

OXFORD's LETTERS

[=01] *BL Lansdowne 6[/25], f. 79; Oxford to Burghley, 19 August 1563 (bifolium; 300mm x 210mm) (W21; F1).*

French: see Ward or Fowler for transcription.

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable Sir W knight chefe Secretarie to the <.....> [seal]

Endorsed (B): Erle of oxford 23d August 1563.

Second endorsement: in French

NB: Photo in Mysterious, p. 441; and Fowler, p. 000. Modern pencilled note: "Smells strongly of the young Lords tutor. D."

[=02] *BL Lansdowne 11[/53], ff. 121-2, Oxford to Burghley, November 1569 (bifolium, 305mm x 210mm) (W39-40; F19).*

Sir. Althoth [=although] my hap hathe bin so hard that yt hathe visited me of lat [=late] wythe syknes yet thanks be to god throw [=through] the lokinge to which I haue had by yowr care had ouer me, I find my helthe restored and myself doble behowldinge vnto yow bothe for that and many good turnes whiche I haue receiued before of yowre part. For the which althothe I haue fownd yow to not account of late of me as in time tofore yet not wythstandinge that strangnes yow shall se at last in me that I will aknowlege [them] and not be vngratfull vnto yow for them and not to deserue so ill a thowght in yow that they were ill bestowed in me. But at this present desiringe yow yf I haue done any thinge amise that I haue merited yowre offence imput [=impute] [+it] to my yong yeares and lak of experience to know my friendes. and at this time I ame bowld to desire yowre fauoure and friendship that yow will suffer me to be imploid by yowre meanes and help in this seruice that now is in hand Wherby I shall think my self the most bownd vnto yow of any man in this court and hereafter ye shall command me as any of yowre owne Hauing no other meanes wherby to speak wythe yow my self I am bowld to impart my mynd in paper, earnestly desiring yowr Lordship that at this instant as her to fore [=heretofore] yow haue giuen me yowre good word to haue me se the wares [=wars] and seruices in strange and forren places sythe yow cowld not then obtayne me licence of the Quenes Magesti Now yow will doo me so much honor as yat by yowre purches of my licence I may be called to the seruice of my prince and contrie as at this present troblous time a number arr. Thus leuing [=leaving, ceasing] to importunat [=importune] yow wythe my earnest sut I commit yowe to the hands of the Almighty. By yowre assewred friend this 24th of Nouember

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and his singular good friend Sir William Cecill Secritarie and Master of the wards. Yeu thes [=Give these, i.e., give this letter]. [seal]

Endorsed: 24 Nouember 1569 Therle of Oxford to my Master

Second endorsement: Desires him to procure leave from ye Queen for him to go & serve hir Magesties Country in ye Wars.

NB: Yeu thes in a cursive hand, possibly O's.

[=03] *BL Harley 6991[/5], ff. 9-10, Oxford to Burghley, September 1572 (bifolium, 332mm x 230mm) (W71-2;F54-6).*

NB: A later hand, using brown ink, has normalized Oxford's spelling at various places, added punctuation, and appended an explanatory footnote (see my footnote 5). I have attempted to transcribe the letter as Oxford wrote it.

My Lorde, I haue vnderstoode by yowre Lordshipes letters, that Roberte Christmas, acordinge to my appointment, hathe repaired to yowre good Lordship about my causes, and as yowre Lordship thinkes good therin, as touchinge a new suruaye, so do I determine shalbe done for bothe, as yowre Lordship perceiues; and also mi selfe I haue ben greatlye abusd in the former, by suche as I pute in trust tofore, but for that is past now I haue no other remidie but to loke better to amend the fault in the rest of my delinges hereafter. and as for my timber at Colne parke; therin, I had no other meaninge saue onlie to make, as it weare, a yearlie rente, so as I may, withe ought disparkinge the grounde. But now for the suruaier whiche yowre Lordship hathe named, I must get him by yowre Lordships meanes, and for yowre Lordships sake, for I ame vtterly vnaquantte<d> withe him

And as for those large leases, whiche yowre Lordship hathe bene aduertised ofe, to be graunted by me, I doo assure yowre Lordship [it] withe ought dissemblinge my faultes to yow to whome I perceiue my self so muche to be bownd vnto for yowre singouler care ouer my welldoinge: I must confess my negligence and to [=too] littell care withe the two two [dittography?] muche trust I haue put to some ouer myn owne doinges; it may be I am greatlye abused, but as yet till I searche into those thinges now vpon yowre Lordships most gracious admonissiones I doo nott know. But It is likelier [=likelier] to be as yowre Lordship dothe gesse then otherwise, and if it be not so it is more by good hape [=hap, fortune] then of my prouidence.

The deuice of makinge fre my copihoulders mi Lord I neuer thought of otherwise then amotion [=a motion, proposal] mad [=made] to me by Robert Christmas wherin amonge the other thinges I bad him tell it yowre Lordship at whose lekinge or dislekinge I was to be ruled in ani thinge. knowinge if it weare a thinge fitt or vnfitte for me I shoulde by yowre Lordships good aduise quiklye vnderstand, and so I left it to be not done, or taken in hande, and thusse [=thus] sir for these matters bothe in this as in all other thinges I am to be gouerned and commanded att yowre lordshipes good deuotion.

I woulde to god yowre lordship woulde lett me vnderstand sume of yowre newes, whiche here dothe ringe doutfullie in the eares of eurie man of the murder of the admirall of Fraunce and a number of noble men and worthie gentelmen, and suche as greatlye haue in there liue times [=lifetimes] honored the Queens Magestie oure mistris, on whose tragedies we haue an number of frenche | AEnesases in this citte that tels of theare owne ouerthrowes withe teares fallinge from ther eies, a piteous thinge to heare but a cruell and far more greuouse thinge we mus [=must]

deme it thane [=then, therefore] to see. all rumores here are but confused, of those tropes [=troops] that are escaped from Paris, and Rohan [=Rouen] where Monsieur hath also bene, and leke a vesper Sicilianus as they sey that crueltie spredes ouer all fraunce. wherof yowre Lordship is better aduertised then we are here. And sithe the world is so full of treasones, and vile instrumentes, daylie to attempt new and vnloktfor thinges, good my Lord, I shall affetiouslye, and hartely desire yowre Lordship to be carfull bothe of yowre self and of her Magestie that yowre friendes may longe enioie yow and yow them. I speake bycause I am not ignorant what practises haue bene made against yowre persone latlye by Madder, and later as I vnderstand by forren practises, if it be tru. And thinke yf the admiral in fraunce was a eysore or[e] beame in the eyes of the papistes, that The lord tresorer of England is [...] a bloke [=block, impediment] and a crosebare in ther way, whose remoue, they will neuer stikte to [attain] ^\attempte/, seinge they haue preuailed so well in others.

This estatte hath depended on yow a great while, as all the world dothe iuge [=judge], and now [are] all menes eyes, not beinge ocupid any more on these lost lordes, are as it weare one [=on] a soden bent and fixed on yow, as a singular hope and piller wherto the religion hath too [=to] leane. And blame me not thought [=though] I am boulder withe yowre Lordship at this present then my custome is, for I am on [=one] that count my self a follower of yowres now in all fortunes; and what shall hape [=hap, occur by fortune] to yow I count it hap to my selfe; or at the least I will make my self a voluntarie partaker of it.

Thus my Lord I humbli desire [.]yowre Lordship to pardone my yowthe, but to take in good part my zeale and affection towards yowre Lordship As on whome I haue builded my fowndation ether to stand or fall. And good my Lord think I do not this presumptiouslie / as to aduise yow that am but to take aduise of yowre Lordship but to admonishe yow as one withe whome I wouuld spend my blud and lyfe so muche yow haue made me yowres. and I do protest ther is nothinge more desired of me then so to be taken an [=and] accounted of yow. thus withe my hartie comendationes and yowre daughters we leaue yow to the custodie of Almightye God.

Yowre Lordships affectioned sune in lawe.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable and his singular good Lord the lord Tr<easur>er of England giue these. [trace of seal]

Endorsed (mixture of two hands): September 1572; <E>dward ye Erle of oxford, to my Lord treasurer; Concerning his Estates. Reflexions vpon ye Paris massacre, the danger his Lordship was in. And ye Earles concern for his welddoing.

[=04] *BL Lansdowne 14[/84], ff. 185-6, Oxford to Burghley, 22 September 1572 (bifolium, 265mm x 230mm, 265mm x 195mm [evidently cropped]) (W73;F97-8).*

NB: This letter has been normalized by a later hand; I have attempted to reproduce the letter as Oxford wrote it.

