is attended with so many mischiefs and inconveniences, that we hold it our duty again to mind your Excellency thereof, and to assure you that, if some fitting remedy be not in time provided, the public must and will suffer very much thereby ; for that not only the houses in cities and great towns will become ruinous and unhabitable, but the cities and towns will be made desolate, especially at Waterford, Galway, Limerick and Cork, where every year (as we are informed) many houses do fall down and by poor indigent people are secretly pulled down and destroyed. Such also as take lands in the country are for the most part either Irish or such as let them to Irish, and they plough meadows and drive the land out of heart ; but none do endeavour to plant or to make the land fit for any plantation. And it grows now a common practice that men, pretending title to the land, do endeavour to bring actions at common law and to have verdicts and judgments to colour their titles, and the tenants having interest but for a year do agree with them or meddle not therewith, and so in future there will be a colour for their pretensions. Also the continually yearly shifting the tenants and letting it to those that will give most doth discourage any Englishman to deal with the Commonwealth lands, and they rather choose to take from the Adventurers and soldiers, where they have lands for a long time and at a very low rate. The mischiefs are so visible, and do daily more and more increase upon us, that we hold it our duty again to desire your Excellency to make the same known to his Highness and Council, and what further mischiefs shall ensue thereof we hope shall not be imputed to our neglect, we not having power to give redress therein." 10 Dec. *Ib.* f. 217.

910. Ordered that the Commissioners of Accounts do continue to sit notwithstanding the Order of 7th September last. 10 Dec. Orders A/10. 10. f. 237.

911. The Council to the Lord Deputy Fleetwood.

" Many petitions have been exhibited unto this Board, complaining that upon application by them made to the Commissioners sitting at Loughrea, to have forfeited lands set out unto them in Connaught and Clare upon their respective

Decrees, answer hath been given them, either that there is not land sufficient to satisfy the remaining Decrees, or that they should receive their satisfaction in lands so remote and waste (having little or no conveniencies thereon) as render such lands inconsiderable; and having considered thereof and finding that this strictness happens by reason that great stopes of land have (by the said Commissioners at Loughrea) been set out to such of the Irish, as by the late Commissioners of Qualifications at Athlone (either through inadvertency or supposing that there would be forfeited lands to spare) have been adjudged comprehended under the first qualification in the Act of Settlement, who ought not to have any land at all, by which means others who by the rule of the said Act and Decree of Court ought to have land set out unto them, fall short of their due satisfaction; for remedy whereof, we have thought fit to send your Lordship the enclosed [wanting] draught for empowering some fit persons to review the Decrees of the said Court, that in case any such persons (by colour of any Decrees, judgments and executions of mistakes therein) have had lands unduly set out unto them, or above their due proportion by virtue thereof, the same may be rectified or reversed. . . ." 18 Dec. Letters of Lord Deputy and Council A/30. 28. f. 218.

912. Ordered that Dr Harrison, Dr Worth, and Mr Wilkinson be added to the Committee appointed by an Order of this Board, dated 4th April, 1656, concerning the trial of ministers. 22 Dec. Commissions etc. A/26. 24. f. 261.

913. Ordered that the Orders of August and September last to the respective Sheriffs touching Irish Papists transplantable, that do not transplant, be renewed. 31 Dec. Orders A/10. 10. f. 242.

914. Order for removing Irish Papists out of walled towns etc. 31 Dec. *Ib.* f. 243.

915. The Council to Vincent Gookin and Henry Markham.

"Understanding that it hath pleased his Highness and Council to pass a Commission and Instructions for letting the houses and lands in this nation, belonging to the Commonwealth,