

SUMMARY: The document below is a scribal copy in Sir Francis Walsingham's files of an undated letter, apparently dating from October 1581, which is calendared in the State Papers Domestic 1581-1590 (p.39) as having been written by Charles Arundel to an unidentified gentleman. However the content of the letter, particularly the writer's claim that he 'haunts' among people of the 'best sort' and has 'many to answer in the world of good places', and that he is reluctant to 'increase my charge' does not comport well with Arundel's circumstances at the time. It may be that the letter is entirely unrelated to Arundel. If the letter does relate to Arundel, it seems that he was either engaged in questionable intelligence gathering, or that there were efforts afoot to entrap him in something of the sort.

He that came from you of late brought me good testimony of your favour and friendly disposition, for the which you shall have me correspondent to my power, and the rather for that both our endeavours and labours tend to one mark, although by several degrees and means, which being noted by some friends to us both, they have been earnest in hand with me [and with the people(?)] that I haunt here (which though I say it, be of the best sort, and that this is the place of continuance assigned unto me by such as have power to command me) to establish some friendly intelligence with you, and so concur in our actions, which might the better advance the quarrel by us both so long defended, besides the increase of love and friendship between us both, which, being grounded upon so good a foundation, can never admit decay.

I answered my friends touching the premises as I do you now, which is that I hold you a gentleman of much value and integrity, and to you I dare confess it, I have many to answer in the world of good places which must be labour of mine own hand wherein I dare not admit any to relieve myself, lest by the corruption of the time I should be abused, whereby my pains be the more and my leisure the less to satisfy all that is expected at my hands and indeed of very duty due to some of the best and dearest to us. And these considerations, together with due regard of my duty, maketh me the less willing to increase my charge.

Yet nevertheless, if upon demonstration from yourself it may appear unto me that you are willing to come to some friendly intelligence, and that there be a solid way laid for the continuance of the same (as is requisite), I shall be contented to comprehend you among the number of those to whom I dedicate my travail and labours in this life, which I hope well shall not be altogether unprofitable unto you, for as I am not ignorant what a matter it is to enter into this course, and what concurrence and a friendly dealing there is to be holden for the continuance of the same, so if we keep together herein, I promise you hereby that it must be some great matter by you ministered (which I never expect) and nothing else that shall remove me from you, but rather make me study by all means possible to advance your name and estimation so as I trust you shall not repent you of your acquaintance, which a few months shall declare, by the grace of God. Wherefore begin when you will; I shall never give you over.

Endorsed: (in a later hand?) October 1581