

THE LETTERBOOK OF  
RICHARD BOYLE,  
1ST EARL OF CORK, 1629–1634

Chatsworth House, Hardwick MS 78

*edited by*

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AIDAN CLARKE  
DAVID EDWARDS  
BRÍD McGRATH

## PROFESSOR AIDAN CLARKE (1933–2020)

Professor Aidan Clarke died in Dublin after a short illness on 18 December 2020. He was an outstanding scholar, teacher, supervisor and mentor, and a loyal friend who made working on this volume and a second one a pleasure. We miss his learning, wisdom, wit and delightful company. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.

DAVID EDWARDS  
BRÍD McGRATH

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## THE RICHARD BOYLE PROJECTS

This book had its origins in two consecutive projects under my direction at University College Cork between 2012 and 2015: ‘The colonial landscapes of Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork, c. 1602–1643’ which ran from 2012 to 2014 and ‘Digital Boyle’ in 2015. Both projects received funding from the Irish Research Council through its ‘Senior Collaborative Research’ and ‘New Foundations’ programmes. Although the main focus of the projects was the enormous archive that survives for Boyle’s Munster estates among the Cork manuscripts in Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, and the Lismore manuscripts in the National Library of Ireland, it quickly became apparent that the extant records of Boyle’s political career were more extensive than previously thought. Tempted to explore this further, I decided to have a detailed summary made of the letterbook that is published here, with a view to a future transcription — a task for which I was able, fortunately, to call upon Bríd McGrath. Following Aidan Clarke’s generous offer to help, the prospect presented itself of proceeding to a full transcription much sooner.

The text presented here was finalised and submitted to the Irish Manuscripts Commission for publication in 2019. Due to Aidan’s growing ill-health and the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible to bring the volume to proof before his passing; Bríd and I completed the editing during the spring and summer of 2021.

The second of Boyle’s letterbooks held at Chatsworth, covering the years 1634–1641, will be presented to the Commission for publication in the near future. Co-transcribed by Aidan Clarke and David Heffernan, it is nearly as extensive as the volume published here.

DAVID EDWARDS  
CORK, 2021

## ABBREVIATIONS

- Appleby, *High court of admiralty* John Appleby (ed.), *A calendar of material relating to Ireland in the high court of admiralty examinations, 1536–1641* (IMC, Dublin, 1992)
- BL British Library
- CH Chatsworth House
- Clarke, *1641 Depositions* Aidan Clarke, principal editor, *1641 Depositions* (IMC, vols I–III, Dublin, 2014; vol. IV, 2017; vol. V, 2019; vol. VI, 2020; vol. VII, 2023)
- Clarke and McGrath, *Kildare letterbook* Aidan Clarke and Brid McGrath (eds), *Letterbook of George, 16th earl of Kildare* (IMC, Dublin, 2013)
- CSPI, 1611–14 C. W. Russell and J. P. Prendergast, *Calendar of the state papers, relating to Ireland, of the reign of James I, 1611–1614, preserved in her majesty's Public Record Office and elsewhere* (London, 1877)
- CSPI, 1625–32 R. P. Mahaffy, *Calendar of the state papers relating to Ireland, in the reign of Charles I, 1625–1632, preserved in the Public Record Office* (London, 1900)
- CSPI, 1633–47 R. P. Mahaffy, *Calendar of state papers relating to Ireland, in the reign of Charles I, 1633–1647, preserved in the Public Record Office* (London, 1901)
- CSPI, 1647–60 R. P. Mahaffy, *Calendar of the state papers, relating to Ireland, preserved in the Public Record Office, 1647–1660* (London, 1903)
- CSPD, 1631–33 J. Bruce, *Calendar of state papers, domestic series, of the reign of Charles I, 1631–1633* (London, 1862)
- CSPD, 1637–38 *Calendar of state papers, domestic series, of the reign of Charles I, 1637–1638* (London, 1869)
- DIB James McGuire and James Quinn (eds), *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (9 vols, Cambridge, 2009; vols 10 and 11, 2018) online at [www.dib.ie](http://www.dib.ie)

## INTRODUCTION

Richard Boyle, a twenty-two year old Kentishman, came to Ireland in 1588. His father's occupation is unknown, but Richard's place among the yeomanry may be adduced from the legal and clerical careers pursued by his relatives on both sides and from that of his elder brother John, who matriculated with him at Cambridge in 1583 and joined him in Ireland as bishop of Cork in 1617. Richard secured an official position when the escheator of Ireland appointed him, without licence, as his deputy. In that post he became expert in the historic uncertainties of land titles in Ireland and quickly learned that the duty of taking care of the Crown's interest in Irish lands provided ample opportunities to serve his own, at the expense of both dispossessed landowners and the Crown itself. His abuse of office did not pass unnoticed. By the time the Nine Years War began, in 1594, he was already under investigation and he spent much of the rest of the decade under restraint in Dublin.<sup>1</sup>

His fortunes turned dramatically in 1600 when Sir George Carew was appointed lord president of Munster, charged with the task of pacifying the province. Lacking the resources to do so by force, Carew chose instead to resort to diplomacy and devised a careful process of exploiting the differences of interest among the discontented, attending separately to their particular complaints. It was an approach that required an intimate knowledge of the provincial scene and Boyle was prominent among those whom he chose to provide it. Through his first brief marriage to the Limerick heiress Joan Apsley, in 1595, Richard had acquired useful close personal ties to her Irish kin. He was released from prison, pardoned for all his offences and attached to Carew's entourage as an advisor and negotiator as clerk of the provincial council. The extent of that usefulness (not least in assisting Carew in the surreptitious acquisition of Irish land) may be measured in the lavishness of Boyle's reward: a second marriage, in 1603, to Catherine Fenton, the daughter of the then Irish secretary of state and granddaughter of a former Irish lord chancellor, with a dowry which facilitated the purchase of the enormous Irish estates of the indebted Sir Walter Raleigh.

