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about 260

Gentlemen,

Whereas it is provided by severall Acts and  
 ordinaunt of Parliament that the widowers & orphans  
 of those who have been slain & flayed & have died in the  
 service of the King should be maintained in the service of the  
 Parliament should be provided for & allowed a competent  
 portion in the next vacant Counties who have served  
 in the field or took up arms, yet not with standing  
 the said laws of late been many & frequent complaints  
 made by such manner of widowers & orphans that since  
 they have repaired to the Justices of Peace of the  
 next vacant Counties where they ought to be provided  
 for, yet the Justices have refused to allow unto them  
 any portion or maintenance according to the said  
 Acts and ordinaunt so that these poor widowers  
 & orphans are exposed to great  
 (if not gishing) & divorces of their husbands  
 sent to London to seek for maintenance & relief  
 Therefore I make it my earnest request to you  
 (as I have done to the Justices of Peace of the  
 Counties) that in case you have not already made  
 an assignment & made upon your County for the raising  
 a competent stock for the relief of the said  
 widowers & orphans according to the said Acts and  
 ordinaunt. That you will cause the same forth  
 with to be done & put in execution that so these  
 poor widowers & orphans may not through  
 the neglect thereof be exposed to misery & ruin  
 contrary to the intentions of the Parliament & so  
 suffer would very much reflect upon the Honor  
 of the Nation And I desire an account thereof may  
 be returned every half to the Committee of Parliament  
 for maintenance of the said orphans & relief  
 the said the said account may with more certainty  
 come to the Committee's hands. I desire you would desire it  
 to be left with the Treasurers at Eltham in the County  
 Thus hoping you will be willing & ready to further  
 so good & thankit alwaies a world. I remaine

Dork with January  
 12 1651

Your loving Friend  
 Oliver Cromwell

Very fine letter ordering relief to  
 be provided for maimed soldiers &  
 Widowers & orphans caused by the War.  
 Written a few days after the Surrender of the  
 Scotch Army & the entire subjection of  
 the south of Scotland.

This fine letter bears on the  
 back the address and Full Signature  
 of Oliver Cromwell.

1651 January 12 : [address leaf]

