

## 668. TO JOHN SIXTIN.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 55 v<sup>o</sup>.  
LB. App. 184.

Louvain.  
16 September (1517).

ERASMVS SIXTINO SVO S. D.

MIRA huius regionis sterilitas. Ioannes Phrysius tot artium nullam hic reperit fortunam. Ego menses complures vteunque alui in spem melioris fortunae. Nunc ceu sacra iacta ancora in Britanniam se confert. Optabam eum hic manere, si fortuna ar-  
5 risisset. Tu, siquid potes, adiuua. De fide testor. Eruditionem probo; pristinam morum insolentiam fortunae iniquitas, vt spero, correxit. Scripsi nuper et per Petrum vnoculum. Cum fratre confabulatus sum Antuerpiae. Petrus Aegidius male languet; ego  
vsque ad mortem crucior pituita. Bene vale.  
10 Louanii pridie Lamberti.

669.<sup>683.688</sup> TO THOMAS MORE.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 93.  
LB. App. 183.

Louvain.  
16 September (1517).

MISI me tibi per Petrum coclitem, qui se hac gracia diuertit Caletium. Non est quod dones nisi decem aut duodecim grossos pro itineris dispendio: cetera curata sunt a nobis omnia. Vtinam fiat tuo commodo vt huc transuoles! Reuiuisceremus vtrique:  
5 nam ipse dum Petrum Aegidium restituere conor, in sceleratissimam incidi pituitam, quae sic me affligit vt pene extinxerit. Atensis omnia mea probat citra exceptionem. Dorpius ex animo fauet, sed suae gloriae perparcus est, ne dicam famelicus; quo minus potest in amicum transfundere. Mi More, cura vt valeas et nos  
10 valebimus.

Si veneris Brugas, accerse D. Marcum, decanum Sancti Donatiani nostri amantissimum. Commissa sunt mihi quaedam titulo Imperatoris de rebus non leuibus. Sed quiduis fecero prius quam huiusmodi negociis irretiar: et vtinam tu esses expeditus! Bene vale  
15 etiam atque etiam. Louanii pridie Lamberti.

669. 9. transfundere MS.

12. amantissim MS.: amantissimi LB, *praeue*.

668. 7. Scripsi] Ep. 655.

fratre] See Ep. 655. 5 n.

669. 1. Misi] Cf. Ep. 654.

11. Marcum] Laurinus. Cf. Ep. 651.  
19 n.

12. Commissa sunt] I cannot suggest any question concerning Maximilian on which Erasmus should have been

requested to consult with the head of the theological faculty at Louvain (Ep. 670); unless it were a revival of the designs upon the Papacy suggested by Leo's illness in the summer of 1516 (Brewer ii. 2241, 2308). Erasmus' own relations with Maximilian were of the slightest.

Nolim tibi hunc obtrudere: tamen si requiris scribam, scribit et satis emendate et legibiliter, tum Grece tum Latine. Rursum vale.

## 670. TO JOHN BRIARD.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 63 v<sup>o</sup>.

⟨Louvain.⟩

LB. App. 229.

⟨c. 16 September 1517.⟩

[Contemporary with Ep. 669.

John Briard (†8 Jan. 1520) usually known as Atensis, was born at Beloeil in the district of Ath. He was educated at Louvain, where he was a member of the Council 1 Oct. 1492; D.D. 11 Feb. 1500; Rector in Aug. 1505 and 1510; in 1506 professor of theology and Canon of St. Peter's church; and c. 1507 until his death Vice-chancellor (cf. Ep. 643. 8 n.) in succession to Adrian of Utrecht. Some *Quaestiones Quolibeticæ* disputed by him at Louvain, 1508-10, were included in the second edition of Adrian's *Quaestiones*, Louvain, Th. Martens, Aug. 1518. Nicholas of Hertogenbosch's edition of Hugo of St. Victor (p. 34), Dorp's sermon on the Assumption, Louvain, Th. Martens, 18 Feb. 1514 (cf. Ep. 304 introd.), and Vives' *Genethliacon Iesu Christi*, 1 Jan. (1519), are dedicated to him. He was a member of the council of Margaret of York, Duchess of Burgundy (†1503), who in her later years resided at Mechlin.

As leader of the theological faculty in the university, though moderate, he was necessarily conservative, and was inclined to be afraid of Erasmus' advanced views. But on the whole their relations were cordial, and even really friendly (cf. Ep. 867. 255); and Erasmus often appeals to his authority (cf. Ep. 669. 6, 7) in later years, as having approved of his edition of the New Testament (Lond. i. 2, xix. 112, 106, 91; LB. 587, 629, 741, 746: also *Apol. qua respondet*, f<sup>o</sup>. B; Jortin ii. 500). The only breach between them was c. Feb. 1519, when Briard in conferring a degree was thought to have referred with censure to Erasmus' recently published *Encomium Matrimonii* (Ep. 604. 10 n.). As he hastened to withdraw (cf. *Apol. adu. Sutoris debacchationem*, LB. ix. 770 B), Erasmus contented himself with replying publicly in a short and unusually restrained *Apologia*, dated 1 March 1519, and published by Froben in May; see also p. 480. And there the matter ended; though in 1523 Erasmus still could not speak of it without bitterness (I. pp. 22. 30-23. 8). See BN. and de Jongh pp. 149-51.]

Post S. P. absolutissimam, M. N. Atensis, est mihi commissum negocium veluti nomine Imperatoris, quod is qui mandabat arbitratur magnopere ad reipublicae salutem et incolumitatem pertinere. Ipse non recepi nisi perpendendum, vt liberum tamen sit non respondere. Si quando vacabit horulam perdere, cupiam super hoc tecum communicare; nam et hoc vt facerem sum rogatus. Praescribe tempus quo vacabit, aut hodie aut cras, adero; nunc enim non exeo temere, quod teneat me pituita. Bene vale, praeceptor eruditissime.

Erasmus R.

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## 671. TO ⟨WILLIAM BOLLART⟩.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 63 v<sup>o</sup>.

⟨Louvain.⟩

LB. App. 243.

⟨c. 16 September 1517?⟩

[From comparison with Ep. 761. 40-1, it seems probable that this and Ep. 672 are addressed to Bollart. It would appear that on receipt of this letter