
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 4 November 1600 from Sir Walter Raleigh to Lord Buckhurst, now Lord Treasurer, and Sir Robert Cecil, the Queen's Principal Secretary. In several of his letters and memoranda on the tin monopoly in the mid-1590s Oxford had urged the Queen to exercise her pre-emptive right to purchase all the tin produced in a given year at a set price, thus taking the tin monopoly into her own hands (see CP 25/76).

Raleigh's letter indicates that the Queen had finally done so, and that Raleigh had agreed on a price with the tanners, despite the fact that his negotiations on behalf of the Queen had been complicated by a higher offer from Sir Bevis Bulmer (d. 1613)

May it please your Honours, according to the order which I had from you I have proceeded in Cornwall and agreed with the tanners for a price certain, twenty shillings in the thousand [+weight] less than I had commission to give them, which they desire by petition to have added, & which for mine own poor opinion I could wish that her Majesty out of her own liberality should bestow on them.

Master Brigham and Master Cunnocke [=Connock?] can inform your Honours how I have proceeded, who can best judge what my little credit here hath done in this business.

Master Cunnocke himself hath taken great pains herein, & furnished me with many good arguments & reasons. Your Honours could not have employed any man, as I think, both for his diligence & knowledge, of more sufficiency. Master Bulmer's offer of £29 held us long upon that price, & hath done us much wrong in this business, & had we not called such a jury as we did of the principal gentlemen, we had had a long work of it.

There are yet many things to be done which this gentleman can better inform your Honours of than myself, which your Honours will take care of. For myself, I have performed your commandments, & have little else to do but to see promise kept with these poor men to whom my faith is engaged, & this bearer can inform your Honours truly wher [=whether?] they [sic?] tanners do not more rely thereon than on all the rest of our arguments.

I will shortly attend you myself, & in the meanwhile I humbly desire to be continued in your favours, & will remain ever ready to do all the honour & service I shall be able.

W. Raleigh

From Radford by Plymouth this 4th of November.

Endorsed: To the right honourable the Lord of Buckhurst, Lord High Treasurer of England, & Sir Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary.

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Endorsed: 4 November 1600, Sir Walter Raleigh to my Lord Treasurer and to my Master,
from Radford by Master Connocke