

DU CROS SIMON

LETTER FROM MONSIEUR
DE CROS

Simon Du Cros

Letter from Monsieur de Cros

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Du Cros S.

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Monsieur de Cros
Letter from Monsieur de Cros / (who was
an ambassador at the Treaty of Nimeguen
and a resident at England in K. Charles the
Second's reign) to the Lord –; being an answer
to Sir Wm. Temple's memoirs concerning what
passed from the year 1672 until the year 1679

A LETTER from Mons. *de Cros*, &c

My Lord,

I have been informed of the Calumnies that Sir *W. T.* hath caused to be Printed against me. I know very well that Sir *W.* is of great Worth, and deserves well; and that he hath been a long time employed, and that too upon important occasions; but I am as certain, that he had but a small share in the Secrecy of the late King *Charles's* Designs in the greatest part of the Affairs, for which he was employed, from 72, till 79, which is the main Subject of his Work.

This Consideration alone might not perhaps have given me the curiosity, or at least, any great earnestness to read his Memoirs; and I might have very well judged that I could draw from them no sufficient light and insight for the discovery of so many Intrigues.

Nay besides, I might have doubted whether or no these Memoirs might not have been his own Panegyrick upon himself, and the diminution and undervaluing of the real Worth and Glory of several Persons of Quality, and distinguished by their Merit; whose Fortune and Reputation Sir *W. T.* hath so much envied: for I am particularly acquainted with Sir *W's* Pride. He looks upon himself to have the greatest Reach, to be the wisest and ablest Politician of his Time; and a man may perceive abundance of Satyirical Reflexions scattered here and there in his Work against most illustrious Persons, and that he hath stuffed his Memoirs with his own Praise, and the fond over-weening Opinion he hath of himself.

Without doubt this is quite different from that Sincerity and Modesty which reigns throughout the Memoirs of *Villeroy*, in the Negotiations and Transactions of *Jeanin*, in the Letters of Card. *Dossat*, those mighty and truly eminent Persons, esteemed as such by the greatest Princes of their Age; and even still are to this day, by the ablest Politicians, with much more Justice and Glory than Sir *W's* Book-Seller stiles him, *One of the Greatest Men of this Age*. It had been Sir *W's* duty to have regulated himself according to their most excellent Pattern.

I shall at present only quote one Passage, which I accidentally light on at the first opening his Book, whereby one may easily guess at the greatness of his presumption; in a short time, *My Lord*, I shall give you occasion to observe many others. *The Negotiations*, saith he, *that I managed and transacted at the Hague, at Brussels, at Aix la Chapelle, which saved Flanders from the French Churches, in 68. made People believe I had some Credit and Reputation amongst the Spaniards, as well as in Holland.*

'Twas a Piece of strange Ingratitude of the *Hollanders* and *Spaniards*, as well as of his own dear Country-men, so much concern'd for the preservation of *Flanders*, not to rear him a Statue, which, he saith, some-where else, Mr. *Godolphin* had promised him. Could Sir. *W. T.* have done any thing

to deserve it more; or was there any thing more worthy of Triumph than to have preserved *Flanders*, a Country so important to the *Spaniard*, and the only Bulwark of *Holland* and *England*? But Sir *W.* was apt to believe he could not find any one who was better able to hammer out his own Glory than himself; and he flattered himself with the Opinion that he should erect himself as many Statues, as there are places in his Memoirs, crouded with intolerable and ridiculous Vain-glory.

It was not the Negotiations, my Lord, that Sir *W.* tells us he managed at the *Hague*, *Brussels*, and at *Aix la Chappelle*, which saved *Flanders* from the hands of the *French*, in 1668. The *French* published that they were beholding to the most Christian Kings Moderation for that Peace; who was willing to put a stop to the progress and course of his victorious Arms. But the truth of it is, they most justly ascribed all the Merit, and all the Glory of the Peace, and of the Triple League, to the generous resolution and stedfastness of the States-General. They made use, upon this occasion, of a Minister of State far beyond Sir *W.* in Prudence, Experience, and Capacity, one, who was in the Opinion even of his Enemies, the most able Manager of Affairs of his Age.

I shall not undertake, my Lord, in this place, strictly to examine Sir *W.* *Temple's Memoirs*: I will do it shortly if God spare me with Life; nay, and I promise you a Volume of Remarks, at least, as large as his Book.

If, like him, I had the Vanity to procure the printing of Memoirs, during my life-time, I could now have a fair pretence so to do, and without all question I should publish more just and solid ones than his are. Not, that I have the presumption to judge my self more capable to do it; but, in several places he relates some things falsly, whereof I am much better informed. The only Hero of my piece shall be Truth, without Complaisance or Flattery; without Passion, no not so much as against him: So that I shall do him the satisfaction and kindness to instruct him better, even touching divers Matters, which he performed and executed, without knowing so much as the reason why he was made to act so.

