

SUMMARY: On 11 September 1581 Michel de Castelnau, Sieur de Mauvissiere, wrote separate letters to King Henri III and to Queen Catherine de Medici mentioning Oxford's allegations against Lord Henry Howard and Charles Arundel. It is evident from both letters that the conflict between Oxford and Howard and Arundel was far from the most important thing on Mauvissiere's mind. His chief concerns were the imprisonment of the Earl of Morton in Scotland by the young King James, and Queen Elizabeth's demands for the sending of a grand delegation from France to negotiate her marriage with Alencon. Mauvissiere's comments about the latter demonstrate that he had been completely taken in by the Queen, who as history proved, had no intention of marrying Alencon and was merely playing a diplomatic game. This fact has a significant bearing on Mauvissiere's comments about Oxford's revelations about Howard and Arundel. His letters make it clear that Mauvissiere conceived of himself as playing an instrumental role in negotiating a historic marriage. Since Oxford's revelations about Howard and Arundel's traitorous activities jeopardized both the proposed marriage and Mauvissiere's own role in this grand enterprise, he had nothing but criticism for Oxford. For Mauvissiere's letter of 11 September 1581 to Queen Catherine de Medici, see BN 15973, ff. 392v-394.

[f. 387v]

Trois cent quatorziesme depesche du XI<sup>me</sup> Jour de Janvier 1581

Three hundred fourteenth despatch of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January 1581

[f. 388]

1 Au Roy

To the King

2 Sire Jay receu Nouuelles descosse en dilligence comme Monsieur le  
Sire I have received news from Scotland in haste how Monsieur the

3 prince du pais vostre nepueu et cousin avec laduis de son conseil  
Prince of the country, your nephew and cousin also, with the advice of his Council,

4 estant a lisle bourg le dernier Jour du Mois passe et a la fin  
being at Edinburgh the last day of the past month and at the end

5 de lannee enuiron les quatres heures Du soir auoit fait  
of the year around four oclock at night had caused

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

6 prendre prisonnier le Comte de Morton et vn sien parent  
the Earl of Morton to be imprisoned and a relative of his

7 auquel Il auoit toute fiance apelle le sieur theusbal Duglace  
to whom he was wholly allied named Sir Theobald Douglas

8 qui auoit espouse la seur du feu comte de Bodouel mere  
who had married the sister of the late Earl of Bothwell, mother

9 du Jeune comte de bodouel qui est auiourdhuy en france pour  
of the young Earl of Bothwell who is today in France to

10 aprendre la langue francoise et Il y a quelque temps fut  
learn the French language and some time ago was

11 fait conte de bodouel a la sollicitation dudict morton lequel  
made Earl of Bothwell at the entreaty of the said Morton, who

12 estant prins fut Mene par derriere les Murailles de la ville  
being a prince was conveyed behind the walls of the city

13 au chasteau dudict Lisle bourg ou Il est estroitement  
to the castle of the said Edinburgh where he is strictly

14 detenu et garde les causes de son en prisonnement  
detained and guarded. The reasons for his imprisonment

15 seront volontiers fondee sur beaucoup de particularitez  
will be readily justified upon many particulars

16 reseruee audict sieur prince descosse et a sondict conseil tel comme Il  
reserved to the said Lord Prince of Scotland and his said Council, such as it

17 est auiourdhuy qui Ne ce sont Jamais geurres contentez des  
is today, who were never very satisfied with the

18 Deportemens actions et gouvernement dudict comte de Morton  
deportment, actions, and government of the said Earl of Morton,

19 lequel a tousiours este Meilleur anglois quescossois et du tout  
who has always been a better Englishman than Scot and in everything(?)

20 este contraire a lamitie et aux alliances de france avec lescocce  
has been contrary to the friendship and to the alliances of France with Scotland.

