

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 1 October 1559 from Sir Thomas Smith (1513-1577) to Sir William Cecil. For a letter from John de Vere (1512-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to the Privy Council on the same topic, see TNA SP 12/7/1, ff. 1-2. The Duke of Finland was the future John III of Sweden (1537-1592), who had come to England to negotiate a marriage between his elder brother Eric (1533-1577), later Eric XIV of Sweden, and Queen Elizabeth.

Some sources state that both the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and Lord Robert Dudley (later Earl of Leicester) brought the Duke to London from Colchester. However Leicester's household accounts and the letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and Sir Thomas Smith suggest that Leicester was not involved at this early stage of the Duke's visit. See Adams, Simon, ed., *Household Accounts and Disbursement Books of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, 1558-1561, 1584-1586* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), pp. 100-1, available online:

*John, Duke of Finland (1537-1592), the future John III. His embassy had been announced in July 1559, but he did not arrive in England until early in October, having been expected for some time (see Paget Papers V, fo. 3, Leicester to Sir Henry Paget, 13 Sept. 1559). Leicester and the Earl of Oxford met him at Colchester and escorted him to London, where he arrived on 5 October (Machyn, 214, AMAE, CAP XIII, fo. 325v, Noailles to Francis II, 6 Oct.). Leicester also entertained him at Court on the 19<sup>th</sup> (Machyn, 215). He stayed in England until April 1560. . . . the absence of expenses [in Leicester's household account books] arising from the journey to Colchester is curious.*

From Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn* (London: Camden Society, 1848), pp. 214-15, available online:

*The 5 day of October came to London by Aldgate the Prince of Sweden, and so to Leadenhall, and down Gracious Street corner in a house stood the Lord Marquess of Northampton and my Lord Ambrose Dudley and other gentlemen and ladies, and my Lord of Oxford [+who] brought him from Colchester, and my Lord Robert Dudley, the Master of the Queen's horse, and trumpets blowing in divers places. And they had a great number of gentlemen ride with chains afore them, and after them a 200 of yeomen riding, and so riding over the bridge unto the Bishop of Winchester's place, for it was richly hanged with rich cloth of arras wrought with gold and silver and silk, and there he remaineth.*

*The 12 day of October went by water unto the court the King of Sweden's son and his guard, and there he was honourably received with many honourable men at the hall door where the guard stood in their rich coats unto the Queen's chamber, and there he was received of the Queen's grace, and after he had great cheer as could be had.*

*The 19<sup>th</sup> day of October the prince of Sweden went to the court again, for my Lord Robert Dudley gave him a great banquet.*

For the letter, see also <http://www.sp12.hull.ac.uk/image/image7.htm>.

Sir, to show any more of the contentation of the Duke with all things hitherto, I need not. I assure you, if he were never so great a prince he may be well content with his entertainment here. And I like him better every day because he beginneth more and more to learn our manners, and as we call it merrily in England, to be a good fellow, I mean to leave off his high looks & pontificality.

In anything that is moved as touching these matters, as you perceive by the letters to my Lords of the Council, he answered gently & wisely. Our country he liketh but too well. My Lord [=John de Vere, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford] here omitteth nothing that should be needful or meet for him. I do assure you, I think no man in England either in Queen Mary's time or any other could do so much and so readily with threatenings, imprisonments & pains as my Lord doth here with the love that the gentlemen & the whole country beareth to him, whether the antiquity of his ancestors or his own gentleness or the dexterity of those that be about doth (page torn), or rather all these, I think you could not wish it to be done better.

Marry, for this money for their dollars, seeing they are made bullion, it must needs come hither at the farthest tomorrow. Ye shall, as ye know, pinch the Earl and us all too much else, for ye have not written what valor the true dollar is esteemed at the Mint.

Otherwise for his coming my Lords need take no thought. He liketh his conduction so well that he will now go and tarry even as my Lord willeth, let his halberdiers & guard follow him, & hath with him 8 footmen arrayed in black velvet jerkins after the manner of England, as I perceive some of his hath seen about London, and rideth a faster pace than he was wont to go on hawking. The most care that he hath is for his great horse, and yet I do not doubt we shall learn them to go these small journeys well enough.

Fare you most heartily well. From Colchester the first of October 1559.

Yours at commandment,

T. Smith

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable Sir William Cecil, knight, Chief Secretary to the Queen's Majesty, (2) 1 October 1559, Sir Thomas Smith to Mr Secretary.