

A Lord Lieutenant's Commission of 1660.

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THE following is a copy from the Patent Roll of the 12th year of Charles II, of the Commission appointing John Lord Lovelace (concerning whom some information was given in the last issue of this Journal) as Lord Lieutenant of Berks in 1660. It is interesting as describing the functions and duties of a Lord Lieutenant of those days.

(Italics indicate abbreviations in the MS.)

COMMISSIO JOHANNI DOMINO LOVELACE.

Charles the Second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c. To our right trusty and Wellbeloved John Lord Lovelace Greeteing knowe yee that for the greate and singuler trust and confidence that Wee have in your approved fidelity Wisdome and circumspeccion Wee have assigned made constituted and ordeyned And by theis *present* doe assigne make Constitute and ordeine you to bee our lieutenant Within our County of Berkes And all Corporate and priviledged places Within the lymittes and precinctes of the same County as Well Within liberties as Without And by theis *presentes* doe give full power and authoritie vnto you that you from tyme to tyme may leavy gather and call together all and singuler our Subiectes of What estate degree or dignity they or any of them bee dwelling or inhabiteing Within our said County of Berkes and Within all places Corporate and priviledged Within the lymittes and *precinctes* of the same County as Well Within liberties as Without meete and apt for the Warrs And them to try array and putt in readines And them alsoe and every of them after their abilities degrees and faculties Well and sufficiently to cause to bee Armed and sufficiently Weaponed And to take the musters of them from tyme to tyme in places most meete for that purpose after your good discrecion And alsoe the same our Subiectes soe Arrayed Tryed and Armed aswell men of Armes as other

Horsemen Archers and Footemen of all kinde and degrees meete and apt for the Warrs to leade and conduct aswell against all and singuler our Enemies As alsoe against all and singuler Rebels Traytors and other like Offenders and their adherentes against us our Crowne and dignity Within our said County of Berkes and all Corporate and priviledged places Within the lymittes and *precinctes* of the same County aswell Within liberties as Without from tyme to tyme as often as neede shall require By your discrecion. And With the said Enemies Traytors and Rebels to fight and them to invade resist repress subdue slay kill and putt to execucion of death by all Wayes and meanes by your said good discreccion And to doe fulfill and execute all and singuler other things Which shalbee requisite for the levying and Gover(n)ment of our said Subiectes Conservacion of our Person and peace doe by you in forme aforesaid levyed and to bee lead [*sic*] And further to doe execute and use against the said Enemies Traytors and Rebels and such other like Offenders and their adherentes as necessity shall require by your discrecion the lawe called the martiall lawe according to the lawes martiall And of such Offenders apprehended or being brought to subieccion to save Whome you shall thinke good to bee saved and to slay destroy and putt to execucion of death such and as many of them as you shall thinke meete by your good discrecion to be putt to death And further our Will and pleasure is And Wee doe by theis presentes Give vnto you full power and authoritie That in case any invasion of Enemies Insurreccion Rebellion riottes routtes or vnlawfull Assemblies or any like Offences shall happen to be moved in any places of this our Realme out of the limittes of this our Commission That then and as often as you shall perceive any such misdemeanors to arise you and all the power you can make shall with all diligence repaire to the place Where any such invasion vnlawfull Assemblie or insurreccion shall happen to bee made to subdue repress and reforme the same aswell by Battaile or other kinde of force as otherwise by the lawes of the Realme and the lawe martiall according to your discrecion And further Wee give you full power and authoritie for the

execucion of this our Commission to appoint and assigne Within our said County of Berkes and all Corporate and priviledged places Within the lymittes and *precinctes* of the same County aswell within liberties as Without master masters and one *preuost* martiall Which *preuost* martiall shall execute and vse the martiall lawe in case of Invasion Insurreccion or rebellion Wherefore Wee Will and Commaund you our said lieutenant That With all diligence you execute the *premisses* With effect And forasmuch as it may bee that there shall bee iust cause for you to bee attendant vppon our *person* or to bee employed otherwise in our Service Whereby This our Service of lieutenancy comitted to your fidelity cannot bee by you in *person* executed in such sort as Wee haue appointed the same. Therefore wee doe give vnto you for your better ayde and assistance And for the better performance and Execucion of this our Service full power and authority from tyme to tyme to name appoint assigne and constitute by Writeing under your hand and Seale such sufficient and meete *person* and *persons* as you in your discrecion shall thinke fitt to bee your Deputies in this said Service Within our said County of Berkes and all Corporate and priviledged places Within the lymittes or *precinctes* of the same County as Well Within liberties as Without. Neverthesse our Will and pleasure is and Wee doe hereby Will and require you That before you doe appoint and assigne any Deputies for the service aforesaid you doe from tyme to tyme *present* their names to us for our allowance and Approbacion of them And Wee doe by this *present* Commission give vnto such Deputies soe being by you assigned and appointed as aforesaid or any two or more of them full power and authoritie in your absence to doe and execute in our said County of Berkes and all Corporate and priviledged places as Well Within liberties as Without all and everything and things before by this our Commission assigned and appointed by you to bee done and executed And our further Will and pleasure is That your said Deputies doe by you from tyme to tyme to bee named assigned and appointed as aforesaid shall ymediately after your letters of Deputacion to them made as aforesaid take charge and care to see every point of this

our Commission as Fully and perfectly executed in your absence as you ought to have done itt if you had beene personally present And the better to enable them soe to doe our Will and pleasure is That after such Deputacion made as aforesaid you deliver vnto them a Duplicate or true transcript of this our Commission subscribed With your hand And Whatsoever you or your said Deputies in your absence shall doe by vertue of this our Commission and according to the tenor and effect of the same touching the Execucion of the premisses or any part thereof The same shalbee by theis presentes discharged in that behalfe against us our heires and Successors And further Wee Will and Comaund all and singuler Our Justices of Peace maiors Sheriffes Bayliffes Constables headboroughs and all other our Officers and ministers and Subiettes meete and apt for the Warrs Within our said County of Berkes And all Corporate and privileged places aforesaid aswell Within liberties as Without to Whome itt shall or may apperteyne That they and every of them With their power and Servantes from tyme to tyme shalbee Attendant Ayding Assisting Councelling and att the Comaundment aswell of you as of your said Deputies soe named and appointed by you as aforesaid in the execucion hereof as they and every of them tender our pleasure And Will answere the Contrary att their vttermost perills In Wittness &c Wittness our selfe att Westminster the twentie eight day of August : per
ipsum Regem