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978-1-108-01766-4 - The Paston Letters, A.D. 1422-1509, Volume 3

Edited by James Gairdner

Excerpt

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THE PASTON LETTERS

Henry VI

260

WILLIAM PASTON TO JOHN PASTON¹*To my rith wurchipfull brodir, Jon Paston, be this delyveryd.*

RYTH wurchyfull brodyr, I recomande me to zow, desiryng to her of zowr willefar. Bylling² the serjant hathe byn in his contre, and he come to Lunden this weke; he sent for me and ast me how I fared; I tolde hym her is pestelens, and sayd I fard the better he was in good hele, for it was noysyd that he was ded. A toke me to him and ast how my suster dede, and I answeyrd wyll, never better. He seyde he was with the Lord Gray,³ and they talkyd of j. jantilman qweche is ward to my Lord—I remember he sayd it was Harry Gray that thei talkyd of; and my Lord sayd, ‘I was besy with jn this fewe days to a maryd hym to a jantyllwoman jn Norfolke that schall have iiij. C.

1454
SEPT. 6

¹ [From Fenn, iii. 220.] There is abundant evidence that the year in which this letter was written was 1454. The references to Lord Grey’s offer of a husband for Elizabeth Paston, and to Sir John Fastolf’s going into Norfolk, of which William Paston had before written by anticipation, though a little prematurely, in No. 254, are in themselves sufficient to fix the chronology; but the mention of fealty having been done by a new Archbishop of Canterbury and a new Bishop of Ely removes any possible doubt on the subject.

² Thomas Billing was made a serjeant in 1453, and about 1469 was appointed Chief Justice of the King’s Bench.

³ Edmund, Lord Grey of Ruthyn.—See Letter 250.

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1454
SEPT. 6 marc to hyr mariage, and now a wyll not be me, for iiij. C. marc wulde do me hese; and now he wulde have his mariage mony hymself, and therefore (quoth he) he schall mary hym self for me.'

This wurds had my Lorde to Byllyng, as he tolde me, he understod that my Lord laboryd for his owne a vayle, and consayld to byd her be wyse; and I thankeyd hym for hys good consayll.

I sent zow an answer of zowr letter of Sir Jon Fastolf comyng hom, as he told me hem self; neverthe lesse he bode longer than he sayd hymself he schull a do.

He tolde me he schulde make j. [*one*] ende be twix Skroop¹ and my suster wulle he is in Norfolke. Many wulde it schulde not prove, for thei say it is an onlykkely mariage.

In casse Cressener be talkyd of ony mor, he is countyd a jantyllmanly man and a wurshepful. Ze knowe he is most wurchipfull better than I. At the reverens of Good, drawe to sume conclusyn; it is time.

My Lord Chanseler² come not her sone I come to Lundon, nether my Lord of Yorke.³

My Lord of Canterbury⁴ hathe received hys crosse, and I was with hym in the kynggs chamber qwan he mad hys homage. I tolde Harry Wylton the demeanyng betwix the kyng and hym; it war to long to wrythe.

As for the prist that dede areste me, I can not understand that it is the pryste that ze mene.

Her is gret pestelens. I purpose to fle in to the contre. My Lord of Oxforthe is come azen fro the se, and he hath geth hym lytyll thank in this countre. Much more thyng I wulde wrythe to zow, but I lak lysore.

Harry Wylton sey the Kyng. My Lord of Ely⁵ hathe

¹ Stephen Scroope.—*See* vol. ii. p. 108, Note 4.

² Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury, was appointed chancellor in April 1454.

³ Richard, Duke of York, at this time Protector.

⁴ Thomas Bourchier, who was translated from the Bishopric of Ely to Canterbury in April 1454.

⁵ William Grey. He received his temporalities by a patent of the date of this letter, 6th September 1454, which shows that he had by that time done fealty.

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HENRY VI

do hys fewthe [*his fealty*]. God have zow in his blyssyd 1454
 kepyng. SEPT. 6

Wretyn at Lundon on the Fryday be for owr Ladys day,
 the Natyvite, in gret hast. I pray recomand me to my suster,
 and cosyn Cler.

