

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 29 April 1620, John Chamberlain mentions that Sir Henry Parker and Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, were beaten by the watch on the night of 14 April for 'ill rule'. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 301-3.

My very good Lord, Martin the post brought your letter of the 15th of this present, by which I am glad to understand that my letters find so ready passage, though for the most part they meet with slow messengers that call for them sometimes a whole week before they mean to be gone.

We have here a great commission come forth for the business of Paul's, comprehending all the council, divers bishops, with the residentiaries of that church, divers aldermen and other citizens, and for want of better, Master Wymark and myself, that am very unfit for any such employment, and I know not how I came in unless it be for my love to the place. The whole number is 66, and the first day of sitting was this day sevenight, when there was little or nothing done but order taken how to proceed. I have not been among them since, so little joy I take in the office. The King is very earnest to set it forward, and they begin hotly, but I doubt when all is done it will prove (as they say) Paul's work. All the commissioners were invited to dine that day with the Lord Mayor, but (because I love not such confusion of company) I went not, yet if I had known we should have met there with such a bride as my Lord Mayor's daughter, married that morning to the Lord Effingham, it might chance have tempted me. I do not greatly allow my Lord Mayor's judgment to purchase so poor honour with the price of his daughter, a handsome young woman (they say), and to bestow her on a man so worn out in state, credit, years and otherwise, but the match may prove reasonable indifferent, for as they can look for little or nothing of him but bare honour, so from her side they are to expect no great matter more than money.

The King is now at Greenwich, where the solemnity of St. George's day was kept on Thursday last. The only thing of note I hear thence is that, it coming to the Marquis Buckingham's turn to be coupled in one mess with the Earl of Rutland, he left him single to himself and consorted with the Earl of Leicester, and yet the opinion is the match must go on with his daughter or else he should do her great wrong, as well in other respects as that she hath condescended so far for his sake and his mother's as to be converted and receive the communion this Easter. The King makes a great supper this night of £400 charge which he lost (I know not upon what wager) to the Prince and some of the tilters on Easter Tuesday. Whether it be at Greenwich or Whitehall (for the more ease of the ladies that are invited) I cannot yet learn. The Prince hath given pensions of late of £100 a year to 18 of his servants and followers, whereof but four English. The Lady Roos is about the town again and lies in Holborn, whither the eagles resort, and on Good Friday night the Earl of Oxford and Sir Harry Parker (the Lord Monteagle's son) for some ill rule

thereabout were well battered and beaten by the watch, specially the Earl, that is scant well yet. The Lord Chamberlain's son was christened by the name of Henry on Wednesday after Easter by the Marquis Hamilton, the Earl of Montgomery, and the old Countess of Pembroke. The weakness and waywardness of the child is such that they thought not good to trouble the King. Indeed they do so tamper with the poor child that they leave little or nothing to nature, but both it and the nurse must do all by the rules of physic, so that they are like to have a baby of their own making. Alderman Bennet (Sir John's brother) died the last week and left a great state of lands and goods. The Lord Chief Justice was married on Wednesday last to the widow Hare (mother-in-law to him that was at Venice), a sober comely woman, and of great means. We have speech of divers barons to be made shortly. In the meantime baronets increase daily in number, but not in reputation. Here is speech that the King of Denmark hath discovered the Northwest passage by the means of an English pilot. Much lifting here is at Master Attorney to remove and place him elsewhere, and divers objections are made upon which he hath been convented before some of the council deputed committees in that cause, but whether he stand fast or no we shall soon see. His friends give out that his greatest fault is that he is not, nor seeks to be, in favour with the favourite. So with the remembrance of my best service to my good lady, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this 29th of April, 1620.

Your Lordship's most assuredly at command,

John Chamberlain

To the right honourable Sir Dudley Carleton, knight, Lord Ambassador for his Majesty with the States of the United Provinces at the Hague.