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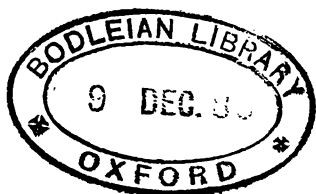
A DESCRIPTION
OF THE SIEGE OF
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CASTLE
KEPT BY THE
LORD MARQVISSE
OF WINCHESTER
FOR THE SERVICE OF
His Majesty
AGAINST
THE FORCES OF THE REBELLS UNDER COM-
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MDCCLXXX.

A DESCRIPTION
OF THE SIEGE OF
BASING CASTLE.

BASING Castle, the seat and mansion of the Marquise of Winchester, stands on a rising ground, having its forme circular, encompassed with a brick rampart lyned with earth, and a very deep trench, but dry. The loftie Gate-house with foure turrets looking northwards, on the right whereof without the compasse of the ditch, a goodly building containing two faire courts, before them is the *Graunge*, severed by a wall and common roade, againe divided from the foot of *Cowdrey's Downe* by meades, rivulets, and a river running from Basingstoake, a mile distant from the west, through *Basing* towne, joyning upon the east, the south side of the Castle hath a parke, and toward Basing towne, a little wood, the place seated and built as if for Royaltie, having a proper motto *Aymes Loyalte*. Hither (the Rebellion having made houses of pleasure more unsafe) the Marquise first retired, hoping integrity and privacy might have here preserved his quiet. But the source of the true villiany, beareing down all before it, neither allowing newtrality or permitting peace, to any that desired to be lesse sinfull than themselves, enforceth him to stand upon his guard, which, with his gentlemen armed with six musquets (the whole remainder of a well furnished armory) he did so well, that twice the enemies attempts proved vaine.

But finding their numbers in these parts (after the losse of Reading) grown more formidable, their forces quartering round about him, he solicited His Majesty for one hundred musqueteers, which (being sent under command of Lieutenant Col. Peake) marching with speed and secrecy the 31 July, 1643, were thrust into the place which from that time became a garrison—its former fortune still continuing, Col. Harvey and Col. Norton, within a few hours after, attempting to surprize it, being not only beaten off, but the same night forced to retreat to Farnham.

The place is then begunne according to the quantity of men

now added, to be fortified, and some time after upon report of a puissant army under command of Sir William Waller to be appointed for the taking of it in, Colonell Rawdon with the rest of his regiment (being about one hundred and fifty more) is commanded thither. The Lord Marquise taking forth commissions as colonell and governor for the raising of more forces for the defence of the same.

Novemb. 6. Shewes Waller with the expected army (consisting of seven thousand horse and foot) before the house; where having lye[n] nine daies and three times storming it, he againe retires to Farnham, having dishonoured and bruised his army, whereof abundance were lost, without the death of more than two in the garrison, and some little injury to the house by battery.

He thus drawne off, and His Majestie's army under the command of Lord Hopton advancing two daies after, affords the liberty of further fortyfying, which thus (as time and number would permit) made up, is rather strong than regular.

The ensuing spring, the Rebels, as well consulting the importance of the place, in the injuries suffered by it, both in their Trade and Force, resolve (having before assayed it by surprize and storme) to try by starving it, to which their armies six weeks quartering at Farnham, Odiam, Grewell, and Basingstoake was a preparative harrasing the country about until their march to Oxford.

June 4, 1644. At which time Colonell Norton drawing some forces from the adjacent garrisons by order of this pretended parliament, is to block up the house and (by the treachery of a soldier giving intelligence) two daies before defeating a party of the garrison drawn out to Odiam and taking diverse prisoners, upon the fourth of June faced the house with a Regiment of Horse and Dragoons, and after some hours stand, quartered in Basingstooke, each day (his foot not yet come up) keeping his guards of horse upon our avenues to stop the fetching in provisions.

Jun. 11. Colonell Morleye's regiment of sixe colours of Blew from Sussex and Sir Richard Onslowes Regiment of five of Red from Surrey, with two of White from Farnham, and three fresh Troops of Horse fetched in by Norton's Regiment, are all drawne up before the House upon the south of Basingstooke. The Companies of Whites at evening, with one troop of horse marching to Sherfield. Sir Richard Onslowe with his troop of horse to Anwell House and Morleye's Foot with Colonell Norton's Horse quarter in Basingstooke. During the time of

lying at this distance, visiting us with Horse (with whom entertaining skirmishes at their return) were usually made worse with little losse to us.

Jun. 15. To see the countenance of the enemy, fifty foot are sent toward Basingstooke under the cover of a mill and hedge, whilst our horse forced theirs into the towne, they re-enforced, our orderly retreat, drawing them on in danger of our foot, who galling them they stand the coming of their owne, twixt whom some volleys being spent, ours are commanded in.

Jun. 17. The enemies horse seize on two teemes of ours, fetching provisions toward Sherfield, and three horses grazing in the parke. At night the Companies of White quarter in Basing Towne, and fortifying the Church, next day from the adjoining houses shot two of our men. And being now come here, our numbers few, we divide our men into three parts, keeping two thirds only on duty, whilst the other rest, appointing to each captaine and his company a particular guard, dividing the quarters of the garrison to the field officers, viz :—to Major Cuff, and the workes adjoining to the Parke, to Major Langley those in the gardens, to Lieutenant Colonell Johnson the care of the Graunge, to Colonell Rawdon, the workes next the towne, and dispose of the guns to Lieutenant Colonel Peake; the troopers fittest with muskets, and part of his foot company as a reserve for supply of all places as any need required; the Lieutenants Colonell and Majors by course being Captaines of the watch. Colonell Rawdon onely in this excused by reason of his yeares.

Jun. 18. The Regiment of Blew from Basingstooke releve the White, on whom when at midnight sallying forth, we fired one of the houses which annoyed us; but the next night sallying againe we fired all between us and the Church, themselves at same time firing some beyond, by which their workes growne hott some flye into the hedges, others further off. But at the ringing of the bells (their custume on all alarmes) reliefe comming on all sides, ours retreat, they that night quartering round the parke under the favour of the hedge and pale, where they continue till next evening, and with continuall firing kills us one sentinell and hurts another.

