

**THE PASTON
LETTERS, A. D. 1422-
1509; VOLUME III**

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The Paston Letters, A. D. 1422-1509; Volume III by James Gairdner

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JAMES GAIRDNER

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THE PASTON LETTERS

A.D. 1422-1509

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PASTON LETTERS

A.D. 1422-1509

NEW COMPLETE LIBRARY EDITION

EDITED WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JAMES GAIRDNER

OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

VOLUME III

LONDON
CHATTO & WINDUS



EXETER
JAMES G. COMMINS

1904

THE PASTON LETTERS

Henry VI

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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. Byllyng² the serjant hathe byn in his contre, and he come to London 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.

THE PASTON LETTERS

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 wurd had my Lorde to Byllyng, as he tollde 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 wulfe he is in Norfolk. Many wulde it schulde not prove, for thei say it is an onlykely 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 Chansler² 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 cowntre. 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.

HENRY VI

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

Wretyn at Lunden 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.

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ABSTRACT¹

SIR JOHN FASTOLF TO JOHN PASTON.

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

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.]

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RICHARD SOUTHWELL TO JOHN PASTON²

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

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

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.

THE PASTON LETTERS

1454^(?)
oct. 6 have his gode mastership, the whiche I have effectually to [m]y power sewed fore iij. yer, and never deserved the contrarye to my knowlegge, by my trowth; 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 besече you to remembr that I have aforetyme b[en] accused untō 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 pur 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 wroto 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 wroto 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 youres.

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

Youres,

RIC. SUTHWELL.

¹ Thomas Bourchier.

² Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset.

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