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SUMMARY: This description of Oxford's valour, honesty, piety, and magnanimity was published 20 years after his death in *Honour in his Perfection* (London, 1624), a work attributed to Gervase Markham.

MN: Edward the 17th Earl of Oxford

Descend but to the noble father of this princely Oxford now living, and you shall find that although the blessed arms of peace in the blessed days of the ever-blessed Elizabeth did so fold and embrace our kingdom about that every valiant arm for want of employment lay, as it were, manacled and fettered from the use of weapon, yet this nobleman breaks off his gyves, and both in Italy, France, and other nations did more honour to the kingdom than all that have travailed since he took his journey to heaven. It were infinite to speak of his infinite expense, the infinite number of his attendants, or the infinite house he kept to feed all people; were his precedent now to be followed by all of his rank, the Pope might hang himself for an English papist, discontentment would not feed our enemies' armies, nor would there be either a gentleman or scholar to make a mass-priest or a Jesuit. That he was upright and honest in all his dealings, the few debts he left behind him to clog his survivors were safe pledges, and that he was holy and religious, the chapels and churches he did frequent, and from whence no occasion could draw him, the alms he gave (which at this day would not only feed the poor, but the great man's family also), and the bounty which religion and learning daily took from him are trumpets so loud that all ears know them, so that I conclude and say of him as the ever-memorable Queen Elizabeth said of Sir Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and after Earl of Devonshire, that he was *honestas, pietas, & magnanimus*. (pp.16-17)