

Transcript

Editorial comments:

HMC Bath Dudley Papers II f. 216r - 217v. William Herle to the Earl of Leicester.

Address leaf:

[fol. 217v]

[Superscription:] To the Right honorable mi very good L. the Erlle of Lecester &c. give these att the Cowrtt with spede spede./

Letter text:

[fol. 216r] Being lothe to troble your L. with mucche writeng, and as lothe by scylens, to shew mi selff slack in dutye, I presume humblye to putt you in remembrance that the tyme approacheth, which Du Vraye enjoyned me, for writeng over to hym having receved the cipher, which he first left with me, & assigned me a place certayn in paris whither to dyrect mi lres, which is mencyoned in his schedule that your L. Receved in those scribled papers that I sent you. I woldd knowe of your L. with whatt matter I sholdd yntertayn hym, & whither sir Henry Cobham will faythfully gyve receipte to suche lres as shall passe bettween the sayd Du Vraye & me. [marginalia by Herle: yf ani com to his hands] This occasyon mi L. is not ~~contempned~~ to be contempned for trulye I take hym to be an honest man, & very humblye & syncere & affected towards your L. being disposed to advertis me of matter of moment, which he woldd have you understand of me. He moved me whither I thought it nott a saffe waye, to enclose his packett that he woldd addresse unto me under a cover that caryed directyon to your L. wherof & of ani other thing that itt may plese you to comand, I woldd gladlye knowe your will, for on thursdaye God willeng I mene to sattsfye by writeng, the covenante that is establysshed bettween us so your L. do lyke therof.

For myne owne causes here, that has hapned, which I all wayes fered, for Hollmes departs this weke beyond the seas, & so is mi estate browght to despaire. The Terme allso comes on, & therewith more executyons uppon mi neck. mi comissioners have differred mi this money well nye, withowt ones sytteng for me, som of theme disputyng how formalitye shalbe observed. forgettyng clene the materyall poynts that is comitted to ther charge, wheryn unles they had som conyng, joyned with a secrett yntent to detayne me still here, I know nott whye this strange & uncharitable proceding [fol. 216v] sholdd be used with me. for I mi selff, having trusted only in mi selff, cowd have ended all mi causes, beffore this tyme, which is now far from mi power & hath depended of the favor whollye, that [men] loked to have proceded from your L. & the Lord Thresuror. Trewlye master fanshawe & master Norton, have borne a good mynde to tender & dispatche me, butt the third person (thrust yn I know nott by whom) hath utterlye discourayged me, & is more nyce than & [...], than ceremonye it selff, for as he procedes, ytt gives shew that yf the creditors woldd forgive me the whole dett, he woldd nott allowe of it, for that his comission dyrects hym to a cowrse certayne he sayth. Butt I hope, that I shall nott troble theme long, for the highe God, who is the gracious decyder of all difficultyes, will breke the stryfe havyng visited me here in prison with the spyce of a *Hectick* fever, as he dyd Sir John Throckmorton, mi slepe & appetite havyng forsaken me & the other accydents encresyng therewith, that a myndful of Any wishe & melancholye [marginalia by Herle: Bowre] may be charged with. Yf your L. sawe mi

Bowre & the conyng to it, you woldd saye that it were the very seatt of melancholye, & even the Imayge of that darcke waye which ledes to dethe or despayre, beynge well assured that your [noble] nature woldd pittye me with your harte. Master Smithe the Customer was with me on Satterday, to conffort me (as he hath byn sondry tymes) whose harte bled he sayd to beholld me & the place. / I am sorye that mi creditors (for whom I carye a conscyens) & 4. poore ynffants that be (without me) orphans shall lese the hope that I had conseved to have satisfied ether of their hopes. I delivered to sir John Hubord a paper, which he faythfullye promised [fol. 217r] to have given to your L. that theryn you might have sene the state of the Raglership, & of that thing which I humblye crave by your honorable mediatyon & mi L. Thresurors, of her majestie yn fe farme the cople wherof I have ynclosed heryn, to the end that it may plese your L. to shew it the L. Thresuror, who therby may perceve, that yf it were worthe 50li a yere in K. Richard the seconds tyme, ytt is nott now worthe us by the yere, being disturbed as it is. Therefore yf itt may plese you bothe, in respect of mi former servyces to her majestie & to you bothe, & for the charitye that is to be extended towards mi creditors & sondrye others, that deppend of mi good, respectyng somwhatt the person of a distressed man in me, to move her majestie for the fee farme of it, ytt will never be denyed & so shall I dye & lyve the more contented. for mi Lease of the Ragler, there is non will give me 50li for itt, I have payd vijcc nobles for Rent therof, & spent mli abowtt it. To obtayne it att xxli nobles Rent in fee farme is booteles, for ytt will yelld me no comoditye, which consydred I humblye refferre it to your goodnes, whom I have trulye loved & followed, havynge ever had that oppynion of you, that your sellf willed me to have of suche a on as was borne noble & had a noble disposityon towards me, observyng another precept of yowres, that I should be yowres wholly undevyded, [3 words expunged] & so God is mi judge I have byn, which her majestie Remembred me of, sayeng that it conserved you in honor to holld me in good accompte, [marginalia by Herle: There is non in the worlld, that ayded me with on peny since I cam into prison, now xv wekes & ij dayes] & to do for me, seyng that for your sake, I had sondry grett adversaryes who have crossed mi [...] & prefferment, butt I rejoyse in God that he hath dyirected mi hart to love & serve you, & woldd spend mi harte blood to conffirme the same still towards your L. Whom God preserve the Cownter. 24.Maye 1580. your L. humble W. Herlleli.