

# Transcript

## Editorial comments:

BL MS Cotton Caligula E VII. f.117r - 118v. William Herle to unknown recipient. This letter is badly burned around the top and right hand edge.

## Letter text:

[fol. 117r] [ ... ] [tempo]rizeng or differryng) for a playn re[ ... ] franckly expostulated with her, alledgeng [ ... ] his constant & loving devotion this long, [ ... ] by comyng hither, & meriteng sondry wayes [ ... ] delyng again, otherwise his frynds wolld observe [ ... ] wolld nott, as a notable wrong don to a soverai[gne] he had frely discowrsed he sayd, with her majestie & had [ ... ] whatt comodities or discomodities, the accepting o[f the] mariayge, might bring with it, with the offence ^herin^ ~~of~~ [1 word expunged] to so grett a Prynce as his master, yf he sholld be co[ ... ] deluded with yndignities./

First by maryeng with monsieur, he sayes, (who was [ ... ] generall to his brother, & had taken upon hym the redresse[ ... ] of the Protestants Cawses in frawnce; And was close[ ... ] [ ... ] deffendor of the Belgick libertye, by the Stats of the Lowe [ ... ] ~~brede~~ a constant & undowtted suretye, to all those of [ ... ] in christendom, under which subsisted specialye, the conserva[tyon of] Scotland & Englande. /

Next, the grettnes considred he sayd, that the K. of Sp: [ ... ] by covetting the inheritance of Portingall (the usurpi[ ... ] make hym suspect in justice to the worlde, & dredfull [ ... ] England, for his Ambicyon, joyned with suche an hable [ ... ] nott mett with before hand ^which^ urged the conjunction of [ ... ] the rather, as a fitt opposityon. ~~therunto~~/

[marginalia by Herle: as he sholld obtayn therby]

which ones agreed upon, the K. of Navern sholld be in [ ... ] towards the frontiers of fowntrebye, to drawe the [ ... ] his intended ~~higher~~ dissignes, to loke another way[ ... ] (according to his election) sholld enter the Lowe cont[ryes] [ ... ] Protector & deffendor, & be master of that State./ The D. [nott]withstanding his [1 word expunged] nere intelligence with spayn) [ ... ] be qwielt & colld, unles he wolld prove & se the f[ ... ] again, bi his contradiction, to marche as far as the [ ... ] The pope & Italye misseng frawnce (the Theater [ ... ] of their cowntenance & comodity) wolld utterlye qwayll[ ... ] [ ... ]jects pretended against England & the Religion & be [ ... ] [fol. 117v] [ ...fr] awnce, to be deprived of so soverayne [ ... ] terrible leage ^began att Trent & contynewed synce^ & ~~Conspiraeye~~, were qwite broken./ [ ... ] by this desired matche, ~~^began at Trent^~~ be compelled, as a member that [ ... ] the humor, that feedes his necessity & faction, to yelld entyerlye to [ ... ] devotyon of England./ Thus sayth Du Vraye, by the consumating of [ ... ] most necessary & desired allyance, is peace & security browght to [ ... ] whole Ile: Assurance generally to Religion: Spayne devyded in his own strengthe, & restrayned from surfetting: Portingall preserved [ ... ] his right: And contentment given to ~~all~~ good subjects here: for here ~~of eche syde~~ our State was (bien Bornee) ~~was lymitted & neighbord~~ [ ... ] & in case to offend ~~all~~ adversaries, & to destroy the veray roote ~~of~~ [conspiracies &] ^all^ practises, ether new or ^olld^ ~~inveterate~~./ For her majestie migh[t] employe part of her navye, to the hellp of the Portingalles, & so bring the K.

of Sp: this environed, to depose ~~clerely~~, nott only his vindicative & ~~ambicyous~~ mynde, butt allso of necessity to yelld to any prescriptyon of amitye & condicyons, that her majestie wolld ympose./

Here with he sayd, that he had assured her majestie that the matche which was bruted to have bin handled, ether with the dowghter of Loreyn (whom he term[ed] une poure coquine & ~~trop~~ ^& trop^ prochaine en sang) or with the sister of Navern ~~for his master~~, were things untrew, but that indeede, the mariag[e] of Spayne, was earnestly pressed: wherin the sayd du Vraye had byn employed as a Comissioner of late from his master to sitt with the Popes Nuncio, the sp: ambassador, & on appoynted by the frenche K. to here their offers, which proceding by motyon from so highe personaygs cowd nott be butt harde./

