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978-1-108-01769-5 - The Paston Letters, A.D. 1422-1509, Volume 6

Edited by James Gairdner

Excerpt

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THE PASTON LETTERS

Edward IV

936

SIR JOHN PASTON TO JOHN PASTON¹*To John Paston, Esquyer, be thys lettre delyveryd, or to my mestresse, hys wyffe, at Norwych, to delyver to hym.*

BROTHER John, I recomaund me to yow, and I thanke 1478
 God, my sustr yowr wyffe, and yow, off my ffayr AUG. 25
 nevywe Crystofore, whyche I undrestande ye have,
 wher off I ame ryght gladde, and I praye God sende yow
 manye, if it be Hys plesyr; nevertheless ye be nott kynde,
 that ye sende me no wetyng ther off; I hadde knowlege by
 ffootemen, or ever ye kowde ffynde any messenger on horsbak
 to brynge me worde theroff.

Sir, it is soo, that the Duke off Bokyngham shall come on
 pilgrymage to Walsyngham, and so to Bokenham Castell to
 my lady hys sustr;² and then it is supposyd that he shalle to
 my Lady off Norffolk.³ And myn oncle William comythe
 with hym; and he tellyth me, that ther is like to be troble in
 the maner off Oxenhed; wherffor I praye yow take hedde lesse
 that the Duke off Suffolk councell pley therwith now at the
 vacacion⁴ off the beneffyse, as they ded with the beneffyce off

¹ [From Fenn, ii. 270.]² Joan, sister to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, was the second wife of Sir William Knevet, Knight, of Bokenham Castle, in Norfolk.—F.³ Elizabeth, widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.—F.⁴ Agnes Paston, grandmother to Sir John, presented Thomas Everard to the Rectory of Oxnead in 1475, and in 1479, she again presented William Barthulmew, so that the Duke of Suffolk either did not attempt to disturb her right; or at least did not succeed, if he endeavoured to do it.—F. It will be seen by No. 935 that before presenting William Barthulmew she presented Dr. Richard Lyncoln.

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1478
AUG. 25 Drayton, whyche by the helpe off Mr. John Salett and Donne
hys man, ther was a qweste made by the seyde Donne, that
ffownde that the Duke off Suffolk was verrye patrone, whyche
was ffalse, yitt they ded it ffor an evydenche; but nowe iff any
suche pratte scholde be laboryd, it is I hope in bettr case, ffor
suche a thyng most needs be ffownde byffor Master John
Smyth, whyche is owr olde ffreende; wherffor I praye yow
labor hym, that, iff neede bee, he maye doo use a ffreends torne
therin.

Item, bothe ye and I most neds take thys mater as owr
owne, and it weer ffor noon other cawse butt ffor owr goode
grawnt dames sake; neverthelesse ye woote well, thatt ther is
an other entresse longyng to usse afftr her dyscease; iffe ther
be any suche thyng begunne ther by suche a fryer or prest, as
it is seyde, I mervayle that ye sente me no worde ther off;
butt ye have nowe wyffe and chyld, and so moche to kar ffor,
thatt ye fforgete me.

As for tydyngs her, I her telle that my cosyn Sir Robert
Chamberleyn hathe entyrd the maner of Scolton uppon yowr
bedffelawe¹ Conyurse, wheroff ye sende me no worde.

Item, yonge William Brandon is in warde and arestyd ffor
thatt he scholde have by fforce ravysshyd and swyvyd an olde
jentylwoman, and yitt was nott therwith easyd, butt swyvyd
hyr oldest dowtr, and than wolde have swyvyd the other sustr
bothe; wherffor men sey ffowle off hym, and that he wolde
ete the henne and alle hyr chekynnys; and som seye that the
Kynge entendyth to sitte uppon hym, and men seye he is lyke
to be hangyd, ffor he hathe weddyd a wedowe.

Item, as ffor the pagent that men sey that the Erle off
Oxenforde² hathe pleyid atte Hammys, I suppose ye have
herde theroff; itt is so longe agoo, I was nott in thys contre
when the tydyngs come, therfor I sent yow no worde theroff.

