

Transcript

Editorial comments:

BL MS Cotton Galba CVIII fol. 30r-v, (and address leaf, fol. 33v). William Davison to William Herle.

Address leaf:

[fol. 33v]

[Superscription:] A Monsieur Monsieur Guillaume herle Ambassadeur de la part de trespuissante et tres illustre Royne d'angleterre. [...] trechur Sequelle et amys

Letter text:

[fol. 30r] Sir though I have had litle comfort to wryte unto you since my returne yet will I not leave my promis altogether unsatisfied. On sonday last I arryved here & the same day repayed to the Court wheare I found a very cold welcome our doings strangely interpreted my Lords fact utterly condempned & Sir Thomas Henneage uppon his dispatch to undoe & overthrow all that was done my first repayer was to master secretary & from him to master vice Chamberlain whither her majestie taking knowledge of myne arrivall sent for me. The begyneng of our C[omedy] was exceding sharp. not only against my L. for proceding thus farr [1 word expunged] without her previty or consent & that which she often [...] against her express comaundement but also in [myne] owne respect for not diffroading & opposyng my self unto yt. how I laboured to satisfye her & with what success you may presently ghes by my lres to my L. & understand more by others but thus much I dare be bold to assure you that yf I had ^not^ arryved as I did both my L had bene utterly dishonored & the Cause overthrowen. It were to long if safe, to enter here into all the particulers yet thus much may I tell you notwithstanding for the comfort that you have borne also your part in the [Comedy] as a principall Actor for which both you & my self are beholding to the favorable [recomendacion] of our good frends theare. notwithstanding the first dayes travaill as I thought with some [...] Sir Thomas Henneage was the next morning with great heat dispatched & presently departed but the second audience wrought some better effect. The same [1 word expunged] night her Majestie gave order to stay him till he heare her further pleasure. I hoped it would have growen to a repealing of him ^altogether^ but it hath not yet so happely fallen out. The next morning my L Thresurer came to the Court whome I acquainted with the whole history of our proceedings. I left him to the [seeing] very well satisfied & resolved to deale very honorably in the Cause. He found her Majestie utterly undisposed to revoke Sir Thomas & therefore insisted on a qualleficacon of his message which was yelded to ^in such termes^ [1 word expunged] nonetheless ^as^ wilbe litle acceptable to my L. or proffitable to the cause if it be not on his behaulf the more discretely handeled./ He remaynes yet in Kent. for wynd & weather & [1 word expunged] ^intending^ as I think to come by flushing if his journey hold./

of the change wherof I leve in some hope if he tary long bycause I find her Majestie to declare daily in the vehemence of her offence against [his] Lp. but of all this you shall have more certainly & particularly from master Secretary for whome I my L. oweth more for his constant frendshipp & sufferaunce for his sake then to all the men in Courte./ my lady your wife & the rest of your frends do well. my poore self being now in some sort unburdened of my [promise] in preparing to

go towarde the *Bathe* about the [mydlest] of the next moneth wheare I shalbe more ready to pray for you the abler to do you service yet as occasion shalbe offered you let me beseching you to use me still as a poore man asmuch at your [...] as any frend you have [leving]. And so comending you & your honorable travailles to the blessing of God do here hastely take my leave. At my poore howse in London the xvijth of february 1585. your owne assured to do you service W Davison.

[Postscript:] Sir William Pelham is at his house in the Country. the gentillman hath bene most hardely dealt withall & so remayneth I have heard from him once or twice since my returne & finde hym very much affected with his hard [...] especially in that he can nether get [end] of his busines nor leave to come ones to my L. with any tolerable [...] I think you shall understand [at] more length from him self./