Jun. 20. The following day, the parke being cleared and they returned to quarter and their guard at Church, our horse are put into it, and 12 musketeers lodged at the corners of the lane in covert of the hedge. Some officers of theirs thinking the lane secure are blooded from the hedge and hardly scape to Basingstooke, our horse pursuing them, and whilst their guard

on Cowdryes Downe perceiving it troop to their rescue, ours are recalled and sent up by the graunge to fire their quarter, which is done and one of them brought in. At same time, more of theirs riding along the lane, our musqueteers killing the horse of Colonell Greaves his brother, take him prisoner, the Colonell and the rest escaping to pursue their journey to the west. Two howers after a trumpet is sent in from Colonell Norton to demand his liberty, under pretence of being a traveller, but is returned with a proposal of exchange, next day two of Sir Richard Onslowe's foot are taken in the parke and a third killed.

Jun. 24. Finding a sufferance by our liberty, resolving now more streightly to begirt us, two companies more from Portsmouth being joined to those from Farnham and the towne, the Regiment of Blew is drawn into the parke, and Colonell Onslowe's to the lane and close towards Basingstooke, where having fixed their quarters they presently breake ground, shutting us up on three sides with their foot, and on the other side their guards of horse keeping on Cowdrey's Downe, at night busying themselves with spade and pick-axe to secure their quarters, three of ours runne to them.

Jun. 26. Some musketeers are sent by the point of Basingstoke (a bulwark) to view their lodging in the lane, and to cut downe some trees blinding a ruined mill, from whence they played on us, both which are done and divers of them killed, with losse of two of ours. At night they runne a line toward the mill, where we had galled them the day before, next night a party of horse firing upon their sentinells on Cowdrey's Downe arrouse their guards, whilst others of them were sent away to Oxford.

Jun. 29. Their worke in the parke is brought to some perfection; and by noone their cannon Baskets placed made known they had a Culverin there, giving us sixe shot thence. Next day being Sunday (their cause allowes not now for Sabbath) doubling their diligence throughout the Leaguer, forwarding the sconce at Morleyes Quarters in the Parke, and on the Town-side towards a Mill, drawing a line from the Church. At Onslowes quarter rasing a platforme in the Lane with so much speed that the next morning a Demi-Calverin playes from it, at night our messenger from Oxford informes us His Majestie's successe against Waller at Cropready. We echoe it to our neighbours with volleys both of small and great, they answering with their guns, battering our Kitchen and gatehouse till a Shot from our platforme spoyling their carriage, silenced their Demi-Culverin.

July 3. Their lines being run within halfe musket shot, by this continuall firing, pouring their lead into the garrison, they spoyle us two or three a day, burning within our workes, and shoot the Marquis himself through his clouths, the carriage of their peece being repaired, they now renew their battery on the House unto the detriment and topping of our Towers and Chimnies.

July 8. This morning they essay to draw us forth by making an alarme to themselves (leaving their peece neglected without a guard), but faile. At Evening a prisoner escaping from them under the hazard of 100 shot so chafed them that they continue firing until midnight, and shot two of our men next morning: foure Companies of Red from Surrey, coming to the Reliefs of Colonell Onslowes men, marching too neare, have three shot placed amongst them from our minion, making them change their march to Troop at further distance.

July 11. One Company from Suthampton of seven score, march'd by the way of Hackwood unto Holloway's Mill; with which (and those foure companies came in two dayes before,) Morley is now so raised in his hopes that making use of Colonell Norton's absence, (ambitious of the honour, but of summoning the next day being our Fast adding to our affliction) sends by a drum this harsh demand:—

MY LORD,

To avoid the effusion of Christian blood, I have thought fit to send your Lordship this summon to demand Basing House to be delivered to me for the use of King and Parliament; if this be refused. the ensuing inconvenience will rest upon your selfe, I desire your speedy answer, and rest, my Lord,

Your humble servant,

HERBERT MORLEY.

The Marquisse upon some deliberation return'd Mr. Morley this answer:—

SIR, It is a crooked demand and shall receive its answer suitable. I keep the house in the right of my Sovereign, and will doe it in despite of your forces; your letter I will preserve as a testimony of your Rebellion.

WINCHESTER.

This answer being return'd by the Drum with a "*Hast hast hast post hast,*" upon the Letter, Morley speaks his choller from his gunns which now and some daiss following play'd on our *Waterhouse*. Colonell Onslowes men courteously permitting eight of our foot to fetch six beasts grazing before their workes. At night Coronet Bryan and some troopers, passing a messenger by Cowdrey's Down bring in two prisoners.

July 18. A Bonfire in the Park with two volleys throughout their leaguer, speake their Committees welcome into Basingstoake.

July 20. A party of our musquetiers fall out upon them in the Lane, and having done some execution there, retreat, a Captain of Colonell Morley's being shot dead at same time from our workes; two houres after comes a drum with letters for exchange of prisoners, but rather to informe us Norton's safe returne from the defeat of Waller; and gain time to draw a Morter-piece more covert to their trench from whence (their Drum return'd), they send us a Granado of 80lb next night, concluding their devotion and the day with thundering from their culverins, two passed through the quarter where our sick men lay, but without hurt.

July 22. Their lines are much advanced and their sconce flanking their battery in the parke finished, the Marquise himself hurt by a shot and two men killed by chance shot and the carriage of our Falconet broke from their Culverin. The following night being darke and stormy we despatched our messenger. Eight prisoners taking the opportunity doe the same for themselves to their leaguer, making our allowance of great shot to be next day dabled and at night more Granadoes.

July 25. The trenches on the toune side in the Meades flote with the quantity of rain that fell, thereby forcing them, lye more open to our towers from whence our marksmen spoyle divers, whilst on the other side our men drawe covert to a Blind, and does as much upon them: in the Lane at night two peeces charged with case, so luckily are placed upon them (working upon their Lines) that they were heard complaine their suffering.

July 26. Early this morning the Blind againe being manned, an officer with more of theirs were killed, and a trooper of our owne afterward fetching in Hay and Corne neare the same place occasioning some service from the Blind and Bulwarke they receive more losse. The Evening spending with dispute between our great guns, they adde sixe granades one falling in our granary, spoyled some corne, and two missed Firing, at night two souldiers run to them.