Be yowr broder, WM. PASTON.

261

ABSTRACT¹

SIR JOHN FASTOLF TO JOHN PASTON.

Has searched among his evidence, and found a release of Nycolas Bockyng 1454-9
 of his message and lands in Castre, 'sometime Fraunceys and afterward John SEPT. 19
 Barboures, and Cassandre his wife,' which is enrolled in *Banco, Rotulo primo de
 cartis scriptis, de termino Sc. Trin. anno r. R. Henr. Sexti, 23^o*. Send me the
 copy of it. (*Signature not in his own hand.*)

Castre, 19 Sept.

[The year in which this letter was written is uncertain, but it cannot be earlier
 than 1454, when Fastolf came to Caister, nor later than 1459, as he died in November
 of that year.]

262

RICHARD SOUTHWELL TO JOHN PASTON²

To the right reverent and worshippingfull John Paston, in haste.

RIGHT reverent and worshippingfull Sir, and my right 1454(?)
 trusti and welbelovid cosin, I recomaund me unto OCT. 6
 you, praiyng you hertily to remembr me unto my
 Master Radclyff, so that by your gode meanes I shall mowe

¹ [From ms. Phillipps, 9735, No. 227.]

² [From Fenn, iii. 376.] This letter must have been written during one of the
 periods of the Duke of York's ascendancy, and on a comparison of possible years I
 am inclined to assign it to 1454. The date 1460, to which Fenn ascribes it, would
 have been highly probable but for the fact that John Paston, who was returned to
 Parliament in that year, does not appear to have arrived in London even on the 12th
 October, so that probably he had not left Norwich on the 6th.

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1454(?)
oct. 6 have his gode mastershipp, the whiche I have effectually to
[m]y power sewed fore iij. yer, and never deserved the contrarye to my knowlegge, by my trouthe; and if it can or may be founden that I have, I will obeye me, and offre me to abyde the rewle of you and my cosin your brothir, &c.

Also my Lord of Caunterbury¹ Master Waltier Bl[a]kette will help forthe, if nede be; and as to the remenant of the Lordes, if the case requir that ye may understand by your wysdum thei be displeased with me—as I trust to God thei be not,—I beseche you to remembr that I have aforetyme b[en] accused unto the Kings Highnesse and the Quenes for owyng my pore gode will and service unto my Lord of York and other, &c. Wherof I suppose that Thomas Bagham is remembred that I brought hym oones from my Lady a purs and v. marc therin, and to Sir Phelipp Wenteworth an other and a Cs. [100s.] therin for their gode will and advise therin to my Lady and all us that were appelled for that cause, notwithstanding the King wrote to my Lord by the meanes of the Duc of Somersette,² that we shuld be avoyded from hym, &c. And within this ij. yer we wer in like wise laboured ageyns to the Quene, so that she wrote to my Lord³ to avoyde us, sayng that the King and she coude nor myght in no wyse be assured of hym and my Lady as long as we wer aboute hym, with much other thing, as may be sufficiently proved by the Quenes writing under herr own signett and signe manuell, the whiche I shewd to my Lord of Caunterbury and other Lordes, &c.

I prey you have me excused that I encombr you with thees matiers at this tyme, for me thinketh ye shuld will and desire me to do any thing to your honour and pleaser at any tyme, wherto I shal be redy and welwilled to my power by the grace of God, who have you ever in his keping, and all yours.

Writon at Norwiche, on Seint Feithes day, in haste.

Youres,

RIC. SUTHWELL.

¹ Thomas Bouchier.

² Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset.

³ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in whose household R. Southwell had an appointment.—F.

