

## APPENDIX TO CHAPTER IV.

## NEWBURN FIGHT.

SECRETARY VANE TO SECRETARY WINDEBANK, FROM  
NORTHALLERTON, AUGUST 29, 1640.<sup>1</sup>

On the 28th, about two in the afternoon, Lord Conway, having drawn 2500 foot out of Newcastle, and all the horse, marched with two pieces of cannon to the south side of the Tyne, the Scots being on the north side with their whole army, intending to cross at Newburn, which his Majesty's forces endeavoured to hinder, and made some works to defend our foot against their cannon, but the enemy had planted their artillery with so much advantage that they beat our foot out of the works. Whereupon the horse began to cross, which Commissary Wilmot perceiving, he with a captain or two more charged them, and so home that the enemy retired; but these horse not being seconded, the enemy recharged them with all their horse. Commissary Wilmot in this encounter behaved like a gallant man, killed one or two with his own hand, and it is not certain whether he is killed or taken prisoner. Capt. Vane, who gave the first charge, had his horse hurt in the mouth and thigh in the midst of them, his horse being weak of his hurts, Vane fell, but recovered his horse and came off with six or seven of his troop. Our horse did not behave well, many ran away and did not second those that were first charged. Lord Conway and the foot with the two pieces of artillery got into Newcastle; our horse routed and in disorder gained Durham.

<sup>1</sup> *C. S. P.* (1640), 645.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DYMCK TO SECRETARY WINDEBANK,  
FROM HULL, SEPTEMBER 10, 1640.<sup>1</sup>

After many rumours of the Scots proceeding towards Berwick, our regiment, Sir Thos. Glemham's, was commanded to Newcastle, where we kept strict guard, but moved not, till the enemy marching within 4 miles of the town, 2000 foot and 1000 horse were sent in haste to stop them at the ford by Newburn. Their army appeared marching on the hills above the ford when we were drawing into our miserable works in the valley, where we lay so exposed to their battery, that their great shot was bowled in amongst our men, to their great loss and such confusion as made them quit their works, which the enemy's horse immediately possessed, seconded by their foot in great numbers; but first the horse on both sides exchanged a most brave but bloody encounter, the enemy's cannon extremely afflicting ours, being within their range. There was another work reasonably strong but likewise abandoned to the enemy. Our horse retreated, and the flying foot were rallied by Sir Jacob Astley in a wood where an ambush was fitly placed, but their rashness prevented its success, which might have been good. Our foot advanced from the wood to a hill, where six troops of our horse made a stand,<sup>2</sup> and the enemy's horse coming up fought with them the second time, but the issue was bad, Commissary Wilmott, Sir John Digby, and Capt. O'Neale were taken prisoners, and we understand sent into Scotland. The fight was sharp and short, the flight general, and the foot being over-run by the horse in a narrow lane fled for company, less than 300 of ours fell, and more of the enemy.

#### RUSHWORTH'S NARRATIVE.<sup>3</sup>

The same night, part of the King's Army, consisting of three thousand Foot and fifteen hundred Horse, were

<sup>1</sup> *C. S. P.* (1640-41), 38.

<sup>2</sup> *Cf.* Conway's Narrative, *infra*, 137.

<sup>3</sup> *Collections*, iii., 1236 *et seq.*

drawn forth into a plain Meadow ground which was near a mile in length, close on the South side of Tyne, called Newborne-Haugh or Stella-Haugh, to hinder the Scots from passing the River in the night time, where were two several Sconces or Breast-works raised by the English against the two Fords, which the Scots might pass over at Low water, for till then they could not pass the Tyne, and into each Sconce were put four hundred Musqueteers and four pieces of Ordinance.

The Horse were drawn into Squadrons in the said Haugh at some distance from the Foot, in this posture Horse and Foot guarded the River all that night and the next day, till the engagement.

The Scots all the forenoon watered their Horses at one side of the River, and the English on the other side, without affronting one another or giving any reproachful language.

The Scots, having the advantage of the rising ground above Newbourne, easily discerned the posture and motion of the English Army below in the Valley on the South-side the River, but the posture of the Scots Army the English could not discern, by reason of the Houses, Hedges, and Inclosures in and about Newbourne. The Scots brought down Cannon into Newbourne Town, and planted some in the Church Steeple a small distance from the River Tyne, their Musqueteers were placed in the Church, Houses, Lanes, and Hedges in and about Newbourne.