July 27. This morning shews a traverse crosse the close from the burnt mill flanking our way unto the aforesaid Blind, and in the Parke the enclosing of the nearer side of an old orchard securing Morleyes quarters. At night from one mortar peece, they shot us six greate stones sized with the granades of 36lb., with each day continuing like allowance, these and the granades for a while seemed troublesome, but afterwards become by custom so familiar to the souldiers, that they were called, as they

counted them, *Bables*, their mischiefs onely lighting on the house and that the lesse, our Courts being large and many.

July 30. They plant a Culverin by Basing Church (from thence battering a Tower, in which our Marksmen stood, that much annoyed that quarter continuing shot from both their other platformes. This day ends the yeare of the place being garrison'd and the second month of the Leaguer. Next day a platform is begun by the Wood side within halfe musket shot of Basing Bulwarke. Towards evening praying, the shot (it having been their fast), they spared all day: at night running a trench from the Church to their worke by the Wood, (by foure men which last night run to them) persuaded of strange executions done by stones and granades, send us store, one whereof Firing our Hay falling into the Barne, had done much hurt had not our diligence soon quenched it.

Aug. 1. Our men tyred with length of 48 houres duty are now divided into two parts, relieving every 24, our gentlemen and Troopers doing the same, and here I cannot passe them over without due commendation, all the time of the Leaguer undergoing the duty of foot (that of sentries only excepted) going forth in all Sallies, as well on foot, with Musket and Browne bill as otherwise on horseback as occasion was, and for seaven weeks time keeping their horses with grasse and sedge, which is the night they cut under command of the Rebell's workes with hazard of their lives.

Aug. 4. Perceiving the intention of the rebells rather to starve than storm us, and the doubt of a more potent army now removed, which hitherto had made us frugal of our men (already few in number and much spent with labour) as well to animate our men dismayed though divers wants and raining of the pox, as also to annoy the Rebells, retard their workes, and gaine by prisoners somewhat of their condition. We resolve upon advantage to make some sallies, and finding there an opportunity, a party of their foot lying at hazard upon Cowdrey Down in Waller's work, Lieftenant Cuffand with about 20 horse is sent to fall upon them, whilst Coronet Bryon with like number riding at rate is to cut in betwixt them and the hedge, where stood their guard of horse, who seeing themselves thus unexpectedly charged, suddenly rout, flying to Basingstoke, and we pursued with execution on them, almost to the towne. The Coronet bringing in their colours, trumpet, seven horses, and three troopers, besides what slaine and maimed; of the Foot eleven killed in the place and foure brought in, our men returning under command of their Cannon without the losse of a man.

At first of the alarme, they apprehending it, a party with reliefe began to flye the park, till informed better, and again returning, they spend their heat at distance with their guns and mortar-peece, we learning from the prisoners their intention to batter upon *Basing-Bulwarke* for their new platform by the Wood, lay on all hands from lyning it, as yet being very weak there, labouring without enforcing us to doe the like within our workes, in many places slender and no where finished, of which defect our Renegades giving them information, necessitates us worke to frustrate their reports.

Aug. 5. The guard at Waller's worke is dabled and strengthened with pikes, keeping their guard of horse by exercise in better readiness: in the Parke side their lines advance toward both our platforms and their worke by the wood forwarded, liberally bestowing great shot, stones and grenadoes, of which they send us of three several sorts, besides their hand grenades.

Aug. 10. Colonel Whitehead's new raised Regiment of five companies, marching through Basingstoke to Cowdrey's Downs, take up their Quarters in the Delve, for whose welcome and entertainment (with some sport) they founder a round Tower in the old Castle, by their Battery; in requitall whereof next morning, Major Cuffand with 6 Files of Musqueteers and 20 Troopers with Brown-Bills, falling into the Parke attacque their outward Lines, where killing some of them, burning their Blinds and Baskets, they bring off one of their Mortar peeces and store of Arms and Tools; with having two men hurt. Lieutenant Snow with 20 Musqueteers and 12 with Bills during the amazement falling upon their Quarters in the Lane with execution on them, breaking their Demy-culverin, Firing their Guard and Baskets, and from hence with Armes and Toolles bring in some Ammunition. Those Sallies were so much unto their losse, and toucht so neare their honour, that Oram (Captain of the Guards) for vindication must be brought to tryall, and for neglect and cowardice (running as others then and after did) holding correspondence with the place, (where no man knew him) and sending in Ammunition (which was never received) with the hazard of life, is Cashiered their Service; a sentence much like that against the Earle of Strafford, made with caution not to be brought to president for after times, least it too nearly might concerne themselves; at night provision for our Horse being spent, we make a worke beyond the *Grange* neare the Foote of *Cowdrey's Downs*, securing the Meades for our Troopers in darke nights to fetch in grasse.

Aug. 12. We see them busied making provision of Baskets,

Brush, and Turfe, to goe on with their workes ; which for some daies lay still, filling their Baskets now with grasse to save their fireing ; and in the meane time ply with Culverins. At night an Alarme beating through their Quarters, we expect according to the noyse, but they stay quiet till between three and foure, at which time a Trumpet sounding on *Cowdrey's Down*, from forth the Delve, they fall upon us, busied at our new worke with 50 Musqueteers, but soon draw back ; at same time 60 more by favour of a Wood, had gotten to a ditch under our platforme, where fired on by the Guard in the Parke Bulwarke flanking the ditch, they returned in hast leaving some Armes behind, having three Guns with case shot powred on their reare, for which they send us plenty from their severall Guards. And now begin a trench into the Parke from the Lane side, the better to secure that quarter, running it toward their great Work, meaning to close their Lines throughout their Leaguer. Next day they spare their great shot, but at night give us a false Alarme.

Aug. 14. Towards evening Lieutenant *Cuffand* and Cornet *Bryan* each with twenty Horse and forty Musqueteers, Sally upon the Downe againe, beating the Foot from *Waller's Worke*, and the Horse guard from their Post, persuing them to *Basing-stoke*, whence strengthened with fresh Horse, they force ours to retreat, take Cornet *Bryan* and one Trooper, wound three others, and kill Ensigne *Amery*, ours having done abroad good execution bring in Lieutenant *Cooper*, a Corporal of Horse, and seven more of theirs ; from whom we learne, *Morley* foure dayes before was shot in the shoulder viewing his Workes in the Parke ; The two next dayes were spent in Parlee for release of Prisoners. They sending us one wounded, we returne them three, offering Lieutenant *Cooper* and the Corporall (both stout men, wounded, and taken fighting) for our *Coronet*, but would not be accepted, so much they valued him ; the Parlee ended they play as formerly, at night sending three Granades, whereof one failed them.

