there is about 100 horse lyes about Cycester and Tedbury, but none neerer to Gloucester. That Prince Rupert was not there as yesterday but is expected suddenly uppon some designe. That there is about 200 horse att Banbury and thereabouts, and last night there marched 150 of them out uppon some designe, Northampton forces haveing notice thereof, and that they were going to pillage about Daintry, they marched out but could not meete with them, they being gonne some other way, but whither hee knowes nott. That in those parts about Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, they are very sorry for the ill successe they have had by Sir William Breerton and Sir William Waller. That the French and Dutch say that before they goe out of England they will make it poorer. And that they are still fortyfying very strongly Hilsden howse under the command of a french man a commander of foote. A Collonell Smith is there ready with a regiment of horse to assist the howse.

Christopher Grainger came yesterday from Wheately, and saith that there are 80 of the Queenes life guard. That there are 100 horse and foote att Chesterton, and in the townes thereabouts, and 4 peeces of ordnance under the command of Sir William Digby. That there are 200 horse and foote at Hilsden house, under Collonell Smith, and they have sent out warrants into the contry thereabouts commanding all from 15 yeeres old to 60 to come to make upp the workes about the said howse.

Severall well affected and hononest (sic) men say, that the number of horse and foote about Hilsden howse are not above 300 at the most, as they conceive, they have begunn to digg, and have compassed the howse with a shallowe ditch, butt as yett it is of small defence, butt they intend to make it defensive, and to that end have abundance of workemen dayly, about 500, who are ready to fall out with those that sett them on worke, if they come to controule them, that this day the[y] pulled one of the cheife of them into the ditch whoe was a french man.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Probably Diderick Boekman (or Beckman), a Swede, according to Dugdale, who is described in a royal warrant of 12 March 1644 as the King's Ingenier in Ordinary. (*Oxford Council Acts*, 1626-65, p. 383). Boekman was sent to Hillesden House on 5 February. (Dugdale 60).

On Thursday a commander sent for a dozen of musqueteers to fetch some of the workemen in, whoe were going home, and threatned to shoote the workemen, but they badd them shoote if they durst, they would not be made slave of, whereuppon he was faine to intreate them to come to their worke againe, and it is thought that tomorrowe (being Saturday) the workemen will rise uppon them, which they would have done before this, had they bene sure of releife to safeguard them from future iniury. There is 200 li. to be sent into the howse, which they have forced from the contry, by making them to reedeeme theire owne horses, goods and persons, and 2 troopes of horse if they were at Thorneborowe, Padbury or Harrould (especially Padbury) they might save the going in of the said mony, and the river is soe betweene Hilsden and Padbury that they may lye there very safe and secure. They intend to rayse 300 horse, with pistolls, saddles and ryders out of the 3 hundreds of Buckinghamshire, which they pretended to bee for the defence of the contry, and the 200 li. afore mentioned is to bee employed for the same use of rayising the horses, it being laid uppon Harrould, Thorneborowe and Winslowe. Thorneborowe is alsoe to send in 22 li. 10s. to Collonell Westons troope, whoe lye at Chesterton, there being charged uppon them towards the maintenance of his regiment 7 li. 10s. the weeke, it being the arreares of 3 weekes and to be sent in on Tusday next uppon paine of plundering, they haveing carried in one weekes leavy on Thursday last, and all the townes in the hundreth are charged proportionably.

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY. Raph Norton. That hee came out of Nittlebed, and saith that on Friday night there was a chardge sent from Oxford to Henly for the strict keepeing of the guard and that none should passe unlesse hee was well knowne. That at Oxford they have for 2 or 3 dayes wanted a lord (as hee thinkes it is the Lord Bath)<sup>1</sup> and they suppose him to bee gone to the Parliament. One of the Kings servants told him that the Assembly at Oxford are drawing articles of peace<sup>2</sup> which are more loveing then yet any have beene, and if it they doe not take effect, then there intencions is to fight it out, knowing that they can have sufficient helpe, his Majesty hath sent out proclamacions to all his townes desiring them to come to Winchester with all strength whatsoever both for men and mony and there they come at present or else never, for hee hopes not to

<sup>1</sup>Henry Bourchier, Earl of Bath, became one of the commissioners for the defence of Oxford in this year. (G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*).

<sup>2</sup>On 19 February a letter was despatched by Forth to Essex asking for safe conduct for messengers charged with overtures for peace. On 3 March the King addressed a letter direct to the Parliament at Westminster. These overtures were rejected in a letter from Parliament dated 9 March. (Clarendon III, 303-5; Rushworth, *Hist. Coll.* pt. 3, vol. II, 568-71).

trouble them any more, and on Thursday hee was at Culham from whence went 6 troopes of horse to meete the Irish soldiers which came from Ireland from Bristoll and Miniard<sup>1</sup> and that they should meete at Andever and goe, against Sir William Wallers forces. That some of the townes men of Reading told him the soldiers run away dayly and those Cavileers that keepe house in the towne doe sent their goods to Oxford and Wallingford, and about 7 of the townes men sitt alwayes in the councell of warr and they intend to leave the towne of Reading. That the King hath put forth an order<sup>2</sup> that 10,000 men must pay him £100,000 which order shalbee sent to every ones house.

William Bluett. That he came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, that it is reported Prince Robert continues his march still towards Nantwich, and that Prince Maurice continues his march towards Northumberland to meete with the Scotts, that the King sitts very close in Parliament, that it is reported there are 3 or 4 lords in Oxford would come unto the Parliament if they could gett out of Oxford, that he heares that the Lord Hopton is comeing towards Oxford with his forces, and that the King is about to sett out a greate presse for the pressing of all thereabouts from 16 yeeres of age to 60, that hee heares the States of Holland sollicit his Majesty very much to come to his Parliament,<sup>3</sup> that there are but very fewe souldiers in Oxford now, that there is a regiment of foote lyes at Wheatelye and keepe a very strict court of guard on the bridge, that those souldiers that were quarterd at Wattleton are gonne to quarter neerer Oxford.

MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY. Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, that the Parliament sits very close every day and that the[y] have raysed 200,000 li. for his Majestys use whereof 40,000 li. is brought in already, that on Fryday last newes came to Oxford that Sir Charles Vavasour had met with a party of the Scotts army in the north, and had given them an overthrow for which there was greate reioyceing at Oxford, that on Saturday last it was reported that Collonell Wem mett with a party of Collonell Masseys souldiers neere Gloucester, where he tooke and kild about 200, that he heard alsoe that 200 of those forces which were taken att Nantwich by Sir William Breerton tooke upp armes for the Parliament and being sent to a garrison neere thereunto, quareld

<sup>1</sup>Minehead.

<sup>2</sup>The Oxford Parliament pledged itself to raise £100,000 by loans. The writs calling on private persons to lend to the King were dated 14 February. (Madan no. 1536).

<sup>3</sup>Cf. Jermyn to Rupert, Oxford, 11 February, "The ambassadors from Holland have yet said nothing but in public, and that hath been no more than to harangue for peace." (Warburton II, 374).

with their officers by the way, and run all of them to Shrewsbury, that on Thursday last the Lord Biron's brother<sup>1</sup> was buried at Oxford, at which there was a great funeral.

TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY. Henry Parneby came yesterday from Shotover and saith that he hears there is about 6000 horse and foote in and about Oxford, and that there lyes about 2000 horse and foote in Abbing-ton, that it is reported by some that Sir Raphe Hopton is gone into Surrey, and that Prince Robert<sup>2</sup> with his forces which are about 4000 horse that marched out of Oxford on Thursday is marching towards him, to ioine his forces with Sir Raphes that they may march both together into Kent, and others thinke he is marching towards Gloucester, that he hears the Lord Herbert is raising forces both of horse and foote in Wales, and that he hath lent the King 4,000 li. and that Collonell Pert is made Governor of Winchester.

Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that the Parliament sitts very close, and have rayzed a great some of mony for the King but how much hee knowes not. That they were all much affrighted on Thursday last at the sinking of the ground at least 4 yards deepe betweene St. Maryes Church and the Schooles. That Prince Robert is marcht with all his forces towards Nantwich, and lay on Wednesday night in Glostershire, where his saddle was stollen by a widdowe woemans sonne in the towne, and another consented to it, they were both taken, and Prince Robert caused them to throw the dice upon a drumes head for their lives, which happened to him that stole it, whoe was hangd upp presently, though his mother kneeled 2 howers for him upon her bare knees. That Prince Robert hath taken great store of fier workes with him, and there is great reioyceing at Oxford for an overthrowe which, they say, they have given Collonell Masseyes forces neere Gloucester.

WEDDENSDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 1643. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford. Henry Parneby———. <sup>3</sup>

TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY. John Lane. That he came yesterday morning from Banbury, and saith that the party of horse which went out of Banbury on Fryday night last are not yett returnd, but it is thought they are marcht to Cicester, that there is allmost noe horse left att Banbury, and but about 1 or 200 foote to keepe the Castle,

<sup>1</sup>Sir Thomas Byron, see p. 222 n. 4.

<sup>2</sup>He left Oxford on 6 February to secure Shrewsbury, Chester and north Wales.

<sup>3</sup>Blank in MS.



he heard that the Earle of Northampton marched yesterday from Banbury after the aforesaid party of horse, it is reported Prince Robert is gonne into Lancashire and Cheshire to raise forces for his Majesty and to fall with them uppon Sir William Breertons forces or other garrison townes thereabouts. They say Sir William Breerton is gon to London and that Prince Roberts forces will fall uppon some of his forces ere hee returne backe againe. Banbury forces would not have Collonell Smith keepe Hilsden howse for the King hath lost many forces by keepinge of howses, and because Aylsbury and Newport being garrison townes, are soe neere it, and likewise they thinke the contry is not right for them. That Hilsden howse is yett fortyfying verly strongly.

MUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY. Returned this day from Hilsden howse, and saith that the laborers that were formerly employed in the way of digging, and soe dispensed, were warnd yesterday to come to worke againe, that there is noe ordnance about the howse and that there is but 25 musketts in the howse that he could see, that the workes are soe shallowe that they cannot be defensive this weeke, if they make noe more hast than they doe, that the contry carryed in part of the mony which the Cavalieers text them to pay, and have respitt for the remainder till Fryday, that the Cavaliers report to the contry thereabouts that they neede not feare, for they have frightened the Roundheads farr enough of them, and that there goo horse and foote att Hilsden howse under the command of Collonell Smith.

Thomas Richardson was this day discharged. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford. John Taylor went this day to London. Henry Parneby towards Oxford. Robert Pettitt went to the Lord Hopton. Richard Cooke went this day with letters to Newport from Serieant Maior Generall Skippon.

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY. William Blewett came yesterday from Redding, and saith that there about 400 horse and foote in the towne, and 10 peeces of ordnance and they compell all the townesmen from 16 yeares of age to 60 to take upp armes to keepe the towne, that the soldiers run dayly from Redding, and 40 run away on Sunday last being almost starved. That there is a troope of horse quarterd in Henly under the command of Sir Charles Blunt. That there are about 100 foote soldiers in Greenland howse, which they have fortified and are now making bulwarkes to plant their ordnance upon. And they are commanded by Maior Gilby.

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY. That hee came yesterday from Abbington, and saith that there are about 5 or 600 foote, but not above 100 horse,

that hee could observe. That hee heard Prince Robert is gone from Gloucestershire towards Nantwich in Cheshire and other parts in Lancashire with 6000 horse, and intends to fall upon Sir Thomas Fairfax. They alsoe report that on Friday last there were many prisoners brought into Oxford which were taken in Cheshire, and comming home hee heard that Sir Thomas Fairfax had since fallen upon the Kings forces, and taken a great many prisoners, and that hee still pursues his late victory. That hee heares a report that Plymouth is or very shortly will bee delivered to the contry thereabouts for the use of Prince Maurice.

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 1643. Henry Palmer returned this day, and saith that hee came from Woodstocke where there was regiments of foote quartered which came from Weston on the Greene on Monday, where hee heares there onely mett them 2 regiments and some 6 troopes of horse which were as hee heard to march alonge with these foote after Prince Rupert and hee heard that that morninge both horse and foote should march on their way towards Worcester.

Michaell March returned this day from Hilsden house, and saith that there are about 120 horse and foote under the comaund of Collonell Smith. That the house is intrencht round but the workes as yet are verie shallowe, soe that a foote man may goe over in most places about the house. That warrants were sent out this day into the three hundreds of Buckinghamshire to warne every towne to send in men to come and helpe them to guard their workes. And all the carpenters thereabouts are charged to come thither to worke, and the third parte of the men in every towne are charged to come in to digg.

John Lane went this day towards Sir Raph Hoptons army.

FRYDAY 16 FEBRUARY. Mr. Wigfall came this morning from Newport, and went afterwards to London to his Excellency. Richard Cooke came from thence alsoe with letters to Maior Generall. John Taylor went this day to London with letters to his Excellency.

17 FEBRUARY, SATTURDAY. Richard Cooke went this day to Newport.

Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that Prince Robert is neere Shrewsbury with 10,000 horse and foote and intends to fall upon Sir Thomas Fairfax at Nantwich. That the new Parliament sitts close every day. That the new Parliament sitts very close every day in Oxford, but heares not of any thing they have donne besides the raising of the 200,000 li. And certaine new articles of peace, which they have framed and sent upp yesterday by a trumpiter to the Earle of Essex which there is great reioycing at, in hope they will take better

effect then the last. And saith that on Wednesday there were 3000 foote mustered on the north side of the citty whoe they say are speedily to march forth but whither hee knowes not.

Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert as hee heares is in Wales with 10 or 12,000 horse and foote, but what his designe is, hee knowes not. That they sitt dayly in the new Parliament at Oxford, and there is great ioy in hopes of peace, they having sent other articles to the Earle of Essex this weeke to that purpose. That there were 3000 foote mustered on Wednesday last which hee heares are speedily to march away with 20 peeeces of ordnance which lye ready upon their carriages.

