

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 11 May 1601 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil in which Oxford expresses gratitude for having been assured, via a message from Henry Lok, of Cecil's assistance with an unspecified suit to the Queen, perhaps the suit to recover for the Queen the lands which had escheated to her on the attainder of Sir Charles Danvers, beheaded on Tower Hill 18 March 1601.

For background concerning Oxford's involvement in the Danvers escheat case, see CP 181/99 and documents mentioned there.

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.

I received this morning your message by H. Lok whereby I see you have not forgotten me to her Majesty, and so as it is much to my contentment (I protest to God not so much in that somewhat her Majesty doth satisfice my desire, but that I find that assuredness in your kindness to me, with whom, as we are straightly allied, there is no reason but I should make especial account of before all others), so am I glad moreover to find an especial friend, constant and assured in your word, which thing I vow to God to acknowledge to you in all faith, kindness and love and in whatsoever I may stand you in stead, which according to mine estate now is little, but in goodwill very great, I will with all alacrity and well-wishing perform, and this I both speak and write unto you from my heart. Wherefore as you have begun, so I most earnestly desire you to stick to me in this cause, for it is a thing whereof I make great account, and it is a friendship which you have done me above thanks, which I will freely impart to you at my coming to the court, which I think shall be tomorrow by the grace of God, till which time, as a hater of ceremonies, I will refer all other thanks and observations, which in me are as far from ordinary accomplishments as my thankful acceptance of this your friendly and brotherly office is near my heart simple and unfeigned. I sent my man, as H. Lok informed me, unto you that he might open somewhat more plainer the cause; the more you shall countenance him, the more boldly and freely he will certify you. I will only now end, wholly recommending my cause to your friendship, assuring you that there is nothing in the world that I esteem more or accept more kindly that your brotherly and friendly office which you at this present undertake in my behalf. Tomorrow I hope to see you myself at the court where I will more frankly and freely declare myself. For today, although I thought to have come to you, yet considering your manifold causes I think it best to forbear. In the mean season I rest your most thankful brother and assured friend,

Edward Oxenford

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Endorsed: To my very well beloved friend and brother Sir Robert Cecil, Principal Secretary to her Majesty

Endorsed: 11 Maij, the Earl of Oxford to my Master