Aug. 17. They bring Baskets to *Waller's Worke*, and the Delve where they had wrought the former dayes to raise a Battery, and to secure themselves, learning our Sally intended the beating up that Quarter, and had been done, had not our Horse persuing them too farre engaged our Foot to secure their retreat ; for at the first they ran, carrying their Colours with them from the Delve, though 300 men were said to Quarter in it ; but animated with comming in of more, and drawing to the hedges in the Meade some Musquetiers from *Hollowayes Mill*, they againe make good the place streightening our Horse retreat ; at Evening planting a Culverin there, they play from thence,

and from the peece at Church, this night three run to them, and one the night before.

Aug. 19. This day getting their Demy Canon to the worke by the wood they batter us, with 48 shot; and the following dayes with eight score more, the least whole Culverin, with which and with Granades they killed two men, and mischieved two more, break our best Iron Gun, and make a breach in one of our square Towers. The injury of the worke before it, the Officers and soldiers putting hand to spade repaire, making it canon proof, before scaroe Darke.

Aug. 22. This day they are more sparing, and permit the night enjoy its proper silence, disturbed onely by such, whose basenesse prompted them with hope to gain by craft, what by their force they could not, shooting notes fixed to arrowes with proffers of preferment to the Souldier, persuading Mutinies, and labouring divisions 'twixt the Regiments, leaving no stone unturned; but all in vaine, except the gaining some faint hearted knaves, the following dayes sending of Crossebarre shot, Loggs bound with iron hoops, stones, and granades whereof two missed firing; Two more run to them.

Aug. 25. Their Battery neare the Wood having much torne the Tower, they now begin on that side next the Towne, within Pistoll shot to make a worke, to batter it from thence. In the meane time continuing shooting from their other Guns, they kill two men and maime a third. And in the Parke they shew a screne made for their Musquetiers, thrusting before them for to play behind; this night two run to them, and next night foure; inforcing us to reasonable justice in executing one who had attempted to have gone with them, by which our Souldiers were so fastned, that for a long time not one man that stirred, though our necessities grew fast on us, now drinking water, and for some weeks past making our bread, with Pease and Oates, our stock of Wheat being spent.

Aug. 28. The Lines from *Onslowes* Quarter are brought on with a redoubt upon it, opposite to *Basingstoake*. Bulwarke, and having broke their Culverin, at the Delve, supplying it they play againe from thence, and in the night steale off five horses grazing in the Meades; next night two troopers cutting grasse, our River by the Mill being drawne downe, enforce us to make a Damme raising the water to secure the Graunge.

Sept. 2. At noone with Letters for Exchange of Prisoners we receive this Summons:

MY LORD,

These are in the name and by the authority of the Parliament of England, the highest Court of Justice in this Kingdom, to demand the House and Garrison of Basing, to be delivered to me, to be disposed of according to order of Parliament. And hereof I expect your answer by this Drum within one hower, after the receipt hereof, in the meane time, I rest,

Yours to serve you,

RICH. NORTON.

From the Quarters before Basing,
the 2nd of Sept. in the afternoon.

To which the Lord Marquise instantly dispatched this Answer.

SIR,

Whereas you demand the House and Garrison of Basing by a pretended authority of Parliament, I make this Answer, That without the King there can be no Parliament, by His Majestie's commission I keep the place, and without His absolute command shall not deliver it to any pretenders whatsoever.

I am, yours to serve you,

WINCHESTER.

Basing, 2 Sept.

This answer sent: From their new Battery by the Towne in sixe howers time they thunder sixe-score shot Canon and Culverin; with which they founder one of our great Brick Towers, from whence we had annoyed that Quarter, their small shot playing thick this day they kil'd us three, and hurt a woman.

Sept. 4. The rubbish of the Tower filling the end of a curtain under it, we cut off the other by a traverse, lynng the Bulwarke where their shot had run; next day their great shot is reduced to 20; their cannon by the former heat being made at fault, is this day drawne to *Farnham*. The night brings on their Line at *Graunge*, blocks up our way to the *Downs*, and slights the work we had made, by us some dayes before deserted, now growne too hot and wanting men to keep it.

The day of promised reliefe, our men in readinesse, Noon come and no appearance of them, unwilling to be idle, we resolve a Sallie; Lieutenant *Snow*, Lieutenant *Byfield*, and Ensigne *Outram*, each with 12 Troopers, with Browne Bills, and 18 Musquetiers are sent at one to fall on *Onslowes* Quarters in three parts, which is so well performed, that gaining their redoubts, they drawe their Demy-Culverin neare our workes, bring but three prisoners in, our gaole being full, and having lost three men by the enemies case shot, and one hurt, retreat; the great guns being played on both sides, some of ours luckily

fell upon them at the Delve. Sir *William Waller* with two Troopes of Horse, two houres before arrived at *Basingstoke*, came forth to see the sport, and with his horse facing the House too near on *Cowdreys Downe*, they had their Captaine killed with round shot from our workes. In this dayes service, by confession of our enemies they had 60 common souldiers killed, and 12 dangerously wounded, besides two gunners and two Lieutenants, one whereof belonged to Sir *William*, and brought by curiosity to see the Leaguer, there was slain; of ours, besides the former, we had three slightly hurt with durt beat up by Culverin shot. At night we endeavour to fetch off the gun, but find it heavy, they have doubled guards, we place 12 Musquetiers to wait the engaged peece.

