

garrulae, importunae. Nihil periculosius quam Panem ad canendum 145
prouocare. Enecabit, vbi semel coeperit,

Non missura cutem, nisi plena cruoris, hirudo.

Excitauimus nuper, et quidem iratas, a somno plusquam decenni,
compulimusque liberorum regionum laudes dicere. Dixerunt et
inuitae et semisomnes cantilenam nescio quam, adeo somnolentam 150
vt cuius somnum conciliare possit. Quae cum mihi vehementer
displiceret, facile illas redormiscere sum passus.

Porro efficere vt intelligant homines Germanorum ingenia nulla
in re Italis esse inferiora, id profecto aut tu, Sixtine, poteris, aut
nemo; quem foecundissima illa illustrium ingeniorum parens 155
Phrysia, illa inquam Africa quae semper aliquid huiusmodi noui
miraculi parit, tanquam Hannibalem quendam in hoc genuisse
videtur, vt esset qui posset cum Rhomanis de doctrinae principatu
contendere. Sunt omnino in te dotes, Sixtine, a quibus nihil non
expectare debeamus. Ingenium ardens, viuudum, solidum, masculum; 160
memoria ampla, praesens, prompta; animus dexter et ad omnia
versatilis; lingua vocalis et expedita; mores hiis virtutibus digni,
vt non aliis rebus quam literis natus videaris. Adde huc quod non
sero, vt plerique, ad haec studia accesseris, sed in ipso veluti Musarum
gremio educatus pro lacte meram literaturam imbiberis. Et ea adhuc 165
aetas est vt, si nunc demum his esses studiis initiandus, tamen ab
ingenio isto flagrantissimo, ab ista tam felici memoria, ab ista tam
infatigabili industria nihil nisi summum expectare conueniret. Nunc
eo processisti vt plurimos post te reliqueris, paucissimis sis secundus.
Quare magno animo accingere, Sixtine, et vel in aequandis Itolorum 170
ingeniis Hannibalem, vel edomandis quibus heu nimium bonae
obsidentur literae monstris Herculem te praesta; nos spectatores
plausoresque erimus. Carmen tuum omnino tale mihi visum est
quale meum esse dicebas; praesuli Charnoco tam placuit quam ipse
es charus. Es autem, mihi crede, Sixtine, vnus omnium charissimus. 175

Bene vale. Oxoniae. natali Simonis et Iudae. [An. M.CCCC.XCVII.]

114. TO THOMAS MORE.

Farrago p. 143.

F. p. 291: HN: Lond. vi. 11: LB. 63.

Oxford.

28 October 1499.

[The date given by E entirely accords with Erasmus' visit to Oxford.

For More (7 Feb. 1477?—6 July 1535) see principally DNB; also a good life by
W. H. Hutton, 1895. Mr. Nichols (*Proc. Soc. Antiquaries*, 1897, p. 321) has altered
the date of More's birth to 1477, holding that the correction required in the
manuscript discovered by Mr. Aldis Wright (*Notes and Queries*, 17 Oct. 1868,

151. H: somnium D. 156. inquam F: in D. 162. hiis D¹: his D²: iis F.

147. Non missura] Hor. A. P. 476.

148. Excitauimus] Cf. Ep. 104.

pp. 365, 6, and Seebohm, *Oxford Reformers*, App. C) may be more easily made in the year-date than, as Mr. Wright makes it, in the day of the week. The manuscript has 'die veneris proximo post Festum purificationis beate Marie virginis videlicet septimo die Februarii . . . Anno Regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie decimo septimo.' By a precisely similar change the month-date may be corrected into *sexto*, which would yield 6 Feb. 1478; but the further considerations adduced by Mr. Nichols in favour of 1477 seem to make that year more probable.

In the *Colloquiorum Formulae* (p. 304) More is represented as coming to Paris on his way to Germany. The incident may be fictitious or may indicate an actual fact; but in any case it is probably an addition made when the *Formulae* were revised, perhaps in 1500, since there is no ground for supposing that Erasmus had met More before going to England. More spent a short time at the Universities of Paris and Louvain about 1508 (Ep. More to Dorp, 21 Oct. 1515, LB. App. 513); but there is no reason to think that Erasmus either revised the book or was in communication with Augustine at that date.]

ERASMVS THOMAE MORO SVO S.

Vix vllis literis consequi queam quibus diris huius tabellarii caput deuouerim, cuius vel indiligentia vel perfidia factum arbitror vt expectatissimis Mori mei literis fuerim frustratus. Nam in officio cessasse te suspicari nec debeo, nec libet; tametsi superioribus
5 literis vehementiuscule tecum expostulauimus. Neque veremur ne quid nostra libertas te commouerit, qui non ignores Lacedaemonium illum ad cutem vsque pugnandi morem. Illud extra iocum oramus, mellitissime Thoma, vt aegritudinem, quam ex nimium diuturno tui tuorumque scriptorum desyderio cepimus, vsura aliqua sarcias.
10 Expectamus omnino non epistolam, sed ingentem literarum sarcinam, quae vel Aegyptium ἀχθοφόρον degrauet. Si qui sunt isthic bonarum literarum cultores, tuum erit officium eos vt ad nos scribant extimulare, quo videlicet amicorum orbem omnibus numeris absoluamus; non ausim illos lacessere prior. Nam tibi nihil referre putamus,
15 quomodo scribamus homini facillimo; ad haec mei, vt mihi persuasi, amantissimo. Vale, iucundissime More.

Oxoniae. AN. M.CCCC.XCIX. Natali Simonis et Iudae.

115. TO WILLIAM BLOUNT, LORD MOUNTJOY.

Farrago p. 98.

Oxford.

F. p. 256: HN: Lond. v. 5: LB. 42.

(November 1499.)

[Plainly by this time Erasmus had been some time in Oxford.]

ERASMVS GVLIELMO MONIOIO COMITI GENEROSO S. D.

Sr tu tuaque generosissima coniunx, socer humanissimus reliquaue familia valetis, est cur maximopere gaudeamus. Nos hic quidem valemus perbelle, et indies bellius. Dici non potest quam mihi

114. 9. H: coepimus E.

11. sunt E: sint F.

115. 1. socer] Sir William Say, Kt. (c. 1453—4 Dec. 1529), the owner of large estates in Essex and Hertford-

shire; see F. M. Nichols, *The Hall of Lawford Hall*, pp. 162-84. Erasmus had been staying with him at Bedwell (Ep. 115).