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The Proceedings of the ARMY Under the Command of Sir Thomas Fairfax. from the First of July to the Sixth. Containing the Story of the Club-Men, and Relief of Taunton. Wherein Is Expressed the Propositions of the Club-Men, and Sir Thomas Fairfax His Answer Unto Them. / Sent from MR Bowles (Chaplain to Sir Thomas Fairfax) to a Friend of His in London

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THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Army under the Command
OF

Sir Thomas Fairfax.

From the first of *July* to the sixth.

Containing the Story of the

CLUB-MEN,
And Relief of
TAUNTON.

Wherein is expressed

The *Propositions* of the CLUB-MEN,
And SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX
His *Answer* unto them.

Sent from Mr *Bowles* (Chaplain
to Sir *Thomas Fairfax*) to a Friend
of his in LONDON.

Published according to Order.

London, Printed for Samuel Gellibrand, *July* II. 1645.

THE
PROCEEDINGS

OF THE
Army under the Command

OF
Sir Thomas Fairfax
From the first of July to the last

of the month of August 1643
CLUB-MEN

TANNON

Printed by
The Proprietor of the Club-Men
and Sir Thomas Fairfax
His Agent, under them

From Mr. Boscawen (Comptroller
to Sir Thomas Fairfax) to a friend
of his in 1643

Published according to Order.

London, Printed for Samuel Collins, 1643

JULY 1.

NOt to expresse my own affectation, or satisfie others curiosity, but in love to Truth, and this Army, both which are sometimes abused by the frivolous and contradictory accounts, given by the Higling Diurnals, who are resolved, true or false, good or bad, to make up their Sheer. I have perswaded my self to this trouble, well knowing the perplexity of such an undertaking, wherein the opinions and reputations of so many are concerned, and the unpleasantnesse of it, when the variety of succeſſe shall make me a Messenger of ill tidings: But that God may have the honour of what he doth for us, and by us; and that men, for want of a true and impartiall Information, may not fall out with the Instruments of their own good, I shall proceed.

After that it had pleased God in the midst of our enemies despiight, and friends despair, to look upon us, and use as Instruments of his Justice upon an enemy fill'd with sin and pride; and of his Mercy to this Nation, in the late Victory at *Nablesby-Field*, which he was pleased to crown with the speedy and happy regaining of *Leicester*, which should teach us not to judge of any thing too soon, but wait for the counsell of God, which hath since made it appear, that *Leicester* was lost, that both God and this Kingdom might gain by that losse. The Army marched toward *Warwick* solicitous in nothing so much as which way they might best serve the Publike: And being very doubtfull, whether it were better to follow the King, and hinder his recruiting, or go down to the West, to relieve the other part of our Army, who had well deserved it, and long expected it; Letters were sent to the Parliament and Committee of both Kingdoms, declaring our indifferency, and willingness, to be swayed by their advice and resolutions; but not willing to lose any time, we marched on to *Marlborough* with a disposition, either to go over at *Gloucester* toward the King in *Herefordshire*, or to move Westward, and joyn with Col. *Masse* in the Western businesse; for though we knew he would adventure, and do as much as any man, with such a strength; yet the enemy being in common report 12000, and he but little above two, it was thought, that *Goring* might both keep off him, and keep up our men about *Taunton*. Having therefore received notice from the Committee of both Kingdoms, that Letters were

sent to the *Scottish Army* to advance toward *Worcester*, and that we had their consent, and the Horses likewise, to march Westward, we bent our course that way; having yet so tender a consideration of *Gloucestershire*, that we sent Colonel *Butlers* Regiment to lie before *Barkley-Castle*, to keep in *Sir Charles Lucas* while the *Gloucestershire Troops* might look to the security of that part of their Countrey beyond *Severn*.

After we had rested the Lords day at *Marlborough*, we marched from thence toward *Amesbury*, fourteen miles distant from *Marlborough*. This day being the Fair-day at *Marlborough*, occasioned the stragling and stay of some of our Souldiers, who were surprized by Souldiers from the *Devizes*, commanded by Major *Demer*, a *French* Runagado, lately wheel'd off to the King, whom as we hear, some Troopers under the Command of Major *Buller* have lately followed. We lost some men there, if it be a loss to leave such men, as leave their Colours. But that we might not be wholly beholding to the enemy for the execution of justice upon our stragglers, one was hang'd that night at *Amesbury*, for going from his Colours, and endeavouring to seduce another. From *Amesbury*, the first of *July*, we marched by the way of *Wilton* to *Broadbalk* and *Burchalk*, 12 miles, where some of us passing through *Salisbury*, took notice of the Club-men, as we call them: Associates they term themselves, of whom a further account presently. They wear white Ribbands in their Hats, with *Peace and Truth* interwoven. They have forbidden the Souldiers of the adjacent Garrisons of *Langford-House* and *Falston-House*, to fight in *Salisbury*; but to be drunk together, is a small fault in the Cathedrall Calendar. They allow those two Garrisons contribution for the present; for which, one Master *Hollis* of *Salisbury* is Treasurer, and hath a great influence upon this heap of men.

