
SUMMARY: In this letter dated 19 March 1583 to Lord Burghley, Sir Christopher Hatton suggests that the prospects of Oxford's reconciliation to the Queen are perhaps better than Leicester had indicated to Lord Burghley on the previous day (see BL Add. 15891, ff. 55-55v). Hatton adds that he has received a 'very wise letter in this case of his' from Oxford, possibly on the subject of the accusations made by Thomas Knyvet and his men. Oxford's letter has unfortunately not survived. The transcript below is taken from Nicolas, Sir Harris, *Memoirs of the Life and Times of Sir Christopher Hatton* (London: Richard Bentley, 1847), pp.326-7. Dr. Alan Nelson states that the original cannot be traced.

I most humbly thank your Lordship for your honourable advertisement touching the coming in of this great personage. Her Majesty deferreth all her direction for order to receive him until she be more fully informed both of his quality and occasion of access. She seemeth to doubt that he departeth from his prince as a man in displeasure because in one sentence of his letter to her Majesty he calleth her the refuge of the disconsolate and afflicted etc. Worth, my man that brought these letters, is not here, neither do I know where to find him, so I know not how to learn what information I might give the Queen in this matter. Only I must stay until the return of my Lord of Leicester, and then I hope her Majesty will resolve.

Her Majesty accepteth in most gracious and good kind part the offer of your Lordship's house, unto the which (although yet she will give us no order to lay in her provisions), I assuredly think she will come in the Easter week, but as I learn the more certainty, so will I readily advertise your good Lordship.

My Lord of Oxford's cause standeth but in slow course of proceeding to his satisfaction, but yet for my own part I have some better hope than heretofore, wherein as a preservative you must all use patience for a while. His Lordship wrote to me a very wise letter in this case of his, the report whereof her Majesty took in reasonable good gracious part. By the next messenger I will briefly write . . . the answer.

I pray God bless your Lordship with all his heavenly graces. Haste, from the court at Richmond this 19th of March 1582 [=1583].

Your good Lordship's most bounden,
Christopher Hatton