

And now we are come to the Battel which is the last of the three I proposed, to mention, this Battel was fatal to the King and all his Party: It seemed very unaccountable that after he had taken *Leicester*, and thereby put his Affair in a more hopeful way than they had been at any time during the War, (as he told the Queen in a Letter to her) that he should come back to *Darventry*, and there spend almost a fortnight without doing any thing. The Noise of the Siege of *Oxford* by the Lord *Fairfax* was a poor Excuse for his returning; for certainly his staying so long at *Darventry* could not be the way to raise that Siege.

Neither was *Oxford* then in any great Danger, so as to make him return from the Pursuit of his Success, for it was made a Jest, that there was no other Inconvenience by the Siege, but that the Ladies could not be supplied with fresh Butter for their Pease.

But by his Return to *Darventry*, he gave time to *Cromwell* without whom the Lord *Fairfax* could do little) to come up with six hundred Horse to the Army; and even then they could not have made so much haste to fight the King at *Naseby* as they did, if they had not intercepted a Letter the very Night before the Battel, from Colonel *Goring* to the King, in which he wrote, that he was marching towards him, desiring the King to keep at a distance, and not to engage till he came. *Cromwell* upon reading this Letter, resolved to fall on the next Day, which was done, and the King's Army routed, his Cabinet of Letters and Papers taken, being most of them written to the Queen, in some of which he gave her Leave to promise some Favours to the *Roman Catholicks* in *England*, if she could obtain any Succours for him from the *Catholicks* abroad.