

insert to show facts about those interesting actors of history. It is addressed to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, by his Secretary.— (Galba IX., page 79, Original Manuscripts, Brit. Museum.)

“I have long foreborne to write unto your Excellency of the great dislikes Her Majesty hath conceived of your Honor's doings there towards the acceptation of the absolute Government of those countries; hoping long before this time your Excellency would have sent away Mr. Davison to her here, and have satisfied Her Majesty touching your whole proceedings, and in those carryings on, such as it pleased your excellency to write unto me in your last order dated the 10th of January, that you would do; but, forasmuch as neither Mr. Davison is as yet come, neither hath your Honor hitherto written to Her Majesty's self of those causes; which Her Majesty taketh in so ill part, as all your honorable friends here have much ado to satisfy Her Majesty in, and to stay her from such proceedings, to the overthrow of yourself's doings there; which would not only breed your great discontentment, but also be the utter ruin of that service, and countries; and withal to aggravate her highness' dislikes of that action, it was told Her Majesty, that my lady (Leicester's wife), was prepared presently to come over to your excellency with such a train of ladies and gentlewomen, and such rich coaches, litters, and side-saddles, as Her Majesty had none such, and that there should be such a court of ladies as should far pass Her Majesty to have here. This information (though most false) did not a little stir Her Majesty to extreme choler and dislike of all your doings there, saying with great oaths, that she would have no more court under her obeisance but her own, and would revoke you from thence with all speed. This Mr. Vice-Chamberlain first told me in great secret, and afterwards Mr. Secretary, and last of all my Lord Treasurer. Unto them all I answered, that the information was most false in every degree, and there was no such preparation made by my lady, nor any intention in her to go over; neither had yourself any intention to send for her.

Leicester House, this 11 Feb., 1586.

Your honorable, humble servant,

THO: DUDDLEY.

On this letter's margin is the record that it was received in Holland, 15th Feb., 1586. The word for Holland is “Belgia,” which was then “Netherlands.”

In a letter from the Lord Treasurer, Burleigh, to the Earl of Leicester, Robt. Dudley, there is the following paragraph on this same subject.

[8th June, 1586.]

“Mr. Dudley can write to your lordship in what case your lordship's lease is for the matter of the alienations and fines for writs of covenants. Her Majesty hath been, by some lewd busy persons, very hardly informed of the great gain made thereof; which, being