My Lorde, I receiued yowre letters, when I rather loked to haue sene yowre selfe here, then to haue harde [=heard] from yow: but sithe it is soo, that yowre Lordship is other wise, affaired withe the busines of the common wellthe, then to be disposede to recreat yowre selfe, and repose ye amonge yowre owne, yet we do hope, after this yow hauinge hade so great a care of the Queens Maiesties seruice, yow will begine to haue sune respect of yowre owne healthe, and take a plesure to duele where yow haue taken paine to builde; My wife (whome I thowght shold haue taken her leue [=leave] of yow, if yowre Lordship hade come, till yow wold haue otherwise commanded, is departed vnto the contrie this day: my selfe, as fast as I cane get me ought of towne, doo followe. Where <.....> I be any way imploide, I am content and desirous so[?] <..... serv>ice, wher by I may show my selfe dutifull to her. otherwise if it wer<.....> that respecte, I thinke ther is more troble then credite to be gotten in suche gouermentes. if ther were any seruice to be done abroad, I hadd rather serue there, then att home, wher yet sune honor were to be gotte; if ther be any settinge forthe to sea, to whiche seruice I beare most affectione, I shall desire yowre Lordship to giue me and gett me that fauoure and credite, that I myght make one. whiche if [..] therbe no suche intention, then I shalbe most willinge to be imploide on the sea costes [=coasts], to be in a redines withe my contrie man against any invasione. Thus recomendinge my selfe to yowre good Lordshipe, I commite yow to god. from Londone, this 22th of September. by yowre Lordship to commande.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To <the right honorable my> singuler good lord, <the lord> Burley, and lord tresorer of England giue thes att the courte. [seal]

Endorsed: 22 September 1572; the Erle of oxf<ord> to my master

Second endorsement: [Employment at sea]; Desires his Lordship to procure him some employment in ye Queenes service: but especially, which hee chyfly bends to, at sea.

Third endorsement: 22 September 1572.

[=05] *BL Lansdowne 14[/85], ff. 186-7, Oxford to Burghley, 31 October 1572 (bifolium, 278mm x 195mm) (W76;F107).*

My lord, yowre last letters, whiche be the first I haue receiued, of yowre lordshipes good opinion conceiued towardes me, (whiche god graunt so longe to continue) as I wold be bothe desirowes and diligent to seke the same, haue not a littell, after so many stormes passed of yowre heui [=heavy, disapproving] grace towardes me, lyghtned and disburdned ["d" is interlinear] my carfull minde. And sithe I haue bene so littell behouldinge to senister reportes, I hope now, withe yowre Lordships indiferent iugment, to be more plausable vnto yow then her to fore [=heretofore], thought [=through] my carfull dedes, to please yow, whiche hardly, eyther throwght [=through] my yowthe, or rather misfortune hether to I haue donne. But yet, least those, (I can not tell how to terme them,) but as bakfrendes vnto me, shall take place againe to vndo yowr lordshipes beginninges of welconceiuinge of me, I shall most earnestlye desire yowre Lordshipe to forbere to beleieue to [=too] fast, least I growinge so slowlie into yowre good opinion may be vnderuedly of my parte, roted ought of yowre fauoure. The whiche thinge, to

allwayes obtayne, (if yowre lordshipe doo but equally consider of me) may se by all the meanes possible in me, I doo aspire. thought [=though] perhapes by reasone of my yowthe, yowre grauer and seuerer yerres will not iuge the same, Thus therfore hopinge the best in yowre lordshipe, and feringe the worst in my selfe, I take my leaue, least my letters may become lothsome and tedious vnto yow to whome I wishe to be most gratfull, written this 31th of October by yowr Louinge sune in Lawe from wiwehole

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

This bearer hathe sum ned [=need] of yowre Lordships fauoure, whiche when he shall speake withe yowre Lordship I pray yow, for my sak [=sake] he may finde yow the more his furtherer and helper in his cause.

Addressed: To the right honorable my singuler good Lord the Lord Treasurer geue these. At Court. [seal]

Endorsed: 31 October 1572

Second endorsement (B): Erl of oxford

Third endorsement: Vpon a reconciliation of his father in Law towards him.

NB: Photo and transcription in Greg, No. 28(a).

[=06] *Cecil Papers, 8/24, Oxford to Burghley, 17-18 March 1575 (bifolium, 295mm x 208mm) (W102-3;F163-4).*

My lord yowre letters haue made me a glad man, for thes last haue put me in assurance of that good fortune whiche yowre former mentioned doughtfullye. I thank god therfore, withe yowre Lordship that it hathe pleased him to make me a father wher yowre Lordship is a grandfather. and if it be a boij I shall lekwise be the partaker withe yow in a greater contentation. But therby to take an occasion too [=to] returne I am far of [=off] from that opinion, for now it hathe pleased god to giue me a sune of myne owne (as I hope it is) mithink [=methinks] I haue the better occasion to trauell, sithe whatsoeuer becommethe of me, I leue behind me on [=one] to supplie my dutie and seruice either to my prince or els my contrie.

I thanke yowre Lordship I haue receiued farther bils of credite, and letters of great curtesie from Mr Benidic Spinola. I am allso behouldinge here vnto mr Reymondo, that hathe help me greatly withe a number of fauours whom I shall desire yowre Lordship when yow haue leisur and occasion to giue him thanks, for I know the greatest part of his friendship towards me hathe bine in respect of yowre Lordshipe.

For feare of the inquisition I dare not pas by Milan, the Bishop wherof exersisethe such tyranie. wherfore I take the way of Germanie, where I mean to aquaint my self withe sturmius, withe home [=whom] after I ^\haue/ passed my iornie ^\which/ now I haue in hand I meane to pas sum time

I haue found here this curtesie, the kinge hathe giuen me his letters of recommendation to his embassadour in the Turkes court, lekwise the venetian embassadour that is here knowinge my desire to see those parties [=parts] hathe giuen me his letters to the Duke, and diuers of his kinsmen in Venice, to procur me ther furtherances to my iornie which I am not yet assured too [=to] howld for if the Turkes cum as they be loked for vpon the coste of Italy or els where, if I may I will se the seruice, if he commethe not then perhapes I will bestowe twoo or thre monthes to se Constantinople, and sum part of Grece.

The Englishe imbassadour here greatly complainethe of the deernes of this contrie, and earnestly hathe desired me to craue yowre Lordshipes fauour to consider the difference of his time, from thers whiche were before him, he saiethe the charges are greater, his abilite less the court remoues long and oft, the causes of expences augmented, his allowance not beinge increased. But as concerninge thes matters, now I haue satisfisd [=satisfied] his desire I refer them to yowre Lordships discretion, that is better experienced then I perhaps enformed him in th<.....> negotiations of Embassadors.

My Lord wheras I perceiue by <yowr> Lordships letters, how hardly monie is to be gotten, and that my man writeth <that he> would faine pay vnto my creditours sum part of that monie whiche I haue appointed to be made ouer vnto me, good my Lord let rather my creditors beare withe me awhile and take ther dayes assigned accordinge to that order I left, then I to want in a strange contrie, vnknowinge yet what nede I may haue of mony my self. my reuenu I appointed withe the profites of my lands to pay them as I may, and if I cannot yet pay them as I would yet as I can I will but preferringe myne own necescite before thers, and if at the end of my trave<ll> I shall haue sumthinge left of my prouision they shall haue it amonge them, but before I will not disfurnish my self. good my lord haue an ey vnto my men that I haue put in trust. thus makinge my commendations to yowr Lordship and my Ladie I commite yow to god, and whersoeuer I am I rest at yowr Lordships commandment. written the xvijjht of Marche from Paris

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

(sideways in left margin)

My Lord this gentellman Mr Corbek, hathe giuen me great cause to leke of him bothe for his curtesies that he hathe showne me in lettinge me vnderstand the difculties as well as the safties of my trauell, as allso I find him affected bothe to me and yowr Lordshipe I pray yowre Lordship that those whoo ar my friends may seme yowres as yowres I esteme myne, and giuen yowre Lordships good countnance and in short I rest yowres

Addressed (O): To the righ [sic] honorable and his singuler good Lord my Lord Tresorer of England giue thes. [seal]

Endorsed (B): Martij 1574 [=1575] ye Erle of oxford to me <.....> knowledg <.....> (heavily soiled)

[=07] *Cecil Papers 160/74 (bifolium, 305mm x 215mm) Oxford to Burghley; 24 September [1575] (W107-8;F181-2).*

