

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 5 March 1606 from John Chamberlain to Dudley Carleton mentioning the return to England of Oxford's son-in-law, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Norris of Rycote, who had been seriously ill in Paris for several months. Norris had married Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631), in 1599.

For Lord Norris' illness see also TNA SP 14/15/104, TNA SP 14/19/39, TNA SP 78/52, f. 336, TNA SP 78/52, ff. 342-3 and CP 112/147.

The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 215-6.

Sir, seeing you mean to be here so soon, I will only tell you that I heard not of your letters till Monday night late, and yesterday delivered the enclosed to Sir Walter Cope, who councillor-like gave me audience at a little table, and after the reading delivered this oracle, that he would show it to my Lord of Salisbury. I told him how much you relied upon him both for advice and furtherance. His answer was very laconical, that he thought you took the best course, and that he could do no more but show your letter to my Lord of Salisbury.

I wished you with us on Thursday, that you might have done your young lady mistress (his daughter) some knight-service at a play, where your presence might have excused me of much trouble and some cost, for I was fain all alone to squire her and Sir Rowland's housewives, till I was as weary as they wanton. All the comfort I had was that my Lady Cope said she would not commit her daughter to any man's care but mine, which was enough to make some man proud to have the charge of such a jewel, though he were ne'er the richer nor the wiser for it. I inquired of my Lady Cope of my Lord Norris' coming. She told me she would be as glad to hear of it as anybody, and the sooner the more welcome, and this is all the certainty I can send you. All the little news I had I sent to Master Gent, of whom, if you be there, you may have your part; if upon the way thitherward, it will not be long kept from you. Your brother Williams is well amended, and comes down into the parlour, where you are expected with much devotion. And so in haste, I commit you to God. From London this 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1605 [=1606].

Yours most assuredly,

John Chamberlain

To my assured good friend, Master Dudley Carleton, give these at Ascott.