

# Transcript

## Editorial comments:

SP 12/139/[ ] f. 55r - 58v. William Herle to Lord Burghley. Burghley has added the word 'becons' in supralinear form above a sentence by Herle.

## Address leaf:

[fol. 58v]

[Superscription:] To the Right honorable mi very good L. the Lord hyghe Thresuror of England &c. give these

[Endorsement by Herle:] [ ... ] the fee farm

## Letter text:

[fol. 55r] Maye it plesse your L. to understand that on satterday last there cam unto mi hands certayn Artycles written to me owtt of Holland, which were yntercepted att the Bryll, abowtt a fellow, that pretended to take passayge towards the Northe of England, who being strayttlye examined & threttend with the Rack, confessed hym self to be a spanyard, whose conffession, I am promised to have by the next poste, having in the mene tyme written to myne olld frynds Pawll Buis & Ortell, to be advertised of the truth of things./ Ones whither it be a stratageme [marginalia by Herle: idest P [Auriacj]] of the princis, to move her majestie therby to favor his cawses the more, & to be tyed to hym by a certayn necessitye (these things beyng beleved) or whither they be symply trew, I thowghte it mi parte to send your L. a cotype of the Artycles as I Receved theme, translated owtt of french (butt I am made beleve that the originall was in spaynissh) to the end that yf ye have Receved theme before, your L. may be the more conffirmed in seying theme agayn./ I am the more provoked in dutye, to make this knowen to your L. for that it threttens danger to our Soverayne & State, & hath a grownd yn it to sowe devysyon & gelowsye among us, which may be spred into sondrye hands & heddes that be dangerows: Butt cheefflye for that it conteynes suche matter as I have hard of late in more partyculer Termes, by monsieur du Vraye, who sekyng me owtt [3 words expunged] cam hither of his own motyon ~~to meremayneng~~ with me .3. howres, discoursing very francklye of a number of things./ assuryng me that his master was offred the dowghter of Spayne, in advancement ~~wher~~ of ^which mariayge^ the pope wold dispense with the nernes of blood, give hym the Cownty of Avignon erected into a kyngdom, with 300m. [crowns] in redy mony, & make hym Gonfalonier of the churche & of the holye leage. The frenche K. sholld make hym Lyvetenant ^generall^ [fol. 55v] throwghowtt all frawnce. The frenche ~~protest~~ Catholicikes sholld holdd hym for their onlye Protector & sholld awgment his Estate./ The K. of Sp: woldd give hym with ~~the mariayge~~ his dowghter^ the xvij provyns of Belgia, erected lykewise into a kyngdom, & supplye hym with an Armye to conqwer the Guises, which neded nott du vraye sayd, for that the P. of orange with his parte, woldd accord to Receve hym peceably so the K. of Sp: dyd part with his interest, which me thowght ~~was~~ contrary [1 word expunged] ~~self~~ for the Guises ~~them selves~~ so conffydentlye to comitt their estate & lyves to the Gonffalonyer of the Church. He proceded, that yf we dyd nott prevent this maryayge of Sp: The frenche K. woldd be drawn into the Leage, with the rest of the Kings & Prynys that deffended of hym, the protestants sholld go to wrack in france, the Guses in the Lowe contryes exposed to ~~pray~~, the

