

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

A CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE

Letters (1 to 8) from the young Thomas Daunt (1619–1658) at Owlpen to his father, Thomas Daunt III (c. 1593–1669), residing at Gortigrenane, county Cork, where he was High Sheriff in 1645.¹² Thomas matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, 18 November, 1636, aged 16, taking his B.A. on 9 June 1640, but died aged 39 without issue and never inherited. The originals are in the Gloucester County Records Office (D. 979). (Editor's paragraphing; year dates revised to new style.)

Letter 1

touching Dicke Sparkes his claime to the little field, Mr Leigh desires to know your resolution, before any suit be commenced, you know what fortune those evidences had, yet he believes it will noe way prejudice, for other matters you may conclude as you thinke fitting; if God send peace, all will doe well, for the impartial iudgement of Parliament will confirme right to all, who are in such a predicament, as he is certaine there are many. I desire to heare from you in this particular.

Decemb. 1^o. 1645

Letter 2

To my honour'd ffather Thomas Daunt Esquire at Gortigrinane neare Corke in Irland these

S^r Since my last (wherein I inclosed Bookes) I never heard from you, the wind being contrary till very lately. I pray God send us comfortable news from Youghall: my Lord Herbert¹³ hath bene employed to the Irish, but can prevaile little for the king's supply, as we are credibly informed. his father's house at Ragland¹⁴ is block't up, the onely Garrison left in Monmouthshire for the Cabbs. Major Generall Laugherne¹⁵ hath

¹² J. Daunt points out that there were two Thomas Daunts living, this Thomas and his cousin who m. Susan Curle, c. 1600 in Gloucester (see *Family of Daunt*, p. 12 and fn.).

¹³ Edward Somerset, 2nd marquess of Worcester (1602/3–1667); Lt-Gen. S. Wales and Monmouth; cdr of Royalist forces defeated at Highnam, 24/5 March 1642/3; during his mission to Ireland to raise troops for Charles I, signed Glamorgan Treaty, Aug. 1645; Royalist General of Forces in Munster, 1646–7; imprisoned in Tower, 1652–4.

¹⁴ Raglan Castle, the fortress-palace of Henry Somerset, earl (1643, cr. 1st marquess) of Worcester, was scene of one of the longest sieges of the war (3 Jun–19 Aug. 1646). The great tower was undermined, and the priceless library burned under the supervision of Henry Herbert of Coldbrook. Worcester d. shortly after (18 Dec. 1646).

¹⁵ Rowland Laugharne, Parliamentary commander in Pembrokeshire during the first civil war. By March 1644 he had captured Milford Haven as a safe anchorage for the fleet. He was defeated by Sir Charles Gerrard at Newcastle Emlyn in the spring of 1645, but on 1 August finally won free, leaving the way open for his advance into the heart of Wales and Raglan.

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taken [Emlyn] Castle in Camarthenshire, & Abristwith towne in Cardigan shire, ye castle is not yet surrendered. Brecknock Castle is taken by Laughern's forces, for yt ye king hath never a Garrison in South-Wales besides Abristwith Castle, Monmouth being reckoned mongst the English shires.

I have sent you two of the last Diurnals I have,¹⁶ & if you like such ware I can supply you sometimes therewith. Exceter is in a very straight condition, Sr Thomas ffairfax¹⁷ his head Quarters being now 12 miles beyond Tiverton, 'tis beleevd that cittie will quickly surrender wthout bloudshed. Goring¹⁸ is either sicke in Pendennis Castle, or gone into ffrance, Hopton¹⁹ is their Generall, whose men run daily to our Army by Hundreds, & scores, neither have they hope of Recruite, the Cornish being more wary, it is sayd a partie is risen amongst them for the Paliament, Sr Thomas hath sent a Brigade of Horse out of the West, wch he can well spare (God be blessed) they surprised a great party of the king's about woodstock, and are to lye about Oxford this winter, wch together wth Abington, will annoy Oxford, Col. Browne²⁰ tooke above 200 prisoners of Oxford men this last weeke: Newark upon Trent is now beleaguered by Major Gen. Poyntz,²¹ & ye Earle of Leven,²² they have gained 5 forts already, & are prepared for a speedy storme:

¹⁶ Refers to copies of one of the first newsheet pamphlets, such as the weekly *A Perfect Diurnall*, published by the Puritan partisan, Samuel Pecke.

