

SUMMARY: In this letter written on 20 June 1583, Oxford requests Lord Burghley to intercede in the matter of Lord Lumley's payment to the Queen. As Oxford says in the letter, Lord Lumley had 'matched with a near kinswoman of mine to whose father I always was beholding unto for his assured and kind disposition unto me'. This kinswoman was Elizabeth Darcy, whose father, Oxford's first cousin John, Lord Darcy of Chiche, had guaranteed Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, along with Sir William Waldegrave, when Oxford sued his livery in 1572. A few words which are illegible in the original have been supplied in italics in the transcript below.

I have been an earnest suitor unto your Lordship for my Lord Lumley, that it would please you for my sake to stand his good Lord and friend which, as I perceive, your Lordship hath already very honourably *performed, for* the which, *as* I am in a number of things more than I can reckon bound unto your Lordship, so am I in this likewise, especially for he hath matched with a near kinswoman of mine to whose father I always was beholding unto for his assured and kind disposition unto me. Further, among all the rest of my blood, this only remains in account either of me or else of them, as your Lordship doth know very well, the rest having embraced further alliances to leave their nearer consanguinity. And as I hope your Lordship doth account me now one whom you have so much bound as I am to be yours before any else in the world, both through match, whereby I count my greatest stay, and by your Lordship's friendly usage and sticking by me in this time wherein I am hedged in with so many enemies, so likewise I hope your Lordship will take all them for your followers and most at command which are inclined and affected to me. Wherefore I shall once again be thus bold with your Lordship to be *the more* importunate in this matter for your Lordship's favour in *easing* my Lord Lumley's payment to her Majesty, wherein we *shall* all give your Lordship thanks, and you shall do me as great an honour herein as a profit if it had been to myself, in that through your Lordship's favour I shall be able to pleasure my friend and stand needless of others that have forsaken me. Thus, for that your Lordship is troubled with many matters where you are, I crave pardon for troubling you.

Your Lordship's to command.
Edward Oxford

Addressed: To the right honourable and his very good Lord, my Lord Treasurer of England, give these.

Endorsed: Earl of Oxford for the Lord Lumley 1583