

Pray harde for vs. Wth commendacions to all the honest gentlemen wth yow, M^r Pigott, M^r Kempe, M^r Ledyo [?] wth the rest.

I promised M^r Cole the messanger one of owr books. I did not performe it. I pray you supplye it & commend me to him.

We heare of new preparations in Spayne. Leasure serveth not further. 54. f. 244.

Paris vii^o febr.

yours ever

C. B.

I have written to M^r Clerke, M^r Leake, M^r Bennetts, M^r Smithe, M^r Hebburne, M^r Barnbye, M^r Doleman, M^r Church, M^r Dudley, M^r Charnocke, M^r Copleye, Seal them all w^{ch} be unsealed, & deliver them.

I had thoughte to have sent them all unsealed but it fell owt otherwise. In any case lett them be delivered. There is nothing but ordinarye matters.

I would my L. of London were nowe & then by, when we have talke of him wth some of the byshopps & nobles heere.

J. Bennetts comminge hath done good to owres & made it more spoken of, & a number of quæstions to be asked abowt my L. who is taken for a speciall meanes therof used by her Ma^{tye}.

6. *Drafts of Six Memorials to the Pope.*

47. f. 272.

I. CECIL'S TESTIMONIALS AND APOLOGY.

Beatissime Pater

Placuit xpianissimo Regi hoc tempore, et cum hisce meis fratribus et in castris dñi commilitonibus, me S^{ti} tuæ per legatum suum recomendare, tum quod ei de zelo meo in causa fidei catholicæ promovendæ sine aliqua rerum politicarum mixtura abunde fuit satisfactum, data huius examinis occasione a legato Angliæ, qui me hoc nomine apud Regem christianissimum accusavit tanquam nimis familiarem ijs qui politicum Angliæ statum perturbarunt, tum quod apud eum frequentissime et instantissime egeram vt interposita eius apud senatores Angliæ autoritate cum eis ageret

vt legum severitatem quibus catholici in re religionis et conscientiæ negotijs premebantur, aut antiquando, aut alterando, aut moderando edictorum acerbitatem reprimeret, liberumque relinqueret catholicis Romanæ Ecclesiæ ritu aut publice aut saltem privatim dño deo eiusque sanctis inservire: quem ita paratum et affectum hac mea opera et diligentia invenit R^{mus} epus Mutinensis, tunc temporis in Gallijs Nuncius, vt nihil præter S^{ti}s tuæ imperium et auctoritatem ad opus tam sanctum perficiendum desideraretur; verum dum adhuc in incude res esset, discedit Nuncius, refrigescit negotium, donec isti boni sacerdotes in Galliam appellantes eovsque Regis animum ad pietatem flexerant, vt pristini mei desiderij de catholicis iuvandis explendi spem non contemnendam dederit. Quod si S^{ti} tuæ hæc via facilior [et expeditior visa fuerit ad catholicorum levandas miseras, et fidem propagandam]^a

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aperiemus quibus medijs, rationibus et conditionibus hæc a Rege christianiss^{mo} in Dei gloriam, ecclesiæ utilitatem et catholicorum favorem impetrari poterint. Sin minus huc ad pedes S^{ti}s tuæ accessimus, quicquid statueris, iusseris, decreveris, non solum æquo sed alacri animo laturo, eamque submissionis et obedientiæ promptitudinem in reliquis nostris fratribus effecturi et, si quid in reliquo vitæ nostræ cursu humanitus erratum aut peccatum fuerit, censuris et supplicio colla subdituri: jube, coge, impera, homines sumus, errare, labi, falli, decipi possumus; at auctoritatem tuam subterfugere, post tam diuturnam, constantem et continuam eius professionem et pro ea perpassiones non possumus.

[Q ^d si S ^{tas}	ad pedum tuorum oscula
v ^{ra} communi	humillime prostratus
omnium cathol-	Io: Cecilius sacerdos Anglus.
icorum consensu	

et clamoribus excitata velit paulisper experiri
quid istiu[s] commodi ecclesiæ exoriri poterit]^b

^a The clause within brackets partially erased, and the two or three lines indicated by dots entirely erased.

^b Added in the margin.

Ne ficta videantur quæ in relatione ista continentur, aut a **47, f. 272b.**
 cerebro meo deprompta ad captandam gratiam aut S^{tis} tuæ
 lenitatem et clementiam abytendam, singulis propositionibus singula
 testimonia affigenda existimavi.

