

CHARLES

I.

1627.

King Charles to the Duke of Buckingham.

Steenie,

August 13.

I HAVE received the joyful news of your happy success in the taking of Ré, by Dick Greame. I pray God to give you as much contentment always, as I received then; and then, I assure you, ye will be in no danger to die of melancholy. Beecher likewise gave me two letters from you, out of which I have taken such notes as to know what you desire and want, then burned them. After these, ere yesternight, I have received another, all which, by this occasion, ye shall see some answer to, though I hope to please you better in my actions than my words. I have made ready a supply of victuals, munition, 400 men for recruits, and 14,000 pounds ready money, to be brought to you by Beecher, who, by the grace of God, shall set sail within these eight days. Two regiments, of a thousand men a-piece, victualled for three months, shall be embarked by the 10th of September. I have sent for as many officers from the Low Countries as may be had, of which, till my next, I can give you no perfect account. I hope likewise ye shall have 2000 men out of Scotland, under the command of my Lord Morton, and Sir William Balgour. So far for supplies, which, by the grace of God, I shall send speedily unto you, and you may certainly expect. Now I shall give you my opinion in some things that Beecher has been talking with me, and that I have understood by your late dispatch. And, first, in case the French King should die, what were to be done upon it. My opinion is (and not without advice in it) that you are to prosecute the war, and by no means to be the first motioner of treaty, for it is both dishonourable and unsafe, considering what men of faith the French of late have proved themselves; but if they should offer, then to hearken, but not to believe too hastily. And, to live it, this is the best way to gain our ch^e ends; & certainly making