Post-conquest Ireland was bedevilled by unresolved contradictions between public and private interests. Public policy assumed that the way to pacify and secure the

<sup>1</sup> For this period in Boyle's life, see David Edwards, 'From land-thief to planter: Kerry transactions and the rise of Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork' in Maurice Bric (ed.) (series ed. William Nolan), *Kerry history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county* (Dublin, 2020), pp 143–56; idem, 'Interrogating Richard Boyle: the Savoy House proceedings of 1599', *Analecta Hibernica* No. 49 (2018), pp 81–115; and Terence O. Ranger, 'Richard Boyle and the making of an Irish fortune, 1588–1614', *Irish Historical Studies*, 10:39 (1957), pp 257–97. For his career in general see the entries in both the *ODNB* and the *DIB*.

country was to anglicise it. What that actually involved was open to dispute. In secular terms, the choice was either to undertake a long-term conversion of the country's social, economic and legal institutions to conform to English norms, or to embark upon an active programme of colonisation which would provide ready-made support for the new balance of power. In religious terms the options were either to equip the Church of Ireland with the resources to undertake the systematic evangelisation of the catholic community or to take effective measures to suppress the practice of catholicism while enforcing the existing recusancy laws, which penalized failure to attend a protestant service each Sunday. In practice no coherent policy evolved. As opportunity offered, different models of settlement were tried: in some parts, most notably Ulster, natives and settlers were segregated, in others they were mixed together. Religious policy blew hot and cold as church and state failed to agree upon whose responsibility it was to get the benighted catholics into church. The unacknowledged fact was that anglicisation and colonization were incompatible. The sole interest that the expanding community of colonial protestants had in the treatment of the native Irish was their own safety and their own social and economic advancement: if that could be assured, there was nothing to appeal to them in policies that would require them in the long run to share their privileges with a transformed native Irishry.<sup>2</sup>

Boyle was well placed to take advantage of the new dispensation. He had acquired extensive lands in Connacht in his early years and at the death of his first wife, who died in childbirth in 1599, had inherited a large estate in Limerick, the title to which ought in law to have reverted to the crown. He was now in a position not only to resume control of these and to develop them alongside the vast potential of Raleigh's seignory, but also to finance further rich pickings from the disordered remains of the Munster plantation.<sup>3</sup> He very soon showed himself to be as ruthless and skilful in the management of his property as he had been (and remained) in acquiring it. His entrepreneurial interest in the promotion of export industries and his constructive support for urban development marked him out from the ordinary run of landholders, as did his considerable investment in the creation of a colonial tenant militia, but it was the rental income yielded by his continually expanding estates that placed him among the wealthiest men in Ireland.<sup>4</sup> He rode that tide by seeking and securing the recognition appropriate to his worth — membership of the council of Munster in

<sup>2</sup> Aidan Clarke, with R. Dudley Edwards, 'Pacification, plantation and the Catholic Question, 1603–23', in *MHL* iii, pp 187–232; Aidan Clarke, 'Varieties of uniformity: the first century of the Church of Ireland', in W. J. Shiels and Diana Wood (eds), *The churches, Ireland and the Irish*, Studies in Church History vol. 25 (Oxford, 1989), pp 105–22.

<sup>3</sup> Michael MacCarthy-Morrogh, *The Munster plantation: English migration to southern Ireland, 1583–1641* (Oxford, 1986), pp 141–3, 245–7; Nicholas Canny, *Making Ireland British, 1580–1650* (Oxford, 2001), pp 308–29; Jane Ohlmeyer, *Making Ireland English: the Irish aristocracy in the seventeenth century* (Yale, 2013), pp 372–81.

<sup>4</sup> Colin Rynne, 'Colonial entrepreneur and urban developer: the economic and industrial infrastructure of Boyle's Munster estates', Paul Rondelez, 'The metallurgical enterprises of Richard Boyle, first earl of Cork', David Heffernan, 'Theory and practice in the Munster plantation: the estates of Richard Boyle, first earl of Cork', Joseph Nunan, 'Boyle and the East India Company in Co. Cork: a case study in colonial competition', and David Edwards, 'Boyle's private army: the creation of a colonial security force in early Stuart Munster', all in Edwards and Rynne, *Colonial world*, pp 43–63, 64–73, 89–111, 112–20, 223–44.

