

A and by occasion therof were diuers of his next neighbours barnes burnt also. Upon which newes brought vnto hym to the court, he wrote to the lady his wife this letter folowing.

The copy of the letter.

Mistres Alyce, in my most hartly wise, I recommend me to you. And whereas I am enfourmed by my son Heron, of the losse of our barnes and our neighbours also, wth all the cozne that was therein, albeit (sauiug gods pleasure) it is gret pitie of so much good cozne lost, yet sith it hath liked hym to sende vs such a chaunce, we must & are bounden, not only to be content, but also to be glad of his visitacio. He sent vs all that we haue losse: & sith he hath by such a chaunce, taken it away againe, his pleasure be fulfilled. Let vs neuer grudge ther at, but take it in good woꝛth, and hartely thank him, as well foꝛ aduersitie as foꝛ prosperite. And par aduenture we haue moze cause to thank him foꝛ our losse, then foꝛ our winning. Foꝛ his wisdom better seeth what is good foꝛ vs thē we do our selues. Therfoze I pray you be of good chere, & take all the howsold with you to church, and there thanke god, both foꝛ that he hath giuen vs, and foꝛ that he hath taken frō vs, and foꝛ that he hath left vs which if it please hym, he can encrease when he will. And if it please hym to, leaue vs yet lesse, at hys pleasure be it. I praye you to make some good ensearche what my poore neighbours haue losse, and bidde them take no thought therfoze: foꝛ I shold not leaue my self a sponer, there shal no poze neighbour of mine, bere no losse by any chaunce happened in my house. I pray you be with my children & your household merry in god. And deuise some what wth your frendes, what waye wer best to take, foꝛ pꝛouisiō to be made foꝛ cozne foꝛ our household, and foꝛ sede thys yere comming, if ye thinke it good that we kepe the ground still in our handes. And whether ye thinke it good & we so shall do oꝛ not, yet I thinke it were not best sodenlye thus to leaue it all by, & to put away our folk of our farme, till we haue somwhat aduised vs theron. Howbeit if we haue moze nowe then ye shall nede, & which can get thē other maisters ye may then discharge vs of them. But I would not that any man wer sodenly sent away he wote nere wether. At my

coming hither, I perceiued none other, but that I shold tary still with y^e thinges grace. But now I shal (I thinke) because of this chaunce, get leaue this next weke to come home and se you: and then shall we further deupse together vpon all thinges, what order shalbe best to take. And thus as hartely fare you well with all our children as ye can wishe. At Woodstok the thirde daye of September by the hand of.

Your louing husbnde
Thomas Poze knight

Sir Thomas Poze being lord Chancellor of England, gaue ouer that office (by his great sute & labour) the .xvi. day of may, in the yere of our lord god a. 1532. and in the .xxliii. yere of the raigne of king Henry the eight. And after in that somer, he wrote an epitaphy in latin, and caused it to be written byō his tombe of stone, which himself (while he was lord Chāceller) had caused to be made in his parish church of Chelsey (where he dwelled) thre myles frō London. The copye of which epitaphy here foloweth.

Thomas Morus vrbe Londinēsi, familia nō celebri, sed honesta natus, in litteris vtcunq; versat⁹ quū & causas aliquot annos iuuenis egisset in foro, & in vrbe sua pro Shyreuo ius dixisset, ab imictissimo rege Hērico octauo (cui vni regnōmniū gloria prius in audita cōtigat, vt fidei defesor qualē & gladio se & calamo vero prestit, merito vocaretur) adscit⁹ in aulam est, delectusq; in consilium, & creatus eques, pro quaestor primum, post Cancellarius Lancastrie, tandē Anglie miro principis fauore factus est. Sed interim in publico regni senatu lectus est orator populi, preterea legatus Regis nonnuncq; fuit, alias alibi: postremo vero Cameraciacomes & collegaiunctus principi le-

XX.ii. gationis