

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 10 November 1621, John Chamberlain mentions that Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, is to be admiral of a fleet of six of the King's ships and six merchant ships. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 405-7.

My very good Lord, I forebare the last week because here was nothing to write but of my new Lord Mayor's pageants, and the old Mayor's failing, who the night before he should have accompanied his successor to Westminster, did *sgombrare*, conveying all of worth out of his house, and himself with his wife into some secret corner in the country, where ever since he hath played least in sight. He is one of the farmers, and always esteemed a man of great wealth; howsoever, it falls out that he is now *fallito*, and many men like to lose great sums by him. You may guess in what case we are, and how sound at heart (for all our fair shows), when neither Lord Mayor, aldermen, farmers, no, nor whole companies, as the East Indian, Muscovy and others, are not able to hold out and pay their debts, yet as hard as the world goes, here was £30,000 taken up the last week for the Palatinate, furnished by Sir Baptist Hicks, Sir William Cokayne, and Peter van Lore rateably, for which service the last was knighted this day sevenight.

On Sunday in the afternoon the parliament was by proclamation brought back from the 8th of February to the 20th of this present, which though it be very short warning, yet it seems the urgent necessity will admit no longer delay, and then we shall see what those large promises will bring forth *dignum tanto hiatu*. Some relation of the Lord Digby's hath caused this haste, who indeed hath *desengannado el mundo*, and is now as much approved and applauded as he was decried. The King came to town on All-Hallow eve, and the next day the Muscovy ambassador had audience, who brought divers presents of ermines, sables, black fox, Persian carpets wrought with gold, and pieces of cloth of gold and silver, besides a fair Persian tent that was too cumbersome to be carried in show. The ambassador himself is a handsome young man with good and confident behaviour.

The King went away on Tuesday about noon toward Newmarket, so that it is doubtful whether he will be here at the beginning of the parliament, but before his going he absolved the Archbishop of Canterbury *a poena et culpa*, as well from irregularity as scandal. The Commissioners so balanced the matter that they were five to five, the Bishop of Winchester taking part with the four lawyers against the other bishops, and that with so forcible reasons and arguments that it is thought he chiefly brought weight to the business, and swayed it on that side. Yet the elected bishops are so loath to be consecrated by that hand that the Archbishop is fain to depute three bishops (London, Norwich and Ely) to consecrate the Lord Keeper tomorrow at Westminster, and the rest on Sunday after at Paul's, whither the new bishop came yesterday with all solemnity to service before he would lie in the palace.

This week the Lady Cranfield was brought abed of a son, which methinks should make her lord wish with Philip of Macedon that Fortune might temper these favours *aliquo levi infortunio*, for within less than the compass of a year he hath been enriched with a young lady, a son, a barony, and the office of Lord Treasurer, whatsoever he hath had else. The Lord of Oxford is spoken of to be admiral of a fleet preparing of six of the King's ships and six merchants. I pray God it may work better effect and go to a better end than the last. But all this while your commissioners come not, which makes our men think they do but *tergiversari*, and fly the tilt. On Sunday Harman brought me your letter of the 30th of October. So with the remembrance of my best service to my good lady, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this 10th of November, 1621.

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.