

SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from a letter dated 3 September 1574 written by Edward Woodshaw at Antwerp to Lord Burghley. In the letter Woodshaw mentions that Edward Harcourt, servant to Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13th Earl of Arundel, the eldest son of Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard (1537-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk, had secretly brought over to the continent and placed at Louvain one of the young heirs apparent to the crown of England, and that later Harcourt had traveled into Spain.

Woodshaw also reports that while he was at Antwerp Harcourt had been 'great with' Lord Edward Seymour (1548-1574), who had left England without licence in Oxford's company on 1 July. Woodshaw further reports that Lord Seymour had given out that he would travel to Italy, but that he secretly planned to travel to Spain, and hoped that Woodshaw would accompany him. Lord Seymour is said to have stated that he had a 'great friend' there, the soldier Thomas Stukeley (c.1520–1578), also known as Thomas Stucley. Stukeley was in Spain at the time attempting to gain support for an invasion of Ireland. He had taken part in the Battle of Lepanto in October 1571, and was killed at the Battle of Alcazar on 4 August 1578. He inspired a contemporary play, *The Famous History of the Life and Death of Captain Thomas Stukeley* (1979).

Finally, Woodshaw reports that there was great joy among the northern rebels and Catholic exiles when they heard of Oxford's unlicensed departure from England, and that the rebels had met at Louvain and had decided that Charles Neville (1542/3-1601), 6th Earl of Westmorland, should travel to Bruges to welcome Oxford and persuade him not to return to England with Thomas Bedingfield (1540?-1613) according to the Queen's command. However the meeting between Oxford and Westmorland did not take place. It should be noted that Oxford and Westmorland were related by marriage. In 1563 or 1564 Westmorland had married Oxford's first cousin, Jane Howard (1537-1593), the daughter of Henry Howard (1516/7-1547), Earl of Surrey, and his wife, Frances de Vere (d.1577), who was Oxford's aunt.

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, and had secured from her a promise to grant him licence to travel.

For other documents mentioning Oxford's departure from England without licence and his restoration to the Queen's favour, see TNA SP 12/45, p. 59; TNA SP 12/45, p. 60; TNA SP 15/26/1, f. 73; TNA PROB 11/89, f. 161, and *Calendar of State Papers Relating to English Affairs Preserved Principally at Rome in the Vatican Archives and Library*, Vol. II, 1572-1578, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1926), p. 182. For the will of Thomas Bedingfield, see TNA PROB 11/122, f. 21.

Woodshaw also reports that Henry Wriothesley (1545?-1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, had fled from England to Spain by sea. However this rumour appears to have been without foundation.

Other persons mentioned in the letter include:

Lamoral (1522-1568), Count of Egmont, Prince of Gavere
 Woodshaw's brother
 Woodshaw's uncle Leveson of Wolverhampton
 Woodshaw's cousin, Edward Arden (1533-1583) of Park Hall
 Don Fernando Alvarez de Toledo y Pimentel (1507-1582), 3rd Duke of Alba
 Fadrique Alvarez de Toledo y Ennquez de Guzman (1537-1583), 4th Duke of Alba
 Philippe Rene Nivelon Louis de Sainte-Aldegonde (born c.1530, d. 5 March 1574), Lord of Noircarmes
 Valentin de Pardieu (1535-1595), Seigneur de la Motte, Governor of Gravelines 1574-1594
 Luis de Requesens y Zuniga (1528-1576), Governor of the Spanish Netherlands
 Philip II of Spain (1527-1598)
 Count de Roeulx (or Reulx)
 Avery Phillips
 Sir Thomas Windebank (c.1550-1607)
 Monsieur Beauvois
 Jan de Morrenaye(?), castellan of Antwerp castle
 Thomas Copley (1532-1584)
 Charles Boischot, Captain of Flushing and Middelburg
 William I (1533-1584), Prince of Orange
 George Martin
 Edmund Tanner (d. 1579), Jesuit and Roman Catholic bishop of Cork and Cloyne
 Henry Parker (1531/2-1577), 11th Baron Morley, Roman Catholic exile
 Doctor (Edmund/Charles?) Parker
 Richard Norton (d.1585), known as Old Norton
 Francis/George/Sampson? Norton
 Sir Francis Englefield (1522-1596), courtier and Roman Catholic exile
 Jane Suarez de Figueroa (nee Dormer), Duchess of Feria in the Spanish nobility, (1538-1612)
 Mr Darby, an Irishman
 Captain Thomas, an Irishman
 Chiappino Vitelli (d.1576), Marquess of Cetona
 Alonso de Vargas
 Charles V (1500-1558), Holy Roman Emperor
 Robert Dudley (1532/3-1588), Earl of Leicester
 Francis Russell (1526/7-1585), 2nd Earl of Bedford
 Henry Manners (1526-1563), 2nd Earl of Rutland
 Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu
 William Herbert (1506/7-1570), 1st Earl of Pembroke
 Anne (nee Dormer), Lady Hungerford

