

SUMMARY: In the extract below from a memorandum on English Affairs dated 14 February 1582 from Cardinal Antoine Perrenot de Granvelle (1517-1586) to King Philip II, the Cardinal writes, concerning the Spanish ambassador in London, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604):

Praise him for saving that Englishman, and try to retain him.

Hume comments in a footnote that:

In an autograph note to this the King writes as follows: 'I think there were two, namely Lord . . . (Lord Harry Howard) and Francis Arundel. I knew one of that name, but do not know whether this is he'.

Hume adds:

I quote this note, one of many similar remarks on these documents, to show how closely the King followed the details of the dispatches. Reference to the letter dated 25th December 1581 page 246 in this volume proves that Philip's memory was correct.

The Cardinal was thus suggesting in his memorandum that when the King next wrote to Mendoza, he should praise him for having 'saved' Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614) and Charles Arundel when they fled to Mendoza's house on the night of 25 December 1580, as recounted to King Philip by Mendoza in his letter of 25 December 1582 (see Simancas Leg. 835, ff. 121-4). The Cardinal was clearly impressed by the fact that Lord Henry Howard has been supplying a steady stream of intelligence to Mendoza for over a year, and anxious that Mendoza should 'retain' Howard as a spy. For the roles played by Charles Arundel and Lord Henry Howard in events involving Oxford in 1580/1 see TNA SP 15/27A/46, ff. 81-2 and other documents on this website, in particular the letters of the Spanish ambassador to England, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604).

Concerning the date of this letter, it should be noted that although on 24 February 1582 a bull of Pope Gregory XIII had ordered the use of a reformed calendar which cut ten days out of the year 1582, so that 15 October followed immediately upon 4 October (see *Handbook of Dates*, p.10), England and Spain were still using the same calendar on 14 February 1582 when Cardinal de Granvelle wrote this memorandum.

The translation below is taken from Hume, Martin, ed., *Calendar of Letters and State Papers Relating to English Affairs*, Vol. II, 1568-1579, p. 296.

Don Bernardino gives an account of the close relations which exists between those two lovers, and also of some points of importance. He reports the dissension which exists amongst the members of the Council, and the opinion entertained by some, that the Queen should become reconciled with your Majesty, and restore Drake's plunder, but as

they have settled nothing tangible, there is nothing upon which we can act or reply, but we might say that, as it is possible that these negotiations between the French and English may result rather in dissension than satisfaction, some good may come of it, especially in view of the fears about Scotland. All we can do is to stand by and await events, whilst the ambassador continues the course he has hitherto followed, of being very confident and paying little attention to their negotiations, this being the method most likely to disconcert them. At the same time he must be careful not to shut the door against them, but if they show signs of approaching him should receive their advances willingly, and offer his aid towards a reconciliation, as no harm can be done by it, whilst their plots against his Majesty may be cooled thereby. He should try to stir up the hatred of the merchants against the Queen, and the few Councillors who are interested, by pointing out to them, with his usual dexterity, and without his being suspected, the injury which may befall them and all the country for the sake of the private interests of these men. Praise him for saving that Englishman, and tell him to try to retain him. Madrid, 28th February 1582.