

APPENDIX 8

John More II and the Committees for Compounding

In 1648 John More II and his wife were included in a Nottinghamshire county list of persons to be sequestered,ⁱ thus bringing back into thrall lands only two years earlier discharged of that burden. Two years later the Committee claimed that 'the estates of Sir Edward Golding, Lady (Alice) Dormer, and Dr Moore, which are considerable, are much controverted, some under pretence of engagements for payments of debts and raising of child's portions, with extreme impudency and injustice'. They allege that the claims on 'the estate of Dr John Moore (late), Kirklington, Co. Notts., Physician to the Duke of Buckingham' are 'specious and impudent, the deed being soon after the battle of Edgehill' which took place on 23 October 1642 - what 'deed' was being cited is not clear, as Dr More's death preceded the battle by eleven months. That More's final dispositions were made just a couple of days before his death is overlooked by or carries no weight with the Committee. They rule that no claims for debts be allowed on the estate until confirmed by the Committee for Compounding, and that 'debts owing to Papists and delinquents be secured, or the lands on which they are charged.'ⁱⁱ

In December 1651 the Committee for the Advance of Money recorded information from one Christopher Wasse of Mansfield Woodhouse that in 1643/44 John More, being a recusant and delinquent, had 'fled' to Newark on Trent,ⁱⁱⁱ after which the Nottinghamshire Committee certified to the National Committee that they had 'seized two thirds of his estate not worth £50 pa because when a supporter of Papacy, he refused to take the Oath of Abjuration'.^{iv} However the matter was dropped in the face of a new Act of Pardon, this drawing a surly reaction from the County Committee, who 'in regard to discharge of estates of John Moore and others by Act of Parliament, ordered the persons concerned to produce discharges to the Committee for Compounding within 28 days, or be sequestered', eliciting the National Committee's thanks.^v Wasse was obliged to petition the County Committee to cancel 'his bond for the prosecution, as no further proceedings can be had against Moore since the coming out of the Act of Pardon'.^{vi}

Nor were John More's difficulties confined to Nottinghamshire. The Committee for Compounding also recorded that in July 1651

'John Moore of Thelwall, co. Chester, executor to Dr John Moore, complains of detention of the Midsummer rents of Thelwall Manor, on pretence of debts due to Papists and delinquents.'

The County Committee was instructed to justify detaining the rents, but until then these were to remain in the tenants' hands. No further forward by December, John II petitioned the national committee, stating that

'Dr Moore conveyed Thelwall Manor and other lands to Sir Edward Moore and petitioner, for payments of debts and annuities, and died in 1641; the estate was sequestered for delinquency of Sir Edward Moore, since dead; freed on appeal to the late Committee for Sequestrations, but lately seized again by the County Committee. He begs to receive the rents pending a hearing. / Order that, many of the debts and annuities being due to recusants, the County Committee state what they have received thereon, and Auditor Sherwin certify the accounts.'

Two months later, the national committee ordered

'that the debts to Papist creditors, two thirds of which belong to the State, be first paid, but that John Moore have leave to sell any part of the lands, which will be discharged from sequestration on his paying to the State their proportion of those debts, he heaving leave to examine witnesses as to the proportion paid.'

In May 1652 they ordered that John More take the Oath of Abjuration, but with two thirds of Dr More's estates remaining sequestered. ^{vii}

No comment on the outcome is recorded, but a year later the clearly harassed John More successfully sought leave to examine witnesses on Dr More's debts, and in December 1653 petitioned the national committee, citing a lengthy list of the charges on Dr More's estates, settled on him in trust, that Sherwin had cited in his report. The largest item, £1200, was in the name of Lady Elvish; other sums ranged between £100 and £1000, though with no clues given as to what how the debts had been incurred. The list totalled just short of £7000, before adding his brother George's annuity of £50 payable plus arrears of £275, as well as his sister Alice (I) Vaudrey's £40, with £340 arrears due. John More states that various named debts have been paid already, and

'that he has paid to the Committee for Compounding or County Committee several sums towards the debts, and will pay what more appears due, yet Lusher has sealed an ejection on the petitioner's lands, co. Notts, for his debts, and others threaten to do the same. Begs stay of Lusher's action, and that he and Lady Elvish, Southcott, Lloyd and Bentley, whose debts are pretended to be unpaid, may be summoned to make out their claims, in order that after the State and they are satisfied, the petitioner may be able to pay the other Protestant creditors.' ^{viii}

In July 1654, following yet more representations, the national committee ruled, apparently finally, that

'Lady Elvish and the Southcotts being recusants are to show cause why two thirds of their debts should not be paid to the use of the State, and to bring in their proofs of debt, and on payment of two thirds to the State and one third to themselves, the executor will be discharged. / Order that, £5135 being two thirds of the whole debts, of which £1466/13/4 has been paid to the creditors long ago, and £1573/6/8 to the Treasury, leaving £2095 balance still due, £595 thereof be paid at once and the balance in nine months, when the estate will be discharged.' ^{ix}

The unsigned memorandum quoted in Appendix 7 refers to the discharge of the estate, but gives no date for that.

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- i Nottinghamshire County Committee for Compounding; CPCC vol. 1, p. 108, no.75, 20 April 1648; p. 2545, same year
 - ii CPCC vol. 1, p. 307, no. 106, 10 September 1650
 - iii CPCAM part III, p. 1417, 4 December 1651. This may well reflect a visit to the dying Dame Winifred – see Appendix 4
 - iv CPCC vol. 1, p.2918, 16 December 1651
 - v CPCC vol. 1, p. 2918, 22 and 29 January 1652
 - vi CPCAM part III, p. 1417, 9 April 1652
 - vii CPCC vol. 1, p. 2546, 16 July and 16 December 1651; 19 February and 6 May 1652. George More is wrongly identified as the brother of Dr More rather than of John More the petitioner
 - viii CPCC vol. 1, p. 2546, 7 December 1653
 - ix CPCC vol. 1, p. 2546, 20 April and 6 July 1654