¹⁷ Thomas, third baron Fairfax (1612–71), commander of the New Model Army, captured Dartmouth on 20 Jan 1646, then marched to Exeter. As victor at Marston Moor (1641), at the end of the 'first' Civil War his reputation stood higher even than that of Cromwell. He had taken Bristol and Berkeley Castle in September 1645; he besieged Tiverton in October, when it fell to him by a lucky shot hitting the drawbridge chain.

¹⁸ George Lord Goring (1608–57), notoriously brutal Royalist commander, led a heroic cavalry charge at Marston Moor. He retreated to the West, ostensibly to prevent the Model Army from raising the siege at Taunton, and was defeated by Fairfax at Langport, July 1645. When Exeter rose against him in October, he retreated to Cornwall, and thence to the Continent Nov. 1645 on grounds of ill health.

¹⁹ Sir Ralph, lord Hopton (1596–1652), born at Witham, Somerset, MP for Wells in the Short and Long Parliaments. He had secured Devon for the Royalists after the battle of Stratton in March 1643. He was appointed Commander of the western army in early 1646. Having been defeated by Fairfax at Torrington on 16 February, he surrendered to him at Truro on 14 March 1646. He died in exile in Bruges.

²⁰ Sir Richard Browne (d. 1669), parliamentary general, citizen of London. Described as a 'woodmonger' among the adventurers for the reconquest of Ireland; defeated insurgents of Kent at Tonbridge (Jul. 1643); major-general for the forces subduing Oxford, taking part in the two sieges of the city, headquartered at Abingdon; changed sides and imprisoned; lord mayor of London, 1660, and cr. kt and baronet on the Restoration.

²¹ Sydenham Poyntz (b. c. 1608), Presbyterian, commander of the Northern Association army in May 1645, drove the king back to Oxford in November 1645, then joining Leven and the Covenanters at the siege of Newark.

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The Scots by reason of Mountrosse²³ his successes in Septemb. left Hereford²⁴ untaken, after they had beleaguer'd it 5 weekes with a Gallant Army: but Mountrosse is repulsed into the Caledonian hills, & Major Generall Middleton²⁵ is at St Johnstone's wth 5000 to oppose, & chase him. & now it hath pleased God to deliver Hereford to Colonell Morgan,²⁶ it was the finest stratagem since the warrs. the middle of Decemb. the mote of Hereford was frozen over, & Skudamore²⁷ the governor sent out warrants to warne the Country to come in & breake the ice, wch warrant was surprised, together with the bearers, by Colonell Hopton's Leiutennant of Cannon ffrome Garrison in Hereford shire,²⁸ & sent it to Col. Morgan, who presently contrived, that this Leiutennant clad like a country man should goe to Hereford, with 8 more, before day, of a small party of Horse answerable to those that came forth with the warrant, who accordingly, went & beat the ice, & desired the Centinell to let down the bridge, otherwise they would returne.

Soe, before day he did, & when the Leiutennant entered he cleft the Centinell's head, & made good the bridge, & upon a sign given 150 ffire Locks, who lay concealed all night in an old burnt house neare the

²² Alexander Leslie, Earl of Leven (1580–1661), Covenantanter, a veteran of the 30 Years' and Netherlands Wars, led the Scottish troops against the Irish rebels in 1642-3.

