

THE GARRISON OF NEWPORT PAGNELL DURING THE CIVIL WARS.

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At the commencement of the following year of 1645, all apprehension of an immediate attack on Newport by the King's forces had subsided. Sir Samuel Luke went to London to resume his attendance in the House of Commons, then discussing the Self-denying Ordinance, the New Modelling of the Army, and the Matter of Church Government, all subjects in which he took a deep interest. In his temporary absence, which was prolonged by his appointment upon a Committee for Army Affairs,* Lieutenant Colonel Cockayne seems to have held the command at Newport, for his name appears attached to an Order, bearing date the 19th of January, and issued in compliance with an injunction of the Committee of Both Kingdoms, to Captain Bladwell to march with three hundred foot of the Newport garrison to Aylesbury, and thence to Farnham to await further instructions.† But the weakening of the garrison by the withdrawal of these troops, coupled with the absence of the Governor, and the supposed indifference of Parliament to the security of the place, awakened an expectation at Oxford that an attack on Newport would be accompanied with an easy success. The plans of this expedition were however scarcely matured, when they were discovered and communicated in full detail by one of Luke's spies. He reported that on Sunday, the 26th of January, intelligence from the Royalists at Newport reached the King at Oxford that about half the works had fallen down, and that there were not more than two hundred soldiers in the town; that on Tuesday, the 28th inst., Sir John Digby had a conference

* *Commons Journals*, Dic Lunæ, Januarii 27^o, 1644.

† Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 50 b.

of three hours with his Majesty, who countermanded his former orders, and directed him to join his troops with fifteen hundred of Goring's forces, and assemble near Chipping Norton on Friday the 31st. He further reported a conversation of his own with Mr. James Digby, from whom he learnt that this expedition was really intended against Newport, and would be commanded by Sir Lewis Dives and Sir John Digby, and that Newport was expected to be a garrison of the Royal troops before April, "for" said Mr. Digby, "though the Parliament was very earnest in making " it a Garrison, yett now they grow weary of the charge " of it, and will not allow men sufficient to keepe halfe " those workes that are there, soe that it will bee noe " difficult matter to gett it, if the wayes were fitteing to " march wth ffoote."* This timely intelligence and the delay in carrying out the projected attack caused by the impassability of the roads, probably saved Newport, for before Digby could commence his march, the House of Commons on a Report presented by Oliver Cromwell, sent down five hundred pounds to that garrison, and on the 30th of January ordered Luke's instant return to his command,† while the discovery of the intended expedition and the means taken to defeat it were announced in two of the Parliamentary Journals,‡ and within a few days the House of Lords passed a fresh Ordinance for providing for the greater security of their garrison at Newport. §

To gain further intelligence of the threatened attack, Captain Ennis had gone out towards Oxford to reconnoitre. He soon heard of a party of the King's troops at Bicester, and perhaps emboldened by his success there the preceding summer, and having prudently first made himself acquainted with their numbers and position, surprised them in their quarters, and took prisoners a Captain, a Lieutenant, and about ten others, with whom he returned safe to Newport without the loss of a man killed, wounded, or missing. || He only staid long enough to

* Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 88 b.

† Whitelock's *Memorials*, folio 1732, page 127.

‡ *Perfect Diurnall*, January 27 to February 3, 1644, and *Perfect Passages*, Wednesday, January 29 to February 5, 1644.

§ *Lords Journals*, Die Lunæ 10^o die Februarii, 1644.

|| *Weekly Account*, January 29 to February 5, 1645.

place his prisoners in safe custody and receive fresh orders, and then went with his troop beyond Brackley to the neighbourhood of Aynhoe in Northamptonshire, where an outpost of the enemy quartered in Mr. Cartwright's house, but on his approach retired to Bloxham, under the protection of Banbury Castle.* Here he was soon joined by another troop from Aylesbury under Captain Abercromby, and continued to watch and report upon the movements of the King's army along their line between Oxford and Banbury during the month of February. On one occasion he succeeded in capturing a detachment of sixty soldiers at Kiddington near Oxford, whom he sent to Aylesbury,† for which, and his other services, he was rewarded by a Major's Commission, and upon the Order of the House of Commons received forty pair of pistols, twenty carbines, and thirty saddles, for the use of his troop.‡