Quod a legato Angliæ apud Regem christ: accusatus fuerim de
 nimia familiaritate cum ijs qui statum Angliæ politicum perturbant
 habeo penes me litteras Ill^m Card. Surdiaci,^a dum esset in minori-
 bus, idipsum attestantes, quibus addi potest R^m dñi Abatis S^t
 Martini, Dñi Conestabili Angli, aliorumque gravissimorum virorum
 notitia.

Quod rursus in gratiam Regis fuerim receptus testantur eius
 literæ, quibus nos Regibus principibus et Rebusp: in itinere
 commendavit: testis est etiam Eccellentiss^{us} dñs de Betune legatus
 Galliæ qui Regis animum ea de re optime novit.

Quod non nisi rogatus et plurimorum in Anglia catholicorum
 literis et lamentis excitatus, et ab iþo R^{mo} Nuntio iussus, apud
 Regem eiusque ministros causam cath. tractaverim, ipsum produco
 R^{mm} Nuncium tanquam oculatum testem, litterasque et chiro-
 graphum penes me habeo materna lingua omni suspitione aut
 exceptione liberas.

De exitu et progressu negotij testem cito R^{mm} Mutinensem qui
 vt Romam ea de re scriberem iussit, et quid inde responsi habuerim
 proferam in huius veritatis fidem.

II. PETITION OF THE FOUR PRIESTS FOR VIATICUM.

47, f. 273.

Beat^{me} Pater

Cum pro singulari tua in nos æquitate et amore paterno ad eam
 tandem sint reducta negotia nostra periodum vt de reditu nostro
 ad castra dñi et vexilla xpi in Anglia sit cogitandum, cumque S^t^{as}
 vestra satis superque sit informata quam sit curta suppellex,
 quantumque sumus ad tam longum laboriosum et sumptuosum
 iter imparati, nisi charitatis et clementiæ tuæ nobis pateant

^a François d'Escoubleau de Sourdis, created cardinal in 1592.

fontes, petimus humillime vt S^{ta} v. dignetur in viatico nobis subministrando considerare hiemem iam instare et ex nostris aliquos esse valetudine infirma, alios ætate confectos, alios satis provecos omnes laboribus et miserijs exhaustos neque posse nos aut pedibus aut adeo properanter sicut solent illi quibus ordinarium porrigitur viaticum iter conficere, sed maiora tum subsidia tum solatia tum laborum intervalla et ætati et infirmitati nostræ et hiemis asperitati esse necessaria, quæ omnia S^{tis} v. clementiæ et considerationi relinquimus.

47, f. 274.

III. THEIR DESIRE FOR PEACE, AND RECAPITULATION OF GRIEVANCES.

Beatissime P:

Quicquid a nobis hactenus est propositum de Gravaminibus Archypr., de Incommodis ipsius regiminis, de Considerationibus ad pacem spectantibus, de Refutatione responsi exhibiti a p: Parsono contra prædictas Considerationes, ex nullo alio fonte prodijisse protestamur quam ex zelo pacis ve[r]æque fraternitatis et ex intimis perfectæ charitatis visceribus, vt remotis ijs impedimentis quibus ecclesiæ quæ in Anglia est salus periclitatur, ardentius et alacrius (datis vndeque dextris) qui in vinea dñi laborant operarij ad hæreseos extirpationem et animarum conversionem accingantur. Liceat itaque nobis libere profiteri quod res est S^{me} P., et considerationi v'ræ relinquere quatuor illa capita, fusius in illis nostris scriptis contenta, scz., de persona Archipri deque eius prælatura, quibus stantibus, nulla pax, nulla moderatio, nulla potest sperari animorum vnio; de eleemosynarum distributione et illarum rationibus reddendis de magistratuum electionibus annuis, et de statuum et ordinum distinctione vt suo se quisque loco et statione contineat, neque se vltius Jesuitæ misceant quam solent alij religiosi alijs alibi ecclesiasticis ordinibus: quod ad nos attinet quicquid S^{tas} statuerit, decreverit, iusserit, ordinauerit, certum est obedire et intellectum captivare; verum si controuersiarum fontes et scaturigines patris Parsoni et suorum

oppositione intactæ vel non prorsus relinquantur], æque certum est ex iisdem malis causis eosdem malos effectus esse expectandos: nam non potest ecclesia Anglorum non graui ferre et multum in Iesuitas commoueri, cum intellexerint rationes pro bono communi et publica pace a no vestrae S^{ti} propositas paucorum illorum religiosorum renitent privatisque commodis optato exitu frustrari.

