

Letter from Walter Bagot to Mr. Skipwith (Jane Skipwith's brother), 1611: autograph manuscript draft, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.135, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

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Sir I did write unto my much esteemed Lady your mother-in-law in September last desiring to be satisfied from her whether there were either marriage or contract past betwixt my disobedient son and my niece your sister or not which at that time I greatly suspected. I received her kind answer which I do not suspect but she plainly thought to be true which in respect of that reverend opinion I hold of her virtues I will not suspect but at it that time was the plain truth which was (a denial of both) first in her own opinion and secondly by my niece in her letters with a protestation that she would never hereafter give ear unto any such motion. Calling to remembrance her fathers letters who advised her ever to be thankful to her friends. Not withstanding her protestations my graceless son now affirmeth there is such promise past betwixt them as can not be revoked. He hath withdrawn his obedience from me and hath continued in a base infamous place in Godwin's house in London since Christmas last till Saturday last, Sheweth him Charged to be the father of a bastard Child begotten on a base Strumpet servant unto a gentlewoman of this Country and taken in bed with her Cooke a married man. for this his wicked life his obstinate disobedience and infinite others lewd conditions I have rejected him and are purposing God willing to disinherit him) And whilst I live mean to withdraw my all my maintenance from him. If these show the fruits of true affection unto my niece I pray God send them as much joy together as I receive Comfort by them. Thus much I thought good out of my love to make you acquainted with whom you acquainted and herewith I leave to it shall please you to impart it to I leave to your good consideration And so rest. your loving uncle

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