

nunc legitimam. Petro Ammonio scripsi accuratius, et confido  
15 facturum. Ingenium Italicum vt nusquam non sui simile est!

De Fabro varia referuntur; quibusdam parat Apologiam, qui-  
busdam mecum sentit. Ipse viderit. Si repetit, accipietur vt dignus  
est. Montioius sui similis est; aut promittit aut queritur. Non  
pudebat Reuerendissimum offerre xx libras; et ille me volebat  
20 sperare (centu)m, qui toties expertus sim non promissa solum verum  
etiam deierata. De Petri Aegidii valetudine non sparsi rumorem,  
sed litteris apud Morum questus sum: atque vtinam is rumor esset  
vanus! Mi Sixtine, (ni)mium verus est; adeo vt misere mihi in  
illius periculo timeam.

## 776. TO THOMAS MORE.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 32.

LB. App. 287.

Antwerp.

22 February 1518.

ERASMVS MORO SVO S. D.

DICI vix possit magisne doleam, optime More, an admirer, quid  
acciderit nostro Paceo vt libellum istum edendum putarit: in quo  
plane desydero iudicium illud quod illi non deesse putaram. Doleo  
autem non ipsius nomine solum, cuius glorie non minus faueo quam  
5 meae, verum etiam vestrae Britanniae, que sat scio longe aliud  
ingenii specimen ab alumno suo expectabat. Denique meo ipsius  
nomine doleo, quem toties nominat, non dubito quin amico animo,  
sed tamen ita vt inimicus non magis fuerit nociturus: nam quod

775. 20. centum, 23. nimium LB. *In extremo angulo nunc lacera est charta; quae  
forsitan, quo tempore utebatur Clericus, illaesa fuerit. Ante sparsi, vbi initium est versus  
secundi, perit spatium duarum fere litterarum; quod tamen vacuum fuisse videtur,  
quandoquidem Clericus nihil ibi scripsit.* 23. vanus LB: varius MS.

775. 14. Ammonio] Ep. 774.

19. Reuerendissimum] Wolsey; cf.  
Ep. 784, 786.xx] In Ep. 786. 38 this is given  
as 40.ille] Mountjoy; cf. Ep. 694. 10 n.  
22. litteris] Not extant.

776. 7. toties] *De Fructu*, pp. 15, 32,  
47, 53, 56, 63, 72, 92-5, 100, 107, 108,  
112. On pp. 92-6 he recounts an inter-  
view with an Italian Abp., 'professione  
non theologus sed Scotista,' who  
claimed to have a roll of Erasmus'  
errors in theology, and to be eager  
to drag him before a Council. As  
Bombasius is represented (p. 95) as  
entering at the close of the interview,  
the incident may perhaps be taken  
(but see below) to have occurred during  
Bombasius' visit to Constance, between

19 Sept. 1517 (Brewer ii. 3693) and  
29 Sept., when he had returned to  
Zurich (*De Fructu*, p. 4); for he does  
not appear to have been at Constance  
again before Pace's return to England  
(Ep. 706. 27 n.).

On pp. 15-6 Pace describes a con-  
versation at a party in which a 'gene-  
rosus' in support of his contention  
that learned men were needy, quoted  
Erasmus' complaints of his poverty, in  
a letter which can hardly be other  
than Ep. 421. 128,9. Pace's respect  
for precision is so scant that he repre-  
sents the conversation as occurring in  
England 'duobus annis plus minus iam  
praeteritis' and in his own presence:  
although he left England in Oct. 1515  
(Ep. 388. 94 n.), eight months before  
Ep. 421 was written.

lector a me veluti fideiussore videtur exacturus, quod illius spo-  
[s]pondi nomine, non ita magni duco. O φίλοι μουσαι, an non <sup>10</sup>  
perpendit ille rem esse sacram amici nomen orbi posterisque tradere,  
neque quicquam respexit preter atramenti, chartarum oleique iactu-  
ram? Quorsum attinebat referre nugas illas de rotulo, de heresibus,  
de paupertate? An quicquid vsquam inter cyathos effutiunt rabule,  
dignum esse putat quod orbi legendum proponatur? <sup>15</sup>

Verum hec sera iam est comploratio. Quod superest, pro tua cum  
illo familiaritate submonebis hominem ne consimiliter post abutatur  
litteris. Si Greca vertet, alieno iudicio fulciatur, neque quicquam est  
habiturus negotii preter elocutionis curam. Epistolam ad Dorpium  
pro me scriptam ipsius honoris causa suppressi. Atque vtinam <sup>20</sup>  
libellum hunc suppressere liceret!

Hec ad te sine fuco scripsi, mi More, quod de nuncii fide certus  
essem; ad ipsum eadem scripturus, ni iam toties expertus essem  
quantum suo quisque ingenio faueat. Et coram huiusmodi placabi-  
lium admoneri solent. Bene vale. <sup>25</sup>

Antwerpie festo Cathedre Petri. An. M.D. 18.

#### 777. TO HENRY BULLOCK.

Deventer MS. 91, f. 34.  
LB. App. 263.

Antwerp.  
(c. 22 February 1518.)

[The dates of place and time conflict. The former is confirmed by the mention  
of Louvain in l. 30. The absence of any reference to Meghen or Berckman, or  
to the events touched upon in the letters of 5 March, also suggests that this letter  
belongs to the earlier group, and that the date of time was added when the whole  
packet was dispatched: cf. Ep. 772 introd.]

ERASMVS BOVILLO SVO S. D.

PRIMUM voluptati fuit, optime Bouille, quod te pestis ista scelerata  
non attigit. Croco gratulor atque adeo vestrae etiam Academiae; cui  
praeter alias honestissimas disciplinas, quibus iam pridem excellit,  
hoc quoque decoris accesserit. Sed quid ego audio? An isthic  
etiam sunt qui pro Fabro digladiantur? Quid est autem quod <sup>5</sup>  
mihi succensent isti? an quod blasphemiae crimen, quod mihi cum  
omnibus orthodoxis scriptoribus commune Faber vni veluti pro-  
prium impingit, clarissimis argumentis propello? Cur non illi  
potius succensent qui me lacessierit, et ita lacessierit vt integrum  
non fuerit obti(ce)scere? Sed istos, mi Bouille, rabulas valere <sup>10</sup>

776. 17. illo LB: illa MS.  
LB; cf. Ep. 659. 4.

777. 7. LB: communę MS. 10. obtieescere

776. 9. spondi] In the preface to  
the *Adagia*: Ep. 211. 43-9.  
19. Epistolam] Cf. Ep. 732. 53 n.  
23. scripturus] Erasmus changed his

mind later, and wrote Ep. 787.  
777. 1. pestis] Cf. Ep. 623. 8 n.  
2. Croco] Cf. Ep. 712. 29 n.  
cui] Croke; cf. Ep. 712. 30.