

Transcript

Editorial comments:

BL Lansdowne MS 18 f. 86r - 89v. William Herle to Lord Burghley.

Address leaf:

[fol. 89v]

[Endorsement by Herle:] To the right honorable mi verey good L. the Lord Thresuror of England & towching the comisaion of Conselements./

Letter text:

[fol. 86r] Accordinge to the humble Care & duty, mi right honorable good L. that I owe to the Q. Majestie mi gracious Lady & Sovereigne, I did in mi late jorney into Wales, & in the way to & fro, observe suche things, as me thought dyd appertayn to her Majesties good service & profit; wherof I partly advertised your L. by mowth, which now more fully I do putt down in writeng, that your L. may be the good judge of eche parte therof./

And first I dare, God Willing, assume her Majestie & your L. (for Idell I am nott, nor wilbe in ani cause, where her Majestie hath an Interesse), that I will increse her revenewes in good land a mli a yere, which now is conseled from her majestie. And though the som be more than I spake of att the first, yett am I far within mi compasse from promiseng so muche, how grett soever this som seme to be./ The Reccords that I have gotten to this effect, by mi grett travayll & charge, shall prove it: The partyes principall theme selves, that do possesse of these Conselements, shall present up their own things, which mi poore Credite & perswasion with som of them hath wrought: And their example shall induce & lede others to do the like, wherby her majestie shall have present good service & proffitable don unto her mani wayes: Beside that this forme of proceding hath in mi poore oppinion, a mylldnes with it, & a preparation of Conformity before hand, & therby takes away the grudge & offence from the Contrey, whom it generally towcheth, with whom it were verey hard & dangerous to dele by ani other degre, mary I promised them certain things again, & first./

- 1. To be a sutor to her Majestie to obtayne her bylle signed for a Comission, wherin I might dispense with theme for the Arreraiges, for otherwise they were undon, & impossibly brought to thys yellding./
- 2. Secondly, that they or their assignes (if I fownd theme mete for it) sholld becom Tenants again of those grownds so fownd & [fol. 86v] presented, att suche rent or rents without fine, as they sholld be vallued & rated by indifferent persons, appointed to be jurates in that behallf./
- 3. Lastly, that bi vertue of this sayd Comission, they might have new leases grawnted them owtt of Thexchequer for LXX. yeres, uppon the presentment made theme, & the rate sett downe by your L. in consideracyon aswell of the Renew that her majestie sholld Receve bi this service, as of the humble offices & dutyes, which they will employ theme selves in for her majesties further service & proffitt./

Which is the humble motyon & dutifull that I make unto your L. for her majestie service, & of the Conditions that ar required for the bringing of it to spedy & easi perfection./ Yett herewith, if the Comission be graunted for such shires, as I am to name, & in that forme that is proponed then

these particularities following ar to be considered of withall by your L. to strengthen the sayd Comission, with asmuche credite & awthority, as shall seme mete & convenient for advancing of the sayd service the more./

