My very Good Sir,

I am very glad you are safe come into Ireland; But that you should venture to be twice shakain back so upon that rough 
was not in my Command, nor you shall.

My Lo. the Scurvill here are now thinking upon a new Supri 
and they paid to S. Paulus' Chur as soon as ever that is begun. Lo. Deputy shall 
be so of this, and the rest is sent to heart of mine in this first. As for your Money went by old 
man and by my money, I have trusted him both within him, and as soon as your Money went 
by the master. I have paid it, that I can see a Discharge. I will write an Answer to 
my Lo. the best I can with the discretion of Mr. Parnell by your Gentleman.

My Lo. I thank you heartily, for your Letter and present. The salmon 
and the Licks and Rawe is now, But nothing of Herrings not in 
not my wish that they might not send together my same. It will 
and I am most sorry of Herrings are not come, Because then with 
we have here and Starks bought. The salmon by my Licks are so lately 
that I cannot put them in my hands, how they prove. But if they 
let not you suddenly away, you shall have it in a Postcript. Say 
means what he pray to my Lo. Deputy, will he, that 
I am to himself. I am to write to him about his Martinus 
off, but he forgot it. It was y' worst, that ever I tasted. And 
and you tell him of his do take order to send me better, I will 
not believe that there is any good in York ship.

I am very glad to hear, that since my Lo. Priorat had a mis 
chance by his fault, he caught no harm by it. And for y' right of it 
that I sent it to my Lo. Dep. by you, I recur myself, that it will be don 
since Frish. 

Now for your Merry Suite, I may prehence and in earnest, I 
will take my first opportunity, to speak with Mr. G. somewhat about 
off, at what he will say to me. I then come closer to him, as far 
cause. But my mind must, I must desire you to send me present 
word, how I shall be in able for more against him, in case it stand 
out resolubly at me. That y' church of 1. July is with y' Act of 
Dissolution.

I am glad my Lo. is pleased to be so mindful of y' Interest of 
his Brother. I hope they will both durate in the Potterm as here 
shall think them fit for. And I shall concur most willingly 
of it be such, as it may prove them.

Since my Lo. employs you so this upon your return, I shall 
be content, to stay for the Account of Distribution to the Church, 
till by sure will you want to send it me profit. Only could 
be content you would add to every Particular, of y' blank of the 
it was done. Why I think you may easily do so.

I did not think I should have received any News from Ireland 
Concerning Witches. But if my Lo. fall to pursuing of them, I make me 

correct
Dear Sir,

Your kindness in my last to send me so much, makes me wish the farther of that piece. And you may do it any way you please, that when I come to see you for his second 1/2. I will either him to take you, that yourself, and such other English men as are in town, thence. The business of clearing of the papers, &c. Secretary, and such other English as are of the same trade, or in places of importance, may enter into, as well as his. And I hope that it may be well if you will receive me in this manner. I wish you all health.

Yours truly.

W. L. 

17th. 1678.

My very dear friend,

W. Cant.

I sent the letter I have spoken of Dr. Gainer about his Church of St. Paul's, at this time. Obedient, I am in, so that I shall not tell you what he means to do, only, as that he shall be driven to the question, that is fit for him to show for any answer of the present. And that he will not make the rest of the meeting he intends to speak upon, upon that still in Oxford, and is very eager to speak upon it. If you are in the hands of the King, or any person, so that you have it not, I have no means of this, but yet if there be any strong to the effect, that you have it not, I have no means of this, but yet if there be any strong to the effect, that you have it not.
To the Rt. Reverend Father in God my very good Lord and Brother the Lo. Lt. of Derry in Ireland
ENGLAND'S TO IRELAND'S CANTERBURY