My good lord, hauinge looked for yowre Lordships letters a great while, at lenth when I grew to dispaire of them I receiued twoo from yowre Lordship thre pakets whiche at sundrie times I had sent this summer towards England retorned bake againe, by reason the plage beinge in the passages, none were sufferd to pass but as they came were returned bake; whiche I cam not to the knowlege of till my returne now to Venice, where I haue bene griued withe a feuer. yet withe the help of god now I haue recouerd the same and am past the danger therof thowght [=though] browght veri weake therby, and hindred from a great deale of trauell. whiche grieues [=grieves] me most, feringe my time not sufficient for my desire. for allthought [=although] I haue sene so muche as sufficethe me yet wold I haue time to profite therby. yowre Lordship semes desirous to know how I leake Italy, what is myne intencion, in trauell, and when I meane to returne; for my lekinge of Italy, my lord I am glad I haue sene it, and I care not euer to [se] see it any more vnles it be to serue my prince or contrie. for myne intencion to trauell, I am desirows to see more of Germanie, wherfore I shall desire yowre Lordship withe my Lord of Leicester, to procure me the next summer, to continue my licence. at the end of whiche I meane vndoughtedly to returne. I thought to haue sene Spaine, but by Italy, I gess the worse. I haue sent on [=one] of my seruants into England, withe sune new disposition of my thinges there, wherfore I will not trouble yowre Lordship in thes letters with the same. if this siknes had not happend vnto me whiche hathe taken away this chifest time of trauell, at this present I wold not haue written for further leaue, but to supply the whiche, I dought not her Magestie will not denie me so small a fauour. by reason of my great charges of trauell || and siknes I haue taken vp of Mr Baptisto Nigrone 500 crounes, which I shall desire yowr Lordship to se ther [=there, i.e., in England] repaid. hopinge by this time my monie whiche is made of the sall [=sale] of my land is all com in. lekwise I shall desire yowre Lordship that whear as I had on [=one] Luc Atslow that serued [+me], whoo now is become a lewd subiect to her Magestie and an euil member to his contrie, whiche had certeine leses [=leases] of me, I doo thinke accordinge to Lawe he lesethe [=loseth] them all to the Queen sithe he is become on [=one] of the Romishe church and there hathe performed all such ceremonies as myght reconcile hime self to that churge [=church] hauinge vsed lewd speaches against the Queens Magesties supremice, legitimation, gouernment and particuler lyf, and is here as it were a practiser vpon owre nation, then this is my desire that yowre Lordship if it be soo as I doo take yt wold procure those leses into my hands againe where as I haue vnderstood by my Lord of Bedford they haue hardly delt withe my tenants. thus thankinge yowre Lordship for yowre good newes of my wiues deliuerie, I recommend my self vnto yowre fauoure and allthought [=although] I write for a few months more yet thowght [=though] I haue them so it may fall ought I will shorten them my self. written this 24h of September by yowre Lordships to command.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable his singular good Lord the Lord Tresorer of England [seal]

Endorsed (B): 24 sept. 1575 Erl of oxford to me.

NB: Fowler designates as CP160/74; CP160/75. Photos in Fowler, vi-vii; Sammartini, p. 102.

[=08] *Cecil Papers 8/76 (bifolium, 300mm x 205mm, repaired), Oxford to Burghley; 27 November [1575] (W109;F196).*

My Lord. hauinge th'oportunite to write by this bearer whoo departethe from vs her [=here] in Padowa, this night, although I cannot make so large a write as I wowld gladly desire yet I thought it not fitt too lett so short a time slipe [=slip]. wherfore remembringe my commendationes to yowre good Lordshipe, thes shalbe to desire yow to pardon the shortnes of my letters, and to imput it at this present to the hast of this messengers departure. And as concerninge myne owne matters, I shall desire yowr Lordship to make noo staye of the salles of my land, but that all thinges [+be] accordinge to my determinationes before I came away. withe those that I appointed last by my seruant william Bothe myght goo forward, accordinge to myne order taken, witheought any other alteration. thus recommendinge my self vnto yowre Lordship againe, and to my Ladie yowre wife, withe mine [=my wife (Anne)], I leaue further to troble yowre Lordship from Padoua. the 27h of Nouember.

Yowr Lordships

too command

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec.f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable and his verie good lord my Lord Burley lord Treasurer of England giue thes

Endorsed: 27 November 1575 The Erle of Oxenford to my lord from Padoua the sale of his landes not to be stayed.

NB: Fowler designates (inconsistently) as CP, ii, 122.

[=09] *Cecil Papers 8/12 (small bifolium, 280mm x 195mm), Oxford to Burghley; [3 January 1576] (W110-11;F203-4).*

My lord I am sorie too here [=to hear] how hard my fortune is in England as I perceiue by yowre Lordshipes letters, but knowinge how vaine a thinge it is to linger a necessarie mischief, (to know the worst of my self & to let yowre Lordship vnderstand wherin I wowld vse yowre honorable friendship) in short I haue thus determined, that whearas I vnderstand, the greatnes of my dett; and gredines of my crediters, growes soo dishonorable to me, and troblesome vnto yowre Lordshipe, that that land of mine which in Cornwale I haue appointed too bee sould accordinge too that first order for myn expences in this trauell be goone throught [=through] withall. And to stope my crediters exclamaciones or rather defamations I may call them I shall desire yowre Lordship by the vertue of this letter which dothe not err as I take it from any former purpose which was that allwayes vpon my letter to authorise yowre Lordship to sell any portion of my land / that yow will sell on hundreth pound a yere more of my land where yowr Lordship shall thinke fittest, to disburden me of mye detts to her Magestie my sister or els where I am

exclaimed vpon. lekwise most earnestly I shall desire yowre Lordship to loke into the lands of my fathers will, whiche my sister beinge payd and the time expired I take is to come into my hands. and if yowre Lordship will for not troblinge of yowre self to [=too] much with my causes command, Lewine, Kelton, and myne auditor to make a vew [=view] into the same, I think it wilbe the soner dispatched as for Hulbert I pray yowre Lordship to displace him of his office whiche I restored vnto him before myne auditor on condition he showld rendre it vp at all times that I showld command. my reason is whi I doo the same [.] for that he bargend withe me in Coulne, and trustinge him, therin he hathe takene more then I ment and as his owne letter whiche I haue sent to my seruant Keltone dothe showe more then him self did mean, a fit excuse | for soo coseninge a part and yet thowght [=though] it was more then he ment wheras it is conditioned that all times he showld surrender the same when his monie showldbe offred to him againe in compas of certeine yeres, yet in myne absence he hathe refused the same as I vnderstand. whervpon my thinkethe [=methinketh] he diserueth verie euill at my hands. and he that in so small a matter dothe misvse the trust I haue reposed in him, I am to dought his seruice in greater causes. wherfore I doo againe desire yowre Lordship to discharge him from all dealinges of myne, vpon his accountes too [=to] the rest of my fornamed seruants.

In doinge thes thinges yowre lordship shall greatly plesure me. in not doinge them yow shall as muche hinder me. for allthough to depart [withe] withe land yowre Lordship hathe aduised the contrarie and that yowre Lordship for the good affection yow beare vnto me could wishe it otherwise, yet yow see, I haue non other remedie I haue no help but of myne owne, and mine is made to serue me, and myself not mine. whervpon till all suche incombrances be passed ouer and till I can better settell my self at home I haue determined to continue my trauell the whiche thinge in no wise I desire yowre Lordship to hinder. vnles yow would haue it thus Vt nulla sit inter nos amicitia. for hauinge made an end of all hope to help my self by her Magesties seruice consideringe that my yowthe is objected vnto me, and for eury step of myne, a bloke [=block, hindrance] is found to be layd in my way, I see it is but vayne, calcitrare contra li buoi. and the worst of thinges beinge knowne, they are the more easier to be prouided for, to beare and support them withe paciencie [=patience]. wherfore for thinge passed amis [=amiss] to repent them it is to late, to help them, (whiche I cannot but ease them that I am determined to hop [=hope] for any thinge I doo not, but if any thinge doo happen preter spem. I thinke before that time I must be so ould as my sunes [=sons], whoo shall enioi them, must giue the thankes and I am to content my self accordinge to this englishe prouerd [sic] that it is my hap to sterue leke the horse, whilst the gress dothe growe. |

thus my good lord I doo bouldly write that yow showld not be ignorant of any thinge that I doo, for if I haue reason I make yow the iuge, and lay my self more open vnto yow, then perhapes yf I write fewer lines ore penned les store of wordes otherwise I could doo. But for that it is not so easie a matter at all times to conuey letters from thes parties in to England I am therfore the more desirous to vse larglie this oportunitie. and to supplie in writinge the want of speaking, wiche the longe distance betwien vs hathe taken away. thus I leaue yowre Lordship to the protection of almightie god. whoome I beseche to send yow longe and happie lyfe. and better fortune to define yowre felicitye, in thes yowre aged yeres, then [to] yt hathe pleased hime to graunt in my yowthe. but of a hard beginnunge we may hope a[n] good and easie endinge. Yowre Lordships to commande duringe lyfe. the 3o of Ianuarie. from Siena

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): <To the ri>ght honorable and his singular good lord, my lord Burley, lord Thresorer of England giue this [seal]

Endorsed (B): 3 Ianuary 1575 The Erle of oxford by M spinolas packett. Received ye 17 of february.

