

Date sent: 14 March 1556

Date received:

Writer: William Cole

Recipient: Christopher Goodman

Location of origin: Strasbourg

Destination: Geneva

Original language: Latin

Ref: Denbighshire Record Office, Plas Power MSS, DD/PP/839 58-60

Transcript of Later copy/English translation of copy

Other Versions: None

[58, last line] To his singular friend dominus Christopher Goodman at Geneva.

[59] That your good-will, dearest friend, is not now less than it once was you twice¹ confirmed by your letter. As to your printers – how great a scarcity there is of them² and how cheaply people are hired to correct the type-setting – I cannot deny what you say. For where you are there is so great a multitude of learned folk, even of those, perhaps, who, provided they can care for themselves honorably in the matter of food and clothing, are not greatly concerned about their wage,³

and, when one refuses, there is another immediately to hand who thinks that it is more satisfactory to experience humble status than to experience hunger. – Our news we will impart to you, since you ask,⁴ as often as there is a suitable messenger – and the more

¹ Or 'for a second time'.

² The previous letter did *not* mention a scarcity of printers. Nor did it contain any explicit assurances of Goodman's undiminished good will (though Cole could have chosen to regard the mere writing of the letter as an implicit assurance – which would still leave *secundo* unexplained). Could the previous letter have been a draft only which would have been somewhat embroidered in the final copying? That might explain why it is so abrupt and so lacking in the little courtesies. The alternative would be to suppose that it is *not* the letter of 15 December 1555 to which this is replying. But that is perhaps less likely, for one would then have to assume that a whole cycle is missing – that is, Cole's reply to Goodman as well as a further letter from Goodman to Cole. (A reply from Cole to Goodman has to be presupposed because otherwise this letter would be replying to two letters from Goodman to Cole, which surely would have required a grovelling apology for not writing.) And one would also have to assume that in all that they are still banging on about how little one has to pay proof-readers.

³ In other words 'when publishing duty's to be done – to be done, a copy-editor's lot is not a happy one', as G & S said somewhere.

⁴ There is no such request in the previous letter.

gladly will we do so since you write that that is something that will be very greatly pleasing. Although now less news is reported, and that which is reported is, I think, not unknown to you. As to Canterbury,

the rumour is that he has either been burnt just now or is to be burnt any day.⁵ His portrait was sent by our Queen to Rome, and the Pontiff ordered it to be destroyed by flame. I hear that at Dover there is no little equipment in the castle, and that Philip's return is expected daily. Your Termagnus⁶ is to return to Belgium next month. It had been his intention to journey via you [*plural*] all the way to Aurelia in Gaul [*Orleans*], but he has

recently understood from his friends that he should take the direct route to what I call the area of Germany. Dominus Arnold,⁷ whom he will have as a companion, is being called to England by his parents. Our people are leaving here every day, some to Vesalia [*Wesel*], others to Frankfort. And the Domini Cheke⁸ and Wrothe⁹ are soon to set out with their people to Vesalia [*Wesel*]; they only wait on Dr Sandes,¹⁰ who, they say, has gone there to procure accommodation¹¹ for them. If

hereafter you are sending any letter, I ask to hear something about your church – how great a crowd of Englishmen there are there, whom you have as ministers – for I want to hear that especially. Farewell. 14 March (1556) in Argentina [*Strassburg*], from the house of Dominus Coke, knight.¹² Jewell, Nowell, and so on greet you. Greet all my friends, but greet by name Dominus Whittingham and Dominus Lever. Again, farewell.

Your William Cole.

⁵ Cranmer was in fact burnt just a week later (on 21 March 1556).

⁶ Is this Richard Tremayne = Garrett no. 410?

⁷ I don't know who this is. It's certainly not Sir Nicholas Arnold (*D.N.B.*, *Supplement* I (1901), 75-76), who (1) would be too long in the tooth to fit the description and (2) was in any case in England at the time: he was sent to the Tower five weeks later – on 19 April. Could it be one of his three sons – perhaps called home in the face of the political crisis?

⁸ Sir John Cheke = Garrett no. 83.

⁹ Sir Thomas Wrothe = Garrett no. 466.

¹⁰ Edwin Sandes, D.D. = Garrett no. 366.

¹¹ *Aedes* could mean either one house or more than one.

¹² I presume this is Sir Anthony Cooke = Garrett no. 99.