

Date sent: 11 August 1554

Date received: c end August 1554¹

Writer: Edmund Grindal

Recipient: William Whittingham

Location of origin: Strasbourg

Destination: Frankfurt

Original language: English

Ref: Denbighshire Record Office, Plas Power MSS, DD/PP/839 29-31

Transcript of Later copy

Other Versions: None

To my verie lovinge frend Mr Whittingham

att Franckeforde.

Salutem in Christo servatore. I thanke you for yo(u)r private letter written to me received the 10th of Auguste.² I am verie gladd to heare of the begin(n)yng of our church, which I pray Godd encrease & multyplye to his glorie, what hath be(e)n done concerning your com(m)en letter I suppose is signified unto you by a commen letter agayne.³ And in this respect that ye desyre the churche to be sufficiently furnished with learned ministers we doo all most hartely wisshe the same & entend to do our endeavour it maye so be, with such reasonable respects as it shall please god to give us: but in that your letter semeth to charge verie sore all those of our nation students or

¹ Oblique reference in *Troubles* xiiii.

² Whittingham's letter, probably sent alongside the general letter from the Frankfurt congregation 2 Aug. 1554 [DD/PP/839 26-9; *Troubles* viii-xiii], is not extant.

³ This refers to the Strasbourg reply [not extant but mentioned in *Troubles* xiii] to the general letter written by the Frankfurt congregation on 2 Aug. 1554 [DD/PP/839 26-9; *Troubles* viii-xiii].

other which do not resorte to Franckforde in that I for my parte doo not think it to be allowable, saving only that I doo so interprete it y(a)t yo(u)r meaning is for sufficient mynister; & to be sure to spede of some ye require all.⁴ I do know righte well all hath procedett from goode zeale, but yet ye can consider that other places are more meete for them that entende to goo forwarde in studies, but I will use no long discourse in that matter, for we take it here *pro confesso*. And besides ther be sondrie stats of men who cannot all [p 30] resorte to one place & yet being ioyned to some reformed churche, confessing Christe syncerelye, & wher allthoffe [sic] thei heare not their owne tonge yet thei have the towng which thei either understand, or are in the waye of understanding, thei are not to be altogether disallowed. The French Church her is very godlie ordered to the which Mr Martyr⁵ & all our nation resorteth.⁶ This I speake not to discourge anie that wolde resorte to our owne churche, but for the reasonable defence of them that be here students or by their trade of life her(sic) canot well depart hence. For myne owne selfe & for the matter ye move to me, I thank you & the reste of my verie frendes of our companie y(a)t beare mine affection towards me, but I shall hartely desire you goode Mr Whittingham to beare with me, & to move that matter no more, leste ye shulde hinder the matter att other mens handes. The truthe is so, y(a)t I am fully determind & bent to bestowe certen tyme in earneste studie, especiallye for the Hebrue towng which (I confesse unto you) I do wante. I have at my firste com(m)yng written to Emanuel at Berna⁷ to provide a place for me to be with him. I stande in dowte whether to goo theder at this Myghelmasse, or at the next

⁴ It is not clear if Grindal and the English community at Strasbourg misinterpreted or deliberately misunderstood the Frankfurt congregation's purpose. They treated it more as a call for ministers rather than a demand all English exiles come to Frankfurt.

⁵ Peter Martyr Vermigli who had opened his house to a number of English exiles and around whom the English community in Strasbourg gathered.

⁶ This confirms that the whole English community attended the French church, see also Anne Hooper to Bullinger, 22 Sept 1554, O.L. I 111-112.

⁷ Emmanuel Tremellius, the renowned Hebraist at Berne, with whom Grindal intended to study Hebrew.

springe. I have also taken order with him of whom my exhibition dothe depend for that end & others, so that in no wise can I breake that order. Ther bee men nowe growen in yeares & stayed men, married or otherwise, which are not so meete to travell in studye, & more meete to exercise the rowme & therefore surelye ye cannot longe wante such as ye wolde wishe. Indede after a certen tyme spent this waye, which by goddes grace I entend, which also peradventure will not be verie longe I entend no lesse but to bestowe the residew of my tyme (so longe as it shall please Godde to geve me *panem ad nescendum & aquam ad bibendum*) there as the Englishe Congregation shall bee. But in the meane tyme I am utterly determynd (by Goddes grace) to recover parte of the lost tyme by serving & cowrtyng, & to obteyne suche helpes & meanes as I may bee more meete to serve hereafter. If I sought com(m)oditee I cannot see but ther was more licklyhode of com(m)oditees with ye. But in this case I take it to be Goddes callyng to prosequite the thinges I have entred into, unto the whiche he hath also geven me such a will; & I dowte not butt he also will geve unto others the like will to serve yo(u)r desires to whom hee hath geven gifts, and oportunitie accordinglye.

We have here a copie of Mr Dr Rydleyes awnsuers with thargumentes of his adversaryes of D. Rydleyes owne pennyng & possible it is to be sette forthe in prynte in continuance of tyme.⁸ I pray ye do so moche for me as send me youre copie of his brieffe explications which you have by some trusty frend & I will send it ye agayne. If it come before the marte,⁹ I will send it ye agayne at the marte. & if I can have laysour to copie oute this in the meane time, I will send ye this att the marte.

⁸ Nicholas Ridley, bishop of London, was in gaol in Oxford but manuscripts in his own hand of the disputes were smuggled out and brought to Grindal. This is probably a reference to *Certain godly, learned and comfortable conferences* printed in 1555 at Strasbourg. .

⁹ Frankfurt Fair. This probably refers to Ridley's *Brief Declaration of the Lord's Supper* which it was thought Whittingham translated and was printed in Emden in 1554.

I have by advice of some here written to Mr Scoree at Embden¹⁰ requiring him to repaire to Franckfurde to be an helper there, & sente it forward this daye. If ye wrote a letter to him either *publice* or *privatim*, I think it wolde accelerate him. I have also required him to directe awnswere to ye with all convenient spede.

I praye you salute Mr Williams, Mr Sutton, Mr Wodde & Mr Gyll,¹¹ with [p 31] others as ye thinke goode, thanke Mr Gyll for his letter.¹² I have no matter worthy writeynge unto him, I dowte not but Jhon Wodde¹³ tooke perfite order with him for his bill. I wishe you in Godde well to fare.

From Strasburge xio Augusti 1554

Yours assuredlye

Edm[und] Grindall

¹⁰ John Scory was in Emden and mentioned receiving a letter from Grindal [not extant] on 2 Sept in his own letter to the Frankfurt congregation of 3 Sept 1554 [DD/PP/839 31-2].

¹¹ William Williams, Thomas Wood and Michael Gill had signed the Frankfurt letter of 2 August. Edmund Sutton was one of the original group who arrived in Frankfurt on 27 June 1554.

¹² Not extant.

¹³ John Wood, see Garrett *Marian Exiles* 342-3.