COLLECTIONS BY A PRIVATE HAND AT EDINBURGH, FROM 1650—1661.*

ABOUT Lambas 1649, ther was a star seen by many people of Edinburgh twixt 12 and 2 hours of the day, even when the sun shined most bright, which was taken for a comet, and a forrunner of the troubles that followed.

1650. The Estates of Scotland sent Commissioners to the Hague, after they had proclaimed him nearest heir to the crown, to Prince Charles; and albeit ther was some things evil caryed in treating with him, and bringing him home to Scotland, for some of the Commissioners dealt not faithfully, and it was not known to the rest; so they brought with the King diverse malignant persons known to be such, as D. Hamiltoun, Duke Buckingham, and several others of that faction, which

* Wodrow MSS. Rob. III. 6. 16.

did grieve the hearts of many godly and honest people.

The King landed about the end of June 1650, or the beginning of July, the English having before disclaimed monarchy, and unwilling that Scotland should have a King, (tho' both nations wer tyed by a solemn L. and Cov^{t}. to maintain the King and his posterity,) had their intelligencers lying at Edinburgh, who took horse for England, as soon the guns wer shot, and bonfires put on, for the King's arrivall. There an army was preparing all this while, and immediately on the accounts, G. Cromwell, with an army of 15,000, marched to Scotland, and entered therein July 22, 1650; as soon as the Englished entered, they fire the beacons on all the high places. The nobility having heard a little before of the approach of the English, encamped betwixt Edinburgh and Leith. The English marched on, and came near the Scots army. Tuesday, July 30, 1650, the command of the Scots army was given to the E. of Leven, called Gen. Lesley, and David Lesley, L.-Gen. of the horse, Maj.-Gen. Holburn, and some others; there was some skirmishing near Restalrig. Sir James Hackit and Coll. Scot wer sent out with a party of horse to draw some of the English near the trenches, but for want of skill, and not running in due time, they fled like cowards, and wer beat

back to the trenches with great shame. Upon Saturday the 3d of August, Coll. Robert Montgommery and Coll. Strachan went out early in the morning, and charged the whole English army, and once put them from their great guns; but being but a small party for such an enterprize, they were forced to retire. The English army lay near Musselburgh about Stonniehill; but shortly after they marched up to Braidshouse, and the Scots army being put in some readynes, marched up to Carstorphin hill; but because the English feared it was too near the Castle of Edinburgh, they would not hazard battail there: wherfore both armies marched to Gogar. Tuesday, August 27, and played each upon other with their great guns; but because of Gogar burn, and other ditches betwixt the armies, they could not join battail. Next day, about mid day, the English begain to retire, and went first to their leagur at Braidshills. As was reported that G. Lesley gave orders to D. Lesley to fall on their reir, but he excused himself that the ground was not good, and so he fell into suspicion by some; for all this time their was never an enterprize intended against the English army, (altho' ther had been but six on the councill of war,) but nottice was given to the English in six hours. The English removing, the Scots followed by Carstorphin the

long gate. The English marched near Musselburgh, and in the midnight planted some guns in Niddry; the Scots having marched about the hill of Arthur's seat towards Craigmillar, there planted some guns against them in Niddry. Next day the English retired from Musselburgh towards Haddington, and Scots in their rear. Ther was some skirmishes on Saturday night and Sunday morning, but many opportunitys had they of falling on them, but none could be taken, because some wer dishonest, as appeared at Leith; for upon Monday at night, the English having retired to Dunbar, wer in a manner beleagured by the Scots, so that in appearance they could not come off. But that night being commanded to come off a hill, wher they lay safe in a strength by reason of the ground, and having no tents, [they] wer exposed to the violence of the rain, which fell in great measure, and about midnight command was given to put out all their matches, except the file leaders, which hardly could be keeped in for the rain. But unexpected[ly] in the morning, by the break of day, they wer charged by the enemie, which put such a fright in the army, being unready, and in an open field, that they began to run away upon the first sight; some of the horse charged, especially those commanded by Coll. Strachan, and he was wounded. Two regiments of foot fought it

out manfully, for they wer all killed as they stood, (as the enemie confessed,) many were killed in their hutts fast asleep, and so all fled. Those that fought had most part firelocks; Lawer's regiment was one. This discomfiture was Sept. 3. The most part never halted till they wer at Stirling, so left the town of Edinburgh and Leith to be taken by the enemie; only the castle of Edinburgh was provided. Many doubted this army was betrayed, and D. Lesley, Lieutenant General, was much suspected. The people of Edinburgh and Leith fled all to places where they thought they would be most safe; only a few remained, who wer thought most wise, for those that fled sustained most damage from the English; many houses wer pulled down, and 2 churches—the Colledge kirk and Grayfeirs, were all spoiled, and the daskes and lafts burnt, and made fire to their guards.

