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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 3 March 1599 to Oxford from his nephew Robert Bertie, son of Oxford's sister Mary and her husband Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby d'Eresby. The letter may have been an exercise required by Robert Bertie's French tutor, but the fact that it was written to Oxford testifies to the good relations between Oxford and his sister Mary and her family. The English translation below is by Paul Altrocchi, Julia Altrocchi Slatcher, Catherine Pettit and Bret Helvig.

Sir,

I desire greatly to reaffirm the great esteem I have for you, having always been well treated by you. But I have yet to find a subject of sufficient merit to distract you from your more important interests. Thus I have not dared to be bold enough to write you for fear of poor judgment on my part writing letters which don't even deserve to be opened. I do want to assure you of the eternal service I vow to you and your entire family, humbly imploring you, sir, kindly to understand that I am ready to do your bidding with such devotion that I will all of my life be your humble servant and nephew.

Monseigneur,

Je desire infiniment de vous faire paroistre par quelque effect l'honneur que je vous porte, ayant este tousjours bien veu de vous; mais d'autant que je n'ay trouve encores aucun subject assez digne de vous divertir de vos plus serieux affaires, je n'osoy prendre la hardiesse de vous escrire, de peur d'estre trop mal advise de vous importuner de lettres qui ne meriteroyent pas d'estre seulement ouvertes, si non en ce qu'elles vous asseureroient de l'eternelle service que je vous ay voue et a toute vostre maison: vous suppliant tres humblement, Monsieur, de l'avoir pour agreable et de me tenir pour celuy qui est prest de recevoir vos commandemens de telle devotion que je seray toute ma vie vostre tres humble serviteur et neveu.