

The Military Memoir of Colonel John Birch

By His Secretary Roe

The Manuscript

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Honored Sir

All men in the world Haue one maine and pryncipall worke to doe ,which is to advance the glory of God, that being the very end of their creation, about which they ought to spend their chiefest time, whole tresure, and, if need bee, not to bee spareing of their dearest blood. And to the end that God may loose noe glorie , nor such as hee hath made instrumentall in an extraordinary way may neither bee themselues forgotten, nor forget what the Lord Hath done for them, I haue collected these passages of God's providence , though weakly yet truly, every passage thereof being of my owne knowledge; which though I have no reason to question but that God's hand therein was by you well remembred, yet I could not doe less than present you with short notes, which haue been taken

by mee in your service; wherein soe much of God is seen, that I should haue looked vpon my selfe as an eclipser of his glory, if I should not haue comitted the same to paper. And in the first place I cannot omitt God's great goodness to you at Bristoll, when Prince Rupert came before it, haueing with him about 7500 men, Anno 1642 hee haueing assurance from Mr. Yeomens, Mr. Bowcher, and others in that cittie, that it should bee deliverd to him, the gaurds surprised, with diverse principall persons; and I suppose you will never forget the message deliverd you on the bridge in that cittie, that night about 8 of the clocke (vist.): that before the next morneing you should bee a dead man; and that, in stead of ffeare and flyeing as divers others, whose presence was very necessary, and profession should haue taught them otherwise, you addrest your selfe presently to finde out where those parties were gathered together, whoe within a few howers were to act that treachery; which indeavor the Lord was pleased soe to order, that before eleaven a clocke, you had about one hundred cheife men in your custody (castle), whereof most had been leaders in that worke; for which some of them afterwards deservedly suffered; and the Prince himselfe the next morneing returned toward Oxford with shame; the which work God particulerly honord you in.

After which about 7 monthes the said Prince comeing againe before that cittie with an army on the north side, and Prince Maurice, his brother, with Sir Ralph Hopton, and that Western army on the south side, against whom you were to act your part, God inabling you soe to doe. And although the place offended was weake, and Prince Morris and the Cornish forces there stormed

vs often, yett neere 100 persons of honner weare slaine in the last storme, and more private soldiers fiue times ouer then weare slaine in all other parts of the city. Notwithstanding which, on the other side the cittie, neere Windmill Fort, the line was unhappily entred, for I cannot call it stormed, because at that entrance there was not a man slaine on either part. And here I might envy against men; but I shall forbear: it would but weary you to heare them named. Thus was the famous cittie taken and spoyled, contrary to articles, to the eternall shame of him whoe had conduct of that army; which though noe man but your selfe stayed to see, yet is notoriously knowne. And here miraculously the Lord preserved you those three dayes, in the midst of those Lyons, when soe many messengers of death were sent vnto you, your selfe well remembers: and his hand was noe less seen in bringing you to London, thorowe them all; which I hope you will never forget. Whither being come, contrary to the practice of many at that time, both great and small, some runing to Oxford, others getting pardons, and the best saveing what they had beyond sea, God caried you beyond these to raise a foote regiment, by the assistance and vnder the comand of Sir Arthur Haslerig, (though vnder your own whole management) and the truly honerd Sir William Waller as generall. And before I do proceed further I

cannot chuse but put you in minde of God's great worke, that from the day you marcht out with that foote regiment and when afterwards you had a regiment of horse also, to the day you had the additionall honner to sitt in the House of Commons, never any, whither horse or ffoote, vnder your comand, came away with the worst, as I shall take the bouldnes more particularly to put you in minde. And in the first place at Farnum about three of the clocke in the afternoone, the Lord Hopton's army and Sir William Waller's being drawn into batalia, soe soone as ever your regiment of foote came into the ffeild and engaged, the Lord Hopton's army in halfe an houre retreated in disorder: which I cannot attribute to the strength of your regiment, but God's hand then sheweing you what you haue never failed since to finde; (vist.) that none of his enimies should ever stand before you. Presently vpon this, your great hazard in lyeing at Crundale twoo miles from Farnum, the enemy at Alton, their head quarters, but 4 miles of, and Sir William Waller's head quarters at Farnum; which though your quarters was hazardos, yett God there made you an instrument for the sending out spies and discovering their fortifications soe well, that though you were never at Alton, yet when you had made all ready, you did aswell knowe where there trench was deepe and wheare shallowe, and where to enter, as if your selfe had ordered the worke. Nay, lett mee never forgett, and I hope you never will, that deliverance God gaue you on the hills short of the towne that morning goeing out; where 6 of those enimies scouts, though they had you amongst them, were not able to carry you prisoner to the towne, but, contrarywise, sufferd you to bring the comander of them away prisoner back to our owne army, haueing but the helpe of twoo more, God giving you that as an earnest of that great mercy he gaue you a few houres after; where hee made you the

leader, first to enter that towne, then the church-yard, where a man would haue assuredly thought, must haue been your burieing place. Nay, at the entring of that church, dreadful to see the enemy opening the doore when ready to receue you with their pikes and muskets, the horses slaine in the allies, of which the enemy made breastworks, the churchyard as well as the church being couered with dead and wounded, amongst whom you long struggled, witnesseth the Lord's wonderfull protection: from which dayes service you escaped with a few dry blowes with the musket stockes of those whoe afterwards, soe many as were living and able, were caried prisoners to Farnum; the choicest men, for soe many, that were taken since the beginning of theis warrs. And long you rested not, after this story, before your generall Sir William Waller attempted further, which was his march towards Arundell, begun from Farnum the fourteenth day of December 1643; which was prosecuted with such speed that the 16. Day at night followeing the head quarters was in Arundell parke, where your lodging with many others was vnder the best spred trees. In the morneing at the breaking of the day the enemy and some parties of ours began to skirmish, which continued vntill about eight of the clocke, at which time Major Generall Potley comanded your selfe with about 1400 men to storne the enemis rampier, within which thear army was drawne vp; which was concived, by more then my selfe, hee did on purpose to haue you cutt off, for your being too active a few dayes before at Alton, there being double the number of infantry of the enemy, besides a great body of horse, to those you stormed with, and noe horse of ours could get to order to assist you. But God orderd it otherwise by his own ffinger, though it cost you a good store of your blood. I question not but that

