LETTERS OF MR. D. CAMPBELL
TO SIR ARTHUR RAWDON

These letters are taken from Rev.
Edward Berwick, The Rawdon Papers,
London, 1819. Sir Arthur Rawdon,
second baronet of Moira, Co. Down,
was third son, and heir, of Sir George
Rawdon, who received extensive
grants of land, mainly in Co. Down,
for his part in the suppression of the
rebellion of the 1640s.

Camp before Limerick, 11 August, 1690.
Honoured Sir - I have on all occasions,
according to your commands, given you
an account of what has occurred, but am
afraid they have miscarried since I have
not had the favour of a letter from you
since the last happy one that gave me an
account of your kindness to me. We
marched on Saturday [19th] from a place
six miles from this place, and that very
afternoon beat them out from the hedges
they had lined about this place, and got a
fort they call Ireton's fort, and have
raised a battery on it, as also one more to
the seaward, and on Sunday morning
[10th] we went over the Shannon at a
pass that was very foul with big stones,
and they had raised a battery, so that
everyone believed that 500 men would
have made a stop to our army; but they
quitted it in the middle of the night
without so much as anyone appearing
against them, and where they are now is
very uncertain. The King sent a summons
to the town to surrender, but Boiseleau
that commands the town made a return,
as is said, that he would keep the town
out for the King of Great Britain, and
would not deliver it to the Prince of
Orange, but let him take it if he would.
They are all these days shooting their
cannon very hard, but, I believe, as I am
informed, it is within the number of 40
that are as yet killed. We have not as yet
our great guns, nor mutton, nor bread
come up, so that we do nothing but lie
and receive their shot. And just now I am
informed that Sarsfield and his horse is
come of our side of the water, and
believes is intended to make an infull
upon our guns and bread. This is all that
at present offers, but that I am with my
humble duty to your Lady, Sir, your most
obedient humble servant, D. Campbell.

Camp before Limerick, 12 August, 1690.
Honoured Sir - In my last I gave you an
account of our proceedings against
Limerick, and last night, about 12
o'clock, Captain Poultney, one of
Villiers's captains commanding a party

of about 100 horse, as guard to our great
battering guns, they were surprised by
about 600 of the enemy, who killed as
many as they could find for darkness.
The reports are various, but take the
following for the truth: We had eight
guns, whereof two of them are bursted,
about a hundred barrels of powder
blown up, and carriages spoiled, and
most of the troopers and horses, and
carriage horses, killed. There was no
money, but a tumblers of brass money,
which they left, and there was no bread
(nor with us neither). Sir John Lanier
went out with a strong party (who it is
said he should have been sooner out)
after them. The greatest loss is the loss of
time, for without fresh guns, we can do
no good against Limerick, as also the
discredit we receive by the enemy taking
our guns within ten miles of the rear of
our camp. But we have other news, there
was a castle within four miles of this
place called Castleconnell held out,
which was very strong, in which was 200
men: this morning we took it, and they
are now going to hang several of the
enemies for example, the number I know
not. Limerick holds out very resolutely,
and hourly kills with their random shot
several of our men and horses; many are
of opinion it will be both a bloody and
tedious task the taking of it. Excuse me
for writing ill, for I have no table to write
on, and truly I have little occasion; I have
not had for myself and servant a bit of
bread this three days, but two little
barley cakes, for we are not supplied out
of the stores, tho' they have no reason to
brag. I offered half a crown for a six-
penny loaf, and could not prevail;
abominable ill drink, and that at 6d a
quart, brandy 4s 6d, claret 2s 6d a quart.
I have got two guineas worth of that,
which should serve for meat and drink,
and bread and all. I pray God things may
not prove scarcer. Yours etc.

Newcastle, Castletroy.

Camp before Limerick, 22 August, 1690.
Honoured Sir - In my last I gave you an
account of the surprisal of our great
guns, the damage we sustained, as also
the account of the breaking of ground.
On Wednesday last [20th] at three o'clock
in the afternoon, the king ordered the
attenting of a fort that the enemy were
possessed of, within 200 yards of the
town. We had been a little baffled the
by Edward Reynolds, and I can assure you of my credit, that I can hear no account whatever of your mars, I believe they are further on in the county of Kerry, where no-one as yet can venture. Besides, that country, after a little rain, which we are already beginning to have, there is no getting into it for this year, and I am confident that all the horses and cattle, unless a few in these mountains, are all on the other side of the Shannon, and when we shall take Limerick, to let us have a free passage, is beyond my apprehension, but we are hourly battering at their walls, but no breach as yet made. There is no news since the last I wrote to you, only one Captain Byrne in my Lord Lisburn's regiment, he and four grenadiers killed with one cannon-shot, and hourly they do us some of the like dishonour. It is said in their last sally Colonel Barrington was killed, and Sir Maurice Eustace of Castlemartin. I am sorry you have so much waste ground, but how to furnish you with stock from hence, I protest I cannot advise you, for the truth lies here, the king and the court has got such a notion of all the cattle being got into the north, that upon no consideration whatever will they allow a pass for any to go thither, and none are suffered to pass beyond Dublin northwards, without the king's license. When Limerick is taken, it is supposed there will be a great number of cattle to be had, and that there may be liberty had to carry them into the north. As soon as we are masters of Limerick, the king intends to go for Dublin, and so to England.

I am, Sir, yours etc.

My most humble service to my Lady and Madam Brill. [Miss Briliana Rawdon].

Camp before Limerick, August 29, 1690.

Sir - Since my last by Ned Reynolds, we made an attack on the town. It was very hot service. The Brandenburg regiment lost four hundred, the Dutch a great many. There were five English regiments, viz. Colonel Cutts', Lord Lisburn's, Lt-Gen. Douglass's, Lord Meath's and Brig-Gen. Stuart's, out of which was lost above a thousand officers and soldiers, of which one hundred officers wounded and killed. The list I cannot get, only those I remember are killed, Harry Hamilton, late made major in Margetson's place, Captain West, Captain Wallace, and several others not known to you. Poor Monroe and Clotworthy Upton, killed. Poor Charles Hubblethorn, wounded in the throat, through the tongue, but I hope will recover. We have received such a foil. I believe it has put an end to campaigning this summer, for I am just now informed by one that we decamp on Monday next at furthest. This is a secret, which is all from yours etc. D.C.

Postscript:- We got their countersign, [counterscarp] got into the breach, but were beaten back.