

Letter from Ralph Adderley to Sir Nicholas Bagnall, Ireland, 1567 April 10: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.2, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

leaf 1 recto

After most hearty commendations Right worshipful even So I Shall be glad to hear of your health and well-doing as your Brother Sir Ralph was upon Wednesday last at Stafford Castle and where as my Brother-in-law the Bringer hereof John Bagot hath a unconstant head and is more youthful and willful than Sober-witted hath vowed a voyage into Ireland to go Sow his wild oats God Send them good Reaping / indeed he hath wit enough But a fool hath the keeping thereof / albeit I do assure you he is unsuspected of any untruth or other notable crime (except a white lie) which is taken for a Small fault in these parts / his Brother is a Sober grave Gentleman of as good qualities and Bringing up and as orderly doth live and the country as well noble men as others haue as good liking and opinion of him as of any esquire not exceeding 300 marks lands within 3 Shires where he dwelleth and that your Brother Sir Ralph will affirm (not faintly) But with Stern and earnest words and countenance and for So much as he hath no more Brothers but this and lacketh the parts of acquaintance and familiarity with you I make my Self So Bold (of your courtesy as to crave your friendship in this Said Bearer's behalf and that it might please you at this my instance not only to Bestow your good advice and counsel upon him But also to help to place him in Such sort as to your wisdom shall Seem good So that he may be Stayed from licentious boldness and the Reign of liberty for fear he fall into outrageous folly or willfulness to the discomfort of his friends if he did Sustain Some penury or Scarceness until the Rage of youth had Run his Race I think it would be a good chastisement unto him ~~whose~~ nevertheless his government I do Refer unto your wisdom and consideration and in case he Stay in time and grow to Some conformity and good order I will persuade with his Brother to be an aid unto him and if otherwise he hath too much already as God best knoweth who Send you health with the increase of much worship this 10 of April. 1567

yours assuredly (wherein he
may)
Ralph Adderley

leaf 1 verso

leaf 2 recto

leaf 2 verso

To the Right worshipful

Sir Nicholas Bagnall
knight & Marshal
of Ireland