

SUMMARY: The excerpt below from the chronicler John Stowe's handwritten memoranda in Lambeth MS 306 describes an intended meeting between Leicester and Queen Elizabeth at Oxford's house at London Stone on 2 April 1566. The extent of the Earl's train and the secrecy of the Queen's departure from Greenwich suggest that the Queen had indicated to Leicester she would marry him at London Stone that day. It appears from Stowe's account that the Earl and his train arrived at the appointed time, but the Queen delayed her arrival until after he had left.

The excerpt is taken from Gairdner, James, ed., *Three Fifteenth-Century Chronicles*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1880), Camden Society, New Series, Vol. 28, p. 137 at:

<https://archive.org/details/threefifteenthce00gairrich/page/136/mode/2up>

Robert, Earl of Leicester, 1566

The 2 of April the Earl of Leicester came to London, being accompanied with lords, knights, the pensioners, and a great number of gentlemen and others, with the Queen's footmen and his own also, all in their rich coats and to the number of 700. He came in at the Temple bar and so through Ludgate, Paul's Churchyard, Cheap, Cornhill, Gracious Street, and then turned down Lombard Street and down St Nicholas' Lane, and so to London Stone to the Earl of Oxford's place in St Swithin's churchyard, where it was appointed that the Queen's Majesty, who had come from Greenwich secretly into Southwark, taking a wherry with one pair of oars for her and two other ladies at St Mary Overies stairs, and so rowed over to the Three Cranes in the Vintry, where she entered a coach covered with blue, and so rode to the same Oxford Place to meet with the said Earl of Leicester, who or [=ere] her Grace's coming was returned with his train through Candlewick Street and East Cheap, and down New Fish Street, over the bridge through Southwark, and so by St George's church toward Greenwich. Not far beyond the said church of St George he stayed till the Queen's Majesty came from the said Oxford Place before-named the same way that she had passed thither till him. She came out of her coach in the highway, and she embraced the Earl, and kissed him thrice, and then they rode together to Greenwich. The same day at night from 7 of the clock till 9 was seen in the element as though the same had opened the breadth of a great sheet, and showed a bright flame of fire and then closed again, and as it were at every minute of an hour to open and close again, the which I, being at the bars without Aldgate, saw plain east, as it were, over the church named Whitechapel. It is said the Earl of Leicester was returned from London Stone before the Queen's Majesty came there, for that she was not come when he came thither.