From *Broadbalk* we marched *July* the second to *Blanford*, a Town noted for Malignancy; in our march a Dragoon was hanged for robbing a Countreyman upon the High-way. At *Blandford* there was accidentally a Barn fired, which raised a mutuell jealousy betwixt the Souldiers and the Town, that it was done on purpose; But the Townsmen finding themselves enriched by the Souldiers lying there, began to be perswaded into a better opinion of the Parliament-Forces, against their wills. This night came to us Colonel *Massey*, and acquainted us with his strength and condition, and with a quarrell betwixt his men and the Club-men, at

Sturmister, in which the Club-men were reduced to reason at the last.

From *Blandesford*, July the third, we marched to *Dorchester*, a Town as famous for piety and good affection, as the other for its avernesse to good; But divers of the best Inhabitants being forced from it, the beauty of the Town is much impaired, and many houses empty.

In our passage from *Blandesford* toward *Dorchester*, came to us four Agents from the Club-men of *Dorsetshire* and *Wiltshire*; the chief speaker was Master *Hollis* of *Dorsetshire*, Brother to him of *Salisbury*. Their businesse was to procure a Passe from the Generall for these persons to go to the King and Parliament with Petitions.

To the King were to go, Doct. *Henry Goeke* (a Gentleman subject to mistakes, when he took the Manciples daughter of *Trinity Colledge* in *Cambridge*, instead of a Wife; but made it good after ward in taking her to Wife) and Master *Thomas Browell*, Divines; *John St. lor*, *Peter Hoskins*, Esquire; Master *Thomas Young* an Attorney, more eloquent then honest, and Master *Robert Pawlet*, Gent.

To the Parliament, Master *Melchisedech Wolcham*, Master *Richard Hook*, Club-Divines, *Thomas Trenchard*, *Robert Culliford*, Esquires; *George Haules*, *Richard Newman*, Gentlemen.

Master *Hollis* was pleased to deliver in the Petitions so to be conveyed, as also the Articles of Association. The brief account of both is this.

The Articles are,

That the Associates provide Arms, Set Watches, Be quiet with them that are so; Lay hold on disorderly Souldiers; Bring them to the next Garrisons; Not to refuse Quarter and Contribution to their ability, till their Petitions be delivered; Not to favour either Parry; Or to protect any not Associated.

The Heads of the Petions are, To desire a renewed Treaty, With a Cessation; as also, That the Garisons of *Dorset* and *Wiltshire*, be put into their hands, till the King and Parliament agree about their disposall: That they be free from all Charge, but the maintenance of those Garisons: That all Laws not repealed, be in force, and executed by the ordinary Officers: That all men who desire it, may lay down Arms; and others, who have absented themselves from their dwellings, may have free liberty to return, and live at home.

After much speech had with them, and some consultation what to do in the businesse, it pleased the Generall to return his Answer in writing to this purpose.

Although the Paper brought to me, being not subscribed, cannot challenge any Answer; yet, to clear my self from any avernesse to the satisfaction of the Countrey, who are pretended to be interested in these Petitions; I return this:

That my affections, and the affections of this Army, are as much enclined to Peace as any mens whatsoever; and we undertake the War for no other end then the establishment of a firm and happy Peace, by opposing the enemies thereof: and that I shall be ready, so far as concerns me, to further all lawfull and fit means to procure it.

But having seen the Petitions for the conveyance of which a Let-passe is desired, I must professe my self not so well satisfied with some things contained in them, as to concur to their delivering by any act of mine.

In particular, that a Cessation is desired, whilst, by Letters written by the King and Queen, taken at the late Battel of *Naseby*, it evidently appears, that Contracts are already made for the bringing in Ten thousand *French*, and Six thousand *Irish*.

It is further desired, That the Garisons in these parts, whereof three are Sea-ports, should be delivered up to the Petitioners; which to grant, were for the Parliament to acquit part of the Trust reposed in them by the Kingdom, and (considering these forreign Preparations) to run very great hazards to these Ports, to themselves, and the whole Kingdom.

Thirdly, it is propounded, That liberty be given to all Souldiers to disband, and return to their home, if they desire it; which may with equall justice be desired by all parts of the Kidgdom; and so the Parliament made unable to manage the War, before Peace settled.

These Considerations, with some other yet to be debated, will not allow me to grant the desire of the Letter.