praye, the Germaines Tereffyed, & England leffte naked & confused. The D. of Gwise shold be sent over with an Armye into Scotland, & with sondry other captaynes & Leders to be trayners of the people there. [marginalia by Herle: Ireland shold be ynvaded by part of the Sp: forcs & the rest disscend yn England] The Catholycks & factyows sort in England, shold be sturred to commotyon & be discharged of their Allegians to her majestie. And she sommond <sup>^(manu armata)^</sup> to retorne to the union of Awncyent Churche, & to deliver expresslye & furthwith the scottissh Q. <sup>^or elles &^.</sup> Of the other syde, yf her majestie dyd procede in the mariayge with monsieur, the frenche K. wold be wholly owres, the grett Leage shold be made frustrate, the K. of Naverne shold be employed with a ~~grett~~ power towards fontrabye, to dyvert & devyde the Spaynissh forcs, portyngall shold be releved, the protestants in frawnce assured, the Low contryes yellded to monsieur by the p. of O. & the rest expulld. Scotland shold be wholly att the Englyssh devotion [fol. 56r] conspiracyes & factyons cutt of, asswell att home, as abrode, Religion strengthend thowghowt christendom, And the D. of Savoye ~~shold be~~ constrayned to agre to this, or elles (will he nill he) to be qwyett. Thus her majesties kyngdom shold be of all sydes *Bien Bornee* & made hable to offend & conqwer, which speches for that he sayd, that he had delyverd theme in the same Termes att large <sup>^to her majestie^</sup> with other further matter which I reserve to declare unto yow by mowthe) ~~to her majestie~~. I forbere to speke of theme, till thys occasyon of the Artycles yncluded ~~^is ready^ were wer~~ <sup>^was of now^</sup> presented <sup>^to me^</sup>. Mary when the sayd du Vraye (who still proffesseth him sellf to be mi sworn brother, & offred me grett kyndnes & credite), told me that he was ~~appointed~~ a Comissyoner from his master, to treatt with the Popes Nuncio, the Sp: Ambassador, & on that the frenche K. had ~~appointed~~ joyned with theme, to here the condycyons that were offred, & to understand asswell the comodityes that shold ensue of the sayd Sp: mariayge, to his master, as the secretts thatt subsysted ~~therin~~, I coud nott butt marvayll I sayd, that he being a known protestant & on that prefferred his Religion beffore ~~his~~ <sup>^Any wordly^</sup> duty (for so he had made me often beleve) [marginalia by Herle: & was in hand to translate att ~~this~~ that present the confessyon of the Churche of England into frenche] shold be yntromitted into ~~this trust~~ of the Popes secretts, unles they whold have ytt ~~a matter spread abrode for a rumor~~ as a polycye ~~that they wold conynglye~~ lett slyppe into the worlld, to worke som further advantayge by, wheratt certaynly he changed cowntenance, & dyd butt badly satisfye me in his answer, though I semed to take it for very suffycient./ He ~~lest a~~ <sup>^confirmed the olld</sup> [ ... ] <sup>^with me</sup> I had, desireng <sup>^me^</sup> to write unto hym, & to dyrect mi lres to monsieur marchemont the D. of A. agent in Parys, & he wold advertis me francklye of all things agayne, which surelye may torne to som comoditye, yf her majestie & your L. thynck mete that I shold hold correspondencye with hym, having Received a very kynde lre from hym the daye he departed hence, reqwestyng that he [fol. 56v] might here from me, which shold nott [Respecte] me./ He arrived att Paris on satterdaye was ~~se~~ <sup>^fort^</sup> nyght, & departed thence towards his master the mondaye following, sendyng me comendacions by Awgustye the Greke, who was sent over by the Lygier here to the K. & to monsieur./ The sayd greke was with me, on frydaye & this mornyng allso, & declared that he was browght <sup>^in^</sup> hym sellf, to delyver his lres to the .K. by the secretorye Pynart. The K. in redyng his lres, sware a grett othe, (smileng) to Villeqwies that was present, [1 word expunged] *Les Anglois se morquent de nous*. The duke he sayd, had retorned his pattent to the K. of his lyvetenancye, for that it conteyned nott the superyntendencye over the fynances, as well <sup>^& aptlye^</sup> as ~~his brother~~ <sup>^the kings^</sup> had it, ~~in the Raygne of his brother~~ <sup>^under his brother^</sup> Charlles./ He sayd that the K. yntended to send *l'awbespin* hither, shortlye in messayge./ This mornyng he sayd, that the Ambassador was cowntermanded by her majestie from the awdyens he shold have had, ~~till she were redy, to send for hym~~ att the Cowrt till her sayd

majestie were redy to send for hym, which he takes to be a contynuance of the Accustomed delays & the rather for that master Stafford is appoynted now to go into frawnce, whose comyng wilbe to small purpose, for that they do expecte a Resolutyon, & not yntertaynment beyng redy of their syde to send over hither to conferre all things treated of, asswell for leage as Allyance which these strange delyngs will grettlye discredite, bothe in oppinion & substance./