²³ James Graham, Marquess of Montrose (1612–50), the King's deputy in Scotland, raised his standard against the 'Covenanters' at Blair Atholl 30 Aug. 1644 with a motley army largely of Irish Catholics. He led a successful 'Year of Miracles' campaign terrorising the Highlands, with the Covenanters largely absent in England fighting for Parliament, securing notable victories at Tippermuir (1 Sept. 1644), Aberdeen (13 Sept. 1644), Inverlochy (2 Feb. 1645), etc. He mustered a large army to head into England after the Royalist defeat at Naseby to engage at Kilsyth (15 Aug. 1645). After he was finally checked by the returning Covenanters at Philiphaugh (13 Sept. 1645), he fought a rearguard action until many followers were massacred and he escaped to Norway. He was defeated after a final campaign in the spring of 1650 and, having been renounced by Charles II, hanged in Edinburgh.

²⁴ Hereford was defended by a Scudamore's garrison of 1,500 Royalists and 4,000 civilians. The Scots army of 14,000 infantrymen under Lord Leven laid siege on 31 July. The siege lasted a month, but the Scots withdrew when they heard the king's cavalry was advancing to relieve the city. Charles entered in triumph on 4 Sept. However, Hereford was recaptured by the Parliamentarians led by Col. John Birch on 18 Dec. 1645 by the ruse described.

²⁵ Lt-General Sir John Middleton, of Calhame, Kincardine, cavalry commander, leader of the Covenanters against Montrose; captured after Preston, Aug. 1648; joined the Royalists and led a fateful cavalry attack at the battle of Worcester, 3 Sept. 1651. Following the battle, he was imprisoned, but escaped from the Tower into exile with Charles II, who made him earl of Middleton on the Restoration.

²⁶ Col. John Morgan, Massey's successor as governor of Gloucester.

²⁷ Barnabas Scudamore (b. 1603), youngest brother of John, 1st Viscount Scudamore (ambassador to Paris), had become governor of Hereford in Feb. 1644, then Sheriff of the county in December. He was knighted by Charles I on the relief of the city.

²⁸ Canon Frome Court had been taken by the Scots on 22 July 1645, when most of the garrison were put to the sword. It lay in the direct line between Hereford and Worcester.

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towne,²⁹ entered, & after them a strong party of Horse, who presently seized the maine court of guard, & soe possess themselves of the towne. Col. Morgan rode first, Col. Byrch, commanded the foot, who brought 800 from Brist-oll. Ye souldiers had liberty to plunder from 8 of the clocke in the morning, till 4 of the clocke in the afternoon: it was a very rich booty to the souldiers to the undoing of the citty. There were 500 Horse taken, & very many eminent pe[ople] amongst the rest, ye Ld Brudenell,³⁰ a Northampton shire papist, Sr David Jenkin[s]³¹ a m... judge, & one of the 84 excepted against, ye bishop of the Diocesse, & other Priests & store of Papists, wth the Governor of Gotheridge Castle, & all his troops except 8 horse.

The primate of Armagh is dead neare Cardiff,³² & reverend Dr Twisse³³ one of the synod is very sicke in London: my cousin Bromwich is not returned from London, he is expected dayly, wth mr Carew Rawleigh, sonne to sr Walter Rawleigh,³⁴ one of our Committee, when they are in Gloucester, we shall not want sure friends, sr Gyles Overbury,³⁵ brother to sr Thomas, is like wise a Committee man, & so is mr Herbert,³⁶ who

²⁹ The ruins of St Guthlac's Priory.

³⁰ Thomas Brudenell, Royalist leader, married Mary, dau. of the recusant Sir Thomas Tresham of Rushton, Northants (architect of Lyveden Triangular Lodge and New Bield) by Mary Throckmorton. His house at Deene Park was sacked in the Civil Wars, but he was rewarded with the earldom of Cardigan by Charles II in 1661.

³¹ Sir David Jenkins (1582–1663), of Hensol, Glam., Welsh judge, jurist and Royalist, who indicted Parliamentarians in his circuit of high treason, including Laugharne, and suffered long imprisonment. A newspaper stated he had £6,000 in gold on his person at his capture.

