

Transcript

Editorial comments:

SP 83/15/128 f. 280r - 281v. William Herle to Sir Francis Walsingham. The superscription and endorsement from the address leaf (verso) has been pasted onto the final page of this letter, probably by a modern archivist.

Address leaf:

[fol. 281v]

[Superscription:] To the R. honorable sir fransc Wallsyngham knight, her majesties principall secretorie &c. gyve these [at] the Cowrtt./

[Endorsement by Herle:] prima

[Endorsement by unknown hand:] 28. Aprell 1582 from Master William Herle

Letter text:

[fol. 280r] Wheras by mi last lre R. honorable, I certeffyed that the Stats of these contreyes (among other contributyons) had grawnted to Monsieur, from the first of Aprill 250m. gylldernes monethlye duryng the warres, for the intertayneng of the Armye, wherunto they have added synce 50m. gylldernes more, to be allowed for the space onlye of vj monethes following, which is their proportyon, & further than this charge can they nott be browght unto, therfore Monsieur most mesure the forcs that he is to have by their habilytye & disposityon: Otherwise they say playnlye, that they will [1 word expunged] Rejete the burden & difficultye uppon hym, of any surcharge that shall Aryse: Remembryng hym herwith, that those companyes which ar allredy in service, & have well deserved of the State of these contreyes hitherunto, (beyng a 23. Regymnts of foote men besyde the Cavallerye (many wekely fylled) be first provyded for, & [w]hen suche new supplyes to be added, as the surplusage shalbe hable [2 words expunged] without dissorder or mutynye ~~for lack of mayntenance~~ to mayntayne.

Monsieur nottwithstandyng, hath given owtt Comissyons to levye viij Regymnts of french, which after the Rate of ij C. (for so strong woldd he have eche Enseygne) wilbe xvjm. / Or att 150. to the Enseigne, wilbe xijm foote shott, which is judged by som, to be given a force, namelye of our natyon the same to be frenche), within these Contreyes & therfore grudged att./

He woldd bryng in now 25C. frenche Lawncs & Italyen Lawncs iijm. swyttzers & xv [C] Reysters, with intencyon to be generall hym sellf in person when the Camp is addressed, & the P. of Pynoy to be his Lyvetenant. The P. dullphin to be soveraigne marshall of the feelld, & next to him 4. other marshalles in the Armye, according to the frenche dissiptyne & order./ Bellegard shall comande the frenche Cavallerye, & Lavall those of these Contreyes, & so other officers to be appoynted in their degre, when thyngs ar com to their maturitye./

The frenche, Englyssh, & Scotts that ar att Ecklowe, have made difficultye to marche towards Gawnt, beffore they have som paye, wherof their ned is so grett, as very povertye sturres the men to strayn dutye, in sekyng releeff before they remove, which shalbe provyded for from hence,

bettwen this & tomorow in trust wherof they do marche forwards./

A Camp shall begyn presentlie of these sowdyors att Mallt, a myle from Gawnt, yett within the Turnepyke of the Town towards Owdenard, with whom shall joyne the other sowdyors that may be spared owtt of the provynce & Garrisons where they lye, over whom the P of Pyoners shall comande who shall have also a new Regiment rayased of his own consisteng of x Ensynges & ij Cornetts./

Ytt faylled butt lyttell, that the mallcontents (whiles they made their cowntenance to Owdenard) had nott surprised Gawnt which was discoverd by [fol. 280v] [on] of their own Instruments./ The lyke was to have hapned to Cortraye, by the Intelligens that the Stats had there, butt that the enemyes prevented the enterprise./ Owdenard is nott beseege strayttlye, butt by Cordegarde & [blockhowses], & their Battrye nott yett arryved thither./ Those of the Towne have putt a third parte of it under water, the other ij parts subject to the seege./

In respect of the River from Turney to Owdenard, & from thens to Gawnt, & of the convenyent seatt of the said Owdenard, lokyng very far into flanders, ytt is of grett consequens to ether syde, & a fowll rebuke & [diminuing] to the mallcontents, yf they fayll therof./

The mallcontents have taken the castel of Gasebeck by a stratageme fayneng by the mowthe of a Trompettor, to be certayn of the stats horse men, that were com to that place with bootye from Allost, & to be pursued very nere by the enemye, by which trayne the gate was opend, & the garrison putt to the sword. A losse that ymports theme of Bruxelles muche, beyng within ij Leages of theme, a place by scytuacyon strong, & appertayneng to the howse of Egremonte./

[marginalia by Herle: Muckeron hym self is suspected lykewise] Muckeron's Lyvtenant was he that betrayed the Town of Allost, to Temple yn whose Rown, Monsieur hath appoynted Thyant Governor, & sent him a pattent therof./

