

Transcript

Editorial comments:

SP 12/181/70 f. 216r - 217v. William Herle to Lord Burghley. In the middle of the word 'Cowncellors' in the postscript, Herle continues the script perpendicular in the left hand margin.

Address leaf:

[fol. 217v]

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

[Endorsement by Burghley:] 28 Augusti 1585 William Herle.

Letter text:

[fol. 216r] By your favorable meanes, R. honorable good L. I had the pryvy seall [paid], without mi fees: which to me is an ease & releeff, & an accumulatyon of the manifoldd duties I owe yow./ I was yesterday mornynge to have spoken with your L. butt was tolld by master spenser, that ye had taken phisyck which was good reson dutifully to forbere you for. This mornynge my indisposicion is suche, as I kepe mi Bed, & canott waytt on your L. as I desi[red] beffore it plese God to give me more strengthe: humbly prayeng your L. in the mene tyme, to examine the cawse better of mi dispersyng of your lres abrode (wheratt I answerd somwhatt by mi Last) & whatt ostentacion I have used that becomes me nott, of your favor towards me: unles it be ostentacion to Reverence your person, & your merytes to the Comune weall: And to reporte suche as dyd & do ympugne the comendacion & acknowleging therof./ ytt may plese your L. further to inquire: To whom, when & how I dispersed your sayd lres, that by the circumstance the truthe or error may appere, & your L. be satisfyed: hoping that I am tawght att these dayes, how to behave mi self, asswell whatt to speke & do: as whatt I am nott answerable to suche, as intermedell to far with doynge, nott apperteyneng to theme, men plesers & servers of Tyme./ I had your L. own Awthority, to use mi discretyon in answeryng the sclanders I hard, & for conferryng with mi frynds towching theme: which though I saye it of mi self, hath byn don with discretyon & care, & with a zeale that is irreprehensible./ which doth comfort & assure me, agaynst all Parasites & Backbyters, whom I contempne & condempne of whatt degree soever./ *Proximus ille Deo, qui scit ratione tacere.* A principle that as nere as I can, I will holld, & namely in these grave cawses that conserne mi Superyours. And consyderyng the propper Interest that your L. hath in me mani wayes, I do study how to answer it, by the best degrees that I m hable, nott with vayne ostentacion & Lightnes, butt sincerely & dutifully whiles I lyve, which I humbly hope ye will Receive as a satisfaction of the Repports made unto you, unles I be charged with matter & persons indeede, that may towche me worthily without partiality: wherewith comendyng mi zelows devotyon & service to your L. good & honorable favor I take mi Leve. the 28. of Awgust in mi Bed. 1585. your L. ever most Bownden. W. Herlleli

[Postscript:] Post Script your L. man Owen hath a Brother of the other syde that serves the P. of Parma with intelligence & is director of all the Englyssh spyes interteyned with ij C li pensyon, as diligent & dangerows in his kynde, as Morgan is in franwce. Rowland Yourck who is a condempned knave to this state, & cowntermynes with Cowncellors here, Receves Lighte &

Credit att Owens hands. And on thing is specially to be noted, that as strayttly as the Ports be kept yett do englysh spyes arryve dayly on the other syde, & repaire to Owen & to the P. & ar reformed with new matter & reward. La mote hath the like cowrse, which I advertis your L. as a matter of secresy & service & the rather in respect of your own Owen, Allso there be som englyssh merchants (who shalbe lerned owtt) that have passeports of the P. of Parmas for transport of vittayles to him./