

## THE GARRISON OF NEWPORT PAGNELL DURING THE CIVIL WARS.

BY REV. H. ROUNDELL.

(Continued from page 216.)

The year 1644 opened with new prospects and some changes for this garrison. Early in January, the London forces, consisting of the Orange and Green Regiments of the Trained Bands with the Auxiliaries of Southwark, and the City Regiment of Red Coats, left Newport on their march homewards. They journeyed by easy stages, and on Friday, the 12th instant, made a triumphal entry into London, being met by the Sheriffs and many of the Committee for the Militia and Common Councilmen of the City.\* Their vacant quarters at Newport were speedily occupied by the new levies raised by the Earl of Manchester from the Associated Counties, and the security of the garrison seemed for the present to be assured by the departure of the Royal troops from the immediate neighbourhood. Charles the First, it is well known, was then endeavouring to refill the ranks of his enfeebled army, and to this end, notwithstanding the farsighted expostulations of Rupert, was withdrawing his soldiers from the towns and forts garrisoned in his cause, which had hitherto greatly strengthened him both by dividing the attention of the enemy, and commanding the country in their several neighbourhoods. In pursuance of this policy the Regiment at Stony Stratford was called back to Oxford, the strong body of troops at Towcester marched into Gloucestershire, and the fortifications of that town, which had cost Rupert such labour to erect, and had proved too strong for the combined forces of Newport and Northampton to attack, were utterly dismantled within a few months after their completion. Well aware of their immunity from attack or reprisal, the new levies of the Earl of Manchester had scarcely settled themselves at

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\* *Perfect Diurnall*, Monday, January 8, to January 15th, 1644.

Newport, before they sent out Captain Abercromby with a party of about one hundred men to reconnoitre in the neighbourhood of Buckingham. He had intelligence of a small outpost of the enemy quartered at Sir Alexander Denton's house at Hillesden, about three miles southward of the town of Buckingham. And, acting under the orders of the Governor of Newport, Captain Abercromby hastened to attack them, but the Royalist troops having timely notice of the intended surprise retreated in the direction of their own garrison of Banbury, and took up a position at Westbury, near Brackley. Captain Abercromby thus easily possessed himself of the House at Hillesden, and thence issued the following Warrants for supplies for his men :—

To the Constables of Brackley and other the inhabitants.—

These are straightly to charge and command you forthwith upon sight hereof to bring into my Quarters at Hilsdon the summe of forty pounds without any further delay by vertue of an Order received from His Excellency the Earle of Essex, and let not the hope of being protected by the enemy deceive you, for unless you bring it in according to the time prefixed, which is tommorrow by ten of the clocke, being the 23rd of this instant moneth January, I will come to fetch it and will not leave you a Cocke to crow among you.

JECAMIAH ABERCROMBY.

Hillsdon, the 22 of  
January, 1643.

Due obedience does not appear to have been rendered to this peremptory order, which was therefore followed by another five days later in date.

Hillsden, the 27th of January, 1643.

These are to command and charge you forthwith to bring upon sight hereof into my quarters the summe of three score pounds, forty pounds by vertue of an Order from His Excellency, the Earl of Essex, and twenty pounds by reason of the fail hereof, and that you shall return me the names of those that shall be obstinate. Hereof fail not as you shall answer at your perill. Also you shall bring in provisions for 200 horse and men for two

dayes. Herein likewise fail not, as you shall answer at your utmost perill.

JECAMIAH ABERCROMBY.

To the Constable and Inhabitants of Brackley.\*

This Warrant also proving ineffectual, Captain Abercromby, (who it may be noticed, afterwards dying from wounds received during a marauding expedition near Borstall, was buried at Hillesden) marched the Newport troopers to execute the threatened vengeance on the delinquents of Brackley. He penetrated as far as Astwell in Northamptonshire, where he took Sir Charles Shirley prisoner, and on his return passed near the quarters of the Royal troops at Westbury. There he met Captain Peter Dayrell who quickly challenged him, asking, "Whom he was for." Abercromby made no answer, but drew the trigger of his pistol, which missed fire. Captain Dayrell instantly called out a party of troopers, and pursued Abercromby, who had made the best of his way forwards sending however Sir Charles Shirley in advance with a small guard, a precaution which prevented his escape. For on Temple's overtaking them, the Parliamentary force offered a faint resistance, and were soon dispersed; fourteen of them were taken, and Abercromby himself vainly endeavouring to ride away was pursued by Captain Dayrell, after a brief struggle pulled from his horse and made prisoner. This affair happened on Friday, the fourth of February.†