This day and next spends 50 shot from their new platforme, by battering down a stack of chimnies, making a large breach in the new building; toward night we see two Companies of Foot marching by *Hackwood* Westward, followed next evening by two Companies more, two waggons and 12 Troops of Horse; next day againe at noone ceasing their Battery, permits us to see two Regiments of twenty Companies follow the Horse had passed, two companies of White turne into Basingstoake, and their Artillery, ten of severall sorts conveyed by one Company more of Yellow. This night we expect Alarmes, and were well prepared having for foure nights since kept all our men upon duty. But it passed without disturbance, more than that of tongues, boasting their Army to be next day shewed us, which Sir *William's* hast into the West permits not; And well satisfied with Wednesdayes sally, the strife for plunder of the house maintained with so much pertinacy between his men and *Nortons* ceased, and we againe with our old guests are left to try it out, grown now so mute upon this parting, as in 48 houres we heare but of two Culverin shot, next day recovering heart, they tell us 22, and resting some daies past, now find their worke againe Silent, till towards evening, ten great shot; at night our messenger *Edward Jeffery* assures the certainty of our reliefes advance to *Aldermarston*, and taking of some Scouts, we then make fires upon the Gatehouse in signe of notice, and of readinesse, though, (through the Fogge) it hardly could be seen to the next hill. By seaven next morne, the Noble Colonell *Gage* with Horse and Foot, passed through so many hazards, had attained *Chineham Downe*, where Colonell Norton with his strength having intelligence did stand in readinesse. And now what here was done I shall referre to what hath been said by others from some one present there, which may relate to each his

due desert, in all so much, That notwithstanding all advantages of place, and men fresh and prepared against tyred Troops and wearied Foot, a Fogge so thick as made the day still night, helping the shrowding of his Ambuscades, and clouding passes unto such who neither knew, nor could discern a way more than their valour and their sword did cut, and maugre all, with execution forced his retreat, the Fogge befriending him serving as covert, for his safer flight through *Basingstoake*, the day then clearing and report of fight brought near the Garrison, Lieutenant Colonell *Johnson* with some Musquetiers issuing by the *Graunge*, beate them from off their Line, persues them to the Hill, and thence unto the Delve, clearing that Quarter with so small defence as is incredible. The passe thus cleared meeting our welcome friends, our joyes are echoed, whilst the sad Prisoners are led in to see the House they lay so long about, their number 64 Common Souldiers, two Sergeants, one Lieutenant, whereof the wounded were next day sent forth unto the care of their owne Chirurgeons, and two that ran from us had execution.

The Ammunition brought put in, and the Lord *Marquisse* visited by his worthy friends, they return to *Cowdreys Downe*; whence the Horse under some hazard of the enemies' guns retreat to *Chinham*, thence 100 Musqueteers being sent unto the House, they march through *Basingstoake*, facing the Rebell's workes, whilst 14 barrells of powder and 100 Armes found in the towne, and what provision of all sortes could be got, were sent into the Garrison, where 100 Musqueteers under command of Major *Cuffand*, seconded with like number of supplies led forth by Captaine *Hull*, attaque the line on *Basing* side, take in that quarter and the Church which they had fortified. In it 2 Captaines (Captaine *John Jephson* and Captaine *Jarvas*), 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and about 30 Souldiers, the rest by severall wayes escaping. During the former fight, their guns being drawn from off that platform to their workes in the park; Sir *Richard Onslowes* quarter towards *Basingstoake*, that fatall place againe is taken in the skonces sleighted; and their peice brought in by Musqueteers, led by Lieutenant Colonell *Peak*, their Tents and Huts fiered neere *Holloway Mill*, the enemy so hastening from these workes as scarcely 3 could be made stay the killing,

Thus might we see at once, three of their Quarters blaze, one by one (well fortified and their remaining strength drawne in) is left them quiet.

Sep. 12. The next day is employed in sending warrents forth, fetch provision from the adjacent Townes, and getting in a Culverin the enemies hast had left neere to the wood, which they

permitted us with so much tameness, as called our men to fall upon their workes, but most part of our foot then busied abroad these are commanded off having a Sargeant and five others shot, whereof they after died, care being taken for such Gentlemen of our reliefe as had been hurt, night coming on, intelligence of enemies appearing from the townes neere *Silkester* and drawing towards *Kingscleare*, Colonell *Gage* ordering his horse and foot to be in readinesse, having supplied the Garrison as much as shortnesse of his stay gave leave, about 11 at night takes longe of the place, marching the way of *Reading*, leaving the enemy next morne amused with a letter for exchange of Captain *Love* for *Jephson*, which by noone was done; and they by it assured the certainty of his retreat to *Oxford*.

Sep. 14. The towne of *Basing* not yet repossesed, a hundred Musqueteers are sent under command of Captaine *Fletcher*, to guard our carts fetching provision thence, on whom the enemy with horse and foot falls out towards evening, *Norton* himself there present, our men taken in disorder are beat back, but soone restored by the coming forth of the field Officers, and they forced back into their workes, sixteen of them being slaine in the retreat and 11 taken, of ours an Ensigne and two common souldiers killed, six hurt, whereof 4 dyed, and 8 made prisoners, Lieutenant Colonel *Johnson*, Doctor of Physique, was here shot in the shoulder, whereby contracting a Fever he dyed a fortnight after, his worth challenging Funeral teares, being no lesse eminent in the Garrison for his valour and conduct, as a Souldier, than famous through the Kingdom for his excellency as an Herbalist and Physician. The following week keeping the towne with guards we fetch provision, sleight their platforme, and throw down their workes without the least Alarme.

Sep. 23. The Rebels again falling upon our guard in towne ours are commanded in, having replenished our store for some weekes time, and wanting men to spare. The Church by them repossesed, they now enlarge themselves and keep us to our workes, of late too loosely grown familer in the towne. This day two Gentlemen of our releise was exchanged from *Reading* for three of theirs with us. Next day a party of our Horse are sent forth by the Grange to face their guard on *Cowdrey*, whil'st our foot draw in twenty fat hoggs from the Downe, their Scouts draw back unto their Guards kept near to *Basingstoke* whence strengthened ours orderly retreating, are persued neer to a hedg lyned without Musketeers, who salving them, they quickly flee about having swornd out the number of 5 Troopes. The morrow entertaines them in like manner whilst our men spoyling their

platform at the Delve, bring in their planke and timber.

Sep. 27. Some of our horse sporting on *Cowdrey's Downe*, and there amusing them, six others through the Parke Lane toward *Basingstoake* fetch in eight of their foot passing unto their Leaguer. And a water leveller employed for the drawing of our River, *Morley* himself hardly escaping them, causing some foot come forth to stop our horse retreat, are galled by our Musqueteers purposely lodged in covert. An houre after we receive a Drum from Colonell *Norton*, for the sending out some gentlemen to treat the change of Prisoners, and is returned with fixing a day.

