

discretion in what may concern our own coasts, as his Majesty's fleet abroad, I rest,

CHARLES

I.

1627.

Your's,

G. BUCKINGHAM.

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*Mr. De Vic to Lord Conway.*

Right honourable and my singular good Lord,

YOUR Lordship hath seen by those his Excellency hath written <sup>14th</sup> August. to you, what our present condition is, and how great need we have of a speedy supply from England; and by the copy of Monf. de Rohan's letter to his brother, what preparations both the Duke of Savoy and he make for the wars. You have also understood the state of our affairs with those of Rochelle, so that I have little left to acquaint your Lordship withal, unless it be with such occurrences as are not worthy to divert you. Our trenches are now, at length, after many stops, and more faults, come to the water side, so that the enemy hath no space left him to get out of the citadel by land, but at low water, where he must needs pass by a redoubt of ours, made at the end of our works to keep that passage. By sea, our ships are disposed in the form of a half moon, within half a musket shot one of the other, whereof the horns encompass the citadel; and about twenty shallops which lie every night before it, well armed with murderers, muskets, pikes and fireworks; besides this we have a new invention in hand, of buoying some masts a pretty way from the shore before the citadel, to hinder the shallops from going in or coming out, keeping only a few boats at the end of that row of masts, to guard the spaces between them and the shore, which will spare a great many shallops which may be employed in other uses. The ten thousand men whereof I wrote to your Lordship in my former, to be in Oleron,