
SUMMARY: The document below summarizes a letter dated 15 February 1577 written from London by R. Brackenbury to Edward Manners (1549–1587), 3rd Earl of Rutland, announcing that Oxford's sister, Mary de Vere (d.1624), is to be married at Easter, and that Oxford himself is 'in the old sort'.

The summary below is taken from *Historical Manuscripts Commission. Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV. The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*. (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, pp. 110-11, available online.

This will be a long Lent to Lady Mary Vere and Mrs Sidney, for at Easter *consummatum erit*. I hope that two of your kinswomen will take up two more noblemen, as Mrs Paston Lord Stourton and Mrs Chaworth Lord Gormanston. Our new maids have not entered yet in love, but our old choose new servants because they wax merry. The last from Flanders says that it is yet likely to be peace, but I believe it not. France is in garboil in each part. We hear nothing yet from Sir John Smith in Spain. For all this in France there is nothing in the court but dancing and triumphing by day, and almost nightly executions. God amend them! Lord and Lady Talbot are here. Lord Pembroke is made much of, and lodged in the house. Lord Oxford in the old sort. Lord Howard is great with Sir William.