

From *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 5: 1531-1532*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1880, p. 95.

Titus, B. I. 67. B. M.
Demaus' Tyndall, 295.

201. [STEPHEN VAUGHAN TO HENRY VIII.]

Of late I obtained a copy of one part of Tyndall's book in answer to the Lord Chancellor, of which I immediately informed Cromwell, and required him to advertise your Highness. The copy was so rudely written and interlined that I did not think it fit to be sent, but have re-written it, and send the copy. I think the matter, for the modest order thereof, will better like you than some other of his works, which he has put forth with less advisement, more rashness, and ruder spirit. It is but a third or fourth part of his whole work, but comprehends the pith of the other parts, in which he answers every chapter of my Lord's book with the grounds he has laid in the first part. I will also write and send the second part with all convenient speed. Yesterday I spoke with Tyndall outside Antwerp, having been told by his messenger that some unknown friend wished to see me. After disclosing his name, he said that he heard that your Highness was much displeased with him for putting forth certain books, and specially the "Practice of Prelates." He was surprised at this, considering that he only warned the King of the subtle demeanour and shameful abusions of the clergy, which showed the heart of a true subject. He asked how it was that the King, considering the pains he has taken, his poverty, exile, and danger, with other hard and sharp fortunes which he has endured, hoping to do honor to God, true service to his prince, and pleasure to his commons, thinks that he does not show a pure mind and true zeal and affection to his Grace. Did his warnings against the Cardinal, whose iniquity the King soon after "approved," deserve hatred? Can the King, being a Christian prince, be so unkind to God as to say that it is not lawful for the people to have His Word in a tongue they can understand, because the purity thereof should open men's eyes to see their wickedness? Is there more danger in the King's subjects than in the subjects of all other princes, who have the same in their tongues under privilege of their sovereigns? He concluded by saying that death were more pleasant to him than life, considering man's nature to be such as can bear no truth.

After this conversation I tried to persuade him to come to England, and what surety he could devise should by labour of friends be obtained of your Majesty. He answered he dared not come to England, whatever surety you promised, for he feared that your promise might be broken by persuasion of the clergy, who would say that promises made with heretics ought not to be kept. He told me he had finished a work against the Lord Chancellor's book, and would not put it in print till you had seen it, because of your displeasure for hasty putting forth his other work, and that it may appear that he is not of so obstinate a mind as has been reported.

After these words, as it was drawing towards night, he took leave of me, being fearful lest I should have pursued him. He departed from the town, and I towards the town, saying that peradventure I should shortly see him or hear from him. I suppose he afterwards returned to the town, for there is no likelihood that he should lodge outside. I was not hasty to pursue him, being likely to speak with him again, and because I might have failed of my purpose and run some danger. "To declare to your Majesty what in my poor judgment I think of the man, I ascertain your Grace I have not communed with a man" ...

Copy, pp. 3, imperfect.