21 Il a este aussi durant son gouvernement et reigence

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

He has been also, during his government and regency,

22 vn grand exacteur sur les peuples escossois et en a tire tout  
a great extortioner upon the Scottish people, and has gotten from them everything

23 ce quil a peu en les escorchant plustost que de les tondre  
that he can, fleecing them of it rather than shearing them,

24 et plusieurs ce sont esmerueillez Sire comme Je lay  
and many are amazed, Sire, as I have

25 souuant Mande a vostre Majeste quil soit eschappe et  
often informed your Majesty, that he should have escaped and

26 demeure sy long temps sans estre paye et auoir  
lived so long without being paid and having

27 la resconpense des gouuernemens et reigence descosse  
the reward of the government and regency of Scotland,

[f. 388v]

1 Dont presque tous ont fait vne mauuaise fin et sont  
of which almost all have made a bad end, and are

2 Mortz avec violance par les Mains du peuple et de la  
dead with violence by the hands of the people and of the

3 noblesse ou par la Justice ou autrement cestuy cy Il y a  
nobility, whether by justice or otherwise.

4 long temps cest bien doubte dauoir ce salaire de ses  
It was long expected [+that] this man would have the reward of his

5 predecesseurs tant dauant [Isabelle has darant] quil laissast la reigence  
predecessors, so much that before he would have given up the regency,

6 Deslors que le petit prince accepta le gouuernement  
Since the little Prince accepted the government

7 et fut declare Maieur quil fist connoistre audict morton  
and was declared of age, that he made the said Morton to know

8 que tout lescosse ny luy avec pour son peu daage  
that all Scotland, nor he also, for his youth,

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

9 Nestoient pas satisfaitz de son gouvernement et depuis  
were not satisfied with his government, and since

10 ce temps la Il a eu assez d'affaire [Isabelle has d'affaires] a ce conseruer et  
that time he has had enough to do(?) to preserve himself, and

11 quelque fois faict deliberation de ce retirer en angleterre,  
has sometimes considered retiring to England,

12 en almaine ou a Genefue pour y [Isabelle has cy] viure avec seurete [Isabelle has  
secrète]  
to Germany or to Geneva in order to live there with safety,

13 Mesmement nayant Jamais peu trauer ser ny rompre  
likewise never having been able to cross nor break

14 la fortune Ny le credit de Monsieur [Isabelle has Monseigneur] daubigny a present  
the fortune nor credit of Monsieur d' Aubigny, now

15 Comte de Lenox [Isabelle has Levoy] quil Nayt tousiours gouuerne et eu [Isabelle has  
en]  
Earl of Lennox, whom he could not always govern, and [+who] had

16 le coeur de ce Jeune prince et eu [Isabelle has en] plusieurs grans  
the heart of the young Prince, and had many great

17 amys depuis quil est en escosse ledict comte de  
friends since his coming to Scotland. The said Earl of

18 Morton a tousiours eu diuerses praticques estant  
Morton has always had divers practices, it being

19 celuy qui a fait bannir les ampletons et confisquer  
he who banished the Hamiltons and confiscated

20 tous leurs biens cest aussi celluy que la  
all their property. He it is also whom the

21 Royne descosse vostre belle seur dit luy auoir  
Queen of Scotland, your sister-in-law, says has brought about

22 aporte tout son Malheur et ennuy et auoir  
all her unhappiness and trouble, and has

23 este cause de toute son Infortune et desastre

been the cause of all her misfortune and disaster,

24 pour lauoir rhuynee en toutes choses ce quelle a  
for having ruined her in all things, that which she has

25 souuant escript a la Royne dangleterre et a Moy avec depuis que  
often written to the Queen of England, and to me also since

26 Je suis en ceste charge lappellant le plus grand traistre et  
I came to this charge, calling him the greatest traitor and

27 le plus meschant homme et desloyal qui viue auourd'hui  
the most wicked and disloyal man alive today,

28 escriuant a ladicte Royne dangleterre auoir ceste ferme esperance que  
writing to the said Queen of England to have this firm hope, that

29 dieu la vengeroit dun sy meschant subiect en suppliant  
God will avenge her upon so wicked a subject, entreating

[f. 389]

1 a ladicte dame Ne luy donner faueur Ny ade [sic] ny ce fier de luy disant  
the said Lady not to give him favour nor aid, nor to trust him, saying

2 quelle ne tenoit la vye et la personne de son filz asseurez entre les  
that she does not hold the life and person of her son safe in the

3 Mains [Isabelle has mais] Dun tel ennemy de la mere du pere et de lenfant Mais ladicte  
hands of such an enemy of the mother, the father, and the child. But the said

4 Royne Dangleterre sen est seruie comme dune longue possession tant  
Queen of England has used him as of a long possession(?), so

5 quelle a peu audict escosse pour estre plus asseuree de luy que  
that she has been able in the said Scotland to be more assured of him than

6 de Nul autre et pour y Maintenir les choses a sa deuotion comme aussy  
of any other, and to maintain things there at her devotion, as also

7 cestoit toute lesperance dudict morton dauoir sa derniere retraite en ce Royaume  
it was all the hope of the said Morton to have his last retreat in this realm,

8 et a la faueur dy estre secouru en quelque temps que ce fust  
and by(?) [+that] favour to be protected there in time to come.