Sep. 29. The Stage of *Cowdrey* furnish'd again with Actors, a Coronet and three more of theirs are killed and one of ours. At night (the morrow being a Faire at *Basingstoake*) six Foot with Pistoll and Browne Bill are sent to try the Market, and foure miles off at a Committees house finding to serve their turne, from thence bring in twenty-three head of Cattle by the Delve, which passe our dayly skirmishing kept free, next day informed the enemy imploied in fortifying the Church, sometimes kept but a carelesse Guard, 100 Musqueteeres led forth by Major *Cuffand* are sent to force the place, and having gained a worke, wanting wherewith to force the doore, theirs comming fast to rescue, ours retreat having a Sergeant and six Souldiers shot in the attempt, whereof most dyed, of theirs an Ensigne and some others slaine.

Oct. 2. We send forth Captain *Rosewell* and Captain *Rigby* secured by Hostages, with instructions to treat release of Prisoners. The same night M. *Greaves*, and Captain *Jarvis*, next day two Lieutenants with diverse more sent out receiving Captain *Rowles*, a Lieutenant, and two Sergeants lost at *Odiham*, and some daies after Coronet *Bryan* and three Gentlemen of our releese released at Oxford.

Oct. 4. This and the eight daies following our Horse and theirs change Pistolls upon *Cowdrey's Downe*, they having number, we advantage of a hedge with Musqueteers, for as the odds was ours, and three or foure of theirs was daily carried off, we all the while loosing one Horse and two Foote Souldiers, at night send forth our Chapmen well furnished and good Markes-folkes, in five houres time return with 25 Beasts under the noses of their Sentinells, some Musqueteers of ours lying abroad for their security.

Oct. 17 Past noon from off our Tower, we see the Van of *Manchester's Army* marching to *Basingstoake* and *Sherfield*; next

day some of his Horse visit the Leaguer, and by our Markesmen two of them are shot, the following day eight Regiments of Foot and some Horse with all their Carriage and Artillery, drawn on the South of *Basingstoake* facing the House, make halt; some houres, and towards night returne into the Towne, most of their Horse which all the day had stood at two miles distance neere *Rooks'* downe, at night with hast enough Troop to their Quarters towards *Farnham*.

Three Foot Souldiers comming too neare to see the House receive the curtesy of fetching in, and next day by our Foot in Ambush in the lane a Cornet of Sir *William's* Regiment and two Dragoons were taken, our Horse from off the Hill fetch in two stragling Foot, at noon some Regiments of Horse and Foot belonging to the Earle of *Essex* joyne in the Leaguer, their Army toward evening drawn in Battalia, that night keep the field, the Van neere *Rook's* Downe, the Battle [Battel, *i. e.* the main] at *Basingstoake* and Reere by *Hackwood*, next day marching the Army towards *Reading*, the Foot by *Sherbone*, and the Horse keeping along their left, the following day Troopers more brought in, keeping our Horse abroad to wait on them. At night part of a ruined Tower falling by Tempest on five of our men, killing one, and somewhat bruised the rest. Lieutenant *Cuffand* with some 40 Horse charging their Guardian *Cowdrey's* downe, spoiling five Horses and as many men, takes one of theirs, with losse of one of ours; next day facing their Horse againe, whilst Coronet *Bryan* with some few Horse fetcht off a Load of Corne, driving neere to their Guard. And riding through the Garrison from off th'other side, bring in a Cart and Teame passing to *Basingstoake*. These Carts did help us in 3 following nights, secured with Convoyes, to fetch in 5 quarters of thresht Corn, and 12 load in the sheafe from *Piats Hill*, the same nights furnishing us 14 Beasts, they some dayes after keeping at those Barnes a Guard of Horse and Foot, releived each night at nine.

Nov. 1. Our slender stock of Bread and Corne, that of Beere being spent, invites the sending forth Lieutenant Colonell *Peake* with Horse and Foot, to try what yet could more be done at *Piat's Hill*, where comming about eight at night, finding their Fires, but their guards gone off: taking two Prisoners begin their worke, loading their Carts, and sending them away continuing so till 12, what time their Horse from *Sherfield* comming down the hill, and Foot from *Basing* drawing up, fall on our Guards, and for some time dispute it, but our Foot from the lyned hedges having gauled their Horse, give way to ours to

draw theirs farther off, whilst their Foot acquainted with the ground strive to possess the hedges some of ours maintained, but an Alarum from the Castle given upon the Church, and our Horse now freed of theirs, cause them retreat, driving them through the River, they thus beat off, we to our worke againe, and by the morning carry in 16 cart loads in sheafe, our Drovers at same time passed through our Guards eight Beasts, at noon next day some Souldiers stepping out seize on 12 sides of Mutton and some Pork loaded upon a Horse as contribution food going unto the Church.

Nov. 5. Our Beere being now spent, the Officers content themselves with water, having for ten dayes past spared one meale a day, and now persuade the Souldiers who as yet had two, this causeth one at night to run away, telling our wants unto our enemies, now animating them, before dishartened, had not the comming in of *Strowds* and *Ludlowes* horse with some Dragoones fastened their Leaguer, almost on remove.

Nov. 6. Coronet *Bryan* with a party of Horse using the benefit of a fogge, getting into the Bottome neare to *Basingtoake*, steales off three Sentries, and placing there his owne, after a while without the noise of Pistoll, takes a Corporall and two Troopers more comming to their reliefe. This was a welcome to *Strowdes* newcome Horse. At night Major *Cuffand* with Horse and Foot killing a Sentinell, and beating off their Horse, cleereth the passe to *Piat's Hill*, and sendeth forth our men for Beasts, but the enemies Horse that night too much abroad, make void this journey; two runne to them, one of them with a horse.

Nov. 9. The like party sent out at night under the Command of Major *Rosewell*, beating their Foot from a worke throwne upon the passe at the Delve (their Horse not daring come too neer the hedges) possess the Avenues to *Piat's Hill*, then sending forth our Grasiars, who in foure houres time returne with eighteen Beasts, our Guards in meane while from the Barnes thereby passing six Load of Corne in sheaffe and securing two Messengers onward to *Oxford*, one sent three nights before being taken by the enemy.

