

DOCUMENTI DI LONDRA 2^a SERIE

Forcain State Papers. Venice. Bundle 9

February 7, 1611-12

Carleton to Archbishop Abbot

..... Two Carmelitan ffryars the one a Napolitan, the other a Genoes, have bin suiters unto me with the supplication I send your grace hereinclosed, with whom I have had since much conference and have likewise enquired *de vita et moribus*; and as on the one side I find in them good sufficiency as well as zeale and devotion, so on the other I have received a very honest report of them by those I may trust. They came now from Padoa from whence they are both removed by the Generall of their order the one to Naples the other to Pisa, and upon this reason because in questions of controversy they were growen to perfect on the opposite part, and were more industrious in confuting of Bel-lermin though disputative only then was thought fitt for the liberty of this people, who since the late interdict have their eyes better opened to see the truth or at least to discover their owne errors then the other Provinces of Italy. If they obey their superior in this remove they iudge themselves as buried in those remote parts, whereas their desire is to employ that talent which God hath lent them in His cause. To this purpose their suite is to be conveyed into Engalnd, where they promise to make it appeare to the world how in our adversaryes writting there is enough to conclude against themselves by their owne example, who till the day they spake with me never had conference with any man nor never sett eye of any book of our religion. Only (as God doth not work without meanes) the citations of Bellarmin out of our auctors, with the weaknes of the anweres gave them this tight. I proposed unto them that to goe unto those parts whether they were designed (where the scantnis of the harvest proued of this that they had *paucos operarios*) might be of greater use, then unto ours where we have many of good merite utrich starꝫ in foro otiosi because *non est qui condncat*. To which they answered that so they might quickly seale theirs faithes with their bloud, which they woud never refuse to do, but first if it might be they would encounter the adversary wth his owne weapons, and healp to pull downe the walls of Babel, the rottenes whereof is best knowen to them that have bin the builders of it, and their indeavors in this kind require a place of security. To have disputed further against so good

reason had bin to obscure the brightnes of his Majesty's zeale of which they here conceive aright that it castesh gracious beames on all that embrace the true faith whereof he is the defender; I have therefore yielded unto them as to promise to certifie their desire into England to those whom it should concerne, in the meane tyme they have quitted their hoodes and frocks and in the habit of secular priests have retired themselves to Bologna where they are both unknowen, and there like those that we call *virtuosi* they by teaching the language and the arts, and some healp they have from me sustaine themselves untill they may heare newes of what your Grace shall dispose concerning their acceptacon or exclusion from that country which they account the land of promise. Touching their maintaynance anything ad victum and vestitum will satisfy ihem, they being men habituated in a severe course of life, and of whom I dare promise upon more then reasonable cuiecture that their end is *salus* not *traemium*. Some others of this kind have offered themselves unto me, whom upon tryall I have discovered to be led by other interest then conscience only. These are ingenious learned, and no wayes obnoxious. They both had their breeding in the schooles of the Jesuits. The elder which is Neapolitan was first a doctor of Law, in that citty, and hath bin now 9 yeares of his order whereof 7 he hath bin a preacher in eminent places; and this last lent here at Venice with good reputacon. The other which is his companion as he is younger in yeares, so doth he come short of him in understanding, though he give a good account of his tyme spent in humanity and those auxiliary arts having had but 3 yeares practise in praeching, wherein *pro tanto* he hath welle acquitted himself, and he retaines one part of a young mans study, which is poetry whereof I send your Lordship a prooffe because it is upon so good a subiect. Of these papers I send your Lordship the copies only for doubt of interrupting and thereby discoverig the writers. It were to be wished that we had in our Realme a Seminary for those of this Nation according to the example of our adversaries at Rome, which would give them small cause to vaunt, as they do of numbers of converts, or at lest, that part of those large benevolences wee heare of the good uses had bin employed this way to yeeld maintaynance to such growne scholars as these who are desirous to run out of Babilon yf they knew whether. The defect of which pubblique institution may be in parte supplied by particular charity, and cheitely by your Greces fatherly protection of Gods children, to which I zealously recommend these 2 as electos and myself as one that hath long bin and vill ever rest.

Your Lordships most humbly to be commanded.

D. C.

Postscript

I must desire your Lordship to aid yourself of my Lord Treasurers cyphre for the names and quality of persons recommended, and to be pleased to hasten an answer with as much convenient speed as may be, that I may not lett te pore petitioners languish to long in suspence, but either leave them to themselves or healp them with the commodity of our snipping which if it be not taken within little more then these two monethes must be attendend untill the next yeare.

II

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 9*March 8, 1611-12**A'bishop Abbot to Carleton*

I take it very kindly, that upon any occasion you sende unto mee, but I give you my blessing, that you give mee leave to heare from you in suche a businesse. Your letters I have received, and wishe you with all speede to sende your two suppliants unto mee. They shall see that God is amongst us, and wee shall bee carefull of them. Let them therefore cast no scruples of ought heere, but come with egles wings. You will order all safely there, and leave the rest to God and mee. I commend my love unto you, and rest.... G. Cant.

III

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 9*May 15, 1612**Sir D. Carleton to the Archbishop of Canterbury*

Right honorable my very goode Lord.