## [MANUSCRIPT TABLE OF CONTENTS]

- My letter unto Sir Humphrey May the 9th. of October 1629 fol. 1
- My letter unto the Lord Keeper of England the 15th. of October 1629 fol. 2
- My letter unto Sir Robert Carr one of the gentlemen of the Bedchamber to the king fol. 3
- My letter unto Lord Treasurer touching the foot company of Sir John Clotworthy for which Sir your Lordship wrote unto me in the behalf of Sir John Netterville fol. 3 [*sic*]
- My letter to Mr. Hodges with the letter of attorney and to tender the 10s. fol. 4
- My letter to the Earl of Kildare desiring his lordship to perfect the articles and lease sent in a box, which were here signed and sealed by his feoffee fol. 5
- My letter to George Goring to see the perfection of the said writings, and return them to me fol. 7
- My letters to the Lord Goring touching the £6000 which Sir Thomas Button is to receive at Youghal, and of Sir Thomas his storm at sea, and concerning he recovery of the money I lent his majesty and Peter Wyngrove fol. 8
- Our letter unto his majesty signifying the time of receaving the sword with performing of his majesty's commands in his instructions fol. 12
- Our letter unto my Lord of Dorchester fol. 13
- Mr Talbot of Malahide to the Countess of March touching Portlester, Woodstock & Athy and the Countess Dowager her Jointure fol. 14
- My letter unto the Duchess of Lennox fol. 17
- A letter from the Duchess of Lennox signifying the receipt of mine of 13th October fol. 18
- A letter from the Duchess of Lennox signifying the receipt of mine of the 19th of November fol. 21
- A letter from Mr Hodges the Duchess of Lennox her steward signifying his return of the letter of attorney from Mr Talbot fol. 22
- My letters to the Earl of Carlisle about our proceedings in seizing of the mass-house in Cook Street, dated 7 January 1629 fol. 23
- Other letters to the Lord Keeper, the Lord of Dorchester and the Vice Chamberlain to the same effect dated 9 January fol. 25
- Another letter from the Council here to the Lords in England touching the same proceedings, dated 9 January fol. 28



- My letter unto my Lord Viscount Falkland fol. 32
- The copy of a letter drawn by my Lord Chancellor to have been sent unto the lords in England fol. 33
- My letter to my cousin Stockdale with directions to him touching the receipt of the remainder of my money due for 150 tons of Iron sent to Mr Slany and his partners fol. 35
- My letter to Mr Slany about the same business, with an offer also unto him of a new bargain for Iron to be delivered him in the harbour of Sligo fol. 37
- [The contents list here omits three letters that are situated between ff 40 and 46, nos 23–25 in this edition.]
- My letter to my cousin Stockdale fol. 47
- The Bishop of Derry's letters unto my Lord Chancellor concerning the Master of Abercorn with The letter sent by the said Bishop unto the said Master fols 53, 54, 55
- The Bishop of Derry's letter signifying the going of the Master of Abercorn into Scotland fol. 56
- The testimony of Thomas Plunkett concerning the Irish Regiment and Priests, etc. fol. 58
- My letter unto Sir Humphrey May fol. 62
- My letter to the Lord Viscount Dorchester fol. 64
- Another letter to the Lord of Dorchester fol. 67
- A letter to Mr Burlamachy touching Mr Latfeur fol. 69
- My letter unto my Lord of Dorchester touching Felim McFeagh and the ViceTreasurer's payments fol. 73
- My letter unto my Lord Wimbledon concerning his sister-in-law's lands the Countess of Castlehaven to be passed in Sir Pierce Crosby's name fol. 76
- My letter unto Mr Burlamachy concerning Mr Lattfeur and Mr Fortrees payment of my monies fol. 78
- My letter unto my Lord Goring touching the Duchess's first and last payment for the wardship of the Earl of Kildare fol. 80
- My letter unto Sir Humphrey May touching my businesses in the Court of Chancery with my Lord Chancellor's consent to have them to be referred to the 4 Judges fol. 83
- The copy of my Lord Chancellor's letter unto my Lord Goring desiring him to move his Majesty to grant his letters for hearing of causes in Chancery, to the 4 Judges fol. 85
- My letter unto Mr Peter Fortrie for the furnishing of Mr Burlamachy with monies to make up the Duchess's money fol. 86
- My letter unto Sir Thomas Stafford desiring him to be present at the payment of the money to the Duchess and her delivering of the Earl of Kildare fol. 88
- My letter unto my Lord Goring mentioning the Lord Chancellor's letters to his lordship for procuring his Majesty's letters to exempt him from hearing any causes in the Chancer fol. 90

## 1. Cork to Sir Humphrey May, Dublin

9 Oct. 1629

My letter unto Sir Humphrey May<sup>1</sup>

<My Lord arrived at Dublyn the 2 of October 1629. The Lord Chancellor came to Dublyn the same night and the Sunday following the Lord General<sup>2</sup> in the Council Chamber delivered me his Majesty's letter for the Lord Chancellor and my reconciling> <I delivered the Lord deputy his Majesty's letters for delivering the Sword and government into the Lord Chancellor's and my hands> <To be protected from the envy of Sir Peirce Crosby<sup>3</sup> Sir Henry Boucher<sup>4</sup> and Sir William Power<sup>5</sup>>

My most honoured,

I thank god I with my wife children and family took our passage from Beaumaris (after a month's stay there for wind) in the *ninth Whelp*<sup>6</sup> and within 20 hours after we embarked arrived at Dublyn, the second of this month. The Lord Chancellor<sup>7</sup> being then at Monastereven, but upon notice of my arrival came hither that night. The next day the Lord Wilmott<sup>8</sup> (who was yesterday in the evening married to the Lady Moore<sup>9</sup>) spent some time in persuading me to go over to the Lord Chancellor, which in regard of a former difference (not yet reconciled) I conceived would be a lessening of my reputation in the vulgar opinions, for which, and some other reasons too long to trouble you withal, I desired our first conference might be in some place indifferent. Which after some dispute was yielded unto and the Council Chamber assigned, whither that Sunday, the afternoon's sermon ended, and the Lord deputy<sup>10</sup> not being present at Christ Church I followed the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Wilmott where after interchangeable salutations passed, the Lord Wilmott pressed unto us his Majesty's Commands and pleasures, with some persuasions to a reconciliation then delivering me his Majesty's letters signifying his royal pleasure to have it done. And then acquainted me, that he had before my arrival delivered like letters from his Highness to the Lord Chancellor, the receipt whereof the Lord Chancellor

<sup>1</sup> Sir Humphrey May (1572/3–1630), lord chamberlain of England (*ODNB*).

