

Bess of Hardwick's Letters

Letter ID: 055 (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=055>)

From: Sir George Pierrepont (Holme, Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire);

To: Bess of Hardwick (Chatsworth House, Derbyshire);

Date: 18 May 1562

Summary: Sir George Pierrepont writes to thank Bess (Lady St. Loe) for wine received from her husband, William St. Loe, and for the 'bountious goodness' shown unto his son Henry at London. He apologises that he is not able to travel to Chatsworth due to illness but reiterates his liking for the match between his son Henry and Bess's daughter Frances. Adds some suggestions for arranging the marriage settlement.

Archive: Folger Shakespeare Library, Cavendish-Talbot MSS, X.d.428 (70)

Delivery status: to Bess, sent

Letter features: Seal intact - no. Ribbon/floss – no. Letter packet - tuck and fold

Hands: Sir George Pierrepont | archivist |

Version: 1.0

Copyright Information

All material is made available free of charge for individual, non-commercial use only. The copyright and other intellectual property rights in the transcribed letter text, metadata about the letters and the design of the letter display are owned by the University of Glasgow.

You are permitted to access, print and download letters from this site on the following conditions:

- use of all material on this site is for information and for non-commercial or your own personal use only; any copies of these pages saved to disk or to any other storage medium may only be used for subsequent viewing purposes or to print extracts for non-commercial or your own personal use.
- the content must not be modified in any way.
- any use of the material for a permitted purpose must be accompanied by a full source citation.

No part of this site may be reproduced or stored in any other web site or included in any public or private electronic retrieval system or service without the University of Glasgow's prior written permission. Commercial exploitation of the transcribed letters, including use by radio or television programme makers and examination boards, is prohibited without licence from the University of Glasgow.

Further information on copyright and citation can be found at:- (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/background.jsp?id=171>)

Bess *of* Hardwick's Letters

People Associated with Letter 055: Sir George Pierrepont

Sir George Pierrepont (d.1564) was the father-in-law of Bess's daughter, Frances (née Cavendish), following the latter's marriage to Pierrepont's son, Henry, in the 1560s.

Other letters associated with Sir George Pierrepont:

4 November 1561 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=54>)

Bess of Hardwick's Letters

People Associated with Letter 055: Bess of Hardwick

Born Elizabeth Hardwick (in c.1521/2, d. 13 February 1608), the woman known to posterity as Bess of Hardwick married four times during her life, as a result of which her name changed from Hardwick to Barlow (or Barley), Cavendish, St Loe and then finally (when she was countess of Shrewsbury and then dowager countess) Talbot. As one of the five children of John Hardwick (1495-1528) of Hardwick, Derbyshire, and his first wife, Elizabeth (née Leake), Bess had three sisters (Mary, Jane and Alice) and one brother (James). The Hardwicks were established Derbyshire gentry who had inherited a modest manor house and c.400 acres in and around Hardwick. But when John died in 1528, and their lands were seized by the crown, Bess faced hardship. Bess's mother quickly remarried but her new husband, Ralph Leche of Chatsworth, Derbyshire, brought little land or money to the marriage, and three more daughters were born (Bess's half-sisters Elizabeth, Jane and Margaret). Little else is known of Bess's childhood but, while still young, she was married for the first time, to Robert Barlow (or Barley) of Barlow, Derbyshire, sometime in or before 1543. Barlow died in 1544 and Bess received a small inheritance. In 1547 she married the twice-widowed Sir William Cavendish, treasurer of the king's chamber. Bess and Cavendish had eight children, six of whom survived: Frances (1548), Henry (1550), William (1551, from whom the dukes of Devonshire are descended), Charles (1553, from whom the dukes of Newcastle and Portland are descended), Elizabeth (1554) and Mary (1556). Probably due to a mixture of affection and shared social ambition, Bess's second marriage was happy and fortuitous. She was now moving in courtly circles and experiencing (for the first time) considerable wealth. In 1549 Cavendish and Bess bought the estate of Chatsworth, which was held jointly in both their names and which he and then Bess, following Cavendish's death in 1557, ambitiously rebuilt. Soon after her second husband's death, and sometime before Elizabeth I's accession (in 1558), Bess married Sir William St Loe, a wealthy widower of ancient noble pedigree. St Loe was captain of the guard to the young queen and in addition to further improving Bess's finances, he also brought her into the queen's inner circle and she served briefly as a gentlewoman of the queen's privy chamber (in 1559). The marriage seems to have not been without affection; however, the two would have spent most of it apart - he serving the queen in London and Bess mostly at Chatsworth. Upon St Loe's death (probably in 1565), Bess inherited most of the estate. In 1567 Bess married for a final time, to George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury, one of the richest and most powerful men in England. To consolidate the union of their fortunes, the couple had Bess's eldest son, Henry, marry Shrewsbury's daughter (from his previous marriage), and Shrewsbury's eldest son, Gilbert (later the seventh earl), marry Bess's daughter, Mary. Also around this time, Shrewsbury was appointed to be the keeper of Mary Queen of Scots (from 1568-84). At first, relations between Bess and the Catholic Scottish queen seem to have been amicable; however, relations deteriorated all around as Bess's marriage to Shrewsbury broke down in the 1580s. An infamously nasty and highly public legal battle over estates ensued and finally the courts resolved that Shrewsbury provide Bess with a sizeable income from 1587 onwards (Shrewsbury died in 1590). In 1582, Bess took charge of the upbringing of her orphaned granddaughter, Arbella Stuart (1575-1615), claimant to the English

