

**SUMMARY:** The document below is a copy of a letter dated 5 October 1595 written to Oxford by King Henri IV, who had been crowned King of France on 27 February 1594. Oxford may have met the future Henri IV when he visited the French court on his continental tour in 1575-6. The letter mentions services Oxford had previously rendered on the King's behalf, but it is not known what these services might have been.

Similar letters were sent by Henri IV on the same date to Robert Devereux (1565-1601), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex, to William Cecil (1520/1-1598), Lord Burghley, and to the Lord Admiral, Charles Howard (1536-1624). These letters have not been transcribed below.

The background to Antoine de Lomenie's embassy in England in October 1595 is given in Birch, Thomas, *Memoirs of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth*, Vol. I, (London: A. Millar, 1754), p. 327 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=fiBEAAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA327&lpg=PA327&dq=%22Queen+Elizabeth%22+%22Lomenie%22&source=bl&ots=RedDhAW86S&sig=YMPKXkxRdEyg0y4rWqjE43qGR1M&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjN-qLfhs7UAhUD3mMKHbK4BUQQ6AEIIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Queen%20Elizabeth%22%20%22Lomenie%22&f=false>

*Monsieur de Lomenie, secretary of Henry IV's chamber, was now return'd to France from England, whither he had been sent by that king to queen Elizabeth, at the same time that Sir Roger Williams went back to England, in the beginning of October, 1595. The substance of his message was to let the queen understand, that the king had obtained his absolution; that there were deputed to him four cardinals to give it him in a solemn manner; but their chief errand was to draw him to a peace with Spain, and unite against all, who were divided from the church. That his majesty was assured to receive for himself honourable conditions; but knowing, that he should be sollicited to separate himself from the queen and the States General, he desired to be enabled by a common concurrence of both their forces, that he might not be compell'd to such a peace, as willingly he would not make, but such, as might comprehend them all in such terms, as, holding always together, they might be a balance against the Spanish greatness. That if her majesty refused him this, he must provide for himself as he might. These letters being deliver'd with very stout speeches, greatly offended the queen, who lov'd not to be terrified; and Monsieur de Lomenie was dispatch'd without any hope of obtaining relief from England. The king had likewise advertis'd her, that if she was not well inform'd of the preparations and intentions against her, she was abus'd or betray'd; which being taken by some as meant to themselves, had moved the more choler . . . .*

See also Tindal, N., trans., *The History of England*, Vol. VII, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., (London: T. Osborne et al, 1757), p. 540 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=CcxfAAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA540&lpg=PA540&dq=%22Camden%22+%22Lomenie%22&source=bl&ots=4W2BbauGUa&sig=YiCu3-28JBy6PlmUvLpkGc->

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BvCk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjCk6iBr8\_UAhUD62MKHd47BNEQ6AEIIjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Camden%22%20%22Lomenie%22&f=false.

See also Sutton, Dana, ‘William Camden, *Annales Rerum Gestarum Angliae et Hiberniae Regnante Elizabetha* (1615 and 1625)’, *The Philological Museum*, at:

<http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/camden/1595e.html>

*In the middest of these troubles Lomeney poasted hither out of France, and though hee concealed not that Cambray was taken, yet did he urge that some auxiliary companies might forthwith be sent over into Picardy, and afterward that some Commissioners might bee appointed to treat about the manner of the warre. Which when it seemed both to the Queene and her Councell preposterous, he growing impatient, imputed the losse of Cambray to the Queene, saying now and then that shee joyed in the Kings misery, and thereby would drive him to make peace in all haste with the Spaniard. She answered him ex tempore to his face, and shortly after by letters, and by Sir Thomas Edmonds, who then bare the place of an Embassadour, that she tooke it very heavily that Cambray was lost, but more heavily that the losse thereof was imputed to her by Lomeney because succours were not sent out of England. Shee shewed that they could not be sent by reason of the straightnesse of time; neither was it any point of wisdome to oppose them against the enemies triumphing army (the French having beene once or twice defeated), lest shee might be thought altogether to neglect the safety of her people. And so farre was shee from rejoicing at the Kings misery, and driving him thereby to make peace with the common enemy, that neither the King himselfe, nor any other, could so much as have any suspicion thereof, if he would call to minde what offices of amity shee had performed toward him. She promised him from thenceforth all helpe and assistance that she was able to yeeld him, considering that they were tossed as it were in one and the same shippe.*

For the letter, see also Clark, Eva Lee Turner, *Hidden Allusions in Shakespeare's Plays* (New York: Kennikat Press, 1974), pp. 131-2.

#### Letter from the King to Monsieur, the Great Chamberlain of England

Monsieur Great Chamberlain, I send you this word by Lomenie, whom I am despatching to the Queen, my good sister, about matters which concern her welfare and mine, to inform you of the contentment I have derived from the good offices you have rendered on my behalf with her, which I beg you to continue, and to believe that I will always be most happy to reciprocate in whatever I can do for your particular satisfaction, as I have charged the said de Lomenie to tell you, whom I pray you to believe as you would myself. I pray God to have you, Monsieur Great Chamberlain, in his keeping. This 5<sup>th</sup> of October at Paris. Signed: Henry. And the above has been written to Monsieur, the Great Chamberlain of England.

## Lettre du Roy à Monsieur Le Grand Chamblellan d'Angleterre

Monsieur le Grand Chambellan, Jevous faire(?) ce mot par Lomenie que j'envoie vers la Royne ma bonne soeur pour les affaires qui concernent le bien de ses affaires et les miennes, pour vous faire sauoir le contentement que j'ay des bons offices quevous m'avés rendu auprès d'Elle, lesquels je vous prie de continuer et croire que j'aurai toujours fort agréable de m'en revancher et ce qui s'offrira pour vôtre satisfaction particulière, ainsi que j'ai chargé ledit de Lomenie de vous dire, lequel je vous prie croire comme moi même, qui prie Dieu vous auoir Monsieur Le Grand Chambellan en sa garde. Ce 5 Octobre a Paris. Signé Henry. et au dessus est ecrit a Monsieur le Grand Chambellan d'Angleterre