The Pope promised of his parte, that if Monsieur enclyned to this mariaige, to dispence with the nerenes of blood (she being his neece) To give hym the Cownty frely of Avignon, erected into a kyngd[om] & that he sholld have 300 m [crowns] owtt of his purse, in redy money The k. of sp: wolld give with his dowghter all the Lowe Contreyes, & erect ~~there~~ likewise to ~~the state of~~ a kingdom, ~~contributyng~~ with ~~bothe~~ an Army & ~~the expences~~ to conqwer the ^Rebelles^ [ ... ] ~~the Rebelles to obeysance~~ which neded nott (du vray sayd) [ ... ] k. of sp: wolld [1 word expunged] parte with his interest, the States ~~of them selves~~ wolld yelld willinglye ^their duty their Duke^ to Monsieur./

[fol. 118r] [ ... ] inconvenyencs of the other syde, [ ... ] by rejecting Monsieur, & by driveng hym [ ... ] were these, that the frenche K. wolld then agr[ee] that he is somuche intreated unto, with the Pope, [ ... ] the Dukes of Tuscanie & Savoye, & others, [ ... ] of the Protestants owtt of christendom, wherof mo[ ... ] the cheeff charge, as Champion of the Churche, & [ ... ] against the scismatikes./

Wheruppon her majestie of England sholld ^likewise^ be somoned [to a] leage, to delyver the scottish Q. & to retorne to the unio[n] otherwise the D. of Gwise ~~sholld~~ be sent in [ ... ] with an Armye, & furnisshed of money & sondry [captaynes] to trayn men there, & from thenc owtt of on Continew[ ... ] the State of England dangerowslye, which wolld sturre [ ... ] within land, & the discontented sorte ot take parte, seing[ ... ] discharged by the leage of their Allegians: A matter [ ... ] charge, perill & confusion./

Herewith the K. of Sp: wolld be redy to employe his [navye] to intertayne the trobles in Ireland, to assiste the scott[ ... ] & to discend allso into England, diverting & entangl[ ... ] every syde. Wher^by^ all traffick were taken away [ ... ] Artificers & merchants beggerd: gentillmen without [ ... ] the number of workmen appertayneng to the trade of [ ... ] for lack of employment, & even for foode sake, to [ ... ] with the decaye of shippeng & fissheng: & for [ ... ] [1 word expunged] lycentiowsnes ~~that were offred~~, wherof Ruy[ne] was to follow ./

ytt sholld seme by Du Vrayes ~~speeh~~ further speches, uttred, that (this spannissh course procedyng), the Loreyn [marginalia by Herle: [ ... ] a blessing of [the] Q. mothers master upon her)] sholld be reserved for the scottish K. mariaige [ ... ] another misterye, that yett hong in [1 word expunged] Clowdes: ~~The~~ which premises, ~~he had as frely as might be~~ in ver [ ... ] had as frelye ymparted with her majestie he sayde as [3 words expunged] ^ani might do^, which she had recompensed with lyke playnesse, ~~concludine~~ & had concluded^ earnestly that monsieurs motion [ ... ] [118v] [ ... ] mawgre the ympugners, & that she [ ... ] as [mischantly]) that wolld ani more

serve [ ... ] it required ./ To confirme the which, she assured du [Vraye] [ ... ] sholld ether the same sondaye, or the ~~next~~daye followeng [ ... ] his dispatche in eche poynt agreable to ~~his masters desire~~<sup>the state of the</sup> [ ... ] & that she sholld adorne her parlement for ~~the space of 3~~ [1 word expunged] wekes longer, to the end that the sayd Du Vraye might ~~retorne~~<sup>retorne</sup> a ~~x~~ daye before ~~the begineng thereof~~ [1 word expunged] <sup>with</sup> ~~his masters~~ [~~estates~~] ~~prepared with all things from hi master~~ hither a x dayes before the beginneng of the <sup>sayd</sup> parlyament, prepared from his master ~~to receive the frute of his long negociatyon~~ to attend & Receive the yshew desired ~~when we eom to this~~ [ ... ] <sup>whatt</sup> was <sup>whatt</sup> principall <sup>prince</sup> <sup>partes</sup> ~~ymparteng~~ with me, [marginalia by Herle: heruppon, to ymparte [ ... ] es were com] ~~sondrye particularities the parts that were discended unto, & how~~ <sup>in the partes of the</sup> [ ... ] ~~his master inform~~ <sup>in this latter treaty</sup> ~~branches of this treaty~~ & how sincerelye monsieur had handled the article of Religion, reserving lesse scope to ~~hymself~~ his private exercise, (for he had comprised butt his frenche domesticalles thereyn) than Ambassadors have, in som of whose howses <sup>naming the frenche Ambassador</sup> there might be [marginalia by Herle: [ ... ] [affayres]] fownd <sup>that present sondaye</sup> above 120. persons <sup>extended</sup> [ ... ] <sup>englishe & strangers</sup> [1 word expunged] ~~unsought for~~ att masse.