

CHARLES

I.

1627.

it; with some other reasons, make me suspect it. The party I confess is a brave, valiant gentleman, and one whom the Duke of Buckingham did much rely on, but who hath been observed to have been too rough with the Duke, even in indifferent matters, and wherein the precise observance of martial discipline was not so material; which I could have wished to have been otherwise; for such persons must be handled with tender hands. And I do not see, but at this time the Duke would not have borne with an indifferent usage. Besides, I do not see so much alacrity, nor so much care as at first on the one side, and on the other that advising with him, and calling for him, as heretofore; whereof the cause may be partly the place where we are in; the care, command, and authority of one of his condition, not appearing so much in a town, as in the field; but whether it be carelessness, discontent, or any other cause, certain it is, the effects are not answerable to our expectation. Of this disposition are some of our chief officers, whereof I can give no other reason, than their own dulness, fitter for a garrison town, or the keeping of a place already gotten, than to find out or prosecute (with requisite activeness) a design upon the enemy. The rest of the officers, for ought I can perceive, are brave, valiant gentlemen, and had they not shewed themselves to be so, it had gone hard with us at the landing, where, had not the valour of the captains, and other officers, the fear of drowning in most part of the soldiers (which made even Dameta to fight) and the courage of some few of them, with God's blessing, repelled the enemy, our design had by this time been at an end. Our chief want is of some able person about his Excellency, of the power, temper, and sufficiency of Mr. St. Blankard, a man in this action so necessary, as we may almost impute whatsoever hath been done amiss to the want of him. His Excellency's chief counsel in the martial part, is Monsieur Dolbier, a man of great experience, but not of that strength of understanding, and other parts, as are necessary to those

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