Egremont Radcliffe (d.1578), rebel, half-brother of Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex

Antonio Perez (1540-1611), secretary to King Philip of Spain

Right honourable & my very good Lord, for that I have not been wanted heretofore to write unto your Honour, it may please the same to pardon my rude style & long matter, but the occasion moving me thereunto, I protest to your Honour before God that the special affection & natural love I bear unto the Queen's Majesty, your Honour and my country is the only cause, and though I have the space of 25 years dwelled & remained on this side the seas, yet if through my friends or otherways by service I could have gotten or obtained a competent living there in my natural county, I had not thus long remained here.

As witness thereof truth shall testify, for immediately after the death of my honourable Lord & Master the late Count of Egmont, whose tyrannous execution did so much grieve me that I forsook & abandoned this country and came home to my friends in Staffordshire, as my brother, my uncle Leveson of Wolverhampton, with my cousin Arden of Park Hall in Warwickshire & divers others of my kinsmen & other whom I have my trust in would help me, & I found not one that would assist or aid me with two angels, and I, whom was ever brought up in service like a gentleman, & seldom knowing what it was to lack or want, was forced with other companions whom wanted as well as I myself, to give the onset & break up a house in Yorkshire not far from Wakefield, where my share was £20, with the which I returned hither, and ever since then served under the Duke of Alva, whom I love, I take God to witness, as the devil of hell.

And that being the first and last evil act or deed I did, God is my judge, I durst never return into my country, but if it may please the Queen's Majesty through your Honour's means to pardon me & give me some stay of living, I trust to do my country such service as few of my countrymen hath done in my time, or else, whenas your Honour hath well read & perused this my letter, do think best that I shall stay here until I have fulfilled the contents of my said letter, I trust (moyenant le permission de n{ost}re sig{n}or Jesus) to bring such things to effect & pass as the Queen's Majesty & your Honour shall try me to be her Majesty's true, faithful & obedient subject, and having thus long followed the wars & experimented this wavering world, that though I am not one of the wisest men, yet experientia docet, & no doubt but if I take it in hand, if God permit me life I will do it so that no man in the world do know of my affairs or enterprises but the Queen's Majesty, your Honour & I, and so shall I crave at your Honour's hands that it may so be, if in case your Honour do trust me and that it be your Honour's pleasure to command me to do those services hereafter specified, the which services, I protest before God & swear by his holy name upon the damnation of my soul, I will do my endeavour and goodwill to put in execution & bring to pass.

And good my Lord, though that at the request of Don Frederick, Monsieur de Northclames [=Noircarnes], deceased, Monsieur de la Motte, & lastly the comandore

maiore now governor here, did request me to do my best to get, procure and obtain into the King's service so many gentlemen with ships & mariners as would willingly serve the King, the which I did my endeavour to do, having the commission given me by the Count de Roeulx, Governor of Flanders, by express commandment of his Excellency, the which service one Avery Phillips did put in my head to do, for he came over to Bruges & offered to bring over 300 mariners & 12 ships to serve the King, & he told me that Mr Windebank did send him to me, & that the said Mr Windebank would come himself, & since I have found him to be a very ill man & a great dissembler, and I promise your Honour I am as sorry that I did procure those poor men hither as ever I was for thing in my life, & if your Honour do think that it be hurtful to my country or the Queen's Majesty's service, let me understand your mind & I will send them over again by little & little, for God knoweth they are very ill treated here & ill paid, so that at the next musters I think they will most of them return home.