NB: Fowler designates as CP 8/12; CP 8/12; CP 8/13.

[=10] *Cecil Papers 9/1 (bifolium, 300mm x 205mm), Oxford to Burghley; 27 April [1576] (W121;F248-9).*

Mi lord, all thought [=although] I have forborne, in sune respect, whiche I hould priuat to my self ether to write ore come vnto yowre Lordshipe, yet had I determined, as oportunitie should haue serued me, to haue acomplished the same in compas of a feue dayes.

But now vrged therunto by yowre letters, to satisfie yow the soner, I must let yowre Lordship vnderstand thus muche.

That is vntill I can better satisfie or aduertise miself of sune mislekes, I am not determined as touchinge my wife to accompanie here [=her]. What they are because sune are not to be spoken of or written vpon as imperfections I will not deale withall, sune that otherwayes discontent me I will not blas [=blaze] ore publishe vntill it pleas me. and last of all I mean not to werie my life any more withe suche trobles and molestaciones as I haue endured nor will I to please yowre Lordship only, discontent my self. Wherefore as yowre Lordship veri well writethe vnto me that yow mean if it standethe withe my lekinge [that] to receiue her in to yowre howse, thes are lekwise to let yowre Lordship vnderstand that it dothe veri well content me, for there as yowre doughter or her mothers more then my wife yow may take comfort of her and I rid of the comber therby, shall remaine well eased of many griefes. I doo not dought but she hathe sufficient proportion for her beinge to liue vpon and to maintaine herself. This myght haue bene done throwght [=through] priuat conference before and had not neded to haue bene the fable of the world yf yow wouold haue had the patience to haue vnderstood me, but I doo not know by what ore whose aduise it was, to rune that course so contrarie to my will or meaninge, whiche made her disgraced, [too?] the world reised suspitions openly, that withe priuate conference myght haue bene more silently handled, and hathe giuen me more greater cause to misleke. Wherefore I desire yowre Lordship in thes causes now yow shall vnderstand me not to vrge me any farther. and so I write vnto yowre Lordship as yow haue done vnto me. this friday the 27h of Aprill.

Yowre Lordships to be vsed in all thinges resonable.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable and his <verie> good lord, the Lord Burley Thresorer of England giue thes. [seal]

Endorsed (B): 27 Aprill 1576; Erl of Oxford from Grenwych

[=11] *Cecil Papers 9/15 (bifolium, 300mm x 210mm), Oxford to Burghley; [13 July 1576] (W125;F266).*

My verie good lord, yesterday, at yowre Lordships ernest request I had sume conference with yow abought yowre doughter, wherin for that her Magestie had so often moued me, and for that yow delt so earnestly withe me, to content as muche as I could, I dyd agre that yow myght bringe her to the court withe condition that she showld not come when I was present nor at any time to haue speche withe mee, and further that yowre Lordship showld not vrge farther in her cause. But now I vnderstand that yowr Lordship means this day to bringe her to the court and that yow mean afterward to prosecut the cause withe further hop [=hope]. Now if yowre Lordship shall doo so, then shall yow take more in hand then I haue or can promes yow. for alwayes I haue and will still prefer myne owne content before others. and obseruinge that wherin I may temper or moderat, for yowre sake I will doo most willingly. Wherefore I shall desire yowre Lordship not to take aduantage of my promes till yow haue giuen me sum honorable assurance by letter or word, of yowre performance of the condition which beinge obserued, I caud [=could?] yeld [=yield], as it is my dutie to her Magesties request, and beare withe yowre fatherly desire, towards her. otherwise, all that is done can stand to non effect. from my loginge at Charinge crosse. this morninge. Yowre Lordships to emploi

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable and his verie good Lord the lord Thresorer of England giue thes. [seal]

Endorsed (B): 13 Iulij 1576; The Erle of oxford. Received at St Ionnes [=St John's College, Cambridge?]

[=12] *PRO SP12/149/42(15)], f. 108v (eleventh leaf of a booklet of twelve leaves, 305mm x 205mm), Oxford to Meta Incognita syndicate; 21 May 1578 (W238-9;F274).*

(registered copy, not in Oxford's hand)

To my very loving fryndes william pellham & thomas randolphe esquiers, Mr yonge, Mr Lok, Mr Hogan, Mr fyeld, & others the Commyssyoners for the voyage to Meta incognita/.

After my very harty Commendacions / vnderstandinge of the wyse proceding & orderlie deallinge for the contynewynge of the voyage for the dyscourye [=discovery] of Cathay by the Northwest, which this bearar my frynd Mr froobusher hathe alreadye very honorablye attempted, and is now eftsones to be employed for the better atchyvyng therof / and the rather induced aswell for the great lykynge her Maiestie hathe to haue the same passage dyscoured, as also for the speciall good favour I beare to Mr frobusher, to offer vnto you to be an adventurar therin for the summ of one thousand pounds or more, yf you lyke to admytt therof, which summ or summes vppon your certifficat of admyttance, I wyll enter into bond shalbe paid for that vse vnto

you, vppon Michaelmas day next comyng / Requestyng your answers therin, I byd you hartely farewell / ffrom the Court the xxj of May 1578.

Your loving frynd,

Edward Oxenford

[=13] *BL Lansdowne 33[/6], ff. 12-13 (bifolium, 238mm x 160mm), Oxford to Burghley; [13? July 1581] (W223-4; F283-4).*

My lord, Robine Christmas dyd yester day, tell me, how honorably yow had delt withe her magestie as touchinge my Lybertye, and that as this day she had made promes to yowre lordship that it shold bee. vnles yowre Lordship shall make sume to put her magesty in mynd therof, I feare, in thes other causes of the too Lords, she will forget me. for she is nothinge of her owne disposition, as I find, so ready to deliuer, as spedie to commit. and every littell trifell, giues her matter for a longe delay. I willed E. Hamond to report vnto yowre Lordship, her magestys message vnto me by mr secretarie Walsingham whiche was to this effect, first that she wold have hard [=heard] the matter agayne touchinge Henry Howard, Southwell and Arundell. then that she vnderstood I ment to cut doune all my woods, especially abought my housse; whiche she dyd not so well leke of. as yf I shold sell sume land els other wheare. and last that she hard [=heard] I had bene hardly vsed by sum of my servants, duringe this time of my committe [=commitment, incarceration]. whearin she promised her ayd so far as she could withe iustice, to redres the loss I had susteyned therby. to whiche I made answear, as I willed Hamond to relat vnto yowre Lordship. | further my lord, whearof I am desirous sumthinge to write, I have vnderstood of certeyne of my men have resorted vnto yowre lordship, and sought by fals reportes of other of ther fellowes, bothe to abuse yowre lordship and me. but for that this bearer semes most herin to be touched, I have sent him vnto yowre lordship, as is his earnest desire, that yowre lordship myght so know him, as yowre evill opinion, beinge conceyved amis by thes lewd fellowes may be removed. and truly my lord, I heare of those thinges wherwithe he is charged, and I can assure yow [g] wrongfully and slaunderously. but the world is so conninge, as of a shadow they can make a substance, and of a leklihode a trothe. and thes fellowes, yf they be those, whiche I suppos, I do not doubt but so to decyfer them to the world, as easily yowre lordship shall loke into ther lewdnes and vnfaithfulnes. Whiche tyll my liberte I mean to defer, as more mindfull of that importinge me most at this time, then yet sekinge to revenge my self of suche peruers and impudent [=impudent] dealinge of servants. whiche I know have not wanted incoragment and | settinge on. but lettinge thes thinges pas for a whyle, I must not forget to giue yowre lordship those thankes, whiche ar due to yow, for this yowre honorable dealinge to her magesty in my behalf. whiche I hope shall not be wythought effect. the whiche attendinge from the court, I will take my leaue of yowre lordship, and rest at yowre Commandment, at my howse this morning

Yowre lordships assured

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+8)

Addressed (O): For my lord Thresorer [seal]

Endorsed (B): Iulij 1581 Erl of oxford thanks

Second endorsement: Thanks his lordship for obtaining \ye promise of/ his Liberty of ye Queen: entreating him to remember ye Queen of him. The Quenes message to him to Walsingham.

