

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 25 June 1586 in which Oxford requests that Lord Burghley temporarily lend him £200 to further a suit to the Queen which he would otherwise have borrowed in London had he not been prevented from leaving the court because his suit was on the point of being granted.

Oxford's suit is not specified, but it seems likely that it was the suit which Oxford was pursuing at the request of purchasers of his lands who required the Queen's permission to repay Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards in order to secure the lands against possible extents by the Queen. For the scheme by the purchasers of Oxford's lands to pay his debt to the Court of Wards, see BL Lansdowne 42/39, ff. 97-8, BL Lansdowne 77/80, and PRO 30/34/14, Item 3, a schedule of recognizances and statutes acknowledged by Oxford in the Court of Chancery from 1571 to 1587 amounting in total to almost £150,000.

My very good Lord. As I have been beholding unto you divers times, & of late by my brother Robert Cecil, whereby I have been the better able to follow my suit wherein I have some comfort at this time from Mr Secretary Walsingham, so am I now bold to crave your Lordship's help at this present, for being now almost at a point to taste that good which her Majesty shall determine, yet am I one that hath long besieged a fort, and not able to compass the end or reap the fruit of his travail, being forced to levy his siege for want of munition. Being therefore thus disfurnished and unprovided to follow her Majesty as I perceive she will look for, I most earnestly desire your Lordship that you will lend me 200 pounds till her Majesty performeth her promise, out of which I shall make my payment, if it please you, with the rest that your Lordship hath at sundry times to my great furtherance and help in my causes sent me by your servant and steward Billet.

I would be loath to have troubled your Lordship with so much if I were not kept here back with this tedious suit from London, where I would have found means to have taken up so much to have served my turn till her Majesty had dispatched me, but for that I dare not (having been here so long, and the matter growing to some conclusion) be absent.

I pray your Lordship bear with me, that at this time wherein I am to set myself in order I do become so troublesome. From the court this morning.

Your Lordship's ever bounden,  
Edward Oxeford

Addressed: To the right honourable and my very good Lord, my Lord Treasurer of England, give these

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Endorsed: [*In Lord Burghley's hand*: 25 Iunij 1586, Earl of Oxford, to borrow £200, whereof I loaned him £100(?)]