

Minutes of the Council of Barbados reveal that Montgomery and Willoughby Chamberlayne were in custody and Stede, who was still in charge of the island, had received a letter from the Prince of Orange. Stede replied that the two Papists had been converted by the Jesuit priest and were 'insolent and troublesome in their new faith'. Montgomery might have been appointed as lawyer for the Royal African Company had he not sought to 'thwart the Government and oppose the laws'. Judging by his first name, Chamberlayne was related to Lord William Willoughby of Parham who had leased the islands of St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica in 1646 for 21 years. He had died in 1673. In May 1690 Montgomery wrote to Stede asking him to keep his letters secret. These included ones to Catholics in England, Lords Dumbarton, Tyrconnel, Sunderland, Dover, Bellasis and Arundel asking for a Catholic Governor to be sent. Later that month Chamberlayne was bound over for good behaviour in the sum of £1,000, 'which he had forfeited over and over again'. More seriously Montgomery was under sentence of death for murder, but (inexplicably) reprieved and pardoned. Whereupon he had left for Martinique hoping that help from there would result in the conversion of the people of Barbados and the French taking over the island. A letter from Garret Trant to Montgomery, written in January 1689, but not noted until May, says 'I have burnt your enclosed except for the book and money', Stede wrote that Montgomery sent his 'false and malicious packets by many hands', including the Lady Superior of the Ursulines. Both Thomas and his brother Hugh were now under arrest but claimed they were not Papists and asked for release. All these documents were sent to London and read on 12th August 1689.

In early September Stede wrote that people in Barbados were taking the oath cheerfully. This was the loyalty oath to William and Mary. However he also wrote that Hugh Montgomery 'and some of that gang' were in custody and would shortly be brought to trial. The gang must have included his brother because two weeks later Thomas was asking Stede to grant him bail. There followed a series of letters between Thomas and Stede of which the one in which the former asked to be allowed to escape to Martinique and report back on the strength of the French that is the most revealing of his intention to abscond.

In March 1690 the brothers were still in prison and Stede reported they 'ridicule our endeavours against the French' who they glorify. Stede wrote to London the next month saying the brothers 'assault and abuse everyone especially myself and my relatives'. They presume they will receive an Act of Indemnity. Montgomery and Chamberlayne began a series of requests to the Governor, James Kendall, via Stede. 'Now I am to be sent home (to England) I ask your pardon and help and your intercession with the Governor'. Montgomery was heartily penitent and asked for delay until his debts were settled and his property disposed of. His affairs all 'tended to his ruin', and he asked Stede to visit 'this prisoner in distress'. Chamberlayne made a strange request, 'My mother, wife and I beg you to discharge our Negroes as we are in great want of their attendance. Punish them as you please but beg your clemency'. Does this mean that Chamberlayne was using his slaves as part of his thousand pound surety forfeited the previous year?

In June 1690 Montgomery told Stede he was willing to be sent home but a draft of an order of the Governor annulling the commitment of Thomas Montgomery appeared, which Stede noted was 'the work of Montgomery himself'! He was to be sent to England in the next ship to await His Majesty's pleasure, and the charges against him would be on board.