<sup>2</sup> Sir Henry Docwra (1564–1631), Baron Docwra of Culmore (*DIB*).

<sup>3</sup> Piers Crosby alias MacCrossan (1590–1646); for his career see A. Clarke, 'Sir Piers Crosby, 1590–1646: Wentworth's 'tawny ribbon'', *Irish Historical Studies*, 26:102 (1988), pp 142–60.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Henry Bourchier (c. 1587–1654), later 6th earl of Bath (*GEC*).

<sup>5</sup> Sir William Power of Kilbolane, Co. Cork, with whom Cork had many disputes: J. G. Crawford, *A star chamber court in Ireland: the court of castle chamber, 1571–1641* (Dublin, 2005), pp 346–7, 365.

<sup>6</sup> Built by John Graves at Limehouse: R. Winfield, *British warships in the age of sail, 1603–1714: design, construction, careers and fates* (Barnsley, 2009), p. 148. The editors thank Elaine Murphy for drawing this reference to their attention.

<sup>7</sup> Sir Adam Loftus (1568?–1643), 1st Viscount Ely (*DIB*; *ODNB*; B. McGrath, *The operations of the Irish house of commons, 1613–48* (Dublin, 2023), pp 448–53).

<sup>8</sup> Sir Charles Wilmott (1570/1–1643/4), 1st Viscount Wilmott of Athlone, lord president of Connacht (*DIB*).

<sup>9</sup> Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Colley, widow of Garret Moore, 1st Viscount Moore of Drogheda; she was Wilmott's second wife (*DIB*, under Wilmott and Moore).

<sup>10</sup> Henry Cary (c. 1576–1633), 1st Viscount Falkland, lord deputy of Ireland, 1622–9 (*DIB*).

acknowledged. And thereupon began to grow to a repetition of the first beginnings and grounds of our displeasures, which for I knew that if I answered home, would breed no good blood, nor make anything to a pacification, I interrupted, alleging and that truly, that I had undergone the suffering part without any hopes for reparation, and therefore desired we might fall to no repetitions of what was past, but apply ourselves to the dutiful observance of what his Majesty required, whereunto my preparation was made and I had brought over a heart fashioned and resolved to forget all that was past and to embrace his love and friendship, whereby we might with our best united strengths join together and cordially do his Majesty's service according the great and high trust reposed in us wherein I would labour heartily with clear hands and heart. Whereupon we joined hands of friendship with many deep protestations of kindness and so left the Council Chamber and both those Lords went to the Lord Caulfeild's<sup>11</sup> where I lie to welcome my wife<sup>12</sup> to Dublyn, and that done I waited on his lordship to his own house and then returned. Now Sir you have the true relation of our reconciliation, and god grant it be as true and hearty on his part, as it is and shall be on mine. The Tuesday following we went together to the Lord deputy at Thomascourt,<sup>13</sup> and there presented him with His Majesty's letters, which his Lordship received cheerfully, promising to prepare himself to be transported in that ship of his Majesty's that brought me thither, whose speedy departure on giving up of the king's sword, according the words of his Majesty's warrant and our instructions the Lord Chancellor did not fail to press home. And seeing his Lordship is about to appear, I beseech you (as an addition to all your former favours) receive him kindly, for you will find him a noble sweet natured gent, full of understanding and great ability. And now having wearied you with that long and true relation, it rests that I rely on your goodness to protect me and my reputation from detractors and from the attempts of Sir Henry Boucheir, Sir Peirce Crosby and Sir William Power my declared open enemies, who haply in my absence may attempt something to my prejudice if they conceive that I am unprovided with friends at the table, which defect my own carriage shall never merit, and so long as I serve the King really (which service and good servants I know you love) I beseech you preserve me from harm, and in your memory and good opinion who brought me into this employment, for which and your many other Favours I will ever rest

Your most thankful friend and hearty servant R. Corke

<Dublin 9 October 1629> <To the Right Honourable Sir Humphrey May, Knt., Lord Chamberlain to the King's Majesty and of His Highness's most honourable Privy Council in England>

<sup>11</sup> William Caulfeild (1587–1640), 2nd Baron Caulfeild of Charlemont (GEC).

<sup>12</sup> Catherine (1588–1630), daughter of Sir Geoffrey Fenton, since 1603 the earl of Cork's second wife (*DIB*, under Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork).

<sup>13</sup> The Dublin home of William Brabazon, 1st earl of Meath.

## 2. Cork to Lord Keeper Coventry

15 Oct. 1629

My letter unto the Lord Keeper<sup>14</sup> signifying that I arrived not in Dublin till the second of October and then delivered the Lord Deputy his Majesty's letters for delivering the sword and government into the Lord Chancellor's and my hands which his Lordship performed the 27th of the same month.

