

388<sub>412</sub> FROM THOMAS MORE.Epistole ad Erasmum f<sup>o</sup>. h<sup>2</sup> v<sup>o</sup>.

(London.)

C<sup>l</sup>. f<sup>o</sup>. q: C<sup>2</sup>. p. 258: F. p. 93: HN:

(c. 17 February 1516.)

Lond. ii. 16: LB. 227.

[Perhaps rather earlier than Ep. 389, as there is no allusion to the birth of the Princess Mary. The date of Tunstall's appointment (l. 106 n.) need not conflict with this supposition, as he was probably informed of it before the actual signing of the commission.

Mr. Nichols, although he refers in a note to Tunstall's new appointment in February, dates this letter in May, because then also Tunstall was only allowed a few days in England on his return from an embassy. But the similarity of this and Ep. 389 makes it more probable that they should be contemporary.]

THOMAS MORVS ERASMO SVO S. D.

POSTEAQVAM a nobis digressus es, Erasme charissime, ter omnino literas abs te recepi. Si toties dicam rescripsisse, fidem fortasse mihi non es habiturus, etiam si sanctissime mentiar; presertim quum ipse me tam probe noscas et ad scribendas epistolas pigrum, neque tam superstitiose veracem vt mendaciolum vsquequaque velut parricidum abominer. Paceus noster isthic legatione fungitur, quanquam non prorsus isthic; ita enim abest a nobis vt tamen non adsit tibi. Per literas enim nobiscum ei licet loqui, praesenti vero nec tecum: vtinam re bene gesta breui redeat domum, vt dimidia saltem mei pars mecum viuat. Nam te quando liceat expectare non video, cui animus est Italiam petere; vbi in eos incidet qui vereor vt te patiantur auelli. Ego interim videor mihi dimidio mei carere, dum abest ille; altero dimidio dum tu. Spero propediem fore vt illi egregia aliqua dignaque illo viro fortuna contingat. Ita plane sentio et Regis animum et Cardinalis voluntatem et bonorum prorsus omnium studia in eum ornandum euehendumque propendere.

De te vero, nisi me mea spes tam saepe frustraretur, etiam multo maiora sperarem, quanquam nunc quoque bene sperare quid vetat? Neque enim quia parum processit haecenus, ideo futuri quoque spes adempta est, imo nunc maxime confido. Neque eadem perpetuo cuiquam est fortuna, neque diutius potest esse maligna tibi, cui Pontifex, reges, episcopi, omnes prope mortales, quaqua versus orbis patet Christianus, impendio fauent ac demirantur. Apud nos quo in te animo sint episcopi et seorsum Cantuariensis, tum Princeps ipse quo te fauore complectitur, superuacaneum foret commemorare. At quod haecenus nullum in te beneficium aut te dignum aut tam magno tantorum amore virorum prouenerit, partim tute qui neglexeris ea quae ambiunt alii, partim nescio quae fortuna fuit in causa; veluti nunc

12. mei om. F.

388. 1. ter . . . 2. literas] Probably (Ep. 389. 2 n.)  
contemporary with those to Ammonius 8. nec tecum] Cf. Ep. 378. 7, 8.

quoque accidit de illo canonicatu quem vocant Tornacensi, quem  
 30 dominus Montioyus obtinuerat tibi. Videris nunc ab eo non abhorre-  
 re; scribis enim omnia te misisse instrumenta Montioyo, quae ad eum  
 tibi conferendum viderentur idonea. At ego, si meministi, quum  
 esses mecum Brugis, ea de re sermonem habui tecum, in quo tu  
 enumeratis omnibus eius beneficii commodis et incommodis item  
 35 alieno esse animo videbare; nec id celasti Sampsonem, qui se Tor-  
 naci gerit Eboracensis Episcopi vicarium. In quam sententiam non  
 hoc te solum impellebat, quod verebare ne non esset tibi perpetuus,  
 nisi alterius etiam episcopi consensus accessisset, a quo non expecta-  
 bas vt illius factum haberet ratum cuius omnia facta conatur in-  
 40 fringere; sed illud quoque quod praeterquam quod propemodum  
 decem librae nostrates illico tibi in primo erant ingressu munerandae,  
 domus praeterea ducentis nobilibus aut pluris etiam redimenda. Ea  
 est ibi consuetudo; cui nisi parueris, vix sex nobiles annuos conse-  
 queris, at nec illos quidem, quantum accepi, nisi ibi perpetuo degas.  
 45 His tu rationibus adductus mihi ac Sampsoni videbare illum canoni-  
 catum non admissurus.

