

Transcript

Editorial comments:

BL MS Lansdowne 39 f. 189r - 192v. William Herle to Lord Burghley. This letter is preceded by a slip of paper endorsed by Burghley (fol. 189r).

Address leaf:

[fol. 192v]

[Superscription:] To the R honorable mi very good L the L high Thresuror of England &c. give these att the Cowrtt.

Letter text:

[fol. 189r] 15 November 1583 William Herle/

[fol. 190r] R honorable good L. I have understood by the Erlle of Bedfford, (to whose favor & goodnes, I am grettly beholldyng) that he in movyng your L. of me in som maner, ytt plesed yow so to lyke therof, as bothe ye gave him thancks, & on mi behallf, & promised of your sellf to do me som speciall good, asswell for som present releeff, & beteryng of mi poore estate, as for som office to be bestowed uppon me herafter, when the opportunity were offered, for the which R honorable L. & my deer Patron, I was to have gyven yow mi dew & humble thancks, butt that your grett & weightye affayres, have ymposed unto me a modestye, that in place of dutye I shall nott be troblesom to your L. to whom it suffiseth to knowe, that when mi service & nott mi words, may humblye waytt uppon your L. I will nott be slowe to offer the same, & to parfforme even with mi lyfe all the good offices that so [1 word expunged] mene a man is hable to present, owyng all that I have or am lyke to have to your good L. only./

Since the writeng of mi last lre unto you I dowtt nott butt that your L. hath fullye perceved, how mi judgement doth sqware with the sufficiencye of these Sweden Ambassadors, wheryn it may be, that I have nott swarved muche from that which your L. in negociatyng with them, hath fownd./ Archeballd duglasse & Kithe have had pryvate conference secretly together, butt the difference of their wyttes & habilytyes ar far dyfferent, albeit that Kythe wants no will to be eqwall with the first, butt that his spirite canott cary his malyce so highe./ he tempers to be gratefull to the scottish Q. & hath an intencyon to visite Scotland in his waye homeward, butt the scottissh K. hates the Swedens of all other nacyons, namely for the massacre of the Erlle of Ruthensson, & of so mani valyant sowdyers as had served under him of the scottisshemen, agaynst the K. of denmarcke, & wer in sute of their wages (having [fol. 191v] had muche dew unto them) in the end payd with very fowle & trecherows murther./

The sayd Archeballd duglasse is to be looked unto, for he is a very practiser: of the scottish Q. factyon, & yett ynsynuates him sellf into an oppynion of her majesties service, being in truthe a Cowntermynder (under colowr therof) of all the occasyons & secretts that he may Reche unto, for the advauncement of the sayd scottish Q. his mistresse tytell, & her present Raigne yf it might be./ he hath dellt coninglye with som men of good sorte, to drawe theme to the scottish Q parts, & mi sellf have byn offred money largely, presumyng belyke that I had neede, & theruppon yf I had Tasted ones of that liberalitey, som matter haply might have byn ymparted with me, which

otherwise they woldd make me a stranger in. I know som of his Instruments, & part of his jawnts.

The cheef marck that is shott att, is her majesties person, whom God doth & will preserve, according to her confydent trust in him./ The d. of Gwise is the director of the actyon, & the Pope is to confferre the Kingdom by his gyffte, uppon suche a on as is to mary with the scottish Q. so as she shall nott be ~~established~~ esteemed Q. by her own right & pretensyons, butt meere by the Popes collucyon, wherby the fere of the yong scottissh K. Religyon is provyded for, & he barred by & mayne./ Owr practisers woldd be ayded of suche a forein power, as sholdd nott afterwards be hable to comande theme here, yett dyrected by suche heddes for martiall skyl, as sholdd supplie ~~the number~~ in the number of their own, whatt [wanted] in strangers, presumyng grettly of [1 word expunged] wellthe & multitude, which practises (under pardon of mi ze) will hardly cesse, while the knowen serpent is norisshed in the bosom of our Reallme, havng the Arte to ynchawnte all her kepers, & brethes nothing elles butt poyson, which abrode butt [fol. 191r] hissing (her uglynes ones truly sene) woldd torne to her owne Ruyne, & theirs who were most tender of her./ The d. of Gwise, yf her platt here (which God confownd) were erected, he sholdd be in the redy waye to assure him sellf of the Crown ^of^ frawnce, the vawle & hope of the howse of valoyes beyng so nere extingwished, & the tytell of the K. of Naverne, beyng so ferefull & dangerows bothe for Rome & Spayne, yf monsieur or the frenche K. were owtt of the waye. which in substance, is the som of their present Trecheryes & projects to be hatched, butt that God doth miraculowsly discover & dyvert their malyce, & is the absolute deffender of her majesty. The case, & the premisses allso I humbly lay down beffore your wisdom, & do pray pardon for mi bolldnes, butt with condycyon that mi carkasse might serve for a plaster allso, for ani dedlye sore that might conserne the kyngdom or magistrate, which in Religyon, God & dutye to her majestie I woldd utter in all humble ze & ~~truth~~ ^trithe^/The L. Henry Howard, is supposed to be a preest, wherof there be mani presumpcyons, & that ^further^ he is in the secrett Register of the popes cardynalles./ ytt is he that advised Cymiers to procede by the papists to establysh his master here, & to purge Religion by the blood of sondry of our grettest howses in England, & that he sholdd stand stowttlye to have the artycle of fredom for Religyon grawnted, for that her majestie he sayd, was nott resollved of what Religyon yett to be of, A ~~voeye~~ voyce that favord of his own Blasphemye & vyle nature./

There is on of his blood, that this somer hath Received Ires & Reliqwes from beyond the seas, & hath att this present a notable Jesuite [marginalia by Herle: (among all the Jesuites)] desgyed in his servyce, of whose name & the particularityes besyde, your L. shall with convenyent speede [fol. 191v] be secrettlye & faythfyllly advertised, for whye it ymports her majestie [marginalia by Herle: I do send on into the contry specially about this] to be well informed therof, & so do I delyver it to your L. a grette Councellor. *sub sigille confessionis.*

Of frawncs Throckmorton, I advertised master secretorye this last somer, whatt secrett resorts he had to the french ambassador, whatt Long & pryvat conferencs, att seasons suspyceows, & of his beyng att masse their att severall tymes. he is a partye very busy & an enemye to the present State. his kinseman Sir N. eldest son, dynd on sonday (yf I mistake nott the daye) with the frenche Ambassador & cam att suche tyme as the Table was sett, beyng mucche made of then & respected, entryng into pryvate conference with the sayd Ambassador after dyner./

Frawncs Throckmortons brother & on dygby of Lyncollnes Yn, bothe papists & noted of to carye

yll & busy myndes, do yntend to depart the Reallme within these 3. dayes as slylye as they may. who in mi oppynion, wolld be observed well att the howre of their passayge, And thus havynge trobled your L. overmuch, I crave hartlye humble pardon for the same, And incase that your L. do finde me fytt to be employed in ani matter, that the tyme or her majesties service may ^now^ reqwire, I will faythfullye discharge whatt your L. shall plesse to comande me, on that behalff, prayng God most hartlye uppon mi knees to blesse her majestie with his grace & long lyfe, & your L. ^with^ hellthe contynuallye to serve her. mi lodgyng. the 15. of november. 1583. the Bullhed withowt Temple Barre./ your L. most Bownden. W Herllely.

[Postscript:] yesterday arryved on don Gaston a Sicilyan here owt of the P. of Parmas Camp, who att his departyng was att Ecklow 8. Leages beyond Brugs in flanders. The sayd Gaston departs from hence into Spayne directly to the K. /