NB: Photo in Petti, No. 28 (beginning at "setting on").

[=14] *BL Lansdowne 38[/62], ff. 158-9 (bifolium, 300mm x 190mm, 225mm x 190mm), Oxford to Burghley; [?20 June 1583] (W245-6;F303).*

I have bene an ernest suter vnto yowre Lordship, for my Lord Lumley, that it wouold pleas yow for my sake to stand his good lord and friend whiche as I perceyve yowre Lordshi<p> hathe alreadie very honorablye <..... for> the which I am in a number of thinges more then I can reken bound vnto yowre lordship so am I in this lekwise especially. for he hathe mached [=matched, married] withe a near kinswoman of myne, to whose father I allwayes was behouldinge vnto, for his assured and kind disposition vnto me. further amonge all the rest of my blud, this only remaynes in account ether of me or els of them, as yowre lordship dothe knowe very well, the rest havinge imbraced further alliances, to leaue thear nearer consanguinite. and as I hope yowre lordship dothe account me now on whome yow have so muche bound as I am to be yow<rs> before any els in the world, bothe through mache [=match, marriage], whearby I count my greatest stay, and by yowre lordships friendly vsage and stiken [=sticking] by me in this time whearin I am hege<d> in withe so many enemyes, so lekwise I hope yowre lords<hip> will take all them for yowre followers and most at Comman<d> whiche are inclyned and affected to me. Whearfore I sh<all> once agayne be thus bould withe <yowre> lordship to be <...> importunat in this matter <for> yowre lordships fauour in eas<ing> my lord Lumleys payment to her magestie whearin we <do> all giue yowre lordship thankes, and yow shall do me as g<reat> an honor hearin, as a profit yf it had ben to my self. in th<..> throught [=through] yowre lordships fauour I shalbe able to plesure my friend, and stand nedles of others, that have forsaken me. thus for that yowre lordship is trobled withe many matters whear yow ar I crave pardon for troblinge yow. yowre lordships to

Command

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and his very good lord my lord Thresorer of England giue thes. [seal]

Endorsed (B): Erl of oxford for ye Lord Lumly

Second endorsement: 1583

NB: Fowler designates (incorrectly) as Lansdowne 38/621 (158).

[=15] *BL Lansdowne 42[/39], ff. 97-8 (bifolium, 305mm x 200mm), Oxford to Burghley; [30 October 1584] (W247-8;F320-1,332).*

(In hand of amanuensis)

It is not vnknowne to your Lordship that I haue entred into a greate number of bondes to suche, as haue purchasyd landes of me, to discharge them of all Incombraunces: And bycause I stande indebtid vnto her Maiestie (as your Lordship knowythe) many of ye said purchasers do greatly feare somme trouble likely to fall vppon them, by reason of her Maiestyes said debt, & espesially if the Bondes of ye Lord Darcy and Sir William Walgraue should be extendyd for the same, who haue two seuerall statutes of great sommes for their discharge Wheruppon [diu] many of ye said purchasers haue ben suters vnto me to procuer the discharginge of her Maiestyes said Debt, and do seme very willinge to beare the burden therof, yf by my meanes the same might be stalled paiable at some conuenient dayes / I haue therfore thought good to acquaynte your Lordship with this their suyte, requierynge moste earnestly your Lordships furtheraunce in this behalfe, wherby I shalbe vnburdened of a greate care, which I haue for the savyng of my honor, And shall by this meanes also vnburden my wyves Ioincture of yat charge which might happen hereafter to be ymposyd vppon ye same, yf god should call your Lordship and me away before her. /

(Oxford's hand takes over)

Yowre Lordships

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

My lord, this other day yowre man stainer towld me that yow sent for Amis my man, and yf he wear absent that Lylle showld come vnto yow. I sent Amis for he was in ye way. And I thinke very strange yat yowre Lordship showld enter into that course towards me, wherby I must lerne yat I knev [=knew] not before, bothe of yowre opinion and good will towards me. but I pray, my lord, leaue yat course, for I mean not to be yowre ward nor yowre chyld, I serve her magestie, and I am that I am, and by allyance neare to yowre lordship, but fre, and scorne to be offred that iniurie, to thinke I am so weake of gouernment as to be ruled by servants, or not able to gouerne my self. Yf yowre Lordship take and follow this course, yow | deceyve yowre self, and make me take an other course then yet I have not thought of. whearfore thes shalbe to desyre yowre Lordship yf yat I may make account of yowre friendship, that yow will leave that cours as hurtfull to vs bothe.

Addressed (O): To the right honorable my very good Lorde the Lord Theausorer of England [seal]

Endorsed (B): The Erle of Oxford by Amyce his man [Amyce] [lylly]

Second endorsement: xxx october 1584; For securing those yat had purchased landes of him, his desire to take a course to pay his debt to ye Queen.

NB: Fowler prints an original-spelling transcription, citing not the original, but Feuillerat.

[=16] *BL Lansdowne 50[/22], ff. 49-50 (bifolium?, 305mm x 190mm, 150mm x 190mm), Oxford to Burghley; [25 June 1586] (W251;F342).*

My very good lord as I have bene behowldinge vnto yow diuers tymes & of late, by my brother R. Cecill, wherby I have bene the better able to follow my sute, wherin I have sume comfort at this tyme from Mr Secretarie Wallsingham, so am I now bowld, to crave yowre lordships help at this present. for beinge now almost at a point to tast that good whiche her Magestie shall determine yet <am> I [as] on [=one] that hathe longe besieged a fort and not able to compas the end or reap the frut of his travel [=travail], beinge forst to leuie [=raise] his sige [=siege] for want of munition. Beinge therfore thus disfurnished and vnprouided to follow her Magestie as I perceyve she will loke for, I most earnestly desyre yowre lordship yat yow will lend me 200 pounds tyll her Magestie performethe her promes. out of which I shall make my payment yf it pleas yow with the rest yat yowre lordship hathe at sundrie tymes to my great furtherance and help in my causes ^\\sent me// by yowre seruant and stuard Billet. I would be lothe to have trobled yowre lordship with so muche yf I were not kept here bake [=back] with this tedious sut, from London, where I would have found means to have taken vp so muche to have serued my turne tyll her magestie had dispatched me, but for that I dare not, hauinge bene here so longe, and the matter growinge to sume conclusion, be absent. I pray yowre lordship beare with me, yat at this time wherin I am to set my self in order I doo become so troblesome from the Court this morninge

Yowre Lordships ever bounden

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and my very good Lord my Lord Thresorer of England giue thes [seal]

Endorsed (B): 25 Iunij 1586 [top half of 6 cut off] Erl of oxford to borrow ijCli wherof I loa hym jCli

[=17] *BL Lansdowne 63[/71], ff. 181-2 (bifolium, 278mm x 195mm) Oxford to Burghley; 5 August [1590] (W304;F365).*

My very good Lord, where I morgaged my lease of Auely to Mr Herdsone, and not as yet redemed, and now aswell for the supplye of my present wantes, as allso to haue sume thre hundred powndes of redye monye, to redeme certeyne leases at Henyngham [=Hedingham], whiche were gotten from me very vnresonablye, for diuers yeares yet induringe, and are of as good clere yerely walue, as my sayd leasse of Auely is, I therfore most earnestlye desyre yowre Lordship, to signefie yowre lickinge [=liking, approval] to me in wrightinge, to dispose of the sayd leas, at my plesure; otherwise ther is not any will deale wythe me for the same, nor for any part therofe, wherin I shall be greatlye behowldinge to yowre Lordship, as I am in all the rest of my whole estate. the 5th of August

yowre lordshipes.

to Command.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital. f; 4+7)

The lesse [=lease] dependethe vpon diuers casualties, whiche lease I howld chieflie by yowre lordships fauoure, and the casualties, & defectes are as followe.

First the lease is made by the name of the master and chapleynes callede the Hospitall of the Sauoye, where the corporation is, the master & the chapleynes of the hospitall of the Sauoy, & not called the Sauoye, & therfore the lease supposed voyde.

Secondlye Mr Paynes clayme, and pretendinge interest to the sayde leasse, dothe cost me on [=one] hundred pownd by the yere to defende.