deliverance you will remember, yet give mee leave to present to you what I remember to help your memory loaded with sundry things. At the same instant and to my best remembrance that the falling on was thus: Sir William Waller's lieutenant colonel was marching up the narrow lane, with about three hundred musketeers; which your selfe perceiving, and being nere ready your selfe to fall on, not liking his rash attempt, you unhorsed the London scoutemaster whoe at that instant stood by where you were drawing the men into divisions, and speedily ridd that horse to the van of that partie of foot, and turned again the lieutenant-colonel and his partie, and drew them into the hollowe of the lane out of the enemies shot, which tooke place on 7 or 8 of that partie, as you were speaking, before they could bee secured, which retreat caused a great shout from the enemy, not fearing your coming on againe. About a quarter of an hower after this, you were ready with your men in 3 divisions; on the left hand marched the aforesaid lieutenant-colonel with about 200 musketeers; on the right hand your owne major Cotforth and two hundred musketeers; in the body your selfe, 40 paces backe, with the rest, pikes and muskets. Thus marching on the enemy letting fly very thicke, you not liking your maior's pace whoe was marching before you on the right hand, but indeed more softly then you used to doe in such a shoure, you commanded the captains where you were to come on speedily, and you ran up to the maior's partie then about 40 paces short of the enemy's line; where they being almost at a stand your example drew them on instantly to enter that line, vnto which your selfe first entered, though it was intricate to gett over that steep line; but one assisting another, instantly there was nere 200 entered; in which instant of time, before the rest could enter, (and

the great ffishpond lieing between our army and the place where you entred, soe that the enemy sawyou could not quickly bee releived,) on came they with about 100 gentlemen reformadoes on horseback beside ffoot and other troups of horse, and gave your disorderd foote at that very instant of entry such a charge, that they layd many flat to the ground, as well as your selfe. The rest went backe over the line with great speed; and I think I may say truly not one man stayed within the line, except those that were slaine, wounded , or prisoners, but your selfe; whoe leaning on the line with one hand, and your halbard in the other, the enemies horse could not fall vpon you but to their great loss, bestoweing some few pistolls on you: but Gods would not haue you then hitt; and indeed you had never escaped soe, had it not been for those musketeers, who lieing neare you on topp of the line kept of the horse at present, and made some ffew to ffall soe that they were forced to drawe further of, and there stand: in which place (neither could they indeed long continue ; for the rest of the musketeers) followeing the example of those by you, got on top of the line and from thence fir(c)ed soe hott on the enemies horce, that they were gladd to withdrawe. Thus God gaue you possession of the enemies ground the second time: which afected, your great care was to make way for some honest captaines of horse and their traine, which voluntarily came vp to your assistance; which being done , immediatly whilest you were putting those horse and foote in order , whose number were both about eighteen hundred , the enemy looked vpon them contemptably; and there vpon drew forth to fall on you neere the town walle, where you were between the enemies twoe lines. And their horse and foote doeing their vtmost, at this instant was that gallant Scott slaine,

whoe had vowed that that day, afore hee went on,, that hee would never flee further from you then the length of your halberd , saying hee would stick to you whilst you lived, but hee would be neer to the intent hee might examine your pockets when you fell; which God called him vnto first. At this instant, the enemy spending their shot at too great a distance, your order was to horse and foote instantly to assault the enemy; your selfe with cherefull speech assuring they would not stand, which proved accordingly. For the enemy, feeling the force of the shott poured on them with three ranks at a time, after short time gaue ground, and your selfe entred the towne with them, scarce knoweing friend from foe; the enemy as much as they could betakeing themselues to the castle; into which place your comand was to enter with them. At which instant Sir William Waller's leiftennant collonel, whoe but then you encouraged by clapping your hand on his shoulder, your hand noe sooner of but hee was shott dead; and your selfe not gone about 20 paces further received that wonder of God's mercy, the shott in your belly, which deliverance to you was soe great that I cannot speake of it without admiration ; and the more at the hand of God soe assisting , that though you kept in your gutts, stoping the hole with your finger, yet none knew it vntill you had slaine or taken prisoners the enemy then about you, and orderd your men to drawe into a body on one side the street , where the shott had not such power: and then pretending you must turne to the wall, giving a capten by your private notice, you went towards the Parke house, as if no such shott had been, vntill your spiritts yeilded and your selfe sunke, and were then caried to the lodghouse aforesaid with life in you, but supposed by all to bee past cure, this being about 9 in the morneing; when you weare laid with many others on the ffloore, groveling, and to the chirurgeons not soe much probabilities of life apeared as to bestowe a dressing.

Thus you laye vntill about 6 at night; at which time being as you were in the morneing, the chirurgeons thought to adventure a dressing, and to bestowe soe much paines as to carry you vp vnto a bed. Thus haue I presented you with God's great worke, much of it carryed on by your hand that day, and the great mercy in your deliverance, which I hope will never bee worne out of your minde. I beseech you remember the 17. Day of December 1643. That castle in a few dayes after being yeilded, therein was ffound twelue hundred men, besides those that were slaine, fled and taken prisoners at the entry of the towne; which number I rather mention, to make more plainly appear God's hand, that these should bee driven into the castle by so smale a number. This done, the army quartered in Sussex the remainder of that winter; and your selfe in London, to bee cured; which was soe blest by God that you went back perfectly whole to Arundell, the 6th day of March followeing: within 5 dayes of which time the army rose out of there winter quarters, the wether being very faire, and marched towards Alsford, wheare Sir Ralph Hopton was at the heade of an army of great strength; which army on the 25. Of March follomeing you had sight of marching on the plaine towards you in batalia: vpon which you drew vp by Sir William Waller and Sir William Belfores comand, and faced one another most part of twoe dayes at cannonshott distance. While the army was at that posture a councell of warr was called, at which it was resolved, as I haue heard (vpon the defeat of the Parliaments forces at Newarke and in the North) to make fiers and retreat; which being sore against your minde, whoe then was capten of the watch, you vsed these words to Sir Arthur Haselrieg, that surely wee did feare whither that were Gods cause wee had in hand: for did wee assuredly beleeeue it, when he called vs to fight with his eneimes, wee should not run from them; for mans extremitie

is Gods oppertunitie. Yet, notwithstanding that order of the councell of warr, you disposed it so, being then captain of the watche, that the parties on both sides were in the night soe engaged that there was noe marching off without a palpable discovery. Therefore, according to your desire, the army kept their ground, and next morneing, by breake of the day, drew into batalia, your place being with your regiment in the maine battle. And presently 1000 musketeers were drawne out, to make good the wood on the right wing; and contrary to your desire, put vnder the comand of Leiftennant Collonel Layton, whome you said did sweare too hard to haue God with him. However, hee went and tooke possession of the wood: but stayed not aboue halfe an hower before the enemies foot, under Collonel Appleyard, beat them clearly out, and tooke possession, pursueing our men whoes heells then were their best weapon, to the amazement of our whole army. One passage then I cannot omitt. It fell from Sir Arthur Haslerig, which was thus: seeing our men put to soe shamefull a route, turned to your selfe saying “ Now, Collonel haue you ffighting enough?” Your answere instantly given was “ Sir, this is but a rub; wee shall yet winn the cast:” and you further added that, whereas your selfe and regiment were now in the maine body, might you haue order to march with your regiment to make good the right wing, you would quickly set all right againe: which comand immediatly by Sir William Waller was given you, and by your selfe instantly executed; and the enemy soe turned in his pursute that hee thought it best to saue himselfe by speedy draweing off, leaveing the wood to your pleasure to the great comfort of our army. This brought on the engagement of seuerall bodys of foote under Siir

