

Copy of an order from the Privy Council to Sir William Ellis, member of the King's Council at York, 1622 July 15: autograph manuscript signed. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS X.d.623, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.

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A letter to the Lord President and Council established in the North Upon Information from diverse Ministers of that Country as also upon Complaint made both to his Majesty and to us of his Council by James Nelson Minister and Parson of Crofton in that County of York: We have taken notice of a strange and disgraceful usage offered to this poor Minister who being before you his Majesty's Council at York by occasion of a Suit depending there, was questioned by Sir William Ellis in the hearing of the whole Court for wearing the hair of his head somewhat longer behind than ordinary, and when the Minister replied that it was by reason of a great hurt not long before received in his head from some that set upon him on the highway to the hazard of his life, which appears to be true and to have been alleged by the Minister for cause of his so wearing it, and not that he had any will to give ill example by it or took any pleasure therein, but only was forced awhile to suffer it for his health sake, yet Sir William Ellis not regarding either the Minister's person his calling or the reason he alleged presently commanded an Officer of the Court to take the Minister and carry him forth to a Barber's Shop and to see his hair cut short, and then to bring him back in to the Court again, which had it been but for the party's health in such a time might have been forborne but being done after such a manner and at such a presence tended not only to the exceeding reproach, and shame of the man being there made a public scorn and laughing stock to all the Court but as it was acted upon a Minister was a kind of despite and scandal to Religion. For this ill carriage Sir William Ellis being by his Majesty's special command called before this Board, though he hath acknowledged the Fact, and confessed the same to be unadvisedly and inconsiderately done. Yet for as much as the disgrace resteth not only upon the person of Nelson, but trencheth to the Scandal of the Ministry, and so requireth a more public satisfaction We have thought meet to address these our letters to your Lordships & to signify unto you, that first we think it fit Sir William Ellis do give the Minister Twenty pounds for his charges in coming hither to London, and do also hold it

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hold it very requisite that at the next general Sessions to

be holden at York these our letters be there publicly read
and that Sir William Ellis do there at the same time
acknowledge this his injury to the party and offense to the
whole Ministry, which we should not have holden sufficient
satisfaction for so foul an abuse and disgrace, if we had
not had respect to the quality and place Sir William Ellis
holdeth in his Majesty's Service there, and also to his great age
and infirmities otherwise. And so praying you to see these
our directions duly performed. We bid &c/

Signed by the

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury

Lord Keeper Lord Chamberlain

Lord Treasurer Lord Viscount Falkland

Lord President Lord Bishop Winchester

Lord Privy Seal Master Secretary Calvert

Lord Steward Master of the Rolls

Sir John Suckling./

leaf 2 verso

A Copy of Sir William
Ellis his order made by
the Lordships of his Majesty's Privy
Council, concerning the
the polling of Mr Nelson
15 July 1622