

*Duke of Buckingham to Lord Conway.*

My very good Lord,

SINCE Sir William Beecher's and Grime's departing, there hath been so little done worthy the advertisement, that this is rather to put you in mind that we may hear from you, than to send you any news from hence. Your Lordship will have understood how we came to this town, where being arrived, the first work was to barricade all the avenues. That being done, we caused batteries to be made against such parts of the citadel, as with their ordnance (which played continually upon us) did much annoy us. The next work was the trenches, wherewith we intend, God willing, to invest the citadel, to cut off all manner of provision or succour from the landward; as we do now by sea, with four or five shallops well armed, which lie under it at night, besides a good part of the fleet which rides not far off. The trenches go on as fast as the hardness of this stony ground will permit, and, I hope, ere long, to bring that work to an end, notwithstanding the opposition which the enemy intends to make, at a place of advantage, where he prepares against our coming. That, being done, I hope they will be so well penned in, both by sea and land, that they will receive no assistance from either. For all our shipping is so dispersed round about the island, that unless some fatality happens which cannot yet be foreseen, no considerable succour can come to them. The forces left at St. Blancheau, are now come to La Flotte, to secure that town, to hinder the communication of the two forts lying in the midway between them both, and to refresh the soldiers, which, from the time of landing, had had no shelter from the injury of the weather, which hath been exceedingly foul with winds and rain.

The Lord Montjoy, with his troops of horse, beats up and down the island, to cut off the straggling forces of the enemy, of whom

July 28.