The first point I will advertise your Honour of, for that it cometh to purpose, is that this Avery Phillips about 15 months past, when that I was at Bruges gathering up 1000 pioneers to carry to the camp, came to me & offered his service as abovesaid, & I procured him Monsieur Beauvois' (?) commission, whom was Admiral here, & also a passport in commission wise of Jan de Morrenaye (?), castellan of Antwerp castle, & therewith he returned back into England, & 15 days past he came over again & sought for me, & at that time I was at the camp by Bommel, & then he repaired to a gentleman of our country called Don Thomas de Copley, as he writeth himself, whom is crept into credit with the new governor & is a gentleman of his house. His treatment (?) is 30 crowns a month. I promise your Honour he is no more troubled with wit than I am, & his knowledge in martial feats (?) is much less than mine, & to conclude of him, of a[n] Englishman espaniolated I did never know such a promoter of his nation, for here cometh none of our country but he doth advertise his Excellency of him, & if he be not a Catholic, then he must be packing away. Whenas he had heard all the practices & service that Avery Phillips could do, then he told the governor that he was no Catholic & therefore he was not to be trusted, so that he came to the said Phillips & told him that except he went straight away the Governor would hang him (as verily in my judgment he is worthy of no less). For it was my fortune to ride down to Bruges to the Count de Roeulx where I found the same Phillips, & he told me that he was sorry he met not with me at his first coming, & there he declared to me all that he had offered the governor to do, & showed me a passport of Charles Boisshot, Captain of Flushing [=Vlissingen] & Middelburg, that none of the Prince's folk should trouble him, but help, aid & assist him in all his affairs, the which passport was given him by one Mr Orle (?), as he told me, & that some of the Council in England did persuade him to go over, & here to offer his service, & that having a ship, he should take upon the seas, by consent of the Gueux, first one fisherman & then another or 2, to that end that they of Dunkirk should not mistrust him, & then in the end he should bring in 2 prizes to Dunkirk, & within the said 2 prizes should be 700 men of war of the Prince's, the which should take suddenly the town of Dunkirk, & so the said Phillips did declare unto his Excellency, & bade him to lay in the sound (?) of Dunkirk a very proper ship, a 100 soldiers, & in 2 or 3 other ships as many more to keep the haven-mouth that those ships should not return back into the seas, & to put into the town 1000 soldiers, & 500 without the town upon the sand-hills with divers

pieces of artillery, to that end to take & slay all the Prince's folk, the which offer, as the Count de Roeux told me, was not thought good for that the town would not suffer so many soldiers to come in, & to say the truth, it is hard trusting of the townsmen upon such an occasion. Thus much I have written of Mr Copley & Phillips, to that end your Honour may judge of them.

Further here came over to me another mad fellow, [+a?] gentleman called Mr George Martin, whom I procured to have given him 100 crowns & better, & he promised to bring over mariners enow, but he promised his Excellency to kill the Prince, but what his mind was God knoweth, & now of late days he came over again with a fair woman whom he calleth wife, & in very deed he promised his Excellency to carry a letter to Signor Charles Boischot. The contents were to persuade him to do the King service according as he had promised, for the which service, if he did it, he should be so recompensed as never man was the like. Thus much I know to be true, both by the said George's own mouth & otherways, but what he did with [+the?] said letter I know not but that he is in prison at Votondam(?), but if he escape & come hither he is like to suffer that I would be loath to do. Thus much of him, to th' end your Honour may judge his case. The foresaid Phillips offered to leave his son in gauge to fulfil his promise, & the said Mr Martin his wife to gauge to do his service faithfully.

Further here came over 2 months past a gentleman, a countryman of mine, called Mr Edward Harcourt, whom, as he saith, belongeth to my Lord of Arundel, and he told me, for that I was his countryman, a very great secret of his, the which he would tell no man of but me because he hath a good opinion of me, as he said, & that was that he brought over with him into these countries a young gentleman the which he had very secretly bestowed at Louvain, the which gentleman was one of the next heirs apparent in England, howbeit I could not know of him his name, but he told me I should know him hereafter. And since my last being in Flanders the said Mr Harcourt is gone into Spain, but whether that young gentleman be gone with him or not I know not. Thus much of him, to that end your Honour may learn further.

