may be conceived meet ; and in exchange will send hence unto you an equal number of Irish children (none under nine years old), who shall be apparelled here, upon hopes that you will take the like care for binding them apprentices at Chester or elsewhere, or otherwise disposed of in country affairs as in your wisdom shall be judged fit. This is a work of mercy and truly may be the saving of souls, as well as provision for the bodies of those who may otherwise be neglected. Your speedy answer is desired." 4 Dec. *Ib.* f. 110.

758. " The Council taking notice that of late a great number of people are come over hither out of England and Wales upon the account of planting, or otherwise of disposing of themselves, but reduced to very great extremity by reason of the charge they have been put to in their travel to the seaside, and of their long stay there, occasioned through contrary winds, which (as is informed) hath exhausted all or most part of their substance," have in tender consideration whereof appointed a committee to consider how they are to be disposed. 4 Dec. Orders A/5. 5. f. 302.

759. Ordered that certain prisoners, some of them priests, and twenty women be delivered to Captain Norris, merchant, to be transported to Barbados. 4 Dec. *Ib.* f. 303.

760. The Council to the Lord Deputy Fleetwood.

" Whereas we are informed that the Protestant proprietors of lands in this nation are now soliciting before his Highness and Council to be discharged of their fee-farm rents, for five years or some other time, and that it is expected that we here on the place should give our advice therein. First, We hold it our duties to acquiesce in whatever his Highness shall command us therein, and shall rejoice that any favour is or shall be extended to the good people of this nation, though it be to the lessening of his Highness' revenue, if his Highness shall require the same, well knowing his Highness' wisdom will find out some better ways and means to supply the treasury elsewhere. But as to that, that is now desired by them we do find that in former rebellions (as in those of Tyrone and others in Queen Elizabeth and King James'

reigns)—we do find that which then was sued for and then granted from the Crown was, that the owners and proprietors of lands, that were driven from them by the rebels, might compound for all their arrears incurred during the rebellion in some moderate and reasonable manner ; and, because there was little money, the Commissioners had direction to take part of their lands to the Crown in satisfaction for those arrears ; and this Commission [1] was granted and executed about the 7th year of King James, when composition was made for all arrears due at Queen Elizabeth's reign and in the beginning of King James' reign. But now all arrears of rent are already remitted, both which were due at the breaking out of the Rebellion and since until 25th March 1655.

" 2ndly. The Protestant proprietors of this nation that do sue for this remittal of rents did in 1643 petition the late king to be remitted of their arrears from the breaking out of the Rebellion and for the time then to come for two years, which was granted to them and passed by Act of Parliament then only to the year 1645 ; but the Protestant proprietors have enjoyed their lands here ever since the laying down of arms by the rebels and the war declared to be at an end, which is now two years ; and in some counties and in some parts of this nation the lands for four or five years last past have yielded as much rent as ever they did in times of peace."

3rdly. We have already remitted the rents due from waste lands till they be planted.

4thly. We do not find the Protestant proprietors willing to remit their tenants' rents, although very many poor people are concerned therein.

5thly. If it be granted to Protestant proprietors to have their rents remitted as they desire, shall the same privilege be allowed to Irish rebels who retain part of their lands ? If not, shall the same be allowed to Protestant proprietors who have acted on the side of the king in the late wars ?

6thly. After the elapse of those fourteen years it is very

[1] A commission for collecting the King's debts was first issued on 12th April 1603 (renewed 1604 and 1608). The clause referred to reads : " to conclude with persons, disabled to make present payment of the monies owing from any lands etc. to be bargained and sold unto his Majesty in fee simple, or for the due satisfaction of any debts, allowing them in recompense of said lands etc., twenty years' purchase or under and not above " etc. See Erck, *Repertory of Patent Rolls*, p. 19, and cf. *Cal. State Papers* ,Irel., James I, 1608-1610, p. 323.

difficult to find out the certainty of the fee-farm rents due to his Highness : the difficulty will be all the greater it they be remitted for five years longer.

7thly. Shall Protestants who have got possession of rebels' estates by virtue of patents, mortgages and the like have their fee-farm rents remitted ?

8thly. The Adventurers and soldiers have indeed by his Highness' grace such immunity for five years ; but their case is different, being obliged to cultivate their lands, while very many of the Protestant proprietors do very much press to have their Irish tenants continued on their estates, though it be in counties and places not safe for the Irish to continue in. . . .

" Lastly, we shall only add that, as to the proposal that the lands within one mile of the Shannon and County of Leitrim might be an additional satisfaction to the arrears of the disbanded in 1653, we have had conference with the Commissioners at Athlone and some of those of Loughrea, and it is verily apprehended by them, being on the place, that there will be a great falling short in giving satisfaction to the Irish and therefore there will be a necessity of employing all the lands in Connaught and County of Clare, excepting the garrisons and excepting the lands within one mile of the garrisons and places appointed for English plantation,[1] and therefore till there be further trial how far the lands will hold out, we do not think safe to advise that there be any disposal made as yet of those lands to other uses : but those lands in Leitrim and within a mile of the Shannon shall be last disposed, and if there be any overplus we humbly conceive that they cannot be better given than the way proposed." 5 Dec. Letters of the Lord Deputy and Council A/30. 20. ff. 111-114.

761. T. Herbert to the Governor of Barbados.[2]

" His Highness' Council for the affairs of Ireland have ordered Captain John Norris to take aboard his ship divers Irishmen and women (such as by the Justices of Peace are found to be vagabonds and idlers) to be exported to Barbados or some other the English plantation islands of the Caribbees or thereabouts, and also three Popish priests, who are likewise to be there landed.

[1] *Sc.* for the transplanted Irish.
[2] Daniel Searle.