
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 26 March 1575 written by Dr Valentine Dale (c.1520–1589), the English ambassador in Paris, to Lord Burghley.

Oxford visited Paris on his continental tour, and had been presented by Dr Dale to the French King and Queen on 5 March. He left Paris on 17 March. As indicated in the letter, while in Paris Oxford had had his portrait painted by a Flemish artist.

For further information on the subterfuge engaged in by Dr Dale with respect to Lord Burghley's letter to William Lewin, see TNA SP 70/133, ff. 183-5.

For further background on the situation at the French court at the time of Oxford's arrival in Paris, see TNA SP 70/133, ff. 135-6.

My very good Lord, I have little matter to write unto your Lordship at this time because this bearer doth come by journey, supposing to have occasion to write shortly at large unto your Lordship upon conference with Monsieur Cheverny, who appointeth to be with me tomorrow.

Being careful of your Lordship's letter to Mr Lewin, I did empacket it within a letter of mine own wherein I wrote unto him that he must receive the letter enclosed as from me, and so delivered it to the messenger as from myself in such wise as your Lordship's meaning cannot but be observed.

If the skill of this painter here be liked, I suppose he would be induced to come thither, for he is a Fleming, and liketh not overwell of his entertainment here. It seemeth to us he hath done my Lord of Oxford well. My Lord's device is very proper, witty and significant.

And thus I beseech Almighty God long to preserve your Lordship in good health. From Paris the 26th of March 1575.

Your Lordship's most humble, Valen{tine} Dale

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable my very good Lord, my Lord Treasurer; (2) 26 March 1575, Mr D{octor} Dale to my Lord from Paris