

# NEWS FROM CAMBRIDGE

William Sancroft (1617–1693)

to Thomas Sancroft (–1681), his brother

17 November 1650

It is too long that I have intermitted this commerce of love and affection, and more than time that I resume it. The last time I wrote not, for I thought you must needs be weary of reading so often what I was tired with writing—that I was not yet ejected, but looked not to stay long. Yet now I must return to the old repetition, and say that something once more.

I was, as I told you, once again returned as a refuser by the committee here. Yet some that have sought for my name at the committee above cannot find it; others that have inquired write word that I am not turned out yet, though many have been, since you received my last; as Dr. Young of Jesus, Dr. Syms too of Katherine Hall, and Mr. Vines of Pembroke Hall, and some fellows of several colleges. Dr. Love is suspended, but not yet out; and some say there is a way found out that he shall be thought to have given satisfaction as to the Engagement, and so that he will be continued; but unless he subscribe downright, I hardly think he can escape, for many gape for his places.

On Thursday last, the committee above appointed three new masters for the void places: Mr. Lightfoot for Katherine Hall; Mr. Simpson (the great Independent) for Pembroke Hall; and Mr. Washington, of our College,<sup>1</sup> for Jesus College. Mr. Cudworth is leaving us, having lately been presented and now possessed of a college living, North Cadbury in Somersetshire, voided by Dr. Whichcott's resignation, who is Vice-Chancellor this year. Mr. Davenport, of our college, has again deceived us; and having stoutly denied to engage before the committee at London when he was summoned, he has since bethought him, and done it here, and is now, by a vote at London, restored to his fellowship, out of which he was voted upon his former refusal. Mr. Adams, I think, stands firm. And yet we despair not of keeping our places till somebody goes to complain of us, and beg them; which will certainly be done when the new swarm of bachelors that are to commence at Christmas shall be complete and ready for preferment. Our friends of Trinity are out, and others in their places.

The committee sat last week here, and summoned some of Saint John's College to appear at London; but I heard nothing from them. Some would persuade me, and I am somewhat prone to believe it, that I have some secret friend who does me good offices, though I know it not. However, brother, it is comfort to me that I am sure of a friend in you; and if the worst happen here (which I still expect), that I may have a retreat with you, which still you so lovingly proffer. I thank you for your readiness to entertain my pupil with myself, but I shall not make use of your kindness in that particular if I can avoid it; for if I go hence, I desire privacy above all. Only I desired to acquaint you with it and know your mind, in case I should be importuned so as I could not civilly deny.

I am sorry my sister Margarite is leaving you. But if she goes, I could wish it were rather to a good husband than to a mistress; but we must shape our minds to our condition, whatever it be. Good brother, let me hear next time what becomes of that proposition, and when she is to go from you.

And now, brother, I have a strange piece of news to tell you—I am engaged in a lawsuit about a fortnight since by Canon Richardson, to whom we lately paid a legacy of £60 which was given to two women, and in case they were dead, to him. Now we have often proffered him that if he could bring us a certificate that the women are dead, or could otherwise show us that he is able to make us a sufficient discharge, we would immediately pay him the money. But this will not serve the turn. What the law will give him, I know not. It happened very well for my case that Mr. Vernon was, the week before, gone to live at London in Sir J. Wollaston's house, and to be

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<sup>1</sup> Emmanuel College, Cambridge

minister at Highgate, so that he manages the suit; and if I must give in an answer, I will do it to commissioners here, and not trouble myself to go to London. For the charge of the suit, I think they must be deducted from the legacy. If the court orders against us, we will pay the money into the court, who can discharge us, and so free us from any danger to pay it again, in case the women live; which is all I desire, to be safely and honestly rid of it.

I pray, brother, remember my love to my brother Heardson and my sister, and acquaint him with this business. The £10 he owes me (as I told him when I lent it him) is part of the £30 which I am to pay of this legacy; and as I wrote to him lately, if I be not forced to pay it, I shall not urge him; but if it should so fall out, he must not take it ill if I call for it where I left it, rather than borrow it elsewhere. I pray also desire him to let me know what I shall do concerning Edward Barret's books.

In the meantime, brother, I would desire you to receive of Mr. Rous of Cratfield (to whom I pray remember me) £1 14s 8d, which I have long since laid out for books for his son; and 16s 2d of my cousin Mear, of Cratfield (whose humble servant I am) for *Aquinas' Sermons*, which my cousin, his son, desired me to send him, and which I suppose he has long since received.

My heartiest affections to all my brothers and sisters, in particular to my brother Jacob. I pray confer with him and inform me what you think will remain of the last half-year, all charges, ordinary and extraordinary (you know what I mean) being deducted. Also, what is in your hands, or in my study, which you may know of my sisters, that so I may know what strength I can make in case the decree passes against us.

I pray, keep it altogether in readiness that if you or I should know of any trusty messenger, it may be conveyed hither, for I would not have the carrier bring it. You see how far I am from being in capacity to pleasure Mr. Crosby as he desired. I pray, remember my respects to him, and thank him for his loving and courteous letter; and tell him the business is done for the present, there being no need of his sending any money as yet for his son's use. Sir H. Wotton's *Elements of Architecture*, a stitched book in quarto in my study I would gladly receive by the carrier, at his return, if you can readily find it.

No more, brother, at present; but all hearty and cordial affection to you and my sister from your assured loving brother.