

# Transcript

## Editorial comments:

BL MS Cotton Caligula C III f. 70v - 71v. William Herle to Lord Burghley

## Letter text:

[fol. 70v] 29 April 1571 From William Herle to the L: Burghley

The Bp my Lo: after some great pause hath answered my lre which is enclosed herewith, he is entred into jealousy of my doinges as plainly may appeare, therefore the remedy must be accordingly provided & yet his jealousy is not so much as the mistrust of his owne practises to be discovered by Charles which hath driven him to such rages at home, as neither would he eate nor sleepe in 3 dayes welnye, neither yet permitt any knowne man were he English or straunger within his gates, Mary my man & *Barthelet* had secret accesse unto him yet with some difficulty or they could come to him, Whereuppon to salve the matter I writt a lre of some grief to *Barthelet* complayning much that he had brought me to the Bp & nowe beeing plunged into the depthe of all wretchednes, I was hatefull to my *Prince* & mistrusted by my frends, desiring no more [fol. 71r] more but true construction, & to be advertised whereuppon to stand, and I would swallowe upp myne owne sorrowes with such constancy in the rest as might geve a good prooffe of me to all sortes, And to enter the further I writ another lre to the Bp whose copy is herein, but he was so scrupelous that he would never receave it, yet on Saterdag at night about xj of the Clock he sent *Barthelet* to me with a message & the like by my owne man who was yesterday with him, that he never hurt any English man, unles they hurt them selves, neither was any one of all partes brought to mishap which dealt with him, & this was the advise & comfort he would geve me adding that Charles had beene racked on Friday & so brought before the *Counsell* & on saterdag racked agayne, which was not so ruffull as unjust, & theire fault was greate which procured it, That also the *Counsell* had told him there were secrett practisers & factious fellowes repayed to him to be his instrumentes whereby he would remove the repayer of any unto him for he was here only to sollicite the Q his Mistresses delivery and had none other imaginations in his hed whereof when he were resolved by the Q: Majesty & her Councell of a playne answer either yea or no which he must have, his Comission were at an end, & his departure as present But yf *Masterr Herle* (saith he) will assure me that he hath not delivered my 3 tickets written to *Charles* to be copied by the Lord of *Burghley*, I wil do asmuch for him as for mine owne brother which shall appeare in very fewe dayes but in the meane season I wil neither receave nor write lre to him comending all to his tryall notwithstanding this night at midnight was *Barthelet* to comfort me agayne having beene with the Bishop a great parte of the after noone./ to whome I said lamentably that my keeper had told me howe *Charles* had accused me of the whole matter, & howe it was my invention to devise his alphabet & to write his ciphred lres exhorting me to patience for that he looked for a warrant to remove me to the Tower, Whereunto I added that he had uppon faith assured me of one comfort, that neither *Charles* was racked, nor likely to be racked which speech of mine was uttered in such piteous forme, mine Irons gingling up & downe by meete occasions, as the fellowe Wept & sobbed having indeed confirmed the Bishop: by the hearing of mine irons the first time in a more assured opinion of my trust, But your L: must in any wise send for me to [fol. 71v] to be examined, for that is aswell observed within doore as without which requires speed, if your graver buisenes so permitt it, having more to say unto your Lo: by mouth, But this is the state I stand with

the Bishop, who is not so wholly lost as ferefull for his man lest he by an extremity be induced to a confession, having sifted me many wayes, and enquired of me abroad But the generall opinion is that I am a discontented man and factious, which joyned with my troubles doth so perplexe his other suspitions, as he is certen in none of them, driving him to the uttermost corner of his witt, But surely I speake it God is ^my^ judge with the humblest & truest zeale that may proceed from a subject, that yf I had wherewith I would knowe what he did in his bed chamber & Wynne any credit with him / I would Marry if their honours of the Counsell have descended so particulerly to describe by markes my coming to him there is a great hole made which had been better stopped I alleadge it dutifully, And so I knowe your Lo: will take it, whome God preserve, this *Munday* morning 1571 Your L most humbly w h