Richard Browne and others, whoe did exceeding well, and also of the horse, which with great violence and various success continued vntill about 4 in the afternoone; at which time twoe thousand musketeeres were drawne out at your request; one thousand whereof on the left wing were comanded by Collonel Rea, whoe did very gallantly, the rest by your selfe on the right wing; all the rest of the army being to second them. Those twoe great parties went on with such great success, that in one houre the enimies army was between them, all our horse and foote comeing on in the front of them. The first thing I could perceive, they puld of their collours, thrust them in their breeches, threw downe their arms, and fled confused. Your selfe and others in pursute had not followed them above 100 paces into their owne ground, before one, whome I shall not name, overtooke you, comanded to stand: but for what end I never yet could tell, except it was to give the enemy leave to runn away, and carry away there cannon; sure I am you stood there 3 quarters of an houre, vntill the enemy was far enough. The reason is to deepe for mee to give: only this I am sure of; had the enimies comandars in chiefe been there, hee could not haue comanded any thing more advantagious to them. Thus was that dayes victory gayned; vnto which I make bould to add, that it was indeed a victory, but the worst prosecuted of any I ever sawe. After this battle, fought 28. Of March 1644, noe great matters were done the beginning of that summer, but marching vp and downe: only Winchester cittie surprised; in which your guide might well haue caused you to miscarry: whoe being to guide you to a low place in the wall, your selfe being a stranger, when hee came about on(é) hundred paces short, and the enemy fireing a few muskets, (as hee said) hee was soe hastily taken hee must needs presently vntrss, leaueing you to finde the lowest place in the wall your selfe; which God soe directed you vnto,

that with the help of your ladders you were in before the enemy could make any head. After this your march was after a few dayes backe to Farnum; and shortly after by order of the Parliament to meet his Excellency the Earle of Essex neere Oxford to keepe n the King with that army hee had there: notwithstanding which the King marched out and speedily went towards Worcester. I would bee loth to say what pass hee had : only it is strange hee could march ffrom twoe armyes both stronger than hee; and yett hee received noe considerable loss; nay, hardly any thing attempted vpon him. Vpon this his Excellence was pleased to comand Sir William Waller to ffollowe the King, and himselfe would march into the West, which was done. His journey into the West I sawe not; but many more than my selfe heard of it. For our followeing the King, it was very tedious for about 6 weeks; at last hee was gott to Oxford, and there draweing out what ffoot hee could, marched out northwards, as was supposed to meet Prince Rupert neere Banbury. Our army came within veiwe of him, and both were drawne vpp supposing an engagement. A forlorne hope of fifteen hundred muscateers was drawne out to fall on with horse; which notwithstanding was not done that day, neither on the second day. The third day the King drewe of on the north side of the river. Sir William Waller marcht speedily after on the south side ; and although the Kings army was I our view before vs , yett that gallant bodie of musketeeres must bee drawne to secure the reare. These are pollicies in warr far beyond my reason: yet this was occasioned thereby: the regiments that had the van were Sir William Wallers, Maior Generall Potleies and Collonel Weams and the 5 companies from Farnham: these regiments at their best would not all make 1200 men; but all this time many of their choice men were in that bodie of musketeers vsually called

a forlone hope, were vsed for a reare guard. Soe the regiments aforesaid, contrary to your desire afirmeing the Kings army desired to drawe vs ouer Croperdy bridge, went over the bridge, and with the horse fell into the midle of the Kings army on the other side the bridge; which at first promised a glorious victory. But when there began to bee need of shott, and that the Kings army began to drawe vp, then it was found there was in these regiments, cullers, pikes, lether guns; but our shott was in the reare, as aforesaid; which the enemy findeing, suddenly fell on, the bridge being narrowe, that those regiments that were strong could not speedily get over to their releife: soe that the enemy tooke all their guns, in number twelue, diuers of their cullers, and about five hundred men, the rest looseing their arms, comeing of through the river: and had not the regiment of Tower Hamlets, whoe were then marching over the bridge in the reare of the other regiments, at your earnest request stoutly made good the bridge, our whole army had been in great danger. This was the substance, I doe humbly conceive, of the ingagement, which by your selfe for the manner was soe publiquely spoken against both before and after. Imediately vpon this the Kings army drew vpp on the north side the river, ours on the south side the bridge. They made as though they would attempt the pass that day, and sundry times the next day: but the second night they made many great fires, by the light of which they marched towards Oxford; soe that in the morneing, when wee expected an ingagement, there was noe enemy within eight miles of vs. Soe they marcht to Oxford, and thence after the Lord Generall into the West; wee to Northampton, and thence to Abbington; where for very vexation your selfe impaired your Health, and left the army; your regiment theare being turned to

dragoons: your selfe was sent for to take comand of the Kentish regiment; soe that I heere obserue that the same day you had your comission for Leiftennant Collonel to Sir Arthur Haslerig, (whoe notwithstanding would never doe any thing as collonel of foote, delighting all in horse,) I say, the very day twelue month, you had your comission for collonel of the Kentish regiment aforesaid, with which from Knole in Kent you marcht out the 2nd day of September 1644 . You had noe sooner received that regiment, Which indeed was gallantly sett out by the gentlemen of Kent, but you were commanded by Sir William Waller to march westward, which you did without one dayes rest vntill you came to Weymouth. Before which time that great defeate was given to my Lord Generall in the West , which occasioned you forthwith to bee comanded for to take shipp, and goe for the secureing of Plimouth, then in bad condition, haueing lost most of their men in Cornwall: in which voyadge to Plymouth God soe blest you that the next day you ariued there : and a fewe dayes after the King seing noe hopes to gaine that place, left the westerne forces before it, and marcht eastward. It would bee tedious to count the many stormes made by the enemy dureing the sixe monthes of your aboad there: I shall only put you in minde of one, wherein the Lord was greatly seen on your behalfe; which was the storme by them made in January 1644 , about ii . at night. The shott then beginning to thunder, your regiment, 8 companies of them, the rest being then on the gaurds, made good haste to your lodging, and thence, in as good order as that blacke and darke night would admitt, hyed towards that part comeing sooner then was expected found the enemy entred , but disorderd; there cheife ayme being to take the 2 works on the line: the greater whereof they being hott about, which was that night kept by one of your captaines and 46 men , and well defended; for which his gallant defence hee received a peece of plate:

you quickly sett them thence, leauing behinde them about 60 slaine in the place. The next worke to this being quiett as if it had nothing concerned them, you presently comanded your men to ffollowe you thither; which being done, as fast as men could rune in soe darke a night, when you came within a pike's length, they in the fort bid "Stand; whoe are you for?" your answereing "For the Parliament," they fired to purpose. Your selfe then perceiueing it was taken by the enemy said it was safer to goe on then retreat; vpon whicw all run on: the fort was taken, and 66 alive and dead of the enemy taken therein; and Collonel arundell the comander of that partie there taken, whose sword you yet weare. This was one amongst many of those great deliverances and Successes God gave you there. The enemy at last being weary of Their seidge, and draweing of within 14 daies after, you by the Comand of Sir Thomas Fairfaxe were called thence. But before I Proceed with what past after you were with your regiment called Thence, gives mee leaue to remember you how you spent the Monthes time in which you were absent from Plymouth, being Part of the monthes of September and October, 1644, at which Time for want of suplies for your regiment you were forced to take A journey to London. And there in a few dayes receaveing your Dispatch, in your way backe you came vnto Bazing Stoke, Where his Excellency the Earle of Essex, Sir William Waller, with the Earle of Manchester then lay with the armys vnder their comand; the King with his army lieing about 8 miles of, towards Reading. Wherevpon tendring your service to those generalls, and letting them knowe you were going to your charge, the Earle of Essex desired you to stay a day or twoe, afirmeingthat in that time sure there would bee some action; and at present desired you to ride to Reading, and doe your endeavor to keepe that towne

wherein Collonel Barksted and a regiment of the London foot lay: his Excellency letting you knowe hee was very doubtfull, if the King should march vpon that towne, it would bee in hazard, being Weakly manned, and then not well fortified. Wherevpon that Night you went to Reading; but the next day the King turned aside to Newberry with his army, and his Excellency drew up between Reading and Newberry. Wherevpon you then made your address to the Earle of Manchester, the generall being sicke at Bassingstoake; desired of him that forasmuch as the danger of that Place was past and nowe an ingagement like to bee, his honner Would give you leaue to wayte vpon him till that the euent of that Present action was seene; which hee easily graunted. And the next day neere the evening, the lord gaue a great victory; though the evill prosecution of it vexed you more than the other cheared you However, with a few other gentlemen that were there with you, and suche as you could gather vp, the pursute was followed by you And after noone you being well wearied in the twoe nights and dayes (before) , you dismissed your parties, and your selfe wayted on by Major Ashley, your regiment quartermaster at that time, and my selfe, returned late at night towards Newberry, where the head quarters were. And rideing easily 2 miles short of Newberry in the way of Hungerford, my selfe being before you, I heard a noise of horse and coaches comeing downe the way towards vs . Wherevpon I giving you notice you stood a little, and presently affirmed it was the enemy; for we had neither horse nor coaches at the head quarters. And they comeing on ffast, you had noe more time but only to vtter these words “ What ever you see mee doe, lett the like bee don by you:” This was about eight of the clocke at night the 30th day of October, 1644, the moone shining pretty light: and instantly therevpon you turnd your

horse in at a broad cart way into the fields on your right hand out of the comon road to Hungerford. And instantly after vs about three pikes length they come into the field the same way; and comeing on fast some of them were got vp even with us: but your face being towards the west, and the moone being in the east-south-east, your face was soe shadowed thereby that they could not easily discover you; but, as I suppose, takeing you to bee of their owne company, passed on with their whole partie, consisting of 96 mounted men, three coaches and a coach-wagon, with 30 led horse; as you presently tould your quartermaster .saying you had counted them ,which I was at that time in too great a feare to doe. And soe soon as the last of this company was done, you turned backe your horse and wee likewise: and haueing gon backe about 40 paces, you mett on(é) of their company, to whome clapping your pistoll you bid him hold his peace, and turne backe with you, else hee was a dead man; which he did; and carrieing him backe into the lane hee confessed hee was one belonged to the Kings Lord Generall, the Earle of Forth, whoe then past by; and those with him are his guard; and in the coaches his ladie and some other ladies ; and the coach wagon was full of his bagadge, hee being come out of Dorington castle, into which hee was forced to fly the night before in the battaile. Vpon this relation you instantly turned for vs , and said, “ I knowe not in what way God will bring it about; but I am very confident that all these coaches, horses and men will bee mine: nay, they are mine. Come, therefore; lett’s vse the meanes.” And vpon that rid sharply with your prisoner towards Newberry ; and comeing there gaue this account to the Lord Manchester of what you had seen, and what danger you had Escaped, desireing of him a partie of horse, and youwould give him A good account of that company. But hee haueing long watched Was soe extreame heavy with sleepe, you could not haue one ready

word for him. Wherevpon you thought of another courser; and that was to goe to the houses where souldiers lay, and see if you could gett vs a partie by your perswasion, and for hopes of prize, which you failed not to promise them, as was afterwards well performed . by this meanes you had got vp 47 resolued horse, whereof foure weare trumpeters; and away you marched: and vpon the way Leiftennant Calthorp asked you howe many you judged the enemy to bee : to which you replied, “They are 30;” and then turned to your quartermaster and said , “If my heart faile mee not, noe bodies else shall for the number;” and soe went on, your selfe being still a distance before to discover any noyse, and likewise to finde the way they were gon; which you did at every turneing with your bare hands, feelling in the darke which way the coach wheelles turned; it being now about 2 of the clocke and somewhat darke. Thus wee went on about 16 miles; your selfe still before; and being at A turneing and feeling for the way the wheelles had gon, one standing neere by you , at a gate, as you informed vs , vsed these words, “ What rouge is that there?” for then it was neere breake of the day and very darke. You doubting, as indeed it was, that the wyly generall might haue left a reargaurd, and hee might bee a centry, and you had better goe to him : possibly you might make good the gate till we came vp (whoe weare eleuen score yards behind,) rather than lett him and his ffellowes come out vpon you; which assuredly they would doe if they were souldiers. Therevpon you takeing out your raper and holding the point of it downwards vnder your rocket, went to the gate to him with your horse as hee was then in your hand; your pretence being to ask him the way: but another coming out to him clapt his face over the gate close to you, and though darke yet discovered you and pulling out his sword, with an oathe not bee named, as you after informed vs, said you were a Roundhead: but you being more readye then hee beleueed