Nov. 13. Colonell *Ludlowe's* Trumpiter is taken upon *Cowdrey's-downe*, next day a Regiment of Foot shewing themselves at *Chinham*, march to *Basingtoake*; And the morrow a Trumpet from Sir William for his Coronet is returned with naming an Exchange; another bringing in two Officers of ours that long had leyne at *Farnham*, for them carryes out seaven of theirs, wee taking care to fill their roomes againe, within two houres after fetch in one and kill two more abroad. There Army now againe

hovering about, afford us sport, each day killing or taking some of their curious ones. And sease two carts, one with a Load of Hay passing too neere our workes. The enemy wearied with Lying 24 weeks, diseases, with the Winter seazing them, his Army wasted from 2600 to 700, fearing the forces of His Majesty now moving about *Hungerford*, raiseth his Leaguer, and at eight this morne drew off his Waggones and two Gunnes, three dayes before brought in. The Foot at noone march towards *Odgham*, the Huts being fired, and some Troopes of Horse left to secure their reere, on whom a party of our Horse with Coronet *Bryan* waiting their opportunities disorder their retreat.

Next night honoured Sir *Henry Gage* (the enemies remove not knowne) sent by His Majesty with 1000 Horse brings in supplies of Ammunition and Provision, each trooper in a bagge bearing his part having a skeene of Match swadled about his wast, besides what brought in Carts, and staying here three dayes most amply victualled the Garrison, drawn down by length of Seige, almost unto the worst of all necessityes, Provision lowe, the Souldiers spent and naked, and the numbers few, having besides our hurt and maimed, and such as rune from us, lost neere 100 men by sicknesse, and the seige, whereof a Lieutenant Colonell, two Ensignes, three Sergeants and seaven Corporals.

I shall end all with these observations, *vis.* That seldome hath been a Seige wherein the preservation of the place more immediatly might be imputed to the hand of God. That the Souldiers in so long a Siege with all the flusterings incident thereto, should never Mutiny; Nor that the customary Liberty at all our Parlyes for to meet and talke wrought any treachery.

Wants of provisions always so supplied as if by miracle, during the Leaguer; wee not having lesse than seavenscore uselesse mouths, that had reliefe come at the time appointed, *Waller* then hovering with his force at *Farnham* in probability a hazard whether they had relieved us, or preserved themselves. Or had *Norton* (able to bring three times their number forth) when the next weeke that came, drawne out his strength, or had wee not got Powder from them, that, by our releise scarce serving till the Seige was raised; or when we were releived, had they not suffered us to possesse the Towne a weeke, thereout supplying our selves for horse and man, before not having enough for above three weekes, Or had they when we first fetcht Corne from *Piat's Hill*, or fired or removed it.

But God that holdeth all things in his hand, appointing times and seasons ; ordereth all that tends unto those ends he wils ; in vain it therefore were to Villify the enemy ; blaming his valor or descretion, Or yet to say the care and diligence of the Lord *Marquisse* Governour, the skill and valcur of the officers, the courage and obedience of the Souldiers, (though all these did their parts) had thus preserved the place, in vain we watch and ward, except God keepe the house.

Let no man therefore speake himselfe an instrument, onely in in giving thankes that God had made him so, for here was evidently seen *He chose the weake to confound the strong, Non Nobis Domine*. Not unto us, not unto us O Lord, but to thine owne name be all Glory for ever.

Amen.

ERRATA.

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- On page 6, line 38, for "Demi-Calverin" read "Demi-Culverin."
 - On page 9, line 30, for "though" read "through."
 - On page 18, line 41, for "what time" read "which time."

As the foregoing Diary of the Siege terminates some months previous to the Capture of Basing House by Cromwell, I have thought it desirable to continue the narrative to its final stage. The story may be briefly told.

After sundry fights in the park, skirmishes "between hedges lined with musqueteers," and the discovery by the Marquis of a correspondence "for the surprise of the house," between the Parliamentary General Waller and his own brother Lord Edward Paulet, the time arrived for the downfall of Basing.

In September, 1645, after Fairfax had taken Bristol, Cromwell was dispatched from thence, with a brigade of three regiments of foot and three of horse, for the taking of certain royalist garrisons, "which," says Joshua Sprigge, author of the *Anglia Rediviva*, "like vipers in the bowels infested the midland parts." Of them Basing was the chief, and on the 14th October Cromwell writing to Speaker Lenthall, was able to "thank God that he *could give a good account of Basing.*" It was taken on that day, the Parliamentary troops "storming like a fire flood," with but little loss on their part. Of those within the house about 100 were killed, and 300 made prisoners; but during the four years that Basing held out, more than 2,000 had fallen in skirmishes round it. Many too perished in the vaults of the house after the storm, where they were heard crying for quarter, but could not be rescued from the ruins. "Our men," writes Hugh Peters, who was present at the siege, "could neither come to them, nor they to us." A "relation" of the taking of the House, was made to the House of Commons by Peters. According to his report the works were above a mile in compass, and it appears from a survey made in the year 1798, that the area of the works, including the garden, and entrenchments, occupied about fourteen acres and a half. The medium depth of the fosse which surrounded the citadel, is about thirty-six feet perpendicular.

The Old House, says Peters, "a nest of idolatry" (the Marquis being a Romanist), and the New, surpassing it in beauty and stateliness, were either of them "fit to make an emperor's court." Both contained provisions "for years rather than months—400 quarters of wheat, bacon divers rooms full, cheese proportionable, beer divers cellars full, and that very good, Popish books many, with copes and such utensils." In one room was a bed with its furniture which cost £1,300. What, asks Walpole, could it have been made of? But the Marquis had been a lover of the arts—"of the upholsteries," says Carlyle, "perhaps still more." The plunder was enormous, and estimated to have amounted to £200,000, in cash, jewels, and rich furniture. Mrs. Cromwell, the Protector's wife, is said to have had a voracious appetite for such "pretty things," as well as for Westphalia hams and similar articles with which "the middle sorts" presented her; and many of the Marquis's treasures are reported to have found their way to her hands. "One soldier got 120 gold pieces for his share, others plate, others jewels. Among the rest, one got 3 bags of silver, which (he not being able to keep his counsel) grew to be common pillage among the rest, and the fellow had but one half-crown left for himself at last." "The wheat and the household stuff" they sold to the country people, who "loaded away many carts." Owing to neglect "in quenching a fire-ball" the entire house was soon in flames, which left "nothing but bare walls and chimneys in less than 20 hours;" and the

Commons following Cromwell's advice to leave "the place utterly slighted," ordered the ruins to be carted away:—"Whoever will come for brick or stone shall freely have the same for his pains." Only one woman was killed during the storm, the daughter of Dr. Griffiths, who "by her railing against the soldiers for their rough carriage towards her father provoked them into a further passion."