March 1645. This well-earned acknowledgment of Ennis's merit, created a serious jealousy in the garrison at Newport. Captain Andrewes, another officer, a few months his senior in the army, thought himself aggrieved by Ennis's promotion, which he erroneously believed had been obtained by the Governor's private influence and to the disparagement of his own services. The quarrel between the two officers proceeded so far that Sir Oliver Luke, father of Sir Samuel, was obliged personally to attend Lord Essex, who at first asked whether the Governor of Newport had not settled the difference, and when this was represented to be impossible, suggested that Ennis should give up the Majority, for which he quoted as a precedent the resignation of Colonel Middleton under circumstances somewhat similar, a proposal very properly resisted by Sir Oliver.§ Nothing short of an appointment to be Lieutenant-Colonel would satisfy Andrewes, and his uncle Sir Peter Temple wrote to Luke asking him to use his influence to obtain it for his nephew. This Sir Samuel positively declined, alledging that he had never solicited from Lord Essex any higher Commission for any one than that

* Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 52 b.

† *Perfect Occurrences*, February 28 to March 7, 1645.

‡ *Commons Journals*, Die Mercurii, Martii 5^o, 1644.

§ Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 73.

of Captain, and that it was undesirable to have officers of any superior rank at Newport, both as interfering with his own authority and being more chargeable to the Parliament. Writing to his father on this dispute, Luke says, "I conceive it will be impossible to keepe these two troopes of Ennis and Andrewes together and to doe any service for ye Commonwealth for there is such a deadly feude between them that they will never agree, and Andrewes is soe indiscreete in carriage of it, that I cannot hope for any good from him or is troope, hee being heightened and cherished in his discontents by his friends."* With great judgment Luke shortly sent away Major Ennis with about one hundred and sixty horse to Belvoir, and afterwards to Newark, where they were to assume the disguise of cavaliers and seek an opportunity to surprize the enemy. And the day after Ennis's departure he ordered Captain Andrewes with a small force of twenty troopers to Stowe, near Buckingham, to obtain intelligence. While upon this expedition Andrews was apprised of a party of eighteen of the King's soldiers lying at Finnere, and without halting his men rode on, and ordered an instant charge. The Royalists, taken by surprize, fled towards Bicester, and attempting a rally in the open fields near Fringford, in Oxon, were overtaken and lost their Cornet and almost the whole of their men, who surrendered.† Even this success did not gain for Andrewes the coveted Lieutenant Colonelcy. Luke, while he acknowledged the importance of the service rendered, remained firm in his reply to Sir Peter Temple, and the subsequent conduct of Andrewes proved the Governor's discretion, for when ordered by the House of Lords to march to Warwick, Andrewes refused obedience, and was only ultimately prevailed upon to go by Sir Samuel "with a great deale of trouble and not without some danger."

The dispute between Ennis and Andrewes was no sooner disposed of by their employment on these different services, than a fresh contention disturbed the peace of the Garrison. Two other Captains, Oxford and Whit-

* Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 84 b.

† *Mercurius Civicus*, March 20-27, 1645.

bread, each claimed the command of the senior Company. Captain Oxford produced a Commission from the Earl of Essex that such a Company had been given him at Edgehill, while Captain Whitbread was able to prove that he had served as Lieutenant till he had a Commission as Captain of Dragoons from Sir William Waller, earlier in date than that of his competitor. Luke begged the Earl of Essex not to interfere in this squabble, and the claims of the two rival Captains were submitted to the arbitration of a Council of the officers of the Newport Garrison. They determined in favour of Whitbread, but at Captain Oxford's request withheld their decision for a fortnight.*

The settlement of these differences between his officers did not divert the Governor's attention from his other duties. During this month two companies of the Earl of Manchester's Dragoons stationed at Newport for its defence were withdrawn, and when Lord Essex and Colonel Tyrell both pressed him to come to London to settle the dispute between Andrewes and Ennis, Luke begged to be excused, alledging that the weather was at that time very favourable for the repair of the earthworks, that there was an expectation of the enemies approach to Newport, and that Major Ennis's troop was still absent.† Luke was fully occupied. He had to watch carefully against the quartering of other forces of the Parliament within the three hundreds of Newport to the impoverishment of the country, and the inconvenience of his own soldiers. By the simple expedient of appointing one of the Hertfordshire Committee to be Collector for the garrison, and promising him sixpence in the pound, a percentage which old Sir Oliver thought too liberal, the stream of supplies which had hitherto moved so sluggishly was flowing rapidly to Newport. Money poured in from the Contributory Counties. Five hundred pounds were sent from Suffolk, three hundred from Cambridge, three hundred from Essex, one hundred from Huntingdon, and three hundred more out of a fine of three hundred and fifty pounds levied upon Captain Pinkeney by Mr. Love, "our careful and faithful

* Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 12.

