

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 4 August 1620, John Chamberlain mentions that Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, is serving under the command of Oxford's first cousin, Sir Horace Vere, and includes verses on the subject. According to *The Complete Peerage*, Henry de Vere was a captain in Sir Horace Vere's regiment in Bohemia in 1620, and a member of the Council of War for the Palatinate. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 314-15.

My very good Lord, upon Dieston's summons I wrote about eight or nine days since, but the wind coming about into a contrary corner, it seems he hath taken some other course, and hath not called for them, nor do I hear what is become of him. Your cousin Rowland Lytton is coming towards you, and perhaps brings this letter, for being presently to go out of town for eight or ten days, I leave it for them that come next. I know he needs no recommendation to you, but that for his father's sake (besides all other respects) you will do him what good you can, and set him in some right way. Sir George Smith, his brother-in-law, is come to a fair preferment (for a man of his rank) to trail a pike in my Lord of Oxford's company, of whom some idle companion hath made a ridiculous rime which goes about, but as I am no author, so I would be no spreader of it but to yourself:

*Some say Sir Edward Cecil can  
Do as much as any man,  
But I say no, for Sir Horace Vere  
Hath carried the Earl of Oxford where  
He neither shall have wine nor whore;  
Now Hercules himself could do no more.*

The King is now at Salisbury, whither the Viscount Haddington is gone to present himself to him tomorrow, the day of his good fate and fortune. All the news we have this progress is that a young gentleman of good sort, one Waldron, was killed by the rise or bound of a buck in the King's presence in a park of the Lord of Hertford's. Sir Thomas Howard's entertainment of the King at a house of his in Wiltshire was much commended and well accepted. There is speech the King will shorten his progress, upon what reason I know not, but that some give out there be at least two or three hundred Jesuits, priests and friars lately come over, and grow so bold that they go up and down in some places in their habits. The Spanish ambassador went yesterday to Hampton Court, where he hath obtained leave to lie and lodge this summer. The fleet of six of the King's ships and fourteen merchants are in a manner ready, and have a meaning (if the weather serve) to pass along in sight of the King when he is at the sea-side. The world will not believe but that their chief errand and employment is to fetch the Infanta. The Earl of Dorset's young and only son died the last week of the measles. The demolishment of the houses about Paul's is threatened every day, but the people either do not or will not seem to believe it, nor do not remove nor avoid, but some make jests as if it were not meant in

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earnest, and one in knavery wrote upon his door *stet quaeso candide lector*. So wishing you all health and happiness, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 1620.

Your Lordship's most assuredly at command,

John Chamberlain

To the right honourable Sir Dudley Carleton, knight, Lord Ambassador for his Majesty with the States of the United Provinces at the Hague.