

Letters to John Hobart,¹ including one from Edward Sheldon

Bodleian Library, Tanner Mss:

Tanner Ms 283, f. 155

Sir

You shall receive your nag of this bearer with many thanks for him. He hath a little hurt upon the backside which was of him Before I Did Receive <of> him and being so old a hurt I had counsell given me to cut it off for that it would not of be healed before the old skin was taken away I did cause it to be taken off within this three days and did make account to have it healed within this week. Edward doth tell me you will let me have one in his place if it shall please you to lend him and by this bearer I will see him well used and thus acknowledging myself very much beholden of unto you for him and with many thanks. Resting always yours to command to the uttermost of my power and thus with my commendation unto you I end in haste and [remorse] the 7th of July 1596

Yours or not is own
Raffe Sheldon

Verso : To my particular good friend Mr John Hobart at Weston upon Hill

Tanner MS 115, f. 58

Jhesu

I could take no thought for your short Entertainment at Barton being at such an hour driven to bloue the Seeke all which malice from me groweth out of your sloth that would not vouchsafe² a few words to your hungry friends <in> here in the country. This fault will be excused I know by your letter to Edward Sheldon but that I take for no *supersedeas*³ to me although you desired confidently to be believed in that whereof we all <...> stand both in fear and doubt. By the coming of these <to you> I presume the case will be made plain to you and then use your discretion for by a word or two I shall discern whether you have reformed

¹Hobart came from a once influential Norfolk gentry family, several named as recusants, including John's mother and sisters (W.E.G.L. Bulwer, 'The Hobarts of Hales Hall', *Norfolk Archaeology*, 12, 1895, pp.158-163).Others were Catholic sympathizers. Visitation of Norfolk, 1563,(*Harleian Society* 32 and *Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society*, iii (1895), ed W.E.G.L. Bulwer, sv Hobart.). At the time of these letters John was surveyor to the Marquis of Winchester (d. 1598) and later became Thomas Horde's man of business with whom Horde's many creditors corresponded. Nancy Pollard Brown described him as 'an up-market money-lender for his East Anglian cousins', ('Paperchase : the dissemination of Catholic pamphlets in England', *English Manuscript Studies*, I (1989), 120-143); he acted for others also. For Sheldon, he was a man to cultivate. The biography in Thrush and Ferris, *House of Commons 1604-1629* reveals a wide range of influential connections, amongst them the Cecil, Cornwallis and Hare families. Knighted in 1603, in 1604 he married the widow of Horde's brother Alan, Barbara, daughter of Thomas Pope-Blount of Tyttenhanger. Hobart was later noted as receiving £1500 from the rent charges assigned to Horde, (SP 14/40, f. 479-479v.). He was the cousin of Henry Hobart appointed Attorney-General in July 1606 (ODNB).

² Sheldon wrote 'wyghtsafe'.

³ The writ supersedeas implemented a suspension of a law suit.

your opinion. [Long gap] I do yet hold my purpose to visit my Suffolk friends and the uttermost day for the beginning of my journey is Wednesday next week.⁴
Commend me to Master Chamberlen⁵ and to your Self and so for this time fare you well.
From Barton⁶ this 16th of October 1597

Your very loving friend
Raff Sheldon

Verso To my very loving friend Mr John Hobart at Doctor Lake's house in Ffewter Lane

Tanner MS 283, f. 160, Edward Sheldon to John Hobart

The last week there happened here such a <...> fearful accident as with the Distemper thereof I was <bothe> unfit to excuse your ill entertainment at Barton or to <make> return you answer of your letter. My wife's best beloved son through negligence had like utterly to have spoiled himself with scalding water but now I thank God is past all danger. I did not so much as dream of your coming to Barton and my wife in the same sort doth excuse herself. I shall be gladder if in revenge thereof you will [ad]just the punishment set down <by> <your self> ^in your letter^ but it is not the <fashion> manner of this age to recompense evil with good neither do I hold you so sacred howsoever you brag of your charity. My Father is constant in his Suffolk journey where I make no question your company is desired and for want thereof Master Doile⁷ is entertained myself remaining here alone this fortnight where your letters and advertisements will be most welcome especially now the fruits of this long journey grow to ripen.
And so with my kindest commendations to yourself I leave you from Barton the 23rd of October 1597

Your Friend Assured
Edward Sheldon

Verso To my very loving friend Mr John Hubbard

British Library Ms Harleian 4713 f. 188

Jhesu

I am very sorry my fortune was to be absent at your being here. I commend these ~~oñt~~ unto you only to advertise you that I neither received letters box bag nor seals by the carrier last week. A more [.....less] person there is not. I will call him to a Reckoning upon his Return tomorrow and then you shall know more. I am very glad of the good estate in health of all our friends. Since your departure from London God hath disposed of the Lord Cobham as the intelligence of Oxford is.⁸

⁴ Sheldon wrote 'wenysdaye come sevenight'.

⁵ Almost certainly referring to one of those who held Sheldon's rent charge to Whorde.

⁶ Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire, the residence of Edward, Ralph's heir.

⁷ Probably John D'Oilly, Sheriff of Oxfordshire, 1585-86.

⁸ William Brooke, tenth Baron Cobham (1527-1597), died 6 March. *ODNB*.

Commend me <ms blank> I pray you to Mr Whorde and to yourself from Weston the 10th of March 1596/97

Your friend assured
Raffe Sheldon

I do retain Mr Whorde's letters to the Lord Saye⁹ expecting his repair into the country which was promised by him to have been long before this but men so employed as His Lordship is may take leave to keep no promise

Verso : To my very great friend Mr John Hobart at Beoley

Single sheet, folded in four, address on central panel.

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⁹ Lord Saye and Sele, Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire, another of Horde's debtors; sheriff of Oxfordshire.