
SUMMARY: In this letter written from Ascott to Dudley Carleton on 27 September 1608, John Chamberlain mentions the favour shown by Queen Anne to Oxford's former mistress Anne Vavasour, now the mistress of Sir Henry Lee. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 254-57.

Sir, I found your letter at our return from Sir John Dormer's where we had been gossiping a whole week and knew not well how nor when to give you thanks for it, till now that your messenger hath surprised me on the sudden, and comes for an answer just at dinner-time, so that we must be both content for this time with a short pittance. Your brother Williams was here in his return from Idlicote, and says they be all well there, and your two sisters forward for a pilgrimage to St Winifred's well. I had lately a leash of letters from your sister Williams. The chief news was touching the new Lady Sandys, and of the death and will of Will Parker, one of our Paul's walkers. Two days after you went hence I had a letter from Sir Ralph Winwood brought by Master Moore, his man, wherein was nothing of moment but the breaking of the treaty. I have heard once or twice from Sir Henry Fanshawe, who besides the ordinary gazettes sent me this enclosed, and that which was most welcome, two very good melons.

The Queen, before her going out of this country, dined with Sir Henry Lee at his Little Rest, and gave great countenance and had long and large discourse with Mistress Vavasour, and within a day or two after sent a very fair jewel valued above an hundred pound, which favour hath put such new life into the old man, to see his sweetheart so graced, that he says he will have one fling more to the court before he die, though he thought he had taken his leave this summer when he went to present the Prince with an armour that stood him in £200, and within a year or two will serve his turn neither for jest nor earnest.

This place affords nothing else but thanks from Sir Michael Dormer for your good advice about his sheriffwick. My lady and he remember them very kindly to your good lady and yourself, and I must entreat you that I may not be forgotten for all the post-haste. I am yet uncertain when or which way to return to London, for Sir Michael makes me believe he will go about the beginning of the term or presently after, which if he do, I doubt I shall not touch at Sir William Borlase'. Otherwise, if I come alone, I will give you notice either from thence or by other means. And so I commit you to God. From Ascott this 27th of September 1608.

Yours most assuredly,

John Chamberlain

To my assured good friend Master Dudley Carleton, give these at Eton.