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HENRY VI

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THOMAS HOWES TO [JOHN PASTON ?]¹

PLEASE your maistreship to wete, for as mych as the
 wrvt directed to the excheter cam not tyl in the Vigil
 of Symond and Jude,² at viij. of the clocke at evyn,
 whiche coude in no wyse profit us that day ; notwithstondynge
 we had a yoman of my Lords chamber, and were at Cowhaw,
 havynge Bertylmeu Elys with us, and ther was Long Bernard
 sytting to kepe a court. And we at the furst Noy come in
 the court, and Bertylmeu havynge this termys to Bernard,
 seying, ‘Sir, forasmych as the Kyng hathe grauntyd be hese
 lettres patent the wardship with the profites of the londes of
 T. Fastolf duryng hese nun age to you³ and T. H., wherfor
 I am comyn as ther styward, be ther comaundement, upon
 ther pocession to kep court and lete, whiche is of old custum
 usyd upon thys day ; wherfor I charge you, be the vertu herof,
 to seas and kepe nouthir court nor lete, for ye have non
 autoryte.’ Quod Bernard, ‘I wyll kepe bothe court and lete,
 and ye shal non kepe here ; for there is no man hath so gret
 autoryte.’ Than quod Bertylmeu, ‘I shal sytte by you, and
 take a reconysaunce as ye do.’ ‘Nay,’ quod Bernard, ‘I wyl
 suffre you to sytte, but not to wryte.’ ‘Well,’ quod Bertylmeu,
 ‘thanne forsybly ye put us from our pocession, whiche I doute
 not but shalbe remembryd you anothir day,’ &c. ‘But, Seres,’
 quod he, ‘ye that be tenaunts to this manoyr, we charge you
 that ye do nowthir seute nor servise, no[r] paye ony rents or
 fermys but to the use of John Paston and T. ; fo[r] and ye
 do, ye shal paye it ageyn ; and as for on yeer past, we have
 sewyrte of Skyllly, whiche hath resevid it of you to ther use.’
 And thus we departid, and Bernard kept court and lete.

1454
ocr. or
NOV.

¹ [From Paston MSS., B.M.] This letter is anonymous, but appears to be in the handwriting of Thomas Howes. It must belong to the year 1454, when the wardship of Thomas Fastolf of Cowhaw was granted to Howes and John Paston.

² St. Simon and St. Jude’s day is the 28th October. The Vigil is the 27th.

³ So in MS. The writer seems to be confusing the direct and indirect mode of reporting a speech.

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1454
OCT. or
NOV.

And ther was Ser P. Wentworth and hise brothir, yong Hopton, yong Brewse, yong Calthorp, with xxiiij. horse; and we spoke with non of hem, nor they with non of us, for we wold not seke upon hem. And we have enteryd in all othir plasis undir this forme. I wold we had had the wryte betymes lever than xxs. of myn owne, but it farith thus in many othir maters, God amende hem.

Memorandum.—To sende hom wyn and ij. quart botelys.

264

ABSTRACT¹

SIR JOHN FASTOLF to his right well-beloved Brother, RICHARD WALLER.

1454-7
OCT. 30

My Lord is and hath been always my good lord, especially now that he is chief officer under the King. Commend me to his grace, and beg him to favor my matters 'as far as conscience will, . . . now in mine old age.' Desires his favor and credence for Henry Fylongley and John [Pa]ston, whom he has desired to wait on Waller.

Castre, 30th Oct.

Endorsed.—'A John Paston et John Bokkyng ou William Barker.'

[This letter is written in Botoner's hand. The date is probably between 1454 and 1457, as in 1458 Botoner appears to have been in London,—at least he was so in November, and in the summer also he was away from Norfolk; and in 1459 the 30th October would have been within a week of Fastolf's death, when he must have been ill inclined, even if capable, to dictate letters, unless of very special urgency.]

265

WILLIAM BARKER TO SIR J. FASTOLF²

To myn ryght worshipfull mayster, Sir John Fastolf.

1454
NOV. 3

PLEASE youre maystership, the cause of myn teryng is that I must ben at Norwyche on Monday at the shyre to stoppe the oughtlawrye of John Porter, wheche but if be holpen, he shalben dowble oughtlawed bothe atte the sewt

¹ [From Ms. Phillipps, 9735, No. 273.]

² [From Paston mss., B.M.] For the date of this letter, see preliminary note to No. 258 (vol. ii. p. 333, Note 1). John Porter, who was at this time in Fastolf's service, seems to have gone immediately after into that of the Duke of Norfolk.—See Nos. 268, 278.

