

CHARLES
I.
1627.

a mile of the town, where he lodges with his army. His pretence is to hinder our landing in those parts, and to that purpose desired them not to find it strange if he built a fort in those parts. This, and the stop he makes of all manner of provisions from coming into the town, hath so alarmed the Rochellers, that they presently sent unto me, to acquaint me therewith, praying me to give them my advice what was fittest to be done, and to lend them 500 French that were in the army, to help them to seize upon that place, and to fortify it, which I did accordingly, and furnished them with arms to that purpose, thereby to hasten their engagement, and assure myself of those men upon all occasions. And now I understand, by other deputies that are come to me, that they are in hand with that work, which will be, within a few days, in a state of defence, unless they be hindered by the enemy, which is like enough to sit still, until he receives new forces out of Poitou; and by that time I hope they will be sufficiently provided for him. It remains now that I put your Lordship in mind of our present condition, which is such, as, without a speedy supply, will not only disable us from gaining any thing upon the enemy, but hazard the making good of what we have already got. Your Lordship knows what small forces we brought with us, which cannot chuse but be much diminished, having met with so many ways of consumption, whereof the most dangerous is now at hand (the vintage). For the supplies that are to come out of Ireland, I have rather hope than confidence in that succour, which depending upon so many, and those so uncertain ways, there is little assurance to be given to it. Therefore I intreat your Lordship to hasten the other out of England, and to give order that those soldiers that are appointed for recruits only, may have no particular officers for their conduct, but that the same officers which shall be appointed for the new companies, may also take charge of the recruits till their arrival, that so the recruits may be disposed of to their true end, which is the reinforcement of the former