

HENRY
VIII.1536.
Decem. 2.

The Privy Council to the Duke. Instructions about dealing with the Rebels, and offering them Pardon. Anno 1536.

AFTER our right hearty commendations to your Grace. The same shall herewith receive the double of a letter sent to the King's Highness from my Lord of Suffolk, upon the arrival with him of a servant of Sir William Musgrave's; by the contents thereof, with the credence of the said Musgrave's servant, it appeareth, that Tyndesdale, and Riddesdale be of a good fort, and have rather done displeasure to the rebels, than showed themselves any thing toward to condescend to their traiterous faction. And that the parties of Cumberland and Westmoreland be not of so evil disposition as hath been supposed. And further, the said Musgrave's servant hath declared to the King's Highness, that the Lord Clifford, the said Sir William Musgrave, Ayleby and others do keep peaceably the town and castle of * Carlisle, with the parts about the same: and that Sir William Musgrave has been with the Earl of Cumberland at Skipton †, and found him so victualled and furnished in every condition, that he esteemeth not much the malice of his enemies. Which things weighed and considered, his Majesty thinketh, if you shall for the first brunt fortify the passages of Doonne with ditches, according to his device, the Yorkshire men, and those that shall take their parts, will be, within short space, easy enough to deal withal.

* But soon after it was besieged by one Nich. Musgrave and 8000 men. But they were repulsed by the city. And in their return encountered by the Duke, who caused all the Captains (except Musgrave who escaped), and seventy persons besides, by martial law to be hanged on Carlisle walls.

† Skipton was a castle belonging to the Earl, which the rebels, in October, had attempted, and he resolutely defended against them; though 500 gentlemen retained at his cost, had deserted him.