The Ordinance of the prece-ling year for the fortification of Newport had placed the appointment of a Governor in the hands of the Earl of Essex, to whom Major-General Skippon wrote from Newport under date of the 25th of January, begging to be released from any further command there. "Even now heere," he says, "we have little less than a mutinie among our soldiers for a moneths pay, although they never wanted one weekes pay since wee came hither, except onely last Tuesdayes, w<sup>h</sup> scraping and borrowing, we gott up and payd them this day, by w<sup>h</sup> your Ex<sup>tye</sup> may see in w<sup>ht</sup> a condition we are even in this respect alsoe, soe y<sup>t</sup> except we

\* *Mercurius Aulicus*, The Sixth Week ending February 10th, 1643.

† *Mercurius Aulicus*, The Seventh Week ending February 17th, 1643.

“ may suddaynly share of some reliefe that wee hope to  
 “ have from the pay w<sup>h</sup> wee heare is coming for your  
 “ Ex<sup>lie</sup>s provision wee shall be subiected to no small  
 “ mischief. Oh, y<sup>t</sup> I might find soe much favour from  
 “ your Ex<sup>lie</sup>s to be commanded hence, where my burden  
 “ is too great for me to beare!”\* Skippon’s request was  
 granted, and in his place Lord Essex selected for this  
 charge Sir Samuel Luke, one of his own warmest friends  
 and adherents. Luke’s personal appearance was far from  
 prepossessing. He was between forty and fifty years of  
 age, short in stature, and somewhat deformed in person;  
 and besides these defects he still further disfigured him-  
 self by wearing a long and grizzled beard, in fulfilment it  
 has been alledged, of a foolish vow. He and his father,  
 Sir Oliver Luke, both of them members of the Long  
 Parliament, were rigid Presbyterians, and scarcely admit-  
 ted other persons to hold religious opinions different from  
 their own. This narrowness of mind in Sir Samuel Luke  
 did not impair his military abilities; on the contrary, perhaps  
 it rather enhanced them, for he was very precise and  
 methodical, strict in discipline to a fault, if indeed military  
 discipline could be too strict in such licentious times; and  
 though he frequently showed himself to be captious and  
 obstinate, he was withal remarkably active and intelligent,  
 able to draw rapid and accurate conclusions from the con-  
 flicting information daily reaching him, and successful in  
 the management of his spies, a capacity which had gained  
 for him the post of Scout Master General in the Army.  
 He had seen some service in the Civil Wars. At the  
 battle of Edge Hill he held a commission to command  
 sixty horse, and had fought in the victorious right wing  
 of Lord Essex’s army, and in the following December  
 obtained an order from the House of Commons to recruit  
 his troop in Bedfordshire. The next spring he had been  
 employed on outpost duty at Uxbridge, where his zeal  
 in apprehending and searching the Duke de Vendosme on  
 his way to Oxford with a pass from Parliament, had nearly  
 brought upon him the censure of his superiors; but two  
 months afterwards he regained his credit by seizing sixty-two  
 pounds, belonging to Mr Justice Croke, and intended for

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\* *Tanner’s MSS. in Bodleian Library. No. 62, folio 512.*

the use of the King's army.\* Sir Samuel was present at the skirmish in Chelgrove Field, where Hampden received his fatal wound, and was said to have been three times taken prisoner on that occasion, and as often rescued by his own soldiers.† After this he appears to have continued with the army in Buckinghamshire, raising fresh levies for his troop out of Bedfordshire by means of a Warrant dated from Leighton Buzzard on the first of July, 1643, which may be found printed in Mr Joseph Staines' *History of Newport*, page 78, "a good and acceptable service" for which he received the thanks of the House of Commons, accompanied moreover with the significant remark "And no Matter of Complaint came to this House against the said Gentleman touching this business" (Commons Journals 5<sup>o</sup> Julii, 1643. vol. 3. p. 156.)‡