Thirdly any creditoure of myne, to whome I am indetted, may by wryte of elegit, or fyre facias, or leuare facias, extend and sell the sayd leasse for a tryffell, and vtterly defait me therof. And I intend for 300l in monye, to redeme leases of myne owne Lande, of a greater yerlye value.

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and his very good Lord the Lord Thresorer of England giue thes [seal]

Endorsed: Received <5> August 1590: The Erle of Oxenforde to my Lord; Aueleie./.

Second endorsement: That his lordship would signify his liking in writing to dispose of his Lease of Aveley, without which none would deal with him for it.

NB: This letter is written in a decorative italic, with ligatures and clubbed features; but see signoff of Lansdowne 63[/76] as evidence that it is Oxford's hand.

[=18] *BL Lansdowne 63[/76], ff. 191-2 (bifolium, 317mm x 205mm), Oxford to Burghley; 8 September [1590] (W304;F378-9).*

I woulde haue bene wythe yowre Lordship before this, but yat I have not had my helthe, Neuerthe lesse Hamptone beinge returned from the Contrie, I have sent him to yowre Lordship, that he may aduertis yow of his procedinges there. At Otlandes I thinke yowre Lordship remembers a complaynte, of (blank) Bellingiame [=Bellingham] sune, of his mothers puttinge forthe of the castell, whiche was before any thinge done, whervpon yowre Lordship directed a letter vnto <...> sherife, <.....> wherofe, as yt semes, Thomas Hamptone, hade delt wythe more fauoure towards her, then the letters vnto the Sherife imported. Notwythstandinge I vnderstand Bellinggiam is gone to the Court, incoraged I know not by what friendes, to complayne, as he dyd report here in towne not to yowre Lordship, but to her Magesties self. My lord yt was ever ment that he shoulde have consideratione, as reason and conscience myght afford him. But sythence he taketh a violent course, and refuseth the resonable offers, I have sent Hamptone to informe yowre Lordship, the state of the mane [=man], whoo hathe receyved hertofore a pardone for thre burglaries, and standes bownde to the good behavioure. whiche behavioure for sundrie and manyfest breches therof, whiche I cane prove, he hathe lost the benyfite of his pardone, wherby as Lord of the

manner by eschete, I am to dele wythe him, as he hathe giuen me occasione, and herin I hope her Magestie will have consideratione, sythe the same case hathe bene sene once in Henry the seventhes tyme, and on [=one] example in this her Magesties. for those thinges whiche fales to me by eschet I do not dowt that her magestie will [+not] agaynst her lave [=law] giue any eare, or harken to suche wrongfull complaynt.

Skinner hathe bene often wythe me, for a compositione: vpon what poynte <of> lav Hampton is to informe yowre Lordshipe, referringe my self wholly <to> yowre <lordship> who In all my causes I find myn honorable good Lord, and to dele more fatherly then friendly wythe me. for the whiche I doo acknowledge and ever will my self in most especiall wyse bownde. And wheras ther is a lease in Arthure Myles hande of the manner and Landes of Lauenhame, I desyre yowre Lordship to cause him to make ouer his truste vnto my seruant Minn, to whome the other lease is made. Yf therbe complayntes made vnto yowre Lordship as I dout not but that ther will, agaynst the procedinges of myne officers; I most earnestly desyre, that there may be sune resonable tyme appoynted for the answeringe of them, because my cowncel is not in towne, but shalbe before, or at the beginninge of the terme, to satisfies [=satisfy] yowre lordship and answer there particuler complayntes. London this 8th of September.

(sideways in margin)

Yowre lordships to Command

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable an<d> his ve<ry> good lord> the Lord Thresorer of England giue thes at the Court [seal]

Endorsed: 8 September 1590; Erle of Oxford to my Lord [By Mr Hampton.]; [That]; Touching a contest between him & one Bellingiam, who had be<en> pardoned for burglary, & bound to ye good behauour. The for<feit> of whose pardon hee was mind<ed> to prosecute.

NB: Ward gives the piece number incorrectly as 77.

[=19] *BL Lansdowne 68[/6], ff. 12-13 (bifolium, 272mm x 195mm), Oxford to Burghley; 18 May [1591] (W305-6; F393-5, 411-12).*

My Lord I doo thanke yowre Lordship for the punishment of Hamptone whose evill delinges towards me, beinge put in trust with my causes in Lave, I hope yowre Lordship will thinke them sufficient to deserue yowre disgrace, especially knowinge his corruptiones, which for the more assured knowlege of yowre lordship, I have sent vnto the parties them selues, from whome he hathe dravne monye to his owne behofe. whose confirmationes so sone as they canbe brought out of the contrie, they shalbe deliuerd to yowre lordship. In the meane seasons I shall most hartely pray yowre lordship to perseuer ^\\in// yowre good fauour towards me, wherby I may procure redres agaynst this which Amis hathe passed vnder the greates seale, by the practise of Hamptones fraudulent deuise, as shall appere, yf I may have lesure to manifest the same every day more and more. The changinge of the name of my seruant without my priuoyte, and putting

in an other [...] in trust for himself, as badd as I vnderstand as himself. yf yowre Lordship will, [+I] may giue yowre Lordship certeyne knowlege of the deceyt. The coseninge of so many tenantes of there monye, and the forfeitinge of my lease of Skinners land, do wittnes inoughe his corruptione. I know yf yowre lordship will stand myne honorable good lord and friend herin, by handlinge this Hamptone ruflye, and this Amise so that he be but put in feare, that yow may bringe them to that order which is reasone, that I may enioy myne owne lands, as from the beginninge was ment by her magestie. And as for this letter of Amises which I have returned to yowre lordshipe, bothe concerninge my messages to him and the dealinge of my seruant, as he reportes is most fals. wherfore I will refer all to yowre lordship whoo knowes the intent of her Magesties first meninge to me, was far otherwise in the beginninge, when with this sut of myne, she thought to recompence me in sume sort, for forberinge my sute for the forest. and cane iuge how vnfaithfully I am delt wythall by thes parties. Whiche fauoure yf yowre lordship shall doo for mee, | then would I gladly breake vnto yowre Lordship an other matter which I would have done ere this, had I not bene intercepted by thes vnlookedfore trobles. And this yt ys.

Wheras I have hard [=heard], her magestie ment to sell vnto one Mideltone a marchent, and one Carmarden the demaines of Denbyghe, which as I ame informed is 230l by yerly rent, now as yt ys, I would be an humble suter to her magestie, that I myght have had this bargaen payinge the 8000l, as they shoul[d] [doo] have done acceptinge for 5000l therofe the pencione which she hathe giuen me in the exchechore and the other 3000l the next terme, or vpon suche resonable dayes as her magestie would graunt me by her fauoure. and further yf her magestie would not except the pencione for 5000l that then she would yet take vnto yt, to [the] make yt vp that value, the tytell of the forest which by all counsell of lave, and conscience is as good ryght vnto me as any other land in England. And I thinke her magestie makes no evil bargaen, and I would be glad to be sure of sumthinge that were myne owne and that I myght poses. Yf her magestie thinkethe it shoul[d] offend the tenantes, and [sh] for that she hathe graunted them a lease, yf they complayne or be agaynst yt, I will cease my sute. but yf I can get there goodwils, and that they shall lett there lease fall which her magestie hathe graunted, whervpon I dare presume to yowre lordship, then that her magestie will lett me have yt on those former conditiones. This is a thinge that I have bene desirous to impart vnto yowre lordship, but that I have ether found yow troubled with other busines, or I myself have ben [...] incombred with thes trecheries of Hamptone.

The effect herof is I would be glad to have an equall care with yowre Lordship ouer my children, and yf I may obteyne this resonable sut of her magestie, grantinge me nothinge, but what she hathe done to others and mean persones, and nothinge but that I shall pay for yt, then, those lands which are in Essex as Hedingeham, Brets and [that] the rest what soever, which will come to sume 5 or 600l by yeare, vpon yowre Lordsh^{ips} frendly help towards my purchases, in Denbighe, shalbe presently deliverd in | posession to yow, for there vse. And so muche I am sure to make of thes demaynes for my self.

So shall [yo] my children be prouided for, my self atlength [=at length] settled in quiet, and I hope yowre lordship contented, remayninge no cause for yow to thinke me an evil father, nor any dout in me, but that I may enioy that friendship from yowre Lordship, that so nere a mache [=match, marriage], and not frutles, may laufully expect. good my Lord, thinke of this, and let me have bothe yowre furtherance, and councel, in this cause. for to tell trothe I am wery, of an vnsettled lyfe, which is the very pestilence that happens vnto courtiers, that propound to them

selues no end of there tyme, therin bestowed. Thus committinge yowre Lordship to Almyghtie god, with my most hartye thanks, and commendationes I take my leaue. this 18th of May. Yowre Lordships ever to Command.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the right honorable & his very good Lord the Lord Thresorer of England giue thes.

