Transcript

Editorial comments:
BL MS Cotton Galba C VII f. 201r - 204v. William Herle to Lord Burghley. Fol. 201r has the signature 'Ff'.

Letter text:

[fol. 201r] I wrytt to your L. by these late postes, 5. or 6. lres wherein were conteyned sondrye advertisements & papers of collectyons which I hope shall not mislyke your good L. nor leve unexpressed the desire I have to serve yow. Butt as the season hath bin the sayd postes ar deteyned on this syde as yet with the troblesomest wether that hath bin herde these 40. yeres & with a contynuall contrary wynde that hathe bothe hindred many things & caste awaye above 50. sayll of shippes here & in Holland, & broken downe the dykes & walles of the contrey & therwith Monsieurs armes that were fastned att the keye gate of this towne, & with the vyolens of the separation of the said armes from the place they were tyed unto brought with theme a grett parte of K Phillips crowne & armorye, which were dyrectlie under the scutchyon of the sayd Monsieurs armes./

Conseqwentlye hathe bin sene ferefull ^bloody^ & firie impressyons in the ayre in the night tyme, which hath ministred matter of muche speeche here, aswell of apprehensyon in som, as of calculatyon in others, what these tokens may portende to Monsieur & the K. of Spain: by the waye of yll presayge./

Since that time Monsieur hath made his proposition to the estates generall, the copie of whose oratyon to that effecte I do send your L. in closed herein. Towching the articles that were delyverd wth the sayd oration, I am not sure att this Instant to have theme time ynowghe to inclose with this my lre (for som scruple that is made in the delyvering of theme, butt by Monday noone I shall not fayll of theme, & accordinglie to send them to your L./ In the mene time the articles ingenerall do subsiste of these poyntes, that fyrst Monsieur requires the maintenance of the Religiowes vrede, the restitutyon of Justyce, the establyshement with suffycyent persons fytt & hable therunto of the 3 cowncelles vz. that of estate, of the secrett cowncell & that of the fynances with the chamber of accomplts & aydes appendent therunto. Fowrthlie that there be prompt & speadye meanes [fol. 201v] [fownde to levye men] to provyde munition, & to appoynt the order that shalbe convenient for resisteng of the Enmye. Fivethlie that where they be agreed to contribute 300m gilldernes by the moneth for the chargs of the said warres, that they will sett downe, when & how the said some shalbe answerd. /

Sixtlie that a sufficient hable man be chosen to be generall Thresuror to be answerable for the said contributyon, to the end that mener offics do not consume the same while that is in their custodye by theyr multitude & lownes./

Lastlie that yt be declared & sett downe, what the awthoritye is of the Coronelles of this towne & howe they may be limited which poynyt procedes from the prince of Orenge, therby to make bothe Monsieur behollding to him & the said Coronelles allso./
The rest of the points of the conclusion to be taken by the states, with their answer to each particularity, shall be sent your L. with the first messenger that comes, praying humbly (with as convenient speed as may be) answer to my former letters, after they shall become to your honorable hands.

I send your L. also herewith the occurrences of Italye, which are delivered me by a personage of account & therewith a minute of Monsieurs entry & auguration here, & when you comes further in print your L. shall have the first draught that shall be sent you by me, if I were rich, (as these things do cost money) you should have more things, but your L. will bear with this in the mean time, for I have no aid here, but God & my self you know best my ability.

Toucing the Enemies they raised their camp from Ingellmister, Rowseellar & Isingam, the xj^th^ of this present, burning their cabins & marching by Cowrtrick to dedissell a villayge within ij English miles of Menyng. They had brought part of their cannons from Turney & Risselles to Cortrick & part also to the number of 20 pieces to Gravellyng. / Menyng is situated upon the River Lys distant from Risselles 3 leagues, & from Cortrick ij, now fortified very strongly to the lande ware from the River, but conducted by a hill which discovers their [fol. 202r] whole Ramparts, & the chief street that leads to the same. If the Enm[ye] were masters of the said town, they had no impediment to stay them from the gates of Gawnt. There is within Menyng ix enseynes of scotts under Coronell Trayll, & ij Cornets of Horsemen with capta[ine] Seton, with provision of victuals & necessaries for 3. moneths. /

There hath been controversy in the enemies camp between the wallone[s] & Allmaynes which occasioned their long stay about Rowssles, but now they are reconciled, & yesterdaye the prince was advertised to his great perplexitie & Monsieurs that they were departed from dedissell againe towards donkyrck, but what they will do, is not as yet certaine, the prince of Parma being earnestly solicited to besiege the same by Lamote of Gravelling, which place obtained with the lytell town of Berges St Wymock, which joynes nere unto ytt, would exclude all aid of the frenche by Calys, assure Gravelling & be a port for the K. of Sp: to trouble them greatly here, & to drawe aid of men & shippes out of England./