IV. PETITION FOR PUBLIC INSTRUMENT IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR INNOCENCE OF SCHISM.^a 47, f. 275.

Beatissime p:

Significauimus per litteras nostras S^{tis} v^{ræ} declarationem qua ab omni rebellionis aut inobedientiæ crimine ob delatam ante Brevis apostolici adventum Archiep: submissionem liberabantur, quo nuncio mirifice refocillati statuerunt perpetuo in hac causa et controuersia quiescere. At libri, litteræ, discursus et rumores a p. Personio suisque sequacibus indies ubique dispersi calumniarum istarum memoriam vbique acerbissime refricantes et filiorum suorum spiritus . . . [datæ declarationis veritatem pernegantes]^b timoratæ conscientia et de preteritis confessionibus suis valde incertæ, nisi fide publica et autentica illis aliquo modo satisfiat, cogunt illos humillime ad S^{tis} v^{ræ} pedes clementissimos confugere petereque innocentia suæ et æquitatis, verbo vestro iamdudum et viva voce pontificia iamdudum declaratæ, testimonium aliquod et instrumentum publicum: alias certissime recrudescet uulnus, nullusque erit vnquam aut modus aut finis contentionum dum illi accusando [negando nostram declarationem] et calumniando [innocentiam nostram] nos autem affirmando, defendendo et refutando, totum orbem scriptis et clamoribus impleamus donec eveniat, q^d prædixit apostolus, vt dum ab invicem mordemus ab invicem consumamur.

^a See above, pp. 11, 146.

^b Inserted above the line.

47, f. 276.

V. PETITION FOR THE RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY AND FOR A FAIR TRIAL OF ROBERT FISHER.

Beatiss^{me} p:

Cum in Hispaniis (in libera licet custodia) captivus tamen detineatur Joannes^a Fisherus sacerdos Anglus, S^{tis} v^{ræ} diu alumnus in collegio Anglicano in Urbe, vir omni virtutum, linguarum et

* "John" must be a slip of the pen for "Robert." There was no John Fisher at the English College at this date. Robert, who took a principal part in the drawing up of the memorial against the Jesuits, came to Rheims in March 1590, and was admitted at the age of twenty-two into the college at Rome July 8, 1593. He left in May 1596, when he was busy with the affairs of the malcontent clergy, both in England and on the continent. Dr. Barret, who was watching his movements and hoping to get him apprehended in Belgium, wrote to Parsons, Aug. 10, 1597, as follows: "Very loving and reverend Father, this I wryte at Liege where I am in my way homeward [from Spa to Rheims]. There passed by this towne one Fisher, that was sent by the seditious schollers into England, from hence he went to Bruzelles, thence to Lisle, and so to Doway, and thence to Cambray. He hath bin, as I am informed, in every shire in England to styrre up men against Jesuits and Spaniards, which he uttered to a good man in this towne. I marvaile he escaped at Bruzels, seing they are advertised out of England of his secret conference with a cheefe man of the council of England & with Sacheverel the Apostata in the said councelors house. Heere he tould one in great secret, that he was to go to M. Ch. Pa[get] and D. Gifford, and to M. Morgan about matters of importance, he said also that they were in good hope to have liberty of conscience in England in case they might get the Jesuits thence, no doubt this is one part of his busynes, he left his bag at Liege & I have seene it, yet nothing of importance therein, saving a little compendious note of all their Articles against the Jesuits at Rome which he carried with him to dilate to the faction in England as appereth, for it is very old and almost worne out. [This note was rather brought out of England. As after will appeare. Parsons' marginal note.] I am to go to Bruzels and to make means to have the man examined, in case he may be found; before he return to this towne, for he is to come back hither & to one in this place, he was at his going into England earnestly commended by D. Gifford, &c." Some months afterwards Fisher reappeared in Rome, "half converted," writes Parsons, and "willingly offered himself" at the English College, where he was put through an examination extending over several days by the Papal fiscal. In this examination he made many statements, which are printed by Parsons in his *Apologie* (ff. 94-97), to the discredit of the anti-Jesuit party. These statements, which Parsons admitted were not altogether trustworthy, were said by Dr. Ely to have been extorted from "the miserable fellow" by fear of the gallies or the gallows; and Bagshaw declares that Parsons had threatened "to put hot irons

bonarum litterarum panoplia si quis alius in toto clero Anglicano excultissimus, ita vt castellæ [Castiliæ ?] limites exilire non audeat et iam pæne per septennium summa cum patientia tam durum iugum sustinuit, nullo suo delicto sed p. Personij potentia et artificio sibi impositum, tantæ indignitatis et iniustitiæ rumore percussi fratres nostri et alij pæne infiniti tam in Anglia quam extra Angliam Catholici, et vineam Dñi tam strenuo et ægregio operario in tanta literatorum penuria et paucitate privari ægerrime ferentes, petunt humillime vt v. S. dignetur Card. Burghesio hoc in mandatis dare vt vestro nomine ad Nuncium in Hispanijs degentem scribat vt dictum Joannem Fisherum Romam mittat ad S^{ti} v. tribunal sistendum, vt si quid fecerit homine catholico et sacerdote Anglo indignum salutare pœnitentia coerceatur, sin minus vt ad pugnam et palæstram Anglicanam tanquam veteranus et benemeritus miles restitatur, quem solum supremum et immediatum vt Anglocatholicus, vt sacerdos, vt alumnus superiorem agnoscit.

VI. FURTHER PETITION FOR PECUNIARY AID.

Beatiss^{me} p :

Cum singularis S^{ti} v. charitas et summa sollicitudo etiam ad minutissima se extendat, ita vt non solum de negotijs nostris expediendis, sed de necessitatibus etiam sublevandis paterno quodam affectu pijssime cogitet idque nobis significari voluerit : ab hominibus S^{ti} v^{ræ} chariss^{ime} nobisque amicissimis : tamdiu S^{ti} v^{ræ} molesti esse in hoc genere abstinuimus quamdiu rerum et causarum nostrarum exitum in dies expectavimus, licet ad hoc tantum conficien . . . iter et sustinendos sumptus præter piorum elemosynas et suppellectilem vestesque sacras præconis voce venditas nihil habuimus (quippe qui pro sedis huius dignitate alijs

to his arms" to get him to say what he did. Fisher had been apparently banished into Spain, and kept under restraint there for the past five and a half years, not "seven years," as in this petition; and the Appellants now pray for his release and a fresh trial in the belief that when free from undue influence he would give a truer and more favourable colour to the conduct of his friends.

omnibus beneficien[tiis] aut patrimoniorum commodis priuemur). Verum iam cum (vt maturiori inditio et examine concludantur omnia) Stⁱ v'ræ placuit moram longiorem negotijs nostris imponere, coacti etiam sumus necessitates nostras exponere, cum numero sumus 4, et post tot et tam assiduos sumptus reliqui nihil nisi ut ad viscera et fonte[s] charitatis v'ræ iussi, vocati et invitati confugiamus et vim pudori et modestiæ nostræ faciam[us] Deus O. M. clementiss^{am} Beat^{nem} v. eccl'æ suæ diutissime incolumem co[nserve]

B^{mas} pater^{tis} v.

fili obedientes ^a

Joës Cæcilius

Tho. Bluettus

Joës Musius

Anthonius Champneus

} quatuor sacerdotes Angli

47, f. 276b.

7. *Six Propositions of Mr. Giles Archer.*

Assertiones ^b Egidii Archerij Sacerdotis Angli, qui nunc in Vrbe est, quas publice proposuit in carcere Wisbicensi, affirmantis se ex animo et deliberatè illas asserere.

P^a.

Lupanaria Romæ sunt ibi cum approbatione.

2^a.

Lupanaria sunt equè licita atque aliquis Ciuis Romanus.

3^a.

Lupanaria sunt Romæ equè licita atque aliquis Magistratus Ciuitatis.

^a The following names erased and "quatuor sacerdotes Angli" substituted.

^b These "lewd assertions" of Mr. Giles Archer are the subject of much comment in Bagshaw's *True Relation* (Reprint, p. 65). They are here written on the back of the foregoing draft in an Italian hand.