Richard Hunt came this day out of Cheshire, and saith that there are 2 strong holds of the Kings taken the last weeke by Sir Thomas Fairfax, one at Drew<sup>1</sup> hall, nere and the other nott far distant nere Nantwich, where they all marcht away without their armes, leaving all to our men, and at Drew hall they marcht away with halfe their armes, being most of them Irish, whoe came afterwards to Stafford. That 800 of the forces which Sir William Breereton [and] Sir Thomas Fairfax tooke at Nantwich have taken the Covenant and taken up armes for the Parliament. That about 800 of the Parliaments forces under the comand of Collonell Ridgeley marched lately out of Stafford to Biddle hall, wherein (as hee heares) is the Lord Brereton and divers other gentlemen of quality whoe have layen before it these 3 weekes, and that they within are in great want of all manner of provision, insoemuch that it is hoped that it will bee suddenly surrendered upp. And that on Thursday was sevenight last Sir Thomas Fairfax, marcht upp to their assistance with 700 horse and 12 carriages, and hee heares that Sir John Gell is come thither alsoe with 500 horse upon report that Sir Thomas was to bee called away. That on Thursday night last the amunition which was designed for Gloucester lay at Warwicke under a convoy of 1000 horse and foote, and it is hoped will bee there speedily. That on Wednesday night last Prince Robert with about 500 horse quarterd at Dudley Castle, 15 miles from Coventry, and tis thought that hee is marching towards Nantwich. That on the Tuesday before Captaine Fisher comming with some 60 horse to Mackstow<sup>2</sup> Castle thinking to surprize it, left their horse in the wood adioyning the Parliaments forces within (sic) came out and tooke him and 4 more prisoners, and 2 drowned in the moate, and the rest run away.

Robert Pettitt came yesterday from Winchester, where hee heares Collonell Pert is made governor and hath fortified both the towne and castle, and there are 16 peeeces of ordnance. That Sir Raph

<sup>1</sup>Crewe.

<sup>2</sup>Maxstocke.

Hopton is marcht with all his forces towards the Devises being 8000 horse and foote, and that Prince Robert is to meete and ioyne his forces with him, and the report is there, that assoone as they are mett their intent is to march to Surrey. That on Satturday last the Lord Willmott with a regiment of horse came into Abbington and was to march away the 14th. of this instant February, but whither hee knowes not. That hee heares that Prince Maurice hath beene lately rowted and some say that hee is come to Oxford, and others that hee is dead. That Sir Jacob Ashley hath warnd all the contry about Redding to bring in mony to carry to the Parliament at Oxford.

Henry Parneby came yesterday from Oxford, and saith hee heares there that Sir Raph Hopton is gone towards the Devises and that the Lord Willmott came the last weeke into Abbington with a party of horse, and on Wednesday last marcht out againe. That Prince Maurices army is rowted and hee himselfe is come to Oxford. And the report is that the new Parliament in Oxford hath granted the King 200,000 li. That Prince Robert is advancing towards Nantwich, to releve the forces which are under the command of the Lord Byron, and the Lord Herbert hath raised 8000 horse and foote in Wales to ioyne with Prince Robert, and hath furnisht the King with a great sume of mony. And saith that on Thursday last Captaine Shelburne was taken with 12 more of his men at Winchlow and carryed to Oxford.

Henry Connington went to Oxford. Henry Hopkins went alsoe. Robert Pettitt to Newport with letters. John Taylor came from London.

Raph Norton saith that on Wednesday last the Kings forces were mustered at Henley, and Generall Ruthen was there and this weeke and at Redding and Wallingford and it is reported that hee is to goe to see the Lord Hoptons army. And that Generall Ruthen assoone as the muster maister had taken the soldiers names commanded them to returne to Oxford with all speed not giving them soe much tyme as to putt their foote out of the stirropp, and that the captaines the day before the muster gott contry men and their horses to bee mustered to make upp their numbers whoe went altogether to Oxford, and hee spoke with one of them that came thence since they went from Henley. That the Governor of Wallingford hath comand to furnish the castle with beefe and biskitt whoe thereupon went into the castle to view the old store and it was all spoild, insoemuch that they threw away 40 hogsheds of beefe that stunke and not fitt to bee eaten, and now they search the contry for bacon and take it away and carry it into the castle. That the soldiers have noe pay, but are permitted to fetch cattle out of the contry instead of their pay.

MONDAY 19TH. FEBRUARY. William Blewett came from Oxford on Satturday last and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that

the King is dayly at the Parliament, and that they have sent out warrants into all the parts of Oxfordshire to warne them to bring in both men, mony and armes, but they have returned in their warrants and refuse to bring in any at all. That hee heares that Prince Robert is gone into Wales to rayse all the forces hee can, and that most of the commanders that were in Oxford are gone into their severall contries for the same purpose. That on Thursday last they mustered all the horse and foote that were in Oxford in New Parke, and as hee heard, they were 3,500, but many of them run away dayly for want of pay. That the Queenes regiment is quartered at Wheatley, where they keepe a strong court of guard.

William Blewett went out this day.

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY. Mr. Nicholas Luke went this day with letters to Newport. John Turner went to London, there being then due 1 li. 5s. od. Raph Rogers went to Oxford.

FRYDAY 23 FEBRUARY. Henry Parneby returned on Thursday last from Winchester, and saith there are 6000 horse and foote in the city and the villages adioyning, and 24 peeces of ordnance in the towne and castle, and there is a dayly expectacion of Prince Robert and Sir Raph Hopton to ioine their forces to oppose Sir William Waller, and there is great boasting that within one moneth they will rowte and distroy all Sir William Wallers forces, whoe they conceive to bee very weake, and report that all the Kentish men which were under his command have quite forsaken him.

William Blewett came yesturday from Redding, and saith there are about 500 horse and foote in the towne and 10 peeces of ordnance, but the soldiers run away dayly for want of pay. That hee heares that Sir Raph Hopton is at Winchester, and gave Sir William Wallers forces twoe allarmes the last weeke, and intend to fall upon them very shortly. That on Wednesday last was sevenight, there went from Oxford to Basing howse a load of powder and bullets, one load of match, a load of musketts and pikes and 2 peeces of ordnance, and they have sent for all the trayned bands thereabouts to come to their assistance being in continuall feare of Sir William Wallers coming to beseidge the howse. That hee heares alsoe that the Governor of Wallingford is to bee hangd for mustering 900 men when hee had but 300 in all and for taking pay for 900 above this halfe yeare.<sup>1</sup>

John Lane returned yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there. But Prince Robert hee heares is about

<sup>1</sup>For proclamations relating to false musters see E. J. S. Parsons, *Some Proclamations of Charles I (Bodleian Quarterly Record VIII, No. 90, Supplement, p. 10).*

Worcester and divers in the contry thereabouts repaire to him whom hee horseth as fast they come, and they expect him very suddenly with a great army at Oxford. That on Wednesday last there came 2 packetts of letters from the Earle of Newcastle to the King affirming that hee had given a great overthrow to the Scotts, and had kild about 1000 of them. That they are fortifieing the north side of the citty, and are still dayly at worke about them, and keepe very strong courts of guard in all places about the citty. That they sitt very close at the Parliament and they have made an order that all the Kings soldiers shall henceforth bee paid every weeke. That the Earle of Essex his trumpiter came into Oxford yesterday about noone, and there was great reioycing at his comming in hopes of peace.

