

Date sent: 13 April 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 59-60

Transcript of Later copy/English translation of copy

Other Versions: None

To Dominus Christopher Goodmann the Englishman at Geneva.

The day before your messenger came, that man about whom you write, the servant of Robert Stephanus,¹ left. If that messenger had come first, what you advise would have been well able to be done. And I would indeed have done it assiduously, if that necessity had then demanded which pressed upon me in the month now past. For toward the end of March Dominus Coke denied his patronage to me even for a day, and I was at that time absolutely destitute. But not so long afterwards I found a situation

not only better – for many reasons – than the former one, but one which I would even have preferred to all others. Therefore, since my interests have now been taken care of in accordance with my wishes and intention, I do not want you to be distressed any longer in this matter. – There are many things which, hindered by time, I would not now be able to pursue in writing; I will soon deal with them at greater length and in your presence. For it is fully my intention to journey to you [*plural*]. Our Spenser² quite recently, when he was at the market, accepted

a situation. It is in Antwerp, where, though there is danger from the Papists, yet he is permitted to preserve his conscience uninjured and safe from all compulsion. Dominus

¹ Robert Estienne (Stephanus) had moved his printing house from Paris to Geneva in 1551. I take it (see my note to Goodman's letter to Cole at p. [58]) that Goodman had advised Cole to take (poorly paid) work for Stephanus. He would have been well qualified.

² If this is Thomas Spenser = Garrett no. 380, his job in Antwerp didn't last long: 'on 5 November 1556 he became a member of Knox's congregation at Geneva' (Garrett, p. 292).

Mullincaens³ writes that in Frankfort in a full church your Gill⁴ openly acknowledged his sin and that he was led to that because he was not admitted to communion with you [*plural*]. By this appeal for pity for his fault he has obtained pardon from Alford.⁵ Your Termagnus still remains

in Argentina [*Strasbourg*], but Arnold has left with Dominus Cheke. Concerning the Lord Canterbury, concerning our people who

[60] were thrown into the Tower for treason, concerning our people being forbidden to sail overseas there is no point in saying anything, since all these things are well enough known to you from the report of others. Dominus Martyr has learned that the king of Poland is greatly importuned by the Pope to act in concert with him, the emperor, and his son Philip in a single league, and he bids that league of his to be called in Italian *Liga santa*. There is no one who does not think that in that league he is hammering out something that would result

in the ruin of the Germans and the overthrow of the Gospel. Whatever it is that they are striving for, God is to be implored that he might wish to protect and defend his own in this distress and to blunt the wicked efforts of the adversaries. Your Julius along with his wife greets you and promises that he will write back very soon. I think that I will not set out for you before this messenger returns again. Accordingly, if you write back, you will do something most pleasing. Farewell. From the house of

Dominus Peter Martyr. At Argentina [*Strasbourg*]. 13 April (in the year 1556)

Your William Cole.

To Dominus Christopher Goodmann the Englishman at Geneva.

The day before your messenger came, that man about whom you write, the servant of Robert Stephanus,⁶ left. If that messenger had come first, what you advise would have been well able to be done. And I would indeed have done it assiduously, if that necessity had then demanded which pressed upon me in the month now past. For toward the end of March Dominus Coke denied his patronage to me even for a day, and I was at that time absolutely destitute. But not so long afterwards I found a situation

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³ I presume this is John Mullins = Garrett no. 295, whose name is spelt ‘Mullings’ in *Troubles begonne at Franckford*, p. LX.

⁴ Presumably Michael Gill = Garrett no. 169.

⁵ Presumably Hugh Alford = Garrett no. 10.

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