

SUMMARY: The document below is an undated and unsigned letter (apparently a copy) to an unidentified lord mentioning that Oxford had been restored to the Queen's favour. On 1 July 1574 Oxford had left England without licence, reportedly travelling to Calais in the company of Lord Edward Seymour (1548-1574), and from thence to Flanders, and 'carrying a great sum of money with him'. The Queen recalled him, and Oxford was back in England by 28 July. By 21 August Oxford had won back the Queen's favour because of his loyalty to her when approached by her exiled rebel subjects in Flanders.

The letter also mentions that Oxford still hopes to travel abroad, although he dare not yet ask the Queen for licence, and that he does not wish to continue the life of a courtier.

For the letter, see also:

<http://www.sp12.hull.ac.uk/sptransc/sptransc045/sp12045f30v.htm>

My very good Lord, the persuasion I have that your Lordship is now of late so wholly dedicated to a private life as the hearing what course public affairs taketh might rather breed unto you discontentment than otherwise hath been cause why I have forborne to write unto your Lordship, but when I consider how unfit it is for you to live long privately for that your calling in this state may not allow of it, then do I think it necessary that your Lordship should be made acquainted with the state of both home and foreign matters, to the end that when you shall be employed the ignorance of them may be no hindrance unto your service.

For the state of home matters, I know you lack not friends that do advertise you from time to time how things pass, & amongst other things I am assured you are not unadvertised how the Earl of Oxford is restored to her Majesty's favour, whose loyal behaviour towards her Majesty's rebels in the Low Country who sought conference with him, a thing he utterly refused, did very much qualify his contempt in departing without her Majesty's leave. The desire of travel is not yet quenched in him, though he dare not make any motion unto her Majesty that he may with her favour accomplish his said desire. By no means he can be drawn to follow the court, and yet there are many cunning devices used in that behalf for his stay.

The matters of Ireland do continue in one state of dalliance, so cunningly doth the Earl of Desmond carry himself by colouring undutiful doings with dutiful speeches. It is now fully ordered that if he do not absolutely come in, he shall be prosecuted with all extremity without any further offer of grace. His holding out hath yielded no small hindrance to my Lord of Essex his enterprise in the reforming of Ulster for that it was determined that, Desmond being compounded withal, the Deputy should have employed all his forces together with the Earl's in Ulster.

Touching the Spanish navy so long talked of & so long in preparing, it is now doubted whether it shall repair into these parts or no. The time of the year is so far spent as unless

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it come within these 10 days it is thought it will not come at all. The Flushingers have put themselves in that strength as, if they should come, they are fully resolved to fight with them.

The Prince of Orange hath so victualled & manned his towns as he shall be able to keep play with the King of Spain these two years. And time, as your Lordship knoweth, bringeth unlooked for remedies.

How things pass in France your Lordship shall understand by these enclosed occurents. And so leaving further to trouble your Lordship, I most humbly take my leave.