

Thomas Smith (editor)  
Viri clarissimi Gulielmi Camdeni . . . epistolae  
London  
1691

V. CL.  
GULIELMI CAMDENI,  
ET  
ILLUSTRIUM VIRORUM  
AD G. CAMDENUM  
EPISTOLÆ.

.....

Præmittitur  
G. CAMDENI VITA.  
Scriptore THOMA SMITHO S. T. D.  
Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ Presbytero.

LONDINI,  
Impensis RICHARDI CHISWELLI ad Insigne  
Rosæ Coronatæ in Cœmiterio D. Pauli. M DC XCI.

28

XXII.

Gul. Lambardus G. Camdeno.

Pardon, I pray you, Mr. Camden, this breach of my promise, in that I have holden your books some few days above the time in which I promised to return them: the which I have done of no other mind, but only that I might send them safely unto you, as now I doubt not but I shall by the benefit of this an assured Messenger. In the reading of these your painful Topographies, I have been contrarily affected: one way taking singular delight and pleasure in the perusing of them; another way by sorrowing that I may not now, as I wonted, dwell in the meditation of the same things that you are occupied withal. And yet I must confess, That the delectation which I reaped by your Labours, recompensed the grief that I conceived of mine own bereaving from the like: notwithstanding that in times passed I have preferred the reading of Antiquities before any sort of Study that ever I frequented. I thank you therefore most heartily, good Mr. Camden, for the use of these books of yours, since they deliver many things that are not (so far as I know) elsewhere to be had, and the same no less learnedly picked out, than delicately uttered and written. What praise you deserve in all, I can best tell by Kent, wherein (howsoever I have laboured my self) I learn many things by you, that I knew not before.

Your conjecture at the Etymon of the word Cantium is so probable, that you make me now doubt of mine own, which before I took to be most assured: you have so truly, as I think, traced out Leneham, Chilham, and Newendene, by the old Duroloenum, Jul-laber, and Anderida, as I shall for ever hereafter rest in your opinion of them. To be plain, I seem to my self not to have known Kent, till I knew Camden. If you have in purpose to perform the rest, go on boldly, good Mr. Camden; wherein if you shall use the same dexterity that hitherto you have done, (as I fear not but you will) 'Acesii & Heliconis opera dixerim.'

<Erasmus>

Howsoever you shall be minded to do, more or less, defraud not your Country-men of so great a pleasure, nor the Country it self

29

of so great an honour, by forbearing to imprint the same. If I had any thing that might further your Study, I would most willingly impart it: and whether I have or no, I will make your self the

Judge, if it shall like you to come down into Kent, and look amongst my Papers. You may not think that I flatter you, good Mr. Camden, in that which I have spoken in commendation of your labour: for I am far from such clawing of any man: and in token of my sincere heart towards you, and to the end that nothing which I can espy may escape you by over-sight, I will note unto a trifle or twain that I have observed in your Kent, assuring my self that I shall not offend you thereby.

Pag. 2. 'Darentum fluvium obvium habet, qui e Sussexia, &c.' I think that no Head of Darent ariseth in Sussex, but at the furthest in Surrey, about Titsey or Tanridge: unless you mean, under the name Sussex, to comprehend Surrey, as in the Heptarchy we do.

'Warhamus, &c. ut cum H. VIII. commutare necesse habuerit.' The exchange was not made with Warham, but with Cranmer, that succeeded him.

P. 3, & 7. The Shire has two Gaols, whereof the principal is that at Canterbury-Castle.

P. 5. 'Stowre fluvius, qui duobus, &c.' The Heads of Stowre are not in that part which is at this day called the Wealde: although the Wealde of old time was thirty miles broad, and then reached over the whole breadth of the Shire.

This is all that I can quarrel at; and yet have I pried so far as I could: for I reckon not of those things that have escaped him that copied your book, knowing that you will revise that before it pass from you. Thus much I thought to write, as well for testification of my own thankfulness, as for your own encouragement; praying you to bear with this hasty Letter of mine, written in the midst of our preparation for the Countrey-musters, and other Services, that withdraw my mind: the which also have made me forget one thing, that of all the rest I mislike; I mean, the first five lines of your Kent, the which you must moderate or omit, if you will have me think that you deal so plainly with me, as I mean to do with you.

30

And so praying God to bless your good Studies, and eftsoons wishing that you would spend a week at Hallyng with me, I heartily bid you well to fare. 29 July, 1585. from Hallyng.

Yours in the Lord,

William Lambard.

<This is the only letter from William Lambard printed in Smith's collection of Camden's correspondence. (Smith modernized the spelling.) Writing from Halling, 29 July 1585, Lambard is commenting on a copy of the chapter about Kent which was intended to form part of Camden's book (published in 1586). Camden took note of the corrections suggested here; but he did not omit the complimentary remarks at the beginning of the chapter which Lambard protests against. – C.F. May 2010.>