
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter written by Oxford on 22 September 1572, requesting Lord Burghley to obtain him an opportunity to serve the Queen, either at home or abroad, but preferably at sea or on the sea-coast.

Square brackets in the transcript below indicate the loss of several words in two lines of text on the left side of the letter, firstly due to a hole in the manuscript, and secondly because a few words in both lines immediately following the hole have faded to illegibility. The address on the dorse has also been partly lost due to a hole in the manuscript.

My Lord, I received your letters when I rather looked to have seen yourself here than to have heard from you, but sith it is so that your Lordship is otherwise affaired with the business of the commonwealth than to be disposed to recreate yourself and repose ye among your own, yet we do hope after this, you having had so great a care of the Queen's Majesty's service, you will begin to have some respect of your own health, and take a pleasure to dwell where you have taken pain to build.

My wife, whom I thought should have taken her leave of you, if your Lordship had come, till you would have otherwise commanded, is departed unto the country this day. Myself, as fast as I can get me out of town, do follow.

Where [] be any way employed, I am content and desirous [] whereby I may show myself dutiful to her. Otherwise, if it were [] that respect, I think there is more trouble than credit to be gotten in such governments. If there were any service to be done abroad, I had rather serve there than at home, where yet some honour were to be gotten. If there be any setting forth to sea, to which service I bear most affection, I shall desire your Lordship to give me and get me that favour and credit that I might make one, which, if there be no such intention, then I shall be most willing to be employed on the sea-coasts, to be in a readiness with my countryman against any invasion.

Thus recommending myself to your good Lordship, I commit you to God. From London, this 22nd of September.

By your Lordship's to command,
Edward Oxenford

Addressed: [] singular good Lord, the Lord Burghley and Lord Treasurer of England, give these at the court.

Endorsed: (illegible) The Earl of Oxford [to my Lord?]. [*In another later hand*: Desires his Lordship to procure him some employment in the Queen's service, but especially, which he chiefly bends to, at sea.]