

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 4 November 1605 from Dudley Carleton (1574-1632) to John Chamberlain (1553-1628) mentioning that Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, whom Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631), had married in 1599, had recovered from a lengthy illness in Paris, although he was still too weak to travel to London.

For Lord Norris' illness see also TNA SP 14/15/104, TNA SP 14/19/12, TNA SP 14/19/39 and CP 112/147.

The transcript below is taken from Lee, Maurice, ed., *Dudley Carleton to John Chamberlain, 1603-1624; Jacobean Letters*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1972) pp. 69-71.

Sir, my Lord North's departure is sudden, and his stay on the way like to be long, so as I had not written to you at this present but that it [+is] his desire to have somewhat to you.

I know not how soon we shall follow him, for though my Lord Norris have recovered health, he hath yet no more strength than to travel betwixt bed and board, but as soon as we are able, make no doubt that anything can stay us, for we have now no further care than to carry our bodies well home. I will not fail to bring you your satin and some toys from the palace, but you write not whether you would have boys' things or women's things, and therefore am left to my conjecture that your affection is more to the female.

Of the money you have received for me I would desire you to put out £100 where you think best, and for the rest to keep it by you because I know not yet what use I shall have of it. The conversion of our chaplain in Spain will prove very scandalous. I heard not of it but by your letter, yet ever suspected somewhat, since I have news he was gone to study at Salamanca. I forgot to tell you in my last how the Count of Villa Mediana, amongst his other baggage, transported this way a whole cartload of English and Dutch whores, which in my opinion is as needless a commodity to carry into Spain as to send trees to the wood.

Here is arrived a gallant ambassador from Venice, one Pietro Priuli, with a guard of Capellati and many other new fashions. The King is looked for in this town tomorrow. He hath rested himself a week at Fontainebeau after his wars, and hath there framed a severe edict against duels and private quarrels, of which he found store in those remote parts, which is the special *reussite* of this summer's action. The Queen is there great with child. The Duke of Bouillon hath had lately a son, which is his heir, and the Duke of Montpensier a daughter, which is his first, and no small joy where nothing was looked for. Monsieur Plessis [Philippe du Plessis-Mornay] having but one son in the world and no more children, and he a very gallant and accomplished gentleman, hath news sent him that he was slain in the Low Countries at the late enterprise upon Geldern with a shot from the walls. Colonel Dommerville was killed in the defeat you wrote of whe [paper

torn] our English had so great loss. They were both of the religion [Huguenots], and are much lamented of that party. Old Beza died at Geneva the 23 of the last, and amongst many others in this town two brothers, great princes, one in Prussia, the other in Transylvania, died in this time of my Lord Norris's sickness and of his disease. They had all the same physicians, and we are taught *vicino incomodo* to acknowledge God's blessing the more in this happy escape.

I pray you remember my love and service to Sir Rowland Lytton. I write not to him because I hold him not ceremonious, and for news, that which I send to you is understood as well meant to him, and he hath the commodity at a second hand to be troubled with no more than he please.

For our good friend in the Strand [Sir Walter Cope], since I find he makes the countenance of the great man only serve to draw dependence to himself, as to be waited on to his boat and to have intelligence, forsooth, sent him from beyond sea, I shall be hardly brought to comply with him any longer, but leave him to his vanities.

This enclosed to the Bishop of Gloucester hath lain by me a good while, to thank him for former courtesies now I have no more to do with him. I pray you let it be delivered, with this other to my brother, and hearty commendations to all our friends. And so with prayers to God for a merry meeting, I commit you to his holy protection.

Yours most assured,

[Dudley Carleton]