

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 10 January 1574 from Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Windsor, to Lord Burghley concerning 'unkindness' he has heard Lord Burghley has conceived against him, perhaps occasioned by the letter and book which he had sent to the Queen on 24 June 1573 (see CP 159/100). The title of the book sent by Lord Windsor to the Queen is not given; however from the statements in the letter below it seems likely that the book was the anonymous *A Treatise of Treasons* (1572), which was highly critical of both Lord Burghley and his brother-in-law, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper. Lord Windsor also complains of Lord Burghley's conduct towards him with respect to a matter in the Court of Wards.

Lord Windsor married Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). For his will, dated 20 December 1572 and proved 25 June 1575, see TNA PROB 11/57/332. For the wills of Katherine (nee de Vere) (1538-1600), Lady Windsor; Frederick Windsor (1559-1585), 4th Lord Windsor; and Henry Windsor (1562-1605), 5th Lord Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/95/237, TNA PROB 11/69/1, and TNA PROB 11/105/359.

According to *The Complete Peerage*, Lord Windsor died at Venice on 24 January 1574/5. For a letter dated 22 January 1575 from Don Cesare Carrafa to Marco Antonio Colonna describing his death and funeral, see Rigg, J.M., ed., *Calendar of State Papers Relating to English Affairs Preserved Principally at Rome in the Vatican Archives and Library*, Vol. II, 1572-1578, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1926), p. 194 at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=92622>.

Right Honourable,

Finding by the report of divers of my friends your Lordship to have conceived great unkindness of(?) my usage of your Lordship, for the which I cannot be but heartily sorry considering the affection & great goodwill I have borne you, & the opinion of your singular wisdom & knowledge above the rest of the greatest part of the nobility made manifest by me unto her Highness & all my honourable friends divers & sundry times, I cannot, I say, but be sorry that your Lordship takes thing[s] at my hands so grievously.

Truly, my Lord, if it be for the book sent unto her Majesty, if you use your accustomed order to all your friends unto me, I trust to satisfy you in reason (which is to weigh and consider the intent & meaning of a man) for me, God I call to witness, I had more respect unto the discharging of a true-meaning subject unto her Highness than any one sparkle of malice or hatred to your Lordship, for to confess the truth I will never blush, I have been greatly beholding unto your Lordship, & therefore bound in courtesy to yield the like; so have I been to my honourable good Lord Keeper, and think myself bound unto both your Lordships by the bands of courtesy over & above the bands of nobility.

For the matter in the Court of Wards, bear with me, my good Lord, if somewhat I deal plainly & not cholericly as I am generally condemned of. My Lord, I have tempered my choler more with phlegm this little time since my departure last out of England than ever I did in my life. I find no horte [=hurt?] in it. God send me grace to do so still, for I most [=must?] confess unto the world it was one of the chiefest causes of my stay for a time out of England. I mean it not, God I take to witness, to you nor any of yours, but I rather feared rather [sic] my hot nature could not have borne such open injuries, and so to have made my case much worse. But my Lord, I cannot deny but I thought great unkindness in your Lordship that I never heard from you by letter nor otherwise before the office was found.

It may be objected unto me that your Lordship thought unkindness in me because I spake not unto your Lordship before my going. My honourable good Lord, I answer it in this sort. I never mean to make any scruple of a thing where there is no doubt. And surely I found always this favour at the hands of my honourable good Lord, the Lord Keeper, he never served subpoena of me but by friendly letter or word, to the which I hope his Lordship will say in my behalf(?) he was without delay honourably answered.

Since the office was found, your Lordship unto my brother, Walter, showed yourself both courteous & honourable, & in a letter sent unto to [sic] the Spa your Lordship also wrote unto me very honourably, and since the hearing of the cause, as I am informed by all mine officers, most justly & courteously, for the which I think myself greatly bound unto your Lordship, for I crave no more at your Lordship's hand than favourable justice according to equity. And my Lord, you shall never find me ungrateful nor slippery. And thus with my hearty commendations I humbly end, craving pardon if I have been tedious. From Venice in haste this 10 of January 1574.

Your Lordship's very friend to command,

Edward Windsor

Endorsed: To the right honourable & my very good Lord, the Lord Treasurer of England, give these. In Londra.

Endorsed: 1573, 10 January, the Lord Windsor from Venice.