

The Prefatory Epistle of Bernard
Earl of Tresne,
to the noble Doctor and most learned Philosopher
Thomas of Bononia.

My Friend,

If I had any thing more noble, imagine you with what good will I should dedicate it to thee, for having considered the wonderful virtue of this Science in its height, which you are not ignorant of, therefore was I willing to dedicate this my Labour unto thee, intreating thee to accept it with as good a will as I give it unto thee, and conclude that whilst I give thee this my Labour, that I have given a greater Treasure than was ever ordained by the good pleasure of the omnipotent God, according to the course of Nature.

There is a way truly of arriving to an Universal Knowledge, which we commonly call the *Philosophers Stone*, and thou shalt find it in this my little Book¹ (little, I say, in words, but great and high in substance) also it containeth entirely every Science, that is to say, the beginning and ending. Thou shalt find this my Book divided into four parts, and thou mayst judge thereof after thou hast well understood it. *Farewell.*

From *Tresne*, May 12. 1453.

¹Bern. Trevisanus *de Transmutatione Metallorum*, 4 libris, & inpressus est cum Jo. Fr. Pici opere de Auro, Ursellis 1598. 80.

F I N I S.

This Epistle I have caused to be printed, not for the signification thereof either as to quality or quantity, but only to prevent the mistaking the one Epistle for the other; and could I have found more Epistles between these two most excellent Authors, I should not have hesitated their publication, but conclude that they would have been as welcom to our English Philosophers, as any either Ancient or Modern Writers.

Vale. W.C. Bibl.