

Speech to the Lords at York (24 September 1640)

Charles I

Transcript

British Library, Harley MS 4931, f. 119r

119r

His Ma[jes]ties speech to the Lords Sept. 24. 1640. At the meeting of the Peares at Yorke.

My Lords,

Vpon sudden incursions w[he]n the dangers are neare, & instant, it hath beene the custome of my pr[e]decessours to assemble the g[rea]t Councill of [th]e Peeres, & by their advice, & assistance to giue a timely remedy to such evills, as could not admitt a delay so long as must of necessity be allowed, for the assembling of the Parliam[en]t, this being o[u]r con-dition at this time; & an army of Reb[le]s Rebels lodged w[i]thin this K[ing]dome, I thought it most fitt to conforme my selfe to the practise of my Predecessours in like cases, [tha]t w[i]th yo[u]r advise, & assistance we might ioyntly proceed to the chastisem[en]t of these insolencies & the securing of my good Subj[ec]ts.

In the 1st place I must let yo[u] know [tha]t I desire nothing more [tha]n to be rightly und[er]stood by my people, & to that end I haue of my selfe resolved to call a par-liam[en]t, having allready given order to my L[or]d Keep[er] to issue the writts instantly, so [tha]t the Parliam[en]t may be assembled by [th]e 3d of Nov. next, whether if my subiects bring [th]os[e] good affections w[hi]ch becomes [the]m towards me, it shall not fayle on my p[ar]t to make it an happy meeting.

In the meane time [the]r[e] are 2 points wherin I shall desire yo[u]r advise, w[hi]ch indeed w[e]r[e] the chiefe causes of yo[u]r meeting.

First w[ha]t answeare to giue to the Petition of the Rebels, & in w[ha]t manner to treate w[i]th them, of w[hi]ch that yo[u] may giue a surer iudgm[en]t, I haue ordered [yha]t yo[u]r Lor[dshi]pps shalbe clearly informed of [th]e state of the whole businesse, & upon w[ha]t reasons [th]e advise [tha]t my privy councill unanimously gaue me, w[e]r[e] grounded

The 2d is, How my army shalbe kept on foot, & maintained, untill the supplies of a parliam[en]t may be had, for so long as the Scotts Army remaines in England, I think no man will councill me to disband mine, for [tha]t wold be an unspeakeable losse to all this p[ar]t of the K[ing]dome, by subiecting [the]m to [th]e greedy appetite of the Rebels; be-sides [th]e unspeakable dishono[u]r [tha]t wold [the]r[e]by fall upon this Nation.

Lords appointed to treate Hartford Bedford [*Left margin:* Earles] Essex
Bristoll Holland Berks Sulisbury Warwicke Maundevile Pagett Savill
[*Left margin:* Lords] Dunsmore Howard Brooke Paulett Wharton

Mr Wha Belloses the Messenger to goe to gett the Scottish Lords to meete these English at North-allarton, or Rippon. on Septemb. 29.

Other manuscript witnesses

- British Library, Additional MS 11045, f. 119r
- British Library, Additional MS 28011, f. 71r

- British Library, Harley MS 3791, f. 5r
- British Library, Harley MS 7162, ff. 57x–60**x
- British Library, Lansdowne MS 1232, ff. 73r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 57929, ff. 16v–17r
- British Library, Additional MS 70082, item 27
- British Library, Egerton MS 2651, f. 99r
- British Library, Harley MS 2111, f. 158r
- British Library, Sloane MS 3317, ff. 7r–v
- Beinecke Library, OSB MSS 28, Box 2, Folder 25, item 42, 526r–527r
- Beinecke Library, Osborn b297, item 13
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 800, ff. 112r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 830, ff. 222r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Carte 103, ff. 88r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, f. 43r
- Bodleian Library, MS Clarendon 19, f. 44r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, f. 122r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, ff. 123r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 65, f. 138r
- Durham University Library, VMP 1, pp20–21
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.192, ff. 57r–58r
- Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, D/ELw/Z8
- Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/42, ff. 170v–171r
- The National Archives, SP 16/466, /42 [ff.118v–119r]
- Trinity College, MS O.1.35, f. 5r
- University College, MS 83 [on deposit at the Bodleian], f. 2r

Modern print exemplars

- John Rushworth, *Historical Collections* (London, 1721), vol. 2, part. 2, pp. 1275–1286
- John Nalson, *Impartiall Collection of the Great Affairs of State* (London, 1682–1683), vol. 1, pp. 4542–4543

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/CharlesSpeechYork1640v2.html>