

John Walker (editor)
Letters written by eminent persons in the seventeenth
and eighteenth centuries, 2 vols.
London
1813

LETTERS
WRITTEN
BY EMINENT PERSONS
IN THE
SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES:

...

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II. – PART I.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN, PATER-
NOSTER-ROW; AND MUNDAY AND SLATTER, OXFORD.
1813.

...

59

LETTER CXXXIV.

Dr. JOHN THORPE to T. HEARNE.

Textus Roffensis.

Sir,

I was yesterday at Mr. Barrell's house, at Sutton, near Dartford, and looked upon the "Textus Roffensis." The Title only of the 30th Chap. is in Latin, the Chapter itself is all Saxon. In the margin at the beginning of this Chapter some person has writ the following note: "Habentur fere omnia quæ sub hac rubrica sequuntur in Chronica Jo. Brompton Latine Hist. Angl. Scriptores X col. 852."

Mr. Barrell told me, that being lately with the Dean of Rochester, the Dean seemed apprehensive that publishing the Textus would make the Rochester MS. less valuable, and spoke as if he designed to enter a claim at Stationers' Hall in order to secure to the Dean and Chapter their property in the Copy. To obviate which Mr. Barrell wrote yesterday to the Dean, and acquainted him that it was the opinion of himself, and other Prebendaries, that printing the Textus would no ways lessen the value of their MS. that they were rather desirous that it might come abroad, and as correct and compleat as possible; and that therefore they hoped he would desist from entering any claim as he proposed, and

60

would give leave (if you desired it) either to collate your edition with the MS. or to supply you with any thing out of it that you should have occasion for.

It is hoped that the Dean will acquiesce with this letter. However, as matters stand with us at present, Mr. Barrell advises, if you are desirous of any help from the Rochester MS. that

you would please to write to the Dean for his consent. You may direct to him thus: *To the Revd. Dr. Prat, Dean of Rochester, at Windsor.* We wish your transcript had been a compleat copy of the Textus: to make amends for which deficiency perhaps it may not be improper to print the Heads or Titles of such chapters as are wanting, with references to the Authors or Books where they are already extant in print. If it should be in my power any ways to serve you, I shall be very ready to do it.

I am, Sir,
Your very humble Servt.
Jo. Thorpe.

Rochester, May 17, 1720.

<A letter from Thorpe, replying to a query from Hearne. (The chapter in question is the one which starts on fo. 88r.) Edmund Barrell (d. 1765) was prebendary of Rochester 1705–†; he was also vicar of Sutton-at-Hone 1706–62 and vicar of Boxley 1720–†. Hasted speaks of him as a ‘reverend worthy divine, whose most amiable character endeared him to all who knew him’ (2:367). Samuel Prat (1658–1723), DD, was dean of Rochester 1706–†; he was also a canon of Windsor 1697–† and vicar of Twickenham 1713–† (ODNB). He died and was buried at Windsor. – C.F. March 2012.>