

LETTERS OF MR. D. CAMPBELL TO SIR ARTHUR RAWDON

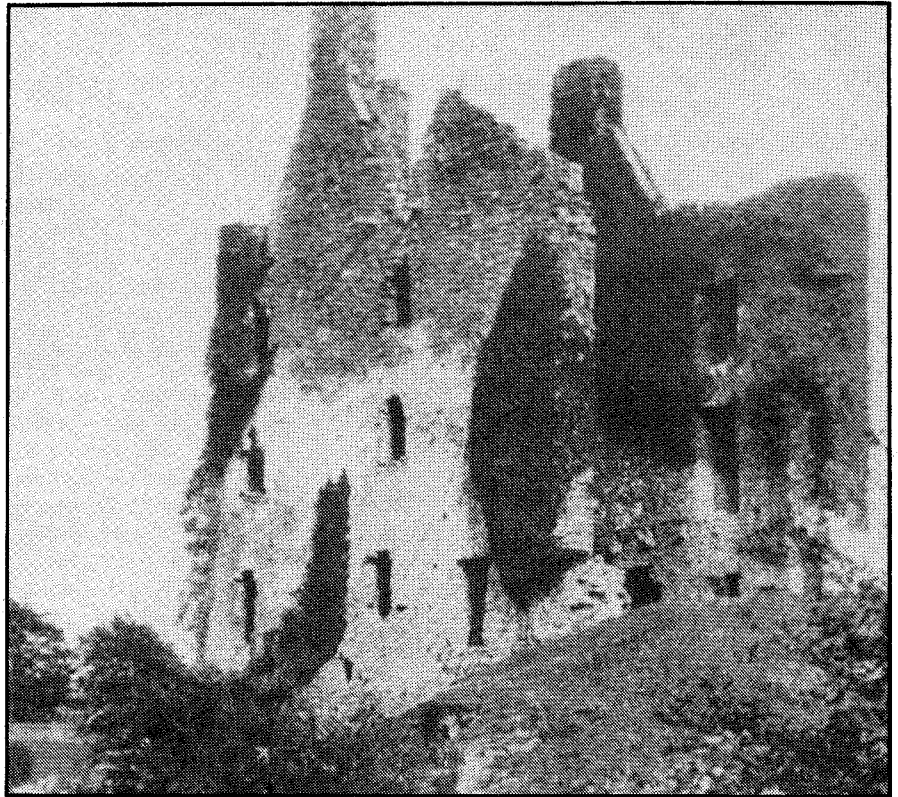
These letters are taken from Rev. Edward Berwick, *The Rawdon Papers*, London, 1819. Sir Arthur Rawdon, second baronet of Moira, Co. Down, was third son, and heir, of Sir George Rawdon, who received extensive grants of land, mainly in Co. Down, for his part in the suppression of the rebellion of the 1640s.

Camp before Limerick, 11 August, 1690.

Honoured Sir – I have on all occasions, according to your commands, given you an account of what has occurred, but am afraid they have miscarried since I have not had the favour of a letter from you since the last happy one that gave me an account of your kindness to me. We marched on Saturday [19th] from a place six miles from this place, and that very afternoon beat them out from the hedges they had lined about this place, and got a fort they call Ireton's fort, and have raised a battery on it, as also one more to the seaward, and on Sunday morning [10th] we went over the Shannon at a pass that was very foul with big stones, and they had raised a battery, so that everyone believed that 500 men would have made a stop to our army; but they quitted it in the middle of the night without so much as anyone appearing against them, and where they are now is very uncertain. The king sent a summons to the town to surrender, but Boisseleau that commands the town made a return, as is said, that he would keep the town out for the King of Great Britain, and would not deliver it to the Prince of Orange, but let him take it if he would. They are all these days shooting their cannon very hard, but, I believe, as I am informed, it is within the number of 40 that are as yet killed. We have not as yet our great guns, nor mutton, nor bread come up, so that we do nothing but lie and receive their shot. And just now I am informed that Sarsfield and his horse is come of our side of the water, and believes is intended to make an infall upon our guns and bread. This is all that at present offers, but that I am with my humble duty to your Lady, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, D. Campbell.

Camp before Limerick, 12 August, 1690.

Honoured Sir – In my last I gave you an account of our proceedings against Limerick, and last night, about 12 o'clock, Captain Poultney, one of Villiers's captains commanding a party



Newcastle, Castletroy.

of about 100 horse, as guard to our great battering guns, they were surprised by about 600 of the enemy, who killed as many as they could find for darkness. The reports are various, but take the following for the truth: We had eight guns, whereof two of them are bursted, about a hundred barrels of powder blown up, and carriages spoiled, and most of the troopers and horses, and carriage horses, killed. There was no money, but a tumbrel of brass money, which they left, and there was no bread (nor with us neither). Sir John Lanier went out with a strong party (tho' it is said he should have been sooner out) after them. The greatest loss is the loss of time, for without fresh guns, we can do no good against Limerick, as also the discredit we receive by the enemy taking our guns within ten miles of the rear of our camp. But we have other news; there was a castle within four miles of this place called Castleconnell held out, which was very strong, in which was 200 men: this morning we took it, and they are now going to hang several of the enemies for example, the number I know not. Limerick holds out very resolutely,

and hourly kills with their random shot several of our men and horses; many are of opinion it will be both a bloody and tedious task the taking of it. Excuse me for writing ill, for I have no table to write on, and truly I have little occasion; I have not had for myself and servant a bit of bread this three days, but two little barley cakes, for we are not supplied out of the stores, tho' they have no reason to brag. I offered half a crown for a six-penny loaf, and could not prevail; abominable ill drink, and that at 8d a quart, brandy 4s 6d, claret 2s 6d a quart. I have got two guineas worth of that, which should serve for meat and drink, and bread and all. I pray God things may not prove scarcer. Yours etc.