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY. Henry Parneby went this day to Oxford. William Blewett went to. (sic) Raph Rogers returned yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that Prince Robert is about Nantwich and intends to ioyn his forces with the Lord Byron to keepe backe the Scotts, and there were 300 horse drawne out of Bister on Monday last to march to Prince Robert. That the Parliament sitts close in Oxford, the the Lord Generall Riven went to his regiment at Wodstocke on Thursday last. That the Lord John<sup>1</sup> brother to the Duke of Lenox marcht out of Oxford on Wednesday last with 600 foote towards Winchester to the assistance of the Lord Hopton. That the same day twoe loades of powder, bulletts, match, a load of musketts and pikes and 2 peeces of ordnance were conveyed from Oxford to Basing howse.

John Taylor went this day to London. Mr. William Wigfall to Newport.

SONDAY 25 FEBRUARY. Raph Rogers went this day to ————. <sup>2</sup> John Lane to Oxford.

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY. Christofer Granger came from Hilsden howse on Saturday last, and saith there are 300 horse and foote under the comand of Collonell Smith, and they are fortifieing the howse and filling upp the outhowes with earth and dung for the strenghening of it. That there are 400 horse at Chesterton under Collonell West, and they with those at Hilsden pillage all the contry thereabouts.

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY. Christofer Granger went this day to Redding. William Blewett came from Redding and saith there are not above

<sup>1</sup>Lord John Stuart, brother of the fourth Duke of Lennox and first Duke of Richmond. He was killed at Cheriton, 29 March.

<sup>2</sup>Blank in MS.

100 of the Kings forces, all the rest being drawn away, insoemuch as the townsmen are forced to keepe the guards. That they have 10 peeeces of ordnance and there are 3 troopes of horse at Henley, 2 whereof came lately from Oxford and are now all under the comand of Sir Charles Blunt. That hee hears Prince Maurice and the Lord Hopton are at Winchester, and that Prince Robert is preparing to meete them and that soe soone as they are all together they intend to fall upon Sir William Waller.

Henry Parneby returned from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and hee heares Prince Robert is about Worcester with all his forces, and is sent for to Oxford, and is afterwards to march from thence to Winchester to ioyn his forces with the Lord Hopton. That Prince Maurice is alsoe at Winchester, and the report is about Oxford that there is great preparation in Ireland for the Kings comming to Dublin.

Raph Rogers came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there and Prince Robert is still in Wales, and hath gott together about 1000 men, and that Generall Ruven came from Woodstocke to Oxford on Satturday last. That all the Kings forces which were quarterd at Bister, are drawn to Hilsden howse expecting dayly the Parliaments forces from Aylesbury. That Collonell Jerratt<sup>1</sup> with about 100 horse and foote are quarterd at the Lady Denham's howse at Bostoll<sup>2</sup> neere Oxford, and about 500 are in Wallingford, 1000 in Oxford and some 60 in Wheatley.

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY. Henry Parneby went to Oxford. John Taylor with letters to Oxford. Raph Rogers to Oxford. William Blewett went this day to Newport. Mr. Wormewell to London, with letters to his Excellency.

THURSDAY 29 FEBRUARY. Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there, and hee heares that Prince Robert is about Shrewsbury recruting his forces, and hath rayseed already an army of 8000 horse and foote. That on Friday last all the Scotts in Oxford, both lords, gentlemen and soldiers were commanded to depart the towne, and the same day were guarded out with a strong party of horse but whither hee knowes not. That yesterday morning 2000 horse and foote were commanded to march away to the releife of Hilsden howse, which is there reported to bee

<sup>1</sup>Probably Charles Gerard, who commanded a regiment of Blue Coats in the Oxford district. (See F. J. Varley, *Civil War Army List*, *Oxoniensia* II, 144).

<sup>2</sup>Boarstall.



beseidged by the Parliaments forces. That on Tuesday the gund-powder howse<sup>1</sup> was blowen upp and 4 barrells of powder, and many men hurt and slaine. That they report alsoe that they have 15000 armes landed at Weymouth and that the Scotts are beaten backe. That Mr. John Digby is made Generall of all the forces in the west, and Prince Maurice is to returne to Oxford.

28 FEBRUARY 1643 from Newport. (sic)

Saith that hee came from Shrewsbury on Saturday last, and that Prince Robert came into Shrewsbury the 21th of this instant moneth with his whole brigade of horse, consisting of about 800, and there came with him 7 collours of foote consisting of 300, and his carriages went by water, Captaine Fox was amongst them, but hee knowes not whether his dragoones were there, and that all Prince Roberts horse lye betweene Worcester and Shrewsbury upon the hills, and the report is that there are about 6000 of them. That before Prince Roberts comming thither there was none to guard the towne but onely the trayned bands of the contry, and the Lord Capells regiment of horse now under Collonell Trevor, consisting of 7 collours, but there are not above 70 horse in them.

MARCH 1, 1643. FRYDAY. Christofer Granger came yesterday from Redding and saith there are about 1500 soldiers in the towne, and 11 peeeces of ordnance, and the last weeke there was a generall muster, and they sent word to the King that they had 14 regiments of horse and foote. That they have fortified the towne doble and keepe strong guards. And on Monday last a party of horse sallyed out and pillaged divers howses in Brayle, within a mile of Windsor, and other villages thereabouts. And saith that on Thursday last was sevenight, twoe peeeces of ordnance were brought thither from Oxford. And that Sir Jacob Ashley is still Governor of Redding. Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there, but Prince Robert hee heares is about Shrewsbury, and hath raysted and gott together an army of 9000 men. That the Parliament sitts very close and they have sent all the Scotts, both lords, gentlemen and commanders out of Oxford, whoe are to goe into Scotland. That on Tuesday last all the soldiers were musterd, and the soldiers, townesmen and lodgers were not in all above 4500 men. That on Wednesday last a great party of horse and foote were drawn out of Oxford, and were to march away the same day but whither hee knowes not. That another party went forth on Monday last to conduct

<sup>1</sup>“ This day (27 February) the Stove at Osney by mischance took fyre, and blew up about the quantity of 3 barrels of powder and killed one man.” (Dugdale 62).

the armes (as is reported) which landed at Weymouth to Oxford.<sup>1</sup> That they bragg of a great defeate which they have lately given the Scotts, that Prince Maurice is expected at Oxford and that some other is to bee made General of the westerne forces in his stead, but whoe hee cannot learne.

SATURDAY 2 MARCH. Christofer Granger went this day to Redding. Robert Pettitt to ———.<sup>2</sup> Henry Hopkins to Oxford. William Blewett went to Oxford.

