

wthin, or wthowt doores. God forgive therefore my accusers; and send vs his peace; w^{ch} if you embrace, yt wilbe for yo^r owne good, and my comfort,

• 17 Novemb. [1602 added by another hand]

Vester Seruus Georgius Blakwellus,
Archip^r

25. *From Father Henry Garnet.* 16 Nov. 1602.

47, f. 384.

A Circular letter to his brethren.

My very lovinge ff^r. Whereas it hath pleased his hol: to make a sweete ende of all the controuersies w^{ch} haue so longe molested not vs only, but all other Catholickes by a Breve of his dated the 5 of October 1602 . . . that although the Authentickall cōpye cannot come to o^r most Rd Archprieste handes so soone as were to be wished: yet notw^tstandinge we h[ave] gotten sure informacion of the contents thereof: & haue thought it good or rather necessary to intimate vnto you and by yo^r meanes as conven[ient]ly you may, to all of o^r Society abroade such thinges as concerne the execucion of the same for our partes; both because it becometh vs in true obedience to prevent (yf it be possible) the will of so high a Superi[our], and for that we haue a particuler obligacion to give good example vn[to] others and fynally for to avoide occasion of all complaintes: w^{ch} yf they . . . should after so manie others made against vs heretofore, by anie probable occasion geuen on o^r parte, arise: yt would be exceedinge grevous to h[is] hol: and other o^r Superiors And no doubt but accordingly they we . . . proceed towards the Authors wth severe animaduersion.

Ffirst therefore, it behooveth vs (as all other Catho:) to accept of 1. his hol: Breve wth all manner of reuerence and conformity of wills and iudgm^{tes} vnto his most prudent and pious resolucions: Exhortinge all Catholickes as occasion may be offered, to the lyke disposition. And herevnto we fo[r] o^r owne selues haue a most speciall obligacion of gratitude in that he so affectuously sheweth

his judgm^t of vs, that we ought rath[er] to vse his truly paternall testificacion for an imitacion to all fervo[ur] and vertue in all o^r lyf and accions, then anie way to acknowledge the deservinge so highe comendacion of that Apostolicall Chayre.

2. Secondly that w^{ch} most importeth: whereas his hol: requireth as much under paine of excommunication and losse of facultyes, every one is out of hand to make away all books wrytten on eyther syde in those quarrells, or any other bookes or letters printed or wrytten for de[fence] or impugninge of eyther parte or wherby any catholickes fame m[ay] be vyolated; neyther are any such hereafter to be wrytten, communicated or retayned, neyther anie other w^{ch} may stirre vp olde or newe contencions. And wheras this also concerneth the Laytie, and a[ll] the Englishe cleargye, everie one may admonish his frinde here[in], although I hope ther will come the Breue itself wth the Authentickall Testimony of R^{mus} very shortly, whervnto of force all must giue credyt.

3. And although in this Breue there is no mencion of speeches on the one or the other syde concerninge these dissencions w^{ch} haue bin heretofore amonge us: yet wheras yt pleased his hol: in his Breue of 17 August anno 1601 to impose silence of these matters omnibus et singulis nostræ nationis and in particuler congregations of 13 & 15 of Aprill last to forbid vnder paine of censures any mencion of schisme rebellion or disobedience. Therefore this I comende earnestly vnto all of o^r Society that not only in wrytinge but also in their speeches they observe exactly this absolute decree of the See Apostolick, and yf anie person eyther lay or ecclesiasticall aske opinion of this case, let them say that ther must be no more speeche therof. In lyke manner let them dehort none from vsinge any ghostly ffather or harbawringe any priest, nor giue disfavourable censure of any, much lesse vse the names of faccion, discontented, or the lyke: except it be a knowne and publick apostata, or otherwise condempned hereafter by his superio^r. But let euery Lay person for confession or harbouring follow his owne inclinacion, and we incline rather to commend then to discomende any.

47, f. 384b

If any of the Appellants should be intemperate or vaunt in this 4.
 behalf of the Breue, this must not breake o^r patience, but we ought
 to shewe howe glad we are of a fynall ende, wishinge sincerely that
 ther had bin no sinne on eyther syde, neyther in the substance nor
 manner of prosecucion. And yf wth such patience we cannot ob-
 taine the quiet w^{ch} we desyre, the fault will easely be laide wher it
 shall in deede be founde.

If it happen that anie particuler person require anie satisfaccion 5.
 of any speeche vttered against hym by anie of vs, yt will be well
 (yf presently it may be) to purge o^r selues wth modesty that eyther
 no such speeche was vttered or that it was spoken vppon iust cause
 eyther true or surmised at that tyme. But in no case to admitt
 any altercacion or any contentious tryall, but to alledge his hol:
 will that all be buryed, premisinge wthall that they shall be sure of
 no occasion hereafter, whether they had anie before or noe.

Let all beware of spreadinge scandalous rumo^{rs} w^{ch} often tymes 6.
 men will tell to haue vs dispyse, and let nothinge be wrytten in
 anie contencion wthout leave. And in case o^r censure be demaunded
 of anie case of conscience dependinge or belonginge to these poynte
 of stryf, let all be referred to his hol: or R^{mus} his declaracion, lest
 eyther we giue advantage to such as malyciously may seeke it or
 by the simplicity of others be made renewers of olde vngratfull
 matters.

Not only in these matters but in all others hereafter, it becomethe 7.
 vs all to be very circumspect, bewareing of anie least occasion of
 exasperacion of anie eyther lay or ecclesiasticall person: assuringe o^r
 selues that therby both we may loose o^r good frindes and may also
 be brought to giue straight accoumpt of such matters, iustly objected
 against vs, vnto o^r superio^{rs}. And for the more plaine vnder-
 standinge of his hol. will herein I will set downe that w^{ch} passed
 those ij dayes aboue mencioned of 13 and 15 of Aprill, and so make
 an ende, committinge yo^u and all the rest of our dearest ffr. to Godes
 holy proteccion. 16 No: 1602

Yours most louing

H.