This was foresene & advertisements given of a great cheyne that was made att Risselles to stoppe the mouth of donkyrck haven, wherupon vj enseynes of the frenche were dispatched thitherwards on Thursday morning, & with them the Admiral of Zeland Trelong who is also governor of Donkyrck, supplied with things necessary to endure a seige, that also take up upon his credyte xviijm [crowns] here to be repayed in Paris, wherof he disposed xijm towards the expedition of the sayd vj enseynes./

There be vj companies of scotts & wallons within Donkyrck. all ready & one Cornett of horsemen, the scotts be of Coronell Prestons Regiment. /
for his further saffetye./ The Enmye hathe 36. peecs of Battreye grett provision of munition & store of basketts to deffend the artillerye./

There be som that thinck that those viijm sowdyers 30. grett shippes 12. galleys & ij gallyons that ar redy stytt at Lusbore may be employed for Donkirck, yf the prince of Parma do in earnest besege yt./ som other do mysdowt the french preparacyons in frawnce ^under the pretence to helpe don Anthonio.^

Monsieur here dothe practise secrettlie wth the Cownt Dellantayng & Montignye to drawe theme to his parte, using for arguments their own resons to theme, therby they fyrst persuaded him hither, & next the securitye that they may be yn, by his & their conjuctyon the estimation that wilbe had of their vertew & persons, the daunger they stande in, by the conyng of the Spa: & new supplies, the assurans that they shall have of the Religiowes vrede, & to enjoye all suche ecclesiasticall goods & lands as they ar alredy possessed of, which yf the Spa: prevaiyll they shalbe deprived wholye of, & of the premisses withall. /

The prince of Pynoys & his wife, sister to dellalayng & montignye ar made greatt instruments herein & largelie promised, incase they can worck so greatt a good to the generall good of the caus & their contrey, which they have undertakon to do, & ar in the mene time muche cowrted by Monsieur & the prince of Orenge./

The wynng of these ij ^bretherne^ wolld alonelye dissollve the K. of Spaynes enterprises here, expulse the prince of Parma, & exclude the entre of the forreyne power that is expected, therby the ayde of frawnce sholld not neede, & they wolld as lyttell regard England then./

Som of judgement suppose, that yf dellalayng & Montygnye be brought in ones to joyne with Monsieur in actyon, that this state will then becom whollye frenche, which wolld be a nere perill unto England & the forteffyeng of frawnce & scottland against us, wherunto som [fol. 203r] be prompt ynowghe to sett forwards the advantaigs therof & to intymate the same in their negociatyons, having allredie conseved hardlie of us, & desyre but the mene to crye qwyttans./

Therfore ytt is wysshed of those that do cownterpoyse things that dellalayng & montignye might remayne in the state they do, to serve as Instruments of Spayne, to drawe the warres on in length, for the good of the sowdyers, & the quiettnes of the neighborhed./ Of the other syde, yf Donkyrcke sholld be lost, the frenche K wilbe utterlie discorayged from gyveng of any assistens to his brother ^being ill affected alredy that waye^ & then of necesseitye the Q. of England wilbe intreated they saye to succor the comune perill which consernes her as nere as theme./

Ytt is dailie confirmed here, that the frenche K. dissavowed all his brothers actyons & enterprise, renowncing the ayde that is demaunded, for the estabylsshment of his sayd brother in these contreyes which cleris the Q. of England of any condicions & contracts passed with Monsieur, a matter that doth rejoice som persons of good porte here./ Duvraye is loked for dailye, who departed from Parys x. dayes since, & Monsieur reposeth greatt truste in his sister of Navernes negociatyon wth the french K. her brother for hym, expecting by mewfilld to have resolutyon both that waye & from others of his frindes in frawnce. Butt there is small hope remaynes of successe from thens. Therfore yf matters thryve not here, Monsieur makes an estate (as some nere unto him to newlie affyrme to retorne into England, & from thens to worcke his peace wth his brother, & to
grownde his further course therupon, beyng harde they saye that the frenche K. will nether suffer
his onlye brother to lyve in frawnce peaceablie, in his degree: nor ells where, to make the
advantaige of his owne assurance & greattnes, which argues that there was a snare layed by the
sayd frenche K. to have intangled her majestie of England with the whole expence, hasarde, &
envye of [the] warres.