It is not likewise, because I have been one of the Council of the King his Master; yet I have had the Happiness, during some Years, to partake in the Confidence of a Minister of State, who was in several important, weighty Occasions, as it were the *Primum Mobile* of that Conduct and Management that surprized all the World. You know, my Lord, what Credit he had, and of what nature his Intelligences were. Sir *W.* may well imagine that I did not ill improve this able Ministers Confidence, when Sir *W.* tells us, *That I had wholly devoted my self to him.*

Men are not ignorant likewise, that oftentimes I have had some access to the King's Ministers of State, and even near to the King himself; it did more especially appear, in the business for which I took my Journey to *Nimeguen*; and it would be a great shame that a Man *more cunning and subtil than them all*, according to the King's own testimony, as Sir *W.* relates it, should not have had (considering so much freedom of access and easiness) the address and cunning to dive into the most hidden Springs of Deliberations and Resolutions, wherein the *Swede* and my Master had so great an Interest.

Be therefore assured, my Lord, that after my Death, nay perhaps, whilst I am alive, if need require, and if I be obliged thereto, there will appear some Memoirs, which will divulge some Matters the truth whereof is still so carefully concealed, Sir *W.* doth ingeniously confess that hitherto he was ignorant of them; He, who hath so much quickness of Penetration, and seems to make us believe that he was the King his Master's Confident.

You your self, my Lord, have often urged me to acquaint you with such important Secrets, and of such great Consequence; and altho' I could not possibly refuse, upon the account of that honour you do me to afford me any share in your Favours, to let you have a glympse of one part of what pass'd in one of the most important Negotiations of that time; yet you had so much Generosity as not to take the advantage of it you might have done, to the infallible ruine, as was believed, of a Minister whom you take for one of your greatest Enemies; yet on this occasion one could not well lay any thing to his charge, besides his blind obedience to the Will of his Master.

The Truth of it is, I am not obliged to have the same Considerations that with held me at that time, but yet I preserve a profound respect for the Memory of the late King, and also a great respect

for some Persons, who are even at this time of the day so much concerned, that I should hold my tongue, if it were not for that reason, it would be a very easie matter for me, to make appear without any more adoe, how basely Sir *W.* is mistaken in what he delivers concerning divers Negotiations of *England*; and especially concerning my Journey to *Nimeguen*.

My Design is not at all, my Lord, to write you a Letter full of Invectives against Sir *W.* I shall not descend to the Particulars of his Behaviour, and shall tell you no more of them at present, than what is needful to let your self and every body else judge that I have means in my hand to be revenged for the Injury he hath done me.

They will be without doubt more just Invectives, than those that he fills his Book withal. He set upon me first. He writes out of a Spirit of Revenge, with a great deal of Heat and Passion, and like a Man that believ'd himself touch'd and wrong'd to the purpose. As for my part, my Lord, I protest I write to you in cold Blood, I do so much scorn the Injury that Sir *W.* affects to do me, that I should but laugh at it, if my silence was not able to persuade you, and those persons whose esteem of me doth do me so much honour, that I have but small care of my reputation.

Sir *W.* hath shined a long time, 'tis true; but yet he hath borrowed all his Splendour first of all from the protection of a Lord, whom he betray'd at last, of whom he speaks too insolently in his Memoirs and with abundance of Ingratitude; and then again he advanced himself by the protection of certain other persons to whom he was devoted, to the prejudice of his bounden Duty: *He did so well insinuate himself* (that I may make use of the Terms he makes use of in speaking of me) into the Favours and into the Confidence of those, near to whom it was necessary for him to have access, that he might have been in a capacity to render considerable Services to the King his Master, and to his Country, if so be he had made better use of this advantage; but he kept it just after the same manner as he had got it; that is to say, that he often came short of exact Faithfulness and Loyalty, which a Minister of State is obliged to maintain inviolably even in the least Matters, that doth plainly appear in his Memoirs.

The late King of England *perceived* it, and was so far convinced of it, that he never made use of him in the last Commissions he committed to his charge, to the States-General; but only out of Consideration of the Acquaintance he had there, who made people conjecture that Sir *W.* might have some Credit amongst the *Spaniards*, as well as in *Holland*, as he himself assures us he had.

Neither was he employed, but only upon some Occasions, wherein one would not employ a Man who was a Favourite of the Prince, or for whom he had any value, or in whom he might confide; 'tis a Truth owned and confess'd by Sir *W.* himself in his Memoirs; and a Man may judge of it by the so opposite false steps, that he complains, they caused him to make, and by all the things that were done contrary to the Measures that he had taken, just as if the Court had had a mind to expose him.

Besides, the King slighted him after the Peace at *Nimeguen*, and laid him aside, making very little use of him; it was not, what he would make us believe, his love for his own ease, and his Indispositions of body, that made him decline his Employments. Never did Man desire more to have an hand in Affairs; he was removed by reason of the King's secret dissatisfaction at his Services, by that Conduct and Management, which in executing the King's Orders, when they were contrary to his Opinion, and disliking to his Friends, smelt very much like perfidiousness and Treachery, as may principally appear in whatsoever he did for to evade and frustrate the King's Orders, contained in the dispatch I left with him at the *Hague*, to *Nimeguen*, for the conclusion of the Peace, by Order of his Majesty.

It is concerning this business that has made so great a noise for which Sir *W.*

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