Bess *of* Hardwick's Letters

and Scottish crowns. In 1587, Bess undertook her remarkable building works at Hardwick: the house now known as Hardwick Old Hall was complete by 1591; next to it, the extraordinary building now known as Hardwick New Hall was complete by 1599 and is one of the greatest architectural ventures of Elizabethan England. It was at Hardwick that Bess spent most of the remainder of her life, much of it devoted to caring for and managing Arbella, who came to loathe her existence in Derbyshire and devised several bizarre plans for her escape (to Bess's great distress). Bess also quarrelled with her eldest son, Henry, and disinherited both him and Arbella in her will. She left most of her estate to her beloved and faithful son, William Cavendish, who continued her great dynasty into the seventeenth century.

Bess *of* Hardwick's Letters

Other letters associated with Holme, Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire

[c.1575] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=52>)

Bess of Hardwick's Letters

Other letters associated with Chatsworth House, Derbyshire

- 15 Mar [1550s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=200>)
- 31 Mar [1550s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=198>)
- 13 Apr [c.1550] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=13>)
- 14 Nov [1552] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=99>)
- 13 Jan [c.1560] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=47>)
- 4 Sep [1560?] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=59>)
- 12 Oct [c.1560] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=60>)
- 24 Oct [c.1560] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=61>)
- 20 Nov [1565?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=17>)
- 8 Dec [c.1565] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=28>)
- 26 Feb [1566?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=18>)
- Jun [1568?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=157>)
- 28 Jun [1568?] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=64>)
- [1570s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=210>)
- [1570] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=178>)
- 28 Jul 1570 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=25>)
- 31 Aug 1570 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=170>)
- 21 Sep 1571 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=26>)
- [1577] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=182>)
- 2 Aug 1578 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=197>)
- 23 Sep 1578 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=121>)
- 22 Jun 1579 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=189>)
- 15 Jul 1582 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=175>)
- 8 Apr 1594 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=236>)
- 8 May 1594 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=102>)

Normalised view of Letter 055

To the right worshipfull and my vereye good ladye my Ladye Sentloo at Chattesworthe this be delivered

Right wurshipffull. and my vereye good ladye/ after my hertiest comendacions to your good ladishepe remembred even so require yow I meye be to good Master Sentloo. with most entyer thanckes for my wyne yat I haue ben bolde to take of his lyberalytie/ most hertelye thanckinge yow ffurthere for your bountiouse goodnes & cost bestowed of henrye my sonne & of those yat were with him at London as also for the good will and ffauour that I perceave ye beare to my said sonne/ which I preye gode he maye deserve/ and perceaved ffurthere yf ye coulde geat leave ye woulde come to Chattesworthe this whitsontide/ whethere ye would be glade to haue me & my wiffe to come. lyke as I vnderstand the same. by a lettre receaved this morninge ffrone Master Hardwycke/ wherbye I do not onlye perceave ye be come to Chattesworthe but would haue me & my wife to come over to make merrie/ but to procede ffurthere to the perffytinge of the wrytinges accordinge to our former comunication trulye madame I woulde as gladlie come as ye woulde be to haue me/ but I am not abill to goo nor ryde/ but to my great payne trouble & shame/ and because I woulde ye shoulde not thincke I doo yt to staye of anyethinge/ which I am as willinge to haue performed and perfyted as ye arre/ after the wrytinges be maed & sealled/ yt shall be at your pleasure to cause the same to be drawen in paper accordinglye as I thincke ye haue goode remembrance of tharticles of our agreement/ ye recyted them so fformallye a lytill before our partinge/ and so send them to me/ or else I to geat them done/ thoughe learned men be skaunt in the countrye at this presente/ and so I to sende them to yow. which ones agreede vppon by vs boothe and our councelles then to ingrose the same readye to seallinge. which for my parte I shall doo. so ffare as I can with my helthe/ and after to haue the matrymonye so sone accomplyshed. as ye shall seame goode & conveynent at your pleasure/ and forasmoch as I am even nowe & haue bene for this fourtnight or iij. weekes. moche troubled. with payne of my disease I shall require yow to take this rewde wrytinge in good part. yat wrytes with moche payne/ vntill I know ffurthere of your pleasure in the meane season leauinge to trouble yow anye ffurthere. doo beseche allmightie gode to haue yow and Master Sentloo euermore in his kepinge. ffrone holme in hast the xvijth of maij 1562.

