

Transcript

Editorial comments:

SP 53/6/45 f. 77r - v. William Herle to Lord Burghely. This letter is partially eroded at the top right hand side of the page.

Address leaf:

[fol. 77v]

[Superscription:] To the Right honorable mi good Lord, the Lord of Burghley, her Majesties principall Secretary give these in all hast./ hast hast./

Letter text:

[fol. 77r] Att mi retorne from your L. yesternight, I fownd william Barthlett to speke with me, from the B. attending som answer from Charlles, with suche assurance given me of the B. syde, as ether for the trust he conseves, or the trust he menes to comitt unto me, I am in that degre with hym, as I may worke grett & secrett thyngs, nott only for the present, but for the tyme to com, ~~iff~~ ~~with hym~~ iff now the matter be handled clene, wherin he presseth me for an answer from Charlles, therfore it may plesse your L. to consider therof, for his likeng of me (which surely is muche) may serve yow to exceding purpose mani wayes, & if I may have Charlles lres which I delyvered your L. yesternight, to give Barthlett this mornyng, they being so made up, as no suspicyon growe ~~that~~ ~~they~~ of ~~have bin broken~~ of their openyng, I may do from hence furth whatt I will, Butt if [they be] differred till the affter noone, the tyme will brede mistrust. withall if they contynew to [wryte in] cipher, whither it be your L. plesure I shall still send them to your L. or elles deliver them streight where they be addressed. And finally whither I may repayre to the B. with suche messaige, as I receve from Charlles by mowth, which may brede the gretter trust in travaileng in that maner, & may discover the more matter by entring into nerer familiartye with hym, changing writeng haply into messaige, & bringing them by menes to wryte bothe unto me, wherby I enter into a hope, that I may lerne Charlles Cipher, pretending therby to wryte the more secrettly. I have talked with Charlles abowtt mydnight who hath delyverd me another lre for the B. in cipher, which I send herewith & conteynes as I suppose his examinatyon before your L. & the L. Chamberlain, wherin he sayth that he hath bin hard handled by yow in groping hym verey nere, & that he was demanded whatt liveng he had in the Lowe contreyes, for that he alledged ~~whatt~~ his going over to be to visite his frinds & to recover somwhatt there, his answer that was a C [crowns] by the yere, then was repplyed why he shold serve a B. being so well hable to lyve of hym self, which he excused uppon the Duke of alva detayneng the same. further he was charged that Melchior cam to hym, which he sayd was of fryndship, being bothe of on contrey. allso with mackinson, ~~But~~ Barthlett & other, enqwiring whatt messaige they brought hym from the B. butt he denyed that they brought ani, desiring me earnestly to tell mackinson therof, for that he ~~sho~~ & melchior shold be brought before the Councell to day. Now if it be your L. plesure that I go unto the B. it might also plesse yow to give me som matter to minister unto hym, to wyn the more grace & to hale hym on the more, understanding even now that the B. menes [1 word expunged] to be att the Cowrt to day & therfore wold have Charlles instructyons beffore hand, & this requires your L. present resolutyon & answer, whom God preserve to his holy will, in haste from the marshallsea this sonday mornyng 1571. Your L. verey humbly. W. Herllely.