
The 1688 Correspondence of Nicholas Taaffe, Second Earl of Carlingford (?-1690), from the Imperial Court in Vienna

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Leopold the necessary resolve to divert his resources to the west and support the growing coalition against Louis XIV.²⁰

Historians have been divided as to the reliability of the reports of those 'easterners' who claimed, that autumn, that glorious prospects would face the emperor if only he would revert his focus to the Danubian basin, rather than fix his gaze on developments further west.²¹ In any case, the precision of detail that Carlingford provides about events, people and places on the Habsburg–Ottoman frontier and the way he links these with affairs elsewhere in Europe, is one of the most striking features of his correspondence down to October 1688. It also confirms the need for modern-day historians to take a broader geographical perspective when making assessments of the 'Anglo-Dutch moment', so that the implications of the changing situation on the Balkan Peninsula for the western European powers can be highlighted.²² To summarise, it seems that the earl did everything he could to maintain close relations with the 'easterners', pinning his hopes on Kolonitsch in particular, in the hope that the pressure they could apply might yet sidetrack the emperor from an alliance with William.

The possibility of obtaining a turnaround in Imperial policy continued to be entertained at the Stuart court for some time following Middleton's move in October, and even after the arrival of William at Torbay on 5 November. Moreover, although Carlingford had expressed a desire to return across the North Sea from as early as 17 June, financial problems caused by delays in the payment of his salary (alluded to frequently from 5 July onwards) prevented this, and it is now evident that the earl remained a source of information on the Imperial court for the Jacobite party until at least 3 July 1689, almost four months after James's landing at Kinsale and three months after Leopold's declaration of war on France. Etherege and Carlingford continued to cor-

²⁰ A recent English-language account covers various uprisings in the Ottoman Empire following the fall of Belgrade. See Ivan Parvev, *Habsburgs and Ottomans between Vienna and Belgrade, 1683–1739* (New York, 1995), p.75. ²¹ According to Spielman, Leopold felt 'secure enough' in the east by November 1688, although the continued fragility of the Imperial position in the Balkans would be shown when the Ottomans retook Belgrade in 1690. See Spielman, *Leopold I*, pp 145, 161. ²² There are too many accounts of Britain and Ireland in 1688 to cover comprehensively here. However, for a range of recent perspectives, readers might start with Dale Hoak and Mordechai Feingold (eds.), *The World of William and Mary: Anglo-Dutch Perspectives on the Revolution of 1688–89* (Stanford, 1996); Israel (ed.), *The Anglo-Dutch Moment*; Eveline Cruickshanks, *The Glorious Revolution* (Basingstoke, 2000). For Ireland, see Éamonn Ó Ciardha, *Ireland and the Jacobite Cause, 1685–1766: a fatal attachment* (Dublin, 2002) especially chapter one; Simms, *Jacobite Ireland*; Hayton, 'The Williamite revolution' and several essays in D. W. Hayton and Gerard O'Brien (eds.), *War and Politics in Ireland, 1649–1730* (London, 1986). The criticism that has been directed at English historians of 1688 for failing to look at continent-wide developments is not only a feature of recent work. See, for instance, Onno Klopp, *Das Jahr 1683 und der folgende grosse Türkenkrieg bis zum Frieden von Karlowitz, 1699* (Graz, 1882) p.427. That said, some English-language accounts that cover events east of the Rhine have appeared in more recent times. See John Stoye, *Europe Unfolding, 1648–1688* (Oxford, 1969), pp 281–91 and the same author's 'Europe and the Revolution of 1688' in Robert Beddard (ed.), *The Revolutions of 1688* (Oxford, 1991), pp 191–212; G.C. Gibbs, 'The European Origins of the Glorious Revolution' in W. A. Maguire (ed.), *Kings in Conflict: The Revolutionary War in Ireland and its aftermath, 1689–1750* (Belfast, 1990), pp 9–28.

hands might eternally disoblige that house, whether this may stop him is a question that creates some heavy hearts here and this morning the Spanish Ambassador in a very serious discourse upon this occasion passed a Compliment on my brother, and wished hee weare now with the Duke. The latest account from the Army I send your copy inclosed. I am with due respect,

Your Lordship's most faithful humble servant,
Carlingford

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Add MSS 41, 842, f.128, 2 September 1688, Vienna, Carlingford to Middleton

My lord,

The inclosed for the King is of a private concerne, not of my owne, nor any thing relating to my message hither, but such an one as I think my selfe engaged to have first deliver'd into his Majestie's hands, and let his Majestie dispose of it as hee pleases. Though I would not from this Privacy have your Lordship imagine it a businesse of any weight, I am engaged by the party concerned to make it thus a secret because I came acquainted with it in private discourse, and had no leave to divulge it. Otherwise, your Lordship should have beene the first that should have heard of it.

If I be not supplied from England I shall meete with greater difficultyes here than I imagined, and how I shall at last be able to procure money enough fayrely to gett cleare of this place I cannot foresee. Therefore, a supplye will be the welcomest thing in the world. Our last advices from Belgrade weare of the twenty-fifth of the last which informe us that three batteryes – of twenty, twelve and seven pieces – weare raysed and would play either that night or early next morning, and made account of being masters of that place by the third or fourth instant. The Imperiall Army had till that time lost no person of note, the most considerable was an *Aiudant General* call'd Monsieur de Lineville [?], a Lorrainer; about 130 soldiers killed and 180 wounded. I here inclosed send your Lordship a copy of the letter of Osman Bacha⁵⁰ to the Duke of Baviere. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most faithful humble servant,
Carlingford

⁵⁰ i.e. pasha (Ottoman civic or military official). According to Parvev, the governor in question, Jegen Osman Pascha 'de facto controlled the Ottoman provinces in the Balkans' throughout 1688. See Parvev, *Habsburgs and Ottomans*, p. 72.