Now <sup>^</sup>ones more most humbly<sup>^</sup> for these holland artycles mi L. there ar many things ~~spread~~ <sup>^</sup>spread<sup>^</sup> yn this Towne to the same effect, ~~as advertisements~~ <sup>^</sup>likewise<sup>^</sup> owtt of Spayne namelye synce on is com thens ~~that~~ <sup>^</sup>that<sup>^</sup> hath byn att the cowrtt for som reason ~~whose [matter] on John frampton~~ that hath browght ~~some matters~~ <sup>^</sup>as is repported) grett<sup>^</sup> secrettly to light, whose writengs on John frampton dyd translate here owtt of the Spayniss tong into the englyssh./ I was offred to be made acqwaynted with the parti **[fol. 57r]** cularities of theme, reseruyng butt on secrett, which non sholdd know butt her majesties sellf./ There is on Bancks that dwelles in St Katherin collmons parissh by Allgate, who is ~~grett~~ <sup>^</sup>conversant<sup>^</sup> with the sp: ambassador, & is used ~~privatelye~~ in sondrye things by the sayd Ambassador./ He is allso of councell with John frampton in all things, so as it is very lykelye, that whatt he hath lerned of the sayd frampton, he makes the Ambassador privy unto. There is repported that the Spaniards will land in millford haven which ~~place of~~ (for mi calleng) I know aswell as ani dothe, [marginalia by Herle: being the onlye place to anoye England with a grett navye & to land easelye wher they will, unresisted, for thereabowtts is a ~~solitary~~ ~~corner~~ more solitude without people ~~for~~ place of deffence to make hed ] The comunes ~~people~~ allso of penbroke shire, ar no [1 word expunged] <sup>^</sup>men<sup>^</sup> but very wretches, toylled with husbondrye & of small force, butt Carmarden & Cardigan, the shires adjoyneng, ar full of lustye & warlyck ~~personais~~, ~~butt~~, <sup>^</sup>persons, yett<sup>^</sup> yll provyded ~~for~~ in Armor & furniture, which of my knowlege I do humblye, & in all dutye advertis your L. [marginalia by Burghely?: <sup>^</sup>becons<sup>^</sup> ] The Becons more over ar ~~unprovdyed~~ & <sup>^</sup>un<sup>^</sup> looked to, which your wisdom may ~~pardon me~~ (in pardoning the zele, that I do remember the same with) consyder or remember the rather./

Here is on John Stamp (mi L.) browght in uppon frydaye last uppon an Actyon of dett of ij Cli. his dwelling is att Northmowllson in Barckshire, besyde wallingsond, The man hath byn of grett wellthe, ~~is~~ & is sodenlye fall[en] into decaye. He hath begon to utter a matter unto me of certayn factyons within his conty, & of sondry correspondencies that is tyed therunto <sup>^</sup>from other places<sup>^</sup>, which shewes a further roote, than he yett will uppon this begyneng utter, butt I hope to gett it, for ytt sholdd appere to savor of a conspiracye, & of som hable persons that dryve it, butt I fere that he wilbe delyverd tomorow or on wensdaye, & then the occasyon is taken awaye, **[fol. 57v]** unles it may plese your L, in respect of the service that may result to her majestie <sup>^</sup>therof<sup>^</sup> to wryte ,3. lynes to mi good frynd master Recorder, that he reppayre unto me, & that whatt we shall fynde conveyent to be don, ~~yn that shalbe ymparted to hym by me~~ in a certayn cawse that is to be confferred of bettween us, that he be redy to assiste it, by menes wherof, we may stayer hym (yf nede be) by som [1 word expunged] <sup>^</sup>discrete<sup>^</sup> mene ~~of the sayd Recorder~~ till we se the yssue that is looked for, which shalbe accomplished before satterdaye next, without detryment ~~also~~ to the partye. for unles he be discharged of his actyon beffore satterday no comandement shalbe entred agaynst hym, & yf the comandement be uppon hym for so short a tyme, his chargs shall nott be grett, nor he ~~shall~~ incurre therby ani further subjectyon. ~~to Actyon~~. Ones more to speke of these holland Artycles, I do humbly assure your L. that I have comunicated them with non, butt with your L. onlye./

Ytt may plese your good L. to pardon this long scribled lre, & to vowchesave to remeber mi

humble sute to her majestie for the feefarme havynge by mi last lre ynstructed yow of all that I was  
hable, which may serve as an humble Remembrancer to your L. ^to sollicite mi cawse ones for all  
from hencefurth^ concludyng that yf it be nott granted att xx s. a yere, her majesties gyffte will not  
stede me. I am so tyred with this malencholye straytt place & contagiows, & with the necessitye  
that I am in, (havynge nott had xij d in mi purse these vij dayes, & have spent synce my detaynment  
above 55 li.) as I am even werye of mi lyfe, yett I have hired this messenger to bryng mi lre to  
your L. of purpose, & to bryng suche answer back, as shall plese yow to ~~send~~ ^send^ me./ yf ye  
wryte to master Recorder, ~~give~~ your L. will vowchesave to give me that cowntenance in speche,  
that he shall nott thynck me wholly [fol. 58r] disgraced by my ymprisonment./ Wherwith most  
humbly I do take mi leve, the xij of June. 1580. your L. with his hart & pra[yer] W. Herl[lely]

[Postscript:] yf your L. do lyke mi cowrse that I have taken, with powll Buis in holland & with  
ortell, I will contynew ytt./

I most humbly do thanck your L. for the thancks ye gave to master osburne on mi behallf./