† Id., No. 785, folio 73 b.

agent.”* The Committee of Norfolk appear to have complained of this application of Pinkeney’s fine, and of the use made of the Letters of the House of Lords to extort money, but as they had sent no money, and as it appeared had rather hindered further supplies, Luke curtly assured them that the money had been duly received and spent among the soldiers, that it was very little to what he wanted, and that he was led to expect that within fourteen days they would pay him a thousand pounds, for he knew them to be a wise and able Committee.

Even if no arrears of pay had been due to the soldiers, the whole of these sums would have been soon expended. Empowered by a special Order of Parliament† and by the compulsion of the usual Warrants Luke obtained from Bedfordshire six hundred labourers and twenty carts and teams, but as the Ordinance required that the men employed should receive the ordinary wages for their service, he had to pay the men eight pence a day apiece, and four shillings a day for each cart and team. By the 19th of March between three and four thousand workmen were engaged upon the fortifications, and the Governor was intending to increase the numbers by further summons to the neighbouring villages. The enormous expenditure at Newport, though unquestionably not larger than necessary to repair the works, soon attracted public notice. Mr. Grimston in the House of Commons called attention to the heavy charge of this garrison upon the Associated Counties, and complained that the Treasurer’s accounts were not obtainable. Sir Oliver Luke replied that the Treasurer had been twice to Cambridge and had offered to produce his accounts, which the Committee refused to accept. After debate the question was referred to the Committee of the Associated Counties together with the County and Borough members of Bucks, Northamptonshire, and Bedfordshire.‡

Another cause combined to add to the expenses at Newport. The successes of Ennis, Temple, and others in the numerous border forays upon the enemy in Oxfordshire and Bucks had filled the gaols within the town with

* Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 77.

† *Commons Journals*, Die Mercurii, Martii 5^o, 1644.

‡ Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 84.

prisoners for the most part requiring the ordinary necessaries of life. By the common custom of these wars, their money, and even their clothes were esteemed the lawful reward of their captors, and Newport soldiers, themselves ill paid, ill clothed, and scantily fed, were never remarkable for their lenient dealing with those royalists who fell into their hands. Luke effected some exchanges of prisoners with the Governors of Oxford and Banbury, and applied to Sir William Brereton for permission to send twenty more to Bedford, and wrote to the Earl of Essex for advice and orders. In another letter he asks for increased power of search for concealed arms in the houses of the Gentry round Newport.

May it please your Ex.

The latest newes y^t is come to my hands yo^r Ex: shall rec herein inclosed, the little noate came to my hands this morneing, o^r wants of Victualls, & Amunicon heere, have bene soe rung in yo^r Ex: eares, & y^e have so often prest it to yo^r Com^{tees} of both Kingdomes soe much, y^t I dispaire of ever obtaining them. There shall bee nothing wanting in mee to doe w^t I am able, but if they come suddainly the world will not expect y^t I can hold out long being soe Ill puided, except some unexpected supply comes to mee, The enemyes confidence is greater than my hope can ballance, yet I hope yo^r world shall see I shall not bee wanting, if there was Comand for yo^r Com^{tees} of Northton and yo^r officers heere, to search all Gentlemans houses neare both places for Armes, I doubt not but there will bee greate stoare found for though they lye under o^r Roofes, yet yo^r Parl hath allowed us noe authority to punish y^m, & therefore they cannot, being Newters in show but if I am not deceaved Arch malignants in their harts, bee refined of their Malignancy, Newport fforges are now come home w^h is a greater supply to mee than I could have expected, neverthelesse lett mee intreate yo^r Ex: to beleeve, y^t ye workes of Newport cannot bee maintayned under 2000 men, & though there are some, y^t to spaire their neighbours & their owne purse, thinkes 1200 too many, w^h I confesse if ye Parl will looke for nothing from us, or noe enemy come neare us, it is truth. Then humbly beging