Camp before Limerick, 22 August, 1690.

Honoured Sir – In my last I gave you an account of the surprisal of our great guns, the damage we sustained, as also the account of the breaking of ground. On Wednesday last [20th] at three o'clock in the afternoon, the king ordered the attempting of a fort that the enemy were possessed of, within 200 yards of the town. We had been a little baffled the



English cavalry: Queen Consort's Own Regiment of Dragoons (from 1688 called Levison's Dragoons), officer, 1685.

night before at it, so that it made the king resolve upon the attack in the daytime. The service was very desperate, the enemy having the opportunity of galling us from their walls, and we lay open to their cannon. But, however, we took the fort in half an hour, and have entrenched ourselves from their shells. We lost in the foot Captain Needham of my Lord Meath's grenadiers, and his lieutenant, Charles Brabazon. Several of our men are killed, to the number that is estimated of 200, and many wounded, most of them in the head and shoulders. The enemy made a faint sally, commanded by Lane Lovrell [Henry Luttrell], which drew our horse under the shelf of their wall. They wounded several and killed to the number of horse and foot men, a hundred. None of our acquaintance were hurt, only Anthony Locke, who was ill frightened, having been shot through the hat and the sleeve of his coat, and his horse shot in the belly, but no more hurt. None of any note killed but Captain Lucy of my Lord Oxford's regiment. Most of Colonel Byerley's regiment of horse, I mean the officers, are most wounded. This day we raised a strong

battery at our new fort, and have beaten down one of their towers from which they galled our men yesterday, and, is said, was manned by friars who shot out of screwed guns. I am sure most of their bullets were chewed. We have an account that my Lord Tyrconnell has sweetened the French, so that three of their regiments are returned for the defence of Limerick. It is said we shall shoot this night hot bullets in order to fire the town, but the post will not stay to let me write the truth of it, but the next you may expect it. Major Margetson was killed lying in bed by a cannon-shot. It is said that Harry Hamilton will be major, and Putman get his company of grenadiers, and McCartney has already got an ensign's place. This is all that now occurs here, and the next post you will have the same. Yours etc.

Postscript:- We gathered in the fort about six score and one. Captain Barrett, being thrust at with a sword, it did not enter, so he was taken, though what will be done with him I know not.

Camp Royal before Limerick, 1690.

Sir - This morning I received your letter

by Edward Reynolds, and I can assure you of my credit, that I can hear no account whatever of your mares. I believe they are further on in the county of Kerry, where no-one as yet can venture. Besides, that country, after a little rain, which we are already beginning to have, there is no getting into it for this year, and I am confident that all the horses and cattle, unless a few in these mountains, are all on the other side of the Shannon, and when we shall take Limerick, to let us have a free passage, is beyond my apprehension, but we are hourly battering at their walls, but no breach as yet made. There is no news since the last I wrote to you, only one Captain Byrne in my Lord Lisburn's regiment, he and four grenadiers killed with one cannon-shot, and hourly they do us some of the like diskindness. It is said in their last sally Colonel Barrington was killed, and Sir Maurice Eustace of Castlemartin. I am sorry you have so much waste ground, but how to furnish you with stock from hence, I protest I cannot advise you, for the truth lies here, the king and the court has got such a notion of all the cattle being got into the north, that upon no consideration whatever will they allow a pass for any to go thither, and none are suffered to pass beyond Dublin northwards, without the king's license. When Limerick is taken, it is supposed there will be a great number of cattle to be had, and that there may be liberty had to carry them into the north. As soon as we are masters of Limerick, the king intends to go for Dublin, and so to England.

I am, Sir, yours etc.

My most humble service to my Lady and Madam Brill. [Miss Brilliana Rawdon].

Camp before Limerick, August 29, 1690.

Sir - Since my last by Ned Reynolds, we made an attack on the town. It was very hot service. The Brandenburg regiment lost four hundred, the Dutch a great many. There were five English regiments, viz. Colonel Cutts', Lord Lisburn's, Lt.-Gen. Douglas's, Lord Meath's and Brig.-Gen. Stuart's, out of which was lost above a thousand officers and soldiers, of which one hundred officers wounded and killed. The list I cannot get, only those I remember are killed, Harry Hamilton, late made major in Margetson's place, Captain West, Captain Wallace, and several others not known to you. Poor Monroe and Clotworthy Upton, killed. Poor Charles Hubblethorn, wounded in the throat, through the tongue, but I hope will recover. We have received such a foil. I believe it has put an end to campaigning this summer, for I am just now informed by one that we decamp on Monday next at furthest. This is a secret, which is all from yours etc. D.C.

Postscript:- We got their countersign, [counterscarp] got into the breach, but were beaten back.