Raph Rogers came yesterday from Oxford and saith the King and Queene are there. And hee heares that Prince Robert on Monday last was within 6 miles of Gloster, but retreated to Worcester and intends to fall upon Coventry. That the Queene is desirous to goe to Bristoll, but the Papists in Merton Colledge endeavour to perswade her to continue still in Oxford. That on Tuesday last there went 80 carts from Oxford towards Weymouth to fetch the armes and amunition which are there landed. That there are about 100 foote and 50 horse at Greenland howse, and 2 small peeces, and the howse is very strongly fortified and they say there are towne peeces of ordnance more to come thither from Oxford very suddenly.<sup>3</sup> That they report they make every weeke a load of gundpowder, and have sent for workemen to make match. That there are not above 1000 foote in Oxford, and there is a guard of about 60 men at Wheatley Bridge.

SONDAY, 3 MARCH. That hee came from Wickham and saith hee heares that on Friday last 1000 dragoones marcht out of Oxford to Henley, under the command of Sir Charles Blunt, and are to march from thence to the assistance of Greenland howse, and the King sent out warants the last weeke into Buckinghamshire commanding all the contry thereabouts to bring in men mony and armes to Greenland howse, and that those whoe refused are to bee plundered by the Kings forces. And that they report in Oxford that the Earle of Newcastle hath beaten the Scotts 10 miles backwards.

MONDAY 4TH MARCH 1643. John Lane retorned this day and saith that yesterday hee came from Oxford and that the Kinge and Queene are there, and hee heares Prince Robert is att Shrewsbury with all his forces and hath sent for all his sumpter horses whoe went to him on Wednesday last to Shrewsbury, and they keepe verie strict court of

<sup>1</sup>Arms for 1,000 men brought from France. (Gardiner I, 320).

<sup>2</sup>Blank in MS.

<sup>3</sup>In this month Major-General Skippon directed that Phillis Court, Henley, should be fortified and garrisoned to check the Royalist garrison at Greenland House. (Whitelocke, *Memorials*, I, 244).

guard att Oxford, and on the north side of the towne there are every day att least 400 souldiers and gentlemen volunteirs worke, makinge sconces and double workes. That upon Tuesday last there went twee cart loads of amunition to Hilsden house and that post was sent to Prince Robert that Aisbury and Newport forces had beseiged itt. That there came a post upon Thursday last out of the north whoe brought newes to Oxford that the Earle of Newcastle had taken 16 colours of horse and 400 dragoones from the Scotts. That hee heares that Collonell Sands lyes at Easam with 2000 foote and 500 horse and the towne verie strongly fortified. Christopher Granger came from Redding and saith that there are 2000 horse and foote and 11 peeces of ordnance in the towne. And that there is a party of horse now ready to march away from thence to assist the Lord Hopton against Sir William Waller. And all the Kings forces which were quartered at Twyford and thereabouts are to come to Redding to supply their roome, and are in dayly expectacion eyther of his Excellency or Sir William Waller with their forces against them.

TUESDAY 5 MARCH. John Lane went this day to Oxford. Christofer Granger went to Redding. Raph Rogers went on Sondag last to Oxford.

WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH. Mr. Edward Wormewell came from Newport with letters to London for his Excellency.

Raph Norton and Richard Clun informed this day that the Lord Hopton is at Winchester and that parte of his foote are quarterd at Andever and his horse at Amesbury and the villages adiacent. That hee heard the Lord John brother to the Duke of Lenox is made Generall of the Lord Hoptons horse, and they intend to rayse an army of 16000 horse and foote in the west, whereof part are to fall upon Sir William Wallers forces, and the rest to march into Kent upon their old designe. That Sir Richard Greenville<sup>1</sup>, Leiftenant Generall of the horse to Sir William Waller went this weeke to the King with his coach and 6 horses, his Captaine Leiftennant, Quarter Master, one trumpitt and about 14 common soldiers, and that the first place they arrived at was Redding.

THURSDAY 7 MARCH. Henry Connington came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there, and the Parliament meetes twice a day and sitts very close, but heares not of any thing they doe. That on Sondag night last there were 6 brasse peeces of ordnance and a great number of pikes, musketts and ammunition conveyed from

<sup>1</sup>Grenville, deserting from the Parliamentary army, fled to Oxford on 3 March, carrying with him the news that Parliament was negotiating with Lord Charles Paulet for the betrayal of Basing House. (Gardiner I, 319).

thence to Redding by water. And on Wednesday following hee sawe 2 great iron peeces and as much amunition as a barge could carry loaded for Redding, which (as hee heares) were afterwards to bee sent to Greenland howse. And further saith that on Monday last there came into Oxford 20 cart loades of armes and amunition which were brought from Weymouth, and hee sawe 24 cart loades more come in since and hee heares there are 20 loades more gone to the Lord Hopton. That there is great sorrow for the losse of Hilsden howse, but they say they have pritty well requited the Roundheads in obteyning a late victory against them in Dorcetshire and Glostershire. That they report alsoe that they have given a great defeate to the Scotts wherein they have kild 200 and taken 700 prisoners. That Sir Richard Greenville came into Oxford on Satturday night last attended with 35 troopers, and hath acquainted his Majestye with divers passages and resolucons of the Parliaments forces.

Henry Connington went this day to London, with letters etc. to his Excellency.

FRYDAY 8 MARCH. Mr. Jo. Turner went to Abbington.

Raph Rogers came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there and hee heares Prince Robert is now about Gloster, and hath had a skirmish with some of Collonell Masseyes forces, wherein hee lost most of his owne troope, and himselfe was wounded. That they report alsoe that Price Maurice is comming from Plymouth with 5000 horse and foote to Oxford, and this weeke there came into Oxford 10000 armes and 20 loades of amunition from Weymouth. That there were 500 horse drawn out of Oxford on Wednesday last to Dorchester, and the next day marcht towards Sir William Waller. That there are about 400 foote in Wheatley and a strong guard upon the bridge. That yesterday morning hee mett Sir Jacob Ashely and Sir Charles Blunt with a party of 600 horse from Redding, whoe went to Amersam and plundred the towne and returnd to their quarters.

SATTURDAY 9TH. MARCH. Raph Rogers went this day to Oxford.

Christofer Granger came yesterday from Redding, and saith there are about 2000 horse and foote in the towne, and 13 peeeces of ordnance, and they keepe very strong guards both in towne and at Twyford and Sanford Mill. That Prince Maurice is expected dayly at Redding with all his forces from Plymouth, whoe are to continue there for the better safeguard of the towne. That on Thursday last a party of horse went out under the command of Sir Jacob Ashley to Amersham, whoe plundred the towne, and returned backe the same day.

Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the Parliament sitts very close, and that on Monday last there were conveyed

8 or 9 peeces of ordnance and great store of amunition from thence to Redding, and on Wednesday last 2 great iron peeces and a whole barge full of amunition were sent thither likewise. That since Monday last there came into Oxford fowerscore cart loades of armes and amunition from Weymouth, and hee heares there are 6 or 7000 Irish newly landed in England. That the citty is very full of soldiers and they talke of sending out suddenly all the horse and foote they can spare but whither hee knowes not. That Prince Robert is about Shrewsbury, and Prince Maurice about Plymouth. That they are mightily vext at the losse of Hilsden howse, but they say they have beaten the Roundheads soundly in Dorcetshire. That Collonell Massey hath not escaped at Gloucester, and that the Earle of Newcastle hath trebly requited them in the north.

SONDAY 10 MARCH. John Lane came yesterday from Islipp, and saith there are about 300 horse and dragoones quartered in the towne, and one drake, and hee heares that the Queenes troopes are comming from Abbington to bee quarterd at Heddington and Stanton. That they are fortifieing Bostoll howse where there are about 100 foote and one troope of horse commanded by Captaine Gerrard and are iealous of Sir S. Lukes comming thither. That there are 1000 horse comming to lye at Wheatley, and the foote which were there are to goe to Foston 3 miles from Oxford, and there is a horse guard to bee kept at Wheatley bridge. That there 300 foote at Woodstocke. And they are all in daily feare of the Parliaments forces, and earnestly pray for peace.

Roger Connington to Oxford.

MONDAY 11 MARCH. John Lane went this day to the Lord Hoptons army. Henry Connington went to Oxford.

Christofer Granger came yesterday from Redding, and saith there are about 1500 horse and foote, and 14 peeces of ordnance, and yesterday morning a party consisting of 500 horse and foote went out to Wheatley, to meete Prince Maurice and his forces at Henley, where they were to meete with Sir Charles Blunt and after were to march to Oxford. That there are 300 horse and foote at Grenland howse, and 3 peeces of ordnance and that they keepe a strong court of guard at Sanford Mill and have 2 peeces of ordnance.

TUESDAY, 12 MARCH. Nicholas Walton went out this day to Oxford.

John Ravenscroft came on Wednesday last from Oxford, and saith that there were drawe out of Oxford on Thursday last, 3000 horse and foote to Redding upon notice that the Parliaments forces were come against it. That order was given for all the Kings forces to march away the last weeke from Greenland howse to Redding. That

Prince Maurice is at Oxford, and his troope at Redding and all his foote at Dorchester and thereabouts. That there is a regiment of horse goeing out of Redding under the command of Captaine Hackwood, whoe are to ioyne with the Lord Hopton, and after to fall upon Sir William Waller.

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH. John Taylor went this day with letters to London.

Raph Rogers came yesterday from Oxford, and saith the King and Queene are there, and hee heares Prince Robert is at Stratford upon Avon with 7000 horse and foote, where hee lost 500 comon soldiers, 2 of his cheife commanders, and was himselfe shott in the thigh. That hee heares nothing of Prince Maurice, but that his regiment of horse lyes at Blewbury, and are to march from thence after Prince Robert. That it is reported alsoe that the King hath lost Milford haven, and 100 peeces of ordnance. That the Governor hath thrice upon his knees petitioned his Majestye to send away all the towne soldiers to some other garrison for feare they should betray the guards. Whereupon they were all sent to Redding on Satturday last, with 3 peeces of ordnance. That hee heares that Sir Jacob Ashley and Sir Charles Blunt marcht yesterday from Redding with 3000 dragoones towards Basing howse, which is reported there to bee besiedged by the Parliaments forces.

Henry Connington came this day from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and the Parliament sitts twice a day, but hee heares of nothing they doe. That on Tuesday last the blew and grey regiments marcht forth with 2 great peeces of ordnance and 10 carriages, and as some say to Basing howse. That the same day all the horse were musterd, where the King was present above 3 howers, and there appeared about 3000 horse. That on Monday night last the Governor of Oxford without the beating of a drum, by a private allarme caused all the towne to bee ready in arnes at an howers warning, pretending that the Parliaments forces were come against the city, onely to see and try the readynes of the soldiers and townesmen.

Henry Hopkins came this day and saith that hee heard there was a great party of horse and foote to march away yesterday from Redding, to plunder Hartfordshire, but what particular place hee knowes not.

THURSDAY, 14 MARCH. Raph Rogers went this day to Oxford. Henry Connington to Oxford. Mr. Parris James and Edward went this day to Newport.

FRIDAY, 15 MARCH. Henry Hopkins went this day to Oxford.

John Lane came from Redding and Basing yesterday and saith that on Wednesday morning last 500 foote marcht out of Redding

towards Sir Raph Hopton, and heares that our party was on Wednesday last at Whitchurch, where some [of] our horse lately mett with a party of the Kings and had a little skirmish, and kild some and tooke some prisoners, and hee heares that on Tuesday last they were at Alton, and are now marcht nearer to Winchester, where they are to meete with Sir William Wallers forces. And saith that all the horse which were in Redding were drawen yesterday morning into a body, and are to march after the foote towards the Lord Hopton.

SATURDAY, 16 MARCH. John Lane went this day to Oxford. Thomas Hitchman came from Newport and went with letters to London to his Excellency.

Nicholas Walton retorned yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that on Wednesday last Collonell Berd<sup>1</sup> and Collonell Gerrards regiments of foote went to Sir Lewis Dives to Abbington, and there joyned their forces on purpose to meete with the Gloucester reliefe. That on Tuesday and Wednesday last the Parliament forces at Woodstocke gave sound alarums to Oxford, and that they were within one mile and a halfe of the citty, which put Oxford to a very greate fright.

SUNDAY 17TH. MARCH 1643. Ralph Rogers, that hee came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there, and the report in Oxford is that Prince Robert went the last weeke towards Wales to raise more forces from thence, that there are 1000 foote in Oxford, and about 1500 horse quarterd about the citty, and that from thence (on Tuesday last) went 41 carrages towards Gloucester, but yesterday night they came to Oxford againe. That all the contry round is warned to come, and make new bulworkes without the Northgate being 14 foote wide, and the contry comes in according to the warrants. That yesterday there went from Oxford three troope of horse (being of the Queenes owne regiment) towards Redding. That on Fryday hee was in Bostall house, and saith that there are 100 muskets in the house and but 24 men as hee could see, and that while he was in the house, 18 souldiers came from Aylesbury and gave them them an alarum.

MUNDAY 18 MARCH. Nicolas Walton went this day to Oxford. Ralph Rogers went this day to Oxford.

MUNDAY 18TH. MARCH 1643. John Web came this day from his Excellency from London, and on Saterday night last hee came from

<sup>1</sup>Presumably Henry Bard, later Viscount Bellamont. (see *D.N.B.*).



Petersfeild, and saith that Sir William Belford<sup>1</sup> and his forces are quartered there and the adjacent villages, being in number 30 troopes of horse and about 1500 dragoones, and the same day Sir William Waller came to Sir William Belford, and said his forces should march on Sunday last, to be joyned together, and that Sir William Waller and Sir William Belford commanded him to tell his Excellency that this Munday they should advance, hoping this night to be neere the enemy.<sup>2</sup> That Sir Ralph Hopton hath pressed as many forces as he can, his whole strenght being 5 or 6000 horse and foote, and though Sir Ralph Hopton hath pressed some forces, yet they run faster from him then any come to him. And he heard that on Munday last from Redding and Wallingford were sent some forces, but he knows not how many.