Upon his appointment to the Governorship Luke energetically set himself to provide for the security of Newport, and to be otherwise serviceable to the Parliament. A Corporal's guard was stationed at Olney with stringent orders to apprehend and search all suspected persons. Paid spies were sent into Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and though one of them, Francis Cole, was discovered and executed,|| others more fortunate, enabled Sir Samuel to communicate constant and reliable intelligence of the movements and quarterings of the Royalist force in Oxford and its neighbourhood to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and to the Earls of Essex and Manchester during the whole period of his Governorship at Newport. Among other news, tidings soon reached Luke that immediately after the capture of Abercromby and the defeat of his party, Colonel Smith of the King's Army, and Sir Alexander Denton, had gone to Hillesden and were repairing and fortifying the House as a permanent garrison. Luke soon collected an overpowering force, and marched to Hillesden, which capitulated to him after a short resistance. Unhappily for his own character he sullied his victory by violating the promise of quarter to the garrison,

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\* *Commons Journals*, Maii 29<sup>o</sup>, 1643.

† *The Parliament Scout*, Tuesday 20 June, to Tuesday 27 June, 1643.

‡ For additional notices of Sir Samuel Luke see the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1823, vol. 93, pages 28 and 122.

|| *Mercurius Aulicus*, the Weeke ending January 13th, 1643.

many of whom were mercilessly put to death after the surrender, and their bodies interred in a large pit at the foot of the mutilated Cross, still standing in Hillesden Churchyard.\* Further particulars of the attack and capitulation of this House will be found at page 93 of this Volume of the RECORDS, but the following Dispatch to the Earl of Essex, which does not appear to have been published in any of the Memorials of that period, nor occurs in the Correspondence of Luke in the British Museum, deserves insertion. The original letter is preserved in the Bodleian Library among the Tanner MSS.—*Tanner Papers*. 1643. Vol. 2.  $\frac{1}{2}$  folio 591.

“ May it please your Excell<sup>ty</sup>

“ The last night after the Arivall of ye forces at Padbury  
 “ Coll Cromwell sent out a p-ty to give an Alarum at  
 “ Hilsden Howse, which was p-formed, and wrought y<sup>e</sup>  
 “ desired effect this morning between five and 6 of ye  
 “ Clocke, they all Arrived before Hilsden Howse, and  
 “ while Lieut Generall Cromwell, and maior generall  
 “ Craford was putting ye forces in order ye howse sounded  
 “ a parley, which was granted to them And Lieut Generall

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\* On this affair Lipscombe has the following passage, which seems to require some notice. “ In 1643, information was sent to London, that  
 “ *Hillesden House, the seat of Sir Alexander Denton, was taken by the Par-*  
 “ *liamentary Forces. It had been garrisoned in 1641, for King Cha. I. and*  
 “ *its situation, about fifteen miles from Oxford, and eight from Aylesbury,*  
 “ *having rendered it a place of importance; it was taken by a party detached*  
 “ *from Newport Pagnell and the vicinity of Banbury, said to have been not*  
 “ *more than one hundred in number, although there were in the house one*  
 “ *hundred and forty, of whom many were taken prisoners, with about one*  
 “ *hundred stand of arms: but Sir Alexander Denton himself effected his*  
 “ *escape.*”—*History of Buckinghamshire, vol. 3, p. 18.*—It would be difficult to comprehend more inaccuracies within the limits of one paragraph. Sir Alexander Denton first commenced the fortification of Hillesden House in February, 1644.—The victorious army of the Parliament was composed of troops from Aylesbury, Northampton, Newport, and the Associated Counties, certainly not less than two thousand in number.—Sir Alexander Denton did not escape. He was taken a prisoner the same evening, being the 4th of March, to Padbury, the next day to Newport, afterwards sent to London, committed to the Tower on the 15th of March, removed on his own Petition to Lord Petre’s house on the 3rd of June, and died in prison in December, 1644.—Lipscombe has obviously confounded the temporary occupation of Hillesden by Abercromby in January, 1644, with the attack and capture of the House by Luke, Cromwell, and others in March, two months later; and, having carelessly overlooked the date, taken his account from a Parliamentary Newspaper, *The Scottish Dove, Friday, January 12th, to Friday, January 19th, 1643*, which he has copied almost verbatim.