*pardon for this my boldnesse I most humbly kisse yo^r Ex:
hand & rest.*

*Newport March: 28th
1645.*

*Yo^r Ex: most humble
Seruant.
S. L.**

On the same day this letter was written the Committee of Aylesbury, who had been assured that four well mounted soldiers from Oxford had reconnoitred the fortifications of Newport, authorized Luke to take a hundred loads of timber from the Earl of Antrim's woods at Whaddon, and two thousand poles from the College woods there.† Mr. Pelham Moore sent off from London in two waggons, a quantity of Match, Musquets, Swords, &c., and by another conveyance, sixty beds, three cases of pistols, more than six dozen shovels and spades, which had "cost ready mony 18s. per doz: being ye best "sorte, and most seruiceable bec stealc," together with three Drums.‡

April 1645. When after long debates the Self-denying Ordinance had passed, Luke, as Member for Bedford, became ineligible to continue in chief command at Newport longer than the forty days allowed by the Act. He did not however relax his efforts for the security and efficiency of the garrison. He endeavoured to diminish the number of the prisoners, offering to exchange with Sir William Compton, twenty, thirty, or forty men.§ He sent out rigorous Warrants for provisions to be brought to Newport from the Three Hundreds of Ashendon in Bucks, hoping thus to diminish the resources of the Royalist garrison at Borstall, as well as supply himself.|| Early in the month he recalled Major Ennis from his post of observation beyond Brackley, and after the issue of the Ashendon warrants, tried to persuade the troop to undertake a fresh expedition in their support against the enemy at Borstall, a service which the soldiers sullenly refused. Luke then renewed his applications for money and ammunitions of war to the Associated Counties. The supplies had indeed been scanty. In a Letter to the Earl of Essex he states that he had only received £10,000 during

* Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 9 b. † Id., folio 89 b. ‡ Id., folio 53.
§ Id., folio 26. || Id., folio 40 b.

sixteen months,* and the payment of the workmen employed upon the repair of the fortifications had left little out of this sum to discharge the arrears owing to the troops. Luke was however expecting his agent, Mr. Love, to return to Newport this month with supplies of money raised in the Association. In this expectation he was disappointed. The agent came back, punctual to his engagement, but brought very little money, for the Norwich Committee on whom he had mainly relied had been assured by Sir John Potts that they need not pay any more sums to Newport garrison, for the Parliament would provide it in some other way.†

It is well known that during the spring of this year the Parliament's forces in Buckinghamshire were rapidly approaching a state of utter demoralization, and Luke's soldiers did not escape the general infection. Sixty troopers belonging to a detachment of the garrison under Lieutenant Corneley's command plundered Aspley in Bedfordshire, and were committing other outrages, till seven of them were arrested by a party of gentlemen and others, assembled hastily in self-defence, and sent to Newport to be tried by Court Martial.‡ Indced Luke had been privately assured that such disaffection existed in another company of the Newport horse, that, if ordered, they would probably refuse to march, and therefore when he received intelligence that a small party of the enemy would go out of Banbury Castle to intercept a convoy, he could only send fifty foot soldiers for its protection.§ In the midst of these embarrassments orders from London reached Luke to supply a contingent of two hundred horse to go to Warwick and join Colonel Massey's army.|| For this service the Governor selected his own troop then at Newport, and that of Captain Andrewes, quartered at Cosgrove. At these orders the smouldering discontent kindled into open flame. The men at Cosgrove refused to march. They addressed a violent letter to Sir Samuel, stating that they had only received four weeks pay at

* Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 60 b. † Id., folio 23 b.

‡ *Perfect Occurrences* from April 11, to April 18, 1645.

§ Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 61.

|| *Diary or An Exact Journal*, Thursday 17 April, to Thursday, 24 April, 1645.

fourteen shillings a week during the last four months, and had had to pay their own quarters; they required the immediate discharge of their arrears, threatening an appeal to Parliament, and concluding with the following pithy postscript. "Our demaunds is ten weekes pay at ye least, & therefore put us not of wth ye Cocking of a Pistoll or stearne threatening as upon ye like occasion hath beene formerly."* It happened that the Committee of Both Kingdoms when ordering these reinforcements to be sent to Massey, had directed a fortnights pay to all the soldiers employed on this service, and had sent down a supply of money for the purpose.† This had the effect of calming the discontent, and Luke wisely determining to overlook their mutinous letter, the two Companies after a delay of some days were induced to march under the command of Major Bridges. On reaching Warwick they found the other troops from Aylesbury and Northampton, whom they had been ordered to join, had not waited for them, but gone on to Massey's army. But their unexpected arrival was well timed. The King's garrison at Worcester, believing the neighbourhood of Warwick to be left undefended, had sent out a small body of horse, who had approached to within a mile of the town, levying contributions and capturing several prisoners. Major Bridges rested his men a single night, and then, aided by the troops in Warwick, marched suddenly upon the enemy, whom he defeated after a short but severe struggle, taking about sixty prisoners, and a stand of colours, and recovering all the plunder they had captured. This victory was gained upon Friday the eighteenth of April.‡

At the close of the month Luke addressed the following Dispatch to the speaker of the House of Commons:—

To the Speaker.