made such a hole in his skinn as brought a groane from him. The other starting, but not seeing the danger, you said with soe loud a voice that wee heard, whoe were then a good way short “What’s the matter, gentlemen, doe you meane to abuse a man travelling on his way?” and with that more of them comeing to the gate and indeavoring to fforce it, you made it good with your rapier, vntill instantly the trumpet (whoe had charge what to doe some hours before,) comeing vp, and finding you ingaged , sounded a charge. Wherevpon the partie rushing upon that rearegaurd, being twelue, were quickly dispatched; and from some of them that were then alive you did learne that the Earle of Forth was then refreshing himselfe in that village: which soe soone as you herd, you guest, as indeed it was, that the enemy would take the alarum and drawe into a body, and then the busines might bee hazarded. And therevpon instantly , the lane being pretty broad, and day appearing at the very instant, God was soe good to direct the timeing of that busines, you orderd the former deuision being neere thirty prime men and horse to go on with you: the rest of the partie being almost tired were to march on 3 score paces after, and one trumpeter with them sounding a march, and another trumpeter 3 score paces behinde them sounding a march, and soe to continue till they had ffurther order from you. In this posture marching a good trot, the first partie, where your selfe was , entring into a little comon in the midle of the village, there, close by you , was the Lord Ruthen drawing his men together: and at that very instant the trumpets that were behinde sounded a march, and you cried aloud, “Gentlemen letts not stay for the bodie of horse but fall on them instantly;” which at a high trot was done, and they presently routed, haueing not drawne 40 together. This was noe sooner done, but, musket shot

distance, as many more, whoe had then taken the alarum, were then gott together. Some of your partie seing them said "Looke , Sir, backe yonder is a partie more." You replied, "The same are rallied againe; downe with them: " and immediately vpon a full gallop you charged them. During theis 2 charges all the coaches and wagon were runne away. This busines being pretty well over, and all that were in those twoe parties fallen or taken, with the generalls armer in his trumpet; none escaped but the Earle himselve, Collonel Feilding, and three more, whoe by reason of the goodness of their horse, after they had mett with some blowes, leapt of the comon into the closes, you being between them and the lanes end; by which meanes they escaped. Your selfe presently and about twelue more whoe were able, pursued after the coaches; and haueing gon at a great speed four or fiue miles you were close. For a considerable part of the Queens regiment of horse quarterd Then there, who could not come time enough to the ffight: which You discovering by seeing souldiers stirr hastily about, presently cried to the people as you were vpon a hard speed after the coaches, " Gentlemen, lay out quarters in this towne presently for my Lord Manchesters regiment of horse;" and further called loud to your quartermaster, whoe then was most gallantly as hee had been all morneing at your backe, sayeing, "Quartermaster, in the next village let Sir William Wallers regiment quarter." Vpon this, and heareing the trumpets, whoe were then farr beehinde, sound, all the souldiers there, three times the number of your partie, runn away; and before our faces, some ridd out backe wayes; most footed it into the woods; and you had an opertunity to ffall on the partie with the coaches, whoe never offerd to strike, but cried for mercy; not one man of them escaped; coaches and coach

wagon and all the ladies taken, with 57 men brought prisoners ; and of their whole partie but the 5 aforsaid escaped. Of horses of theirs, you brought away 107, besides twenty one horse that were in the coaches and wagon. And now being 20 miles from Newberry, and in the enimies country, yet it pleased God soe to Bless you that you brought safe away that day all the prisoners to your quarters neere Newberry; although your partie was soe small that you were forced sometimes to put one man to guard 3 prisoners. This mercy of God, though I doubt not but you haue it in perfect memory , yet his hand being soe plainly discovered in it, I could not omitt it, and hope the time you spend in reading of it will not seem long. Which that it may not, I shall proceed on where I left; (vizt.) at your marching from Plymouth towards his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfaxe, and meeting him nere vnto Bridgewater; and within a few dayes had your poast given you on the west side of that towne , wheare your devise of fireing severall parts of the towne was soe successful, that whilest it was burneing they hanged out a white flagg, desireing only their lives. Thus was that strong towne deliverd, after a small storme on one part; whereof you were 14 dayes governor . but being soon weary of a comand soe ffar from the enemy, vpon your desire the generall removed you to Bath, a towne little defenceable, and nere Bristoll, wherein was Prince Rupert and at least 4000 of the King's armie, and therefore noe want of employment. By that time you had bin there sixe weeks, the generall Sir Thomas Fairefaxe and the army drew towards Bristoll; hee sending to you To joine with some of his horse, and goe before and keep them from Burneing the villages in Gloucestershire; which you did with 1000 Horse and 700 of your owne foote. This army comeing vp, many

great disputes arose, not without some discontent towards your selfe, lookt vpon as the instrument that drew them on that hapless service, as then it was done. But after many councells of warr and great debates, with great perswasion to a storme, and particularly by your selfe, after it was caried by question, you said thus to the generall, “May it please your Excellency, you haue now resolued of a storme, wherevnto I haue vsed my best arguments; and because it may not bee thought by any that I am the earnestest to perswade to storme, because my owne person is not like to bee hazarded, I doe now voluntarily offer, that what place of the line youe Exelency please to appoint I will, God willing, enter it, or lay my body there to shewe my reality and good will to the service.” This was recived with acclamation, and Harnell gate appointed you; and the comand of Major Generall Skippons regiment given you, hee lyeing then wounded; with which regiment and your owne you made ready for the storme. And although by the runing a way of one of your owne men into the towne the enemy stood ready cockt, and the gunners by their gunns, thee fight whereof at the first goeing on made it soe light a man might perfectly see all the men about him and horse, which continued for about a quarter of an houre, the night otherwies being as darke as ever I sawe; yet God soe blessed you there that you entred in that place; but not without some hazard; whole volleys dischargeing when you were but the breadth of the trench of, and many case shot. But God went with you then, and inabled you, when you were inn, to keepe it; though you were forthwith charged with 500 horse appointed to scoure that line. Thus was that cittie by God’s blessing entred, which some yeares Before you defended on one side to the great cost of Prince Maurice

and Sir Ralph Hoptons army, whoe came on vpon that side (but that I haue already put in mind of). I therefore proceed to Gods further manifestation of his presence with you. For returneing To you government of Bath, and Bristoll alsoe being vnder your charge, you began againe quickly to bee weary of being out of imployment. Wherevpon you went vp to London, November the 10th, 1645, and adrest your selfe to your friends there, either to put you in some more active place, or to give you leaue to lay downe. Wherevpon it was considered by the Comittee of both Kingdomes, and they appointed you to drawe out 1000 foote and your horse, the 5th of December, and to march to Herefordshire; and to endeavour with that force and some from Worcestershire and others belonging to Collonel Morgan, Governor of Gloucester, whoe were to joine with you, in all about 1800 horse and foote, to endeavour to distress the cittie of Hereford, and vse all meanes to take it in; giving you in hand one weeks pay for your horse and foote, and promiseing you a months pay more if you were succesfull. Herevpon you went on that hopeless designe; marcht of from Bath and Bristoll the 6th of December, which day it pleased God to begin a great frost, without which it had bin impossible to haue marcht at that time of the yeare in those countries of Gloucester and Herefordshire. Comeing to Gloucester you were to conferr with Collonel Morgan, Sir John Bridges, and Mr. Hodges, whoe were to assist you, and And advise you howe things stood at Hereford; vnto whome when you came, your incouragement was soe small that their earnest desire was that you would march backe to your garisons, it being vaine to thinke of attempting Hereford. Wherevpon you desired they would give your men 3 or 4 dayes quarters where they now lay nere Gloucester; and dureing that time you would goe into Herefordshire in a disguise, and see if there could bee any hopes of Hereford, or Matchfeild; you then saying that being you were marcht soe farr in soe cold a time, you would beat or bee beaten

