551. Lord Deputy and Council to Captain Robert Preston.

"Upon some late information given the Lord Deputy and Council of some discourse between Col. Mathew Alured[1] and yourself, at his last being in Ireland, wherein the said Col. expressed some words discovering some discontent of spirit or dissatisfaction concerning his Highness, the Lord Protector, and scandal of the present government, you are desired by them to certify forthwith what those expressions were (to the best of your remembrance) either spoken to yourself or others, and what other matter you can signify concerning this business fit for their knowledge." 10 Nov. Letters of the Lord Deputy and Council A/30. 28. f. 12.

552. Oliver Cromwell to the Lord Deputy and Council.

Order them to pay Major Peter Wallis £475. 1. 8 by way of reparation for the loss sustained by him in transporting Irish into Spain, the King of Spain's officers never having paid his expenses—£8013.[2] 12. 0. 14 Nov. Letters of the Lord Protector and Council A/28. 26. f. 45.

553. Whereas by an Order of this Board bearing date 13th September last, it was declared that all Commissions and Instructions formerly granted by the late Commissioners of the Commonwealth, which were in force upon the 9th of that month should continue till the 20th inst., by which time it was hoped that the affairs of this nation might have been put into a regular way of management: now, forasmuch as the time limited by the said Declaration is near expired, and no full course as yet taken for the further administration of justice in the several precincts and places of this land, it is ordered that all Commissions for the peace and administration of justice in Ireland be in full force until further order. 14 Nov. Orders A/5. 5. f. 35.

554. Lord Deputy and Council to the Lord Protector.

"Having received late letters from your Highness intimating

[1] Col. Alured or Allured was arrested and tried for signing a petition protesting against the powers given Cromwell as Protector and praying for a free Parliament. He was kept in the Tower for a year and deprived of his command in the army. In 1659 the Rump appointed him captain of their life-guard. See Carlyle's *Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*, ed. Lomas, ii, pp. 330-1.

[2] An impossible sum. Query a mistake for £813: *cf.* pp. 506-7.

your resolutions to proceed speedily to a settlement of the army, requiring our advice upon the place concerning the number of forces necessarily to be continued in Ireland, as well for the defence of garrisons as for the field, we have, in pursuance of your Highness' said commands, taken the advice of the officers of the army and by all other means endeavoured to inform ourselves of whatsoever might conduce to our clear understanding, in order to your Highness' satisfaction in this matter, and do find so many dangers appearing upon the least further lengthening (*sic*) of strength here, that we are more led by the consideration of the wants of the State than by our own judgments to present our opinion unto your Highness, that the army of Ireland be brought to a lower establishment than what we have lately represented viz. 15,000 foot and 4000 horse; and if the consideration of any necessity shall induce your Highness to appoint a smaller number, we are somewhat affected with what may be the future consequence thereof, the generality of the Irish nation being brought to the utmost of despair, the Scottish inhabitants generally disaffected, and many of those of our own nation, from whom we may (if from any here) expect assistance against the ancient enemies of their country and religion, being so lately returned from asserting the kingly interest of that family, to which they have with such vehemency adhered that they rather choose to associate in a confederacy with bloody Irish rebels than own the government of the Commonwealth.

"We are endeavouring to carry on the work of transplanting the Irish proprietors and such as have been in arms into Connaught effectually, and have given directions that the forfeited lands be set out to the soldiery and Adventurers, which being performed, we hope (unless an invasion from without or some unexpected danger surprise us from within) that the establishment of this army may be brought to 12,000 foot and 3000 horse with 600 dragoons, and that what forces are above that number may be reduced. We do not hold it fit to trouble your Highness with a particular account of the places fit to be kept as garrisons, with the distinct numbers of men necessarily to be continued in them, which, by the lowest computation we can make, will be 8000 foot besides some horse, the remainder being but 4000 foot and those for the field, having sent Commissary-General

Reynolds sufficiently instructed from us to represent unto your Highness the true state and condition of the particulars above-said and of your affairs here, to whose information we refer the same and remain yours etc." 14 Nov. Letters of the Lord Deputy and Council A/30. 28. ff. 14-15.

555. Same to Colonel Robert Phaire, Major Denison, Captain Baker, Mr Benjamin Crofts etc.

" Understanding that there hath been and daily is great spoil made in the woods belonging to the Commonwealth within the County of Cork, to the great prejudice of the State, in order to the prevention of which we do hereby desire you to appoint some able and honest persons such as you shall think fit, not exceeding in the whole four in number, to range the respective woods belonging to the Commonwealth in the said county, with directions that, if they find any person felling, cutting, barking or any other way spoiling or prejudicing the aforesaid woods, that they bring such offenders before you or either of you, and if they are soldiers and in the pay of the Commonwealth, that you proceed against them according to the usual course of martial law, and if country people, that the several penalties by Acts and Statutes in such cases be inflicted upon such offenders. . . ." 14 Nov. *Ib.* ff. 21-2.

556. By the Lord Deputy and Council.

" By virtue of the power and trust committed to us by his Highness, Oliver Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland, we do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Henry Markham, Edward Roberts and Richard Kingdon Esqs. to be Commissioners-General of the Assessments and all other public revenues of Ireland and of every branch thereof, as also of the several and respective stores of provisions and clothes therein. . . ." [17 Nov.] Commissions etc. A/26. 24. ff. 1-2.

557. Instructions to the preceding, *inter alia* :—

3. You are to take care that the monthly assessments, together with the monies growing due to the Commonwealth for customs and excise etc., be from time to time paid into the hands