³² James Ussher (1581–1656), archbishop of Armagh, whose son-in-law, Tyrell, was Governor of Cardiff. On his way from there to St Donat's with his daughter, he was 'barbarously used' by Welsh insurgents, and stripped of his books and papers. Having 'bled four days together', his death was reported, but in fact he recovered.

³³ William Twisse (1578?–1646), Puritan prolocutor of the Westminster assembly of divines. On 1 April 1645 it was reported that he was 'very sick and in great straits'. He d. Holborn 20 July 1646.

³⁴ Carew Raleigh (1605–1666), MP in the Rump Parliament; born in the Tower, he was the 2nd (surviving) son of Sir Walter Raleigh by Elizabeth Throckmorton (of Coughton). He was thus remotely connected to the Daunts.

³⁵ Sir Giles Overbury was son of Sir Nicholas Overbury (1549?–1643) of Bourton-on-the-Hill, Glos; Recorder and MP for Gloucester in 1603. His brother, Sir Thomas Overbury I, was a poet and victim of court intrigue, imprisoned in the Tower and there poisoned.

³⁶ Thomas Herbert (1606–82) of Little Tintern, near Coldbrook, Monmouth, son of Christopher Herbert of the N. Riding, was educated at both Jesus, Oxford, and Trinity, Cambridge. In 1627 through the influence of the earl of Pembroke, he was appointed to accompany the English embassy to Persia in the suite of Dodmore Cotton. He travelled widely in the East and published his *Description of the Persian Monarchy* (1634). He was appointed by Parliament to attend Charles I from Newcastle to Holdenby. He was with him on the scaffold, and published *Threnodia Carolina (Memoirs)*, George Nicol: London, 1839), an account of the last two years of the king's reign. He was cr. Baronet at the Restoration.

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wrote the booke of travail, I intimate thus much, because I shall have occasion to A[...] them concerning the [...] ration of ye rates of our parish, mr Herbert is a Gentleman yt understands Arabicke & Persian.

I would have written to my brother, but know not where his abode is, I have not heard from him, nor of him, since you went for Ireland. I beseech you to let us know how he doeth. My mother remembereth her love & servise to you, I hope to write speedily, when I shall have more leasure, meane while I remaine

yr most obedient sonne

Tho: Daunt

Owlpen Jan. 2. 164[6]

Letter 3

To my very Loving ffather Thomas Daunt Esquire at Gortigrinane in the County of Corke in Ireland these

S^r Since my last by Captaine Dyer, a little time hath produced much good newes out of the West: the truth of the insuing relation I received from Lionell Cave, who came home this day from visiting his mother, & friends in the remotest parts of Somerset shire: Thus it is.

S^r Thomas ffairfax tooke 2000 Horse & Men, of Grenvil's,³⁷ & Hopton's, yt attempted to relieve Exceter, & all the Convoy's whereupon Exceter remaineth still distressed, & in great hopes of sodaine yeilding, sr Thomas hath taken Dartmouth,³⁸ & 80 pieces of Ordinance in it, the further particulars I must reserve for my next Le^s, he hath relieved Plimmouth also, & taken 800 Horse of the Enemie: soe that now his Head-Quarters are at Plimmouth, & the Cabbs are all runne into Cornwall, except 1500 Horse who broke by sr Thomas his Army to stop whose flight the Clubmen of Somerset are in a gallant posture according as they were commaunded.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday last, being the 20th, 21th, 22th dayes, there was heard in those parts most terrible thundering of Ordinance, between Weymouth, & Lyme, & by the relations of those that came from Lyme, there is a fleete of 50 saile of Danes, with whome our shipping have incountred, I pray God give them the victory: the wind being south-east, ye Danes will hazard to recover ffalmouth, but I hope they shall be prevented by those that now oppose them, who cannot want timely succour as the wind bloweth: you shall heare more amply by the

³⁷ Sir Bevil Grenville (1596–1643), grandson of Sir Richard Grenville, captain of the *Revenge*; Cornish landowner and MP, whose infantrymen fought for Hopton in a series of battles in Devon and Cornwall. They led the counter-attack on Landown Hill, near Bath, in July 1643, but he was killed in the assault. Many of his heroic infantry were killed in Prince Rupert's bloody attack on Bristol a few weeks later.

