

SUMMARY: In this letter written on 13 July 1581, Oxford urges Lord Burghley to remind the Queen of her promise that he is to be freed from the Tower, lest she forget him because of the current conflict between Leicester and Sussex. Oxford also mentions the Queen's message to him via Sir Francis Walsingham that she prefers that he sell lands rather than cut down his woods, and that she wishes to have the matter involving Oxford, Lord Henry Howard, Charles Arundel, and Francis Southwell 'heard' again. The bearer of the letter is to advise Lord Burghley of the truth behind the false reports which some of Oxford's servants have brought to Lord Burghley about their fellow servants during the time of Oxford's imprisonment.

My Lord, Robin Christmas did yesterday tell me how honourably you had dealt with her Majesty as touching my liberty, and that as this day she had made promise to your Lordship that it should be, unless your Lordship shall make some to put her Majesty in mind thereof, I fear, in these other causes of the two Lords, she will forget me, for she is nothing of her own disposition, as I find, so ready to deliver as speedy to commit, and every little trifle gives her matter for a long delay. I willed E. Hammond to report unto your Lordship her Majesty's message unto me by Mr Secretary Walsingham, which was to this effect: first, that she would have heard the matter again touching Henry Howard, Southwell and Arundel; then, that she understood I meant to cut down all my woods, especially about my house, which she did not so well like of as if I should sell some land else elsewhere; and last, that she heard that I had been hardly used by some of my servants during this time of my commit, wherein she promised her aid, so far as she could with justice, to redress the loss I had sustained thereby, to which I made answer as I willed Hammond to relate unto your Lordship. Further, my Lord, whereof I am desirous something to write, I have understood of certain of my men hath resorted unto your Lordship and sought, by false reports of other of their fellows, both to abuse your Lordship and me. But for that this bearer seems most herein to be touched, I have sent him unto your Lordship, as is his earnest desire, that your Lordship might so know him as your evil opinion, being conceived amiss by these lewd fellows, may be removed. And truly, my Lord, I hear of those things wherewith he is charged and, I can assure you, wrongfully and slanderously, but the world is so cunning as of a shadow they can make a substance, and of a likelihood a troth. And these fellows, if they be those which I suppose, I do not doubt but so to decipher them to the world as easily your Lordship shall look into their lewdness and unfaithfulness, which, till my liberty, I mean to defer, as more mindful of that importing me most at this time than yet seeking to revenge myself of such perverse and impudent dealing of servants, which I know have not wanted encouragement and setting on. But letting these things pass for a while, I must not forget to give your Lordship those thanks which are due to you for this your honourable dealing to her Majesty in my behalf, which I hope shall not be without effect, the which attending from the court, I will take my leave of your Lordship, and rest at your commandment. At my house this morning.

Your Lordship's assured.
Edward Oxenford

Addressed: For my Lord Treasurer.

Endorsed. July 1581 Earl of Oxford, thanks. Thanks his Lordship for obtaining a promise of his liberty of the Queen, entreating him to remember the Queen of him. The Queen's message to him to Walsingham.