The said Mr Harcourt hath been very great with my Lord Edward Seymour since his coming hither. Further, the said Lord Edward Seymour maketh the bruit here that he will travel into Italy, but he told me he would go into Spain, but he would have none to know it, & he requested me to bear him company for that he understood I meant to travel thitherward. He told me he had a great friend there of Mr Stukeley, & that in the way he would tell me more of his mind. Thus much of his Lordship.

Further I cannot but advise your Honour what triumph, joy and gladness was here amongst our noble & unnoble northern rebels that be here, as also amongst our Catholic men of Louvain or elsewhere on this side the seas, when that they heard of my Lord of Oxford's coming over. What great lies, what divers fables were of his Honour's flying out of England I am ashamed to write, as also that my Lord of Southampton was fled into Spain by seas with 60 pilotz(?), & there was a general council held at Louvain wherein was concluded that my Lord of Westmorland should ride to Bruges to welcome my Lord of Oxford, & to persuade him not to return back with Mr Bedingfield & others in no case,

but as far as I can learn the 2 Earls met not together. It were a great pity that such a valiant & noble young gentleman should have communicated with such detestable & devilish gentlemen(?) to their natural princess & country, but God amend them.

And now to one of my principallest matters. As nature doth bind me, so can I not but to advertise your Honour of the Queen's Majesty's enemies on these side the seas. First, here was about 7 months past one whom nameth himself Archbishop of Ireland, and he lay here at Brussels 6 weeks & was very much made of by his Excellency, & to him resorted divers & sundry times my Lord Morley & Doctor Parker, his brother, with my Lord of Westmorland, & Mr Norton & his son, & divers of our Catholic priests(?) of Louvain. I was [] 6 times with [+them?] at dinner & supper at the said Archbishop's, & immediately after dinner I with some other should avoid, & then they went to council, but in very deed I could never learn of their counsels, and yet I did all I could to endeavour myself so well to have learned somewhat. And upon a day I requested my Lord of Westmorland & my Lord Morley to supper with me when I had thought to have had my Lord Archbishop, but he was sick of an ague & could not come, but he thanked me greatly.

Sir Francis Englefield did never haunt their company, & as I learned the occasion was because my Lord of Westmorland & he be not great friends, & also he came not by the Archbishop because Mr Stukeley and the Archbishop are not friends, and Mr Stukeley's friends here, having by letters written him into Spain advertisement that the said Archbishop did allure all our noblemen upon his side, the said Mr Stukeley made such shift by the Duchess of Feria's mean that they sent my Lord of Westmorland 500 crowns to that end that he should incline himself unto Mr Stukeley's side, as in very deed the said Earl is one day friend with one & another day with another, & one of the unconstantest men in the world. I promise your Honour if I had to lend 3 or 400 crowns unto the said Lord of Westmorland, I know that is not(?) in his heart that he would not open unto me one day or(?) break with me that I should greatly commend him to his Excellency, & to declare unto his Excellency that if his Excellency would move it unto his Lordship that he was able to procure into the King's service both gentlemen with ships & mariners, so many as the King would have, the which I did open & declare unto his Excellency, & he asked me what assurance he might have that my Lord of Westmorland should perform the same, & I told his Excellency that as his word was a word of a nobleman, so was my Lord of Westmorland's in his country, and his answer was unto me that his word was the word of a nobleman's out of his country, & not like his word, whom is a nobleman in his country & in favour with his prince, which was as profound a sentence as ever I heard.

The said Lord of Westmorland hath made a suit unto his Excellency to have six months' wages to travel unto Rome to the Great Jubilee, & his Lordship I know goeth into(?) Spain to my Lady Duchess & Mr Stukeley, & in very deed I know there is some great enterprise towards Ireland, the which(?) enterprise the Archbishop with his friends would be the only doers(?) in it, & as I can learn Mr Stukeley & his friends would have the doing(?) & honour thereof.

Here is a young man very well learned whom is a[n] Irishman & belonging to the Archbishop whom is called Mr Darby [=Derby?]. He is in such credit with his Excellency & the captain of the castle of Antwerp that he hath his chamber in the castle of Antwerp where he lieth for his safeguard because he is in quarrel(?) with one Captain Thomas, a[n] Irishman, whom Mr Don Thomas de Copley caused to be taken prisoner, & said he was a spy for the Queen of England, but he is delivered, & since the said Mr Darby hath arrested him in Brussels for a certain cozenage he did with a[n] Irish gentleman that travelled(?) to Rome, where he is as yet, as I think.

