

Ralph's letter to his nephew, Francis Plowden

TNA SP 14/3, f.4, 1 August 1603 CSPD 1603-1610, p. 26, summary

Jhesu

Master Anthony Skinner having a determination to stay 3 or 4 days here about his business¹ was yesterday about two of the clock drawn away by letters commended unto him from Shiplake so as he presently departed and went directly to Weston meaning to hasten to the court with all the speed he may. His desire is you should be advertised and make account that you will follow with all <the> convenient speed <you> ^ <may>^ his business being best known to you, in which also he sayeth you have some interest. This must suffice to hasten you away. Between this and Thursday you shall, God willing, find me herein and I hope you will not pass by without visiting us.

Taxis² is for certain either at Gravelines or arrived in England. I do make stay to follow your direction until I may speak with you only I may fortune to see my good neighbour³ and to entreat him as with convenience I may. You know my credit is not great.

Commend me to your Self and to Mistress Mary. From Skilts the first of August 1603

Your Loving uncle

Raff Sheldon

Verso: To the right honorable Sir Richard Lewkenor knight Chief Justice of Chester be this delivered with all speed⁴

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¹ The first time Sheldon wrote 'Bowshnes' and the second 'Bowsyness'.

² Taxis, the Spanish ambassador on his way to England to sign a peace treaty between Spain and England.

³ He probably refers to Henry, 5th Lord Windsor (1562-1605); resident at Hewell Grange in Tardebig close to Beoley, there had been contact, if not close links, with the family since the 1540s.

⁴ The letter had been captured by the bailiff of Ludlow and was forwarded by him to Sir Richard Lewkenor, Chief Justice of Chester and by him to the privy council.