

STATE PAPERS.

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CHARLES

I.

1627.

*Mr. De Vic to Lord Conway.*

Right Honourable and my very good Lord,

I DO not well remember where I left, in my last to your Lordship, whereof, before I could make an end, I was taken with a fit of a tertian fever, which, at that time, I conceived to have been weariness, or some other kind of indisposition, but since I have found it otherwise. Wheresoever I left, I will begin with my Lord Duke's continuance in good health, and in remembrance of your Lordship. The enemy's chief labour in the island is in fortifying himself within his hold, as much and as fast, as his wearied, and over-watched, and yet boasting, troops, will give him leave, and in attempting, by all the open and hidden ways that he can devise, upon his Excellency's person, upon whose preservation, he conceives (and not amiss) the good success of his design, next after God and his Majesty, to depend entirely. To this purpose, the citadel makes every day divers shots upon his lodging (and myself have been many times with his Excellency, when the shot hath come through the chamber over which he was), especially about those times they imagine him to be within. Upon this day se'nnight a fellow was taken coming from the citadel, about whom (being searched) was found a chain bullet, and a little short kind of dagger, the blade of it about five or six inches long, very broad for that length, edged on both sides, and those very keen, and a wonderful sharp point, the handle of it longer than would suffice for a good whole handful, twisted about with silk to take faster hold, and a little cross bar between the blade and the handle, to stay the hand and give strength to the blow, which, by the slipping of the hand, is sometimes weakened, and lighting upon any thing of resistance, of little force; so that this instrument, guided with strength, and courage equal to it, was able to pierce an ordinary armour. With this instrument was this fel-

Aug. 14.