

Letter from Isabel Kynnersley (née Walker), Loxley, to Walter Bagot, Blithfield, 1609 July 27: manuscript signed, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.593, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

leaf 1 recto

Thus

Good S^r hauing dispenced some parte of my mynde vnto you at your last being at Loxley I had thoughte to haue sayede those thinges vnto you that now I ame forc'd to wryte vpon that instant beinge then put in daunger of my Lyffe for that shee had thoughte to haue thruste me downe the stayers & to haue broken my necke had not you haue byne so neere, which I stand daly in daunger of.

These are for gods cause and as euer you loued god or any good Christian to stand my good frende so muche as to speake for me vnto my husband at the sisses, and that then you my husband and Mr Richarde will apoynte some tyme to make amende of this businesses heere at Loxley with earnest expeditiō For If greate speeches may prevayle the truthe shall alwayes be as it is now, drowned in the oscion of oblivion and the certenty of thinges neuer come to lyghte, That my husband and I maye ether live as man & wiffe ought to doe or ells that he wo[◇] showe any lawfull and Iust cause why I shoulde not, (As I thanke god he cannot) but that I may liue with him as man and wyffe oughte to liue together, But to live this vngodly lyffe contrary to al mankynde besides it is a greate greeffe to me and a greater daunger to our soules, beinge that we made our promysse before the most almyghtye god to the contrary and for to live this vngodly lyffe it is the gretest greeffe to my sowle. But god he knowes ther is no default in me. If that my Husband will not, that then I may departe in quietnesse hauing so resonnable aportion as I had when I was at Vuxeter which was to my greeffe to repeete both that & this you partly knowing what a good dowrey hee had with me bothe in Landes and gooudes.

leaf 1 verso

Lett me intreate you not to fayle me at the Sisses because of my wretched estate, I beseeche you as I haue made my selfe bould to trubell you so I praye you that you willnot lett this my letter be seene nor that any of this shoulde come from me, but by word of mouth to you at your being at Loxliy for feere of further blame of the meisenger, For as I ame kepte as a poore prisnon heere in my chaumber and cannot goe abraude so lickewisse is expelled all people out of my presence & that it is almost vnpossible for me to gett one to wryte for me but that god of his great goodness dothe rayse frendes for them that put theyr trust in him, or so much as once let me speeke with

him: but they strayght doe mak great matters of susspitio[◇]
vpon it being with out cause atall and as god shall me
saue this is trewe thus in hast I leaue you to the tuition
of almyghty god Loxley this present xxviith day of Iuly 1609

Your loving frende
Isabell Kinardesley

leaf 2 recto

To the wo^r Walter Bagot
Esqr deliver these
at blithfeilde

leaf 2 verso

Isabel Kinnersley