

SUMMARY: In this letter written on 30 October 1584, Oxford advises Lord Burghley that a number of purchasers of his lands, fearful of the consequences to them if the Queen should extend against the lands for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, have requested that they be permitted to repay the debt. In a postscript, he rebukes Lord Burghley for having attempted to talk to his servants Amice and Lyly without his privity.

It is not unknown to your Lordship that I have entered into a great number of bonds to such as have purchased lands of me, to discharge them of all encumbrances, and because I stand indebted unto her Majesty (as your Lordship knoweth), many of the said purchasers do greatly fear some trouble likely to fall upon them by reason of her Majesty's said debt, & especially if the lands of the Lord Darcy and Sir William Waldegrave should be extended for the same, who have two several statutes of great sums for their discharge. Whereupon many of the said purchasers have been suitors unto me to procure the discharging of her Majesty's said debt, and do seem very willing to bear the burden thereof if by my means the same might be stalled payable at some convenient days. I have therefore thought good to acquaint your Lordship with this their suit, requiring most earnestly your Lordship's furtherance in this behalf, whereby I shall be unburdened of a great care which I have for the saving of my honour, and shall by this means also unburden my wife's jointure of that charge which might happen hereafter to be imposed upon the same if God should call your Lordship and me away before her.

Your Lordship's,  
Edward Oxford

My Lord, this other day your man Stainer told me that you sent for Amice, my man, and if he were absent, that Lyly should come unto you. I sent Amice, for he was in the way. And I think very strange that your Lordship should enter into that course towards me whereby I must learn that I knew not before, both of your opinion and goodwill towards me. But I pray, my Lord, leave that course, for I mean not to be your ward nor your child. I serve her Majesty, and I am that I am, and by alliance near to your Lordship, but free, and scorn to be offered that injury to think I am so weak of government as to be ruled by servants, or not able to govern myself. If your Lordship take and follow this course, you deceive yourself and make me take another course than yet I have not thought of. Wherefore these shall be to desire your Lordship, if that I may make account of your friendship, that you will leave that course, as hurtful to us both.

Addressed: To the right honourable my very good Lord, the Lord Treasurer of England.

Endorsed: 30 October 1584. The Earl of Oxford by Amice, his man. For securing those that had purchased lands of him, he desires to take a course to pay his debt to the Queen