" Cromwell sent to them, and p-mised to them a safe Con-  
 " duct to any man y<sup>t</sup> they would send to treat: thereupon  
 " their brave Generall Coll Smith sent out to them his  
 " Lieut. Coll Curter, a dutchman, who demanded of us  
 " a safe Conduct with bagge and Baggage to Oxford, y<sup>e</sup>  
 " Quarter master Generall Vermuden was ordered by  
 " Lieut Generall to treat with him, who Assured him all  
 " they must expect was quarter, whereupon ye brave Lieut-  
 " Coll returned, and in disdaine prepared for our Coming,  
 " wee also prepared for an Assault. Ye Maior generall  
 " ordered ye foot to fall on in foure p<sup>ts</sup>, which was done  
 " with y<sup>t</sup> brave resolution y<sup>t</sup> I never saw anything better  
 " p-formed, in lesse than a quarter of an houres time, they  
 " made themselves masters of y<sup>e</sup> workes and howse, with  
 " the Losse of not above 6 men besides what were hurt on  
 " our side, and above 30 of theirs, in the howse wee tooke  
 " S<sup>r</sup> Alexander Denton, Coll Smith, with many other  
 " officers and souldiers, the number whereof is yet  
 " unknowne to us, we also tooke 13 barrell of powder with  
 " match and ball p-portionable, ye Cellars full of good beere,  
 " ye Stables full of horses, and yards full of oxen and  
 " beastes, this hath y<sup>e</sup> Lord done for us this day his name  
 " for ever have y<sup>e</sup> honour and glory of it, we had no officer  
 " killed or hurt save onely Coll Pickering and y<sup>t</sup> onely a  
 " Little chocke under ye Chin with a musquet bullet but  
 " thankes be to god he was drest before I came away and  
 " was very merry and chearfull, ye Lieut. General left  
 " 200 of Newport foot under Maior Bradbury in ye howse  
 " till he shall have further directions and they are all re-  
 " turned to their old quarters this night from whence they  
 " came, to wit: winslow, padbury, and other places there-  
 " abouts, the Enemies horse being abroad tooke some of  
 " ours, and wee some of theirs and one a Captaine Walton  
 " (as I heare) was killed, thus begging leave to kisse your  
 " Excell<sup>t</sup> hand I rest

" Newport 4<sup>th</sup> March,

Your Excellency his

" 1643 8 at night

most humble seruant

" Coll Smith Assured us they expected

" releife and therefore fired ye house this

" morning as if they intended to make a

" Burgaine Leaguer of it.

SAM. LUKE."

After this success Luke returned to Newport and busied himself in strengthening the fortifications. The main defences of the place consisted of earth-works, thrown up under Skippon's orders, and these, wanting solidity from the haste with which they had been constructed, had given way in many places under the torrents of rain which had fallen in December and January. Luke was ill supplied with materials, and a memorandum in his letter-book, written in February, 1644, shows him to have been then in need of "three hundred shovells and spades, two hundred pickaxes, five hundred wheelebarrows, four hundred spars, and one thousand deale boards."\* To add to his difficulties the Earl of Manchester had called upon him to raise one hundred horse, and the only Member of the Buckinghamshire Committee, then resident in the County, Sir William Andrews, refused to give any assistance in this business, and besides this, a sum of £200 voted for Newport by both Houses of Parliament was paid to Major General Skippon for past charges. Lord Manchester had indeed written to the Commons from Cambridge on the second of March, requesting attention to the state of Newport, and his Letter was read in the House on the seventh inst., and the messenger that brought it directed to communicate with the Committee for the Garrison of Aylesbury, but the Commons Journals do not show that any assistance was in consequence sent to the garrison.† The good fortune at Hillesden seemed a fair ground of claim for some supplies for Newport, and on the eleventh of March, Luke writes to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

*Honored Sr,*

*I cannot but let you understand ye state of this Garrison, w<sup>h</sup> is thus; My Lord of Manchester hath neere compleated ye number of foote, but as yet there is but only one troopa of horse, w<sup>h</sup> is under ye Command of Capt<sup>t</sup>. Temple, His Excellency (I humbly thanke him) hath given mee liberty to have mine owne here with mee, but it being not mounted nor armed, if it were heare would bee uselesse, therefore I hope you will not blame mee, though you heare*

\* Egerton MS. in Brit. Mus. No. 785 folio 4.

† *Commons Journals*, 7<sup>o</sup> Martii, 1643.