before you returne. Vpon this they were content to allowe your men quarters for three or 4 dayes. Wherevpon your selfe, with Sir John Bridges, whoe in that busines was both very helpful and Serviceable, went along with you, both private, first to Ledbury, after to a country house, one Sissells, nere therevnto, and from thence sent privately to twoe officers of the Kings, whoe vpon some discontent had lately laid down their comand, and then were greatly enraged against the governor; suposeing ,as indeed it prooved, that those men to bee revenged would give their best assistance and advise. The next night those men came from there houses, 2 miles from Hereford, where they recided, at Nunington, and vpon discourse with them, it was by you quickly found that they earnestly longed to be revenged; and you promised them that, if they would assist, and the designe should take, you would give them 100 l. a peece; and soe enquired what possibillitie there was of a surprize; how the gaurds were kept? Whither there were any houses nere any of their gates? What cariages vsed comonly to goe into the cittie? And if there were any hollowe ground where a bodie of men could lye nere the gate? And what number was in the garison? To which the reply was : the number of men in armes in the garison, of horse and foote, was about 1500; that their gaurds by night were strict kept vntill the gates were open; but after the town mayor was gone the souldiers went to gett their morneings draught, and many times left not aboue tenn on the guard; that the officers in the towne vsually dranke and gamed all night, and lay in bedd the fore part of the next day; that there was within less then musket shott of the gate an ould building called the Priory, where 500 men might lye close;

that every morneing sundry carts came in loaden with wood and strawe; and that at this time, the frost still very strong, the governor sent out warrants to the constables in the country to send him soe many men every morneing to break the ice on the mote and river ; and that there was hollow ground behinde the Priory on the other side a small hill neere the city and about twoo musket shott from the Priory, where 1000 men might bee drawne into batalia. Vpon this discourse, and further findeing most of their horse weare at that time within the walls by night, you begun to bee confident the towne would easily bee surprised; and your way was 6 carts; 4 with wood, and 2 with strawe, which were to bee laden hollowe, that in the bodies of every cart 6 men might lye with swords and pistolls; and when they came just within the gate, there being only a bundle of strawe in the hinder end of the cart, they were to through that out, and presently fall on the guard; and that you would lay firelocks in that ould priory in the night to second those in the carts, when the gate should bee open, and they haue possession; which would assuredly bee done without suspicion. Thus that designe layd, it pleased God, that hee might the more bee seen, to send that night soe great a snowe that carts could not travell; therefore there must bee a new project; which you instantly thought vpon to bee this. The governor, as before, every day sent out men vnto the country to breake the ice, the ffrost houlding strong. Wherevpon you resolved to provide a man to goe to the towne Pretending to bee a cunstable, and to carrie sixe men with him, with spades and pickaxes, great breeches and country habbitt, and a warrant you writt to carry in his hand to avoid suspicion when hee came neere the gate, and a hedg bill vnder his arme, a vsuall thing for constables to carry in their hand. The designe was to bee put on; and you went presently to Cannon

froom, then a garison for the Parliament, where were many stout fforrest men ; out of whome for their habit and countenance sake, being soe like labouring men, you resolved to choose your constable and his men. And at last you found one Berow, whose face and bodie promised, when fitly clad, to bee noe other but a constable ; and vpon conference with him found his resolution answereable and yet his understanding not so pearceing as to afright him with the enterprise: and withall sixe men there fitt for your turne. Wherevpon you hasted backe to Gloucester, the third day after your departure, and came to Collonel Morgan, telling him you were resolved on a designe into Herefordshire : which hee was soe willing to imbrace that though hee was then sicke of an ague, yet hee would march with you, though under great distemper, which hee did the day followeing to Ledbury, and all the night afterwards towards Heriford in the deep snowe, where some of your men ended there dayes in the ext(r)emity of the ffrost and snowe. You thus marching on slowly, your designe being not to doe your busines that night, but only to make the enemy the more secure by your returne, day broke when you were foure miles short of Heriford. Wherevpon you gaue it out to your officers, after they weare all called together, not one of them knowing any thing of that designe, that you would now lett them knowe your intentions, which were these: Sir William Brierton then blockt up Chester; Sir Jacob Ashley and Sir William Vaughun were gon towards him ; and you were comanded speedily to march to their releife : and you hoped all your officers would beare you witness that the extremity of the wether was such you could not march, and therefore hoped you should well answere it if you went backe to your garisons; to which they all agreed, and

the souldiers gladly accepted; and then presently you gaue order the soul(d)iers should get some meate and drinke at the next villages, on purpose to give out what you had said of your march thither; only one bodie of hores to stand ready if the enemy should haue marcht out of Heriford. And the greate designe also tooke well: for the country people desirous to knowe whither the souldiers were goeing, they were as ready to tell the whole matter: and the governor of Hereford not wanting friends in the country presently was advised of the whole busines. Yet hee for more sureness that day sent out horse, whoe found it true; and that the forces were indeed marching backe towards Ledbury and so towards Gloucester: which designe did worke soe that the garison of Heriford was exceeding secure. And yett to make them more secure, you findeing out whoe gaue the governor vsuall notice from Ledbury, chose to quarter your selfe at his house ; and their called some of the towne togeather, informeing them of your hard march and desireing they would give your men good quarters that night and you would bee gon next day; for the wether was soe bad you could not march as you intende. This they willingly agreed vnto; and quickly the governor of Hereford had notice from his friend at Ledbury. The day past; and it now beeing about 9 of the clocke at night the 16th of December 1645, all haueing well supped, you called hastily to one of your officers, and caused him to beat vp an alarum; which immediatly hee did; and from him tooke all the rest of the drummers: which made not only your owne officers, but some of the townsmen hastily to run to your lodgeing. Where pressing to knowe the matter, you told them that you had advise the governor of Hereford and some others joyned with him were marching towards you; and desired to advise with the officers to knowe whether wee should stay there vntill hee came, or rather to goe and meet him, if happily wee might finde them in a hasty