[fol. 203v] There is a grawnte made of xij shippes by Monsieur for the servyce of don Anthonio
with xij C maryners from hence, the furniture & charge wherof sholld be answeard att the Tercera,
butt ytt appe[res] that there most be money provided here befoure hand for the same. Otherwise the
enterprise will growe colle & vayne. The Prince of Orenge on wensday att ^mid^ night to terrefye
the more sent for the principall merchants of that Portingall natyon that be here resyant to be with
him the next morning before vij of the clocke: to whom he exposed by a long speeche, the justyce
of don Anthonios causwe their naturall & lawfull K: the necessitye of theyr contrey Portingall,
nowe oppressed by their enemies the Spanish: & theyre habilitye here, to releve this by money,
wherunto they were bownd by dutye & nature to supplye their parts therin, & to satisfye the
expectacion of their K & of the actyon generall, otherwyse that he colld not favor nor esteme
theme as he had don./ The Portingall merchants having time gyven theme to deliberate, made
answeare the next daye that they were onelye factors that were resyant here, & had no awthoritye
to dispose of other mens goodes, whose masters being manye were in Portingall with their wives,
familyes & substance, under the hand of K. Phillip, subjecte to suffer confiscatyon of all &
vyolens in their persons, yf they sholld make but shewe to ayde don Anthonios parte. ytt
appertayned not to theme as merchants to decyde the titelles of kingdomes but to attende the
yssew of gods disposition, att which time they wolld render good accompte of their dutye &
loyaltye, ether to don Anthonio, or to him that were placed in the seatt, with the expence of their
goodes & blood, prayeng that they in the mene tyme might be conserved in this newtralitye here,
otherwise this answeare hath satisfied the prince att this presente who was urged to dele with theme in this
warne maner by don E. Dicrasto Ambassador here for don Athonio./ a verey chille./

[fol. 204r] They are nowe a coyneng of new money in golld & sillver, which caryes Monsieurs
armes wquartered wth the armes of Braba[n]t butt the prince & he wolld of new rayse the valuatyon
of the moneys to [1] upon the C more, which our natyon & the rest of the Inhabitants here wth the
forreyne merchants do flattly refuse to agree unto & will rather departe for all together than be
subject to suche an inconvenyence, as hath allredye undon manye, & the traffick withall. yt is
talked that this Bullyon [marginalia by Herle: Bullyon] of golld & sillver, wherwith they do coyne
their moneys was supplyed owt of England./

Uppon thursdaye was ytt proclaymed from the towne howsse that bothe the protestants &
catholickes sholld abjure the K. of Spain & sweare to Monsieur. suche withall of the catholickes
as ar not as yet sworne ar kept owt of the Churche that is assigned for the masse, till they have
performed the order appointed on that behalfe./

This daye dothe Monsieur sollemnise the rememberance of his nativitye, having prepared a great
banckett of 14. messe of meat to interryne the estates generall & the magistrates & Coronelles of
this towne, there shalbe lykewise ronyng att the Ring & Qwyntyn with other disports./

The Duchesse of Parma is at Namures smallye respected, dellalayng att Montz, & montignye wth
the prince of Parma & somtymes in the Campe./

Villyers Cornett of horssemen, who is marshall of the states campe, & brother to Hawtyn, was overthrowen this last weeke, by an Ambushe of the mallcontents, the cornett taken, the livetenant wth 57. slayne & the rest prisoners & dispersed./

The Vinkeng of Bollduck to this towne, & to Receive Monsieur as theyr soverayne is still treated of & yntertayned./

Bruxelles is tollerated with towching the masse & Religyow[es] vrede, for that ytt is a frontyer towne & hath browght yn [fol. 204v] [information] to Monsieur by Recorde that the papistes have sowght by 4. sondrye times since the contracte was agreed upon betw[en] the states & him, to betraye the sayd Bruxelles to the enmye wherwith very humblye, desyreng to here from your L. of the receipte of my former lres, & of the contynewance of your good favor I do take my leve Andwarpe the xviij^th^ of marche 1581 your L. most humbly W. Herlleli.

[Postscript:] It is reported verey credibly that a gallyon is arrived att Gent owt of Spa: with 500m [crowns] for the service of K. Phillips warres in these parts. The mallcontents have had a paye of late made unto theme./

Aqwisgrave that hathe bin so long beseeged by the prince of Parmas appointment in cutting of, of the vittaylles that shold com to the towne, is browght to som extremitye, but the Dukes of Bipont, have travailld to dissolve the sayd seege, protesting otherwise to the sayd prince of Parma, & to the D. of Cleve, that deles in this matter for him, of the wrong that is don to the empyre ^therby^ & of the inconvenyens that may follow therof. By reson that the protestants made theme sellvses masters of the towne, & it the P of Parmas pretence of quarell ^is grounded theruppon ^to remove theme from the Government & possessyon for that he wolld not be so neighbord./