Honored Sr.

The tyme of ye Ordinance for calling up yor members being neere expyrence I cannot but acquaint yu wth ye condicon of this place, w^{ch} I shall leave wth all ye chearefulnessse yt may bee to serue yu & ye Kingdome in yt

* Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 49 b.

† *Commons Journals*, Die Veneris Aprilis 11^o, 1645.

‡ *Perfect Diurnall*; from Munday the 21 of April, till Monday the 28 of April, 1645.

place, where yu thinke mee fittest, & therefore yt I may doe it without any disadvantage to y^e or ye Kingdome, I shall desire yu yt yu will take some care for puiding some mony for satisfying soldiers & workemen, not knowing w^t effects necessity & change of a Govnor may worke amg^t ym, yu have heere 1160 ffoote & 250 horse, belonging to ye Garr: w^h if I am not deceived, have beene raysed & pd wth soe little a charge, yt none of ye Countyes will have cause to complaine when their Com^{tee} have beene heere, & taken their accompts I confesse ye keepeing in of my L^t. Col (who is their Contryman) will bee a greate meanes to keepe ym together, but without mony they cannot long subsist, now I have acquainted yu wth ye truth humbly submitt all & rest.

Yo^r most humble seruant.

*S. L.**

Apr: 28^h. 1645.

When thus expecting shortly to relinquish his Command, Luke wished to have a commission in the army as Captain of a troop of horse, and asked his father to apply for it to the Earl of Essex, but it does not appear that he obtained it. He was more anxious as his dispatch to the Speaker intimates, that his kinsman, Lieutenant Colonel Cockayne, who had been serving under him in the garrison, should succeed him as Governor. He wrote in his behalf to the Earl of Northumberland, Mr. Pelham Moore, Sir Peter Wentworth, and others, and even prevailed upon some of the inhabitants of the town to amend a Petition for his own continuance in favour of Cockayne. The Commons had elected a Committee to recommend to the House the names of the officers to fill the appointments vacated under the recent Ordinance. On the 10th of April the nomination of the Governor of Newport Pagnell came on in this committee, and there were several candidates. Captains Harvey, D'Oyley, and Hale were all named, and at last Sir Oliver Luke proposed Cockayne, and hoped to carry his motion, but the debate was adjourned.† The discussion was resumed on the 14th instant, when there were "diverse competitors and much labouring of friends on all sides," and the decision was again postponed. In the meantime Cockayne came up to London to canvass his

* Egerton MS., No. 787, folio 56.

† Id., folio 41.

friends and make interest, and upon the second adjournment gives Luke an account of his prospects.

S^r

Although Tuesday was ye day appointed for o^r businesse yet it was putt of till Thursday next but w^t will bee ye issue wee know not, wee have few ag^t us wee suppose but M^r. Browne whom wee labour very much to take of I cannot acquaint y^m who are for us in pticular bec: y^m know noe man knowes his ffriends before they trye y^m, but I am confident y^t my Lo: Gen^l & all y^t pty are very right for us, & if wee had but ye Independent pty one our side wee could assure y^m more, there is much excepcons taken ag^t y^m, & all ye officers of yor Garr: for not fovouring ye good pty as they call y^m, but Col: fleetwoode one of y^t party hath desired mee yt if ye comaund fall to mee, I would give y^m ye best incouragem^t I can. here is noe newes at all, but ye newes of Layiny downe of Comissions, w^h indeed is noe Newes, for I thinke there will bee none at all shortly to lay downe. The officers dayly desert S^r Tho Ffairfax especially ye old officers. S^r soe soone as any thing shall bee done in this businesse wee are about, yu shall bee sure to have an account from him yt is & ever shall bee.

Yors. to serue yu.

14^o Apr: 1645.

*Rich: Cockayn.**

Newport. (?)

