

Dated approximately by Gray's acknowledgment (2 Sept. 1760) of the anecdote about Sir Walter Raleigh.

[August, 1760.]

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PS. I forgot to tell you the only thing I had worth telling you, that in a pocket-book of Vertue,¹ who you know was a rigid Catholic and who would no more have invented a falsehood on that side, than he could invent, there is an extract from a copy taken by Martin Folkes² of a letter in the possession of the late Duke of Montagu;³ it was to the Duke's ancestor Sir Ralph Winwood⁴ from the Duke of Buckingham,⁵ telling him how important the King⁶ was, and how much he complained that Winwood had not yet disclosed to Gondomar⁷ the purport and design of Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to the West Indies!⁸

From GRAY, Tuesday 2 September 1760

Edited from photostat of the MS at Eton College. It was included in the sale of Gray's papers at Sotheby's 4 Aug. 1854 (lot 258).

1. George Vertue (1684-1756) engraver and antiquary, most of whose notebooks HW had bought in 1758. See *ante* i. 33. The notebook mentioned here cannot be identified in the lists of extant Vertue MSS in the Walpole Society volumes iii and xviii.

2. (1690-1754), numismatist and antiquary; D.C.L.; P.R.S. 1741-53; President of the Society of Antiquaries 1750-4.

3. John Montagu (1690-1749), 2d D. of Montagu.

4. (?1563-1617), of Ditton, Bucks, Kt. 1607; secretary of state 1614-17. His daughter Anne was grandmother of the Duke of Montagu.

5. George Villiers (1592-1628), cr. (1617) E. and (1623) D. of Buckingham; James I's favourite. The letter, dated 28 March 1617, is in *Hist. MSS Comm.* (Buccleuch and Queensberry MSS), i (1899). 189.

6. James I.

7. Diego Sarmiento de Acuña (1567-1626), Conde de Gondomar; Spanish Ambassador to England 1613-18, 1619-22.

8. On 19 March 1616 Raleigh was re-

leased from the Tower to make 'provisions' for his 'intended voyage' to the Orinoco, the stated aim of which was the rediscovery of the Caroni gold mine near San Tomás, which he had failed to chart on his first expedition in 1595. On 28 July 1616 he was officially given a commission to 'command an expedition to South America, for promotion of trade and conversion of the heathen' (*Calendar of State Papers. Domestic, 1611-1618*, pp. 387-8; see also *Acts of the Privy Council. Colonial, 1613-1680*, i. 9-10). In Aug. 1616 Gondomar 'lodged a protest in which he claimed that the whole of Guiana belonged to his master, and also stated his conviction that Raleigh had no intention of confining himself to the Orinoco, but would turn pirate and either seize the Mexico fleet or plunder the towns of the Spanish Main' (V. T. Harlow, *Raleigh's Last Voyage*, 1932, p. 24). Raleigh sailed from Plymouth 12 June 1617. The expedition was a failure, and in the summer of 1618 he returned to England, where, in compliance with the demands of Gondomar, he was beheaded 29 Oct. 1618.