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 1643. John Web went this day to the parts commanded by Sir William Belford. John Tailor went this day with informacions to his Excellency.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH. Henry Parnebe went this day to Sir William Belford.

MARCH 20TH. John Turner returned yesterday from Abbington and saith that it is reported there that Prince Robert<sup>3</sup> expects that Glocester will be delivered unto him this weeke, and that he hath taken Collonell Mitton and another collonell and some prisoners and killed 40 upon the place that Collonell Massey the last weeke issued out of Glocester, and fell upon some of the Kings forces, killed some and tooke others, but some fresh forces falling upon him made him retreate into the citty. That Collonell Beare with his party and others who assisted him from Warwick and those parts were marching (as they say) towards Glocester, with amunition for the releife thereof, and Prince Roberts forces lying in the way (being many more in number) they held it convenient to retreate for the safety of the amunition. That the Lord Hopton and Prince Maurices forces are gone into Surrey, and intent to march from thence into Kent with 14000 horse and foote, and they boast that there are 16000 more to march after them, who are to come out of Devonsheire and Cornwall, and they say Plymouth either is or willbe delivered up very shortly for the use of the contry there abouts. It was also reported there that Sir William Waller had taken all the Princes troope, and afterwards they said it was but part of an other troope. They also

<sup>1</sup>Sir William Balfour. (See *D.N.B.*).

<sup>2</sup>Hopton's army based on Winchester.

<sup>3</sup>By 20 March Rupert was at Bingham on his way to relieve Newark.

said they had had some loss of some forces lately raised in Wales, who were coming from thence to Prince Robert. They also report that the Lord Paulet had agreed to betray Basing house (but was prevented by Sir Richard Greenville's running away to Oxford) and it is thought he will loose his head for it. That Sir Lewis Dives hath not yet regained his credit for Newport busines, but for the gaining thereof hath promised either to take the towne this sommer and Sir Samuell Luke, or else he will fire the towne. That there are 5 brass peeeces in Abbington and about 400 foote and 200 horse.

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 1643. Ralp[h] Rogers came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that there are 1000 foote souldiers in the citty and about 500 horse, and that Prince Robert upon Satterday last sent 1200 foote out of Wales, onely with clubbs and 2 regiments of horse to conduct them to Oxford, and so returned to west, on purpose to fetch the Queene to Bristoll, but she denying to goe, the said Welshmen presented themselves to the King, but the King telling them that they would run away, they made protestation that they would not stir, where upon armes were delivered to them, and they were quartered without the citty, on Barksheire side. That on Munday last there was an alarum given to Oxford, and the King stood by the workes and viewed our forces that gave the alarum. That the Kings Generall is quartered at Drayton with a regiment part horse and part foote.

FRYDAY, 22TH. MARCH 1643. Nicolas Walton, that he came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that he saw (the same day) the King and Prince Charles in Christ Church, and he heard that there are 3000 horse and foote in Oxford. That on Munday last the cittizen[s] in Oxford mustered themselves, and (by reporte) made 6 or 700 in number, and the King and Prince lookeing on, they gave 6 l. to the mustered men to drinke. They are making greate preparation for the Queenes goeing to Cicester on Munday next come seaventh night. That most of the horse which went to interrupt the Gloucester convoy, are come to Abbington againe to convoy the Queene to Cicester, but the foote remayne still behind, but he knowes not at what place.

SATERDAY 23 MARCH, 1643. John Webb came on Thursday last from Petersfeild and saith that on Munday last Sir William Belfords forces onely marched within 3 or 4 miles of Winchester, and Sir William Waller not being in a readynes to assist them, and provision being scarce, the contry being constrained to bring all their provision for man and horse to Winchester, gave an alarum to the Lord Hopton

(without any resistance) and so returned to their former quarter at Petersfeild. That the Lord Hopton haveing pressed all the younge men in the contry, doth now also press married men, but many of them run away, and some have been pressed three times. That he wants armes for the prest men. That about Sunday last there were greate forces sent out of Oxford, Abbington, Wallingford, Redding and Newbury to the Lord Hopton, that now his strenght is judged to be about 14000 horse and foote. Yesterday Sir William Waller had appointed with his forces to advance to Petersfeild, and so march along with Sir William Belford and carry provision with them. Sir Richard Greevill (sic) enformed the King that the Lord Charles had an intent to deliver Basing house to the Parliament forces, for which he was fetcht to Oxford upon Thursday. That the enemy in the west have received a letter from Oxford, which certifies that the Scots have lost 17000 and the rest are retreated backe againe into Scotland,<sup>1</sup> for which the enemy makes great bonfires.

SATERDAY. Nicolas Walton went to Oxford.

SUNDAY 24TH. MARCH, 1643. Richard Clarke, that he came from Oxford upon Fryday last, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and (as he heares) there are not above 2000 horse and foote in Oxford, whereof 700 of them are cittizen of Oxford, and there is greate preparacion for the Queenes goinge to Bristoll. That on Wednesday last there came 200 Welshmen unarmed to Oxford. That on Fryday last there came 6 loads of match to Oxford. That the Lord Paulet and many more prisoners came to Redding on Fryday last and was to be sent to Oxford on Satterday. That on Wednesday last there came a letter from London to a lady at Oxford, signifying that the Lord of Newcastle had slaine 6000 Scots and taken 40 peece ordnance. That the Kings forces have taken Wardrop Castle,<sup>2</sup> and that 80 prisoners which were taken in the castle and are coming to Oxford. That he heares Prince Robert is marching towards Newarke to raise the seige there. That the pretended Parliament at Oxford daly expect the proposition from the Parliament at Westminster, which if they come, and are not agreed upon then every of them are to goe into their owne contry and raise what forces they can for the King.

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH, 1643. Henry Connington, that he came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there,

<sup>1</sup>The Scottish army was besieging the town of Newcastle, the Marquis of Newcastle having fallen back on Durham.

<sup>2</sup>Wardour Castle, taken on 19 March.

and that the Parliament sits close every day, but he heares not any thinge that they have done, only 5 votes against our Parliament which will be in print the next weeke, but the substance there of he is not acquainted with. That on Tuesday last there came into Oxford 4 or 500 Welshmen, and listed themselves before the King and the Queene. That yesterday there was goeing 4 peeces of ordnance and about 1000 horse and foote out of Oxford, but he could not heare whither they were to goe. That the Lord Ruthan, the Kings Generall went to the Lord Hopton (about a weeke agoe) but with how many he knows not, and he heares there that Prince Maurice is upon his march to ioyn with the Lord Hopton. That on Munday last (he heard) 2000 or thereabouts of Irish were landed at Bristoll. That on Fryday last he saw the Lord Paulet, his wife, and some other prisoners, brought into Oxford, and within one houre after he saw him committed to the Castle. That the Marshall of the Castle was to be shot to death on Thursday last, but was not. He heard that Prince Robert with all his forces was at Beaver Castle on Fryday last, and that Newwarke forces had taken the blew regiment and slaine all the red regiment which lay before it, which was done on Sunday last. That on Munday last all the forces in Oxford were mustered, and (by reporte) were 7000 horse and foote.