in hast & leasureles by your good ladishipes to his lytill powere/

George. pierponnte K.

Diplomatic view of Letter 055

[Address Leaf]

To the right w^r shipfull
and my vereye good
ladye my Ladye Sentloo
at Chatteswo^r the this be *delivered*

[Letter Text]

[Letter Text: Notes]

X.d.428

(70) [Item number, hand: archivist]

59 [Old foliation/item number, hand: archivist]

93 [Old foliation, hand: archivist]

Right wurshipfull. and my vereye good ladye/ after
my hertiest comendacions to yo^r good ladishepe remembred
even so require yo.^w I meye be to good M^r Sentloo. wth
most entyer thanckes for my wyne y^t I haue ben bolde
to take of his lyberalytie/ most hertelye thanckinge yo^w
ffurthere for yo^r bountiouse goodnes & cost bestowed of
henrye my sonne & of those y^t were wth him at London
as also for the good will and ffauo^r that I *perceave* ye beare
to my said sonne/ w^{ch} I preye gode he maye deserve/ and
perceaved ffurthere yf ye coulde geat leave ye woulde
come to Chattesworthe this whitsontide/ whethere ye would
be glade to haue me & my wiffe to come. lyke as I
vnderstand the same. by a *lettre* receaved this morninge
ffrome M^r Hardwycke/ w^r bye I do not onlye *perceave* ye
be come to Chattesworthe but would haue me & my wife
to come over to make merrie/ but to *procede* ffurthere to
the *perffytinge* of the wrytinges accordinge to o^r form^r *comunication*
trulye madame I woulde as gladlie come as ye woulde be
to haue me/ but I am not abill to goo nor ryde/ but to
my great payne trouble & shame/ and because I woulde ye

Bess of Hardwick's Letters

shoulde not thincke I doo yt to staye of anyethinge/ w^{ch} I am
as willinge to haue *performed* and *perfyted* as ye arre/ after
the wrytinges be maed & sealed/ yt shall be at yo^r *pleasure*
to cause the same to be drawen in paper accordinglye as
I thincke ye haue goode remembrance of tharticles of o^r
agreement/ ye recyted them so fformallye a lytill before
o^r partinge/ and so send them to me/ or else I to geat them
done/ though learned men be skaunt in the countrye at
this *presente*/ and so I to sende them to yo^w. w^{ch} ones agreeede vppon
by vs boothe and o^r councelles then to ingrose the same readye
to seallinge. w^{ch} for my parte I shall doo. so ffare as I can
wth my helthe/ and after to haue the matrymonye so sone
accomplyshed. as ye shall seame goode & conueynyent at yo^r
pleasure/ and forasmoche as I am even nowe & haue bene
for this fourtnight or iij. weekes. moche troubled. wth payne
of my disease I shall require yo.^w to take this rewde
wrytinge in good part. y^t wrytes wth moche payne/ vntill
I know further of yo^r *pleasure* in the meane season leauinge
to trouble yo.^w anye ffurthere. doo ~~bee~~ these beseche allmightie
gode to haue yo.^w and M^r Sentloo eu^r mo^r in his kepinge. ffrome
holme in hast the xvijth of maij 1562 .

in hast & leasureles
by yo^r good ladishipes to his lytill powere/

George. pierponnte K.

Version: 1.0