

---

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 3 January 1576 written by Oxford to Lord Burghley from Siena.

Oxford states that he has given up all hope of preferment by the Queen, and therefore intends to continue his travels.

He has learned that the money from the land he had authorized to be sold in Cornwall has all been paid to his creditors, yet nonetheless the Queen, his sister and other creditors still complain, and he therefore authorizes Lord Burghley to sell a further £100 a year worth of his land to satisfy them.

He also asks Lord Burghley to inquire about the lands in his father's will which are to come to him when certain conditions in the will are satisfied.

He further asks Lord Burghley to discharge his servant, Edward Hubberd, who he has been informed has taken more than he had agreed upon with Oxford.

According to the endorsement, the letter had not reached Lord Burghley until 17 February, via a packet sent to Benedict Spinola.

My Lord, I am sorry to hear how hard my fortune is in England, as I perceive by your Lordship's letters, but knowing how vain a thing it is to linger a necessary mischief, to know the worst of myself & to let your Lordship understand wherein I would use your honourable friendship, in short I have thus determined that whereas I understand the greatness of my debt and greediness of my creditors grows so dishonourable to me and troublesome unto your Lordship that that land of mine which in Cornwall I have appointed to be sold according to that first order for mine expenses in this travel be gone through withal, and to stop my creditors' exclamations, or rather defamations I may call them, I shall desire your Lordship by the virtue of this letter, which doth not err, as I take it, from any former purpose, which was that always upon my letter to authorize your Lordship to sell any portion of my land, that you will sell one hundred pound a year more of my land where your Lordship shall think fittest to disburden me of my debts to her Majesty, my sister, or elsewhere I am exclaimed upon.

LM: (in Lord Burghley's hand) No such authority.

Likewise most earnestly I shall desire your Lordship to look into the lands of my father's will, which my sister being paid and the time expired I take is to come into my hands. And if your Lordship will, for not troubling of yourself too much with my causes, command Lewen, Kelton and mine auditor to make a view into the same, I think it will be the sooner dispatched.

As for Hulbert [=Hubberd?], I pray your Lordship to displace him of his office which I restored unto him before mine auditor on condition he should render it up at all times that I should command. My reason is why I do the same for that he bargained with me in Colne, and trusting him therein, he hath taken more than I meant, and as his own letter which I have sent to my servant Kelton doth show, more than himself did mean, a fit excuse for so cozening a part, and yet though it was more than he meant, whereas it is conditioned that all times he should surrender the same when his money should be offered to him again in compass of certain years, yet in mine absence he hath refused the same, as I understand, whereupon methinketh he deserveth very evil at my hands, and he that in so small a matter doth misuse the trust I have reposed in him, I am to doubt his service in greater causes, wherefore I do again desire your Lordship to discharge him from all dealings of mine, upon his accounts to the rest of my forenamed servants.

In doing these things your Lordship shall greatly pleasure me; in not doing them you shall as much hinder me, for although to depart with land your Lordship hath advised the contrary, and that your Lordship for the good affection you bear unto me could wish it otherwise, yet you see I have none other remedy. I have no help but of mine own, and mine is made, to serve me and myself, not mine.

Whereupon till all such encumbrances be passed over and till I can better settle myself at home I have determined to continue my travel, the which thing in no wise I desire your Lordship to hinder unless you would have it thus, *Ut nulla sit inter nos amicitia*, for having made an end of all hope to help myself by her Majesty's service, considering that my youth is objected unto me and for every step of mine a block is found to be laid in my way, I see it is but vain *calcitrare contra li buoi*, and the worst of things being known, they are the more easier to be provided for, to bear and support them with patience.

Wherefore for things passed amiss, to repent them it is too late; to help them (which I cannot but ease them), that I am determined. Tto hope for anything, I do not, but if anything do happen *preter spem*, I think before that time I must be so old as my sons who shall enjoy them must give the thanks, and I am to content myself according to this English proverb, that it is my hap to starve like the horse whilst the grass doth grow.

Thus, my good Lord, I do boldly write that you should not be ignorant of anything that I do, for if I have reason I make you the judge, and lay myself more open unto you than perhaps if I write [=writ?] fewer lines or penned less store of words [+than?] otherwise I could do, but for that it is not so easy a matter at all times to convey letters from these parties into England, I am therefore the more desirous to use largely this opportunity, and to supply in writing the want of speaking which the long distance between us hath taken away.

Thus I leave your Lordship to the protection of Almighty God, whom I beseech to send you long and happy life, and better fortune to define your felicity in these your aged years than it hath pleased Him to grant in my youth, but of a hard beginning we may hope a good and easy ending.

---

Your Lordship's to command during life, the 3rd of January from Siena.

Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To the right honourable and his singular good Lord, my Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England, give this

Endorsed: 3 January 1575 [=1576], the Earl of Oxford by Mr Spinola's packet, received the 17 of February