

Transcript

Editorial comments:

SP 83/16/40 f. 79r - 80v. William Herle to Sir Francis Walsingham.

Address leaf:

[fol. 80v]

[Superscription:] To the R. honorable Sir francs Wallsyngham Knight, her majesties pryncipall Secretorye, gyve these [with] speede att the Cowrtt./

[Endorsement by unknown hand:] 20. June 1582 From master William Hearle.

Letter text:

[fol. 79r] Uppon frydaye last, R. honorable, those of Gawnt sent to his Alteze; persons of principall credite, to shew that the wensdaye night beffore, those of Awdenarde, had made fyers owtt of the Town to declare som extermitye they were yn, wherfore they were com to beseke his good ayde & advise./ Wherunto was answerd by his Alltezze uppon his credyte that beffore 13. dayes, from that frydaye forward att the furthest, that the place sholld be ether Reallye delyverd from the seege, by forcs apte to remove ytt, or by suche a dyvertment, as sholld stand theme in steede wheruppon those of Gawnt retorning home, chose .5. resolute fellowes, to bryng this assurance ynto Awdenard, of which ij ar entred on mondaye beffore daye, & made signes acceptable to the behollders, that they of the Town were willeng & hable to endure a longer tyme, without precipitacion of ~~ayde~~ayde, beffore it were throwlye redye./ Butt the Enmye presentlye that mondaye gave a grett assallte to the Town prevaylleng lyttell, savyng that they woldd weerye the deffenders with contynuall Labor./

Uppon the same mondaye, Bulignye Governor of Cambraye, sent a gentyllman of ymportance to signeffye to the d. that the Reysters were com to Cambresyes & nott to Chymaye, In nomber 1500./ accompanied with 800. frenche Lawncs & 4000. shott. desyng that they might nott be removed thens sodenlye yn respect of an enterprise of ymportance that he had in hande / This is conffirmed, & other forcs be com to the frontyers beffore Gravellyng to passe that waye, sayd to apertayne to the P. dollphyn./

There be yn Cambresyes a m. footmen more to accompanye these Reysters, & a 400. Lawnces, with other Trowpes that daylye do arryve, butt no pykes, which nomber canott be diffeated yn their marche hitherwards, with ani parcell of the P. of Parmas Camp, unles he remove his whole power, & frustrate the seege, that he hath in hande beffore Awdenarde./

The oppynion is [1 word expunged] now here, that the frenche K. doth in good earnest mene to make Lame the K. of Sp: yncrochments & ambycyon./

The K. of Sp: shall have as they seye 200. sayll of shippes redye by the myddell of Julye to deffend portyngall, & to offend those that be nott well affected to hym, which appereth by lres of the 29. of maye, from persons of ymportance att Lusbon./

Owtt of Italye it is conffirmed, that there ~~be com~~ com 5 m. Spaynyards ^hitherwards^ & 7 m. Italyens, footemen, & 2500. horse, besyde the forcs of Germany & Burgondye which ar com & comyng./

Of this syde, they most loke to .3. thyngs substanciallye. first that Awdenard be nott taken, uppon the which the P. of Parma is obstynate, by reson that his enterprises hitherunto yn beseegyng hath had good [fol. 79v] luck, & now stands hym most uppon to prevayll, or to be Ruyned. The second is, that their Camp do nott disband for lack of vyttaylles, which is very more to follow, yf they provyde nott better & sooner./ And the third is, that these new companies be nott diffeated by the waye, beffore they Joyne with the bodye of the Camp./

Yf Monsieurs Armye be ones establysshed, many Revolltes wilbe of the Enmyes syde, yett som grett & secrett mischeeff is yn hande, which will horriblye discover it self wthin shorte space./

There be 4m. pyoners, a preparyng yn Brabant, & yn the provynce united of Idell fellowes to be employed yn the Camp./

The P. of Orenge is trobled agayn with his Catharre. which wilbe dangerows, if it fall ynwards, as it threttens. The d. allso with this moyste wether, doth kepe his bed of a Rewme synce yesternight./ wherwith I humblye take mi leve for this tyme. the 20. of June. Andwerpe. 1582./ your honors most assured to comande yn alle. W. Herlleli.