*nothing of ye Enemies coming to Newport, till hee be here : ye workes are not halfe finishd nor any Ordnance planted upon either Rampires or Bulworkes, neither can there bee any place fitted for yem but wth a greate deale of tyme and a greate deale of charge ; not any of y<sup>e</sup> Counties as yet have p<sup>d</sup> any of their p-portions for the workes save only Bedford, Buckingham and Hertford ; I have writ to y<sup>e</sup> severall Committees of y<sup>e</sup> Associated Counties, and y<sup>e</sup> E: of Manchester ( I humbly thanke him ) hath taken greate care for ye passing yem forwards, in sending in their first p-portion, according to ye ordinance but they are so slow, y<sup>t</sup> I know nothing of yem as yett, though it is above a weeke since I first writ to yem : and when it comes, it will doe but little good, seeing y<sup>t</sup> (as ye workmen assure ) double p-portions will hardly doe the workes. ye woode y<sup>t</sup> was allotted to be cut downe for y<sup>e</sup> use of this garrison by y<sup>e</sup> Major Generall and Co<sup>l</sup>. Tirrill (with ye consent of ye Committees of y<sup>e</sup> County ) is now almost at an end, and I haveing noe power concerning it, shall not doe anything in it without order because ye preseruaton thereof ( I am confident ) is of greate consequences to this Kingdome. ye Gentry hereabouts have writ to Co<sup>l</sup> Tirrill concerning it. I beseech you, S<sup>r</sup>, put to your helping hand, y<sup>t</sup> some such course may bee taken y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Sold<sup>r</sup>s may not be driven to extravagancies for want of it, nor y<sup>e</sup> State Damnfied by excessive waste, S<sup>r</sup>, in tendering these to ye consideration of ye house and procuring their speedy resolution and Com-mands thereupon you will oblide y<sup>e</sup> whole Country to you, and myselfe more pticularly, who shall most chearefully and willingly adventure my life and fortune in securing this place so far as I shall be enabled and shall never be other than yore most humble seruant.*

S. L.

New: 11 Mar, 1643.

*S<sup>r</sup>, our Master workeman hath been this fortnight attending upon ye Committee for tooles and other necessaries for this garrison, ye delaye of y<sup>e</sup>m may prove of worse consequence than you imagine, his absence I am sure is very pjudiciall, and his presence without yem will little helpe us.\**

\* Egerton MS. No. 785. folio 12 B.

At this period the Parliament was sorely pressed for want of means. The Counties espousing their side were exhausted by continual exactions, and Hertfordshire had set the example of petitioning to be relieved from the monthly taxations. The House of Commons was attempting to raise money, by borrowing from all quarters, postponing the repayment of a loan from the Merchant Adventures, selling the "copes, surplices, and superstitious vestments" of Westminster Abbey, sequestrating the revenues of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Colleges at Oxford, levying heavy fines upon the Estates of Delinquents and Papists, cutting down and selling their timber, and increasing the excise duty on Tobacco. The large sums thus raised, were unequal to the expenditure; the Scots army required to be provisioned, Sir William Waller was unable to march for want of pay, and even had these demands been satisfied, the House of Commons determined that the necessities of the garrisons of Aylesbury, Wycombe, Farnham Castle, and Windsor, were more pressing than those of Newport. They resolved however that letters should be written to the several Counties contributory to the garrison at Newport Pagnell to enjoin them forthwith to provide materials for the completion of the fortifications,\* and to raise the proportions of men set upon them, and the monies for their maintenance.† And simultaneously with this Order of the House, Sir Samuel put in force in behalf of his own garrison the warrant for the sequestration of the Estates of Delinquents and Papists, requiring all Rents in the neighbourhood of Newport, due from any Ecclesiastical or University Endowment to be paid to him within eight days after the 17th of April, ‡ a proceeding, which, coupled with the numerous similar Warrants issued by Officers of the Parliament, brought out John Taylor's *Lecture to the People* addressed to the Farmers of Bucks and Oxon.

Your crests are fallen down  
And now your journeys to the Market 'Towne  
Are not to sell your Pease, your Oates, your Wheate ;

\* The draft of this letter, not printed in the Journals of either House — may be found in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. *Tanner MS., No. 62. folio 643.*

† *Commons Journals*, 18<sup>o</sup> Aprilis, 1644.

‡ *History of Newport Pagnell*, by Joseph Staines, page 80.

