

Date sent: 15 December 1555

Date received:

Writer: Christopher Goodman

Recipient: William Cole

Location of origin: Geneva

Destination: Strasbourg

Original language: Latin

Ref: Denbighshire Record Office, Plas Power MSS, DD/PP/839 58

Transcript of Later copy/English translation of copy

Other Versions: None

Christopher Goodman to William Cole the Englishman At Argentina [*Strasbourg*]

I regret, my Cole, that I do not have the time to reply more fully to your letter, which I realize proceeded from a deserving spirit and one well mindful of our conversations. – You write among other things of the danger from the illness that has seized upon that monstrous and cruel disaster for the whole of England, the bishop of Winchester.¹ But I had already been given to understand by others that he was dead, which is what I was more hopeful of. By this great benefaction of God, an example is provided for us

that the merciful Lord has not utterly ceased to avenge those who are his own and that he will never abandon them, provided they do not abandon him. And so with most ardent prayers we must all insistently seek that he, in accordance with his mercy, might wish to proceed with the retribution which he has begun. I am not pleased that Chambers has deserted you, but it is more displeasing that provision is not readily made for you here in accordance with your desires.² For, as I hear, there is so great a

¹ Stephen Gardiner died on 12 November 1555.

² What the discussion is about – here and in the following two letters of Cole to Goodman (= p. [59] and pp. [59]-[60]) -- is not luminously clear. One possibility is that Cole is meant to be seeing something through the press and is making heavy weather of it. If ‘Chamberus’ is – as I presume – Richard (Big-Daddy-Warbucks) Chambers = Garrett no. 82, then, in this scenario, Cole must have been relying on him to bankroll the hiring of proof-readers, but Chambers has left him in the lurch. Goodman will then be unhappy about the fact that Cole has made no alternative arrangements, despite the ease of obtaining learned proof-readers in Geneva (the *hic* of Goodman’s letter will correspond to the *apud vos* of Cole’s letter (p. [59])). What would not be stated is who is the implied subject of the impersonal passive *prospiciatur*, which I

supply of those who take care of correcting the type-setting that for ones who are well skilled in the craft, food alone is considered enough payment. – Farewell, good Cole, and take this in good part from one who was not now at leisure to manage any more. Greet Dominus Martyr fondly, whom it irks me to greet without a letter – also Dominus Nowell, my close friend; Dominus Faulcner;³ Dominus Jewel; Dominus Saul;⁴ Dominus Julius;⁵ Dominus Guido Heaton;⁶ and all the others

for whom I assuredly pray and long for the same things that they pray and long for for me. Geneva 15 December 1555.

have rendered as ‘provision ... is made’. Is Goodman, in this scenario, simply criticizing Cole, or is he (also) expressing vexation at the failure of others in Geneva to make good the deficiency? The former would perhaps be more likely, in view both of the abrupt tone of this letter and of the very defensive nature of Cole’s reply. But an alternative scenario is, I think, more likely. This is that Big-Daddy-Warbucks Chambers has left Cole so destitute he has been reduced to looking for some sort of learned employment at a press. Goodman replies that he regrets nothing can be done for Cole in Geneva, because (1) there is a shortage of printers who could hire learned proof-readers (this part of his reply is to be inferred from the beginning of Cole’s second letter to Goodman = p. [59]) and (2) there is a glut of learned proof-readers queuing up for work.

³ John Fawconer = Garrett no. 148.

⁴ Arthur Saule = Garrett no. 367.

⁵ Terentianus.

⁶ Guy Heton = Garrett no. 195.