My most Honoured Lord,

The expectation of the King's ship at Beaumaris for my transportation and the contrariety of winds after it came thither did not suffer me to arrive till the second of this month where upon the delivery of His Majesty's letters and the signification of his pleasure to have the government resigned to the Lord Chancellor and me, I found the Lord deputy very cheerfully ready. And truly my Lord he is a very noble gent of strong parts and abilities, which he has faithfully employed to do his Majesty's service, and therein he has been very active and laborious howsoever he has been traduced there. He departed this government leaving this Kingdom in a General outward appearance of Peace. And in my knowledge he is much your lordship's servant, and will be most thankful for the favours you vouchsafed him, which I should have wronged your Lordship if I should not have intimated unto him. My Lord it were more than ingratitude in me, for it were impiety (both which my nature detests) if I should not with all sincerity and thankfulness of my heart, ever acknowledge your great justice and goodness unto me and the noble respect which without any merit or defect of mine when I was a stranger there pursued with over many causeless and unjust complaints prosecuted against me with clamour to make me seem to your Lordship and such as I was unknown unto, to be a wrongdoer that then you deigned to grace and protect me. The memory whereof I shall ever carry about me, retaining a most thankful acknowledgement of your integrity and uprightness, for which I shall ever be ready with my best and uttermost endeavour to testify my gratefulness. And do beseech your Lordship to believe, that you have no truer servant in all the world, than I am unto you nor that any man shall be more willing to receive and obey your commands than myself, and would esteem it a great happiness unto me by your Lordship whose justice and virtues I will ever commend. The Lord Chancellor and I are now according his Majesty's command and gracious letters to us both reconciled, god grant he be as real in his professions as I shall be true in mine, now that we have received the King's sword, which ever heretofore (in regard no one man can please all) has been attended with envy and detraction, from which how just and warrantable soever our actions shall be, we cannot hope altogether to escape. And therefore my humble suit unto your Lordship is that in our just proceedings for the advancement of his Majesty's service and the good of this Church and Commonwealth, we may be protected by your favour and countenance, and encouragement to serve God and the King heartily and faithfully. And if I for my part shall ever be unjustly accused of any corruption or the taking of any penny, or the value of a farthing, or be proving to

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Coventry (1578–1640), 1st Baron Coventry, successively solicitor general, attorney general and lord keeper of England (*ODNB*).

have any others ends to raise the least profit to myself other than his Majesty's entertainment, whereunto I will add and spend as much more of my own, to uphold the Honour of the place, in which the King of his Grace has placed me, then let me be deprived of your favour and good opinion, in which I much desire to deserve to be upheld and continuedly. I may ignorantly or through weakness and imperfection of judgement, but if ever I offend for reward or particular Commodity, then let me be hated of God and all good men, with which protestations I conclude, Praying your Lordship that I may be continued in your memory and good opinion, and that I may be so happy as sometime to hear of the health and prosperity of your Lordship and your noble Lady<sup>15</sup> and your hopeful issue which will much comfort me and my poor wife, and to whom we must ever acknowledge ourselves much obliged, with tender of our most affectionate thanks and service and prayers for your happiness. I kiss your Lordship's hands and take leave ever resting

Your Lordship's most humble and faithful servant till death R. Corke

<15 Octobris 1629> <To the Right Honourable my Lord Thomas Lord Coventry, Lord Keeper of the great Seal of England>

### 3. Cork to Sir Robert Carr, Dublin

19 Oct. 1629

My letter unto Sir Robert Carr<sup>16</sup> concerning Mr Boyle the Preacher<sup>17</sup>

Honoured Sir,

On my arrival in Dublyn I was so happy as to find here your much esteemed Beadsman and servant Mr John Boyle, which spared me the labour of sending for him hither or writing unto him. And I did find by a thankful and free relation he made unto me of his estate, how liberal my Lord deputy for your sake had dealt with him and had conferred upon him three Livings, the two first whereof became void by the death of the late Archbishop of Cashel<sup>18</sup>, the other was in the King's presentation. All which the Lord deputy very freely bestowed upon him. The grant of the Chancellorship is somewhat litigious, but I am hopeful so to assist him, as it shall be cleared for him. The Parsonage of Davynes before my coming over he himself had transferred to a kinsman and countryman of his, whom notwithstanding I have drawn to gratify him, with one hundred pounds in money and to secure him £40 a year during his life. The Prebend of Kilcombe and Kilrane in the Diocese of Ferns he has let out for £32 a year, in which because it is far from him, I have become his steward, to improve it to the best, and if I cannot make it £60 a year, I have promised to make

<sup>15</sup> Coventry's second wife Elizabeth Pichford (*née* Aldersey) (1583–1653) (*ODNB*).

<sup>16</sup> Sir Robert Carr alias Kerr (1578–1654), later 1st earl of Ancram (*ODNB*).

<sup>17</sup> John Boyle, chancellor of Down, presented 1 May 1629 but replaced almost immediately by John Echlin: see Henry Cotton, *Fasti Ecclesiae Hibernicae: the succession of the prelates and members of the cathedral bodies in Ireland* (5 vols, Dublin, 1848–60), iii, p. 235.

<sup>18</sup> Presumably Malcolm Hamilton (d. 25 April 1629).

it up by so much unto him out of my own purse, except in the meantime by my endeavours the Chancellorship can be made clear for him. So as he having yesterday preached before the State, by my means with very good allowance, and having a £100 to dispose of and a £100 per annum settled for his maintenance, he is this day returning home with much comfort and contentment. And as occasion shall be offered, I will be mindful of his further good and preferment as shall ease you of your future care to provide for him. And for your better satisfaction, that all things stand with him as I write I make bold to present unto you a copy of the Patent which the Lord deputy passes unto him for those things. For which as I doubt not but that you will be thankful to his lordship. So let me make my suit unto you, that you will continue me in your favour and good opinion, until I shall deserve the contrary, for I assure you I have put on an unalterable resolution to serve you, my King and this Commonwealth really with a faithful heart, and clean hands, and if ever the contrary shall appear unto you (as I am confident it shall not) let me be esteemed a reprobate. And so wishing you all happiness, with my best respects I take leave from Dublyn this 19th of October 1629.