I had the said Mr Darby at supper with me at Brussels 15 days ago where there [+was?] much drinking. I made him talk like a parrot, & then he told me what a villain this Captain Thomas was, & what a villain Stukeley was, & that he meant to discredit(?) his lord & master the Archbishop, but he thanked God my Lord Morley and the Earl of Westmorland with divers other would take part with his said lord & master, & that he hoped or it were long(?) that all the heretics Englishmen should be driven out of Ireland, & I soothed him therein, & requested his letters to my lord his master that he would accept me for one of his servants to do that good deed, & he promised me he would willingly do it, & he is almost every day with me, but of late he is gone to Louvain. He told me that my Lord Morley was of right Earl Marshal of Ireland, & that he hoped to see him so or it were long, & that all the Irish lords in England & Ireland with divers noblemen of England were in a league together to that end that they might live Catholicly & at liberty of their consciences in that country.

Thus much I have written of those men to that effect that your Honour may judge of the matter thereby, & thus to conclude, having declared thus much to your Honour, I have now to declare th' effect of all, that is that I am determined to travel into Spain if your Honour shall think well of it, & to obtain of the Count de Roelx, the Marquis Vitelli & Don Alonso de Vargas their favourable letters in my behalf to the King's Majesty of Spain & to the rest of their friends there to that end that I may have & obtain a pension as well as the rest of my countrymen, the which they have promised me, & the rather for that I have served in these countries these 25 years very faithfully & truly, and in especially in these last civil wars, in the which I have seen more than I did in 18 years before.

And whenas I have recovered a pension, the which I doubt not but I shall, for Sir Francis Englefield will write to Mr Stukeley for me, whom knoweth me very well, for I served in France when he was in credit there, & I served here when that he was in great credit with the Emperor Charles, & at the camp of Saint Quentin I did my Lord of Leicester, my Lord of Bedford, my Lord of Rutland, my Lord Montagu, & in especial my Lord of Pembroke very good service for that I was the commissary of the victuals in that camp. Further, my Lady Hungerford, sister to the Duchess of Feria, hath promised me to write for me to her, & Mr Doctor Parker will write to my very good Lord his brother for me. I understand that he is in very great credit with the King's Majesty, & that he hath almost brought Stukeley out of credit. They be great enemies for Mr Egremont Radcliffe's cause, whom in very deed Mr Stukeley hath greatly misused, but I will keep me in with every man & take none of their quarrels upon me, & thereby I shall the better understand

their doings, for I trust so to use myself that every one of them shall have a good opinion of me. Thus much of my conclusion.

If I can get my pension, then will I show to the King's Majesty that he will grant me to levy up one ancient or 2 ancients of enough men to serve him in his wars in these Low Countries, & my pretence must be to take all Catholics that come hither out of England for their conscience' sakes, so that if your Honour do think well of this practice I trust by God's permission to do such service to the Queen's Majesty & my country as never any Englishman did better service, and that(?) is as followeth. If the King's Majesty grant me one ancient or 2 of men, I will gather up my men at Bruges & at Saint Omer, & in advertising your Honour thereof, it may please your Honour to send me over such expert soldiers & lusty gentlemen that upon the sudden, having such engines made as I shall describe unto your Honour & send you a pattern thereof, that I doubt not by God's grace but to get you in one night the castle of Calais, and as the old proverb is, spattian(?) gainiez, ville pardii(?). If I gather up my men at Bruges by Dunkirk, I will be at Calais in 3(?) hours or 4, & your Honour must cause to be made 10 or 12 boats, every boat to be made but of 4 deal-boards, the which be very light, & they must be made to fold together with seven(?) iron gynes(?), & lined within with cering-cloth to hold out the water, & there must be made to hang upon every side of those light boats 4 small light barrels, the which shall bear up the boats & though they were full of water, & then there must be made bridges of light deal-boards to lay(?) upon the same boats, 3 or 4 boards tacked together with iron engines(?) that one man may be able to carry them upon his shoulder, & 2 men may carry the boats, & then there must be made divers light ladders, the which every man may carry one to give the assault. All these boats, bridges & ladders with barrels must be made in Dover castle or in London, & sent with small boats, as fisher-boats or oyster boats, & sent betwixt Gravelines & Calais, & there taken out the same night we shall do the service & feat(?), & then there must be divers ships come into the haven the same night with men to give the alarum on that side, as we shall be busy to lay(?) our bridges & assault by land to the said castle, & no doubt but we shall quickly get it, by God's permission. I have divers times perused the dikes & walls of the said castle, & I promise your Honour I find them not strong at all, but betwixt this & that time, if your Honour like well of the service, I shall better peruse all things. I take God to record I would think myself the happiest man in the world to die & lose my life in getting again that town.