But as for that part of the Petition which declares the grievances of the Countrey, by Plunder and violence committed, either by Garisons or Armies; I do hereby promise and undertake, for the Garisons and Armies under the command of the Parliament, That whatsoever Disorders are committed by them, upon a Complaint making known the Offences and the Persons, Justice shall be done, and satisfaction given. As also, I shall endeavour that the Parliaments

Gari-

Garisons may be regulated according to any reasonable Agreement with the Countrey : and without doubt the Parliament will cause them to be slighted, so soon as the condition of these parts and the publike good shall permit : And that the Army under my command shall be ordered as may be most for the good and advantage of these Counties, and the whole King dom : of which, some reasonable testimony is already given, in their quiet and orderly passage thorow these and other Counties, without many of those complaints which usually follow Armies.

I further desire, That in the publishing this my Answer to your Request, all assembling the people to publike Rendevouz may be forborn, and that Copies hereof may be dispersed to the several Parishes, that the Countrey may be acquainted therewith.

THO: FAIRFAX.

After the dispatch of these Club-Ambassadors (I leave it to other men to call them *Knaves of Clubs*, for I will not use my self to ill language) from *Dorchester* we marched toward *Bemister*, and quartered the Army in the field betwixt *Bemister* and *Crookhorn* : but before our march from *Dorchester*, we received notice of a sharp *Parley* (for so it proved) given by *Goring* at *Taunton*, wherein he spit his last venom, which our men received with their wonted courage. As also, we had notice of an Encounter betwixt the Governour of *Lyme* and the Club-men, about *Bird-port* : It seems the Club-men assembling, were sent to by the Governour of *Lyme*, who put himself in a condition to receive the worst of Answers. To declare themselves, they rudely tore his Papers, and increased their Sedition : Whereupon, he made toward them, to disperse them, which he did, with the losse of 50 or 60 Club-men, who it seems will not understand Reason, till it be beaten into them. These Club-men were led by an Officer of the Kings : and we understand that *Goring* hath lent them divers of his men to seduce them to disaffection and destruction : But we hope, if we may have some time and liberty, to quench this fire very shortly, though we were unwilling to stir it so long as *Goring* lay before *Taunton* ; from whence, this evening of the fourth, we understand by Scouts from *Taunton*, and Prisoners taken at *Crookhorn*, among whom a Lieutenant of Horse, that he drew off yesterday about noon, toward *Ilminster*, and this night is quartered about *Somerton* : Our Army lying betwixt *Bemister* and *Crookhorn* ; Colonel *Masseys* party betwixt *Axminster* and *Chard* ; we having in these

these five days marched from *Marlborough* to *Bemister*, which is 62 miles.

On Saturday the fifth, having intelligence that the enemy was marched toward *Somerton*, we marched with the whole body toward *Crookhorn*, having sent early in the morning a party of 2000 Horse and Dragoons, under the command of Colonell *Fleetwood*, to discover the enemies motion, and take advantage of his Rere, if it were given. This party marched to *Pedderton*, alarm'd the enemy, and drove them first over to *Pedderton*-Bridge, then to *Longlode*, and so over that Bridge, which made the enemy face about, and bring up Foot, who, with the advantage of som Works formerly cast up, made good the Bridge against our Horse and Dragoons. After this a Brigade of Foot was commanded to march, their Quarters assigned at *Crookhorn*, which they obeyed most cheerfully, and advanced as far as *Pedderton*: but they being extreme weary, and the night coming on, strong Guards were placed at the Bridge, and the almost-tired Horse drawn into their Quarters; it being a Countrey so full of strait passages, that it is very hard to engage an unwilling enemy, especially with Forces so harrassed as ours, with six days continuall Matches, and those long ones, saving the last, which the difficulty of the way made equally troublefom with the former. In this Chase, about ten prisoners of the enemy were taken, among whom a Cornet of Dragoons.

Thus hath the Lord graciously led us to the end of this week, and enabled us to say, *Hitherto hath the Lord helped us*. It remains onely that he be acknowledged in all our ways, that he may direct our paths.

This sixth of *July*, our Head-quarter is at *Crookhorn*, where its possible we may rest a day or two, but not be idle. And we account it a mercy that the Lord hath so disposed of our affairs, that we have had liberty rest and wait upon him three Lords-days together; at *Warwick*, *Marlborough*, and *Crookhorn*, which have been the onely days of rest we have had since we came from *Leicester*. The enemy yet continues on the East side the River, which he lately passed at *Lode*-bridge, upon which they have three Garisons, at *Bridgewater*, *Langport*, and *Ilchester*: But we hope that God will direct us by his good providence, to such course as may be for the good of these parts, and the whole Kingdom.

From *Crookhorn*, *July 6.*