

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter, perhaps dating from March 1601, from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil in which Oxford expresses gratitude for Cecil's assistance in Oxford's suit for the office of Lord President of Wales, left vacant by the death on 19 January 1601 of Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke. The Queen granted the post to Edward Zouche (6 June 1556 – 18 August 1625), 11th Baron Zouche of Harringworth. He was appointed Lord President of Wales in June 1602; four months later John Chamberlain wrote that, 'Lord Zouche plays *rex* in Wales with both council and justices, and with the poor Welshmen'. He remained Lord President until 13 July 1615, when he was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. See the *DNB* entry for Edward Zouche. See also CP 76/34.

Henry Lok (d. in or after 1608) was the third son of the London mercer, Henry Lok (d.1571), and the grandson of Sir William Lok (1480-155) and nephew of Michael Lok (c.1532–1620x22), who persuaded Oxford to invest in the Frobisher expeditions in search of the Northwest Passage.

My very good brother, I have received by Henry Lok your most kind message, which I so effectually embrace that, what for the old love I have borne you which, I assure you, was very great; what for the alliance which is between us, which is tied so fast by my children of your own sister; what for mine own disposition to yourself, which hath been rooted by long and many familiarities of a more youthful time, there could have been nothing so dearly welcome unto me. Wherefore not as a stranger, but in the old style, I do assure you that you shall have no faster friend & well-wisher unto you than myself, either in kindness, which I find beyond mine expectation in you, or in kindred, whereby none is nearer allied than myself sith, of your sisters, of my wife only you have received nieces, a sister, I say, not by any venter, but born of the same father and the same mother of yourself. I will say no more, for words in faithful minds are tedious, only this I protest: you shall do me wrong, and yourself greater, if either through fables, which are mischievous, or conceit, which is dangerous, you think otherwise of me than humanity and consanguinity requireth.

I desired Henry Lok to speak unto you for that I cannot so well urge mine own business to her Majesty, that you would do me the favour, when these troublesome times give opportunity to her Majesty to think of the disposition of the President of Wales, that I may understand it by you, lest neglecting through ignorance the time, by mishap I may leese the suit; for, as I have understood, and by good reason conceived, I am not to use any friend to move it, so myself having moved it and received good hope, I fear nothing but through ignorance when to prosecute it, lest I should leese the benefit of her good disposition on which I only depend.

Your most assured & loving brother, as ever in mine own affection, in all kindness and kindred,

Edward Oxenford

Endorsed: To my very good brother & honourable Sir Robert Cecil, one of her Majesty's
Privy Council & Principal Secretary

Endorsed: Earl of Oxenford to my Master