Because I am very well known in these parts the Frenchmen will not mistrust anything at all. And thus for this time to make an end, I will request your Honour to write me your mind if that your Honour will employ me in any of these services, as to ride into Spain to get intelligence of all things that our Lords mean to practise against the state of my Lady & Mistress, the Queen's Majesty, or my native country, to that end I may from time to time give your Honour intelligence thereof, the which I will not fail, but do as circumspectly, as wisely & as faithfully as I would crave at God's hands to receive my soul into his mercy, & therefore though that your Honour have no acquaintance with me, yet mistrust me not, for by the living God if your Honour will cause to be made there in England a certain lingering poison, & send it hither by a trusty messenger to me, not letting him to know what it is, but such(?) some other matter, and let me have

commandment from your Honour to whom I shall give it, & then you shall try me what I am for the service of the Queen's Majesty & my country, & doubt not but I will handle it very secretly, as reason requireth for my own safeguard.

And for that the King's Majesty doth owe me better than 2000 guilders for my wages, the which I cannot as yet get for that here is no money because the States of these countries are not as yet fully agreed with his Excellency, I shall crave this much of your Honour, to send me 2 or 300 angels with 2 English geldings to present & give away whereas I shall think best bestowed whenas I shall come into Spain, either to the Archbishop, my Lord of Westmorland, my Lord Morley, or else Stukeley, or perchance to the King's secretary, even as I shall see occasion both by your Honour's letters to what end it shall please your Honour to employ me or what thing your Honour had greatest desire to be brought to pass.

The occasion I have not written sooner unto your Honour was that I had good hope to have had more larger intelligence to have written your Honour of.

These things must be done with diligence for that the winter is at hand, & I would I had the Queen's Majesty's passport to pass through France if I met with any of the Huguenots upon the frontiers of Languedoc, & there I would leave my said passport until my return back again out of Spain, to come back withal.

Look(?) what letters your Honour doth write unto me, after that I have read them I will tear them in pieces before & in presence of the bringer for fear of afterclaps, & I trust your Honour will so do by my letters. And good my Lord, I pray you for the honour of God mislike not of me for that I crave at your Honour's hands help with money & horse, for I know that so much is not to the Queen's Majesty or your Honour to be esteemed as 2d, & in especially to me whom am & will be forever her Majesty's most faithful & humble subject & servant, & as ready to do your Honour service as any child or servant you have, & only because I know your Honour doth nothing else but study for the preservation of the Queen's Majesty & safeguard of our country, whose life I beseech the Almighty God long to preserve & continue to your Honour's desire with increase of honour.

Thus most humbly I take my leave of your Honour, beseeching the same to pardon my long & rude letter, but my trust is your Honour will judge the best of your poor servant, & that affection of good, true & obedient service to the Queen's Majesty & your Honour is the only occasion thereof, as I take God to my record it is. I will remain here in Antwerp until I hear answer from your Honour, & I will resort unto my countryman Mr James Harvey the younger, whom is Deputy here for the nation, to whom I delivery [sic?] this letter to be conveyed very safely & surely to your Honour's hands, but I have not made him privy of any one thing therein, but if your Honour do send over 2 geldings & money to me, I will not be known but that I do buy them of him that bringeth them over to me.

Thus once again my most humble & dutiful commendations unto your good Honour, with craving pardon for this my rude style of letter, I beseech the living God to prosper your Honour in all your doings. From Antwerp, this third day of September 1574.

de v{ost}re Sigorii(?)

Le treshumble tresaffectione et tresobayissant seruiteure a Jamais

Edward Woodshawe

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable and my singular good Lord, my Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, at the Queen's Majesty's court in England; (2) (in Lord Burghley's hand) 3 September 1574, Edward Woodshaw;