

CHARLES
I.
1627.

that will have a power with his Excellency, who, had he but experience answerable to the rest, would need little counsel. Another want is of engineers, we having hardly amongst us one that can lay a battery, work in a mine, or make a trench.

Your Lordship will receive with his Excellency's dispatch, a declaration, for the making of which he was pleased to use my pen. Your Lordship may be pleased to excuse whatsoever you find amiss in it, and particularly the hand wherewith it is written, which I have been fain to make use of, for want of leisure to transcribe with my own hand. I pray your Lordship to receive the same excuse for not writing more amply at this time, and in cypher, as I had intended, had not some other hasty business called me away.

Sir Edward Conway, and Mr. Ralph, are, God be thanked, both in good health, and cured of their hurts. Sir Edward is not yet returned from Rochel to the army, but is expected every day, with his brother that went thither yesterday to see him. I will strive to recompence the trouble that I have given your Lordship to read my ill-favoured hand, with two jests, the one at the landing, where an ensign running into the sea, for fear of the enemy, a soldier that took the same way, being asked, and rebuked for flying away, answered, "What, shall I not follow my colours?" Another, at the trenches, where at first it is reported, that instead of casting the earth from the enemy's side, they did cast it towards the enemy, which was indeed the safest way for those who were at work, but not the more honourable. Thus with my humble duty remembered to your Lordship, I remain

Your Lordship's, &c.

From St. Martin's,
this 27th of July, 1627.

HEN. DE VIC.