But ffor conclusion, as I her seye, he lyepe the wallys, and
wente to the dyke, and in to the dyke to the chynne; to

¹ A word at this time, implying a friend, or intimate acquaintance, who really slept in the same bed. See Steevens' Shakspeare, *Henry V.* Act ii. Sc. 2.—F.

² John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, had been for several years a prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy. He became a favourite of Henry VII. and died in the reign of Henry VIII.—F.

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EDWARD IV

whatt entent I can nott telle; some sey, to stele away, and some thynke he wolde have drownyd hymselffe, and so it is demyd. 1478
AUG. 25

No mor, but I ame nott sertayne whether I shall come home in haste or nott.

Wretyn at London, the daye nexte Seynt Bartelmewe,¹
anno E. iiij^{ti} xviiij^o. JOHN PASTON, K.

937

ABSTRACT²

WILLIAM PASTON TO NICHOLAS GOLDEWELL

Spoke to him on Sunday about a clerk presented by William Paston's mother to the Church of Oxnead, and not admitted, though the presentation was delivered to Master John Bulman, my lord's deputy, within the time limited by law. Requests him to get the Bishop to do him justice. The living is of small value, and the delay can be of little benefit to my lord. Desires an answer by the bearer, Sir William Ugate, Vicar of Castre. OCT. 9
Norwich, 9 Oct.

[The ms. is a corrected draft partly in William Paston's own hand, endorsed 'The copy of a lettre to Mr. Nicholas Goldewell, broder to the Busshopp of Norwich, ix^o Octobris, anno xviiij^o E. iiij^{ti}, by Sir William Ugate, Vicar of Castre.']

938

ABSTRACT³

WILLIAM PASTON TO WILLIAM POPE OF BACTON

Cannot be at the Court at Paston on Monday next. Bids him warn the tenants to keep the Court on Friday instead, and to bring their rents, for he will be there himself. He is also to warn the tenants of Bakton to-morrow openly OCT. 17

¹ St. Bartholomew's Day is the 24th August. 'The day *next* St. Bartholomew' should be the 25th, unless the writer meant to say 'next before.'

² [From Paston MSS., B.M.]

³ *Ibid.*

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1478 in the church of the said Court to be kept on Friday next; also the tenants of
 oct. 17 Swaffeld, Mundesley,¹ Edyngthorpe, and Wytton.

Norwich, Saturday after St. Edward,² the ——— October.

[The ms. is a draft with corrections in the handwriting of William Paston, endorsed—'The copy of a lettre to William Pope of Bacton, the xvij. day of Octobre, anno xvij^o E. iij^{ij}, by William Dam of Rughton.']

939

WILLIAM PASTON, JUNIOR, TO JOHN PASTON³

*To hys worchepful brodyr, John Paston, be thys
 delyvered in hast.*

NOV. 7 **R**YGH T reverent and worchepful brodyr, I recomaunde me on to yow, desyrynge to here of yowre welfare and prosperite; letyng yow wete that I have resevyd of Alwedyr a lettyr and a nobyll in gowlde therin. Ferthermor my creansyr [*creditor*], Mayster Thomas,⁴ hertely recomandyd hym to yow, and he praythe yow to sende hym sum mony for my comons; for he seythe ye be xx^{ti}s. in hys dette, for a monthe was to pay for when he had mony laste.

Also I beseche yow to sende me a hose clothe, one for the halydays of sum coloure, and a nothyr for the working days, how corse so ever it be it makyth no matyr; and a stomechere, and ij. schyrtes, and a peyer of sclyppers. And if it lyke yow that I may come with Alwedyr be watyr, and sporte me with yow at London a day or ij. thys terme tyme, than ye may let all thys be tyl the tyme that I come, and than I wol telle you

¹ This name is very ill written, and looks more like 'Maxsley'; but Mundesley is the only place in the neighbourhood that seems at all probable.

² Translation of St. Edward the Confessor, 13th October. The Saturday after it in 1478, was the 17th, but the writer has left only a blank for the day.

