

SUMMARY: The document below is a copy of a letter written by Lord Burghley to Oxford, apparently on 1 January 1577, requesting a meeting with him. For the circumstances which gave rise to this letter, see Dr Richard Masters' letter of 7 March 1575 to Lord Burghley concerning Anne Cecil's pregnancy, BL Lansdowne 19/83, ff. 181-2.

The original letter is no longer extant. BL Lansdowne MS 238, from which this copy, apparently in a 17<sup>th</sup> century hand, is taken, is described in the British Library online catalogue as 'A Volume of Miscellanies', and contains copies of other letters written by Lord Burghley.

A letter to my Lord of Oxford from the Lord Burghley, Lord Treasurer of England

My Lord,

My silence and forbearing of speech to your Lordship (now a good time) in a cause of that weight to me as concerneth so nearly my dearest beloved daughter, your Lordship's wife, hath hitherto proceeded partly in hope that after some space of months some change to the better might follow, partly to avoid the offending of you, in whom I have seen some changes from your old wonted countenance, but considering with myself, & that seriously, how long both I, as a father to your afflicted wife and (be it spoken without offence of comparison) for my part as loving and as well-deserving a friend towards you since I first knew you as any whosoever of any degree, and also your loving, faithful and dutiful wife hath suffered the lack of your love, conversation & company (though in several respects desired, yea, in some sort due by several deserts to us), I cannot, my Lord, see this old year passed with such disgraces and a new entered meet to record a concourse of graces, nor feel the burden of the griefs to grow as they daily do without apparence of amendment, but assay by reasonable means to seek relief, specially for my daughter, whose grief is the greater & shall always be inasmuch as her love is most fervent and addicted to you, and because she cannot or may not without offence be suffered to come to your presence, as she desireth, to offer the sacrifice of her heart, nor can I find opportunity in open places where we sometimes meet to reveal my griefs, both for myself, but especially to relieve them for my daughter, I do heartily by this my instant letter beseech your Lordship (and by contestation of your honour I require you) to assent that I may have some time convenient to speak with your Lordship in your own chamber or in some other meet place, meaning not to move anything to your Lordship but that shall proceed from a ground of mere love towards you, and that shall be agreeable to your honour and calling, to your profit and comfort, and not unmeet for either of us both. And if your Lordship shall for any respect (though unknown to me) like to have any person of noble or other good degree present, I shall not refuse the presence of any such to be named by your Lordship's self. And to this my request, my Lord, I pray you give me answer by this bearer as it shall please you by speech or by writing, having made nobody privy with this my letter. And so etc.

---

Your Lordship's truly affected,  
William Burghley