

SUMMARY: The document below is an undated letter written by Charles Arundel at some time after 'Easter eve' (Easter fell on 26 March in 1581), when he had expected to be delivered from custody 'on more favourable terms'. This hope had been frustrated by Leicester's intervention (see TNA SP 12/151/51, ff. 111v, 112).

Arundel states that he is now in a 'wilderness', indicating that he was by this time under house arrest at Sutton in West Sussex, where he remained until August 1581.

Arundel addresses the unidentified recipient of the letter as 'Right Honourable'. It thus appears that the recipient was a highly-placed personage, perhaps Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591), or Arundel's kinsman, Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain of the Household.

Jhesus

Right Honourable, to use great protestation of words were a thing not incident unto your manifold courtesies, nor the mean whereby to clear me of the deep arrearages wherein I am indebted, and sith my estate is such as hardly I can perform to satisfy any jot of your daily continued goodness, I must for this time most humbly desire you to accept my inward thankfulness, and to assure yourself that if my daily prayer may [INTERLINED: intercession work(?)] your good, or countervail the fruit of your great bounty, you shall not altogether go unrewarded, nor my mind become idle in soliciting for you. I will not now trouble you with suit till [INTERLINED: my cause. My hope is when] the greater give(?) leisure [INTERLINED: I will not be forgotten(?)]. Neither will I relate what I have felt, but rather determine to endure. Yet must I needs confess how I have been much grieved with the causeless charge that transported me hither [INTERLINED: into this wilderness], and know no fault that I have made since Easter eve, when I should have been delivered upon more favourable terms.

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Thus am I bold to lay before you my well-wishing mind, more to exercise the duty I owe you than to instruct your well-stayed judgment, hoping you will accept my simple meaning, though you profit not by the contents, and so do end, wishing you the supply of your desires, and myself ability to serve you.