Mr. Hutchinson asking who were above,\(^1\) he was told that the lord lieutenant, my Lord Newark, was there, to whom he sent his name and desired to speak with him; and being come up found in the room where the powder was weighing, my Lord Newark, the sheriff Sir John Digby, and two or three captains. Mr. Hutchinson, addressing himself to my lord only, spoke to him:

H. My lord, hearing that there was some question concerning the county’s powder, I am come to kiss your lordship’s hands,\(^2\) and to beseech you that I may know what your desires and intents are concerning it?

N. Cousin, the king desires to borrow it of the country,\(^3\) to supply his great necessities.

H. I beseech your lordship, what commission have you to demand this?

N. Upon my honor, I have a commission from his majesty, but it is left behind me; but I will engage my honor, it shall be repaid the country.

H. Your lordship’s honor is an engagement would be accepted for more than I am worth; but in such an occasion as this, the greatest man’s engagement in the kingdom cannot be a satisfaction to the country.

N. The king’s intents are only to borrow it, and if the country will not lend it he will pay for it.

H. My lord, ’tis not the value of the powder we endeavor to preserve, but in times of danger, as these are, those things which serve for our defense are not valuable at any price, should you give us as many barrels of gold as you take barrels of powder.

N. Upon my faith and honor, cousin, it shall be restored in ten days.

H. My lord, such is the danger of the times that for aught we know we may in less than four days be ruined for want of it: and I beseech your lordship to consider how sad a thing it is in these times of war to leave a poor country and the people in it naked and open to the injury of every passenger;\(^4\) if you take our powder, you may as well take our arms, without which we are unable to make use of them, and I hope your lordship will not disarm the country.

N. Why, who should the country fear? I am their lord lieutenant and engaged with my life and honor to defend them! What danger are they in?

H. Danger! yes, my lord, great danger; there is a troop of horse now in the town, and it hath often happened so that they have committed great outrages and insolencies, calling divers honest men Puritans and rogues, with divers other provoking terms and carriages. I myself was abused by some of them as I passed on the road. I chanced to meet some of these gentlemen, who, as soon as I was past, inquired my name, and being told it, gave me another, saying among themselves that I was a Puritan and a traitor; as two or three honest men that came behind told me. Besides, your lordship may be far off, and we

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1. On the second floor of the town hall.
2. Kissing hands is a courtly ceremonial gesture, often metaphorical rather than physical, but expressing obeisance.
3. i.e., the rural districts surrounding the county seat. Country and county are often used interchangeably.
4. Passerby.
ruined before you can come to us, being unarmed and not able to defend ourselves from anybody, and this country being a road through which under the name of soldiers rude people daily pass from the north to south, and terrify the country; which if they knew to be naked and unarmed, they would thereby be encouraged to greater insolvencies and mischiefs.

N. The king’s occasions are such and so urgent as I cannot dispense with it for any reasons, but must needs have it.

H. I hope your lordship will not deny that the country hath a right, interest, and property in it.

N. I do not deny it.

H. Then, my lord, I hope his majesty will not command it from them.

N. No, he doth but desire to borrow it.

H. Then I hope if he do but desire to borrow it, his majesty hath signified his request to those that have interest in it, under his hand.

N. Upon my honor he hath, but I left it behind me.

H. I beseech your lordship, then, that you would not take it away till you have acquainted the country with it, who only have power to lend it; and if your lordship be pleased to do this, I will engage myself that by tomorrow at twelve of the clock, that part of the country who have interest in the powder shall all wait on your lordship, and give you their resolutions.

N. The king’s occasions cannot admit of that delay.

H. I beseech of your lordship, yet be pleased to consider the dangerous consequence of taking it without the country’s consent, and be pleased but to stay till they can come in.

N. That time is more than his majesty’s necessities can dispense withal.

With that Mr. Hutchinson went downstairs, where by that time a good company of the country were gathered together, to whom Mr. Hutchinson told what my lord had said to him; and they desired him that he would but stand to them, and they would part with every drop of blood out of their bodies before he should have it; and said besides, that they would go up and break my lord’s neck and the sheriff’s out of the windows; but Mr. Hutchinson desired them to stay below till he had once more spoken to my lord; and then, taking only one or two more with him, went in and spoke to my lord.

H. My lord, I am again, at the request of the country that are below, come to your lordship, and do once more humbly beseech you to consider the business you are about before you proceed further in it, for it may prove of dangerous consequence if you go on.

N. Cousin, I am confident it cannot, for the country will not deny this to the king.

H. It’s very probable they will not, if your lordship please to have patience till they can be called in, that they may be acquainted with his majesty’s desires.

