

Letters (1623)

Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales and Pope Gregory XV

Transcript

British Library, Additional MS 28640, ff. 149v–150v

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[*Left margin:* This Copie is as I had it somewhat imperfect] To
the Prince of Wales in Spaine. Breu. D. N. Pape Gregorii XU.
Nobilissimo Wallie principi Magne Brittanie Gregorius Papa XU.

[*Left margin:* Three-leaved flower England's petition May 5 {1643}. extract Blame us not &c to feare while we see no contradiction to appeere to Mouns-de Chesne his-booke sold openly for many y. in Paris as in London & read at Court which recordes your – Maj. Letters to the Pope pro-mising to uenture /objectat/ objectat. Crowne & all to unite us to Rome again. Of the time & date of those letters enquire.] Nobilissime Princeps salutem &c. Lumen divine gratie, Britannia illustrium virorum, ac virtutum verarum, cui vtrumq̃ terrarum orbem no[mi]nis sui gloria impleat, Pontificias etiam cogitationes sepissime ad suarum laudu[m] spectaculum evocat. Illa enim in ipsis nascentis ee ecclesie cunabilis tanto studio rex regum soligere voluit hereditate sibi, vt illuc non fere prius Romanorum aquile, quas crucis vexilla penetrasse dicantur. Porro autem non pauci ejus reges scientia salutis edocti, exterisque nationibus ac consequentibus etatibus prebentes [Christ]iane pietatis exempla, crucem sceptro, & Religionis disciplina dominationis cupiditati pretulerunt. Itaque cum in celis promeruerint principatus beatitudinis sempiternae, consecuti sunt in terris triumphali {gap:} a sanctitatis ornamenta. / Hoc autem tempore quo Anglicane ecclesie immutatus est, humanis tamen virtutibus Anglicanum regem ornari atq̃ communiri p[er]spicimus, que charitatis nostre solatia & Christiani nominis decora {forent}, si ea habere possent orthodoxe veritatis presidia. quare que nos serenissimi parentis gloria et Regii ingenii tui indoles magis oblectat & ut ardentius vobis celestis regni fores patefieri, atq̃ {gap:} vniv[er]s[is] ecclesie amore conciliari cupiamus. {Tum} cum sanctissime memorie pontifex Gregorius magnus Anglie populis regibusq̃ Euangelicas leges et Apostolice autoritatis cultum intulerit Nos vt sanctimonia ac virtute longe inferiores, ita nominis similitudine atq̃ dignitatis fastigio pares beatissima ejus vestigia par est, in istarum provinciaru[m] salute curanda, presertim in hoc tempore ad alicujus non vulgaris

f[æ]licit

150r

f[æ]licitatis spem nos dirigat concilium tuum Nobilissime princeps. Quare cum in Hispanias ad Catholicum regem te contuleris Austriaci conju-gii cupidum desiderium hoc tuum apprime volumus, {tum} etiam luculenter in presenti rerum opportunitate testari te ad precipuas pontificatus nostri curas pertinere. Cum enim Catholicam virginem matrimonio tibi jungere studeas facile conijcere possumus vetera illa [Christ]iane pietatis semina que in regum Brittanorum animis adeo feliciter floruerunt in visceribus tuis (deo incrementum dante) renidescere posse. Neque enim ejusmodi nuptias amaret quem teneret Catholice religionis odium et Romane sedis oppressio delectaret / Proinde nos accuratissimis precibus assidue orare iussimus patrem luminum vt te [Christ]iani orbis florem et Mag[ne]. Brittanie spem, in ejus hereditate possessionem perdurat, quam tibi clarissimam majores tui pepererant