³⁸ Fairfax stormed and captured Dartmouth on 20 January 1646.

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next opportunity: in the meane time you may rest satisfied of the truth hereof:

My Cousin John Clayton hath a designe to goe for Irland with Commaund, there are divers troopers in Gloucester of his acquaintance, have ingaged their promise [to join] him, if he can procure a Commission; I have gotten the like promise from others, for my Brother, I believe we must make a journey to London, any favour herein, I shall be sure of from my speciall friends of the Committee. my purpose to doe you servise (wch if God prosper, will advantage you, & yours) I will conceale, till it be effected. with my prayers for your safety, & our happie meeting,

I remaine yor very obedient sonne

Thomas Daunt

Owlpen 25th Jan. 164[6]

Letter 4

ffor Thomas Daunt Esquire at Gortegrinane neare Corke in Irland

S^r My Letters of the 22th ffebr. could not have so speedy a Convoy to Bristoll as I hoped, therefore I have changed the Date: my Brother's will informe you of our resolution to London, and wherefore broken off.

My Lord of Inchequin³⁹ is made President of Munster, and the Lord Lisle,⁴⁰ eldest sonne to the Earle of Leicester, a member of the house of Commons, is appoynted Deputy Generall of Ireland, as these Diurnalls here inclosed will informe you. the Londoners have undertaken the warre there, and our course must be to procure Letters of Commendations from the Committee of Gloucester to the Grand Committee in my Brother's, and my Cousin's, behalfe, who may likely to be Captaines of troopes, there is a Competent number of horse already raised, yt desire to be under their Commaunds and if that Course hold, as I conceive, you shall shortly understand, what it is I am to propose to you, which will prove advantageous to yourselfe, and friends, till then I am silent.

³⁹ Murrough O'Brien, 'the Incendiary', 6th baron and 1st earl of Inchiquin (1614–74), was chief of the O'Briens, and after the Marquis of Ormond, the leading Protestant peer among the Old English in Ireland. He married the daughter of Sir William St Leger, President of Munster, and when St Leger died in 1641, took over as Vice-Pres. of Munster. He expelled the Catholics from Youghall, Cork and Kinsale, and consolidated his hold on the south west in a series of anti-Catholic atrocities. The slaughter of the garrison at Cashel in Sept. 1647 earned him the soubriquet 'Mourragh of the Burnings'. Switched to the Royalists in 1648, hence his step up in the peerage; turned Catholic by 1654.

⁴⁰ Philip Sidney (1619–1698, 3rd earl of Leicester, MP for Yarmouth; as lord deputy of Ireland in 1642 commanded a plundering expedition; lieutenant-general of the horse under Ormond, popular with parliamentary sympathizers; made lord lieutenant of Ireland 21 Jan. 1646, becoming involved in a violent quarrel with Inchiquin; member of various Councils of State under Commonwealth.

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I desire your answer to some particulars formerly mentioned, touching Andrew Spark's Land,⁴¹ he being lately Dead, & Margarite Purnell.⁴² The taxe of one year from Sept. 1644 till Sept. 1645 for the Brittish Army in Irland, is to be payd in at Quedgley for Glo'stershire the 10th of this moneth, our share amounts to 5£ 17s. there is likewise a great Presse for souldiers in Glo'ster, & Sommerset-shires, 'tis thought they are designed for Irland. The King intends to flight his Garrisons, & march this spring. Abbington⁴³ Garrison have given them another overthrow lately, whether 600 taken, or slaine is uncertaine. Newwarke is closely beseiged,⁴⁴ they have scarce another garrison in those parts, since Belvoyre Castle was taken.

