

CHARLES
I.

1627.

withal exacting a little too much upon the soldiers, contrary to sundry proclamations published in that behalf; an edict was made commanding them, upon pain of being used as enemies, to depart within six days out of the island: which edict, at their humble request and submission, hath remained unexecuted, but not abrogated, and the rather because we would have wanted their aid, in the making of salt and wine, and in casting of our trenches, in which to-day they begin to work. Both protestants and papists we have disarmed, and rated the price of victuals, so that we begin to have pretty markets. We have no great want of any thing yet, but if we winter here, the cold will make us find that there is no great store of fuel; and after a while, the wheat of the island, whereof every one makes such havock to feed their horses, will grow scanty, this island yielding not enough for the use of the inhabitants, much less for our army too, which, though at a dear rate, hitherto hath been fed with the bread of this island, which the soldier found more easy for his teeth than for his purse: howsoever there have not been wanting those that have played reasonably well their parts. Touching our main enemies, we hear every day of their preparations to send succour hither, and in Oleron they have already 10,000 fighting men, whereof 4000 foot, and 500 horse, at least, are old soldiers. Rochelle hath not yet declared itself, but will shortly be put to it by Monsieur D'Angoulesme, who is already within their government, and within less than two leagues of their town, with some troops both horse and foot, with which he intends to build a fort, at the Point of Coreille, near Rochelle, to bridle the passage by sea, and hath already signified so much to the town, but pretending that it is to hinder the English from landing there, and this will shortly prove *lapis scandalii*. Monsieur de Rohan is up in arms, and was to come to Montauban about the 5-15th of this month (which is to-morrow) with 2000 foot, and 500 horse. We hear that the Duke of Savoy, and with him the Count of Soissons, are also coming; and besides the discontents of

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