

LETTER

Ralph Brownrigg (1592–1659), Bishop of Exeter (1642–1659)
to William Sancroft (1617–1693)

20 February 1652

I do thankfully acknowledge all your love in being so mindful of me, and so desirous of my return to you, which cannot be sooner than myself longs for. London streets are tedious passages, and were not my visit with Mr. Rich so refreshing to me, I could not have endured the irksomeness of my stay in this place. But now I do begin to make up my fardel, and do long to be with you.

The kindness which Mr. Prime threatens, to fetch me home, makes me again to acknowledge his love in bringing me hither. I hope to prevent him; and as soon as Dr. Young is set down at Heydon, which will be next week, then I shall expect my man Stephen's return to me, to bring up horses for my journey. Only let Mr. Prime know that Mrs. Hammond's sickness, not without danger, is a cause why I desire this week over ere I think of home.

I am glad Mr. Carter is so well acquainted with the embolimus of this year, though so long a translation of the celebrity exceeds the usual account. But a long time is but as one day to love and friendship. Mr. Gaine and his brother, I think, are upon their return to you.

I dined at Mr. Abdie's house last Tuesday. He speaks of you with much affection. And I hope we shall either reduce the demand for your abode at Triplow to more moderation, or else give you content in another way which will not be unacceptable to you.

When I return to you, I shall give you an account of the business which I have waited upon, which has been retarded, if not disappointed, *contra molitiones presbyterorum*. I assure you, the Independents are of a more moderate disposition. I pray, sir, let my affectionate love be recommended to Mr. and Mrs. Prime, and to my friends of the upper house. To yourself I am, and desire to be esteemed, and shall be glad to be found, your cordial, I wish I could say your real friend.

Henry Cary, *Memorials of the Great Civil War in England* (London: Henry Colburn, 1842), II:414–416.