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

9 Mais Il y a quelque Jours et enuiron vn Moys et demy  
But it has been(?) several days and about a month and a half

10 que ladicte Royne dangleterre Na pas eu beaucoup de satisfaction de  
that the said Queen of England has not had much satisfaction from

11 Monsieur [Isabelle has Monseigneur] le prince descosse ny de tout son Conseil pour  
ce quelle  
Monsieur, the Prince of Scotland, nor of all his Council for that which she

12 a voulu faire traiter pardela pour Maintenir ledict Morton  
has wished to treat there(?) in order to maintain the said Morton

13 en credit et pour bon seruiteur conseiller et subiect dudict sieur  
in credit and for a good servant, counsellor, and subject of the said Lord

14 prince en voullant faire accuser Monsieur [Isabelle has Monseigneur] daubigny  
comme  
Prince, in wishing to accuse Monsieur d' Aubigny, as

15 luy Mesme le ma escript en presence dudict prince  
he himself wrote me, in the presence of the said Prince

16 et de tout son conseil dauoir voulu apporter Nouelite  
and all his Council of having wished to bring about novelty

17 en la religion et alteration entre langleterre et lescosse et y fut  
in religion and alteration between England and Scotland. And there was

18 pour cest effect envoue dIcy Il y a peu vng ambassadeur  
for this purpose sent from here a little while ago an ambassador

19 appelle le sieur robert bans lequel Ne peult estre receu ny  
named Sir Robert Barnes, who could not be received nor

20 ouy comme Il desiroit [Isabelle has desvait] aux accusations quil auoit a proposer  
heard, as he wished, to the accusations which he had to propose

21 contre ledict sieur daubigny que ce Ne fust en sa presence pour  
against the said Lord d' Aubigny, which(?) would not be in his presence in order

22 luy respondre et sen Justiffier occasion pourquoy  
to respond to him and to justify himself, [+which is] the reason why

23 ledict robert bans sen retourna sans rien faire ny vouloir

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

the said Robert Barnes returned without having done anything, nor wished

24 Dire ce quil auoit en charge dequoy ladicte Royne dangleterre a eu  
to say what he had in charge, with which the said Queen of England has had

25 assez de Malcontentement de voir que ledict prince descosse  
discontent enough, to see that the said Prince of Scotland

26 sen veult faire croyre et en aura encores beaucoup dauantage  
wishes to make(?) to believe it, and will still have much advantage

27 de la prinse dudict Morton qui cest croyable na este  
from the Prince of the said Morton, which is credible, not having been

28 Mis prisonnier pour le laisser sortir Ce Matin Ladicte  
taken prisoner in order to let him go. This morning the said

29 Royne dangleterre a enuoye en dilligence le sieur de Randel,  
Queen of England has sent Lord Randolph in haste,

30 et croy que le Milord de Housdon partira bien tost  
and I believe that Lord Hunsdon will leave soon

31 pour aller a baruicq [Isabelle has Barnicq] dont Il est gouuerneur  
to go to Barwick, of which he is governor,

[f. 389v]

1 et ce tenir la et aux frontieres descosse sIl y auoit quelque  
and to stay there and at the borders of Scotland, if there were some

2 affaire ou traiter [Isabelle has traité] de quelque Moyens et accord pour ledict  
business, or to treat of some means and arrangement for the said

3 Morton et voyla comme les choses passent jusques a present  
Morton. And you see how things proceed just now,

4 Sire et de ce qui suruiendra de plus Jen aduertiray vostre  
Sire, and of that which will occur more I will advise your

5 Majeste et enuoyray audict escosse et auray tousiours loeil  
Majesty of it, and I will send to the said Scotland and I will have always an eye

6 aux affaires de dela pour tout ce qui touchera vostre seruice  
to affairs from there(?) for all that which will concern your service,

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights  
Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