Endorsed (B): 18 of May 1591 The Earle of oxford

Second endorsement: Hampton; Amyas; Denbighe

[=20] *BL Lansdowne 68[/11], ff. 23, 28 (bifolium, 307mm x 200mm; 315mm x 205mm - evidently cropped), Oxford to Burghley; [30 June 1591].*

My very good Lord. I doo vnderstand by Mr Foscue, yowre Lordshipes good dispositione, and willingnes to plesure me, in this my cause, wherin beinge deceyved by Hamptone, whome I dyd put in trust to followe the matter, forsomuche as he was the deuisor of the sute I sought remedie to her magestie that I myght have a neve [=new] lease to performe the first intencion of her graunte. In this I dyd not dout but to have ^\\had// yowre Lordships fauoure, for that I was borne in hand by hamptone that I showld haue a better lease. But I do finde his report was vntrue, and yowre Lordship not aduertised of myne estate. Now therfore I have sent vnto yowre Lordship a remembrance, wherby yowre Lordship may vnderstand how I have ben delt wythe. And I hope ther is no occasione giuen, but that yowre Lordship may bothe fauoure, and further, my matter as yow have ever done, being ryghtly informed. whiche beinge once ended as I dout not by yowre Lordshipes good meanes, and her Magesties dispositione to succore me at this tyme. As I desyred of yowre Lordship by my letters when fyrst this troble began to breake out, whilst her Magestie was at Thebaldes so I remayne in every poynt to satisfies [=satisfy] yowre Lordship, to yowre content and my quiet. whiche I hope by thes feve [=few] lynes yow will conceyve. and I have included herin thes notes as briefly as I may. whiche also I have sent vnto her magestie for the better vnderstandinge how to giue me remide. Thus desyringe yowre Lordship to fauoure me at this present as yow have done in this sute and in others hertofore I will take my leave, remayninge yowre Lordshipes

to Command

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed: To the ryght honorable and his very good Lord the lord Thresorer of England giue thes.

Endorsed (B): Vltimo Iunij 1591. Erle of Oxford for entent of Skynnars land

NB: Entire sheaf comprehends ff. 24-7 (see also ____). Annotated by Burghley.

[=21] *BL Harley 6996[/22], ff. 42-3 (bifolium, 305mm x 195mm), Oxford to Burghley; 25 October 1593 (W311;F431-2).*

My very good lord, I hope yt ys not out of yowre remembrance, how longe sythence I hawe bene a suter to her maiestie, yat she wowlde giue me leaue to try my tytell to the forest at the laue. But I found that so displesinge wnto her, that in place of receyvinge, that ordinarie fauoure, which is of course graunted to the meanest subiect, I was browbeaten, and hade many bitter speches giuen me. Neuertheles at lenghe by meanes of sume of the lords of the councel, amonge whiche yowre lordship especiallye, her maiestie was persuaded to giue me eare. At that tyme which was at Summerset house, yf yowre lordship please to call to mynde, her maiestie wowlde nedes haue yt committed vnto arbiters, pretendinge therin, to doo me espetiall fauoure, in cuttinge of [=off] the longe circumstances of the lave, and charges perteyninge therto. But after I hadd consented thervnto, for me, cowlde be no other arbiter permitted, then the lord Chancellor, whome she had chosen for her self. this I am assured yowre lordshipe hathe good cause to remember, by her maiesties exceptione agaynst yow, in that she thowght yow partiall, to yowre sune in lave. But thes thinges I call only to myned for yowre lordships better remembrance, which throwghe so many affayres otherwise, in so longe a tyme, yt ys no merveile, yf perhapes yow have easly forgotten. therfore I will to purpose only further call to remembrance the succes of this arbitrement. which was thus. After muche a doo, and a goode yere spent, by delayes frome her maiestie, my lord Chancellor then Sir Christopher Hattone beinge earnestly called vpone, appointed a tyme of heringe bothe for her maiesties lerned, counsell at the lave, and myne. Whervpone what he conceyved therby of my tytell, he was redie to have made his report vnto her maiestie. But suche was my misfortune, (I doo not thinke her minde to do me any wronge,) that she flattly refused, therin ^\\to here// my lord Chancellor, and for a finall answer commanded me no more to followe the sute, for whether yt was hers or myne, she was resolved to dispose therof at her plesure. A strange sentence my thought [=methought]: which beinge iustly considered, I may say, she had done me more fauoure, yf she hadd sufferd me to trye my tytell at lave, then this arbitrement vnder pretence of expeditione, and grace. the extremite had bene fare more safe, then the remedie, whiche I was persuaded to accepte. But after I hade made sume complainte of this harde determinatione, yet in so desperat a state, she promised this relyefe to my cause, that in sume other matter, that shoulde be as commodious as that vnto me, she wowlde recompence me in the meane whyle. Hence rysethe the cause, my lord, wherfore I have preferred many sutes to her maiestie, || but have found in them all, the same delayes, and difficulties, that I dyd in the other before. But now the ground wherone I lay my sut beinge so iust and resonable, that ether I shoulde expect sume satisfacione, [ether] by way of recompence, or restoratione of myne owne, as I ame yet persuaded, tyll lave [=law] hathe convinced me: thes are most earnestly to desire a continuance of yowre lordships fauoure and furtherance in my sute, which I made at Grenwicke, to her maiestie at her last beinge there, about thre commodites, to witt the oyles, wolles, and frutes, in giuinge therfore, as then my profer was. I doo the rather now reneue [=renew] the same for yat I doo not here [=hear] as yet they are disposed otherwise, and that the tyme, is fittest, aswell for her maiesties commodite, as his that shall take yt. and consideringe, yf her maiestie will have a iust consideratione of the premisses, I ame to chalenge and expect sumwhat. yowre lordship knowes the whole proces of the matter, and can better iuge then any other, as to whome my estate is best knowne, ^\\&// how hardly I may forbear so great an interrest, without any recompence. And therfore as to the metest, (for that my state and cause, bothe in right, and conscience is best vnderstood,) to conceyve of the iust desyre I make of this sute, I doo adres my

selfe to yowre lordshipe, most earnestly to crave bothe yowre opinione, and counsell, yowre fauoure, and furtherance, whether I were best to followe this sute, which I have commenced, or yt standinge soo, that ther is no good ore hope to be done, or conceyved therin, to seeke agayne her maiesties fauoure, that I myght procede, in lave, to trye my titell to the forest. And thus desiringe yowre lordshipe to howlde me excused, for yat I am so longe, in a matter that concernethe me so muche, I will make an ende, this 25 of October, 1593 and alwayes rest

Yowre lordships to Commande

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and his verye good lord, the Lord Thresorer of Englande.
[fragment of seal]

Endorsed (mixture of hands): 25 October 1593. the Erle of Oxforde to the Lord Treasurer his petition.

Second endorsement: The case of ye right to the Forrest of Waltham, between ye Queen & him.

[=22] *BL Lansdowne 76[/74], ff. 168-9 (bifolium, 295mm x 195mm), Oxford to Burghley; 7 July 1594 (W312-13;F484).*

My very good Lord. yf yt pleas yow to remember, that about halfe a yere or there about past, I was a sutor to yowre lordshipe, for yowre favoure. that whearas I found sundrie abuses, wherby bothe her maiestie, & my selfe, were in myne office greatly hyndred, that yt wowlde please yowre Lordship, that I myght fynde suche fauoure from yowe, that I myght have the same redressed. At which tyme I found so good forwardnes in yowre Lordship, that I thowght my self greatly behowldinge for the same; yet by reason at that tyme myne Atturnye was departed the towne, I could not then send him to attend vpon yowre Lordship, accordinge to yowre appoyntment. But hopinge that the same dispositione styll remayneth, towards the iustnes of my cause, and that yowre Lordship to whome my estate is so well knowne & how muche yt standethe me on, not to neglect as hertofore, suche occasions as to amend the same may aryse, frome myne office, I most hartely desyre yowre Lordship, that yt will please yow to giue eare to the state of my cause, and at yowre best lesure, admit ether myne Atturnie, or other of my counsell in lave to informe yowre Lordship that the same beinge perfectly layd open to yowre Lordship, I may inyoy the fauoure from yow which I most earnestly desyre. In whiche doinge I shall thinke my self singulerlye behowldinge in this, as I have ben in other respects. this 7th of Iuly 1594.