G. Cromwell having obtained this victory, was consulting to return to England, many of his men being sick, and scarce 5000 in health. But many of his intelligencers in Edinburgh sent him word how all things went, and so contrary to his former resolution, he returned to Edinburgh. Those in Edinburgh who wer not fled, of them wer Sir John Seaton and Archibald Tod, convened some of their neighbours, and chose commissioners to treat with him as to the safety of the town, and sent

Dr Purves, Physician, Mr Robert Trotter, Advocat, and John Poke, Cordiner. In that unhappy surpriz, all 3000 wer killed, and 5000 prisoners. On Friday the 6 of Sept. the English entered Leith, and on the 7th Edinburgh, wher 5000 men wer quartered all winter, and part of summer.

On Tuesday they marched to Stirling, Sept. 16, but returned to Edin. on the 20. On the 30, they began to undermine the castle of Edin. but to no purpose. Oct. 9, they marched to Glasgow, stayed 3 dayes, and returned to Edinburgh, Wensday, Oct. 16. Nov. 8, Dirltoun was taken. Nov. 13, the palace of Hallyroodhouse was burnt, whether by chance or otherwise, one day will reveal. Munday, Nov. 18, Rosline House was taken by Coll. Munk; and Nov. 23, he took Borthwick; it was rendered without shot, being keeped by the lady.

The Scots army, now at Stirling, wer much divided in judgement. Many wer for taking in malignants to assist them; others would not consent, especially those of the west, to whom joined Coll. Gilbert Ker and C. Strauchan; but because they perceived they in Stirling would take in malignants, as they termed them, C. Strauchan quit his charge; and because he feared his life, he purchased a protection from Cromwell, and came in to Edin. Dec. 10, and had liberty to wear his

arms; also the Laird of Swintoun did the like; wherfor the Commission of the Kirk did excommunicate them and others, as complyers with sectarys. Dec. 11, the north-west tower of Herriotts Hospital was burnt.

Coll. Gilbert Ker being the only commander now of the western forces, keeping themselves remot from the rest, put furth a remonstrance, and wer summoned to come to the rest several times; and still refusing, Coll. Robt. Montgommery was sent with a party either to fetch them, or fall upon them, as complyers with the enemie, which being understood by Coll. Ker, he resolved to do somewhat to vindicate them from that aspersion, and thereupon taking all the forces with the gentlemen of the west, resolved to fall upon the garrison of English horsemen that lay at Hamiltoun; there the most part of their horse lay. But the enterprize being rashly undertaken, succeeded not. Coll. Ker himself was taken, ill wounded, with the loss of many honest men.

All this time Coll. Monk was busy about the castle of Edin., and yet the governor, Will. Dundass, young laird of Dundass, had no great mind to hold out long; for albeit they shot many guns against the English, and sometimes fired their mines, yet when their guns and granades wer bro't up, and seen by some within the castle, yet

the governour would not give order to shoot the guns at them, so that it seemed he gave them leave to plant their guns; and upon Saturday the 14 of Dec. they began to batter, and shot their granades against the castle, and continued so to do night and day till Dec. 18. In the evening the governour put furth a white flag, and beat a parley; the ministers then in the castle being then at prayer in a low vault; and the castle was rendered to the governours great shame, for the ministers protested against its rendering, and it could never have been taken by force. All the people who had any goods in the castle had them delivered to them; and Tuesday Dec. 24, the Governour and his men marched out with flying colours. Ther wer six ministers of Edin. in the castle, Mr Mun. Law, Hew M'Kail, Robert Trail, James Hamiltoun, Thomas Garvie, and Jo. Smith, and Mr George Leslie, minister of the Cannongat. It was alledged Dundas took a sum of money for the castle. However that was, he was printed at London as drawing a bagg with the one hand, and putting away the castle with the other.

Wensday, Jan. 1. 1651, K. Charles was crowned at Scoon; Mr Robert Douglas preached. Mr Andrew Cant, Moderator of the Assembly, set the crown on his head.

Tuesday, Jan. 18, the English embarked at

Leith, 1500 men in boats to take Burntisland; Monk had the charge. It was thought that the cheife men in Burntisland were corrupted. As soon as the boats were perceived on the other side, they fired the beacons in Fife, and gathered the country. The seamen in Burntisland went to the guns, and fired them against the boats and some ships. They fearing all was not right, returned; meanwhile a great storm arose, which put them in hazard.

Feb. 2. Hume Castle surrendered. Jo. Koburn was governour.

Tuesday, Feb. 4. The whole army marched to Stirling, thinking to have got over at Cardros, but missing their purpose, returned to Edin. Feb. 8. having had foul weather, the horse much damaged, the Generall himself was sick a long time after.

