

---

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 1 April 1581 written to Count Philip Edward Fugger in Augsburg by a correspondent in Paris, and is one of many letters now included in volumes 8949 to 8975 in the Austrian National Library. For a discussion of the purpose of the letters and of their eventual transfer to the Austrian National Library, see pp. vii-xv of Klarwill, Victor von, ed., *The Fugger Newsletters, Second Series, Being a Further Selection from the Fugger Papers Specially Referring to Queen Elizabeth and Matters Relating to England During the Years 1568-1605, Here Published for the First Time*, (London: John Lane, 1926). The letter below is taken from p. 53. For other letters on the same topic dated 1 January and 29 April 1581, see pp. 47 and 55-6.

Count Fugger's correspondent states that Oxford's former friends, Lord Henry Howard, Charles Arundel and Francis Southwell, arrested three months earlier because they had been reconciled to the Catholic Church by agents of the Pope and were suspected of plotting against the Crown, are still in prison. According to Count Fugger's correspondent, Oxford too ('another important gentleman') had renounced Catholicism and been set free. It can be inferred from this letter and other documents that the affair involving Oxford, Howard, Arundel and Southwell was complicated by the fact that Howard and Arundel were known supporters of the marriage between Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Alencon, and the Queen's reluctance to punish them stemmed in part from the need to maintain good relations with France while these spurious marriage negotiations, with their concomitant political ramifications, were ongoing.

For numerous other documents, including TNA SP 12/151/51, ff. 111v, 112, concerning the incidents in 1580/1 referred to in the letter below involving Oxford, Lord Henry Howard, Charles Arundel and Francis Southwell, see the Documents page of this website.

Paris, April 1, 1581

Our embassy for England is still at Calais waiting for a favourable wind and for the Dauphin, son of the Duc de Montpensier. He is to leave here in two or three days; and besides him other nobles and the Duc de Bouillon's two young gentleman are to go. So this embassy grows more distinguished.

The English assert that the Scotch have set their captive Regent free again. The King of Scotland has proclaimed by edict that he will and live and die in the Calvinist religion in which he has been brought up, and that he will not tolerate Catholicism; but the Scotch say otherwise.

The English also declare that a plot has been formed by the Jesuits, Catholic nobles and other persons, whom the Queen has imprisoned. One important gentleman has fallen away, abjured the Roman faith and been set at liberty. The others are still in prison. In a

---

word the English have a horror of the King of Spain and do not trust us here overmuch either.