

Transcript

Editorial comments:

BL MS Lansdowne 54 f. 151r - 152v. William Herle to Queen Elizabeth. This letter is enclosed within BL MS Lansdowne 54 fol. 150r - 153v.

Address leaf:

[fol. 152v]

[Endorsement by Herle:] To her majestie att Grenewiche the xth of Aprill. 1587.

Letter text:

[fol. 151r] I make mi mone verey humbly ^to yow^ (mi most sacred Sovereigne) of som that have of long tyme as it semes, sowght mi disgrace & undoing with your majestie. which your highe wisdom is to judge of, to whom mi service & sincerity is best knowen by the space of 28. yeres, & od moneths. They have informed that I am a raver, Thatt yow have bestowed uppon me manifoldd things. Thatt in mi jorney estwards, the Townes (to honor your majestie) have gyven me above ij mli & that I have a whiske in mi hed, desirows to be gaddyng, wherby I were unfytt for an office, wherunto under your majesties favor, mi answer shalbe shorte & symple./

I only had duryng mi service .2. gyfftes, & those nott properly of mi sute, butt of your free disposityon, The first a lese in reversyon, & the other a pencion, which may be valued att bothe to ix C li for gyfftes bestowed on me in the placs of mi employment, besyde a chaine worth 50 li I am so far from benefyteng that waye, as it hath coste me (yett nott wastefullye) in my .2. last jorneyes 860li for the which I have gayged mi frynds & mi pencion att home, th'only staye of mi lyveng, albeit I might have byn feed in lawfull things verey largely abrode, which I was free of as becomes the servant of a King. yett I have spent (to be the habler to serve yow) whatt soever mi industry or experyence coud affourde me those mani yeres, which is nott so lyttell I modestly affirme as 4500li ther be that know the trew compasse herof. Lastly I have nott byn forward to presse for foreyn services, Butt have avoyded som that were presented ^me^ to Barbary, Flanders, & other placs, which argues then (poore sowlle) ~~in me~~ no whiske, unstaydnes, or gaddyng humor I hope: Albeit I wisse to your majestie more hable persons abowt yow, for employments abrode, then I se capable, though willeng, to discharge that vocation. A man of service is nott so sone bred, not eche manes sence serve him a lyke, the small remnante sholdd be the more cherisshed./

your majestie graciouslye to prevent bothe mi craving & neede, appoynted me with many good words a yere past, to succede master Beale in the Clerckship of the Cowncell, which when others (in objectyng belyke mi whiske) had obtayned, I then made sute for a mene thing voyd in mi naturall contry, nott reffused me by your majestie, yett crossed by on a neere stranger ~~stranger~~ to your service, & verey yong withall, whose lyveng by yow only (this thing & his patrymony excepted) is better worth than a m marcks yerely. other sute of ani vallew R. graciows Sovereigne, nether had I nor made I wherof I desire to be cleered in your own graciows conseytt, that mi detractors may cesse to supplant me with their bytternes, wherwith I am nether wounded nor moved, butt armed with pacyens to endure for your majesties service I thanck God, for the which I have provoked mightye enmyes, & purchased only a barren harvest./

In regarde of which the premisses (mi weke estate consydred) it may plese your majestie to inhale me at laste, with somewhat conveyent for me in reputacion & comoditey, & I will **[fol. 151v]** most trulye deserve it, *sed mora micti more.* or yf it be so decreed that I alone shalbe secluded from benefite & prefferment, the same is of mi disaster, nott of your will, which hath byn ever most graciouslye inclyned towards me, & so will I ever reppute it beyng hable to gett mi lyveng abrode (though late) as a citezin of the worlld, with the plowe of mi poore witt, & the honest oppynion helld of me, so ye vowchesave to grawnt me [marginalia by Herle: (which most humbly I do beseeke)] your honorable leve & Testimony, having mani eyes fixed on me, yett will I serve your majestie (mi sacred sweete Sovereigne) whersoever I becom, & pray for yow with as sincere devotyon, as ani neerer respected att home. Grenewiche the xth of Aprill. 1587. your majesties poorest servant, now in the fruteles Awtopmpne of his Aige. W.H./