Paulo posteaquam tu a me discesseras, ego Tornacum concessi. Ibi  
 a domino Montioyo atque item a Sampsoni audiui Archiepiscopum  
 Eboracensem vtrique eorum scripsisse, vt id beneficium donaretur  
 50 alii, cui, vt videbatur, fuerat pollicitus, quum ignoraret tibi fuisse  
 destinatum. Hoc ego quum audiui, dissimulato quod intellexi, bene-  
 ficium animo non admodum respondere tuo, suasi vt rescriberent tibi  
 esse concessum, remque in eo esse statu vt mutari non possit, nisi  
 tibi de meliore fortuna prius esset prouisum. Rescripsit Eboracensis  
 55 eum locum haud quaquam fore idoneum tibi, quod et praesenti parum  
 esset locuples et nihil afferret absenti: se sponsorem acciperent melio-  
 ris tibi conferendi. Ita quum ego aderam, nec me certe dissuadente,  
 decreuerant illud beneficium ei donare cui volebat Episcopus. Quid  
 sit factum postea nescio. Verum hoc scio, nisi illud habes, Cardina-  
 60 lem et pinguius tibi debere et breui spero persoluturum. Amicissi-  
 mam saepe de te mentionem iniicit.

41. numerandae C; cf. Ep. 317. 2 n.  
 59. B: habeas Lond.

47. F. Corrig.: discesseris B.

29. Tornacensi] Cf. Ep. 360. 15 n.  
 35. Sampsonem] Rich. Sampson  
 († 25 Sept. 1554) was B.C.L. from  
 Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in 1505,  
 and, after studying at Paris and Sens,  
 D.C.L. in 1513. His acquaintance with  
 Erasmus at Cambridge mentioned in  
 Lond. iii. 5, LB. 352, probably belongs  
 to this later period. He became chap-  
 lain to Wolsey, who on receiving the  
 see of Tournay appointed Sampson his

commissary, to represent him in the  
 contest with Guillard (Ep. 360. 16 n.).  
 Sampson served on many embassies  
 and made himself useful to Henry VIII;  
 and as a reward received endless pre-  
 ferment, which culminated in the  
 bishoprics of Chichester 1536, and of  
 Coventry and Lichfield 1543. See DNB.  
 58. Episcopus] Used for Wolsey; as  
 in ll. 62, 72, 76 for Warham. Cf. Epp.  
 424. 26, 468. 5, 481. 82.

Pensionem tuam non erat opus vt ego ab Episcopo exigerem. Ipse enim ex semet memor, priusquam meas accepisset litteras, egerat de ea re cum Maruffo, cuius ad haec, vt scis, negocia opera semper vtitur, interim etiam pecunia, quoad collata ratione statis temporibus paria 65 inter se faciant. Verum protinus habitis literis meis (nam versabatur Otfordiae) iterum hominem extimulat per epistolam vt viginti libras nostrates celeriter ad te transmitteret; pollicitus eas Maruffo redditurum se, vbi primum ex tuo chirographo cognouisset eas ad te esse perlatas. Conueni Maruffum. Ipse ait se scripturum tibi vt 70 chirographum properes ad sese mittere, quo te testeris accepisse pecuniam; quo ad Episcopum delato nummos ea velut occasione sibi numeratos tum demum ad te curaret perferendos. Ego quum haec audirem, veritus sum aliquid subesse periculi, ne si pecunia iam tum non solueretur ei, ea mora vicissim deriuaretur in te. 'Ergo non est' 75 inquam 'hac simulatione opus. Aut pecuniam illico mitte Episcopi nomine ac fide; aut si nisi prius receptum graueris impendere, efficiam protinus vt in manu habeas.' 'Imo,' inquit ille, 'nihil est quod metuas. Nam sic agam vt Erasmo statim haec pecunia adsit; quin iam nunc quoque adest. Nam habet a me chirographum quo possit 80 vbi volet ducatos mille conficere: e quibus quicquid acceperit, debet hoc mihi (sic enim inter nos conuenit) ex hac pensione resolui.' Haec ille dicit. Ego vix credo nisi collata prius in eius mensam pecunia vllas eum literas tibi pro conficienda pecunia tradidisse. Quare si res 85 secus habet quam dicit, effice mature vt intelligam.

Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis officio Cancellarii, cuius onus iam aliquot, vt scis, annos mirum quam laborabat excutere, tandem exolutus est; ac desyderatum iamdiu secretum nactus, gratissimo inter literas ocio ac negociorum bene ab se gestorum recordatione perfruitur. Princeps ei Cardinalem suffecit Eboracensem; qui ita se gerit 90 vt spem quoque omnium, quanquam pro reliquis eius virtutibus maximam, longe tamen exuperet, et (quod est difficillimum) etiam post optimum decessorem valde probetur ac placeat.

Nostra legatio, quoniam haec quoque tibi curae est, vt mea omnia, satis foeliciter processit, nisi quod longiore tractu quam aut speraui 95 aut volui res protelata est. Etenim quum domo discedens vix bimestrem absentiam expectauerim, vltra sex menses in ea legatione con-

66. faciat C.

71. sese B: se H.

86. F: officium B.

67. Otfordiae] Cf. Ep. 425 introd.

86. Cantuariensis] Warham resigned the Great Seal to Wolsey on 22 Dec. 1515; see Brewer ii. 1335 and cf. Epp. 389. 60, 414. 1 n.

94. Nostra legatio] More was appointed ambassador on 7 May 1515,

started on 12 May, and reached Bruges on 18 May. His meeting with Pace at Gravelines may be dated 24 Oct. See Brewer ii. 422, 678, 473, 1059, 1067. Pace was then departing on an embassy which kept him for more than two years in Switzerland.

trium. Verum longam tandem moram exitus satis gratus est in-  
sequutus. Ergo vbi negocium, quamobrem ipse veneram, ad finem  
100 vidi perductum et alia tamen rursus ex aliis nasci, quae longioris  
morae viderentur initia (neque enim vnquam inter principes desunt),  
datis ad Cardinalem literis redeundi veniam impetraui mihi; vsus  
ad eam rem cum caeterorum amicorum opera tum praecipue Pacei:  
neque enim adhuc abierat. Sed dum redeo, Grauelinii subito oc-  
105 curri, idque tam propere festinanti vt vix ei liceret, dum nos mutuo  
salutarem, subsistere. Tunstalus iam nuperrime reuersus dies vix  
decem hic moratus, nec villo tamen eorum pro suo arbitrio suauiter  
acto, sed omni eo tempore anxie atque odiose consumpto in earum  
expositione rerum quas legatus in mandatis habuerat, ecce rursus  
110 eodem subito noua legatione retruditur, idque certe scio, si negare  
liceret, inuitissimus.

Mihi nunquam admodum legati munus arrisit. Neque videtur  
perinde nobis laicis quam sacerdotibus conuenire vobis, qui primum  
vxores ac liberos aut domi non habetis aut vbique reperitis. Nos  
115 sicubi paulo absumus, coniugum protinus ac sobolis desyderio reuo-  
camur. Deinde sacerdos quum emittitur, totam familiam potest vbi  
velit circumducere et regis interim expensis pascere quos domi pa-  
sturus erat suis. At mihi absentis duplex alenda familia, altera domi,  
altera peregre. Commeatus mihi satis benigne dabatur a Rege pro  
120 eorum numero quos eduxi mecum; verum eorum quos interim ne-  
cesse fuit domi relinquere nulla est habita ratio: a quibus ego, quan-  
quam scis quam clemens maritus, quam indulgens pater, quam mitis  
dominus, tamen ne tantulum quidem quivi impetrare vt mea causa  
tantisper quoad domum redirem ieiuni persisterent. Postremo  
125 sacerdotibus laborum atque impensarum gratiam auctoramentis  
ecclesiasticis proclive est principibus sine villo sumptu suo rependere;  
nobis neque tam laute neque tam facile prospicitur: quanquam mihi  
reuertenti pensio annua ab Rege decreta est, eaque plane, seu quis  
honorem spectet seu fructum, neutiquam contemnenda. Quam ego  
130 tamen hactenus recusavi, videorque mihi perpetuo recusaturus; quod  
ea suscepta praesens haec mea in vrbe conditio, quam ego etiam me-  
liori antepono, aut mihi foret relinquenda aut, quod minime vellem,  
cum aliqua ciuium offensione retinenda: quibus si qua cum Principe,  
quod nonnunquam accidit, oriretur de priuilegiis questio, minus me

104. *N*: Granelmii *B*: Granelinii *F*.  
dabitur *Lond.* 126. *sue add. H.*

115. paulum *H.*

119. *B LB*:

106. Tunstalus] He left Brussels for  
England c. 29 Jan. 1516; but received  
a fresh commission on 19 Feb. See  
Brewer ii. 1458, 1459, 1574.

