

For my noble Friends, the Committee for the Isle of Ely: Present these:

Lincoln, 1st September, 1644.

GENTLEMEN,

I understand that you have lately released some persons committed by Major Ireton and Captain Husband, and one committed by Captain Castle,-all 'committed' upon clear and necessary grounds as they are represented unto me. 'Grounds' rendering them as very enemies as any we have, and as much requiring to have them continued secured.

I have given order to Captain Husband to see them re-committed to the hands of my Marshall, Richard White. And I much desire you, for the future, Not to entrench upon me so much as to release 'either' them, or any committed in the like case by myself, or my Deputy and Commanders in the Garrison,-until myself or some Superior Authority be satisfied in the cause, and do give order in allowance of their enlargement. For I profess I will be no Governor, no engage any other under me to undertake such a charge, upon such weak terms!-

I am so sensible of the need we have to improve the present opportunity of our being masters in the field and having no Enemy near the Isle, and to spare whatever charge we can towards making of those Fortifications, which may render it more defensible hereafter if we shall have more need,-I shall desire you, for that end, to ease the Isle and Treasury from the superfluous charge of 'having' Two several Committees for the several Parts of the Isle; and that one Committee settled at March, may serve for the whole Isle.

Wherefore I wish that one of your number may, in your courses, intend and appear at that Committee, to manage and uphold it the better for all parts of the Isle.

Resting upon your care herein I remain

Your friend to serve you,
OLIVER CROMWELL.