To Mr Richard Chamber (sic) in Franckford.
Strasbourgh the 24o of November 1554.

The lorde of heaven blesse you in yo(u)r dooinges to the prayese of his name & comfort of his churche. The same day you departed from hence Mr Heton² receaved l(ett)res from London dated the 17o of this presentes how y(a)t Mr Loke³, Mr Hickman, Thomas Aldersay⁴ wer delyvered owt of prison upon this condicion to put in sewerties for 500 li(bri) a man to make answer to the cowncell any day betwene this & midsummer next: of all such thinges as shall be laide against them. Cardinall Poole is looked for the 18o of this moneth in London; & to receave him at the sea

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¹ This was probably the day after Chambers had left Strasbourg.
³ News of the imprisonment of Thomas Locke and Anthony Hickman was given in Grindal's letter to Cox, 6 Nov 1554, DD/PP/839 37-39.
⁴ Thomas Aldersay [ODNB] probably a relative of John, see Goodman to John Aldersay, 30th September 1554, DD/PP/839 34.
coast Mr Cissill with diverse other are sent in that behalf. Mr Sparke is in the
counter & his wiffe in the flytt, but wherfor I know not the Lord comfort them with
all other his afflicted. Thus for this presentes I commend you to God & for Godes
sake waye those wordes that you & I talked of concerning the Psalmses songe in miter,
which as it seamed to me you cold not alowe to be used in the churche so well as the
texte it selffe. Indeade it must be graunted, that the texte above all things is to be
esteamed, but when a man of God shall other in miter or prose wright or preache upon
any parte of the scripture not dissentinge frome the true sence and meaning thereof, it
owght both to be receaved & allowed. Againe, all Christian churches so are as I have
harde & seene, do use to singe their Psalmses in the same order. Thus as a foole I
wright, but I know you will take all things well. Agayne, for putting in the worde
forme after y(a)t the company had concluded to have it put forthe, if the letters be
not gon: waye it as gods spirite shall move you, & aske also the cowncell of Mr
Grindall, for allthough you of a good mynde towards thalluringe of other to come
thether did put yt in: yet it may turne to a forther inconveniencie. I wright thus
moche because I was in place this daye where this worde forme was talked of,
& one emonge other sayde it was a peace of their cheiffe comynge together. Thus as
one that knowith how you will take my simple writinge I am bolde to utter the thinges

5 Cardinal Reginald Pole's arrival in England was the signal for the formal reconciliation of the
kingdom with the Papacy. William Cecil had been sent to meet Pole as he landed.
6 Mr Spark, draper was arrested in early October 1554, on charges of receiving suspect books from
abroad. Foxe 6, 561.
7 A debate about the use in worship of metrical versions of the psalms seemed to have formed part of a
wide-ranging liturgical discussion which took place in Strasbourg as the result of Chambers visits.
8 Rawlins appeared to be objecting, not to singing the Psalms, but that the metrical versions might
distort the correct sense of the Psalms.
9 'forme' underlined in manuscript here and in the two instances below.
10 This is an interesting charge, that after the Strasbourg exiles had agreed to remove the word 'forme'
from their document and had all signed it, Chambers had re-inserted the word on his own initiative. As
Rawlins pointed out, as well as the implication of bad faith, this might come to haunt Chambers.
Despite the language of deference, this is a severe reprimand. The Strasbourg document was carried by
Chambers and Grindal to Frankfurt and was probably related to the 'Three Questions', Troubles xxiii.
11 Probably a word missing from the manuscript here.
12 'Be' crossed out in manuscript.
I do. And this in my simple & foolish judgement I fear may come of yt, that it may be sayde of you by some particuler man. Suche a daye we wer to treat of matters, & the conclusion being thus, yet Mr Chambers after we all had subscribed our names, put in this worde forme. Thus moche I had in my head when I put it in to tell you, but now comynge to mynde I wright it, knowing you will take it in good part. For this present fare ye well in Christ Jesus, beseeching you to praye for me a poore sinfull wretche. Do my com(m)endacions I pray you to Mr Grindall and I beseeche the Lord of wisdome to give you aboundance of wisdome in the bessines you have in hande. I pray you comend me to my beloved sister Misteris Giblet, Mr Woode, Mr Williams, & my good frend Mr Wallton.

A poore sinfull wretche

Erkynwald Rawlynss

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13 Possibly Mrs Gilby, the wife of Anthony Gilby.
14 Thomas Wood, Garrett, Marian Exiles, 343
15 William Williams, Garrett, Marian Exiles, 335-36.
16 William Walton, Garrett, Marian Exiles, 320.