But of nine Horses stolne from you t' intreat  
 But one to be restor'd : and this yee doe  
 To a buff'd Captaine, or perhaps unto  
 His surly Corporall. [*Page 5.*]  
 Have ye no Burthens now ? o happy Men,  
 The twentieth Part ye 'ave paid, the Fifth, and when  
 Your new Task-Masters shal be pleas'd to call  
 And say ye are Delinquents, Farewell All :  
 New Victories coyn'd to cheat ye every houre  
 Your Purss must bleed so long as they have Power  
 'To lye, your Taxes to the Garrisons,  
 The Pressing and the Slaughter of your Sonnes  
 Secret Benevolences, and to these  
 To top up all, but Fifty Subsidies. [*Page 13.*]

Towards the end of May, Luke sent Captain Temple and his troop of horse to reconnoitre near Oxford, and he hearing of a squadron of the Royalist Cavalry at Islip, fell upon them in their quarters about six o'clock on the morning of the 28th, and took, as some accounts say, *forty* or as others *ten* prisoners, and captured eighteen Bales of Cloth.\* It was surmized that notwithstanding this success, he would have been brought to a Court Martial by Sir Samuel Luke for having exceeded his orders, but such an intention if it existed, was anticipated by Captain Temple's being called into the House of Commons, when "Mr. Speaker, by the Command of the House, acquainted him, "That the House took notice of this late great Service "done by him, and the other Services formerly done by "him at *Newport Pagnall*; and do give him Thanks for "it: And have taken Order for the Payment of the "Arrears."†

On the same day a Committee of Eighteen Members was appointed to deliberate on the state of the garrison and to settle some means for the regular payment of the soldiers and of Captain Temple's troop; but this Committee appears to have very quickly abandoned its duties, for within a week afterwards another Order of the House occurs, directing the Committee for *Newport Pagnell* to be revived and meet the next day. More active than its predecessor, this Committee obtained for Luke a commis-

\* *Perfect Diurnall*, June 3rd, 1644, and *Mercurius Aulicus*, May 25th, 1644.

† *Commons Journals*, 30<sup>o</sup> Maii. 1644.

sion to be Colonel over the 1200 foote garrisoning Newport, induced the House of Commons to vote £500 to Captain Temple, to send a Brass Culverin of 41 0 7, and a Demi Culverin of 40 0 25, to Newport instead of Two Sacres and one Drake previously there, which were ordered to be forwarded to Tamworth Castle, and to give Luke leave with the consent of the Committee for Bucks or any two of them, to fell as much timber upon the lands of Papists and Delinquents, as he required, for the better fortification of the garrison.\*

It proved fortunate for Luke that he had timely strengthened his fortifications. On the 3rd of June in this year the King set out from Oxford on his Worcestershire expedition, and after reaching Bewdly, returned by forced marches to Oxford, by the 20th inst., and then uniting all his troops, marched to Buckingham, quartering there for several days and sending out the Earl of Cleaveland with a Brigade of Horse to occupy Stony Stratford and survey the fortifications of Newport. No serious attack on Newport appears to have been meditated, but the Earl of Cleaveland, after intercepting a valuable convoy of Provisions at Little Brickhill, advanced within range of Luke's Culverins, which were ineffectually discharged at his troop.† This was the nearest approach ever made by the King's troops to Newport. The Royal Army soon drew away from Buckingham, and the Battle of Cropredy Bridge followed.

During the remainder of the summer Luke appears to have been actively engaged in maintaining the fortifications, and urgently pressing for supplies of money for payment of his troops. If the scale of pay to the garrison of Windsor can be adopted as a criterion of that of Newport, a Colonel's pay was XLV shillings per diem; a Captain's XV; a Lieutenant's IV; an Ensign's III; a Corporal's I; and a Gunner's II; and at these rates the monthly allowance of four thousand pounds would not more than suffice for the maintenance of the garrison at its full complement of twelve hundred foot and three hundred horse, and the necessary repairs of the earthworks. And the supplies

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\* *Commons Journals*, 10o Junii. 1644.

† *His Majesty's Happy Progress and Success, from the 30th of March, to the 23rd of November, 1644*, by Sir Edward Walker, 1705. p. 29.

still continuing scanty and irregular both Houses of Parliament joined in another Order to the Associated Contributory Counties under date of the 15th of July.

