relates thereunto. It is to entreat him to make an impartial valuation of some lands to a
fitting favourite who was to be the purchaser, and is penn’d in the following words: "I
humbly beseech your lordship to give me leave, and pardon too, if I need it, for the an-
swer of those things which you were lately pleas’d to object against me; and that you
will charitably also consider both of my demands, and of the reasons which embolden me
to make them. Those answers go here, in a paper which is enclosed, apart; and my letter
shall say but thus much, that the gentleman, who is so greatly in favour, hath many fair
fortunes before him, and we, nothing to look for but misery; and that he is better able to
give us above the world of the land, than we in condition to abate any part thereof. And
therefore we humbly beseech your lordship, that your compassion and care of honour, may
be the judge between his prosperous navigation, and our shipwreck; and that your charity
for us, and your desire of satisfaction for him, may equal the balance between us. I hope
so heartily to find all just favour at your hands, as I will venture, upon this, to assure
you, that I will do all my utmost to make my wife and son forget their misery in them-
selves, and to be ever mindful of their duty towards your lordship; to whom I hope they
will be, as I am sure myself have been, and am, a most faithful, humble servant." 4

Besides the ten thousand five hundred pounds which it cost Sir Walter Ralegh to put himself
in equipage for this long-proposed voyage, a much greater sum than would have paid for his
liberty of receding from it, or for a formal pardon, had he thought he needed, and had gone
about to purchase it; there were many co-adventurers, who, by contributions to the expense
thereof, entitled themselves to a share in the returns. But most of these are called by Ralegh
a company of voluntiers, who had never seen the sea nor wars; and, except some forty gentle-
men, a very diffucline, disorderly, and ungovernable crew, "whom their friends thought it an
exceeding good gain to be discharge’d of, at the hazard of some thirty, forty or fifty pounds,
knowing they could not have lived a whole year so cheap at home." 5 There were, moreover,
several merchants, not only in England but foreign parts, who contributed to this Mine-
adventure; so confident were they that it was no chimera, no supposititious or airy treasure that
was promis’d or purlied. One of these merchants, afterwards knighted, and very eminent for
his dealings, was named Peter Vanlore, who was approved of Sir Walter Ralegh’s undertakings,
that he not only sent a letter to his brother Sir Adrian Tobin in Amsterdam, requesting him to
engage another merchant there to communicate something he knew of the riches in Guiana to
Sir Walter Ralegh; but made that request in Ralegh’s own manner of expression, from a copy
which he drew up for him. This draught, as I have it from the said original, is as follows:

Brother Tobin, There is a merchant in Amsterdam, that for the love he bears to my
honourable friend Sir Walter Ralegh, is content to discover some what of importance unto
him in Guiana, to which country Sir Walter Ralegh is now preparing to go; but he doth
require assistance from Sir Walter Ralegh, that he himself may be afford to enjoy such part
of the commodity discovered, as he shall agree upon with Sir Walter Ralegh by his deputy
Mr. Henry Howenar. I do therefore pray you to speak with the party which Mr. Howenar
will bring unto you, and to know what assurances he will require, which to please Sir
Walter, I shall be willing to give; that is to say, to give him assurance that upon Sir
Walter’s return into England, the charges being deducted, the discoverer shall receive from
Sir Walter such part of the said merchandize as Sir Walter and he shall agree on; altho’
there needs no such assurance to be given, for his majesty doth assure all Sir Walter’s
partners by the Great Seal of England, That they shall truly and quietly enjoy all their parts
and shares of what goods, merchandize or treasure forever shall be returned; out of which
Great Seal of England, the discoverer shall have an assignment for so much as belongs unto
him, to be deliver’d here in London, to whomsoever he shall appoint to receive it.” Then
in a new line he concludes thus: “To Mr. Peter Vanlore. This is the letter which I desire
you to write to your brother in Amsterdam; and for any assurance you shall give, I will
again put you in furtives to save you harmfully. W. Ralegh.” 6 This letter is dated July 1,

4 See a Collection of Letters made by Sir Toby Mathews, Nov. 1600, p. 60.
5 No Walter Ralegh’s Apology, p. 4.
6 This copy of a letter for Sir Peter Vanlore to engage a Dutch merchant in Sir Walter Ralegh’s Guiana adventure, from the original draught of Sir Walter’s own hand, in the possession of W. H. Hale, of Alderley-Hall in Cheshire, to whom we are obliged for this communication. And a transcript appears to have been sent according to Sir Walter’s request; for, after his death, his lady having commenced law-hits against the said Vanlore, this copy was produced in court, as appear by the following endorsement upon it: "This letter was thew unto Mathews Pavenour, at the time of his examination, on the part and behalf of Sir Peter Vanlore, but d.”
7 signed, against Dama Elizabeth Ralegh, widow, of Cheshay, 2d June, 1623. Signed Martin Bajoll.