

**LETTERS OF ARCHBISHOP
WILLIAMS,
WITH DOCUMENTS
RELATING TO HIM**

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Letters of Archbishop Williams, with Documents Relating to Him by John E. B. Mayor

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JOHN E. B. MAYOR

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LETTERS

OF

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS, *J. L.*

WITH

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO HIM.

EDITED WITH NOTES

BY

JOHN E. B. MAYOR, M.A.

LIBRARIAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.



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LETTERS OF ARCHBISHOP WILLIAMS AND OTHERS ADDRESSED TO HIM OR RELATING TO HIS BENEFACCTIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDING ACCOUNTS OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE LIBRARY. Communicated by John E. B. Mayor, M.A., St John's College.

THE following letters are taken, where no special reference is given to other sources, from the originals in St John's College treasury. Further research may probably bring to light other materials for a history of the library, but it seems desirable to make what is already in hand accessible without delay.

The sources for a memoir of archbishop Williams are very numerous. I pointed out some of them in *Notes and Queries* for Mar. 12, 1859 (2nd Ser. VII. 209). I have since noted the following. He was uncle to archbishop Dolben (Le Neve's *Protest. Bishops*, i. 2, p. 268). He was a friend to Sir Jas. Whitelocke (Whitelocke's *Liber Famelicus*, Camd. Soc. pp. 60, 89, 97, 99, 110, 111). A contradiction (Dec. 8, 1628) of a charge of extortion brought against him occurs in Ric. Widmore's *History of St Peter's Westminster*. (1751). Append. No. 12, p. 213. See letters to him in Bp. Goodman's *Court of James I.*, Vol. ii. p. 320, and letters by him in Prynne's *Canterb. Dooms*, p. 92, Dodd's *Church Hist.*, new ed., v. Append. ccxv seq., ccliii, cf. cclxvii, cclxix seq., ccliv seq.; and in Sir H. Wotton's *Remains*, p. 304; and an anecdote, *ibid.* pp. 325, 326. There is another letter to him in G. J. Vossii *Epistola*, p. 107; and one by him in Goodall's

College of Physicians, p. 386. See too Birch's *Court and Times of Charles I.* Vol. ii. p. 171; "*The Welshman's Propositions to the Archbishop of Yorke, Commander-in-Chiefe before Conoway Castle in Wales. Printed in the yeare of his cosen Taffie's Carrier. 1646.*" 4to. I may mention that a copy of Hacket's *Life of Williams*, with notes by the Rev. J. Mitford, is now in the possession of B. Beedham, Esq., of Kimbolton.

Of Dr Owen Gwin, Gwyn, Gwynne, or Wynne, to whom several of these letters are addressed, a full account is given in Baker's *History of St John's College*; he is mentioned in John Nichols' *Progresses of James I.* iii. 86, 229, and in the *Calendars of State Papers* under Nov. 28, 1621, (his presentation to the archdeaconry of Huntingdon), p. 314; Dec. 10, 1624, p. 405; cf. *ibid.* Nov. 24 and Dec. 7, pp. 391, 403; though these two last entries perhaps refer to another of the name.

Joseph Mead writing to Sir Martin Stuteville, Christ Coll. June 30. 1621, says: "We hold still that Dr Gwin is Bishop of St David's, and Mr Senhouse shall have his mastership." Birch's *Court and Times of James I.* Vol. ii. p. 263; cf. *ibid.* p. 231, where is a story of Gwin's playing at cards with Dr Richardson and two bishops on Christmas Day, 1621.

This master has left in the treasury of St John's a large mass of correspondence, much of which, Baker thinks, he would have destroyed, if he had regarded his own reputation.

Kennett has a notice of Gwin (MS. Lansd. 984, art. 108. cf. Cole in MS. Addit. 5858, p. 343); and one of his letters (June 17, 1626) is in MS. Sloane 3562, art. 38.

CONTENTS OF THE LETTERS.

I. Williams to John Wynne, Esq., of Gueder (who prevailed on his father to send him to Cambridge, and made interest to procure for him a scholarship and fellowship). Apology for a hasty letter. Thanks for money towards his commencement.

II. Williams to Sir John Wynne, A.D. 1605. Recommendation of a good scholar, named Meredith.

III. Same to Same. 5 Dec. 1605. Respecting a debt due from his brother. Has a small benefice.

IV. Same to Same. 20 Nov. 1608. Respecting a son of Sir John's, a scholar of St John's. Hopes that the college, dispersed from fear of infection, may meet again before Christmas.

V. Williams to Sir John Wynne. Nov. 3. Has procured a chamber for his cousin Robin. Regrets his brother-in-law's conduct. Hopes Sir John will remember his sister.

VI. Same to Same. A.D. 1611. Is admitted proctor for the next year. Will nominate Sir John's son Robin elder brother for the commencement, if Sir John does not fear the expense.

VII. Same to Same. Aug. 18, 1611. Robin Wynne is roused to diligence by the prospect of being named elder brother. Expenses attending that honour.

VII. Same to Same. 22 Nov. 1611. Has entered Robin as fellow commoner, which will entail an additional expense of £10 a year, with a piece of silver plate at entrance. Is in good hopes of preferment from the lord chancellor and the king.