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HENRY VI

of the Kyng for a reskuse, as for serteyn money he oweth to on Hewghe, a man of court. And also the next day I shuld ben, if it please yow, at Saxthorp with a certeyn person, as I shal telle youre maystership here after, of whom I shuld have certeyn evydences of the maner of Saxthorp, and rental, and fyrmall as I am promysed. And, Sire, as for alle the maters that I went fore in to Essex and Suffolk, I have spedde theym, as I shal declare to youre maystership at myn comyng, and brought wryghtyng from theym. And as for myn Lord of Norffolk, towchyng your money, he seyth ye shal have hit with inne this xiiij. dayes. Hit was his fyrst mater to me after I hadde delyvered his ryng. The money is redye, but he seyde that he must have stoor with inne hym, for he loked dayly whan the Kyng wold send for hym. But as sone as Barette, his tresorer, come home—whom he hath sent for money,—ye shall in contynent after have your *Cli.* [£100]. I made to his Lordship as I hadde no thyng know in the mater for onely for the excuse of Sir Thomas, &c. And I beseche the blessed Trinyte preserve yow, myn ryght wurshipfull mayster, after his pleasaunce and youre herts desyre, &c.

1454
NOV. 3

Wreten in hast at Wroxham, the Sunday after Allehallwen day.

Your bedeman and servaunt, WILLIAM BARKER.

266

SIR JOHN FASTOLF TO JOHN PASTON¹

To the worshypfull and my ryght welbelovyd cosyn, John Paston.

WORSHYPFULL and ryght welbelovyd cosyn, I comaund me to yow. Lyke you to wete that I have resseyved a lettre at thys tyme from John Bokkyng, wyth a copie of the patent concernyng the wardeshyp that ye wote off, by whych y understand that ye have both wrought and holpen by your grete wysdom to bryng thys matier aboute, whych y desyred your frendshyp and gode avice

NOV. 11

¹ [From Fenn, iii. 224.]

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1454 for the suertee of the seyde waarde;¹ and for expedition of
 NOV. 11 whych y thank you ryzt hertlye, and pray you to contynue
 foorth your gode labours in the same yn such wyse as it may
 be made sure ynall wyse, thoy it cost me the more of my gode.

And where as it ys remembred me by the seyde lettres that
 y shuld labour to ghet the seyde ward yn to my gouernance,
 truely y can not see how y coude do it to be doon, for y have
 none acqeyntaunce in that contree that y coude trust too,
 wythoute the Shyreue myght be my tender frende in thys
 cause, or othyr such as ye thynk best. Wherfor y pray you
 hertlye to take thys mater tenderly to hert, and that ye lyke
 seke a moyen of such frendys as ye can best avyse, and may
 verrayly trust uppon, to gyde thys mater yn such wyse as myne
 entent myght be sped for the possession of it; for now that y
 have go so ferre yn the matier, I wold not it faylled for no
 gode, but it preved well, and toke to a gode conclusion.

And where as y have understand late, by certeyn well
 willers to you warde, whych have meoved me, that yn case the
 seyde warde myght be had, that ye desyre an alliaunce shulde
 take atwyx a doughter of yours and the seyde waard, of whych
 mocion y was ryght glad to hyre off, and wylle be ryght well
 wylling and helpyng that your blode and myne myght increse
 yn alliaunces. And yff it please yow that by your wysdom and
 gode conduyt that ye wolde help beere owte thys mater sub-
 staunciallie ayenst my partie contrarie and eville willers, that I
 myght have myne entent, I ensure you ye and y shuld appoynt
 and accorde yn such wyse as ye shuld hale you ryght well plesed
 both for the encresyng of your lynage and also of myne. And
 y pray you be ware whom ye make of your counsaile and myne
 yn thys mater, and that it may be well bore owte er ye com
 thens, and yn a sure wey; and yff y had knowe rathyr [*i.e.*
 earlier] of your entent, it shuld hafe cost me more of my gode
 before thys, to hafe com to a gode conclusion, whych y pro-
 mysse yhyt shall bee, and the mater take, by the fayth of my
 bodye.

