

## Regarding the storm at Drogheda

Upon Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of [September], about five o'clock in the evening, we began the Storm: and after some hot dispute we entered, about seven or eight hundred men; the Enemy disputing it very stiffly with us. And indeed, through the advantages of the place, and the courage God was pleased to give the defenders, our men were forced to retreat quite out of the breach, not without some considerable loss; Colonel Castle being there shot in the head, whereof he presently died: and divers officers and soldiers doing their duty killed and wounded. ... Although our men that stormed the breaches were forced to recoil, as is before expressed; yet, being encouraged to recover their loss, they made a second attempt: wherein God was pleased so to animate them that they got ground of the Enemy, and by the goodness of God, forced him to quit his entrenchments. ... Divers of the Enemy retreated into the Mill-Mount: a place very strong and of difficult access; being exceedingly high, having a good graft, and strongly palisadoed. The Governor, Sir Arthur Ashton, and divers considerable Officers being there, our men getting up to them, were ordered by me to put them all to the sword. And indeed, being in the heat of action, I forbade them to spare any that were in arms in the Town: and, I think, that night they put to the sword about 2,000 men; - divers of the officers and soldiers fled over the Bridge into the other part of the Town, where about 100 of them possessed St. Peter's Church-steeple, some the west Gate, and others a strong Round Tower next the Gate called St. Sunday's. These being summoned to yield to mercy, refused. Whereupon I ordered the steeple of St. Peter's Church to be fired, when one of them was heard to say in the midst of the flames: 'God damn me, God confound me, I burn, I burn.' ... When the [garrison] submitted, their officers were knocked on the head; and every tenth man of the soldiers killed; and the rest shipped for the Barbadoes. The soldiers in the other Tower were all spared, as to their lives only; and shipped likewise for the Barbadoes. I am persuaded that this is a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches, who have imbrued their hands in so much innocent blood; and that it will tend to prevent the effusion of blood for the future. Which are the satisfactory grounds to such actions, which otherwise cannot but work remorse and regret. The officers and soldiers of this Garrison were the flower of their Army. And their great expectation was, that our attempting this place would put fair to ruin us; they being confident of the resolution of their men, and the advantage of the place. If we had divided our force into two quarters to have besieged the North Town and the South Town, we could not have had such a correspondence between the two parts of our Army, but that they might have chosen to have brought their Army, and have fought with which part "of ours" they pleased, - and at the same time have made a sally with 2,000 men upon us, and have left their walls manned; they having in the Town the number hereafter supplied, but some say near 4,000.

Oliver Cromwell, *A Letter from Ireland Read in the House of Commons on Friday Septemb 28 1649* (London, 1649)

## Wexford

‘... We came before *Wexford*, into which the enemy had put a garison consisting of their Army, this Town having until then been so confident of their own strength ... [however] The Captain who was one of the Commissioners being fairly treated, yielded up the Castle to us: upon the top of which our men no sooner appeared, but the enemy quitted the walls of the town, which our men perceiving, ran violently upon the Town with their ladders and stormed it: And when they were come into the Market place, the enemy making a stiff resistance, our forces brake them, and then put all to the sword that came in their way: Two Boatfuls of the Enemy attempting to escape, being over prest with numbers sunk, whereby were drowned near Three hundred of them: I believe there was not lost of the Enemy not many less then two thousand, and I believe not Twenty of yours killed, from first to last of the Siege. And indeed, it hath not without cause been deeply set upon our hearts, that we intending better to this place, then so great a ruine, hoping the Town might be of more use to you and your Army; yet God would not have it so, but by an unexpected Providence, in his Righteous Justice, brought a just Judgement upon them, causing them to become a prey to with their bloods to answer the cruelties which they had exercised upon the lives of divers poor Protestants ... The soldier got a very good Booty in this place, and had they not had opportunity to carry their goods over the River, whilst we besieged it, it would have been much more. I could have wished for their own good, and the good of the Garison, they had been more moderate.’

Oliver Cromwell, *A Letter from The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, To the Honorable William Lenthall Esq; Speaker of the Parliament of England ...* (London, 1649)

‘And now the Irish are ashamed/to see themselves in one year tamed.’  
Andrew Marvell, *An Horation Ode upon Cromwell’s return from Ireland* (1650)