128. pensio annua] of £100; Brewer

ii, p. 875. More was not for long suc-  
cessful in resisting the royal bounty;  
cf. Brewer ii. 4247.

131. conditio] More was Under-  
Sheriff of the City of London, 1510-19.

syncerum ac sibi fidum ducerent, tanquam annuis Principi mercedibus <sup>135</sup> obstrictum.

Caeterum in illa mea legatione quaedam me impendio delectarunt. Primum tam longum ac tam perpetuum Tunstali contubernium; quo ut nemo est omnibus bonis literis instructior, nemo vita moribusque seuerior, ita nemo est vsquam in conuictu iucundior. Deinde quod <sup>140</sup> cum Buslidiano mihi interessit amicitia, qui me et pro egregia fortuna sua magnifice et pro animi bonitate comiter recepit. Domum tam singulari artificio excultam, tam eximia suppellectile instructam ostendit; ad haec tot vetustatis monumenta, quorum me scis esse percupidum; postremo tam egregie refertam bibliothecam, et ipsius <sup>145</sup> pectus quauis etiam bibliotheca refertius, ut me plane obstupescerit. Eum audio iam nunc ad Principem nostrum legatione functurum. Sed in tota peregrinatione mea nihil mihi contigit optatius quam Petri Aegidii Antuerpiensis hospitis tui consuetudo, hominis tam docti, faceti, modesti ac vere amici ut peream nisi eius vnus con- <sup>150</sup> uictum libenter mihi velim bona mearum fortunarum parte redimere. Is ad me misit apologiam tuam et commentarios item in Psalmum illum, Beatus Vir, quos tu Beato Rhenano vel tanto ac tam perpetuo amici monumento vere beato dedicasti. Dorpius epistolam suam imprimendam curauit et apologiae tuae praependendam. Illum <sup>155</sup> optaueram, si qua incidisset occasio, conuenire. Id quando non licuit, per epistolam saltem salutavi, imo per epistolum quoddam Laconicum, nam longiori non suppetebat tempus: at insalutatam praeterire non potui hominem, qui mihi mirum in modum cum ob eximiam eruditionem tum multis etiam aliis nominibus placet, nec ideo in postremis, <sup>160</sup> quod taxata Moria scribendae tibi apologiae praebuit occasionem.

Gaudeo Hieronymum ac Nouum Testamentum tam bene procedere. Mirum est quanto vndique desyderio expectantur ab omnibus.

141. Buslidiano] Cf. Ep. 205 introd. More's *Epigrammata* contain verses on Busleiden's house at Mechlin and his collection of coins.

147. legatione] I cannot find that Busleiden actually discharged this embassy. The reference quoted by Mr. Nichols from Lond. iii. 31, LB. 267 probably refers to the embassy of 1509; see Ep. 205 introd.

152. apologiam] Ep. 337 as printed in A.

commentarios] Cf. Ep. 327.

154. epistolam] Ep. 304.

157. epistolum] Evidently a jesting description of LB. App. 513, which in spite of its length More speaks of as interrupted by the necessity of his return (1916 A). The best source for

the letter is a MS. at Paris (Bibl. Nat. Lat. 8703), which M. Delcourt has brought to my notice. It is not in More's hand, but is written by a secretary, and is very probably the actual copy sent to Dorp. Its date, 21 Oct., may therefore be accepted with confidence, although this is missing in the Schlettstadt MS. (p. 126) and More's *Lucubrationes* of 1563, of which the Bodleian MS., Wood F. 22 (? xvii<sup>c</sup>) appears to be a copy. The divergence of the Schlettstadt MS.,—which otherwise is both early and good—from the Paris MS. in this point perhaps indicates that it was derived from a copy sent to Basle for Erasmus' friends to see (cf. Ep. 545. 6-8); from which the date of dispatch might have been omitted.