- 1. First, that I may call before me in all those shires & places comprehended in the sayd Comission. aswell without the libertyes as within, all suche persons & person, as I think mete to be examined, sworne & employed in these matters, for the better understanding of the truthe, & the tryall of the Q. majesties right, in that I shall have charge to inqwire of, *idquam viis & modis omnibus. secundum sanam discretionem.*/
- 2. That I have awthority to survey grownds, to peruse her majestie Reccords where I can, aswell those that be with the Auditors as elles where, serving to this purpose. And to call for the sight of ani other mennes evidences, willes, leases, indentures, or writengs, that they pretend to hold those things by, that to do com in question & ar presented before this Comission for the Q. majestie./
- 3. That this Comission may have contynuaunce & force for the [fol. 87r] space of on whole yere, & that I may in every Terme duryng the sayd yere, certeffye & retorne suche things in Charge into the Exchequer, to the use of the partyes that I shall present, as ar fownd owtt bi the sayd Comission: To avoyd bi this devison of tymes a long expectacion of the service, & the tedyosnes that it might be of to the Cowrt, to have the whole masse brought in att ones./
- 4. Thatt allso the sayd Comission might be renewed att the end of the yere, bi vertue of her majesties first grawnt, if the whole servic be nott then effected & finished, without trobling her majestie to signe ani other new warrant for this on & self cawse./
- 5. There may be allso inquired of bi vertue of this Comission (if it seme so convenient to your L. for the labor & coste is all on) of decayed Rents & Lands, & milles: wherin certainly her majestie might Receve grett good service to understand the perfect state therof, & the way how to refferme the decaye, & to restore those agayn: which is afawtt & losse bothe, that growes dayly more generall in Wales & yett easily redressed./ And for the milles, as I know in on littell circuite of a shire LXXV, or there abowts, decayed by gentillmen of the Contrey, & the next neighbors to them, only to advance their own milles & grownds: so in other places of the sayd Contrey the nomber is gretter, & bi exampell of suffrance, wilbe to grett, & very hurtfull to her majestie to her lands & Tenants there./
- 6. In like sort may be inquired of (if it seme so convenient) what spoill there hath bin made of the Q. majesties Castelles & howses, by whom & bi whatt awthority; & whatt is becom of the Timber, lede, & stone so spoiled, & how it ^{is} to be answered to her majestie again, according to the statute provyded in that behalf?/
- 7. And whither that ani of pretensed malice, do procure or suffer ani Castell or Castelles, howse or howses, of her majesties that allredy ar in good reparatyon & state (& be in their own keping) to decaye [fol. 87v] to th'end they might purchasse theme after wards for a littel or nothing, a matter of notable losse & deceitt to the Q. majestie. & likely to be of noles oppression to her poore Tenants, if the malice be nott mett with in tyme./
- 8. Allso who doth colowrably usurpe ani part or parts of the Demaines belonging to her sayde Castelles & howses, answering nothing to the sayd Demaynes, butt joyneng theme rather to their own possessions & howses as things purchased, wherof I have som partyculer notes & instructyons, bothe bi Reccord & other wise, that may presently restore her majestie to som of the best & frutefullest things in Wales./
- 9. Further to inquire for Incrochements uppon wasts & Comunes which as they ar things verry generall in Wales, & of grete importance & proffitte: so bi good discretyon as ar they as easily

to be brought within the Charge & increase of her majesties Revenewes, as may be, att such rent as the sayd encrochements shalbe vallewed by sufficient jury. /

- 10. The like may be don for the knowlege of such Cattell, Stock, & goods, as ar imbesiled & have belonged att ani tyme heretofore, or do presently belong to Churches, Chauntryes, or fraternityes, & for the mene to recover them to her majesties use & comodity./ Of all which things & inquiryes, perfect books to be made & kept, that they may be presented up to your L. & to the Court of Th'excheqwer./
- 11. Then for lands holden in Capite in Wales, & for ~~wales~~ ~~consewards~~ Conseled, & for escheled lands: Bicause these be no feudaryes att all or verry fewe appointed in that Contry, butt specially non that doth the duty that becomes hym or them faithfully in their offices: yf your L. will bestowe uppon me the whole feodariship of Wales (an office, as your L. knowes, more painfull than proffitable) I will indever mi self to do suche service therin to her majestie & to the Cowrt of wards as (be it modestly spoken) she had never **[fol. 88r]** better service don in that behalf & in that Contrey, to this daye./ Wherin I shall ryd som of her wards of miserable servitude that the be in to som particuler gentillmen of the Contrey, & the rest of that kinde shall knowe that they hold in Capite Since King Edward of most gloryous memory the first, who making the north parte of that Contry civill & subject to englissh lawes, dyd institute allso & give a great number of these Tenures, to hold the Contry therby & from thenceforth in better obedience & dutye. Mary the Arreraiges woldd be as well remitted to these men, as to the other before mencioned, by the which they might the easelier be brought into charge again./ And further bi this creatyon of a generall feodary, the Escheter in every shire shold be compelled to do his office fully & truly (with whom the ~~Escheter~~ ~~sitts~~ feodary syttes) & to intitell her majestie of those things that ar hers by Eschete, which certainly riseth to a great matter in Wales./
- 12. Now rests to tell your L. that where therebe sondry gentill men of the principall sort of all Wales (as I sayd in the beginneng) that by mi travayll will present their own things & their frynds things withall, to be intituled & charged for the Q. majestie after the maner before mencyoned, which riseth nott to so lyttell in certaynty as to vj C marks by the yere, [marginalia by Herle: of their presentacion] namely by Master James ~~menes~~ of Brecknock Shyre as on, a man of grett worship in his Contry & of noles duty to the state that now is, your L. good kinsman withall: allso master wallter vawghan, master woogan of Wiston, master John Prise of Cardigan Shire, & sondry others of like devotyon & calling in their shires: to whom it were convenient in mi poore oppinion to have som gentell lres written ~~to theme~~, to incoraigne their forwardnes & duty in the Q. majesties service, which her majestie & your L. (as may be sayd for mi credite) doth understand of att large by me & in repport which will sturre suche an Emulatyon amonge theme to deserve best **[fol. 88v]** as the rest who deppend wholly of them, will imitate theme in all things, certatim & agara as the Italien sayth./