Your Servant ever to be commanded R. Corke

<To my Honourable and worthy friend, Sir Robert Carr, knt. One of the Gentlemen of his Majesty's Bedchamber at Court, give these>

#### 4. Cork to Lord Treasurer Weston, Dublin

21 Oct. 1629

My letter unto the Lord Treasurer<sup>19</sup> signifying that according his lordship's desires he had put his lordship's son in law Sir John Netterville<sup>20</sup> in possession of Sir Richard Aldworth's<sup>21</sup> foot company notwithstanding Sir John Clotworthy<sup>22</sup> had the same granted him long before I arrived in Dublin out of England.

<The Lord Chancellor, and I reconciled>

It may please your Lordship,

This morning the Lord Viscount Netterville<sup>23</sup> did me the honour to deliver me your Lordship's letters of the 22th of September, intimating that his Majesty upon the new Establishment, having been pleased to confer upon your lordship's son in law Sir John Netterville (who I hope is safe but not yet arrived here) the Command of a foot Company in this Kingdom that your lordship received information that there was some course now in hand here to settle that company on some other. And the cause is thus stated: Sir John Clotworthy who is married to the daughter of the Lord

<sup>19</sup> Richard Weston (c. 1577–1643), 1st lord, later earl, of Portland (*ODNB*).

<sup>20</sup> Sir John Netterville (1603–59), later 2nd Viscount Netterville, married to Elizabeth Weston (*GEC*).

<sup>21</sup> Richard Aldworth, d. 21 June 1629, provost marshal of Munster (*DIB*).

<sup>22</sup> John Clotworthy (1609–65), later 1st Viscount Massereene (*DIB*).

<sup>23</sup> Nicholas Netterville (1581–1654), 1st Viscount Netterville (*GEC*).

Viscount Ranelagh<sup>24</sup> (who protests himself to be much your lordship's servant and seems to be much aggrieved at this accident) had Sir Richard Aldworth's foot Company immediately after his death conferred upon him and was in possession of them before my arrival. And therefore for the satisfying of your lordship the truth of this affair I have caused search to be made of the grounds of his entry and do humbly present to your lordship the true copies of two separate letters sent hither by his Majesty. As also of the Lord deputy's warrant to the muster master<sup>25</sup> for entering Sir John Clotworthy in the muster Roll. Praying your lordship to take them (being the grounds of the former proceedings) into your grave consideration, and thereupon to signify your further pleasure. And in the meantime, so far as I have power which is but little, in regard the ordering and command of the army is by His Majesty's Commission, assigned to the Lord Viscount Wilmott as Lord Marshal thereof, I will not fail with my best endeavor to do him all the favour and right I may, in sort as you have directed. Beseeching your lordship to believe that your goodness has so much obliged me to your service as I shall be glad to receive and obey your lordship's commands, and to bend my utmost endeavours to express the same to any that have relation unto you, much more to Sir John Netterville, whose Lady, your daughter is my poor wife's kinswoman.

The Lord Chancellor and myself have obeyed the King's pleasure and are reconciled, and I hope he will perform what he professes as really as I intend to do, that we may jointly proceed with love and comfort, to do his Majesty true and faithful service, which no Living Soul shall with a more upright heart and clean hands, endeavor to do than myself, so soon as the Lord deputy shall deliver up the government which some impediments have hitherto hindered. And as I am by your many favours bound, I will ever remain

Your Lordship's most true and humble servant R. Corke

<Dublyn the 21th of October> <To the Right Honourable my Lord Richard, Lord Weston, Lord High Treasurer of England at Court. In all haste>

### 5. Cork to Owen Hodges, Dublin

13 Oct. 1629

My letter unto Mr Hodges<sup>26</sup>, the Duchess of Lenox<sup>27</sup> her steward concerning the several leases that are made of the Earl of Kildare's<sup>28</sup> estate unto the Countess Dowager<sup>29</sup> and others

<sup>24</sup> Roger Jones (1588–1643), 1st Viscount Ranelagh (*DIB*).

<sup>25</sup> Sir John King (McGrath, 'Membership', pp 91–2).

<sup>26</sup> Owen Hodges, steward to the duchess of Lennox (*LP* 1, iii, p. 6).

<sup>27</sup> Catherine (c. 1592–1637), only daughter and heir of Gervase, Lord Clifton of Leighton, and widow of Ésmé Stuart (c. 1579–1624), 3rd duke of Lennox (*Burke's Peerage*).

<sup>28</sup> George Fitzgerald (1612–1656/7), 16th earl of Kildare (*DIB*).

<sup>29</sup> Elizabeth (d. 1664), daughter of Christopher Nugent, 9th Baron Delvin, widow of Gerald Fitzgerald, 14th earl of Kildare (d. 1612), and mother of Gerald, 15th earl of Kildare (d. 1620). For the Kildare succession at this time see Clarke and McGrath, *Kildare letterbook*, pp x–xiii.

necessarily follow a firm reuniting of your affections. My lord, my bolt is shot, and you may believe it as an infant of my own, without prompting, which in my zeal to serve you, I have taken the liberty to express, and humbly leave it to your lordship's consideration.

To the bearer hereof Perkins I have delivered for your lordship two parchment writings which concern my Lady Lettice Goring, together with the cancelled statute that has been long in my custody, and so beseeching god ever more and more to bless you and yours, I rest,

Your lordship's faithful servant

Tho: Stafford.

