938 (i). Instructions for setting and letting the parochial tithes and glebes formerly appropriated to the maintenance of the ministers of the Gospel. *Inter alia,*

" 1. You are to let and set for one year, commencing 1st May next and ending 30th April 1658, at the best improved rent you can over and above all taxes and contributions, all the said glebe-lands and tithes now in the possession and dispose of his Highness and the Commonwealth to such persons as shall desire to become tenants to the same, preferring such to the tenancy thereof as are occupiers and tillers of the said lands, provided they will give a competent rate for the same ; and that you may know what rate is competent or reasonable you are to endeavour to inform yourselves, by the best ways and means you can, what number of acres, quantity and sorts of corn and other things titheable there is in each parish ; and that you let not to any one person more than the tithes and glebes of one parish in one contract." 3 April. Commissions etc. A/26. 24. f. 269.

939. The Council to Secretary Thurloe.

" We have in some former addresses represented the ruinous condition the town of Galway then was in, and should not have adventured to give you this further interruption amidst your many and great affairs did not our duty to his Highness, and the due sense we have how much the public will undoubtedly suffer, if some speedy and effectual course be not taken for the well planting thereof, give us some enforcement to it. His Highness hath so perfect an understanding of that place, as we need not add much ; howbeit [we] may be bold to say that for the situation thereof, voisinage and commerce it hath with Spain, the Straits, West Indies and other places, no town or port in the three nations (London excepted) was more considerable, nor in all probability would more encourage trade abroad or manufacture at home than this, if well improved. It is a town made very defensive both by art and nature, and consists of many noble buildings, uniform and most of them of marble, which that country hath plenty of ; yet by reason of the late horrid Rebellion and general waste then and since made by the impoverished English inhabiting there, many of the houses are become very ruinous ; and inasmuch as there appears more encouragement for this new plantation than formerly (for that no Irish are per-

mitted to live in the city or within three miles thereof) the better to accommodate the inhabitants with conveniencies, the place becomes better secured, and merchants have a more hopeful gain by trade than when the interest of the town was in the Irish and other Papists that lived there.

"And whereas the eminent deservings and sufferings of the inhabitants of the City of Gloucester induced the late Parliament (in compensation of their sad losses) to order them such a proportion of forfeited lands as should be valued at £10,000 according to the rates, but, as is conceived, postponed to the satisfaction of the Adventurers, we know no better expedient either towards discharge of that debt, or for the well planting of Galway, than humbly to propose that the said town, or such part as shall be held fit, and lands about it (reserved for the said plantation) be disposed of to the corporation of Gloucester upon such terms and conditions as his Highness and the Parliament may judge fit for their encouragement. In our apprehension there never was a fitter time than now for such an undertaking and forasmuch as the plantation and settling manufactures in that town is not a work for any private interests, but a society to undertake; considering likewise of what public advantage Londonderry was, not only for the civilising and securing Ulster, but the whole nation, when in the late Rebellion only that place and Dublin stood free from the Irish rebels, we submit it to his Highness' wisdom of what consequence this place may be if well planted, or as may otherwise be held fit. This may happily not only secure the public peace of Connaught, but subdue the spirits of the discontended Irish and other Papist inhabitants within that province, which is now more than ever to be taken care of, seeing so many proprietors, swordsmen and other dangerous and disaffected persons are transplanted thither from all other parts of this nation; and if any invasion should be designed from abroad, the reputation of that town may doubtless be a very great check to it, and much other public good may (by the blessing of God) hereby redound unto his Highness and the Commonwealth." [1] 7 April. *Ib.* f. 255.

[1] The English plantation in Galway was a failure, and Henry Cromwell afterwards declared that the place had been given away for a song. Thurloe, *State Papers*, vii, p. 39.

940. The Council to the Lord Protector.

"We have received sundry petitions from divers Adventurers and soldiers, complaining that the lands, which have been assigned them in this nation for satisfaction of their respective adventures and arrears, are encumbered with rents, statutes, mortgages and the like; for remedy whereof we have, pursuant to your Highness' Instructions dated 27th March 1656, appointed a committee of some members of this Board to send for and treat with all such persons as have encumbrances upon any lands forfeited, in order to the allowing them certain proportions of the lands liable thereunto, or by some other equitable way, according to the value of such rent or encumbrance and the right of such person desiring the same, that so the rest of those lands may be disburdened of such encumbrances and remain free for satisfaction of those several adventures and arrears and as may be most for the advantage of the State. Howbeit our hopes and endeavours herein have hitherto proved ineffectual, not being able to procure their consent therein without apparent prejudice to the State, and by this obstruction plantation hath not been a little discouraged and the public thereby prejudiced.

"As also whereas your Highness, by the Ordinance for the encouragement of Adventurers, soldiers and planters in Ireland, hath appointed the County of Kildare for reprising the encumbered lands set out to Adventurers and soldiers duly claiming the same according to the purport thereof, and to such computation as shall be made and certified by such person and persons as shall be authorised by your Highness and Council, we hold it our duty to put your Highness in mind thereof, and (forasmuch as your Highness hath not, for ought we know, empowered any as yet to put that clause in execution) we humbly pray your Highness to take the same into speedy consideration, and, upon nominating the persons you may think fit to trust in that concerning Kildare as your Highness shall think fit, for ratifying and putting your Highness' said Instructions into execution, which we believe will cause this business (which indeed is of extraordinary concernment) to go cheerfully and successfully on both for the well planting this so waste a country and otherwise tend to public good." 6 May. *Ib.* f. 260.