7 lequel Ne Ira que Mieulx quant ledict Morton et tous ceulx  
which cannot but go better when the said Morton and all those

8 de sa faction en seront hors Je nobmettray aussy a dire  
of his faction will be out. I will not omit also to say

9 a Vostre Majeste que Il y a quelques Jours et ses festes  
to your Majesty that, several days ago and in the

10 De Noel que le Conte Dauxfort lequel auoit fait Il  
Christmas holidays, that the Earl of Oxford, who had made

11 y a enuiron quatre ans et demy a son retour d'Italie  
about four and a half years ago at his return from Italy

12 proffession de la religion Catholicque avec quelques  
profession of the Catholic religion with some

13 gentilhommes de ses parens et meilleurs amys  
gentlemen of his relatives and best friends,

14 et Jure comme Il dit et signe avec eulx quilz feroient  
and sworn, as he says, and signed with them that they would do

15 tout ce quilz pourroyent pour l'aduancement de la religion  
all that they were able for the advancement of the Catholic religion,

16 Catholicque Il les a accusez a la Roynes d'Angleterre vostre  
he has accused them to the Queen of England, your

17 bonne seur et pour sa part Il a demande pardon disant  
good sister, and for his part he has asked pardon, saying

18 quil voyoit bien auoir mal fait et a voulu charger  
that he well sees to have done ill, and has wished to charge

19 sur ceulx qui l'auoient plus ayme et deffendu et  
upon(?) those who have most loved and defended him, and

20 voulu accompagner en ses dernieres querelles [Isabelle has grubelleries] Il a dit  
wished to accompany [+him] in his latest quarrels. He has said

21 quilz [Isabelle has qu'il] auoient [Isabelle has avoit] conspire contre lestat en faisant  
profession  
that they had conspired against the state in making profession

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights  
Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

22 De ladicte religion Catholicque et a chercher de leur faire tout  
of the said Catholic religion, and has sought to do them all

23 le Mal quil a peu penser ce qui a fort fasche  
the harm that he has been able to conceive, which has extremely displeased

24 ladicte Royne vostre bonne seur car elle estoit  
the said Lady Queen, your good sister, because she was

25 Merueilleusement affectionnee et faisoit beaucoup de  
marvellously affectioned, and has done much

26 faueur a la plus part de ceulx que a accusez ledict  
favour, to the most part of those whom the said

27 Comte Dauxfort comme au Milord Henry de  
Earl of Oxford has accused, as to my Lord Henry

28 Havvard frère du feu duc de Norfoc au sieur  
Howard, brother of the late Duke of Norfolk, Lord

29 Charles arondel grandement affectionnez a voz Majestez  
Charles Arundel, greatly affectioned to your Majesties

[f. 390]

1 et a Monseigneur vostre frère en estant de bons solliciteurs pour le  
and to Monsieur, your brother, in being good solicitors for the

2 mariage dont Ilz recepuoient beaucoup De bonnes chères pour faire en cela  
marriage, of which they received many good cheers(?) for doing that

3 chose qui plaisoit a ladicte dame laquelle toutefois a este avec  
thing which pleased the said Lady, who nevertheless has been, with

4 son grand regret comme elle Mesme le Ma dit contrainte de  
her great regret, as she herself has told me, constrained to

5 les faire Mettre en garde entre les Mains de quelques conseillers  
cause them to be put under guard in the hands of some of her Councillors,

6 a scauoir le mylord de Henry entre les mains du chancelier  
namely, my Lord Henry in the hands of the Chancellor,

7 et le sieur Charles arondel entre les Mains du sieur de Haton  
and Lord Charles Arundel in the hands of Lord Hatton,

8 Cappitaine de la garde et le sieur Saudouel [Isabelle has Faudouel] entre les Mains  
Captain of the Guard, and Lord Southwell in the hands

9 du sieur de vvalsingham [Isabel has Walsinghain] ayant este Interogez pour ce  
of Lord Walsingham. Having been interrogated for that

10 que ledict Comte dauxford les auoit accusez contre lestat  
which the said Earl of Oxford had accused them against the state,

11 Ils sen purgent tresbien et pour ce qui seroit de la religion  
they clear(?) themselves of it very well, and for that which was of the

12 Catholicque Ilz sont [Isabelle has ont] bien congnoz pour y auoir  
Catholic religion, they are well known to have

13 tousiours este fort affectionnez et Nen auoir point eu  
always been very affectioned there, and not to have had

14 Dautre en leurs cœurs comme Nont la plus grand part  
any(?) other [+thing] at all in their hearts, as have not the greatest part of

15 de la Noblesse de ce Royaume ce que ladicte [Isabelle has la] Royne vostre  
the nobility of this realm, that which the said Lady, your

16 bonne soeur connoist et que lesdicts Milord de Havvart,  
good sister, knows, and that the said my Lord of Howard,

17 Arandel et Saudouel estant [Isabelle has estans] Catholicques daffection,  
Arundel, and Southwell, being Catholic of affection,

18 estoient Neantmoins estimez et fauorisez de ladicte Royne  
were nevertheless esteemed and favoured of the said Lady,

19 vostre bonne seur a loccasion que eulx et leurs  
your good sister, for(?) the reason that they and their

20 amys ont tousiours este pour ledict Mariage et pour  
friends have always been for the said marriage and for

21 lalliance de france ledict Comte dauxford ce trouue  
the alliance with France. The said Earl of Oxford finds himself

22 tout seul tesmoin et accusateur ayant perdu le

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

sole witness and accuser, having lost

23 credit et lhonneur estant habandonne de tous  
credit and honour, being abandoned of all

24 ses amys et de toutes les dames pour en auoir  
his friends and of all the ladies for having

25 encores voulu toucher quelques vnes en ce cy  
again wished to touch some in this(?)

26 des plus favorables a Monseigneur vostre  
of the most favourable to Monsieur, your

27 frère et ce trouve avec tant de honte et  
brother, and the said Earl finds himself with so much disgrace and

28 de regret ledict comte quil en pert toute  
regret that he has lost all

[f. 390v]

1 contenance et Nul ne fait cas de luy toutefois ladicte Royne  
countenance, and no-one esteems of him. Nevertheless, the said Queen

2 a essaye Jusques a ceste heure den tirer tout ce quelle  
has tried until this hour to elicit from it all that she

3 pourroit Mais elle ma dit ses Jours quelle voyoit bien que  
was able. But she told me these days(?) that she saw well that

4 cestoient des foulz et que cestoient des praticques qui  
they were madmen, and that there were practices which

5 venoient de loing dequoy elle auoit beaucoup de regret  
came from afar, of which she has great regret,

6 dy voir Mesler ceux qui estoient sy bien affectionnez a la  
to see mixed up there those who were so well affectioned to

7 france et sy fauorables au Mariage mais  
France and so favourable to the marriage, but

8 quencores quil ce trouuast quelque mal en eux elle  
that again that [+if] some wrong were found in them, she

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

9 fermeroit les yeux le plus quelle pourroit pour ce [Isabelle has le]  
would close her eyes the most that she was able for this

10 respect quilz estoient amys dudict Mariage estant  
respect, that they were friends of the said marriage, being

11 bien Marrye de telz accidans en ce temps Icy  
well grieved with such incidents in these times here.

12 ledict sieur [Isabelle omits sieur] Comte dauxfort a requis a ladicte Royne  
The said Earl of Oxford asked the said Queen,

13 et cest Mis a genoulx plusieurs foys pour la  
and knelt down several times to

14 supplier voyant quil Ne pouuoit auoir autre tesmoingnage  
beseech her, seeing that he was not able to have other testimony

15 que le sien de me prier luy dire et scauoir de moy  
than his own, to pray me to tell him and to know of me

16 sy Je Nauois pas congneu Il y a enuiron quatre ans  
if I had not known about four years ago

17 vn Jesuiste qui leur auoit dit la Messe et les auoit  
a Jesuit who had said Mass for them and who had

18 reduitz a lesglise romaine et le quel Jauois [Isabelle has s'avoit] fait  
reduced them to the Roman church, and whom I had

19 sauuer en France a la requeste Mesme dudict comte dauxfort  
delivered to France at the request of the same said Earl of Oxford,

20 dequoy ladicte Royne ma Instanmant pryé de luy  
of which the said Queen earnestly prayed me

21 dire ce qui en estoit Non tant pour leur faire mal  
to tell her what it was about, not so much to do them ill

22 que pour en scauoir la verite Me disant que  
as to know the truth of it, telling me that

23 Je pouuois bien scauoir quelle elle estoit enuers  
I could well know what she was towards

24 les Catholicques qui ne Mestoient leurs consciences  
the Catholics who did not place their consciences

25 avec lestat et ma fait grande Instance et prières  
against the state, and made me a great entreaty and prayers

26 de scauoyr de Moy telle chose Je luy ay du  
to know of me such a thing. I had to

27 tout Nye ne scauoir que cestoit ny nen auoir  
deny everything to him, nor to know what it was about, nor to have ever

[f. 391]

1 Jamays ouy parler Ny rien sceu quoy voyant ledict Comte Dauxfort  
heard speak of it, or known anything, seeing which, the said Earl of Oxford

2 cest encores venu Jecter a Jenoux dauant elle la suppliant en ma presence  
again came to throw [+himself] on [+his] knees before her, beseeching her in my  
presence

3 De Me prier de luy en dire la verite et Me supplioit de lautre  
to pray me to tell her the truth of it, and beseeching me on the other

4 part que Je luy fisse ceste grace De me souuenir de chose  
part that I would do him this grace to remember a thing

5 qui luy Inportoit tant que celle la et comme Il Mauoit enuoye  
which was of such importance to him as that, and as he had sent me

6 prier et requerir De faire [Isabelle has sa] sauuer [Isabelle has faueur] en france et en  
Itallye  
to pray and request to deliver to France and Italy

7 Ledict [Isabelle has les] Jesuiste [Isabelle has Jesuistes] et lors [Isabelle has ors] quil fut  
en seurete Il Men remercia  
the said Jesuit. and then, when(?) he was in safety, he thanked me for it.

8 Je luy ay dict Nectement et a ladicte Royne que Je nen scauois rien  
I told him flatly. and the said Queen. that I knew nothing of it.

9 et que Je nauois connoissance ny memoyre De telle chose de sorte quen  
and that I had neither knowledge nor memory of such a thing. so that in

10 La presence de sa maistresse Ledict comte cest trouue bien confus Depuis

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights  
Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

the presence of his mistress the said Earl found himself quite confused. Since

11 Il ma encores recherche et supplie de luy faire ceste faueur de me  
he again sought and entreated me to do him this favour to

12 souuenir De ce que Jen scauois Je luy ay coupé la broche que  
remember that which I knew nothing of, I cut the knot(?), [+saying] that

13 Je nen auois point De Memoire en le priant de ne Me parler  
I had no memory of it at all, praying him not to speak to me

14 plus De telle chose et bien estonne Me dist que si Jeusse  
more of such a thing. And truly amazed, he told me that if I had

15 voulu Je Leusse tire dvne grand peine mais Il ne consideroit  
wished I could have saved him from a great difficulty. But he did not consider

16 pas celle ou Il vouloit Mettre ceux qui auoient este ses  
where he wished to put those who had been his

17 amys Ne leur faisant pas tour de compaignon sll est vray quilz  
friends, not doing them the turn of a companion if it is true that they

18 eussent fait vne Mesme profession de religion ensemble  
made a like profession of religion together,

19 comme Il peult estre [Isabelle has este] et dauantage Je les ay tousiours connuz  
as it could be. And more, I have always known them

20 affectionnez a vostre Majeste et a Monseigneur vostre frere et sont des  
affectioned to your Majesty, and to Monsieur, your brother, and they are

21 mieulx aliez en ce Royaume Il Ny a pas aparance quilz  
the best allied in the realm. It does not appear that they

22 ayent ny peine ny ennuy [Isabelle has enemy] De telle accusations dudict comte  
would have any difficulty or trouble with such accusations of the said Earl

23 dauxfort auquel en Demeurera toute la honte et nul ne  
of Oxford, on whom remains all the disgrace, and no-one

24 ce fira [Isabelle has fera] Jamays en luy Il a peu auoir quelque Jalousie  
will ever trust him. He must have had some jealousy

25 deux pour estre fauorisez parlant du Mariage et aussi  
of them for being favoured, speaking of the marriage, and also

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

26 que ce Voyant grandement en Debte de tous costez et  
that, seeing himself greatly indebted on all sides, and

27 Vendu beaucoup De ses biens comme Il en vent encores  
he has sold much of his property, as he sells it still

28 tous les Jours et homme De peu de consideration en toutes  
every day, and [+is] a man of little consideration in all

29 ses affections et tout ce quil entreprend Il pensoit  
his affections and all that he undertakes, he thought

30 auoir de la faueur par Vn moyen qui luy aporte  
to have favour by a means which has brought him

31 tresgrand Dishonneur et ceulx quil a accusez ont plus  
very great dishonour, and those whom he has accused have more

[f. 391v]

1 Damys que luy et dentendement pour leur conduire [Isabelle has conduite] et deffendre  
friends than he, and of understanding how to guide and defend them

2 de ses accusations sans autre tesmognage que le sien aucuns  
from his accusations without other testimony than his own. Some

3 ont estime et pensent que ledict comte dauxfort a este  
have considered and think that the said Earl of Oxford has been

4 suseite par les ennemys du Mariage pour fascher tous  
stirred up by the enemies of the marriage to vex all

5 ceux qui en sont amys et que quelques vns estrangers  
those who are friends of it, and that some strangers

6 qui sont en ce Royaume de la faction espagnolle ce  
who are in this realm of the Spanish faction

7 sont Ioinctz avec luy gaignant ledict Comte dauxfort pour  
are joined with him, gaining the said Earl of Oxford to

8 faire ceste menee comme Ilz font ce quilz peuuent pour trauer ser  
make this intrigue as they do that which they can to cross

9 les amys et seruiteurs De la france et qui en desirent  
the friends and servants of France and [+those] who desire

10 lamitie et lalliance et y ont fait comme leur reste estimant [Isabelle has suivant]  
friendship and alliance with it(?), and have made there their object, believing

11 que cest le bien et lhonneur et seurete De leur Royne  
that it is the good and honour and safety of their Queen

12 et De langleterre et que ladicte Dame Ne pourroit quant elle  
and of England, and that the said lady would not be able when she

13 voudroit trouuer Moyen pour eschapper le Mariage  
wished to find a means to escape from the marriage

14 sans sa [Isabelle has la] rhuynes et [Isabelle has en] grand deshonneur ou rechercher  
lamitie  
without her ruin and great dishonour, or to seek again the friendship

15 Despaigne contre laquelle elle a eu tant dalteration  
of Spain against which she has had such alteration

16 Jusques a present comme les effect [sic?] lont Monstre ayant tousiours  
until now, as the result[s] have demonstrated, having always

17 creint [Isabelle has creut] de traicter librement avec vous de peur que Ne eussiez  
feared to treat freely with you for fear that you would have

18 plus daffection a Lespaigne qua Langleterre mais elle  
more affection to Spain than to England. But she

19 a perdu ceste oppinion Je la [Isabelle has le] vis encore hier Sire,  
has lost that opinion. I saw her again yesterday, Sire,

20 ou elle Me Dist et pria De lescire en dilligence a vostre  
when she told me and prayed [+me] to write it in haste to your

21 Majeste que sur le raport que luy auoit fait le sieur de Stafford  
Majesty that, upon the report which Lord Stafford had made to her

22 de voz bonnes voluntes et De celle de Monseigneur vostre frere  
of your goodwill and of that of Monsieur, your brother,

23 denuoyer les Commissaires elle auoit resolu et arreste  
to send your commissioners, she had resolved and delayed

24 De tenir son parlement qui commenceroit le xvime de ce  
to hold her parliament which would commence the 16<sup>th</sup> of this

25 Moys et dureroit Jusques a la fin et dit que de le  
month and would last until the end, and said that

26 prolonger ou continuer plus longuement ce seroit trop de Despence  
to prolong or continue longer would be too much expense

27 et de mecontentement au Royaume et que cela Ne ce pourroit  
and discontent to the realm, and that that could not be

28 commodement faire parquoy elle remectoit en voz Majestez  
conveniently done because she trusts in your Majesties

29 Denuoyer vozdicts [Isabelle omits dictis] Commissaires le plustost quil seroit possible  
to send your said commissioners the soonest that it will be possible,

[f.392]

1 disant que pour sa part elle auoit fait tout son debuoir mais quelle  
saying that, for her part, she had done all her devoir, but that she

2 vous supplioit encores Daffection et de bon coeur sy vous laymiez  
besought you again for affection and good heart if you love her

3 et la vouliez estimer quelque chose et digne Destre vostre belle  
and wish to esteem her somewhat(?), and worthy to be your sister-in-law,

4 seur que vous luy faciez le plus grand honneur que vous  
that you would do her the greatest honour that you

5 pourrez par voz commissaires et accompagner le Jeune  
are able by your commissioners, and to accompany the young

6 prince De vostre sang que vous auez Nomme de seigneurs  
prince of your blood whom you have named with lords

7 De Maison et callitez honorables de plus grandes maisons  
of the house and honourable quality of the greatest houses

8 de vostre royaume et quil y en ayt de vieulx pour rescompenser  
of your realm, and that there be older men to compensate

9 le peu Daage des Jeunes affin de Nauoir Moins dhonneur

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

the young age of the youth, in order not to have less honour

10 que la Royne marie sa seur vers laquelle comme elle Mauoit dit auparauant  
than Queen Marie, her sister, towards whom, as she had told me earlier,

11 et comme Je le vous ay escript lempereur Charles auoit enuoye  
and as I have written to you, the Emperor Charles had sent

12 Les cinq premiers qui fussent pres De luy et vn de ses  
the five [+most] senior men who were near him, and one of his

13 secretaires Destat et cest Mise a faire de grands discours  
secretaries of state, and made great discourses

14 que ce seroit vostre honneur celluy de Monseigneur vostre frere  
that it would be [+to] your honour, that of Monsieur, your brother,

15 et le sien autrement lon diroit que ce seroit vn mespris  
and her own. Otherwise people would say that it would be a contempt

16 delle et Jeu Denfans et de Mocquerie puis elle ma Dit  
of her and a child's game and mockery. Then she told me

17 que ledict empereur fist encores faire vne visite a sadiete  
that the said Emperor again made a visit to his said

18 seur ou estoit Monsieur de Scauoye vn duc et deux  
sister where was Monsieur de Savoy, a duke, and two

19 Comtes et en après elle ma dit quelle me prioit  
earls. And after she told me that she prayed me

20 de Ne vous Nommer ny prescrire personne en particulier  
not to name nor prescribe to you anyone in particular

21 De sa part dautant que cela Ne Luy seroit pas honorable  
for her part, seeing that that would not be honourable to her,

22 ny bien seant den faire election ny choix et dy requerir  
nor well befitting, to make election or choice, and to ask

23 dauantage de vostre Majeste que Lhonneur commun de tous en  
more of your Majesty than the common honour of all in

24 telle aliance et vous remonstrer ce qui luy inportoit plus  
such an alliance, and to show you again that which is of more importance to her

Transcript and translation copyright ©2005 Patricia Poullain and Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

25 que lon Ne pence affin de rendre La chose plus  
than one would think in order to render the thing more

26 honorable tant pour le present que pour lauenir et  
honourable, so much for the present as for the future, and

27 que cestoit tout ce quelle en pourroit dire dequoy  
that it was all that she could say about it, about(?) which

28 elle auoit honte et dy estre contrainte pour la  
she was embarrassed, and to be constrained to it for the

29 reputation et le contentement de ses subiectz et de  
reputation and the contentment of her subjects, and of

30 toute la Noblesse de son royaume qui seroit  
all the nobility of her realm which would be

[f. 392v]

31 assemblee a ses estatz ou seulement Ilz Ne consideroient point  
assembled in her estates, where only they did not esteem at all

32 Les affaires qui seroient a traiter avec la france bien  
[+that] the matters which would be treated with France

33 tost paracheuees mais les callitez de ceulx qui seroient  
[+should be] soon finished, but the quality of those who would be

34 enuoyez par voz Majestez pour lhonorer seulement qui est  
sent by your Majesties for honour only, which is

35 la seule chose quelle desire en ceste affaire [Isabelle has estre a faire] comme  
the only thing that she desires in this affair, as

36 elle dit auoir escript le Mesme a son ambassadeur  
she says to have written the like to her ambassador

37 pour le dire a vostre Majeste qui considerera le surplus  
to tell it to your Majesty, who will consider the rest,

38 et que ledict parlement a este arreste de tenir seulement  
and that the holding of(? the said parliament has been delayed only

39 sur le raport qua fait ledict sieur de Staffort de  
upon the report which has been made by the said Lord Stafford of

40 la venue de Voz commissaires que lon attent  
the coming of your commissioners, whom people await

41 Dheure a autre et Je suppliray dieu etc  
from one hour to the next. And I beseech God, etc.