

Transcript

Editorial comments:

HMC Bath Dudley Papers II f.170r - 171v. William Herle to the Earl of Leicester.

Address leaf:

[fol. 171v]

[Superscription:] To the Right honorable my very good L. the Erlle of Lecester &c. gyve these att the Cowrtt.

Letter text:

[fol. 170r] I am affrayd Right honorable L. that I ymportune yow to muche, & I do se withall the season very unapte for sutes, wherby I am dryven to despayre for doing mi sellf ani good therefore mi necessytye & the gredynes of mi Creditors bothe together, do force me to take mi humble leve of your L. for all together, being as sorye to departe as ani pore man may be, having left with Raphe Moore mi pattent of a C markes by the yere, to answer your L. the 50li that yow have plesed to disburse to wade for me which qwarterlye wilbe answerd, begyneng att michellmas next & in marche followyng a^o 1580 the sayd som is discharged. I humblye lay this & the reste att your honorable feete, for unthanckfull will I never be, whattsoever becomes of me./

And if your L. woldd vowchesave to procure me a passeport from her majestie to be absent owtt of the Reallm for 3 yeres (for other wise I canott be saffe in ani parte of England for Arrests) I shall leve my man to attend uppon your L. for ytt, or misseng therof, I most retyre mi sellf hence without itt, for lack of employment & mayntenance & yett I can serve with a pyke or harkebuse asswell as another./

In the mene tyme yf any of those servics that I yesterdaye by mi lres proponed to your L. to do, may lyke yow, I will spedilye & humblye performe theme, within the tyme [lymited] in mi sayd lres.

Herin mi L. is a discowrse of myne, as an humble testymonye of mi good will & dutye to her majestie & to yow, towching a mene to Anoye & dyvert K. phillip therby to loke homewards:ytt may plesse your L. to consyder therof, as the thing may ymport which I woldd not wryte with myne own hand bycawse I have byn playne (yett with dutye) in spekyng of the frenche disposityons towards her majestie & state. which dutye I [present] beffore ani foreyn respect./

yf ytt sholdd be lyked, ytt most be first handled by secrett negociatyon, or elles ytt will prove dangerows & ympossible, bothe for the gelowsye of the Barbaryans, & the crossing that may procede of the spaynyshe K. spyes & feedmen, which he hath even there, as he hath in every place elles of the worlde./

Butt yf itt were ones sett down & concluded with the sayd K. of Barbary the very [dede] therof mi L. without force or shippeng, woldd bryng the K. of Spayne, to offer ani composityon to her majestie that might lyke & assure her best how muche more then, yf it be followed in good earnest./

I have had this platt in mi hed these x yeres & [breke] therof within [fol. 170v] xciiij monethes last past to mi L. thresuror & to master Secretarie Wallsingham butt more largelye I opened ytt to sir William Wynter, who never beffore had loked (for ani state matter, so nere into that Contrey & woldd willynglye have joyned with me yn ytt./

Mendoza the Spanissh Ambassador goest lyghtlye eche evenyng desgysed to Baptiste Sempiforyes howse. Surely mi L. yow had nede to loke to mani practises that ar affoote agaynst our State, & to perswade your selff, that the Rebellyon of Ireland is even a handlyng & incresing here, by Instruments in England. And that as waterfford hath written to have shott & supplye, to have excuse to revollt thereby belyke, yf they be not satisfyed as they woldd att an ynstant: so the other places of the contry have spaynissh fyrebrands cast to that effect, wherof our own natyon, ar the worst Battishiewes of all./

I went this daye being requested by master pryse of [Eglassye], to [speke] with him att Salisburye Court by water, where fyndeng [mallvisyer] yn the waye walking under his lodging with d. lopez, he compelled me being a xi of the clock, to dyne with hym whither I woldd or no He tolld me that your L. dyd christen tomorow my Lady Drewryes & that Monsieur woldd be here within these xx^{ti} dayes, & that [Cymiers] lodged att master lightes howse./ ytt is reported abrode, that [your L. &] Cymie, ar entred into a very grete Leage & familyaritye, which [is] nott a lyttle observed./

For the cheyne of perlle that Cymie ware, ytt is trew that he [gayned] ytt of ijC & odde pownds: & yett to shew that he woldd cover the same with som good grace, he ware a lyttel parcell of a chayne of perlle as a fastnyng of his dagger to his girdell in maner or change./

The words that mallvisyer spake of cutting the gresse under your feete your L. understode theme allredy (as I here) by sir Edward horsey, butt mallvisyer useth the lyke to others discowrsyvelye./

They saye that Du vraye wilbe here tomorow./

I most nedes gyve your L. an Advertisment of ymportance beffore I departe, which requires substanciall looking unto: otherwise yow will (for so the brute is gyven owtt) bryng the K. of denmarke to an open qwarrell with her majestie, who is resollved (as they saye) yf he be nott presentlye well answerd towching his complaynts made for the ~~complaynts~~ depredacions that ar daylye exercised uppon his subjects, to stayer all our merchants yn [fol. 171r] the Sownd, till full satisffection be made: with whatt sclander & offense ytt will brede to our government, your L. best knowes. And this is cheefflye sollycited (thought yndyrectlye) in denmarke by men of owr own natyon, & by som of the Stylyard: cryeng owtt that there is no [1 word expunged] justyce to be had here, making us more ynffamows for Tolleratyon of pyrates, than for pyracye ytt selff. This I humblye of dutye & [mene] zele do discharge mi knowlege.

Another thing that ytt may plese your L. to have a speciall regard unto that is to place som prechers in north wales, the deffawtt wherof (which ys to grett shame to the Bisshops, that your L. should be remembred of ytt) brynges all things to Irrelygyon, & conffusyon, & becomes the very mother to Rebellyon & conspiracye, with extreme offense to God & justyce & therefore to be loked unto spedilye./ Your L. hath gyven me leve by your own lres heretoffore, to be bolld with yow yn matter that may conserne her majesties servyce, which I have heryn freelye don, & with all humble dutye obeyd yow, & so most humblye I do take my leve. london the xiiij of Awgust 1579.

Your L. with his hart & prayer. W. Herlleli.