

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of the report of an audience given by the authorities in Venice to the English ambassador, Sir Henry Wotton (1568–1639), on 13 December 1617 in which it is mentioned that Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, had left Venice and was now at Padua.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, after the death of his mother in early 1613, Henry de Vere embarked upon an extended tour of Europe, remaining overseas for over five years, first in the Spanish Netherlands, then in France, and finally, in Venice. He returned to England in October 1618.

With King James' approval, he offered to raise 6000 men for the Republic's service, an offer which the Venetian Senate declined. This offer is alluded to in the report below.

The Doge mentioned in the report below was Giovanni Bembo (1543-1618).

The transcript below is taken from Hinds, Allen Banks, ed., *Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts Relating to English Affairs Existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy*, Vol. XV, 1617-19 (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1909), pp. 63-75. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88666>.

December 13  
Collegio, Secreta  
Esposizioni Principi  
Venetian Archives

120. The deliberation of the Senate of the 10th instant was read to the Ambassador of England. He said:

I thank the Senate for this confidence, and I will report all to his Majesty, who will be glad to hear of these successes at sea, the more so as I have received from a friend in Rome a copy of the letter written by the admiral of the galleys to Ossuna and published by him couched in the usual vainglorious Spanish vein, and very far from the truth. The Senate is well advised to inform friends of these things, which disclose the ill will of the enemy. I should advise it to make proof of its friends so that it may not incur the reproach of the Athenian Senate, which was the wisest in the world, but while the Athenians deliberated the Spartans were acting. Deliberation is very dangerous at this time without making preparations and proving friends. I will represent everything to his Majesty as vividly as possible.

The Earl of Oxford has not left yet; he has moved to Padua. There is time if your Serenity wishes to give any command. There is also a German nobleman who offers to

---

bring 1,000 men without an advance, and is able to fulfil his promise. I pray for peace. My idea is that the Catholic King desires peace in Italy, but Don Pedro of Toledo desires that the restoration of the places may be deferred until the arrival of his successor so that he may have to himself the military glory of having acquired them.

In the absence of the Doge the senior councillor, Daniel Diedo, said that there was nothing to add to what had been read, showing how different were actions from promises. It remained for the ambassador to represent this to his Majesty as well as the confidence of the Republic in him. This he promised to do, and departed.

[Italian]