

Transcription of 2664/3/1B/3

For

y^e very honourable S^r John Talbot at his House in Chittleworth

ffrom Cadez dat S^{br} y^e 18th 1684

In all y^e turns & windings to & agⁿ I have made in y^e floating Habitation there has happened some things of g^t moment, as may, I p^esume, be somew^t worthy communicating; Men of solid Judgments, & of y^e best Understanding will not easily be taken up, & cannot, I know, be acceptably entertain'd wth trivial Things, & Matter only of complement; w^{ch}, indeed, has been y^e main Reason of my deferring This, w^{ch} otherwise, I must acknowledge, had been but my most reasonable Duty before. I question not, Sir, but y^e Honour hath long since heard of y^e great demolishing of y^t very beutifull city Genoua by y^e French, w^{ch} before & since its Defacement, 'twas my fortune to see, &, indeed, as neer as I could guess, they had lay'd ruinate, at least one third of y^e Town; But w^t, besides in y^e first Expedition, has been since done in another, we do not yet hear; but 'tis suppos'd, from y^e insolent pride & pomp on y^e one side, & from y^e honour & great Resolution on y^e other, y^t few blows & little mischief will not end y^e quarrel. As to y^e Spaniards, y^e Honour, I p^esume, cannot be ignorant of y^e affronts they have offer'd to y^e English Nation; but y^e insolent, base & cowardly abuses they have given to our gally fleet, w^t they are, you may not be so well satisfied; twice have we been put from our Anchors, nor will they suffer an English man of war to ride in their Harbours wthout saluting the Flag; besides they affront us in all their Port Towns; & even y^e Merchants y^mselves can have little or no right done y^m. The Algerines have lately 4 or 5 of y^e Portuges's Brazile Fleet bound for Lysbon; there were some Frigots out to convoy y^m, but y^e Alger-cutters were too nimble for y^m. The peace between ffrance & Spain is concluded; but w^t time is allowed for y^e Ratifications we do not know. The Intestine broiles in y^e kingdom of Tunis are reconciled, y^e Brother-competitor for y^t, wth his Army being utterly routed & casheer'd: And here it was indeed (for just after us War was ended, I was travelling to view y^e Ruins of Carthage) y^t was first made truely sensible of y^e most sad & deplorable effects of a Civil War; nor can I reflect upon y^e Lamentation, Woe & misery of y^e Inhabitants (tho' Infidels) but wth y^e greatest horror & comiseration. But y^t w^{ch} more neerly concensus, or Treaty of peace wth y^e King of ffez will not yet take, they demurring at an Article w^{ch} hath relation to y^e redemption of slaves; w^t will be y^e issue, Time must make known: If I am not so large in y^e Particular as I might be, y^e Honour will pardon me, since 'tis because I would not (& especially to a Person who hath so great honour for y^e Sacredness of Government) seem to be too much meddling wth matters relating thereto. Now as to my own particuler condition, tho' Sir John Berry was design'd my Captⁿ, yet I was sent aboard y^e Bonadventure Henery Priestman Captⁿ, & now Comandore of y^e Gally Squadron; A Man of good morals & of y^e wisest Intellectuals, to whom, for my own particuler part, I must needs acknowledge my selfe mightily oblig'd for his singular perfection & Bounty; & in a word, he is a man of very excellent conduct & great Honesty, fit to serve a good King & to have a great comand. Now, to say no more, (for I would not be tedious to men of great sense & business) This, I hope Sir, will find you wth your Honourable ffamily in perfect Health & Happiness, for w^{ch}, as likewise for y^t more durable & infinitely perfect Bliss hereafter, I do, as Duty obligeth me, alwaiss pray, &, wth all, heartily wish I might once be so happy, as to have an opportunity of demonstrating y^e Lord & Honour w^{ch} you truly merit, & would be most cheerfully, tho' could not be sufficiently, payd by him, who is,

Honoured Sir

Ye Honour's most humble
& obedient Servant,
Will Brasier

Pray pardon my presumption in the begging of you y^e Honour of presenting my most humble
& devoted service to y^e most Honourable Lady; to your very worthy son & my most
Honoured friend Mr Sherington Talbot; to Mr Thomas Talbot etc