

Letter from Walter Bagot, Blithfield, to an unnamed female cousin, circa 1620 November 19: autograph manuscript draft, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.160, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

leaf 1 recto

Good cousin I am very sorry for that you continue in the restraint of your liberty
And although my occasions be such that as I cannot (as I desire) come see you
yet in regard of affinity, and old love, friendship & familiarity, I cannot
but by letters remember you least you should think me unmindful of
my friends and careless of their adverse estate. These are the occasions of that
have moved me first to write secondly at your leisure to crave I may know how
you are persecuted by your envious adversaries whose minds are (no doubt)
as well fraught with malicious devices to entangle you into farther troubles
as their mouths are full of false reports which I I hope ~~doubt not~~ but in the end will
fall out to their own shame and discredit. And although I ~~make no doubt~~ am assured ~~I will~~
your innocency is such as you need not fear their dishonest practices yet
I would wish you be very circumspect being ~~in regard you are~~ matched with such
adversaries as have no regard either of there word, ~~or oath~~ faith, fear
of god or shame of the world and therefore are men most dangerous to be
dealt with all. such as will speak and unspeak swear and unswear any
thing being never so manifest so that it may serve to the effecting their
vile practices. Lastly to offer myself unto you in all love & friendship
and to assure you of anything whatsoever my poor credit and endeavor
may afford Think on me as your friend Kinsman and well-willer And
so with my heartiest commendation unto my Lord and yourself from
me and my wife do commit you unto the Almighty Blithfield
this 19 of November

leaf 1 verso