

SUMMARY: The document below is a warrant dated 30 March 1570 issued by Sir William Cecil, Master of the Court of Wards, to Sir William Damsell (c.1520-1582), Receiver-General of the Court of Wards, authorizing payment to Oxford of the sum of £40. The amount 'forty pounds' is written in Cecil's hand, and the warrant is signed by him. The endorsement acknowledging receipt bears Oxford's characteristic signature. The bearer of the warrant was William Bishop, referred to in TNA SP 15/19/38, ff. 89-90 as Oxford's man. Since the warrant was directed to the Receiver-General of the Court of Wards, the £40 was to be paid out of Oxford's own funds.

As indicated in the warrant, Oxford had been granted permission by the Queen to join Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, in the north of England. Sussex had taken up the position of Lord President of the Council of the North in July 1568, but his loyalty was questioned during the Northern Rebellion of 1569 when his half-brother, Egremont Radcliffe (d.1578), joined the rebels. The Rebellion was over by December 1569, and in January Sussex was granted leave to return to court, where he cleared himself of suspicion. He returned to the border area in March 1570. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online:

Sussex's services were now required on the border, where he returned in March 1570. The assassination of Moray had thrown Scottish affairs into disarray; civil war raged between the king's party and the Marians; the latter sheltered English fugitives, who spawned border disorder. Sussex had in January prepared a raid into Scotland, but the queen refused to allow it and reduced his forces. However, by March she was convinced of the necessity for action and authorized a campaign which Sussex carried out in later April, ravaging the eastern Borders while Lord Scrope swept through the western. Sussex was convinced the queen must assist the king's party, which was weaker, importuned her to act, and fumed at her indecision. On his own he opened negotiations with regent Morton's supporters and helped restore their morale. The queen finally agreed to send money and lend aid in mid-May. An English force commanded by Sir William Drury drove the Marians back to Glasgow, but a proposed siege of Dumbarton was halted by Elizabeth.

She was now eager to demobilize, but Sussex dragged his feet while negotiating with the Marians for general disarmament. . . [Sussex] did not achieve the pacification he hoped for, and the queen authorized a third raid in August and September. Scotland, although by no means settled, no longer constituted a danger to the Borders and in late December Sussex was back in London.

See also Ward, Bernard Mordaunt, *The Seventeenth Earl of Oxford 1550-1604 From Contemporary Documents* (London: John Murray, 1928), pp. 40-8.

Details of Oxford's service with Sussex at this time are not known.

Master Receiver, inasmuch(?) as the Queen's Majesty sendeth at this present the Earl of Oxenford into the north parts to remain with my Lord of Sussex & to be employed there in her Majesty's service, these be to require you to deliver unto the said Earl or to the bearer hereof for his use the sum of forty pounds towards his charges whilst he shall remain in those parts, and this shall be your warrant and discharge in this behalf. At Hampton Court the 30th of March 1570.

Your loving friend,
W. Cecil

Endorsed: The day and year abovesaid received of Sir William Damsell, knight, Receiver-General of the Queen's Majesty's Court of Wards and Liveries, according to the purport of this warrant dated as appeareth(?) the sum of forty pounds abovementioned.

plli(?) Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To th' hands of William Bishop.

Endorsed: To my very loving friend, Sir William Damsell, knight, Receiver-General of the Court of Wards [and] Liveries.