SUNDAY 24TH. MARCH, 1643. Henry Hopkins came yesterday from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that the Parliament there sits very close every day. That on Munday last there went a party of horse under the command of Collonell King, to Prince Robert to Lincolnesheire. That yesterday 7 peeces of ordnance and some horse and foote were to goe (as he heard) to Gloucester, but it is kept very private. That on Tuesday last there came about 600 Welshmen into Oxford. He heard that on Munday last there were 2000 Irish landed in Cornwall. That on Fryday last the Lord Paulet was brought into Oxford. That on Wednesday last there were 6 Irish lords came to the pretended Parliament at Oxford. That all the horse and foote were mustered at Oxford and by report were about 7000.

MUNDAY 25 MARCH, 1644. John Web went this day to Sir William Belford. Henry Connington, Henry Hopkins, to Oxford. Richard Clarke to Redding.

MUNDAY 25 MARCH. Raph Rogers retorned yesterday from Oxford, and that the King and Queene are there, and that there are about 1000 foote and 300 horse, and that there are about 10 carriages with pickes and other amunition went to Newbury on Saturday last to Newbury,

and were conveyed by 200 of the Welshmen which came last, and the[y] intend to make a garrison of it. That 2 troopes of horse are continually to scout from Abbington to Newbury. He heard that Sir Charles Blunt sent to Oxford yesterday, for more forces to come to him at Greenland house, by reason that they at Chesham (sic) the forces are not able to goe above one halfe a mile from the house.

Ralph Rogers went to Oxford this day.

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH, 1643. Henry Parnebe, that yesterday he came from Petersfeild, and saith that on Saterdag last Sir William Belford was at Sir William Wallers quarters being within 4 miles of Petersfeild, that on Sunday last Sir William Belford tould him, that it was intended as yesterday to march neere the enemy. The report is that the Lord Hopton hath about 10 or 12000 horse and foote, and that the hills neere Winchester is compassed in the bullwarkes of that citty, and Sir William Belford tould him the reason why they did not march before, was because they did stay for two regiments to come to Sir William Waller out of Kent.

WEDNESDAY 27TH. MARCH 1644. Henry Connington came from Oxford this day, and saith that he saw the King and Queene there yesterday and by report there are about 4 or 5000 horse and foote in Oxford. That on Munday last there came a letter to the King from Prince Robert and the King was so joyfull at the news that he presently knighted the messenger and caused the letter to be printed<sup>1</sup> and the bells to bee rung and bon fires to bee made in Oxford untill 12 of the klock in the night, and that the 4 peeces of ordnance that went out of Oxford on Saterdag last are gone to Bradway hills in Glocestersheire and intend to beseidge Gloucester very close, and he heard Prince Robert is to goe and beseidge Lincolne, and that (as he heard) the Irish Committee hath proffered the King 20000 souldiers ready armed and maintaine them at their owne charges.

THURSDAY 28TH. MARCH, 1644. Ralph Rogers, that he came yesterday from Oxford and saith that the King and Queene are there and that there are above 2000 horse and foote in the citty, and that Prince Robert is in Newarke. That on Munday last there went 500 horse and foote to Prince Robert out of Oxford. That on Tuesday last there went 2 peeces of ordnance out of Oxford to Bostall house, and that 4 troopes of horse came to the house on Saterdag last but there are but 60 men in all the troopes, and that they are intrenching the

<sup>1</sup>*His Highness Prince Rupert's Raising of the Siege at Newarke upon Trent, March the 21, 1643.* (Madan no. 1587).

house. That on Munday last 80 horse the forces at Bostall house plundered Denton towne, that at Wheatly there are 80 foote and keepe a very stronge guard at the bridge.

THURSDAY 28TH. MARCH, 1644. John Web, that on Tuesday last he came from Petersfeild, and saith that on Tuesday night Sir William Waller and Sir William Belfords forces marched about 4 miles towards Alesford, and quartred all that night in the feilds, which when the Kings forces at Alsford heard of it retreated to Winchester. That on Saterday last the Governor of Reading sent out his warrant that all thereabouts that (sic) they must bring in their provisions both of horse and foote, onely the contry should keepe sufficiency for 7 daies, or else he would plunder them. That the Lord Musgrove<sup>1</sup> came to Oxford on Fryday last and as he was to pass through Bristoll there was a debate betweene the Mayre and the Governor of the city, whither he should pass and after a while they did permit him to goe thorow, and as he passed a little boy with a switch chanced to touch the said lord, whereupon he drew his sword and rane the boy through that he died.

THURSDAY 28TH. MARCH, 1644. Nicolas Walton came on Tuesday last from Oxford, and saith that the King and Queene are there, and that there are about 3000 horse and foote, and the most part of them are cittizens, that on Munday last Sir Lewis Dives mustered at Abbing-ton about 940 horse and foote ; that at Sutton lies two of the Queens troopes, at Hegbourne lies another of her troopes ; that on Tuesday last Sir Charles Blunts troopes retorning from Oxford to Redding (having carried prisoners to Oxford) tooke him (upon suspition) for a spy, and carried him to Redding, and that the Governor was gone that day to Oxford, and that at the marquet place in Redding are 8 iron and 4 brass peeces of ordnance ; and that only 2 are placed upon the workes, by the Lord Grayes barne, it being the barne where the Lord Grayes forces lay, when we tooke Redding ; that there are (by report) 1800 horse and foote, and that at Maple Durram and Casam are about 200 foote, at Twyfer are 80 musketeers which keepe court of guard there, and are released but once a weeke. He had 9s. 6d. taken from him by the enemy.

FRYDAY 29 MARCH, 1644. Ralph Rogers went this day to Oxford. Nicolas Walton went this day to Redding.

<sup>1</sup>There was no Lord Musgrave at this period. Lord Mulgrave, who supported Parliament, may have been meant, but the identification is improbable.

FRYDAY 29TH. MARCH, 1644. Richard Clarke, that he came from Wallingford on Wednesday last, that there are 5 peeces of ordnance in the castle, and not above 150 foote and 14 dragoones belonging to the towne ; and that the townes men are forced to watch every night themselves ; that at Redding there are but 12 peeces of ordnance, and one of them are placed upon workes, at a place (termed by them) the Sconce Royall ; that by report there were above 1400 foote in the towne, and that the Governor sent out his warrants about 5 daies agoe that all the contry should bring in their provision in the towne ; that at Greenland house are not above 120 foote and that they force the contry thereabouts to send to his Majesty 200l. monthly besides the maintenance of that garrison ; that a[t] Wallingford, Redding and Gree[n]land are noe horse only Sir Charles Blunts troope which is not above 30 horse.



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