³ [From Paston mss., B.M.] William Paston, the writer of this letter, was a younger son of old John Paston, and brother of the John Paston to whom the letter is addressed. He was born, as Fenn tells us, in 1459, and it will be seen by what is said of him in Letter 842 that he could not possibly be older. He was now at Eton finishing his education, and we have a letter from him written there on the 23rd of February 1479, which gives good reason for attributing this to the November immediately before.

⁴ Thomas Stevenson. See Letter 942 *post*.

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EDWARD IV

when I schall be redy to come from Eton, by the grace of God, Whom have yow in Hys kepyng. 1478
NOV. 7

Wretyn the Saturday next aftyr All Halown Day, with the hand of your brodyr,

WYLLIAM PASTON.

940

ERRANDS TO MARLINGFORD¹

DO² Gerald of Marlingford come to me, and know were he ys become; in qw[at] place he hydyth hym, he dothe but distroy hym selff. 1479
JAN. 18

Do on Steward [of] Colton, a tenaunte of Marlingford, come to me.

Do³ Sir John Chapman,³ parson of Oure Ladies Chyrche, send hider the bill of rekenyng of Richard Hervy, shewyng what stokke was delivered be Richard Hervy to Harry Hervy, and also a bille what costes that Richard H[ervy] . . . of at that tyme.⁴

Do² John Brigg come to me and bryng me suyrte for hys dette, and know qwat wey the parson off Melton takyth with hym.

. . . de the par[sone] off Melton come to me to Norwych, for tell [him that] and he come nat hastely he schall nat fynd me here.

Item, pray the parson off Melton to call up on the particuler tenauntes off Melton that have had particuler fermys fro Michaelmas xvij. til Michaelmas xvij. to pay ther fermys.

¹ [From Paston mss. B.M.] This is a paper of memoranda by William Paston, partly in his own handwriting, endorsed—'Erandes to Marlyngford, the xvij. day of Januar, anno xvij. wer off a copy was delyvered at Sent Edmundes the same d[ay].'

² 'Do,' *i.e.* cause.

³ He was rector of St. Mary's Church, Melton.

⁴ This paragraph is crossed out in the ms.

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THE PASTON LETTERS

941

WILLIAM PYKENHAM TO MARGARET PASTON¹*To my Mastresse M[argaret Paston], att Norwiche.*1479
FEB. 2

MY worschypfull mastresse, I recomende me un to yow, and thanke yow of yowr approvyd ensewryd gyudenesse evermore shewde, and so I pray yow to contenew. I have resyvyd yowr letter, and undrestonde yowr desyre, wyche ys ageyns the lawe for three causys. Oon ys, for yowr son Watre ys nott tonsewryd, in modre tunge callyd Benett; a nodre cause, he ys not xxiiij. yeer of aghe, wyche ys requiryd complete; the thyrde, ye owte [*he oughit*] of ryzte to be preyst within dwelmothe after that he ys parson, wyth owte so were he hadd a dyspensacion fro Rome be owre Holy Fadre the Pope, wyche I am certen can not be hadde. Therfor I present not yowr desyre un to my lorde,² lest ye [*he*] wolde have takyn yt to a dysplesur, or else to take a grete sympylnesse in yowr desyre, wyche shulde cause hym, in suche matres as xall fortune yow to spede with hym a nodre tyme, to shew un to yow the rigur of the lawe, wyche I wolde be lothe; therfor present a nodre man abyll. Haske consell of Mr. John Smythe, and sease of yowr desyre in thyse partey, for yt ys not goodely nether Goddely; and lete not yowr desyre be knowyn, aftyr my avyse. Be not wrothe, thowe I sende un to yow thusse playnyly in the matre; for I wolde ye dede as wele as any woman in Norfolk, [that ys, wyth rygth],³ to yowr honor, prosperite, an to the plesur of

¹ [From Paston mss., B.M.] Walter Paston, to whom this letter refers, died in August 1479. This letter was probably written in the beginning of the same year. The date certainly cannot be 1478, if No. 926 has been assigned to the right year, for it will be seen that the writer was then in London, and so much occupied that he had little prospect of visiting Norfolk for some time.

² James Goldwell was consecrated by Pope Sextus IV, Bishop of Norwich in 1472. He resided much at his manor of Hoxne, where he died in 1498.—F.