LAUD (WILLIAM, 1573-1645, Archbishop of Canterbury) LONG, GOOD-HUMOURED LETTER SIGNED, TO THE BISHOP OF DERRY [JOHN BRAMHALL, STAFFORD'S CHAPLIN, WHO WAS GIVEN THE SOUBRIQUET 'THE IRISH CANTERBURY' BY OLIVER CROMWELL], beginning with an expression of pleasure that Bramhall has returned safely to Ireland, but assuring him that his having been 'beaten backe upon those rough seas' was neither at his 'Command, nor Counsell', thanking him, in a teasing vein, for his 'Letter-Present' of salmon and eels and anticipating the arrival of some promised herings ('...those which we have here are starke naught...'), asking him to convey to Stafford that he has meant to write about his 'Maritainsse Bife', but has forgotten to do so ('...It was ye worst, that ever I tasted. And you may tell him, if he do not take Order to send me better, I will not believe that there's any good in Yorkshire...'), making a very reference to witches in Ireland ('...I did not think I should have received any Newses from Ireland Concerning Witches. But if my Letter fail to Conjuring of them, I make no Doubte, but I shall quickly hear more...'), acknowledging the arrival of moneys brought by Mr Caine but nonetheless dunning Bramhall and Wentworth for increased subscriptions towards his great project of the restoration of St. Paul's ('...you may tell my Lord from me, that when I send to him for his second 1000 I will desire him to take care, that yourself, & such other English men, as are Bishops there...may contribute, as well as his Lordship and I hope there's none of you will refuse me in this Motion...'), sending news about Bramhall's 'Merry Suite' for the 'Church of S. Holy at Holyhead' which Dr Guinne claims as his own and for which he intends to do 'Good Workes' and endow it as well as Jesus College Oxford, which is a Welch Foundation there & needed it, expressing his relief that the Primate of Ireland [Ussher] received no harm from his 'mischance' by his coach ('...And for ye rest, I shall leave it to my Lord[s] Deputy & you, & secure myselfe, that it will bee done streightly...'), concurring with Stafford's mindfulness of the Provost and his brother ('...I hope that they will both deserve such Preferment[en]t, as hee shall thinke them fit for...'), and asking him in due course ('Since my Lord employs you so thick upon your Returne') for an account of the restitutions to the Church in Ireland ('...Only I could be Content, you would add to every Particular ye Yeares of our Lord, in which it was done...'), 2 pages, folio, integral address leaf, seal and seal hole, loss of part of one word of text at hole on vertical fold, laid down on inner margin of address leaf, Lambeth, 17 February 1637/8

William Laud, the Welsie of his Age, was the most powerful man in England during the so-called 'eleven years of tyranny', 1629-1641. His ambition was to effect a 'counter-Reformation' by imposing a Roman Catholic character on the Church of England coupled with clerical domination of the people. Working with Strafford [herein referred to as Strafford throughout, although at the time of this letter he was still Lord Wentworth], his old ally, Lord Deputy of Ireland at the date of this letter, who had by 1639 become the King's chief political adviser in England, Laud's power seemed unassailable. To his opponents Laud was considered the source of the evils in Church and State that Strafford pursued. When the Long Parliament met both Laud and Strafford were impeached. Both were abandoned by the King. Strafford, being the more dangerous in Parliament's view, was tried, found guilty and executed in 1641. Laud was not tried until 1643 and was executed in 1645. His great project of the restoration of St. Paul's, mentioned in this letter, remained half-built and neglected and became a stable for Cromwell's horses before it was destroyed in the Great Fire.

John Bramhall (1594-1663), the recipient of the present letter, met Strafford when he was subdean of Ripon and a prebendary of York Minster and Strafford was President of the Council of the North. He followed Strafford to Ireland where he became his chaplain and Bishop of Derry. He was a hard and bigoted character, not unlike Laud, of mean presence and sharp tongue: but he was a tireless administrator of relentless efficiency, far better qualified to carry out Laud's policy in a backward country than Ussher or Bedell. It was not for nothing that Cromwell called him 'the Irish Canterbury' and the Irish Presbyterians hated him as 'Bishop Bramble'. (H. Treves-Roper, Archbishop Laud, 1965, p. 241). When Strafford was impeached by the English House of Commons, Bramhall was included as a participant in his treason and in 1645 he was excepted with Laud from the proposed general pardon. He fled abroad. After the Restoration he became Archbishop of Armagh.

T.S. Eliot wrote a fine review of Sparrow-Simpson's biography of Bramhall depicting the latter as a great man for his work in reforming and establishing the Irish Church to bring it into conformity with the English Church, but mainly for his controversy with Thomas Hobbes on the freedom of the Will and the relation between Church and State.

This letter links the three main characters in the 'years of tyranny' in both England and Ireland. The body of it could have been written either by Laud's chaplain, Peter Heylin, or his amanuensis, John Birkenhead.

Letters by Laud rarely occur for sale; rarer still are such amiable letters as this one--the familiarity and bantering tone exhibited in this letter were largely reserved for Strafford and Bramhall alone.