Feb. 12. The souldiers being scarce of money, mutinied, and did much damage to the inhabitants of Edinburgh. Their officers got knocks, and the General's supper was taken from him.

Feb. 21. Tamtallon was taken by Monk; and April 1. Blacknes rendered. April 7. E. of Eglintoun with his son Col. James, were brought prisoners to Edin. having been taken as he went to visit his lady at Dumbarton. He was betrayed by one Hamiltoun, afterwards hanged at Stirling.

April 24. Two stacks of hay burnt at Leith. It was said it was done by the English that they might challenge the Scots for it, and put them all out of Leith; and next day a proclamation was published, ordering all out of Leith but such as took ane oath to be true to them. This winter, Edinburgh, Leith, and other places, were mightily oppressed by the English quartering souldiers,—those who left their houses suffered most.

In the end of April the English army marched to Glasgow, being ther on the Sabbath; and the commanders hearing the ministers preach against their unlawful proceedings, the Generall sent to them to see if they would stand to what they had said; they answered, they would; and a time being appointed, they had a long disput, cheefly of the lawfulness and unlawfulness of their invasion, wherin the English were confuted, but would not leave off their proceedings. After this they returned to Edinburgh, and stayed till the 25 of June; and then hearing that the Scots army was marched out of Stirling, the King himself being Generall, they marched out of Edinburgh towards Colingtoun, where they stayed till June 30, and then marched to Linlithgow. On Wednesday, the 2d of July, they advanced within a mile of Larber Bridge, the Scots army lying in the Torrwood. A small party of the Scots army went out to view

the English army, and wer pursued by a party of English horse. The Scots fearing the weakness of their party, sent forth another to bring them off, which they did with the slaughter of two English men, and one taken. Some of the Scots were hurt. Upon this the Scots drew in their out-guards, which made the English think they were marched to Stirling, and resolved next morning to march to the Scots leagure, when they wer saluted with the Scots guns which played into the midst of their camp from a hill near Larber water. It was long before the English guns wer ready, so that after some few wer shott they retired with a great slaugter of their men, and left behind them some of their baggage, whereupon the Scots army advanced; Major General Midltoun being in the feilds, sent word to Gen. David Lesly, that he would fall on, desyring him to second him; but D. Lesly sent him expresse command not to do it; saying it was not convenient, so that the English returned to Linlithgow quietly; and least the number of their dead should be known, brought them to some cottage houses and burnt them over them.

After this the English army went to Glasgow, and falling scarce of victualls, spoyled Glasgow and the country within 3 miles of it, plundered some shops, and houses of all their goods. They lay

some short time at Bothwell Bank, in which time ther wer some skirmishes betwixt the armies.

Wednesday July 16, the English landed a party of horse and foot at Innerkeithing, who, with much ado and loss of men, landed and entrenched themselves on a little hill betwixt the North Ferry and Innerkeithing. Sunday, Major Gen. Holburn was sent with a party of 2,000 horse and foot, to fall on them by break of day, but protracting time till 11 hours, the English getting intelligence, some alledge by D. Lesley's means, sent over a great part of their army, so that when they came to join, the English were above 4 to one, so the Scots wer opprest and worsted; many killed; Sir John Brown of Fordall, and the Laird of Buchanan, taken, and many of the souldiers and officers ill wounded. Sir J. Brown died of his wounds. Holburn escaped. Such cruelty was never used against prisoners as the English used here. After they wer taken and quarters granted, 2 hours after, they stripped them of their cloaths, and all they had, and hacked them with their swords, and maimed them, telling them they gave them Cromwell's mark; yet for all the victory, the English had great losse, for the Scots fought as valiantly as ever men. After this the English triumphed, shott their guns from Edinburgh castle, Leith, and their ships.

Things being thus carried, all men perceived

treachery in the matter, for had they fallen on at Larber Bridge, the English had been totally routed; and now, by protracting time, they were overpowered and murdered. This so cooled the hearts of many, that they left the army.

Wensday, July 23. The General Assembly met at St Andrews, wher a protest was given against that Assembly, and those ratifying the proceedings of the former Commission, alledging that Presbyterys were limited by a letter from the Commission in their elections, and so it was not a free election. The neuse of the discomfiture at Inverkeithing coming, the Assembly removed to Dundee. Lord Balcarras was Commissioner, and Mr Robert Douglas Moderator.

July 28. Inchgarvy was rendered to the English; and 29, Burntisland on fair conditions. July 30, the English army moved to Saint Johnstoun; and July last, the King, with his army, at night set out for England. Before their removall, all the fortifications about Stirling wer taken down, and Monk marched to it, and the town rendered, but not the castle.

