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SUMMARY: Dedicatory epistle to Oxford in John Hester's *A Short Discourse of the Excellent Doctor and Knight, Master Leonardo Fioravanti, Bolognese, Upon Surgery*, a translation from Italian published in 1580.

To the right honourable his singular good lord and patron Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord of Escales and Badlesmere, and Lord Great Chamberlain of England, John Hester wisheth health of body, tranquillity of mind, with continual increase of most godly honour.

Try and then trust, saith the old adage, but I must hope for trust without trial, because as I can compare you, right Honourable, to none more fit than to Alexander the Macedon, so must I humbly request your good Lordship to imitate that famous worthy who, being sick, was advertised by letters that his physician would empoison him. The good prince, notwithstanding, being offered the medicine by the accused, first took it and drank it up, and then gave the physician the letter of his accuser to read, but perceiving no alteration of countenance in the man he took good courage, and by that same medicine (although extreme in operation) presently recovered his former health. In like manner, right Honourable, having translated and gathered together this compendious & short way of surgery, as I thought none so meet to whom I might consecrate these fruits of my travails, so must I most humbly desire your good Lordship to peruse it and then to make trial of the contents thereof, which being devised and practised by a worthy and famous captain called Signor Leonardo Fioravanti of Bolognia, doth show both the names and natures of each wound, with the order and manner to cure them in half the time which is or hath been used heretofore by either ignorant or arrogant professors and practitioners of that noble and profound science, which as they more esteem a great gains to themselves than a little ease to their patients, and a long protracting of the cure for a large payment, so I know although I ease the rich, relieve the poor, and teach the ignorant, yet are there such which being more wilful than skilful will bear me a private grudge for this public commodity, and will attempt more than either they can or are able to answer, the which to avoid I most humbly crave your honourable patronage, that according to your name and poesy, your name and property may be to protect the truth. So shall both the translator the less doubt his foes, the book benefit more his friends, and they both most rejoice of so worthy a patron, whose life God prolong with health and increase of honour, and after the course of this pilgrimage finished, install you among his chosen to reign with him in eternal felicity.

The most affectioned of all those which owe your Lordship dutiful service,  
John Hester