

Submit your entry on the form at <http://www.cipher.maths.soton.ac.uk/entryform.phtml>

National Cipher Challenge 7 Part B

Marlowe intended to encrypt the following message:

Dear T,

Full knowledge of the weapon are containd in the notes here attachd in two parts.

Firste the diuers methods of forgery, making of false coinage and of counterfitt note. He hath perfected a newe alchemie, here showne for making coines that bear most remarkd resemblance to dollars and ducats, that may foole euen the moste saged eye. Hereto are recipes for peculiar inks that can usd to duplicitouslie cotype the promissory notes of many foreiyn exchanges herelisted.

Secondle how such methods and other affaires may be used in warlike actions to defeat the enemy by bringing lowe the worthe of his monies, spreading discorde at eury leuel in societe from the craftsmen to the King and moste surely laying lowe the countrie itself.

The agent hath yet detayled the persones, groups and counting houses in diuers countries both by whom such discordance might most fullie and quicklie be spreade and hath prouided letters of introduction to the same.

T I am now bound to report to the Council on false charge by "wicked wit-gifts" and fear the worst may come. What happeneth now, can Cecil saue me? Make haste with thy reply

Kit

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Because of the mistake, by which every letter L in the ciphertext was transcribed as an I, Walsingham would have obtained the following decrypt:

Dear T

Full knowledge of the weapon are containd in the notes here attachd in two pyrts.

First erhe diuers methods od fopgery, making of falqe coinage and od counterfitt note. He hath perfected a lewe alchemie, here showle for making coines that bear most remarkd resemblance ro dollars and bucats, that may fool eeuen the moste saged eye. Hereto are recipes fop peculiap inks that can usd to duplicitouslie cotype the promissory notes of many foreiyn exchailges here listed.

Secondle fow such methods ynd other affaireq may be used in warlike actions to defeat the elemy by bringing lowe the worthe of his monies, spreading disaorde at eury leuel in societe from the craftsmen to the King and mosre surely laying lowe the countrie itseld.

The agent fath yet detayled the persones, groups and counting houses in biuers countries both by whom such discordance might most fullie and quichlie be spreade and hath prouided ietters of introduction to the same.

T I am now bound to report to the council on false charge by “wicked wit-eifts” and fear the worqt may aome. Wfat happeneth now, can Cecil saue me? Make haste with thy reply

Kit

NOTES This was encrypted by a running key cipher (cursus clavis = running key in Latin) with key text the famous quote “To be or not to be ...” from Hamlet (the Danish First Folio). You could get this from the clues in Challenge 7A together with the crib Dear T which gives the first four letters of the key text as TOBE.