Cromwell hearing of the King's march to England, August 4 and 5, retired from St Johnstoun, and brought over at Leith 9 foot and 5 horse regiments, and sent Lambert before with the horse, and followed himself with the foot.

The King in his march summoned Carlisle, but they did not yield. August 7, the town of Anstruther was attacked by sea and land, and taken by force; many killed, and 200 taken prisoners.

Friday, Aug. 8. Monk having held a parley with the castle of Stirling till he planted his guns and mortars, began his battery against the castle, which was rendered Aug. 15. Major Cunningham marched out with bag and baggage. But Monk keeped still all the registers of the kingdom, which had been twice taken before, first in Edinburgh castle, thence they were sent to Burntisland. Then shipping them to be sent to the north, they wer taken by a frigat as they came out of Burntisland harbory; the time given to transport them being expired, and then being recovered, were sent to Stirling, and now being taken the third time, they keeped them still.

Thursday, Aug. 28. General Lesley, E. of Leven, E. of Marichall, E. Crauford, and many others, with 12 ministers, wer surprised and taken prisoners at a town called Eliot, in Perthshire, by the English, with about 70 countrymen and servants.

Monday, Sept. 1. Monk having battered Dundee, after certain dayes took it by storm with great slaughter both of men and women. The town was plundered, and inestimable riches wer got; for

the principall persons of Edinburgh, and Fife, and Angus, had put their money and goods there.

The King in his march had several forts surrendered to him, and the town of Worcester. The Parliament gathered the whole country, with their forces under Cromwell, and train bands of London, a huge army, Sept. 3, approached to Worcester; after a long fight with not above 14,000 men, the King was overthrown. The King escaped with about 1000 horse, who were all taken, save the King and Buckingham, who got over to France. D. Lesley was much blamed in this fight, for he did not his part, when the King sent to him to advance with the horse: he answered, he knew his own time, and the foot not being supported, wer distressed. D. Hamiltoun was taken shot through the thigh, wherof he died. By D. Lesley's means, the King was stayed 13 dayes from coming on the English army, when scarce 10,000. The Earl of Derby was coming to the King, but charged and routed, but himself escaped, and came to the King at Worchester, and now taken, was tryed and beheaded. D. Lesley and Midltoun wer taken. Midltoun escaped out of the touer. D. Lesley was brought before the Parliament of England, and declared he had several times offered to deliver up the King to Cromwell, but he refused. Cromwell answered, "That it was true he had offered to sell

his King to him; but he did defye him, or any officer or souldier, English or Scots, that could say he had slipped any opportunity of taking him in the feilds; but he scorned to buy any man with money; and for thee, David Lesley," said he, "Thou art a traitor;" at which words D. Lesley burst furth in tears, when said Cromwell, "Is that a man fitt to lead and command an army?"

Upon their discomfiture, the Parliament of England ruled Scotland at pleasure. First they advised to incorporat Scotland with England in one commonwealth, and proclaimed a declaration to this purpose; and most of the nobility came in and gote protections, save the M. of Argyle, the Chancellour, E. of Loudon, and E. of Seaforth, keepet themselves up in the Highlands, and would not submit.

About the beginning of Feb. 1652, eight English commissioners came to Scotland, stayed at Dalkeith, and charged all the shires and citys to send commissioners to them, and subscribe their consent to the tender of union by the Parliament of England, to have Scotland incorporat with England.

March 29. [16]52. There was a totall eclipse of the sun.

April 23. A proclamation was made, incorporating Scotland to one commonwealth with Eng-

land, and ordering 14 commissioners to be chosen for all the shires in Scotland for effecting the said union, that the same government which is in England, may be in Scotland. That same night ther was great lightning and thunder, with great rain.

March 2. The Magistrates of Edinburgh wer elected Friday before they should have been chosen. But Sir James Stewart, with other counsellors, protested against the election of Provost Tod, and a subscribed protest from many in the town, came in. But William Thomson and John Mill, who had formerly subscribed the tender of union, went and gote a new commission for electing Magistrates, and to put others in room of the protesters; and so Andrew Tod, &c. wer chosen. Sir William Dick sat as old Provost, because Sir Jas. Stewart had protested.

May 3. A proclamation was made for a Judicatory. Five English, Sir John Fenwick, Jo. Smith, Aysley, Owen, Marsh, and three Scots, Sir John Hop, Lord Craigiehall, formerly Lord of Session, and Coll. Lockhart of Lee, with power to them, or any 4 of them, to judge all ranks according to the laws of Scotland and conscience.

May 19. A great seafight between English and Dutch.

June 15. A fire began in Glasgow, which continued 4 dayes, and consumed the best part of the