The Skirmish began thus (as the Author of these Collections was informed, being then upon the place). A Scottish Officer well mounted, having a black Feather in his Hat, came out of one of the thatcht houses in Newbourne and watered his Horse in the River Tyne, as they had done all that day. An English Souldier, perceiving he fixed his eye towards the English Trenches on the South-side of the River, fired at him (whether in earnest or to fright him is not known), but wounded the Scottish man

with the shot, who fell off his Horse, whereupon the Scottish Musqueteers immediately fired upon the English, and so the fight begun with Small-shot, but was continued with great shot as well as small.

The Scots played with their Cannon upon the English Breast-works and Sconce; the King's Army played with their Cannon to beat the Scots out of the Church-steeple; thus they continued firing on both sides, till it grew to be near low water, and by that time the Scots with their Cannon had made a breach in the greater Sconce which Colonel Lunsford commanded, wherein many of his men were killed and began to retire, yet the Colonel prevailed with them to stand to their Armes, but presently after, a Captain, a Lieutenant, and some other officers more were slain in that work. Then the Souldiers took occasion to complain that they were put upon double duty, and had stood there all night and that day to that time, and that no Souldiers were sent from the Army at Newcastle to relieve them; but Colonel Lunsford again prevailed with them not to desert their Works, but another Cannon-shot hitting in the Works amongst the Souldiers, and killing some more of them, they threw down their Armes and would abide in the Fort no longer.

The Enemy on the rising Hill above Newbourne plainly discerned the Posture of the King's Army, and how the Souldiers had quit the great Work, and being low Water, the Scots commanded a Forlorn party of twenty six Horse, being Gentlemen of the Colledge of Justice Troop, to pass the River, which they did with some swiftness, their orders were only to make discovery in what posture the Souldiers were about the uppermost Work, but not to come to close engagement, but fire at a distance and retreat.

The Scots playing at this time very hard upon the furthest Trench, forced the English Foot to retreat from that work also, which the Scots discerning on the rising ground at Newbourne, more Horse commanded by

Sr. Thomas Hope, and two Regiments of Foot commanded by the Lord Craford Lindsey and Lord Lowdon waded through the River, and General Lesly at this instant of time played hard with nine piece of Cannon from a new Sconce, which they had raised on a Hill to the East, and so galled the King's Horse drawn up in plain Meadow ground, that it much disordered them, and sending more Forces over the River, a retreat was sounded, and Colonel Lunsford drew off the Cannon. Immediately Commisary Wilmot, Son to the Lord Wilmot, Sr. John Digby a Romish Recusant, and Daniel O'Neal an Irish-man joyntly engaged the Enemy, and had a sharp Encounter with their Horse, they being commanded to bring up the Rear, whilst the Foot retreated up Riton and Stella Banks, but the Scots with their fresh Supply newly come over the River, environed these three Commanders, and took them and some others of their Troops Prisoners; General Lesley treated these Commanders nobly in the Scots Camp, and afterwards gave them their liberty freely to return to the King's Army.

SURE NEWIS FROM NEWCASTELL AND FROM THE  
SCOTTISH ARMY.<sup>1</sup>

Vpone Thuirsdai 27th August, at night, oure army arrivit within a myll of Newcastle, and expecting to haue past therethrow were disapointed, inrespect of the English garrisoun that wes therein; whiche Generall Leslie perceaveing, vpone Frydday morning betymes, marches forduardis to Newburne-foord, and resolved to pas there in spight of all oppositioun; where being advanced, and finding the pas fortefeit with strong trinchcs [*sic*] and breist workis, and six peice of cannon, did fynd it sum what hard, being gairdit with 3000 horsis or thereby, and 1200 fut; therefore wyslie he commandit his cannon to be secreitlie convoyit alonges a low way, to be placed vpone the face of a hill neir to that place, whence haueing

<sup>1</sup> *Memorialls*, i., 335.