The P. of Orenge (thancks be to all mightye God, by whose miracle he is preserved) is hable to walke in his chamber, with whom I was this after noone & Coronell Morgan with me, beyng hartlye demaunded by the sayd P. how your honor, the L. Thresuror & the Erlle of Leicester dyd, spekyng unto me without ympedymment of tong: som lyttell contusyon, yett remaynes, which is hoped to becom better shortlye./

The Pryncesse is fallen very syck, as hym self tolld me, judgyng her disease to be a plewresye, for the which she was ~~twise~~ 4. tymes lett blood ^in on day^ Her wacthing & grett travaylle with the P. her husbond, duryng his hurte & yndisposityon, hath bred this unto her./

Lres be yntercepted that cam owtt of Spayn from on Mallvenda to Thomas fieschye, att Giene, by the which is signeified, that suche money as hath byn disbursed by the sayd fieschi & his company, to the P. of Parma, is nott allowed in Spayne therfore that they sholld forbere to delyver ani more, for the K. of Sp: service, till they harde more./

The mallcontents have lykewise yntercepted lres that were comyng owtt of Italye hitherwards, the last weke, which was procured by Taxis informacion, who is offended that his office of poste master is seqwestred from him to another./

Backevill is to depart tomorrow towards England in place of du Bee, whose journey was stayed when he was ready to take his leave./

La fogiera arrived at flusshyng, when he came out of England, [fol. 281r] spread the Rumor there, & so did his company, all the way hitherwards, that her majesty had sent Thesure in great quantity to aid Monsieur in his wars, & would joyne forces to expulse the name of Sp: wholly out of the Lowe countreys, whereof when Monsieur was advertised by one of his Councell, how inconvenient this Report was & mete to be suppressed, he answered that it was too late to redresse that which was done./ But it may please your honor not to make me author thereof. Some of the states were sorry to see the Q. majesties good meaning & the serousnes of this Trust so Frenchely handled./

They do coyne at this present in the mint, giving out that ytt is French Bullyon./

The Estates do take it very ill that the French K. hath not ones thanked theme, for advancing of his brother, but they comfort theme selves againe, in that the congratulation that procedes from a Tyrant, is mere deceit, & his aid suspitions & dangerous: having a very hard opinion of all the rest of that nation./

The said Estates generally, do dissolve their assembly this next week, & what hath been proposed unto theme [over] & besides the contents of their last commission they are to make report at [home] in their severall Colleges, & not to conclude any thing here before their next assembly, which is to be about the first of Julye./ Their general & particular contributions, are confirmed in forme as I signified to your honor by my Last & this./

Skynckes Ruttens, since his taking have broken their cornets & mutyned for want of paye, whereby the prince of Parma is unfurnished of a xij C. horse that he made accompt of./

The K. of Sp: as is credibly reported, will have by the end of June 200. great shippes in redynes 60. galleys & more than 300. small vessels The 5000. Spaniards that accompanied the Empresse into Spayne, are entertained in Andolozia, to be embarked in this navye, & with theme or xijm sowdors more, the greatness of which preparation, threatens rather some other place, than the [marginalia by Herle: s] Tercera./ V. great shippes departed from Lusbon towards the Indies of portingall laden with ij myllions of sylver for that traffick having neither wafter ~~wafter~~ nor scowt with theme, whereby apperes that they neither doubt the forces of Tercera, nor make difficulty to have the said Indies in quyet possession./

On the vth of this month came the newes to the K. of Sp: of the death of the P. of Orange, the day following arrived a messenger that affirmed that he loved but the K. at neither of these Reports made any alteration or semblance to be moved any way therewith. no more did he when he understood of the [fol. 281v] d. of Angeous Receiving here, & of his Auguration, The Advertisements of Italye do hold that for certayne the Turkes navye is to come forth this month, & that the Treaty with Persia shall be concluded./

Here is a Rumor amongst some of good sort, & there be advertisements of ytt, that the Pope hath sent a Nuncio into Spayne, and another into France, & that there is a negociation in hand to marrye Monsieur to one of his nieces of Sp: which breeds whispering here amongst some of good sort, for

fere that they have bothe of Sp: & Roome, & of frawnce allso the producer of practises./

Monsieur urgeth the Religyows frede agayn, butt they ar slowe for good respect to agre therunto./

I am bolld herwith to present a booke unto yow of Monsieurs joyeowse entry into this Town ~~& of his negociation~~ furnisshed with the Representations of the Theaters & pagents then shewed att his Awguratyon, which contyayns things besyde, mete for your wisdom to consyder of./ namelye I note that yn all their procedyngs, they desire to yntangle the Q. with this actyon, & so is it spred all abrode./ Wherwith prayeng humblye the good acceptance of mi speciall dutye borne to your honor, I fynisse, desyng onlye by your good favor & cowntenance agayne. & yow shall well perceve whatt trew & sufficyent servyce I will do to yow & to her majestie withowt her charge her or yowres./ Andwerpe the 28. of aprill. 1582./ Your honors most assured. W. Herlleli.