

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 23 September 1575 written to Lord Burghley from Venice by Oxford's servant, Clement Parrett, advising of Oxford's return to Venice from Genoa, his illness 'by reason of the extreme heats', and the injury to his knee in a Venetian galley.

The writer appears to be the Clement Parrett who witnessed a lease of Oxford's manor of Tresithney to Thomas Atkinson on 28 January 1575 (see CRO AR/1/853).

Although Parrett professes himself to be in Oxford's service, he also appears to consider himself a servant of Lord Burghley.

Right Honourable,

My most humble duty remembered, I am sorrow [sic] that afore this time I could not, according to duty, write to your Honour of my Lord's success and good disposition in this his travel, but my daily and continual service about my Lord hath rather hindered than furthered my good intention and service, which always hath been and is employed to obey your Honour's commandment.

At this present your Honour shall understand my Lord's better disposition, God be thanketh [sic], for now last coming from Genoa his Lordship found himself somewhat altered by reason of the extreme heats, and before his Lordship hurt his knee in one of the Venetian galleys, but all is past without further harm.

Of any other reports that your Honour hath understood of my Lord, no credit is to be given unto. It is true that a while ago at Padua were killed unwares, in a quarrel that was amongst a certain congregation of Saffi and students, two noble gentlemen of Polonia, and the bruit ran *Gentilhomini Inglesi*.

This I can assure your Honour of, that other thing there is not chanced in my Lord's journey that might proceed to my Lord's or your Honour's displeasure, nor hope will not until his Lordship return into England, where with all my desire and careful duty I wish his Honour to return in health, which I hope will be shortly, for many strangers will be soon weary in these parts considering their estate, life and government, as your Honour doth know, besides the danger of sickness and other inconveniences.

Of any other certain news I cannot advertise your Honour but that I hope in doing my duty and faithful service in this journey towards my Lord and master your Honour shall find satisfaction, and in all the dealing it hath pleased his Lordship to employ me.

Thus craving pardon if duty and affection doth presume to trouble your Honour, that nevertheless the fault may be accepted in good part of him that prayeth daily to Almighty God for the preservation of your noble person.

From Venice in haste the 23 September 1575.

Your Honour's most humble servant,

Clemente Parrett

Endorsed: A Monseigneur

Endorsed: Monseigneur le Grand Tresorier D'Angleterre

Endorsed: Clement Parrett to my Lord; the Earl of Oxford