a perfytt view of the English trenches and quarteris, did play so hard vpone them, that they were forced to throw away there armes, disband in confusioun, and blow wp there owne pulder. Whiche disrout the cavalrie of the English perceaveing, resolved to mak good the pass, and recover the cannon and armes whiche the infantry had lost. Whiche thing our Generall perceaveing, commandit furth his owne collonell Leslie with the Fyf troupes, seconded by collonell Ramsay, togidder with that of Schir Thomas Hopes, his owne life gaird, of the college of justice, amounting in all to 1500, who did so resolutlie assault thame that thay were forsit to reteir, notwithstanding of there number being about 2500, and qualitie of there horss and armes far beyond oures or commoun beleif. After whiche retreat, thay resolved yit once agane to haue recoverd what there foot had lost. Bot our troupes doubling there resolutioun and courage, did mak good not onlie there first attempt, bot also put Schir Johne Suckling bak with his horss troupes, being the prime of all England (whiche ar oppositis) to the retreat, took sum of his horssis, whereof one (being most excelent) wes presentit to our Generall be Mr. Thomas Hope, capitane of the lyf guard; the rest were left to the takeris, to encourage everie brave gentilman to adventour.

LORD CONWAY'S RELATION CONCERNING THE PASSAGES  
IN THE LATE NORTHERN EXPEDITION, 1640.<sup>1</sup>

The Scots having made a battery and drawn down their army, our works were provided with men to defend them, and with others to second them. Six troops of horse were placed to charge the Scots where they came over, and six or seven more were placed to second them. When the Scots forces were in readiness, and their cannon placed, our works were not proof against them; the soldiers were new, unacquainted with the cannon, and

<sup>1</sup> Hailes, *Memorials and Letters*, 102; quoted in Hill Burton, *History*, vi., 304. Cf. Gardiner, *History*, ix., 194.

therefore did not endure many shot; those that were to second them followed their example.

The horse charged the Scots and drove them back into the river; but the cannon beating through, some of our troops that were sent to second went off when they saw the place forsaken. They should have gone on the left hand, that they might have gone off with the foot; but mistaking their direction, went on the right hand, which carried them up the hill, where they found some troops. Whilst they consulted what was best to be done, the Scots horse came up in two divisions, and with them ten thousand musketeers. The first charge was upon the regiment commanded by Lord Wilmot, who was there taken prisoner, his men forsaking him, and falling foul of some troops of the Lord Conway's regiment, disordered them; the rest being charged, did as they saw others do before them.

AN ACCOUNT BY JAMES GORDON, PARSON OF ROTHIE MAY.<sup>1</sup>

Leslye sent a trumpetter to the Lord Conowaye, desyring his licence to passe towards his Majestye with ther petitione, and shewing them that they were come into England to worong nobodye, if they wer not per-sewd. Conoway answered that he wold permitte a few, but had no orders for to lett ane army passe; and sundrye of his souldiours sent backe jeers and ill language with the trumpetter; wpon whoise returne, Lesly commanded three hundereth horse to advaunce unto the river, and after they had crossed it, for to macke a stande; and if the English persewed them, for to reteere, that so the followers might be drawne under the mercye of Leslyes canon, which wer hidd from the English. Thes, at ther first crossing, wer so galled by the English musketeers from behynde the breest worke, that they wer forced to reteer; which Leslye perceiving, played upon the blynd with his canon so furiouslye as made the English musketeers

<sup>1</sup> *History of Scots Affairs*, iii., 258.

abandon ther post, cast awaye ther armes and flee. Then the Scottish cavalry readvanced; but no sooner crossed they, but they wer charged by Mr. Wilmot, comissarye generall of the horse, so hottly as they either dissembled a retreate, or runne backe in good earnest. Wilmot per-sewed them, but Lesly did lett flye so hottly at him with his canon, that Wilmots horse beganne to reele; wher-upon the three hundred horse who first had fledd from them, tacking ther advauntage, readvaunce upon their persewers. Meane whyle, the rest of the Scottish armye enter the river, and crosse without hinderance. The formost of them comming upp, second ther forpairtye so stiffly, that all the burthen of the encounter being borne upp by Wilmott and a few gentlmen, annoyd with the Scottish cannon and overnumbered, they wer glade to runne for ther safetye. The light horsemen of the Scottish wer commanded to performe this service, and fall upon Wilmot, who stood to it after the rest wer gone. . . . The Lord Conowaye perceiving the cavallry rowted, and the infantry runne all awaye, hasted his retreate to the King.