disorderly march, and soe breake their bodies. They ,willing to concur with you, said, there was noe way but to goe and meete him, the snowe and moone both giving light enough. By this meanes you gott out all your men presently without suspicion either to themselues or the towne, whoe weare charged on payn of death to keepe their houses; whoe else would surely haue advised the governor of Hereford. And thus marched you almost to Heriford which was from Ledbury tenn miles, without speaking one word, still expecting to bee engaged; which thoughts kept the souldiers warme that terrible night of frost and snowe: which had it been any other way, you could never haue compassed your designe. When you had marched soe far, the officers cam to you wondering they heard of noe enemy; to which you replied, they are retreated, and if they did thinke it fitt you would march on, with all probabillity before they gott into Hereford you might doe some considerable service on them, they suspecting nothing. Wherevpon they every one returned to his place, marching on speedily, but soe silently that a dog scarce barked all the night, though wee marched through three or 4 villages; but in deed that was not strange, for if a dog had bin without doores tht night hee would haue been starved to death . your selfe in the meane time ridd to Cannon ffrom the Parliament garison, sixe miles from Heriford, and thre made ready your constable and his sixe men, gaue him his warrant, appointed him his bill, and to them their pickaxes and shovells, bound up for them very black rie bread and cheese in course table napkins, soe that to see them goe a man would haue ventred his life they had bin country labourers indeed. Thus you went on till you were within a mile of Hereford; at which time the officers againe repaired to you, and heareing of noe enemy, begun to say vnto you, sure

you had some other busines there; to which you did them answere,
 you had indeed, and if they would keepe close and silent at their
 charge they should, by and by, see what it was; which they wil-
 lingly agreed vnto. Wherevpon, being marched neere the cittie,
 you laid your maine bodie in a hollowe ground which you ffound
 as you were advised fitt for your turne; thence drew 150 firelocks
 into that old priory which lay just by the roade leading to Bysters
 gate. Then you tooke the constable and the sixe men, and laid
 him with them in the priory, giving this order to the constable;
 that when you put of your hatt where you lay aboue him a good
 distance that you might see when the gate oppened, and the towne
 mayor gone, and the guard did grow thinn, then hee should goe on;
 and to the firelocks comanded by Leiftennant Collonel Raymond
 and Capten Browne gave this order, that when the constable was
 just at the drawbridge they should rush out; and to the maine
 body, that when they sawe the firelocks run on they should hasten.
 Things thus laid, you tooke a speciall care, the officers whoe first you
 advised with living neere Hereford should bee soe lookt vnto
 That they should give noe intelligence, which you had reason to
 Ffeare, they expressing some discontent; which caused you to keepe
 Them honerably close for the three dayes your designe was acting,
 And soe at this present time. Thus the severall parties lay close in
 the snowe twoe full howers, noe man soe much as stirring, hope
 keepeing them warme. At last the gate was opeined; and within
 a quarter of an hower after few souldiers you could see about it;
 and you supposed, as it proved, that that terrible cold morneing of
 ffrost and snowe had sent them to a fire. Wherevpon you gave

notice to the constable, whoe in respect of his cold, which made him and his sixe men goe as if they were almost starved, and alsoe by reason of their broad hatts, great breeches, spades, pickaxes, and bundles of bread and cheese, they might well haue deceived a wise man and vigilant comander. Thus went hee on peaceably to the gate; which when he came close vnto, and goeing to shew the officers and souldiers that were with the centry his warrant to bring those men to worke that day, the firelocks rush fourth, and were run almost halfe way before the guard (then busie with the constable) discovered them. Wherevpon the guard began to crye "Arme." The constable with his bill knocks downe one; the rest with their spades and pickaxes fell vpon others: this held not one minute, but the firelocks and your selfe fell inn; and presently the remainder of your bodie, with Collonell Morgan; and after halfe an hower dispute in the streets, and the loss of about tenn of your men, that great and strong garison, which soe long held out a great army, was taken, and in it abundance of gentry and souldiers; the governor Bsrronet Scudamore with some ffiftie others escapeing over the river Wye on the ice, which that night was ffrozen soe hard they were able to goe over. Thus did the Lord worke for you : the like hath not been heard: and I am confident you will never forgett to honner God, whoe soe honerd you in this admired service. Vpon notice of this great worke to the Parliament, they fourth with appointed you governor of that cittie, which was almost as difficult to keepe as take, lieing surrounded with enemy garisons; Sir Jacob Ashley at Worcester 20 miles of, Sir William Vaughun At Ludlowe with a force; and others at Gutheridge, Ragland and Matchfeild; all the strong garrisons lyeing round. Yet God soe Enabled you to manage his worke in your hand, that you kept your Horse alwais quartered in the country, (though the enemy dureing All that tyme durst never quarter but in their garisons,) and never

lost (saueing 13 Shropshire horse thar came vnder your protection) one horse to the enemy. And although within the cittie of Hereford was 1100 townsmen whoe had taken vp armes for the King Yet by your speedy ffortifieing the castle you secured that cittie for The Parliament with a few men, soe that though you tooke that place but the 24th day of December, 1645, yet in the beginning of March followeing you had soe strengthened the castle that with the helpe therefore 460 men kept that citty, that the 6th of March you were able to drawe out three hunderd horse, and leaue a horse guard for the cittie; which with 300 horse and 600 foot you then tooke the ffield, notwithstanding the enemy all around about. But in an especiall manner you were molested from Gutheridge with Sir Henry Lingen, whoe had about 90 horse belonging to that garrison, 9 miles from Hereford; with which and the knowledge and resolution of the riders they made roades every way into (the) country: soe that although on the 5 of March you were desired to drawe out what force you could, and to joine with Collonel Morgan to engage with Sir Jacob Ashley, then intending with the fforces of Worcester and Ludlowe , and his owne, being about 1000 more, to march to Oxford to the King to joine with his army, there to take the ffield Thay summer, yett this could not possibly bee done without vtter Ruine to the country , except you could some way breake and destroy the forces vnder Sir Henry Lingen; but especially the horse, whoe vndoubtedly when you were gon soe ffar of would bring all the contry to subiection, and come to the gates of Hereford it selfe. Wherefore you tooke vp such a resolution as seldome hath been Heard of: yett your God wrought for you: vizt. Theis horse stood In one great stable , within the outward wall of Gutheridge Castle; The backe of the stable being it selfe part of the wall; a guard lay In this stable, and another guard about a pistoll shott behinde the Stable, being as neere the castle wall that only a carte loaden could Pass between the castle it selfe and this outer counter scarfe. Yet