Pontificia authoritate tuenda & heresum portentis profligandis. Memento dierum antiquorum, interroga patres tuos et dicent tibi qua petatur celum via, quod iter mortales principes insistentes ad sempiterna regna p[ro]-grediantur. Intuere patefactis celi foribus sanctissimos illos Anglie reges qui Roma Angelis comitantibus p[er]fecti dominantium dominum et Apostolorum principem in Apostolica sede coluerunt. Eorum facta atq[ue] exempla dei loquentis voces sunt que te hortantur vt eorum instituta {secte=} {ris} in quorum imperium pervenire cupis. Fieri ne poterit vt tu ab hereticis condemnari eos impietatis patiaris et in sempiterni horroris carcere {detrudi}, quos in celo cum [Christ]o regnare cunctisque principalibus preesse Catholice ecclesie fides testatur? Ii nunc e beata illa patria tibi manum porrigunt qui sospitem te ad Catholici regis aulam p[er]duxerunt, atq[ue] Rom. ecclesie gremium reducere cupiunt. {Ea} vero ge-mitibus inenarrabilis deum clementie pro tua salute venerans, brachia Pontificie charitatis protendit te desideratissimum filium amantissime complexura, tibiq[ue] {Celesti} regni spe ostentans. Certe [Christ]iane reipub[licae] nationib[us] nullum tribuere solatium mal[j]us potes quam {si} principem Apostolorum cujus autoritas regnorum propugnaculum et divinitatis oraculum in Britannia {tamdiu} habita est. in tue nobiliss[imae] insule possessionem reduxeris. Quod quidem haud difficulter continget si cor tuum quo regni illius prosperitas continetur pulsanti domino patefacies / Tanta charitate Regalis no[st]ris laudibus favemus vt te in orbe terrarum vna cum serenissimo parente Britannie liberatorem restitutoremq[ue] avite religionis nuncupari cupiamus Quod certe desperare nolumus freti deo in cujus manibus corda regum sunt & qui sanabiles fecit nationes fecit orbis terrarum quem tibi omni qua possumus industria conciliare semper conabimur. Tu vero in his literis Pontificie charitatis

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sollicitudinem agnosce, felicitatem tuam curantis; quas certe numq[ua]m nos exarasse penitebit si earum lectio aliquos saltem Catholice religionis igniculos {excitabit} in corde tanti Principis quem diuturna Letitia perfrui et virtutum omnium gloria florere cupimus / datum Rome apud Sa[n]c[t]um Petrum die vicesimo Aprilis 1623 Pontificatus nostri anno tertio.

Joannes Sampolus Secretarius.

Other manuscript witnesses

- Alnwick Castle, MS 12, ff. 123r–124v
- British Library, Additional MS 18201, ff. 16v–19r
- British Library, Additional MS 36446, ff. 82x–83x
- British Library, Additional MS 4108, ff. 76r–77v
- British Library, Additional MS 4149, ff. 282r–283v
- British Library, Additional MS 44848, ff. 128v–131v
- British Library, Additional MS 48044, ff. 294r–v
- British Library, Additional MS 48063, ff. 219r–220r
- British Library, Additional MS 64879, ff. 35r–36r
- British Library, Additional MS 72276, f. 51v
- British Library, Additional MS 72365, ff. 91r–93v
- British Library, Harley MS 295, f. 259r
- British Library, Harley MS 354, ff. 98r–99v
- British Library, Harley MS 444, ff. 69r–72r
- British Library, Harley MS 4761, ff. 134r–141v

- British Library, Harley MS 4931, f. 12r
- British Library, Additional MS 34217, ff. 42r–v
- Bodleian Library, MS Carte 77, ff. 248–250
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 1048, ff. 74r–75v
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson D 924, ff. 94r–95r
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson poetry 26, ff. 25v–26r
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 82, ff. 181r–184v
- Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 82, ff. 298r–300v
- Bodleian Library, MS Wood F.23, ff. 182v–183r
- Cambridge University Library, MS Gg.1.29, reversing the volume, 2r–v
- Folger Shakespeare Library, MS V.a.348, ff. 118v–119r
- Hatfield House, CP 130, item 83
- Parliamentary Archives, BRY/92, ff. 98v–100r
- Queen's College, MS 121, ff. 400–401
- The National Archives, SP 14/142, /59 [ff.118r–119r]
- The National Archives, SP 14/142, /60 [ff.120r–122r]
- The National Archives, SP 14/147, /10 [f.12r]
- The National Archives, SP 14/147, /10 [ff.14r–v]
- UCL, Ogden MS 7/4, item 11

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<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/GregoryXVPrinceCharlesLetters1623v2.html>