meeting with this opportune Messenger, who is in hast, I cannot inlarge my selfe as I would, your friends are in good health, & commaund me to present their due respects unto you, Mr Saunders desires to have his servise remembred. wth the tender of my duty I humble remaine

yr most obedient sonne

Thomas Daunt

Woottonne March 6th 164[6]

Letter 5

S^r I did lately write in Answer to your last letter; wherein I did express, that it were necessary you should repaire into England, if it might stand with your conveniency; & now that this bearer, unkle to Susan Clark your servant, is bound for Ireland & desired my Letter to you, upon my mother's com[m]and I have written by him; as for the occasion that doth cause him to goe, I know none, but that he is willing to take some bargain about you, & settle himselfe there. Mr Rich. Mervin sent a letter from Dublin to you the last Christmas, where he is a prisoner, & in much necessity; I did shew it to my unkle at Prinknash, & he keepes it for Mr Davies; my unkle did wish me that you should supply him with 5£, & he will allow it here. your friends (you wot of) expect your arrival about the proposed business, I hope (if it do stand with your good Likeing) you will bring over money to supply that use. I pray let my Bookes be brought over: I have nothing els at this time to trouble you withall, except the Legacy which Ch. Benet oweth; & should be glad to heare what hopes there are, to recover it: The Bearer's Hast doth stop my Pen, with my humble Duty I rest

⁴¹ Owlpen deeds refer to Henry Sparke's house 'near the common pound' in 1669 (D2078/ BOX 4/10). (Possibly today's Owlpen Farm or Summerfield.)

⁴² William Purnell was served a writ for non-payment of rent by the Daunts in the ?16th cent. (D2078/BOX 6/1).

⁴³ Abingdon garrison had fallen to the parliamentary forces in May 1644.

⁴⁴ The third and final siege of Newark began in late Nov. 1645, continuing to May 1646.

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your most obedient sonne
Tho: Daunt

Owlpen. 10. April 1650.

Letter 6

*To my deare & Honoured father Thomas Daunt Esq, at Gortegrinane neare
Cork in Ireland these*

S^r This morning Henry Coolishey sent me word, that he was bound for Ireland with the first wind, & desired me to send my Letters forthwith; I have at present no great matter to write, besides what I intimated by Gyles Clark in my last: which is a desire, if it may stand with your conveniencies, that you would come over: it will be necessary to bring some moneys with you: your friends do expect a prosecution of the proposed business, which cannot be done till your Return. my mother resolveth to be in Ireland speedily with her family. I pray let my Bookes be brought over: I wish I could get that mony, wch Chr. Benet oweth. your stock of Cattle at present will not yeild the full value, by reason that fodder is very scarce, & the spring backward. my unkle desireth, you would send Rich: Mervin 5£ to Dublin, where he is a prisoner, & he will allow it here.

My Cousin Ben: Baker is well in London, & doth not purpose to se[e] Ireland till St James-tide: he did write unto me, that the Scots & their declared king are agreed upon the Covenant-termes, some Parl-men are his Authors: & that Gen: Cromwell, long since voted to come over, is now earnestly desired to be back here within 3 weeks. my Cousin Poyntz doth much wonder she cannot heare from James Coolishey or his wife.

These is a speech that Inchiquin's quarters were beaten up about Limerick, & Col. Rand. Clayton taken prisoner, Inchiquin hardly escaping in his shirt.

My Lady Low is an earnest suitor to you, that you would procure her a Barrell of pickled Samphier,⁴⁵ & some scallop shells; Maxeene Patrick did promise to send her some shells. I find it will be necessary to hasten Will: Godwin over to testify viva voce against young Mr Lyte: with my humble duty I rest

Yor ever obedient sonne
Tho: Daunt

Owlpen 13. Apr. 1650.