On Sunday last at the Court at Theobalds, my lord your son's marriage was solemnised by the great lords, to whom I distributed the accustomed favours.

### 313. Lord Goring's remembrances

16 July 1634

[p. v] The Lord Goring's remembrances, 16 July 1634 sent to me by Sir Thomas Stafford.

1. That this account shall now at our return from progress, be speeded to his lordship, Sir John Jacob having passed his [blank] to the king, and my Cousin Denny, perused the same with him. Whereupon it now appears that there will be somewhat more coming to my lord of Corke, by reason Sir John Jacob had allowance but to our Lady Day for £5000 remaining. And therefore his lordship must have so much abated him, my account running to the Michaelmas following. As for the other parts of it, I hope to give so good reasons for my demands, as shall satisfy any reasonable man whatsoever, as well for the articles themselves, (if the circumstances be considered) as the inducements to them. For let me but have my £10000 portion paid as was agreed on, £5000 down, and the other £5000 at 9 and 9 months, and I shall ask no more. But for me to suffer therein, because I promised his lordship his £5000, so much to my loss, as it has since fatally proved to me, I know no equity for it, nor will I have a penny of use, where I allow not the like to his lordship, for which I refer my self also to his lordship's own several letters.
2. I expect that his lordship leave not my Lord Kildare's debt to me, with its principal at least £700, for I am resolved not to be so used, considering what his lordship said to me, and what my obligations were then to my lord of Kildare that I should so venture for him.
3. That the £2200 which I received from Sir John Monson, is already assured to his lordship by my bond, according to the agreement of paying £3520 to my sweet little god-daughter at years end from the date thereof, and to reassure it better upon Wales, or my wines, so soon as they shall be free for it, though that which his lordship has already, shall be as forceable, as I have laid it amongst



my other debts, as any money he can have, settled by himself. For though my fortune be not so great, my credit shall not be less for what I undertake. Yet must his lordship assign the statute of the Lord Beaumont over to Sir John Monson (who last term pressed fast for it) or else I am bound by honour and faith to repay him his £2200 again this next term, which, if I do, his lordship must return me my bond and I his lordship the statute. Nor can I think his lordship did me a favour in this, but I rather him a service, to recover such a debt to him. And to make that good, if his lordship please, I shall send him his statute again, and so leave him in statu quo, for still I renounce any money obligations to him.

4. That by this time I am confident his lordship has his and my Lord Digby's statute, which he so much insisted on, when he was no less confident that it was at that very time cancelled.
5. That his lordship trouble himself no more with my son's demands, whom I shall renounce if he put himself again into that mean posture of hope that way. Serve him, and obey him as his son I have commanded him, and shall very much dislike him if he do not, but to be so weak as to hope further for any supply thence, I hope he will not. This only I must say, that if his lordship had been more sparing of his promises to my lord deputy and others in that aid, he should not have disadvantaged him thereby. For as I ever said, his lordship having bestowed so noble a portion on his daughter, why should any son be so unreasonable as to demand more. I am sure [p. vi] his father never did so much as in a thought.
6. And lastly that I must have a better account of my interrupted letters, and only attend his lordship's answer, which shall either stop, or advance my course as I like it, for I am unfit to serve where I do, and basely put up so huge an injury from any subject in his majesty's dominions.

## INDEX

References are to letter number. Enclosures are numbered with the letter number in which they occur, thus 45.1 indicates the first enclosure to letter no. 45. Information contained in footnotes is denoted by the letter n after the letter number. Titled persons are indexed under their family name and cross referenced from their title. Place and personal names are indexed in their modern form where possible with manuscript variants in parentheses.

- 1622 Commissioners, 181
- abbeys, 79
- Abbot, George, archbishop of Canterbury, 205, 210, 274
- Abercorn, earl of, *see* Hamilton, James
- Abergavenny, Baron, *see* Nevill, Edward; Nevill, Henry
- Acheson, Sir Archibald, 73, 83
- accounts, 35, 46–7, 50, 52, 72, 76, 76.1, 77, 79, 81, 85, 87, 89.1, 90, 92, 96, 100, 101, 102, 102.1, 108, 110, 112, 116, 124, 126, 128, 141, 243.1, 258, 268, 294, 296, 300, 301, 309; *see also* Annesley, Francis
- Acts of Council, 108
- Adderton, John, *see* Atherton, John
- admiralty, commissioners of, 129, 141, 198, 201, 238, 238.1
- admiralty, court of, 66, 180
- agents of the Catholics, 178, 181, 205, 214, 217–19, 222–3, 232
- Aldersey, Randal, 142, 229, 276, 285, 309  
his wife, 142
- Aldworth, Sir Richard, 4
- alehouses, 83.1
- Algiers (Argiers), 170, 216, 239
- Allen, Stephen, 234, 239
- almshouses, 298
- almsmen, the king's, 106, 106.1, 107, 109, 113–14, 117
- ammunition, 17, 178
- Anchill (Antill, Ancktill), John, 103, 106–7, 109, 138
- Ancram, earl of, *see* Carr (Kerr), Robert
- Annandale, earl of, *see* Murray, John
- Annesley, Bridget, sister of Francis, 50, 108
- Annesley, Francis (c. 1585–1660), 1st Baron Mountnorris, 2nd Viscount Valentia, 9, 18, 35–6, 45n, 46, 50, 52, 55, 62, 67–71, 75, 76.1, 77–82, 85, 87, 89, 89.1, 90, 92, 95–7, 100–2, 102.1, 108–10, 112, 115–16, 118, 126, 128, 131, 135, 141, 153, 171, 174, 180, 183, 185n, 190, 196–7, 210, 219, 221–2, 231, 239, 273  
his children and their spouses, 100
- Annesley, Jane (*née* Stanhope), Lady Mountnorris, 76.1, 81, 100
- Anstruther, Sir Robert, diplomat, 67
- Antwerp, 271
- Apsley, Sir Allen, 193
- apprentices, 18, 20
- arbitration, 270, 281, 294–5, 301, 312
- Archdall, Edward, 233, 238
- Ardagh, Nicholas, 181–2
- Armagh, county, 240
- army (including Irish regiment), 33, 46–9, 56, 58, 64, 69–72, 75–6, 76.1, 77, 81–2, 83.1, 85, 89.1, 90, 92, 94–6, 108, 112, 118, 126, 128, 135, 151–3, 164–5, 177–8, 181, 185, 205, 214, 216–17, 217.1, 218–19, 223, 232–7  
recruitment, 75

