

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 11 May 1606 from Dudley Carleton to John Chamberlain mentioning that Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631), had been 'strangely and suddenly cast off' by her 'melancholy' husband, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, whom she had married in 1599, and that she was now residing at the home of Sir Walter Cope (1553?-1614) in Kensington. For the will of Sir Walter Cope, see TNA PROB 11/125/121. For answers by Sir Walter Cope to interrogatories in Oxford's lawsuit against Roger Harlakenden for fraud in the sale of Colne Priory, see TNA C 24/275, Piece 77.

For the separation between Bridget Vere and her husband, see also CP 119/76.

The transcript below is taken from Lee, Maurice, ed., *Dudley Carleton to John Chamberlain, 1603-1624; Jacobean Letters*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1972) pp. 83-5.

Sir, I had no sooner written to you the last day but was recalling my letter, having even then received a summons from my Lord Norris to meet my cousin Paulet at Rycote about Saturday next, which, because I cannot answer but by appearance, I must pray you to hold me excused to Sir Henry and my Lady, with assurance that wheresoever I am, my heart and good wishes will be with them. I pray you look to the growth of the apricots, for I am not in despair of my part, though to tell you true, I cannot now brag of much hope. Tomorrow I mean to see in what forwardness the peaches be at Sion, and by the way will take my dinner at Cope Castle, where my Lady Norris remains as an exile, being at this present strangely and suddenly cast off by her melancholy lord, and upon terms of separation.

Sir Francis Bacon was married yesterday to his young wench in Marylebone chapel. He was clad from top to toe in purple, and hath made himself and his wife such store of fine raiment of cloth of silver and gold that it draws deep into her portion. The dinner was kept at his father-in-law Sir John Pakington's lodging over against the Savoy, where his chief guests were the three knights Cope, Hicks, and Beeston, and upon this conceit (as he said himself), that since he could not have my Lord of Salisbury in person, which he wished, he would have him at least in his representative body.

We hear out of France that the King of there hath made as fair an escape of water as ours of fire, having had his coach with the Queen, Caesar, Monsieur, and the Princess of Conti overturned in a ferry betwixt Saint Germain and Paris, and all, especially the Queen, on whose side the coach fell, in danger, but all saved. Sir W. Godolphin is sent to congratulate the escape. There were lately two notable insolencies committed, one in the court at Fontainebleau, where 10 mad fripons took so many of the Scotch guards' coats, and forcing a Spaniard's lodging as if it were by authority, who was there with his young wife, took them both into the woods and abused her in his sight, for which 4 of them which were taken were fairly broken on the wheel, the other at Paris, were the Chevalier

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du Guet's wife was stabbed in her bed by her own brother, she being great with child and he half drunk, but he was hanged for it when he was sober.

There have been two surprises failed in the Low Countries upon Sluys and Wesel, at both which the assailers had great loss, though at Sluys they were in the way of much gain, having won a port which they broke by petards, and if they had been well seconded, which the waters hindered, there had been no recovery.

I send you a letter which I met with in Paul's from Mr Winwood. I made so bold with you to look for my name in it, and have borrowed your Venetian proclamation because you have seen it already, and it will serve me for news where I go. In place of it I send you Don Quixote's challenge, which is translated into all languages, and sent into the wide world. I have a letter from Mr Matthew wherein you have commendations, and no more news than that we shall not see him in haste. All Cripplegate Ward salutes you. The doctor, for his Chaucer's rhyme in his sermon, and somewhat else he said in favour of the silenced ministers, is committed to his lodging by the Bishop of London, and so rests. And thus I rest.

Yours most assured,

[Dudley Carleton]