

CHARLES  
I.  
1627.

return, which I have heard him often desire. I send to your Lordship the copy of the summons, wherewith his Excellency did me the honour to send by me to Monsieur de Toiras, together with the answer, which he returned the next day, by the Baron St. Surin, who hath been often with his Excellency about overtures to be made of an accommodation of affairs between the two Crowns; wherein he hath little profited, his Excellency seeing so clear into his intentions, as it was impossible for the other to hide, or to get any advantage, by such gross pretences. It were too long for me to inform your Lordship of all the circumstances of this business, and the means that have been propounded to bring it about. This bearer, which hath been a chief actor in it, will acquaint your Lordship with all those passages. Touching Rochelle, I can better say they are not in peace, than that they are in war; or if it be one, it is without blows. The Duke D'Angoulesme fortified at Bongrene, and those of Rochelle, near the place where they had a fort called Tadon. The Duke pretends he hath no intention to build a fort there, and indeed what he hath done hitherto, is but a line; but your Lordship knows that the greatest works have their small beginnings, and if it go on, will prove no less prejudicial than the old fort; to which this being added, will block up Rochelle entirely by land. As for the work that the Rochellers make, and which is, by this time, in a state of defence, it is to hinder the Duke from making one at Tadon, where themselves dare not build, because it is something too far from town, and they have but little forces to make it good. They have not yet declared themselves, nor are they much pressed unto by his Excellency, to whom they would be of little use, until we have compassed our design upon this island; that being done, we shall need no great intreaty.

Concerning the state of our army, it is, God be thanked, without sickness or necessity. Our enemy is now penned in by land, and almost by sea, by means of certain booms we have laid before the citadel,