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Drumlangrick said he would be bound in any bonds I liked, but would never lay hostages in this realm. I therefore beseech you that, without doing as the others, neither he nor the Lords of Cobenton, Carmichael, &c., nor others of Clydesdale and Teviotdale, be received under His Majesty's protection; I trust they will be compelled to serve like the others. I have great offers to receive them, as they are on the East Marches.

Sir John Ireland, Lord Maxwell's priest, came to Carlisle on the 11th inst., with your commission for his passage into Scotland, to return at pleasure; he told me you had commanded such of Lord Maxwell's friends as would serve the King to make their appointment with me, and I have granted assurance to certain persons from the 1st to the 15th. I trust His Majesty shall soon have all those countrymen whom Lord Maxwell stayed to serve him as others do. I presume the priest carries secret messages between Lord Maxwell and others in Scotland. I caused Thomas Carleton and a clerk of mine to repair to the Tolbooth at Dumfries, with a commission in His Majesty's name, on the 8th inst., to receive the oath of all the inhabitants who had not taken it at Carlisle, the obedience of whom,—friar, priest, and all,—was no little comfort for the Englishmen to see; the friars are content to leave their habit and wear secular priests' gowns, and will do anything I command them; they make suit for help, not having wherewith to live except the demesne of the house, which will find but for three, and there are seven of them. I have appointed the receipt of Cockpool tower from Patrick Murray; I have also had a view of Dumfries, Milk castle, and the house at Lochwood; as Mr. Ridgway has arrived, he shall pass to those parts and certify you thereon.

As to the number of Scots come to me as yet that will serve His Majesty under Lord Lenox, I presume that 1,500 good and active men dwelling in Scotland would be ready, upon wages or reward, to serve, 600 horsemen and 900 foot; and there are 6,000 under protection, whose names and hostages I have. I have reasoned with the masters of these 1,500, as to furnishing them for service.

I would advise that the Earl of Lenox, before his entry, should send to the noblemen and others in that realm whom he accounts his friends, to know what they would do with or under him, in His Majesty's service against the Governor, and what hostages they would lay in this realm, to be at your command for performance of their promises; and I would that all services to be done by Scotchmen in Scotland were ordered and set forth by you or others of His Majesty's officers in this realm, and convenient hostages taken for the same. Their doings amongst themselves would tend little to the King's honour, and inconveniences may grow to the Earl of Lenox and others that intend to advance His Majesty's affairs. Before his entry also I would have it considered what furniture shall be had for his company, and what holds shall be ready for him to live in. The Governor says he will fight him if he comes, but I think his power, except the strongholds he has, little to be esteemed at present. He begs and looks for money out of France. At their late conference at