“Gentlemen,

“The Houses have received several Informations, as well from the Committee of both Kingdoms, as from Sir *Samuell Luke*, Governor of *Newport Pagnell*, of the great Wants of that Garrison, both of Men and Money, occasioned by your not sending thither the Proportions to which you are bound by the Ordinance of Parliament: They are very sensible of the great Consequence of that Garrison, both for the Association of my Lord of *Manchester*, and for the City of *London*; and of the great Danger that may happen in case you do not speedily send in your Proportions of armed Men and Money, for the Works there, and for the Payment of the Soldiers according to the said Ordinance: They have, therefore, commanded us to require you immediately to put the Ordinance in Execution, by sending thither your Proportions of armed Men and Money unto the Governor there; and that you take Care also to send in thither an able sufficient Man, to be of the Committec there, to see your Money distributed amongst your Soldiers, from Time to Time, as you shall send it. The Houses take Notice of your former Failings therein. They now expect your speedy Performance; which when you have done, those of your associated Forces which are now there may be useful in some other Service. This is all that we have in Command to require of you; which hoping you will perform, we rest.”

“This Letter sent to these Counties, *Buckinham, Bedford, North'ton, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford.*”\*

Three months elapsed from the date of this letter before the House of Commons found it necessary to reiterate their demand upon the reluctant Counties, and therefore it may be presumed that some supplies of men and money reached Newport. At any rate Sir Samuel found himself strong enough at the end of July to send out Ennis, one of his Captains, and his troop to Bicester, where they

\* *Lords Journals*, 15 Julii, 1644.

succeeded in surprising a small party of Royalists, all of whom, after a short skirmish in which their Lieutenant was shot by Ennis, yielded themselves prisoners, and were brought back to Newport.\* And in September Luke adopted the plan of compelling the Constables of the Parishes and Hundreds near Newport to send in each a certain number of workmen to labour upon the fortifications; the Constables of Winnersley Hundred were to send in *one hundred able labouring men with mattocks, spades and shovells to come and work upon this garrison upon Monday next and to continue until the fortifications be completed at the charge of the several towns from whence they come*; the Constables of Evershall were to send in "*all the labourers in their town, one out of each family and all the teames and carts in their town to Newport on the following Saturday by seven, A.M., and the Constables of Clifton, twelve carpenters and twelve masons by the Monday following to remain there till discharged.*"†

It was during this summer that Colonel Gage had retaken the fortified House at Borstall, and garrisoned it strongly enough to resist the attack of Waller's whole army, and the vicinity of this hostile outpost, so dangerous to Aylesbury and Newport, coupled with the presence of Charles at Oxford, required the greatest vigilance from Sir Samuel. Having timely intelligence of the King's intended march towards Woodstock and Bicester, he obtained a fresh supply of arms from the Parliament,‡ recalled one of his Majors with his company of foot from Northampton, stationed Captain Ennis at Sherrington, and Captain Andrews at Emberton, with orders to the latter to send out ten or twelve horse into the enemies quarters; Lieutenant Caldecourt was commanded to repair beyond Buckingham and intercept the supplies going to the King's army, and Quarter Master Crane sent with thirty horse to Winslow to aid Colonel Vermudon in an intended foray into Oxfordshire, and to quarter afterwards at Great Linford.§ The orders for these movements and quarterings were issued at the end of November and the first week

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\* *Perfect Occurrences*, August 9—16th, 1644.

† Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 33 b.

‡ *Commons Journals*, 18o Novembris, 1644.

§ Egerton MS., No. 785, folio 94.

in December, after the arrival of Colonel Massey's reinforcements, who occupied Passenheim, Wolverton, Lathbury, Brickhill, and other adjoining villages. From one of the publications of the period the positions of the respective Armies in Buckinghamshire and the adjoining Counties at the end of the year 1644 are enumerated, mainly, it may be conjectured, from information derived from Sir Samuel Luke.

"The Garrison (of Borstall)," says the writer, "is amongst the pastures in the fat of that fertile Country, which though heretofore hath been esteemed the Garden of England is now much wasted by being burthened with finding provision for two armies, for

"The King's Quarters are at

Buckingham	Straton Audley
Sommerton	Brackley
Winslow	Brill
Bicester	Hadenham
Thame	And some other Villages
Islip	in and adjacent to
Chippingworth	this County.

"The Parliament's forces are also quartered at

Alisbury	Stoke
Hartwell	Wendover
Ethcrop	Elsborough
Newport	Missenden
Winge	Amersham
Bierton	Chesham
Wadsden	Lee
Layton	St. Leonards and other Villages.

"These forces are thus quartered to prevent the enemy from spoyling the hither part of that County or of making any inroad into the County of Hartford or getting any nearer the City of London."\*

(To be continued.)

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\* *Weekly Account*, Wednesday, January 1st, to Wednesday, January 8th, 1645.