- army, imperial, 67, 72, 75  
 army, Spanish, 72, 75  
 arrears, 46–9, 67, 73, 76–7, 79, 81–2, 83.1,  
     85, 87, 96, 102, 107–8, 112, 116, 118  
 Arthur, Robert, 17n  
 Arundel, earl of, *see* Howard, Thomas  
 Aston, Walter, 1st Lord Ashton of Forfar,  
     258  
 Atherton (Adderton), John, cleric, 241  
 Athlone, 223, 228, 287  
 Athy, 5, 11, 11n  
 Atkins, Augustine, 280  
 auditor, 9, 55, 62, 82, 111, 118  
 Aungier, Sir Francis, master of the rolls  
     (1609), 1st Baron Aungier of Longford  
     (1621), 5, 18, 52, 59, 76.1, 78, 110,  
     140, 142–4, 150, 153–4, 171, 177,  
     194, 201, 204, 207  
     Lady Douglas Fitzgerald, his first wife,  
     5n  
 Austria, 75  
 Aylmer, Sir Gerald (Garret), 11  
     Julia (*née* Nugent), his second wife, 11n  
  
 Badnedge, Thomas, earl of Cork's servant,  
     53–4, 55–6, 251–2  
 Bagshaw, Sir Edward, Cavan planter, 89.2,  
     96, 108, 166, 188–92  
 Baker, Mr, 54.1  
 Balfour, James, 1st Lord Balfour of  
     Glenawley, 91, 100, 177, 234–5, 238,  
     239  
 Ballard, Thomas, almsman, 106.1, 234  
 Ballinacor, 33  
 Ballygobbin, 195  
 Ballyhack, 170  
 Baltimore, 137, 170, 175, 178, 185, 195,  
     216  
     map of, 175  
 Baltinglass, Viscount, *see* Eustace, James;  
     Roper, Thomas  
 Bandon (Bandonbridge), 196, 241, 280  
 Banks, Ralph, 266  
 Bargrave, Isaac, cleric, 286  
 Barker, William, 171  
 Barkley, Dr, physician, 27  
 Barlow, Randolph, archbishop of Tuam,  
     164, 228  
 Barnesmore, 92  
  
 Barnet (Barnett), London, 283  
 Barnewall, Bridget (*née* Fitzgerald), wife of  
     Nicholas, widow of Rory O'Donnell, 5,  
     100  
 Barnewall, Nicholas, of Turvey, later 1st  
     Viscount Kingsland, 5n, 100n  
 Barradell (Barradayle), William, 193, 238.1  
 Barry, Alice (*née* Boyle), Viscountess  
     Buttevant, countess of Barrymore, 260,  
     275, 287  
 Barry, David Fitz-David, Viscount  
     Buttevant, 1st earl of Barrymore, 205,  
     260, 275, 282, 284, 287  
 Barry, James, 204  
 Basel, Switzerland, 286  
 Bassompierre, François de, French courtier,  
     71  
 Bates, Thomas, 248, 271, 275, 277, 280  
 Bath, 270, 275, 284  
 Bath, earl of, *see* Bourchier, Henry  
 Bath (Bathe), James, 102, 116, 141, 157–8  
 Bath, Sir John, politician, 47, 49, 75, 141,  
     157–8  
 beacons, coastal warning, 170, 195  
 'beagles' (beagels), earl of Cork's searchers,  
     46, 172, 215  
 Bear-haven, *see* Castletownbere  
 Beauchamp, John, 37, 66, 84, 102  
 Beaumaris, 1–2, 55, 216  
 Beaumont, Sapcote (1614–58), 2nd  
     Viscount Beaumont of Swords, 167,  
     192, 260, 293  
     his wife Bridget (*née* Monson), 192,  
     260  
     his sister, 260  
 Beaumont, Thomas (*c.* 1581–1625), 1st  
     Viscount Beaumont of Swords, 23,  
     145–6, 160, 166–7, 180, 187, 192,  
     203, 242, 247, 254–5, 260–6, 270,  
     281, 294, 296  
     his wife, Elizabeth (*née* Sapcote), 146,  
     159, 167, 180, 187, 192  
 beaver hats, 276  
 Bedford, earl of, *see* Russell, Francis  
 Beecher, Henry, 211, 219  
 Beecher, Sir William, clerk of the privy  
     council, 47, 63–5, 67–73, 75, 76, 81,  
     89, 90, 100–1, 103, 109–10, 112,  
     115–16, 118, 122, 125–6, 128–9, 136,