

Transcript

Editorial comments:

BL MS Lansdowne 55 f. 217r - 218v. William Herle to Lord Burghley.

Address leaf:

[fol. 218v]

[Superscription:] To the R. honorable mi very good Lord, the L. Thresuror of Eng[lan]d &c. gyve these/

[Endorsement by unknown hand:] xix. martij. 1587. Master William Herle. Leave to depart the Realme./

Letter text:

[fol. 217r] I Receved by mi servant, R. h. L. the diffinityve sentence that her majestie hath gyven to your L. towching me: for the which I canott butt bewayll my hard estate, & make of necessity a vertew, which yett might move stupidity, nott pacyens, to be greved: Having never offended her majestie ones in thought, why she sholld withdrawe so hevily her gracious favor & cowntenance from me, & therwith her manifold promises: Butt I am most humbly contented with her good plesure, whattsoever she decree, whom I esteme the Imaige of God, & therefore whatt her majestie had sayd or grawnted advisedly, as a Sovereigne, to so poore a servant of hers, to have byn *Regium*. Wherof (yf it be a fawtt) I presumed the more, & which she hath graciously accomplished to others (better frynded) & I alone excluded & contempned, after the disbursement of myne owne, ye all & more then I had, in her service, as yett unallowed or recompensed: wherby I have nether fee lefte to serve her, nether credite nor hope to mayntayne mi self longer, nor ever had land or office, to tye me. wherfore I do beseke your R. h. L. even in highe necessity, & for Godds mercy sake, to be a mene that I may have her graciows Testymoniall & favor, for mi loyall behavior & duty contynewed, to her majestie & the State, duryng mi service, & her Royall leve to departe in convenyent speede, to gett mi lyveng abrode, wherwith I shall holld my self fully satisfied & rewarded, & so myne enmyes (ye hers) nott beholld mi fall here, that otherwise is att hande, which [am] subject to their calumpinacons & malice, for her service, & redy dayly to be arrested & undon, nott havyng brede to lyve on./ which is the som of mi humble, lawfull, peticion, & the only thing R. h. L. I crave, percevyng mi case in this Cowrtt, to be most wretched, that yf to daye a poore knights Rowne of wyndsor (muche more ani gretter thing) were grawnted me; tomorow som wolld procure it for their servant, frynd, or Ligeman, & I deprieved, wherfore compelled, do beqwethe mi self to the worlld, in this mi late Awtopmpne, despayre havyng seased bothe me & mi [menes] here, butt yf I lyve & prevayll abrode, [fol. 217v] your L. shall fynde, that I will nott be undutifull for your honorable goodnes towards me wherof I have very largely tasted, which God mercifully beholld, beyng bownd to your L. by a bond of neere Reverens & love in nature, by the howse that I com of, wherwith besekyng your favorable dispatche & answer, I take mi leve. Temple Barre the 19. of marche. 1587. your L. ever most humbly bownden W. Herlli.