⁴⁵ John M. Samphier writes (June 2002): 'As you can see I am a Samphier and hope that he wasn't talking of eating my ancestors. I think it should be 'Samphire', which is a fleshy coastal plant, also called Rock Samphire, Marsh Samphire, Glasswort, or earlier 'Sampere', from old French *Saint Pierre* (St.Peter's Herb).'

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Letter 7

To my much Honour'd father Thomas Daunt Esq at Gortegrinane neare Corke in Ireland these present

S^r I have now received the Bookes out of Ireland, & do perceive many of them are missing, which I desire, may be sent over: I have sent a Note of some of them to my Brother, & a Larg [...] I will send, when I have perused the Catalogue: my mother & sisters are ready to take their journey with the first faire wind, & I hope to se you here shortly after; I did intimate by Henry Coolishey that Mr Lowe is married, & your Coming is expected by his friends in prosecution of the proposed business; which I hope will be concluded presently after your arivall.

I cannot write any more Newes than what our friends can relate by word of mouth; my Cousin Thorn is lately married, & brought down his wife, & her sister, to see their kindred at Bristoll, before they went to Sea: There is little likely hood that my Cousin Ben: Baker will looke toward Ireland; He doth endeavour to procure a factor's place beyond Sea, & to that purpose hath gained good skill in the ffrench Tongue, & is now upon the study of Spanish, & Dutch: I have sent over a P[ow]er of Attorney to my Brother & my Cousin Will: Daunt about the Legacie due from Kit: Benet: which I desire may be recovered, & sent with all possible speed. I should be glad, if you be pleased to bring money with you, for the more com[m]endable carrying on of the work so well begun, which such a designe will require. Thus wishing you an happy return hither, I remain

yor most obedient sonne

Tho: Daunt

Bristol May 22. 1650.

Letter 8

To my Honour'd father Thomas Daunt Esq at Gortegrinane neare Cork in Ireland these

S^r I was in good Hope to have seen you e're this in England; I have bene very carefull to observe the purport of your Letter; but since you are so slacke in comming over, I desire you would be pleased to give me instructions what to doe, whether I should continue here, or goe into Ireland with Betty & George, & there to stay, till you come over: for as the case standeth, I doe not hold it for your profit to keepe House here, nor to leave things in the condition they now stand; therefore (if my advise might availe) I hold it most requisite for you to make one journey more over, as I am assured you cannot be ignorant how much it concerneth you & us all, the Lord direct you.

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As for Newes, I hinted in my last how a great Battaile happened betwixt Gen: Cromwell & the Scots,⁴⁶ which was true, onely the Number of slain men is far short, viz about 300, the party was com[m]anded by ye Lord Montgomery,⁴⁷ & Col: Straughen;⁴⁸ there designe was to kill Cromwell, but were prevented by a mistake. However major Gen: Lambert⁴⁹ was dangerously wounded. the Scottish party was repulsed with some Losse, Mountgomery & Straughen being at first reported to be killed in the servise, but since we heare, both those Commanders are liveing.

about the 9th august instant, the Head of the statue of king Charles on the Royal Exchange, was cutt off, & over the Headless Trunk was written in great gold Characters (in Latin) to this effect, The Last Tyrant of Kings dyed in the first year of the Liberty of England, on the 30. Jan. 1648. Since the Headless Body of King Charles was (as some say) stoln way 16. Aug. at night, but it is supposed to be taken away by Authority.

My Cousin Thorn complaineth much of sad times at present, & worse in future, as he feareth. I have nothing els to write, onely the mention of my duty to your selfe & my mother, with my respectfull Love to my Brothers sisters, & all my friends, I humbly remain

yr most obedient sonne to his power

Tho: Daunt

Owlpen 27. Aug. 1650

Letter 9 (From John Daunt at Prinknash to Thomas Daunt II)

John Daunt (c. 1562–1653), having returned from Barbados, was living at Prinknash, near Gloucester, with his niece, Frances, Lady Bridgeman, and the family of her daughter-in-law, Heavingham Bridgeman (d. March 1673, aged 65; bur. Nympsfield), widow of George Bridgeman (1607–1643).

