

true humility and Christian duty to theyr prince (saving theyr religion and conscience to God) wth an Apostolicall spiritt doe seeke wth zeale the only winninge of soules, and as well by exemplary life, as by true^a the consciences of those wth whom they deale, and by^a ministracion of the sacraments doe augment the num[ber]^a people, and pray hartely and sincerely for theyr prince [and] contry. [By] such men you shall reape comforte and no danger of body and soule, nor heynous offence to yo^r prince: And if [you] indure, it shall^b mere matter of religion and conscie[nce] w^{ch} is most honorable and meritorious. And wth this my [dear] sister I make an ende, commendinge you and yo^{rs} to the ho[ly] protection of him who spente his sacred blowd on the crosse for vs all. ffrom my house in Lisle this 17. [of] Decemb^r 1601.

Yo^r loving brother and faithfull fr[en]d for ever
William Gifforde

Endorsement (on back of fol. 434, misplaced):

17 Dec 1601

Dr. Gifford to his sister to take heed of the Jesuits

3. *Copy of letter from Cecil to Mush.*

54, f. 390.

Worsh. good S^r

I have written vnto yow by the way yow desired at yo^r departure; w^{thin} 3 dayes thereof I visited in yo^r names mon^{sr} Ville[roi] who was not ignorant both of the time and fully informed of yo^r company. It seemeth that acte of yo^{rs} hath been so vrged, wth former impressions made of o^r good frends yo^r companions, y^t yow must of necessity carry yo^r selves wth great simplicity and sincerity: yow to reteyne that yow have, and they to gaine that they have lost. When I shall be assured of the safe passage of o^r letters I will sende yow a letter and discourse, by w^{ch} you may discover that yo^r

^a MS. mutilated.

^b Obliterated.

oldest companion, sive iure sive iniuria nescio, is thought to have been overbusy and lesse gratefull and loving then becometh a man of his coate and calling. I have not seen the man that convayd yow to yo^r coach at yo^r departure hence: but once or twice sithence: he is all w^h him that yow bidd not adieu and burned his letter: w^h two acts of discourtesy are daily vrged. It will fall out, as I allwayes told yow, that it is a thing impossible to doe effectually what yow and m^r Bluet also in his to vs, requireth of me w^howt offence of that party: yet will I provyde that on my parte no occasion shall be offered but that only w^h yow all have imposed vpon me. I deale now imediately wth o^r best frend who vseth me very both kindly and respectively. We can deale no further here till we heare what termes you stande on: what may be hoped there and procured here for the further pursuite of o^r affayres: yow know where o^r articles are in o^r frends handes but as yet vnaunswere. Commend me hartely to yo^r 2 companions, the 2 Bennetts especially, m^r Ed . . .^a m^r Charnock, m^r Collington and y^e rest: and if yowe please frequent and communicate, yow Romanes that haue borne pondus et æstus diei together, w^h all freedome and fidelity There hath been of late one Redman owt of fflanders, who w^h R Twist is sent back by D Bag[shaw] and m^r Cunsta[ble] for D Weston and D Smith. M^r Morgan likewise hath been here w^h D^r Bagsh: whose mother is a Skidmo^r: he wente away likewise w^h letters good store towards fflanders. I write to m^r Bluet of an oath, w^h m^r Hill wold have us sende yow and tender here to the Embassado^r: but we pawse till we heare from yow.

I doe what I can to excuse and take away all suspicions, as that of yo^r going together I sought to excuse by a reporte that one of Abvil made of yo^r seperation: 2 to Bologna and 2 into Calice, w^h was controlled by the Lievetenant of Caliz w^h wrote to Mons^r Villeroi, that yow were fewer that imbarked there.

In m^r Bluets letters diverse things were misconstrued, as his writing that he left me there to excuse him (satis, sayd they, pro

^a Paper damaged.

authoritate), his giving first Ecc^a and then D. IIs^{ma} w^{ch} was sayd to be ab equis ad asinos. I seeke what I can to excuse and satisfy and keep all in good conceyt: and all is too litle. If yow heare of m^r Dud: commend me to him, as to S. Ken.; yo^r most loving and vertuous hostesse vnknownen, and the rest o^r brethren. I hope m^r Anthony will not starte, from whom I expect to heare often. I write this for all: for [a mu]ltitude of letters multiply paines and perill and care to no purpose.

N. Litt. [?] as I am informed hath forsaken o^r best frend at Rome. 54, f. 390b.
The last post is drowned, w^{ch} maketh me app^rhende o^r papers w^{ch} probably shold have come wth him: and to yo^r good prayers I most humbly recommend me. If I happen to come for a starte into England wryte of whom and in what prison I may inquire of you. Valete in Ch^{ro}

Yo^{rs} as you know to vse

J. Cecyll.

Whatsoever I say on purpose is as farre as may be miscon[stried] as my desyre to wryte to yow p^rsently wthin three dayes when I knew how hardly yo^r going in that company was construed, was wondered at what occasion I could have of so sodaine writing. Also to yo^r self as I perceyve it was vrged that I pe . . . ed and proposed things my selfe disliked: w^{ch} is not so admirable, if one contrary to his owne iudgm^t conforme himselfe to the opinion of maney, especially where the difference is of the time, and not of the matter. In fine yo^r visits, yo^r conference and the rest are here vrged, and I come to know of that w^{ch} I take not to be true, viz yo^r intrinsecall dealing wth him, of whom I have heard yow say 1000 times that in his life he never did a good turne to vs or our cause: yo^r wisdom, discretion and good behavio^r and vnyon at home will breake the neck of all these critices.

To his wors: good frende M^r Jo: Mush or in absence
to M^r Anthony Champney give these.