

SUMMARY: This letter dated 22 December 1583 (12 December 1583 Old Style) written by Juan Bautista de Tassis, Spanish ambassador to France, to King Philip II of Spain mentions the arrival in Paris of Charles Arundel and Thomas (c.1544-1590), 4th Lord Paget, who had fled England for fear of arrest in connection with the Throckmorton plot because they were Catholics. De Tassis states that both men had secretly apprised him of their arrival and had tendered their duty to King Philip. Thomas, Lord Paget's flight to Paris in December 1583 was occasioned by the activities of his younger brother, Charles Paget (c.1546-1612), who had been living in exile since 1581. Both were sons of the Tudor statesman, William (1505/6-1603), 1st Lord Paget, whom de Tassis suggests that King Philip will remember. According to *The Dictionary of National Biography*:

[I]n the summer of 1583 Paget went from Rouen secretly into England, using the pseudonym Mope. He stayed first with William Davies at Patching in Sussex, and then at Conigar Lodge in the grounds of Petworth House, the residence of the earl of Northumberland. He met the earl, and also his own brother Thomas Paget, fourth Lord Paget, who came to the lodge to meet him. Charles Paget was known to the earl and had been looking after Northumberland's sons, who had recently been staying in Paris. He also had a meeting in Patching Wood with a gentleman called William Shelley. He probably also met Henry, Lord Howard, who had come to Sussex from Norfolk at that time. Paget then returned to France.

For the roles played by Charles Arundel and Lord Henry Howard in events involving Oxford in 1580/1 see TNA SP 15/27A/46, ff. 81-2 and other documents on this website, in particular the letters of the Spanish ambassador to England, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604).

The translation below is taken from Hume, Martin, ed., *Calendar of Letters and State Papers relating to English Affairs*, Vol. III, 1580-1586, pp. 511-12.

Although I am sure Don Bernardino de Mendoza will give an account and explanation of the fresh persecution of Catholics in England, I think well also to send your Majesty a short relation which was given to me by one of our English friends, and to inform your Majesty what they think of it. They are sure that nothing of this is caused by any real suspicion on the part of the Queen of the plan they have in hand, and God grant that they may be right. In conversation with one of them about it, I urged them by every possible means to have any suspicion on her part lulled, so that she may sleep soundly. They tell me that they have taken steps with this object, but not so ostentatiously as to attract attention, which I hope to God is true. The lady is so suspicious that there was always danger in the matter being in so many hands. The point in the statement which alarms me most is that they have found two papers in Throgmorton's house, and the idea of what they may wring out of him about them by torture, although they tell me he is so faithful a gentleman that they have no fear of them getting anything incriminatory. With regard to the rest, it would seem there is little to fear. Lord Paget and Charles Arundel have taken

refuge here, on account of this affair, they being Catholics and fearing arrest. Paget is the son of the Paget whom your Majesty will probably recollect. They have both secretly intimated their arrival to me, and ask me to convey their humble duty to your Majesty. Paris, 22nd December 1583.