

Summary: The Latin verses below were copied at an unknown date from the frontispiece of a New Testament which is no longer extant. It seems likely that the New Testament was presented to Oxford's wife Anne by her mother or father or a close family friend at the time of the birth of her daughter, Elizabeth, on 2 July 1575, while Oxford was traveling on the continent, and that the Latin verses were written by the presenter. The verses were transcribed by Dr. Alan Nelson. The translation is from Ward, B.M., *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford 1550-1604 from Contemporary Documents* (London: John Murray, 1928) pp. 108-9.

VERAM vera decent: sunt falsa [Greek word: aovoala] vero
 Solaque vera manent: caetera vana volant.
 VERA ergo VERI: cum sis coniunxque parensque
 VERAЕ. speque bona sis paritura VERVM.
 Mens tua fac VERI semper deflagret amore
 VERI SEMPER AMANS, sint tua verba VERA
 Quos magis ut praestes, a veri Authore requiras
 Litera te doceat: spiritus intus alat.
 Chari ut Longa viri sic desideria Leuans
 Gloria vera viri VERA vocere tui.

Ad Illustrissimam foeminam Dominam Annam Veram
 Comitissam oxonij cum Illustrissimus
 Coniunx Edoardus Verus Comes oxonij
 in transmarinis partibus versaretur.

Scripta in fronte Noui testamenti

[=Words of truth are fitting to a Vere. Lies are foreign to the truth, and only true things stand fast. All else is fluctuating and comes to an end. Therefore, since thou, a Vere, art wife and mother of a Vere daughter, and seeing that thou mayest with good hope look forward to being mother of an heir of the Veres, may thy mind always glow with love of the truth, and may thy true motto be *Ever Lover of the Truth*. And that thou mayest the better attain to this, pray to the Author of all Truth that His Word may teach thee; that His Spirit may nourish thy inner life, so that, thus alleviating the absent longings of thy dear husband, thou, a Vere, mayest be called the true glory of thy husband.

To the illustrious Lady Anne Vere, Countess of Oxford, while her noble husband, Edward Vere, Earl of Oxford, was travelling in foreign parts.

Written in the frontispiece of a New Testament]