

England. God grant the Catholiqu[u]es at home and abroad consolation and save o^r contrye from civil ware.

A Mons^r
 Mons^r Midleton gentlehme
 et prste Anglois a paris
 . . . son absence a mons^r
 . . . au Colledge
 de Cambraye a
 Paris.

[*Endorsed in another hand:*]

D^r [*Cecyll erased*] to M^r Midleton from Rome.

54, f. 398.

31. *Petition to the Privy Council from Prisoners in Framlingham Castle.*^a

1603.

To the right honorable y^e LL. of her ma^{ties} most honorable privie counsell.

In most humble wise do sue vnto yo^r honorable LL^{pp^s} yo^r dailie orators y^e priests and laie men imprisoned in y^e castle of fframingham, y^b whereas certaine orders directed of late from yo^r honours to y^e Justices of peace assigned for this place were published to y^e saied prisoners in y^e common hall by M^r Anthonie Wingfielde, Knight, and m^r Candey esquier, and therevppon y^e keeper of y^e castle straightlie commaunded to see them putt in execution, vz. amongst others: first that all servaunts belonging to y^e prisoners shoulde presentlie be dischardged; second, y^b no maintenaunce shoulde be delivered vnto them butt in y^e presence of y^e keeper or of his deputie; thirde, y^b all y^e saied prisoners shoulde be referred over to y^e keepers diett: Itt maye please yo^r honorable LL^{pp^s} to vouchsalfe y^e hearing of their humble petitions.

^a Several of the priests whose signatures are given below were transferred from other prisons to Framlingham after the accession of James in 1603, and were shortly afterwards in the same year banished the kingdom.

first. y^t by yo^r honours permission thei maye continew their freedom for enioyng suche seruaunts as be conformable to her maties lawes, if nott wthin y^e castle yett wthout in y^e towne, touching buying, dressing and making their provision att y^e best hand in respect of their vnfeigned povertie, whiche by all religious protestation thei stand readye to make manifest vnto yo^r LL^{PPS} whensoever and by whome yo^r hono^r shall assigne.

Second. Y^t in like manner by yo^r hon^{rs} permission their freinds mai haue free access to deliver vnto them all kinde of provision for their relief and monie, as in former tyme. because yo^r saied suppliants haue iust cause to feare [by] long experience y^t theye had in the time of Thomas Greye, y^e keeper of Wisbiche castle, y^t if no monye can be [deli]vered butt in y^e view of y^e keeper or his deputie they will forbear to come vppon extreame feare conceaved, howsoever ot[her]wise they be encouraged to haue securitie.

Thirde. y^t yo^r honorable LL^{PPS} will vouchsafte by no meanes to cast yo^r poore and distressed suppliants vppon y^e keepers diett, partlie because his lowest rate of v^s. by the weeke for the poorer sorte is beyond their compass, and partlie that their usuall rate of 3^s by the weeke woulde nott extende wthout subtraction made of three meales in y^e said wee[ke] and wthout their freedome continewd for buying, dressing, and making provision att y^e best hand. And especiallie [for] enioyng also of y^t howsholde provision w^{ch} is but by suche frendes as haue no monie, w^{ch} holpe will most assured[ly] faile, as all the other expressed, if yo^r LL^{PPS} suppliants be referred over to the keepers diett.

These humble petitions yo^r suppliants are vrged to exhibitt y^e rather vnto yo^r honorable LL^{PPS}, first, because y^t [the] keeper dothe affirme by all othes and protestations, in y^e hearing of S^r Anthonie and his associate, y^t neither himself nor any for him is cause by information that those orders be imposed vppon them. Second because yo^r humble suppliants a[re] readie to depose, as before mentioned, that their povertie is vnfeigned in respect of

their best frendes to be deceassed [and] others living to be decaied, if not of late alienated in mynde against them. Last of all because this late remove [from] an obscure prison to a place of this qualitie doth intimate much more of her ma^{ties} clemencie and your L[^{LL^{PPS}}] benignitie also then that so harde exactions aboute their power and vexations, also if they refuse to condescend should be imposed vpon them w^hout some sinister information.

Wherefore they most humblie beseche yo^r honorable LL^{PPS} y^t to whome otherwise itt hathe pleased yo^r to make shew of favour, itt may nott be lawfull for their keeper to shew rigour att his pleasure or by his wrong [?] information to procure the same, of y^e w^{ch} petition if itt maye please yo^r honorable LL^{PPS} to haue gracious consideration in y^e behalfe of yo^r poore suppliants and captives, yo^r hono^{rs} shall bynde them during life to encrease [in] all dutifull affection incessantlie to praie as yo^r dailie orators that yo^r honorable LL^{PPS} maie be made par[takers] of the supreme felicitie.

By yo^r LL^{PPS} most humble suppliants in all humilitie and obedience to be commaunded these priests and laie men subscribed *

† Lewes Barlowe ^b	† Thomas	Edwarde Coffin. Niclas Lente
Edwarde Hues	Haburleus	† Thomas Bramston
† Christopher Drilande		Christopher Holywodd
† Roberte Woodrooffe	Fra	† Leonard Hide
† W ^m Chadocke	Benedictus	† Nicholas Knighte
† William Wigge		† Raphe Bicley
		† Willm Clerionet
		† John Greene
		† John Bolton

[*in corner of page*]

Raphe Emerson	Hughe Sheldon	Richard Smorthet
Henry Kene	John Elwed	

* The 23 signatures which follow are original.

^b Those marked † had been together at Wisbech in the time of the stirr.

Endorsement :

The humble petition of y^e prisone[rs] in Framingham castle to y^e right honorable y^e LL. of the counsell.

32. *From Sir Robt. Cecill to the Bishop of London.**

54, f. 200.

My L. I grow very tender in this business because I see how the Priests wold encroach and so giue cause to cary anew harder hands of y^{em} Reade I pray you this life and see whyther this be good geare and think of it my L. for by God y^e Priest[s] swarm. I neuer loued persecution but by hea[ven] I wold be loth to be concluded Popish. yow and I will conferr of these things for we must neyther go to low nor too high. For Barrowes he is a dissembling lying foole.

For Wryght I haue sent you a warrant w^{ch} you may vse as is best for the queens service and seing there is a warrant alredy This may serve but you will find y^t he will keep open house in y^e Clink w^{ch} If he do or suffer resort he shall back againe

Your louing freend

Ro Cecyll

At foot, in other hand :

An originall Letter to the Bishop of London of Ro:
Cecills about the Priests, wherein he swears

Endorsement :

To the Reverend ffather in god my verie good Lord
the L. Byshopp of London.

* This letter belongs apparently to an earlier date than the rest of the papers in this volume. The "Barrowes" referred to is perhaps Henry Barrowe, the puritan, executed April 6, 1593. Cecil at that time was member of the Council, but not secretary.