About the time this letter can come to your Graces hands I expect the parties of whose goode reception I was assured by your letters of the 8th of March will be arrived in England. One of them uppon the first knowledge of your Graces pleasure came to me hether leaving his fellow sick at Bologna, but being well recovered they are mett as I may presume at Millan (here wanting fitt commodity of passage by sea) and from thence they take theyr jorney through the Grisons and amongst our friends downe the Rhine. The whole charge I have ben at for them during theyr abode at Bologna attending your Graces answeares for theyr conduct hath been 30 li. ster. which I must leave to your favor whether it shall rest on me, or not. I shall be glad for some good respects concerning his Majestys service in this place the knowledge which will be given of that abroad may be as of persons come out of the Popes territories where they were latest (and for which purpose I did the more willingly allow of theyr going thether) without mention of this State. For

howsoever they are here less Papal then any other Italians, they are for the general little less superstitious; and they would take it as a great skandale to heare of converts in theyr Covents. I have had a sollicitor for a whole yeares space a frier of the Frari one Pesaro (a name of one of these gentlemens families of which he pretends to be a branch) to give him som recommendacon unto England whether he made shew of a purpose to retire himself for conference and obtaine for him the same favor as I have done for these and this month past he followed me with importunity, so as I was forced at length to reiect him with some incivility but some ill informacon I had of his person made me lend a deafe eare unto him (he entring into my house to remaine as in a refuge) and the day after, his Covent was searcht for him by the criminal Magistrat with 50 Sbirri, for some riotous acts he had committed and as I am informed he is fled out of this towne, and I have cause to imagine he will goe into England, which makes me trouble your Grace. Thus with this relation... and rest ever. Your Graces most devoted to your service.

D. C.

IV

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 10

July 20, 1612

Abbot to Carleton

... Your two Carmelites are come safe unto me, and I have settled them to theyr contentment....

V

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 13

September 3, 1613

Carleton to Abbot

... I must humbly thank your Grace in the behalf of the two Italians whose honorable usage I heare of many wayes, and I suppose the example thereof doth stir up others of the same or like condition as these were to take the same course, I having had of late diverse sutors in that kind. But I shall be glad that these may contynue to give your Grace satisfaction without troubling you with more....

VI

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 15

February 18-28 1614

Carleton to Abbot

... I am sorrie to heareof the levity of those two Carmelitans who used my meanes to recommend theyre sute to his Majesty: which two onely I made choise of owt of more then twentie others both friars and priests who have

made the same instance unto me as men that made no other apparence yhen to be moved onely by conscience without any wordly respects. And with that mind doe I still persuade myself they parted from hence and so long continued as the elder of them testified by his letters to me aknowledging much obligation for your Lordships both gracious and bountifull dealing with them, and some to him that was the meanes of theyr happie condition, howsoever they have ben (as is likely) won by some others to returne ad *vomitum* for which I desire they may beare theyre owne burden, and yf they returne into these parts what good words and promises soever have bin given them I make no dowbt but that course will be taken with them wich they deserve where they are, and that is to be sent where the world will have no more newes of them...

D. C.

VII

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 15*March 4 1613-14**Charleton to Sir Thomas Lake*

..... I have been very much troubled in minde since the receipt of your last letter touching the ill successe of the two friers who used my meanes for theyr transport into England; and the more for that I heare one of them is escaped to the Venetian Ambassadors house. Who (as likewise understand owt of England) hath ben the chiefe meanes to worke theyr reconversion wherein he had no cause to be more sedulous then others; first, because that nether of them is a Venetian, or subject to theyr dominion and next because they came not to me owt of any place of this State, but from the Bolognese, the Popes territorie. I should be sorrie they should escape punishment where they are; but yf they have that goode fortune, I make no dowbt but they will meet with it at Rome, where the use is to entertaîne such people with many caresses at the first curaming, and after to make them tast of the common cup which none drinke twice of...

D. C.

VIII

Foreign State Papers. Venice. Bundle 15*April 22, 1614**Carlton to Abbot*

..... As for the two friars I wish I could forget them, but I must allwayes remember your favour and bounty to them as farr above theyr merits, as theyr

sentence of punishment was inferior to their faultes, which I think it was Gods will they should escape, that when they have roved a while like vagabonds, about the world they may trie the usual effect of Popes pardon in that tyme...

D. C.

IX

Domestic State Papers. Vol. 90

January 18, 1617

John Chamberlain to Sir D. Carleton

..... Here is a rumor that the Italian preacher Ascanio is run away beeing as is saide entried by one Grimaldi kinsman of Spinolas whom he accompanied on way so far as Dover, and since his wife nor freinds have no newes of him. So with all goode wishes I commend you...

John Chamberlain

X

Calendar of State Papers on English Affairs in the archives of Venice and the other libraries of N. Italy. Vol. XIV, 610.

London, January 27, 1616-17

Giovauni Battista Lionella to the Doge and Senate

... One Grimaldi, nephew of the Marquis Spinola, another Spinola and one Meltz, a relation, have been here recently. When they left on the 7th ult. they took with them secretly one Don Ascanio. an Italian, who from being a Capuchin had become a protestant here, was minister of a Church, and married. This event has caused a considerable stir and has greatly prejudiced the reputation of the Archbishop of Spalato, as they conclude from this and similar other events that the Italians who change their religion do so for any reason but a spiritual one, and when they have filled their purses they take to their heels.