N. His majesty is very well assured of the willingness and cheerfulness of the greater part of the country to it.

H. My lord, I do not know what assurance his majesty hath of it, but if you please to look out of this window (pointing to the countrymen below in the streets) you will see no inconsiderable number gathered who, I fear, will not be willing to part with it.

N. Those are but some few factious men, not to be considered.

H. My lord, we have been happy yet, in these unhappy differences, to have

5. A general term for kinsman, of whatever relationship.
had no blood shed, and I am confident your lordship is so noble and tender of
your country that it would very much trouble you to have a hand in the first
man’s blood that should be spent in this quarrel.

N. Cousin, it cannot come to that, fear it not (this was spoken very slightly
and contemptuously); his majesty’s occasions are urgent, and must be served.

(With that, the country came very fast up, which when the cavalier captains
saw, they slunk down.)

H. Why then, my lord, I must plainly tell you, not one here but will lose every
drop of blood in his body before he will part with one corn of it, without your
lordship can show either a command or a request for it under his majesty’s
hand and seal, or that the country be called together to give their free consent
to it; for we have all property and interest in it, being members of this county,
and it being bought with our money for the particular defense and safety of the
same.

My lord desired to borrow part of it, but that being denied, he turned to Sir
John Digby and took him to the window, where, after he had whispered with
him a while, Sir John Digby laid down his pen, ink, and paper, with which he
had been taking an account of the powder, match,6 and bullet. The country-
men desired my lord aloud that he would not take away their powder out of the
country; upon which, turning to them, he thus spoke:

“Gentlemen, his majesty was assured by some of the cheerfulness of this
country’s affections to him, which I am very sorry to see so much failing in, and
that the country should come so much short of this town,7 which hath cheer-
fully lent his majesty one barrel of powder; but it seems he can have none from
you. I pray God you do not repent this carriage of yours toward his majesty,
which he must be acquainted withal.”

A countryman, standing forth, asked his lordship this question, “Whether, if
he were to take a journey into a place where probably he might be set upon by
thieves and robbers, and having a charge8 about him, if any friend should ask
him to lend his sword, he would part with it and go himself without? My lord,
the case is ours; our wives, children, and estates all depend upon this country’s
safety; and how can it be safe in these dangerous times, when so many troops
and companies pass through and commit outrages and abuses among us, if we
have not arms and powder wherewith to defend us?”

My lord made no reply, but bade the men whom he had employed to weigh
up the powder desist, and so went down the stairs. Mr. Hutchinson followed
him, and as he went, an ancient gentleman who was with my lord, whose face
and name were both unknown to him, came to him, and said these words:
“Stand to it; I’ll warrant you gentlemen it is well done.” And as they passed
through a low room, my lord took Mr. Hutchinson aside and said:

N. Cousin, I must acquaint the king with this.

H. My lord, it’s very likely you must, being employed upon his majesty’s ser-
vice, give him an account.

N. Nay, cousin (smiling), I mean not so, but I must acquaint him, and I am
sorry I must, that you are the head and ringleader of a faction, whereby you
hinder his majesty’s service.

H. My lord, I do not conceive how this can be a faction, I speaking only (out
of the noble respect and honor I bear your lordship, in private to you, to prevent

7. The town of Nottingham proper, as distinct from the rest of the county.
8. Money or valuables.
a mischief) the sense of these men, who I perceived were come to know by what authority, and why, their powder, which is their proper\textsuperscript{9} goods and only means of safety in these times of danger, should be taken from them. And if it were a faction, I am not the head of it—I accidentally coming to town from Sir John Biron’s last night, and neither knowing nor imagining any of this business, was this morning importuned to wait on your lordship at the town’s hall, by many countrymen who informed me you were taking away their powder out of the country.

N. Cousin, if you can answer it, I shall be glad of it; but I’ll assure you, I must let his majesty know.

H. If his majesty must know it, I am very happy I spoke to none but your lordship, who, I am confident, is so noble that you will neither add nor diminish anything to my prejudice; and then I am confident the justice and reasonableness of what I have said, with my own innocency in speaking it, will bear me out.

N. Ay, cousin, but your name is up already.\textsuperscript{1}

H. It may be so, my lord; and I believe those that set it up had no good wishes to me; and as it rose, so, in the name of God, let it fall; for I know my own clearness and innocency in anything that can be objected against me.

N. Well, cousin, well; I am glad of your good resolution.

And so my lord left him. The gentlemen of the country that were there, upon consideration what they should do with their powder, determined to return my lord thanks for sparing it and to lock it up with two locks, whereof the sheriff should have one key and the mayor another; which accordingly was done; but Mr. Hutchinson came no more at my lord.