³ These words are struck through with the pen.

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EDWARD IV

Godde, with yowre and all yowres, Ho have yow in Hyse
blessyd kepyng. 1479

From Hoxne on Candylmasse Day. FEB. 2

WILLIAM PYKYNHAM.¹

I sende yow yowr presente agen in the boxe.

942

WILLIAM PASTON, JUNIOR, TO JOHN PASTON²

*To his worchepfull broder, John Paston, be thys
delyvered in hast.*

RYGHTE reverent and worchepfull broder, after all dewtes FEB. 23
of recomendacion, I recomaunde me to yow, desyryng
to here of your prosperite and welfare, whych I pray
God long to contynew to Hys plesore, and to your herts
desyr; letyng yow wete that I receyved a letter from yow, in
the whyche letter was viij*d.* with the whyche I schuld bye a
peyer of slyppers.

Ferthermor certyfying yow, as for the xiijs. iiij*d.* whyche
ye sende by a jentylmannys man, for my borde, cawlyd
Thomas Newton, was delyvered to myn hostes, and soo to
my creancer [*creditor*], Mr. Thomas Stevenson; and he
hertely recomended hym to yow.

Also ye sende me worde in the letter of xij*li.* fyggys and
viij*li.* reysons. I have them not delyvered, but I dowte not I
shal have, for Alwedyr tolde me of them, and he seyde that
they came aftyr in an other barge.

And as for the yong jentylwoman, I wol certyfyfe yow how
I fryste felle in qweyntaince with hyr. Hir ffader is dede;
ther be ij. systers of them; the elder is just weddyd; at the
whyche weddyng I was with myn hostes, and also desyryd by

¹ William de Pykenham became Chancellor of Norwich and Archdeacon of Suffolk in 1471, and was also some time Rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk, where he built the grand gate or tower before the parsonage. He died in 1497.—F.

² [From Fenn, i. 296.] This letter was written on the 23rd of February, and the Monday following the date was the first Monday of Lent. These particulars prove the letter to have been written in 1479, when William Paston was between nineteen and twenty years of age.

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1479 the jentylman hym selfe, cawlyd Wylliam Swanne, whos dwyll-
FEB. 23 ynge is in Eton.

So it fortunyd that myne hostes reportyd on me odyrwyse than I was wordy; so that hyr moder comaundyd hyr to make me good chere, and soo in good feythe sche ded. Sche is not a bydyngge ther sche is now; hyr dwellyng is in London; but hyr moder and sch come to a place of hyrs v. myle from Eton, were the weddyng was, for because it was nye to the jentylman whych weddyd hyr dowtyr. And on Monday next comynge, that is to sey, the fyrst Monday of Clene Lente, hyr moder and sche wyl goo to the pardon at Schene, and soo forthe to London, and ther to abyde in a place of hyrs in Bowe Chyrche Yerde; and if it plese yow to inquere of hyr, hyr modys name is Mestres Alborow, the name of the dowtyr is Margarete Alborow, the age of hyr is be all lykelyod xvij. or xix. yere at the ferthe. And as for the mony and plate, it is redy when soo ever sche were weddyd; but as for the lyvelod, I trow not tyll after hyr modys desese, but I can not telle yow, for very certeyn, but yow may know by inqueryng. And as for hyr bewte, juge yow that when ye see hyr, yf so be that ye take the laubore, and specialy beolde hyr handys, for and if it be as it is tolde me, sche is dysposyd to be thyke.

And as for my comynge from Eton, I lake no thyngge but wersyfyngge, whyche I troste to have with a lytyll con-
tynuance.

Quæritur, Quomodo non valet hora, valet mora? Unde dicitur?

Arbore jam videas exemplum. Non die possunt,
Omnia suppleri; sed tamen illa mora.¹

And thes too verse afore seyde be of myn own makinge.
No more to yow at thys tyme, but God have yow in Hys
kepyng.

Wretyn at Eton the Even of Seynt Matthy the Apostyll
in haste, with the hande of your broder.

WYLL'M PASTON, Jun^r.

¹ I am favoured by Lady Beatrice Pretyman with a facsimile of this Latin theme and distich from the original ms. My reading of the contracted words differs from that printed originally by Fenn.

