

Transcript

Editorial comments:

SP 53/6/40 f. 69r - 70v. William Herle to Lord Burghley.

Address leaf:

[fol. 70v]

[Superscription:] To the right honorable mi good Lord, the Lord of Burghley her Majesties principall Secretary in hast haste./

[Endorsement by unknown hand:] xvj. Aprill. 1571. William Herle.

Letter text:

[fol. 69r] The keper of this place mi Lord, hath receved your warrant for Charlles close imprisonment, & for the staye of all suche as desire to speke with hym, who ~~in the~~ is to execute his charge as zelowsly as truly, for that he wisely forseeth the matter by the importance of the words to towche the state, which Charlles hath bin visited all this daye of agrett sight of his fellowes, tyll a lyttell before your L. warrant. & even now was with me the same william Barthlett mi manes hoste, whom I mencyoned to daye, ~~to have spoken with hym~~, sorrowing the Chance to be so sodayn, & to be happned so unseasonably for mi Lord of rosse saith he is allso comanded to kepe his howse, whose wisdom was to have forsene this soner, butt now reqwireng my ayd, I told hym yf he wold use fidelity & secresy, I wold hasard mi pore fortune to conveye polytyckly ether messaige or lre unto hym, wheruppon with grett contentment he departed, menyng to retorne tomorow, beside that his oppinion is suche of me, as he is to be perswaded to ani thyng, telling me of ij skottishe shippes belonging to fife ~~in scotland~~ as who vale downe this tyde to black wall, & might seme by hym as though there were some partye or som matter in them, which is worth the serche, but then your L. [1 word expunged] may remember on thing, that if they send ani speciall partye, he most be loked for aswell benethe gravesend, as of this side, for therin restes a polycye of suche delyngs, with all he told me that on Morgan who had bin in spaigne, was a dere & secrett frind of the Bishops, & so was Thomas Cobham, butt that was spoken in suche maner as though he were a vewer of things to currye more favor, exclamyng that Donbarten was won by treson, wherof they had somtyme dowted whither it were taken or no, & now against all religion & honor ^the Erlle of Lennox^ had hanged up the Bishop of Saint Andrewes, even the wisest man of all scotland, puttyng the Lord flemyng & other to strayt & hard keping, which had so moved the Lord of Grawnge the keper of Edenburgh Castell, as he had justly ~~move~~seyed bothe the Castell & towne against all [men into] his own hands tyll the king shold com to full ripenes, fort[fieng] the abbey called holy Roode, & the Cathedrell Churche, which joyned with the Castell, was a warlyck possessyon of bothe the endes & ^the^ myddell, loking under this pretence thus honestly gotten bothe ~~of~~ ^for^ releeff of men [&] money owtt of [fol. 69v] frawnce to the Qwenes behooff, with this he told of certayn prodigyows & monstreows tokens, presaigeng grett fyre to fall owtt of heven uppon this Reallme shortly, & these certainly be thyngs that ar awgmented from hand to hand in this towne, who soever feedes them, adding ~~birthes~~ straing birthes & wonders to bring the people into an astonishment, & so consequently into mislike of the present governement, butt it may plese your L. to instructe me how to procede further, for as these matters be grett, so

reqwire they prescriptyon & awthority, having this day lefft (as your L. Comanded) a repport in wryteng of that I sayd to yow by mowthe, & may reqwire a knowleknowledge of your L. plesure to every poynt, & that presently, for that tyme is the cheeff observatyon of all, wanting only hability to mi pore good will, being Codrus hym self.

I have told Malachias that his frinds forsake hym, & that his own advise was nott ill to have written to your L. wherby haply he might gett more liberty, & under the same our flight might be the easier, so using his repaire now & then to the gardein, which I seme to gett of the keper, ^by order^ as it doth mesure all the rest by due degrees, he having theruppon written to your L. this supplicatyon ^inclosed^ ~~whos~~ whose receitt doth minister good occasion ~~to your~~ to send secretly for hym, mary it may plese your L. that as mi oppinion was to ~~dele~~ gently wyn hym gently, so if yow thought good that I shold say beffore hand that the Bishop of Rosse were Comanded to kepe his howse, it wold so temper hym before ~~hand~~, as your myldnes to hym wold appere verie clemencye / Comending to your L. mi necessity which is so extreme, as I canott hold up the hed longer, without som ayde/ & yett mi will desires dethe where mi prince may be served by it / prayng God for your L. prosperity, & wisheng if I shold com ani more unto yow ye wold prescribe when & ~~wher~~ how, for mi open repayre to your L. may hinder gretter thyngs than ar yett expressed [fol. 70r] from the marshallsea in hast the xlj of Aprill. 1571. Your L. most humbly W. Herllely.