humbly present unto you and desire all means may be thought on to give encouragement to such as would willingly carry on that work if they might have assurance to have contracts in that kind performed, this being, in our judgment, the only visible means under God, to settle and quiet this nation." 26 March. *Ib.* f. 465.

361. Same to the Commissioners of Revenue at Wexford.

" Yesterday we received a letter from Lieut.-Col. Overstreet, setting forth the state of your stores about Gorey, Enniscorthy and Arklow, intimating that the quantity of oats expected out of those parts falls short of expectation, and that many poor people are starved, and more are starving for want of corn. For prevention whereof (which had sooner been considered had it been known unto us) we desire that such of the people, as are in a necessitous condition for want of bread, may enjoy so much of their corn, as you shall judge necessary for the subsistence of them and their families, although the same be brought into the garrisons or stores in those parts, and that you do draw them within the line, and assign them such waste lands and places to reside in, as may afford them a subsistence and keep them from perishing. There is care had to furnish both the foot and horse under your charge with provisions out of the store, as the surveyors of the Revenue and Stores inform us." 4 April. *Ib.* f. 471.

362. The Commissioners for settling Ulster to the Commissioners of Parliament.

" On Friday the 1st inst. we came to Belfast, where we met Col. Hill, and that day issued a summons for all such as had borne arms against the Parliament in England, Scotland or Ireland, and lived within your quarters in that part of Ulster, to appear before us at Carrickfergus on Wednesday following, to render an account of their so living within the Parliament's quarters, and of their affection and fidelity to the present Government. On Saturday the 2nd inst., being then at Carrickfergus, upon considering what to do with those who were to appear before us on Wednesday following, we resolved not to com-

mit any to prison in regard of their great number and the several experiments which had been fruitless in that kind, but to use all ways of gentleness and meekness towards them, we concluding and unanimously agreeing that there is no visible expedient to preserve these parts in safety, but by transplanting all popular Scots into some other part of Ireland, and that it was necessary immediately to put this in execution as to the most dangerous of them; and finding them sufficiently averse from the Irish, we thought it would as well strengthen your hands against the common enemy there, as weaken your fears and lessen your charge in these parts, nevertheless because we had no power to make such a resolution, but by the last article of our Instructions, and because it was necessary, if this be practised, that yourselves appoint the place to which they should be so transplanted, we did not think fit to publish our thoughts in this till we should receive your Honours' approbation and direction concerning it, which we humbly beg with what speed your greater affairs will admit.

"In the meantime we have heard what they could offer us towards full satisfaction concerning their fidelity and peaceable demeanour for time to come, and find them all desirous we should trust to security by bond, which we cannot think sufficient in regard that, if they give us our friends to be bound for them they will not scruple to leave them to be destroyed by us: if our enemies, we suppose such will revolt with them; so then we rather chose for present security, till your pleasures might be known concerning transplanting the most dangerous, to tender them the Engagement, which the greatest part of them have signed, but we cannot say out of conscientious grounds; the rest have part of them signed a negative paper, which we send enclosed [wanting]; some others refuse that and this, and will neither promise nor give bond not to disturb the present Government, but we have not yet imprisoned them, in regard we do not at present fear their power, and are not willing to let the rest, towards Derry, whom we have not yet called, see how far we mean to go. In our observation of the temper of this people we find that they are more or less perverse according to the temper of their respective ministers, and their being planted all together or mixed amongst English and Irish, which are also further arguments to us for their transplantation.

" Touching the prevention of correspondency, we thought it necessary, before we could make any resolutions thereupon, to view the sea-coast, which we have already done as far as Cushendun near Fairforeland, the north-east point of Ireland, and find that there are landing places all along the coast, though not one good harbour except Olderfleet haven, which is as good as any in Ireland, and that in two hours they may pass betwixt the headland of Cantire and the coast of Ireland between Glenarm and Fairforeland, so that we judge it impossible to prevent correspondence whilst the Scots are suffered to live along the sea-coast; nevertheless, that we might do something towards it, we have sent Captain Fenwick's company to seize all the boats upon the coast, as also to discover and intercept correspondencies, and likewise sent a letter into Scotland to the governor of Ayr for his advice and concurrence in this, and also given some other intimations which we send enclosed [wanting]. We have also, in order to the 3rd and 4th articles, sent out spies into the several parishes, and likewise one to the highlands of Scotland.

" We intend on Monday our journey towards Derry, to try the temper of men in those parts, that so we may be fitted to give a judgment on the whole, which we intend to do in all parts at one time, according to the several capacities in which we find persons to be. In order to the effectual doing of which, we humbly conceive it requisite that those forces about Trim, bordering upon these parts, be in readiness to attend anything that may occasionally fall out upon such alterations; but privacy in your debates of these things, and the like care in the sure conveyance of your resolutions to us, will much facilitate this work, which if discovered may probably cause great disturbance, if not frustrate this whole work. We conceive here are at least 300 serviceable saddle-horses besides a greater proportion of draught-horses also fit for service, which are in persons' hands not fit to be trusted with them, although the respective owners have given security to have them forthcoming, which we cannot take out of their hands in regard we have not money to pay for them, nor know how to keep them for want of forage if we take them into our hands, and therefore desire your commands concerning them and all things else we may serve you, which shall be faithfully obeyed by your

very humble and faithful servants." Carrickfergus, 9 April. MSS. T.C.D. F. 3. 18.

363. Whereas by an Order of 19th of February 1652[-3] the letting and setting for a new term of any lands, belonging to any person or persons comprised within the Articles made at Kilkenny 12th May last with the Irish party, was to be suspended till 10th inst. April, it is now ordered that the said suspension be continued till 10th May next and no longer, whereof all whom it may concern are to take notice. 11 April. Orders A/84. 44. f. 53.

364. Ordered that uniform weights and measures be used throughout the country. 12 April. *Ib.* ff. 73-5.

365. Ordered that all persons who submitted before 12th May 1652, and have not since gone out, shall not be arrested, impleaded, molested, or tried at law at the suit of any private person, for any matter or thing committed by them as soldiers in the orderly and usual course of war ; provided they produce certificates that they have taken the Engagement. 13 April. *Ib.* f. 61.

366. The Commissioners to Lord-General Cromwell.

" We formerly received your Lordship's letter of the 15th of March 1651[-2] for the stating the arrears of Colonel John Gifford[1] and the rest of the Munster officers, who declared for the Parliament upon the late reducing of the city of Cork and town of Youghal, to the end they might receive satisfaction for their service and arrears at the same time with the army and soldiery in Ireland, wherein your Lordship seems very sensible of the freeness and seasonableness of that service, and how much it conduced to the promoting the Parliament's interest in that province ; and upon applications lately made unto us by the said colonel and the rest of the officers concerned in that business,

[1] Col. John Gifford was, I think, the son of Capt. Richard Gifford or Gyfford, of Ballymagarret, co. Roscommon, and Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Henry Duke. See p. 58 and *cf.* a petition of his to the Committee for Irish Affairs in 1647 in *Hist. MSS. Comm.*, Report vi, App., p. 193, with the description given of him in the General Pardon of 1661, as of Bolleugh, *recte* Bellaugh, near Athlone. He had assisted in securing Youghal for the Parliament in 1649.