

**Letter from Richard Broughton to Richard Bagot, 1577 May 13: autograph manuscript signed, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.240, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

S<sup>r</sup> I thank you for yo<sup>r</sup> l<sup>r</sup>es, as touchinge 26<sup>s</sup>.8<sup>d</sup>. of Walker I am glad my Partner was so carefull of <sup>so</sup> small thinge, it were pitie But she had com<sup>mandement</sup> ouer greater & then no doubt she wold yeld as good Accompt as is looked for that,: I am glad my lady delyteth to Soiourne so nere that contrey, wherby I may more easilie some tymes waite vpon her la: & haue her good Countenāce in Any reasonable Cause I shall requyre. for your 3 geldings grasse I thinke you shall not fynde it worth so great thankes, for once within seuen yeres I may be quite with you: with greter recompence. Aboutz the end of August I entend to trouble you, for myne owne part not with any great Company, or frendes, my Brother from Cambridge & my Brother here Will I take downe with me, as touching other of my frendes who in good will wold wish and expect to shewe me their good wills in any thinge they may. it standeth thus that aboutz three yeres past comunicacōn of mariage had betwen my father & one m<sup>r</sup> lee of Shropshire, after the same was in maner agreed vpon vpon some vnkindnes betwen m<sup>r</sup> lee and my father, the matter fell to irreuocable cholerik speches & all turned vpside Downe, whereupōn (the occasion almost altogether ministred by my father, who past not what he did to make a Breche) because the same was not giuen ouer, if there grewe mislikings, in as frindly quiet sort as it Began. I toke it in Angriest part of all, & for these two yeres till michelmas last that from the Sea side I came through Shropshire I was not nere my fathers nor these thre yeres sins the Brech sodenly grewe in effect had no great speches with my father, nor neither wrote nor receyued any l<sup>r</sup>e from him, Diuers tymes he hath very fatherly sent his frendes and myne to me, persuinge me not to take it so strangely affirminge that for that place he was occasioned so sodenly for feare of further conclusions to Deale, offringe my present possession of all his inheritance, & him self & my mother & to be as I wold, Although the occasion of Brech being so offred I was not so greatly Discontented therwith, because m<sup>r</sup> lee and his frendes gaue out it was but my slipper deuyse vpon some toy to procure my father to play the part, & that we quickly wold be frendes Agayne, I haue more strangely demeaned my self then I should of very iust occasion, so farre by this long contynuañce that my father beleueth I will neuer be reconciled, within these three dayes there hath bene one with me from my father, wishinge me not to take it so strangely & to do with my fathers liuing my pleasure, I still with dutiefull wordes make small accompt of his liuinge, wishinge him to take the full benefitt of the reuenues thereof, & for my Brother in Cambridge he neded no great exhibicōn for my Brother here I wold contynue the finding of his exhibicōn, for my suster being married she was no charge vnto him, And thus taking small occasion or non at all to write I strangely remayne Whereof he often maketh his moue to others, willing that by all the meanes they can to vse persuasions with me to passe some tyme in that Contrey. But for myne owne part vpon, the first Brech I determyned not to passe any long tyme in those partes till further occasion, & Besides whensoever I should be towardes mariage till it were fynished I resolued that I would not~~neuer~~ make my father & then by consequens not many of my frendes preuy of it. of which mynd for myne owne opinion I contynue, albeit I wey that on thother side vpon such prefixed tyme your frendes will phaps minister priuate speaches why I so strangely on my frendes Behalf do so demeane my Self, & I had rather be fully made reconciled in dutiefull Amitie with my father a moneth after then three monethes before. Neuertheles I am not in this, nor will not in any thinge else, <sup>be</sup> so bent to my will, But if you shall should it more conuenient, I do before fall in full remitter of Amitie, I can for your satisfaccōn demeasne my

self that way. But for myne owne opinion, I still remayne of my first determyned opinion rather a moneth after then two moneths before, & for myne owne part I shall like it best if by my strangenes it fall out in speaches that I ame so strange with my father neuer likely to be in better case. for the state of my fathers liuinge I haue sufficiently alreedy, as by his conueiānce made to me enrolled in the chauncery which I haue left in my tronk in my partners custody you may perceauē. so that if by death my partner should lose her partner I shall prouide for her out of that litle a competēt ptners part. as touchinge my ptners apparell I have sent vnto her the graue determynacōn of a taylor & referr her likinge to her self by your Aduice And her mothers, whose iudgm<sup>t</sup> in those things is better then yours or myne & thus with 1577 comendacons 3. Id. May to your self & m<sup>res</sup> Bagot, my Partners and their susters I comitt you to the tuycōn of thalmighty.

Yours euer as his owne  
Rich Broughton

My frend Raph Edge can tell you all the curr<sup>t</sup> newes & therefore I will not trouble you.

leaf 1 verso