IX. Same to Same. 13 Sept. 1612. Robin has missed a fellowship. Disputes between the heads and the university. Death of the chancellor. Williams' farmer in Northamptonshire. New master of St John's.

X. Same to Same. 14 Dec. 1620. On behalf of Sir John's eldest son.

XI. St John's college to Williams. Jul. 1621. Congratulations on his being made lord keeper.

XII. Reply of Williams. 15 Aug. 1621.

XIII. Williams to St John's college. 22 Dec. 1622. Asks leave of absence for Downhalt his chaplain, a fellow of the college, who is going to France in the suite of Sir Edw. Herbert. Leave granted accordingly.

XIV. St John's college to Williams. 5 Feb. 1623. The lord of the manor at Hilton, who has hitherto borne the whole charge of pontage money, now tries to throw a part of it upon the copy and freeholders. They seek redress.

XV. St John's college to bishop Carey. 27 May [1623]. Thanks for the money conveyed through his hands for the new library. The true donor cannot long be concealed.

XVI. Same to Williams. Same date. Thanks for his contribution to the foundations of the library, and his promise of timber.

XVII. Same to Same. 4 Nov. 1623. On the same subject.

XVIII. Same to Same. 21 Feb. 1623. Thanks for his gifts I. of a library, of which he had promised the foundations only; II. of fellowships and scholarships; III. of a gold dish.

Building accounts of the library.

XIX. John Hacket to Dr Gwin. 28 June, 1624. Bulkeley, a scholar of bishop Williams, has been kept back at Westminster for an examination. Begg that he may without delay be entered a pensioner.

XX. Williams to Dr Gwin. 30 Dec. 1624. Names John Barret, M.A. of St John's as the first fellow of his foundation, and Sir Moston of Queens' (or if he is incompetent, Edw. Baker, M.A. of Trin.) as the second.

XXI. Williams to Sir John Wynn. 1 Dec. 1625. Is glad to be relieved from the splendid slavery of the lord keepership. Will do all he can for Sir John's son Owen.

XXII. Countess of Southampton to Dr Gwin. Aug. 1626. Sends the books intended by her late husband for the library. Thanks for the kindness shewn by the college to her son.

XXIII. The college to the countess. 18 Sept. 1626. Thanks for the books. Praise of her son's demeanour while in residence.

XXIV. The college to Williams. 6 Nov. 1626. With the accounts of the library.

XXV. William Wynn to Dr Gwin. 24 May. Sends 22 volumes with a catalogue, which he wishes to have kept together in the library.

XXVI. Williams to Dr Gwin. 24 Nov. 1626. Recommends Richard Bulkeley for a fellowship.

XXVII. Williams to chief justice Bradshaw. 24 Mar. 1647. On behalf of Sir Rd. Wynne and his brother Owen.

LETTER I.

JOHN WILLIAMS TO JOHN WYNNE, Esq. [*Europ. Mag.* xxi.]

From [Williams] when he was a Student of St. John's College, Cambridge, to JOHN WYNNE, of Gueder, Esq. in Carnarvonshire.

WORSHIPPULL SIR,

MY humble dutie remembred—I am righte heartilie sorrie to see you impute my turbulent and passionate Letter to ill nature, wch proceeded only from suspicious povertie, and a present feare of future undoinge, bredd and fostered by the suggestions of those, who either knewe not what it was, or else would not im-

parte the beste counsaile. Well might your Worshippe have guesde my faulte to have been noe blemish of nature, but such another as that of foolish Euclio in Plautus, who suspected Megadorus, thoughte he had soe farre againste his estate and reputation demeaunde himself as to be a Suytor for Euclios daughter.

Nam si opulentus it petítum pauperioris gratiam,
 Pauper metuit congregi, per metum male rem gerit:
 Idem quando illæc occasio perit, post sero cupit.

A faulte I have committed (for the wch I moste humblie crave pardonne, vowing heere before the face of God to doe you what recompence and satisfaction soever, how and when you will) but that faulte was not in writinge unto you, for therein I proteste I do not knowe that I have any way misdeamed myself, but it was in a certain suspicion I conceived of your love towards me, caused partlye by your late letter, farre more sharpe and less courteous than at other times, partly alsoe by the letters of others, who assured me that the money was not dewe any wayes to Thom. ap Maurice. That my nature is not intemperate, those that have ever knowne me doe knowe, being dull and melancholicke in constitution: neither could I ever heare that my kindred was tainted with that uglie spot. God forbid that the least of these three causes, your greatness, my meanes, but especiallie your desertes towards me might not be a sufficient motive to curbe the furie of my penne. I heare confess (*æt maneat hæc non illa favore scripta litera*) that now I am and always did account of myselfe, as one infinitely bound unto your worship, especiallie for three things, the perswading of my Father to sende me to Cambridge—2 the writinge both to my Tutour as alsoe to others concerninge my Scholarshipe and Fellowshipe—3 the demeaninge of your selfe soe belowe your estate as to meddle soe much with my poor portion. These things are written in my hearte, whatsoever frenzy writ in paper.—My sorrowe is farre the greater, because against my expecta-