Thus fell "Loyalty," a name by which Basing House was known among the Royalists; from the motto of the Paulets, "*Aymez Loyaulté*," which it is said the Marquis had himself written with a diamond on every window of the house. "Aymez Loyaulté"—Love Loyalty, not, *Royalty*, says Mr. Mudie, in his "Hampshire," shows that the Marquis stood out thus gallantly for the King, not upon personal grounds, but from regarding him as the legitimate head of the government and administrator of the law—that he was a loyalist in principle, not a party royalist. Mr. Mudie adds, "Colonel Norton," who is so prominently mentioned in the Diary of the Siege, "was also a loyalist, though a loyalist having different views of the matter, he took the field, and took it bravely, for the privilege of the parliament, which Charles had unquestionably invaded; but he had no hostility to the King according to law. It happened in that unfortunate contest—in which England suffered more than in any other time since the War of the Roses—that some of the most loyal men—the men most devoted to the whole constitution in all its three branches, were arrayed upon each side; while mere courtiers mingled with the one party, and enemies to both king and parliament mingled with the other. Upon the side of Charles, the loyal men stood only for the constitutional authority of the King; while the courtiers stood for him in disregard of the constitution. The loyalists on the side of parliament stood only for its constitutional privileges; the rest of that party being enemies to all government. Between the first sections of the two parties, it was merely a misunderstanding; but between the second it was implacable and deadly opposition. The former were anxious to save both constitution and country; the latter recked not for the ruin of both. This distinction is an important one, and necessary, before we can do justice to brave and good men upon either side—to such men as the Marquis of Winchester and Colonel Norton—during this distracting, and frequently misrepresented period of our history."

Resuming our story of the final catastrophe of the Castle of Old Basing. The colours of the Marquis, which side by side with the royal banner, had floated defiantly o'er the loyal towers of Basing, were presented to the House of Commons by Hugh Peters. They bore the motto "*Donec pax redeat terris*," "the very same as King Charles gave upon his coronation money when he came to the Crown." Cromwell's letter descriptive of the capture of Basing, was ordered to be read in all the pulpits the Sunday following, and a thanksgiving offered. Peters had £200 a year settled on him. Among the prisoners were—besides the Marquis himself, whose life was saved by Colonel Hammond, the Parliamentary officer carried prisoner to Basing a day or two before the storm, the Deputy-Governor, Sir Robert Peake, who was a print-seller at "Holborne Bridge," whose name is attached to many portraits and other engravings now rare. He died in July 1667, and was buried with great military pomp in St. Sepulchre's Church, Holborn. Inigo Jones, the architect; Hollar the engraver, who published a view of Basing House; and Fairthorne the engraver, who learnt his art under Sir Robert Peake, were also among the prisoners who fell into the hands

of the Parliament. Of those who fell during the siege were Dr. Thomas Johnson, the botanist, who held a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel, and Robinson, an actor, who after he had laid down his arms was shot by the fanatic Harrison, with the words, "Cursed is he that doeth the Lord's work negligently." Sergeant-Major (i.e. Major) Cufford, printed "Cuffand" in the Diary, also lost his life at Basing. He was of Cufford, Co. Southampton. Six Romanist priests were likewise amongst the killed. At one time, but before the final storming, Fuller the historian, had taken refuge at Basing, and complained that the noise of the cannon disturbed him while at work on his "Worthies" and describing the "troutful streams" and "natural commodities of Hampshire."

Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, a prominent personage in the Diary, "was descended," says Granger, "from the ancient family of that name, near Leedes in Yorkshire, and was a very eminent merchant in the reigns of James and Charles I. He was at the expense of fitting out a ship for the discovery of a north-west passage, and was one of the first planters of Barbadoes. He traded to France, Spain, the Levant, Canaries, and West Indies; was consulted as an oracle in matters of trade; and frequently pleaded for the merchants at the Council-board. He was governor of Basing House in the Civil War, where he distinguished himself as a soldier, killing, in one sally, three thousand men, though he had not above five hundred fighting men in the garrison. The King conferred on him the honour of Knighthood for this heroic exploit. It is remarkable that the Marchioness of Winchester and her maids cast the lead of the turrets into bullets to supply the men for this sally. He was relieved at the last extremity, by the famous Col. Gage, whose memorable story is in Clarendon." Of other officers of the garrison, Major Rowsewell was an apothecary in the Old Bailey. Captains Rowlett and Emery, were also citizens of London, the former a Scrivener, and the latter a Vintner. Capt. Peregrine Tasbury was a Hampshire gentleman.

After the destruction of Basing House, it was never restored, but a much smaller house was afterwards built near it. This has also passed away.

In cutting the Basingstoke Canal (which has rendered the outer works very obscure and imperfect), skeletons, cannon balls, swords, coins, &c., were found in great numbers. The principal remaining fragment of the old house is the north gate-house, of brick, of the 15th century; the ivy covering which half conceals the arms of the Paulets—three swords in pale, points in base. An old chalk pit north of the village, is still known as *Oliver Cromwell's Dell*, and a field near the bridge over the Canal is called "Slaughter Close."

The Marquis of Winchester, the gallant defender of Basing, received neither honour or emolument at the Restoration, notwithstanding the great loss he had incurred. He ended his days at Englefield, and his remains were interred in the parish church there. The inscription on his monument and many other particulars of the family will be found in the Second Volume of the Transactions of the Newbury District Field Club.

WALTER MONEY, F.S.A.

June, 1880.