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EDWARD IV

943

PARSONAGE OF OXNEAD¹

MEMORANDUM.—The day that the lapse went out, which is such day vj. monethes as the seid parson died, was on Tewesday, Our Lady Day, the Nativite, the viij^{te} day of Septembre last past, anno xvij^o. 479

The day of vj. monethes affter Our seide Lady Day, the Nativite was on Seint Mathes Day² the Apostell, last past, whiche was the xxiiij. day of Februaire, and so I deme eyther the Bisshoppe of Norwiche hath presented or els it is in the giff of my Lord Cardinall³ nowe. Inquere this mater, for the Bisshoppe of Norwich lythe in London, and shall doo till Our Ladys Day this Lenton, as it is said here.

My moder delivered Sir William Holle his presentacion the xiiij. day of August, anno xvij^o, which was nere a monethe or the day of the vj. monethes went out and past. Wherefore the Bisshoppe ought to present my moders clarke. Neverthelesse the Bisshoppys officeres aunsware this sayng, that if sondry persones deliver ij. sondrye presentacions for to diverse clarkes to the Bisshoppes officers for one benefice, that then the seid partyes shuld sue to the Bisshop at ther cost to have out an inquerre to inquerre *de vero patrono*, sayng forther more, that if they sue nat out this inquerre with affect, and that the lapse fall, than it is lefull for the Bisshop to present, and it is told me that the lawe is this, that the Bisshoppe, be his office with out any sute of the parties, shall call an inquerre afore hym to inquerre *de vero patrono*, and he shall assign them a day to bryng in a verdet, and he shall warne bothe partyes to be ther at, and he shall amyttte his clarke that is founde patron.

¹ [Add. Charter 17,251, B.M.] It is sufficiently evident that the date of this paper must be later than the 24th February, 1479. It appears to be a set of memoranda or instructions by William Paston, addressed to his servant Richard Lee. The ms. is a small roll of paper very mutilated and partly illegible from the effect of damp.

² St. Matthias' Day (not St. Matthew's) is meant.

³ Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury.

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1479

Yet the Bisshopp useth nat to do this, but there as bothe partyes that present are myghty [and wher as he thynketh it were a jopardy to hym]¹ to sue the Bisshoppe if he did them any wrong, and wher as ther is a doubtable mater ; but in this case the prest that troubleth my moder is but a simple felowe, and he is *apostata*, for he was somtyme a White Frere, and of simple repetacyon, and of litill substans, as my moder can tell, wherfore Bisshoppys use nat in suche litill casys to take so streyte an inquerre, and specyally wher as one hath contynued patron with out interupcion so long as my moder hath done, for she hath contynued more than l. wynter ; wherfore I pray yow shewe my cousyn Lovell this bill, and fynde some meanes to intrete the Bisshopp by the meane of James Hobard,² which is grete with the Bisshopp, and is nowe Reder of Lyncoln Inne this Lent. And late my lady speke to James Hobard in the mater. If it please my moder ther is a prest callde Sir _____³ which is thought by the tenauntes of Oxned a metely man to be parson ther ; the most thyng that I dowte, bicause Sir William Holle, whom my moder presented, is ronne away, and if the Bisshop will nat present my moders clarke in her title, than I wold that the labour myght be made to the Bisshopp, that he myght present my moders clarke, suche on as shoe will name, in his one title.

Ric. Lee, like as ze may understand be this writing, where as I understod that the Bisshopp myght have kept the benefice but vj. monethes after the patrons vj. monethes war worn out, now I understand the contrary, for I understand he may kepe it a twelmo[nethe] and a day [*several lines lost*]

Also, if ze knew any yong preste in London that setteth billis upon Powlys dorr per aventure wold be glad to have it, and woll be glad also to serve my lady and my moder for it for a season, I can no more say but purvay a mean to the Bisshopp, that som mon may be put in by my moders title.

. . . . of the consistore in Norwich, and he hath

¹ Crossed out in ms.

² Afterwards Attorney-General to Henry VII. He was Reader of Lincoln's Inn in Lent, 18 Edward IV.

³ Blank in ms.