you did resolue this stable must bee entered in some fowle night, when the horse were sure in it; it being the stable wherein they lay all their sadles, corne, and hay; and this must bee done, else you could not doe your busines. Therefore you tooke a time 4 nights after, and marcht silently all night; devided your bodie into three parts; one to fall on the out guard silently with their swords; and another to storne the wall with ladders of 13 rounds, which by intelligence you found to bee as a sufficient length; and when they were gott in that counterscfe to fforce the guard, and enter that stable: but neither of theis to give any fire vntill they were fired vpon againe and againe ; hoping that might somewhat alay the mistrust of any danger thear. The other partie were to goe directly to the gate, both horse and foote, and there to fire with great noyse; and it pleased the Lord soe to prosper you there, that they in the outgaurd supposed those whoe first came on to bee some of the castle or stable gaurds; therefore they tooke not the allarum, it being very darke, vntill they were gott in soe close, that they were taken or slaine every man, being 2majors, 2 captaines and 30 souldiers. At the same instant they on the counterscarfe,soe soone as they perceived the partie came towards them, though it it had been some of those from the outgaurd; and soe was not hastie to give the alarum, till they had sett and mounted their ladders and were presently enterd the maine force of the castle. The castle it selfe, heareing soe great a noyes about the gate, Supposed the danger there, therefore applied all their force thither. In the meane time the stable was entred, a hole beaten through the backe of the wall according to order, and then ledd out by the partie 76 horse : 12 were left in that would not come out; where-vpon instantly that great stable being full of hay, strawe, and cumbustable matter was fired and burnt to the ground,with

the horses, saddles, and all things else for the enimies vse. Thus their forces being subdued you were in a condition to march to meet Sir Jacob Ashley, which you delayed not long; but the very next day, haueing designed your force to come after, you went your selfe with Collonel Kirle, fower of your servants, your trompets and twoe choice troupers in your company towards Gloucester, to lay the designe and to conferr with Collonel Morgan about the management thereof. But whither they at Gutheridge had advice of your goeing soe ill attended or it was casuall I am not able to say, but suspect the first; but soe it was that Sir Henry Lingen had a partie of 14 choice horse were out on a party the night the stable was burnt, and his horse taken: which horse by that meanes escapeing lay at Ould Goare, just in your way ready to catch you as you went for Gloucester, the place being twoe miles from the enimies garison; you presumeing to goe soe neare with that small partie supposeing you had left them neare a horse; yet these 14 were ready for you there: wherevpon they standing in a little hollowe, and findeing them to bee the enemy, all that you said was “ Doe as I doe,” and with that on a full speed roade through the very midle of them. The fury of your horse overthrew one, and dismounting one or 2 more, the comander of them turneing about his horse to clap his pistoll to you, I was soe neare you that my pistoll touched his side; where I shott him, his scarfe was fired with the powder, and downe hee ffell. By that time you and Collonel Kirle had feld,

with the other sixe with you, 7 or 8 of them; the rest began to face about, but were all killed or taken, except twoe whose horses weare too swift. Thus were you strangely deliverd at that time alsoe; and on you went towards Gloucester as if this had bin only a rub in your cast, haueing lost noe mans life on your part. This was the Lords owne worke. At Gloucester agreeing with Collonel Morgan of the place and time of rendevouz, you mett accordingly with about 1060 men ; hee with about 1100; and the garison of Esam with about 600. With this little army of about 2700, you marcht to meet Sir Jacob Ashley, whose army consisted of about 3000 men, halfe of them being reformads, men of vndoubted resolution. On the 5th day after your rendvouz, Sir Jacob Ashley came marching with his army in view; wee lyeing on the topp of the hill nere Cambdin sawe him march at least sixe miles together. And I well remember your councell was being wee had sent for Sir William Brereton, and that hee had provided to come with a force that day, not to tempt God by fighting overmuch, when it may bee hee would afoard vs more meanes; but if noe helpe came before such time that the enemy would bee out of our reach towards Oxford, then wee would ffight them, and trust God to beat them with the fforce wee hadd: in the meane time to vexee them with 500 good horse and some ffew foote, to make them spend the time and tire them; and in the meane time the rest of our army to ffeed and refresh themselues abundantly, which they did from Cambdin. By which meanes the enemy disputed it till eight at night, before they could get vp that hill, and had then 7 miles to Stowe; they not desireing to fight with vs but to march vnto the King, which they did very quietly: for you comanding that none should ffollowe them in the reare, they tooke it for graunted they should not bee molested. But about tenn or eleaven of the clocke, you said to Collonel Morgan, “Come, Sir, God will give vs noe more meanes: yett I am confident hee will deliver them into our hands:” and to your souldiers about you said, you had a strong con-

fidence you should haue Sir Jacob Ashley in custodie. Wherevpon all resolved to march; and did at the very instant with that resolution and willingnes as if they had gone to a ffeast: and about three in the morneing were gott close vp to the enemy then drawne vp in the ffeild neere Stowe; it being very darke; yet you reeolued to fight presently, "because," said you "wee haue the disadvantage of ground, yet they cannot see it; besides wee being the assailants, they will conceive Sir William Brereton is come vp to vs , and that wee are many more than they." At this very instant comes vp tenn or twelue troops of horse vnder Sir William Brereton; and to worke wee went, the forlornes being ingaged before. Hott it was for a while; their reformadoes standing stoutly to it; insomuch that you had 32 horse shott in your owne regiment, beside your owne that you ridd on alsoe shott; but at length God gaue you the victory, 1600 prisoners and vpwards, beside the slaine: and in the midle of the heat a souldier had taken Sir Jacob Ashley, brought him to you; whoe according to your promise, deliverd him to your souldiers. And here, certainly, was a more then ordinary hand of God, which could not pass by without observance, being the last battle fought in England. Nowe only remaynd to take in the garisons. Wherevpon you marcht backe; first to Worcester; where at the first comeing on, your horse with a pistoll was shott soe vnder you that hee fell downe

never stirring, but died presently; which was another remarkable deliverance. Leaveing Collonel Morgan neare Worcester, you marcht by order of the Parliament to Ludlow, and God soe blest you that you tooke in that towne and castle within 33 dayes; though not without great envy from the Shropshire men, in whoes countie I was gon. Thence to Gutheridge you marcht, a place of wonderfull strength; yet God soe blesst you that with mineing, battery, and mortarpeeces soe well bestowed that your selfe shott into the castle 19 of 22 granadoes, which much shooke it, and by reason of a great mortarpeece you made there (the biggest in England), the enemy was terified, much of the inner part of the castle ffallen downe, and the rooffe spoyled. Yet the enemy resolved to hold out, and by countermine drew neere to your mine, which went heavily on for tenn yards at least through ffirme rocke yett there to bee seen: but by your battery vnexpectedly planted in the night you beat downe a tower of the castle into the mouth of their countermine; the tower ffalling soe furiously that they could noe wayes defend their mine. By which meanes you gott vnder them;

and they findeing the same, and sawe themselues lost, desired only their lives; Sir Henry Lingen and all the rest being you prisoners, whereof 60 were officers and gentlemen. This was the end of your martiall imployment, wherein I thinke as much of God was seen as most can recite: and although I doubt not your ffaithfull and greatfull memory hereof towards God, yet I conceaue my selfe bound to present you with this breife collection, being all I haue to tender to you in answere for all your ffavours towards mee: therevnto adding my prayers, that beeing God hath called you to bee a Member of Parliament, hee will continue his goodness to you, and make you very instrumentall theare , as you haue been elsewhere, for the glorie of his name, and good of his people.
Amen .