Worshypfull and ryght welbelovyd cosyn, y pray God
 spede you yn thys matier, and sende you your gode desyrs.

¹ Thomas Fastolf of Cowhawe.—See vol. ii. p. 323, Note 1.

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HENRY VI

Wreten at Castr, the xj. day of November anno xxxiiij^o R. 1454
 H. VI. NOV. II

Your cosyn, JOHN FASTOLFE.

Item, cosyn, I pray yow when ye see tyme that my Lord of Caunterbury¹ and my Lord Cromewell² may be spoke wyth for the godes of my Lord Bedford, beyng yn dyvers men handz, be compelled to be brought ynne, as ye shall see more along of thys mater, wyth the wrytyngs that I have made mencion, and left wyth John Bokkyng and William Barker.

267

THOMAS HOWES TO JOHN PASTON³

*To the wurshepful Sir, and my good Maystyr John Paston,
 at London, in haste.*

WURSHEPFULL and reverent Sir, and my good NOV. 13
 maistyr, I recomaund me to zow in as delygent
 wyse as on my part apperteineth, and p[le]a[s]e
 yow to wete that my maistyr⁴ was right well pleasyd with
 youre feithefull labour in fulfellyng the patent for the warrd of
 A. B. C., and he wyll feithefully labour as ye have avysed hym
 be wrytyng of John Bokyng. And putte my maistyr in more
 corage, I meovyd to hym upon myn hed that encas be the
 child wer wyse, that thanne it wer a good maryage be twen my
 wyff youre doutir and hym; and, Sir, my maistyr was glad
 whan he herd that moyen, cosetheryng that youre doutyr is
 desendyd of hym be the modyr syde. And, Sir, I have
 enqwerid aftyr the seyd child, and no dout of but he is lykly
 and of gret wyt, as I her be report of sondr personez. And it
 is so, as I am credebly enformyd, that Jeffrey Boleyn maketh
 gret labour for maryage of the seyd child to on of hese douterez.
 I wold well to hym, but bettyr to yow. Wherfor that ye

¹ Thomas Bouchier.² Ralph, Lord Cromwell.³ [From Fenn, iii. 230.]⁴ Sir John Fastolf.

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1454
NOV. 13 delygently labour for expedecyon of this mater, that encas ye can fynde ony moyan ther to have the seyde child, and we shal do feithefully owre delygens in lyke wyse her, as ye avyse us, &c.

And, Sir, as ye thynke with avyse of my Maistryr Yelverton, Jenney, and otherez my maisterez counsell therin, that the Shereff may be rewardyd, and yif my seyde maisterez counsell thynke it be to do'n, that thanne ye lyke to take an actyoun upon anenteynt [*an attaint*],¹ wheche ye most with them take upon yow at this tyme in my maisterez absence; for as ye do in that mater, he woll hold hym content, for Wyllyam Barker hathe an instruccyon of my maisterez intent upon the same. And I send John Bokyng a copy of the panell, wheche I shewed yow at Castr, &c. Almyghty Jesu have yow eternally in hese mercyfull governaunce.

Wretyn at Castr, the Wednysday next aftyr Seynt Martyn, anno xxxij.

TH. HOWYS.

268

SIR THOMAS HOWYS TO JOHN PASTON²

*To the wurshepful and reverent Sir, my good Maysir
John Paston, in all goodly haste.*

NOV. 18
REVERENT and wurshepful Sir, and my good maistryr, I recomaund me to yow in as louly wyse as on my part aperteineth. And please yow to wete that my maistryr is fully purposed to sewe ateynte, whereupon he wrytethe a lettere directyd to yow and otherez, for the wheche I beseke yow to be my good maystyr in pursewyng the seyde ateynte; and also my maistryr is agreed what reward ye geve the Shereff he holdeth hym content. Wherfor, that youre reward may be the larger, so he woll³ ther upon returne the panell for the seyde ateynte; and thanne yef Jenney wold meove my Lord of

¹ This is an action against a jury that has given a false verdict.

² [From Paston MSS., B.M.]

³ *Woll* corr from *wold*.