Whiche platt this layd downe, if it like your L. to allowe of, I will presently travaill abowtt it uppon myne owne charge, & will nott retorne, till her majestie & your L. shalbe fully satisfied in every project that is comitted to me, desiring verry humbly withall (if her majestie will so vowchesave) that I might before I departe, kisse her most gracious hands, & uppon mi knees to thanck her from the bottom of mi hart, of all her highnes favors & goodness [1 word expunged] bestowed uppon me; the grantyng ^wherof^ wolde more comfort me than ani welthe I can desire, & this vehemency doth expresse the verry mynde that I wolde have her majestie knowe to be within me towards her. Whom if she will cherishe & cowntenance from hence furth in my well doing & devout menyng towards her majestie I will assure her that she shall Receve further

service ^of me^ than I dare well expresse of mi self, to her majesties likeng & comodity, As sometymes the seely mowse hath bin of som use to the statley lyon./ Acknowleging further that bi her majesties bowntifullnes I shalbe hable by michellmas next to paye all the detts I owe in England, And in the mene tyme as this service wilbe verrey chargeable & painfull to me (for I will begin mi jorney these holly dayes alsowe as the comision is grawnted & dispatched: in setting furth wherof, som resonable port wilbe required for the better executyon & cowntenance of the sayd Comision, a matter in Wales no les necessary than ^verey^ specially observed) so to shew mi good will to be ~~above~~ above all hability that ever I maye have, I most say that I have nothing to lyve by ~~presently~~ in the world att this present, butt her majesties only favor & your L. [1 word expunged] (which sufficeth me abowndantly) nether do I crave ani mite of this service to mi self, butt to her only [fol. 89r] use & the good of the Contry: which makes me the bolder (if her highnes will graciously interprete of it) to make on humble motyon) more unto her majestie (for a bashefull & slowe craver I am) that where of her gracyous goodnes & own instinct, she promised me ones a pension of a C marks by the yere, like as John Leigh, Parker, & sondry others have had of her majestie. So if now towards these mi grett chargs, butt cheefly for an argument of her undouted favour & good oppinion of me ~~towards the world, she wold vouchesave~~ (mani having their eyes maliciously bent against me for her majesties sake) she wold vouchesave to bestowe uppon me this pensyon of a C. marks by the yere for terme of life; I wolde so humbly & diligently deserve it, as her majestie sholde joye in doing this for me, or elles lett it be revoked when she will to mi utter undoing & condempnacion : refferryng mi self most humbly in this & all mi Actyons to her majesties own disposityon, whose good turnes bestowed uppon me, ar butt layd up in store uppon on, that will employe theme again in her majesties service, with mi life allso when the cawse shall require it, for whom with all humble devotyon I do contynually & faithfully pray to God, to give her majestie helthe, long life, & happy successe in all her gracyous Raigne. Att London the 18. of December. 1574. Your L. most humbly to pray for you & serve you duryng my life./ W. Herlle.