



Letter from Charles I to Prince Rupert

Mr. V. F. Benett-Stanford, writing from Pyt House, Tisbury, Wilts, says the following is one of many letters I found in an old trunk in the lumber room at Pty House, which were written by Charles I to his nephew Prince Rupert during the troublesome times of the Civil War.

“To my dearest nephew Prince Rupert”

NEPHEW, - Though, I know that, I need not recommend this bearer to you, yet a friends remembrance, at no tyme can doe no harme; & with this occasion I cannot but mention two Oxford discources to you, first it is saide that it is impossible so to fortifie Tossator that it can be kept without so great a force bothe of Horse and Foote that it will not be worth the paines, & that the Horse wch lyes there will be continually put to such hard dewty that (in short time) they are lyke to be much wasted. wherefor as it is possible that now you may finde this to be so, wch at first you did not belive (no more than I doe yet) & therefor thinke fitt to betake you to some other desyne; So by no means, I would not have you be guyled by our foolish discources heere but doe according to your owen judgement : & certainly that Place is of such consequence that it is not to be quitted but to eschew verrie greate inconveniences wch I hope ye will not finde.

“The second is that my Wyfe and I ar treating for a Peace wch you must not heare of : this is a damnable Ley, the ground of it is that the French Ambassador said by way of discourse, not proposition that he hoped I would not shutt my eares to honourable and reasonable propositions if they were ofred me: but protested against treating with those who cal them selves the Parliament though I should desyre him. & I against hearing from any of them except from Essex as Queene Elizabeth & my father treated with Tyron being the cheefs Rebell : but upon my credit you shall have notice of the first overtur (of wch yet there is little appearance) & shall have your word about if any such thing be & so I rest.

“Your loving Oncle & most faithfull
“frend CHARLES R

“Oxford 12 Nov. 1643”

Hampshire Advertiser, Saturday, 17 February 1877

OPC Note:

The letter has been transcribed as printed.