

SUMMARY: In this letter written on 8 September 1590, Oxford advises Lord Burghley of difficulties with one Bellingham, and also mentions that Thomas Skinner has attempted to obtain a composition to settle matters resulting from his fraud against Oxford.

I would have been with your Lordship before this but that I have not had my health. Nevertheless, Hampton being returned from the country, I have sent him to your Lordship that he may advertise you of his proceedings there. At Oatlands I think your Lordship remembers a complaint of [] Bellingham's son, of his mother's putting forth of the castle, which was before anything done, whereupon your Lordship directed a letter unto the sheriff, [] whereof, as it seems, Thomas Hampton had dealt with more favour towards her than the letters unto the sheriff imported. Notwithstanding, I understand Bellingham is gone to the court, encouraged I know not by what friends, to complain, as he did report here in town, not to your Lordship, but to her Majesty's self. My Lord, it was ever meant that he should have consideration as reason and conscience might afford him. But sithence he taketh a violent course and refuseth reasonable offers I have sent Hampton to inform your Lordship the state of the man, who hath received heretofore a pardon for three burglaries and stands bound to the good behaviour, which behaviour, for sundry and manifest breaches thereof which I can prove, he hath lost the benefit of his pardon, whereby as lord of the manor by escheat I am to deal with him as he hath given me occasion, and herein I hope her Majesty will have consideration sith the same case hath been seen once in Henry the Seventh's time and one example in this, her Majesty's. For those things which falls to me by escheat I do not doubt that her Majesty will, against her law, give any ear, or hearken to such wrongful complaint.

Skinner hath been often with me for a composition, upon what point of law Hampton is to inform your Lordship, referring myself wholly to your Lordship who in all my causes I find mine honourable good Lord, and to deal more fatherly than friendly with me, for the which I do acknowledge, and ever will, myself in most especial wise bound. And whereas there is a lease in Arthur Milles' hand of the manor and lands of Lavenham, I desire your Lordship to cause him to make over his trust unto my servant Mynne, to whom the other lease is made. If there be complaints made unto your Lordship (as I doubt not but that there will) against the proceedings of mine officers, I most earnestly desire that there may be some reasonable time appointed for the answering of them because my counsel is not in town, but shall be before or at the beginning of the term to satisfice your Lordship and answer their particular complaints. London, this 8th of September,

Your Lordship's to command.
Edward Oxford

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

Endorsed: 8 September 1590. Earl of Oxford to my Lord by Mr Hampton. Touching a contest between him & one Bellingham, who had been pardoned for burglary & bound to the good behaviour, the forfeit of whose pardon he was minded to prosecute.