

CHARLES

I.

1627.

low found, and, by it, judged to have some evil and extraordinary design; which, to draw from him, he was threatened with the question; for fear of which he hath confessed, and maintained before those gentlemen that came from the citadel, at my Lord Duke's request, that he was set on by Monsieur Toiras, to kill his Excellency, who promised him large rewards in case of performance, which he persuaded him to be feasible. Our trenches go on leisurely, but surely; and by Sunday night we hope to bring them to the water side, unless we be hindered by the enemy, who hitherto hath been reasonably quiet: all the hurt and discommodity that we have received (which, God be thanked, hath been very little) from them, hath been from their ordnance, with which they make wonderful good shots, and, for ought I can see, better than with their muskets, although there be no greater inequality of distance in that respect between them and us, than the breadth of our counter-scarps. Our trenches begin to run now something near them, at most not above half a musket-shot, and our men and theirs play continually upon one another from their works, with their small-shot. Amongst our redoubts, we have one of reasonable good strength, wherein we intend to plant ordnance, and the platforms are now ready for it. It will be of great use to us to defend and flank our trenches, and will greatly incommode the enemy in his out-works, but will chiefly annoy him in that little space of passage that remains open, which he sometimes visits by going to and fro, as the fox (in the game of fox and geese*) useth to do, when he is near his penning up. This is the state of both sides; another party there is which remains in the state of indifferency, and that is the inhabitants of the island, which hitherto have enjoyed, generally, as much liberty and freedom, as they have ever had in the greatest peace, saving of late, that having found the papists something too busy on giving advices, and furnishing provisions to the enemy, and

* I pray your Lordship strain the comparison no farther.

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