To my much Respected Nephew Mr Thomas Daunt at Gortegrenan in the province of Munster in Irland deliver these

Deare Nephew

The longe expectation of your arival heare in England, acording to your often promises at appoynted times for the ending a buisnes begun by yo[u]rselfe and how farr you stand ingadged with yo[u]r Sonn is best

⁴⁶ Battle with the Scots 29 and 31 July 1650 at Quarry Holes, between Edinburgh and Leith. Cromwell retired in the evening of 31 July, but was suddenly attacked by a body of 2,000 horse and 500 foot soldiers under Straughan and Montgomerie, beating Cromwell 'soundlie' (Balfour).

⁴⁷ Maj.-Gen. Hugh Montgomerie, (later) seventh earl of Eglinton (1613–1669).

⁴⁸ Col. Archibald Strachan (d. 1652), parliamentary commander, had routed Montrose's troops at Carbisdale in Ross-shire on 27 April 1650, marking the final defeat of Montrose.

⁴⁹ John Lambert (1619–84), Parliamentarian officer later active in Commonwealth politics, led the last-ditch military resistance to the Restoration. He spent the final 24 years of his life in prison.

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knowne to your selfe. I intreate you as speedy comming over as with
convenience you may to the Ending of it one way or the other wherby
people of worth may noe longer be deluded in a mater of this Nature. Nor
your Self S[en]sible to that dangure which will atend you untill you come
therefore once agayne if the intreaty of an olde Uncle dying may prevayle
that you woulde set all Excuses aside and not fayle the proformance of this
my Request. I with my best Respects Remembred to you with my Cousin
your wiffe and best welwishes to all yours Doe Rest

your very ... uncle while I am
John Daunt

Prinknash
October 15 1650

If the Daunts of Owlpen protected their vested interest as Parliamentarians and Puritans, their cousins at Prinknash were zealous in their support for the king. George Bridgeman had been nominated a Deputy Lieutenant for Gloucestershire by Parliament in 1642. In early February the following year, 'in obedience to the King's command to secure himself from the insolences of the rebels', he went to Cirencester after it was attacked by a Royalist army under Prince Rupert. But a month later he was 'taken sick and died and was there interred' (in the Abbey church). He had married in 1631 Heavingham, daughter of Sir James Pitts of Kyre, Worcestershire, by his wife Mary, second daughter of Sir Arthur Heavingham, of Suffolk. Her monument in Nympsfield records: 'She survived in chaste widowhood 33 years and was to her last end very liberal in relieving the poor, whose loss they much lament'.

Frances, Lady Bridgeman, and her grandson John maintained Prinknash as a convenient Royalist stronghold during the siege of Gloucester in 1643. When the Royalists marched on Gloucester on 9 August, a diarist recorded, 'We had intelligence that provision was made for the entertainments of His Majesty at Princknedge, in the Lady Bridgemans house, three miles off the city, and that the foot and carriages would be there that night'. Prinknash became the headquarters of Prince Rupert and his staff of officers, until relief came to the Puritans of Gloucester from the Earl of Essex and the Parliamentary army a month later, on 5 September.

Lady Bridgeman was still alive in 1651 assisting the Royalist cause. Among persons charged with providing horses, arms, etc., for the king named in the records of the City of Gloucester dated 15 April that year appears 'the Lady Bridgeman with her grandchild, the son and heir of George Bridgeman, deceased, and Mrs Heavingham Bridgeman—1 horse ... with complete furniture of good and serviceable armes [viz.] back and breast, pott, pistols and sword'.

Thomas Daunt III died in 1664, shortly after the Restoration, leaving a short will (dated 20 January 1664) which divided his Irish estates between the families of his two sons, leaving Owlpen to his elder son, Achilles: