

SUMMARY: In this letter dated 18 March 1583 to Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Burghley intimates that he has heard from Leicester that Oxford is not to be reinstated in the Queen's favour ('a divers answer to my expectation for my Lord of Oxford'). The transcript below is taken from Nicolas, Sir Harris, *Memoirs of the Life and Times of Sir Christopher Hatton* (London: Richard Bentley, 1847), pp.325-6.

Sir, upon my Lord of Leicester's speeches with me this day of some things, I have thought meet to write to you my mind thereof, only to remit the use of them to your own consideration. I perceive that a Count of Polonia named the Palatine Laski is either arrived, or shortly will, at Harwich to come to her Majesty, and if he be the very Count Palatine of that house of Laski, he is a personage of great estimation such as few are subjects to any monarch in Christendom, few in the Empire of the greatest exceeding him in sovereignty and power, and he is also one that, as I find by late observations since this King Stephanus' reign hath carried great authority, and before his time, in the interreign, none that had greater than he but only the great Palatine of Lineland. This I write unto you, wishing that her Majesty might please to command some nobleman in Essex, as my Lord Rich or Lord Darcy, with the attendance of some gentlemen to conduct him to the city, where it were good he had some lodging on the water-side, as Baynard's Castle, whereunto my Lord of Leicester doth assent. But you may say *actum ego*, for this and more is foreseen, yet, sir, I pray you mislike not a poor remembrancer.

Another matter is that I find by my Lord of Leicester that her Majesty hath a disposition to leave her own stately palaces, and to vouchsafe to survey my poor house after Easter, which I am sure, if it had sense as the master hath, would stoop down with so much pride to be possessed of her Majesty as hereafter it would scanty know the master. I confess it is my comfort to have anything that may like her Majesty, but in very truth I know there is nothing worthy of her steps but only the goodwill of the owner, who will yield both soil, house and all appurtenances to be serviceable to her Majesty. And lastly, my grief is that neither my health and strength nor my wife's presence can serve to supply the wants that will be there, but they must be all covered with the serenity of her Majesty's countenance.

A last matter whereof my Lord spake was a divers answer to my expectation for my Lord of Oxford, whose infortunes increase my wife's griefs and mine more than I will mention because I see not the way to remedy them otherwise than by continuing in the beaten heavy ways of forced patience.

And now I end my scribbling with my hearty commendations. From my house in Westminster the 18th of March 1582 [=1583].

Yours assured at commandment,
W. Burghley