
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 24 November 1569 from Oxford to Sir William Cecil written while Oxford was still a ward. Oxford refers to a recent illness as well as to Cecil's recent displeasure with him, and requests Cecil's assistance in obtaining licence for him to be called to military service, likely the 3rd Earl of Sussex' expedition to Scotland in connection with the Northern Rebellion.

For the warrant dated 30 March 1570 stating that Oxford had been granted permission by the Queen to join Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, in the north of England, see TNA SP 15/19/37, f. 88.

Sir. Although my hap hath been so hard that it hath visited me of late with sickness, yet thanks be to God, through the looking to which I have had by your care had over me, I find my health restored and myself double beholding unto you, both for that and many good turns which I have received before of your part, for the which, although I have found you to not account of late of me as in time tofore, yet notwithstanding that strangeness, you shall see at last in me that I will acknowledge and not be ungrateful unto you for them, and not to deserve so ill a thought in you that they were ill bestowed in me, but at this present desiring you, if I have done anything amiss that I have merited your offence, impute to my young years and lack of experience to know my friends.

And at this time I am bold to desire your favour and friendship, that you will suffer me to be employed by your means and help in this service that now is in hand, whereby I shall think myself the most bound unto you of any man in this court, and hereafter ye shall command me as any of your own.

Having no other means whereby to speak with you myself, I am bold to impart my mind in paper, earnestly desiring your Lordship that, at this instant, as heretofore you have given me your good word to have me see the wars and services in strange and foreign places, sith you could not then obtain me licence of the Queen's Majesty, now you will do me so much honour as that, by your purchase of my licence, I may be called to the service of my prince and country, as at this present troublous time a number are.

Thus leaving to importunate you with my earnest suit, I commit you to the hands of the Almighty.

By your assured friend this 24th of November,
Edward Oxenford

Addressed: To the right honourable and his singular good friend, Sir William Cecil, Secretary and Master of the Wards, give these.

Endorsed: 24 November 1569, th' Earl of Oxford to my master. [*In another later(?) hand*: Desires him to procure leave from the Queen for him to go & serve her & his country in the wars.]