On Thursday the 17th the Committee came to a final vote. "This afternoone," writes Sir Oliver Luke to his son, "ye Gouvernor of Newport hath beene fully debated & wth much difficulty & doubt it was in ye end deter-
 "mined upon yor L^t: Col: soe farr as ye Com^{tees} hath
 "power. The house yu knowe may crosse it but it is not
 "likely. The Competicons were Haruey, Hale, Doyley,
 "& Tompson; Haruey was first put to Question whether
 "hee should bee first named, hee missed it, Cokayne
 "being ye next carryed it, both for being first put & the
 "place, Hollis & S^r P: Stapleton played their pts for y^m,
 "of wch yu may doe well to take notice with a Lre of
 "thankes. * * * *

O. L.

April 17th 1645.

"I pray gett up yo^r mony as fast as yu can & make
 "hast away as yu may after ye other is established.†

* Egerton MS, No. 787, folio 48.

† Id., folio 41.

May 1645. The vote of the preceding month did not invest Cockayne with the full power of Governor of Newport. The choice of the Committee extended only to a recommendation to the House to elect, and as strong opposition had been made to Cockayne in Committee, it was not to be expected that his nomination would be silently agreed to in the House. Seven days after the resolution in his favour had passed the Committee of the Commons, the Committee at Aylesbury wrote to the Speaker alledging charges of complaint against him, and when on the ninth of May his nomination came on for confirmation by the whole House, this letter, and another with similar allegations from Mr. Edward West, were read. In reply a Petition from the inhabitants of Newport Pagnell for his appointment was presented.* A debate followed. The opposition was led by Sir Peter Wentworth, whom Luke had vainly endeavoured to conciliate, and Sir William Masham, while the recommendation of the Committee was upheld by Mr Holles and Sir Philip Stapleton. Sir Simons D'Ewes, whose manuscript Diary in the British Museum affords very valuable information of the proceedings of the Long Parliament, notices this Debate as follows:—

May 9th, Friday, 1645. I came into the house betweene 12 & 1, and found them in debate upon Mr. Hollis his report from the Committee of Lords & Commons who had been appointed to nominate new Governours in Isles Citties Townes, Castles etc in lieu of the members of either house. There had been just before my coming in a long debate about one Colonel Cockaine whom the Committee had nominated to be Governour of Newport Pagnel, and just upon my coming in the question was put whether the Question should be then put or noe, I was a Noe, and the house being divided the Noes went out and carried it by some 7 voices and the matter for nominating a Governour for Newport Pagnel was referred backe againe to the Committee of Lords and Commons, As was also the examinacon of an informacon given in against Colönel Cockaine by some of the Committee at Newport Pagnel.†

* *Perfect Diurnall*, from Monday the 5 of May, to Monday the 12 of May, 1645.

† Harleian MS., No. 166, folio 207 b.

The actual number of members voting were; In favour of confirming the recommendation of Colonel Cockayne by the Committee, fifty-three; Against it, sixty.* By this decision no appointment was made to Newport; and the whole question of the Governorship of that town referred back to the Committee, who were also directed to investigate the charges made against Cockayne. What was the precise nature of these charges cannot be ascertained from the Journals of either House, nor the Diary of D'Ewes, nor Luke's Dispatch-book, nor the Periodicals of those times, but that they were not substantiated to the satisfaction of the Committee may be inferred from an expression in a letter of Sir Oliver Luke to his son, in which he says of Cockayne, "he will cleare himselfe of all ye aspcons charged in ye Lre & as I pceive by some of ye pty, yt they purpose most of all to stand upon ye chooseing some old experienced soldiers, being a Towne of great importance, whch if stood upon at first had beene reasonable, but as ye case stands I see not now how hee can be righted, without haveing the place."† At this time the Commons directed the Committee of the Association to consider, How monies might be raised for constant Pay to the Garrisons of *Newport Pagnall* and other places, upon a settled Establishment: and likewise, How to reduce the said Garrisons to a less Expencc for the Ease of the Counties, providing withal for their Safety and Defence,‡ and with this new business pressing upon the Association, and the intrigues avoiding the Committee for filling the vacant appointments under the Self-denying Ordinance, no appointment of a new Governor had been made on the 26th of May, and Luke was still in full command. Events soon occurred which materially altered the aspect of affairs at Newport.

(To be continued.)

* *Commons Journals*, Die Veneris, Maii 9^o, 1645.

† Egerton MS., No. 786, folio 84.

‡ *Commons Journals*, Die Mercurii Maii 21^o, 1645.