- Linacer, mihi crede, Erasme, de te et optime sentit et vbique loquitur ;  
 165 id quod ego nuper ab his accepi qui ei amantissime atque effusissime  
 apud Regem in caena de te loquenti affuere : quo in sermone Rex ea  
 vicissim respondit, vt hi qui mihi retulerunt, opinionem plane con-  
 ceperint fore vt breui aliquid egregiae in te fortunae conferatur ; quod  
 ego superos precor vt ratum esse velint.
- 170 Vale, Erasme charissime, et Rhenanum et Lystrium meo nomine  
 saluta ; quos ego et tua predicatione et ipsorum scriptis et chariores  
 habeo et penitius etiam notos quam multos ex his quibuscum versor  
 cotidie. Vxor mea te salutatur, et item Clemens, qui literis et Latinis  
 et Graecis ita proficit indies vt non exiguam de eo spem concipiam,  
 175 futurum eum aliquando et patriae et literis ornamento.

Iterum vale atque his vnis literis in multos menses esto contentus :  
 quibus auaros sum imitatus ; qui quod raro quemquam inuitant, si  
 quando ad caenam vocant, prolixissime conuiuium instruunt, vt vna  
 coena cotidianum sumptum inuitandi effugiant. Iam tertio vale.

- 180 Episcopus Dunelmensis inscriptionem Senecae gratissimam habuit.  
 Vide quam te libenter imiter, qui tibi nunc itidem vt tu nuper mihi  
 aliena manu scribo, tam certus imitator, vt ne hoc quidem meapte  
 manu fuerim scripturus nisi vt certum tibi facerem literas has meas  
 esse.

170. & ante Lystrium B : ac H. 183. ascripturus C.

164. Linacer] Erasmus had for some years been doubtful of Linacre's feelings towards him; cf. *Epp.* 237. 54-9, 350. 5 seq., 502. 18, 9, and 513. 8, 9.

173. Clemens] John Clement († 1 July 1572) was a pupil of Lily at St. Paul's school. He became servant-pupil to More, whom in 1515 he accompanied on his embassy to Bruges (*Pref. to Utopia*). He made rapid progress with classical learning, and in Sept. 1516 was able to help Colet with Greek (*Ep.* 468. 12). In (Dec. 1517) he was still in More's household (*Brewer* ii. App. 17), where he acted as tutor to the children; but in April 1518 had entered the service of Wolsey (*Lond.* iii. 13; *LB.* 242). In the autumn of 1518 Wolsey sent him to Oxford as the first of his newly-founded Readers in Humanity (*Brewer* ii. App. 56), and he was lodged in Foxe's college of Corpus Christi. By the spring of 1520 he had left Oxford for Louvain (*Lond. Mor.* i; *Jortin* ii. 396) to study medicine; to which he now devoted himself. Two years later (*Lond. Viv.* 6<sup>s</sup>, 7; *LB.* 615, 619) he went on to Italy; where, together with his successor in the Oxford Readership, Lupset (*Ep.* 270. 60 n.), and two other English-

men, Odoardus and Roseus, he helped to edit the Aldine Galen, Apr.-Aug. 1525, 5 vols. folio (the first edition in Greek): see *pref. to vol. v. P.* \*<sup>2</sup>. On returning from Italy with the degree of M.D. (probably from Padua) he obtained employment about the court, and on 1 Feb. 1528 was admitted a member of the College of Physicians in London; becoming President in 1544. About 1530 he married Margaret Giggs, More's kinswoman and inmate of his house; for whom see DNB.

He adhered to the Roman supremacy, and withdrew under Edward VI to Louvain; returning to England under Mary. But on the accession of Elizabeth he again retired to the Netherlands and settled at Mechlin, where he died.

Simon Grynaeus' edition of Proclus' *De motu*, Basle, Bewel, Aug. 1531, is dedicated to Clement, with a preface which refers to his work on Galen when in Italy; and also suggests that it was from him that Grynaeus received the MS. of Proclus when visiting England in the spring of 1531. See DNB.; Rendel Harris, *Leicester Codex*, pp. 46, 7, and 53-6, for MSS. belonging to him; and Bridgett, *Life of More*, p. 126 n.

180. Senecae] *Ep.* 325.