

SUMMARY: In this letter of 1 November 1573 Walter Devereux, 1st Earl of Essex, writes to Lord Burghley with an offer to contract his son Robert to Lord Burghley's daughter Elizabeth in marriage. Near the end of the letter, Essex expresses confidence that Oxford's marriage to Anne Cecil will eventually bring Burghley 'singular comfort'. The copy printed below is taken from Devereux, Walter Bouchier, *Lives and Letters of the Devereux, Earls of Essex*, vol. I, (London: John Murray, 1843), pp. 43-4.

My very good Lord. Because I have ever found in your Lordship such love and favour towards me as I cannot any way fully requite, I have therefore resolved to make you the offer of the most sufficient pledge of my goodwill, namely of the direction, education, and marriage of mine eldest son, whom if you can like to match with your daughter, I will presently assure him two thousand marks by year in England besides my house, demesnes, and parks. I will give to your Lordship one hundred pounds or two hundred marks by year for his education. I will assure to your daughter five hundred pounds by year in jointure, and upon the marriage depart with a convenient portion for their maintenance during my life. If at years of discretion the match shall not go forward, I will give to the gentlewoman to her marriage two thousand pounds. And thus much in behalf of my son. From myself you shall most assuredly look and ever find as firm and constant friendship as your Lordship shall receive by any other alliance in England, to all which points I gage mine honour and faith, and have testified the like to this bearer to be uttered to your Lordship as I do now also confirm it with my hand & seal. There is equality sufficient in their years, no great distance in neighbourhood between Theobalds and Benington; such an occasion might make me like well of my lands in Essex, where if God send me life I might hereafter show all offices of friendship to the good Countess your daughter, of whose match I mistrust not but your Lordship shall in the end receive singular comfort. Your Lordship seeth how open & plain I am. Use me as it shall please you, and so with my most hearty commendations to my Lady, I take my leave. At Knockfergus the first of November 1573,

At your Lordship's commandment,
Walter Essex.

Addressed: To the right honourable my very good Lord, the Lord High Lord Treasurer of England.

Endorsed: Primo Novembris 1573. Earl Essex. Offer of the Lord Ferrers, his son.