Yowre Lordships ever to Command

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): Too the ryght honorable & his very good Lord the Lord Thresorer of England.
[seal]

Endorsed: 7 Iuly 1594 Erl of Oxford to my Lord; Great Chamberlainshipp of England

NB: Photo Greg, No. 28 (b-c).

[=23] *Cecil Papers 31/106 (bifolium, 298mm x 205mm), Oxford to Cecil; 24 April 1595.*

Sir Rober [=Robert] Cecil. whearas I have delt with the Earle of Darbye, about my dowghters allowance, and that he hathe promised me to assure her to that intent a thowsand pound a yeare, for so muche as I now vnderstand vpon sume discontentment yat he hathe not attayned to that honor which yt semethe he dyd at thys tyme expect, he determines to morrow to depart into Lancashiere, and yat he hathe neyther in his house, or for herself, sett downe any stey, wherby ether in her owne loginge, or yf she shall follow her attendance vpon her Maiestie, she is prouided as his wyfe. I doo therfore most hartely desyre yow as her vncle, and good friend to deale earnestly with my Lord Thresorer, vnto whome I have also wrytten, that he wouuld send vnto him, or els speake with him, to the end that eyther he showld fulfyll his promes, or vntyll suche tyme as he shall, to take that order which is fytt for her place wherin she serues her Magestie and for his wyfe. I doo vnderstand by my dowghter how good an vncle she findes yow, and how redie to friend her, wherin I allso take my self behowldinge vnto yowe. of whatt fancies his humors are compounded, yow know well inowghe, and therfore I pray yow to be earnest with my lord, that he may deale effectually vpone so good a ground as his woord and honor, which he hathe giuen. Also I vnderstand that my Ladie Russell for sume offence conceyved of my doughter hathe latly [=lately] written to my Lord Thresorer to discourge and diswade him to vrge the Earle of Darby. But for yat she was her self ^\\the fyrst// that moved this allowance, and hathe sythence altred her mynde vpon sume conceyt, I hope my lord wyll not be carried away vpon suche vnconstant ballence. Yet yf yow finde any suche hinderance, I pray yow never the lesse styke to yowre nece, and further her in what yow can, sythe her desyre is iust [=just], in that yt ys his promise, & resonable in that she ys his wyfe. Thus what yow shall doo for her, esteminge yt myne owne bond, I refer her whoole cause to yowre kindnes.

Yowre Assured friende.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital. f; 4+7)

Addressed: To ye ryght honorable & his very good friende Sir Robert Cecill one of her Magesties pryve Councel give thes. [excellent seal - boar]

Endorsed: 24 April 1595; Erle of Oxforde to my Master.

[=24] *Cecil Papers 35/84 (bifolium, 286mm x 200mm), Oxford to Cecil; 20 October 1595.*

Good Sir Robert Cecil. I have often receyved from yow manye wordes of curtesies, & fauours, when I showld have occasione to vse ye, all which I have beleued, & doo styll, imagineinge those promises to procede of a free & lyberall dispositione. wherfore havinge at thys tyme an espetiall opportunitie to trye my friendes In a cause which I doo not dowt but iust, I make thus far bowlde wythe yow, that wheareas a fewe yeares sythence I was a swter [=suitor, petitioner] to her Magesty, for her fauour thus farr, that my ryght which I dyd not dowt, to the forest of Waltham

& parke of Haveringe concerninge the kepinge therof, myght have tryall at lave [=law], which is a common course to every subiect, & that then vnder pretense to doo me a fauour her Magesty to avoyd charge, and delay of the lave [=law], greatly to myne ease and for better expeditione, her plesure was that the matter shold be referred to arbitrimet, which was so done as her Magesty takinge exception to my arbitror, had her owne Sir Christopher Hatton then Lord Chancellor, appoynted as indifferent for vs bothe, as she dyd measure yt. He havinge hard [=heard] the matter and her Magesty counsell with myne, was resolved, and hervpon wished me to vrge her Magestie to call for his report, which accordinglie I dyd and the lord chancelor present. In short she refusd to heare him. she flattly sayd whether yt weare myne or hears [=hers] she wOULD bestowe yt at her plesure, and so vnder pretence of kepinge the same from spoyle tyll the matter weare decyded betwiene her Magesty and my self, she put yt into the handes of Sir Thomas Henige, and thys after a yeares travell [=travail], I had for my short expeditione. Now my lord yowre father is a full wittnes of all thes thinges, beinge present when the matter was committed, and the intentiones and all are sufficiently knowne to him with all the course obserued. I have written also to him and also to her Maiestie. I only desyre my friendes that may speake theare myndes to her Magesty & have oportunitie that they will be meanes, yat eyther she will lett me inyoy that which my ryght dothe cast vpon me and the lave [=law] with her fauoure, or that she will protect me with her lave [=law] as her subiect, and that yf ^\\yt// be none of myne she will rather take yt away by order, then oppresseone.

(sideways in left margin)

this 20tie of October 1595

Youre assured friende,

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

As I was fooldinge vp this letter I receyved a very honorable answer from my Lord Thresorer. my whole truste in this cause ys in yow twoo, my lord for yat he ys pryvie to the whole cause and handlinge therof from tyme to tyme, and in yow for yat I assure myself in so iust [=just] a matter yow will not abandone me.

He semethe to dowl [=doubt, anticipate] yet of his dethe, & wishethe me to make meanes to the Earle of Essex yat he wOULD forbear to deale for yt. A thinge I cannot do in honor, sythe I have alredie receyved diuerse iniuries and wronges from him, which bare [=bar] me of all suche basse [=base] courses. Yf her maiesties affectiones be forfeits of mens estates we must indure yt.

Addressed: To the ryght honorable & hys very good friend & brother, Sir Robert Cecil one of her Magestyes pryvoy [=privy] Concell. [seal]

Endorsed: 20 October 1595; Earl of Oxforde to my Master.

[=25] *Cecil Papers 172/81 (bifolium, 287mm x 196mm), Oxford to Cecil; 21 October 1595.*

Theare are tymes, whearin the vse of friendes, are so necessarie, that althoughe we be lothe to be combersone [sic], yet are we compelled, to thrust into theare handes, the trust of owre troblesume causes. Suche ys my state at this present, whoo in myne owne conceyte have no mistrust of yowre good dispositione towards me, yet am I forced by what vnloked for occasione I can not tell, at thys tyme to turne my thought vpon yow, as the only friend, wythe whome, I thinke I may be bowldest.

Whearfore for yat I vnderstoode, the great danger of lyfe, whearin Mr vicechamberlane lay, consideringe the vaynes & humors of yis worlde, I doo not mistrust, but many thinges hearby, fallinge into her Magestyes handes to bestowe, that theare wold be many suters. And for that to the kepinge of the forest of Walthame, & the parke of Haueringe, myne evidences show me a certeyne ryght to the same, from whiche I cannot be perswaded tyll I know better to the contrarie. I haue most humbly wrytten to her Magesty that after so many bestowinges of yt vpon others voyd of any pretence, she will now atlenge [=at length] giue eare, to the iustnes of my cause, & [atlenge] as she hathe often disposed yt vpon others vpon fauoure, that now not only vpon iustice, but also vpon grace she will deygne yt to the ryghtfull keper.

And thys I do not notice to yow, as yf I thowgh [=thought] yt in yowre powre to doo more then yt shall please to come of her maiesties owne dispositione, but for that yow are the only person that I dare relye vpon in the Courte, and at this present to implore as an instrument, to make my desyre knowne vnto her Magestye.

And thus hauinge opened to yow my cause, what I haue wrytten in effect to her Magestye and what I crave of yowre curtesie, I commit yow to God. thys 21 of October 1595.

Yowre louinge and assured friende and brother.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed: To the ryght honorable & his very welbeloued friend & Brother in Lave, Sir Robert Cecil, one of her Magestyes pryvie Councel. [trace of seal]

Endorsed: 21 October 1595; Earle of Oxforde to my Master.

[=26] *Cecil Papers 44/63 (bifolium, 288mm x 198mm, folded unequally), Oxford to Cecil; 6 September 1596 (W000;F514).*

The wrightinge which I have ys in the contrye, for I hadd suche care thearofe as I carried yt with me in a lyttell deske, to morow or the next day I ame to goo thether, and so sone as I come home by the grace of god I will send yt yow. The Earle of Darby shold have sett his hand and seale to thys copie, as he hadd done to yowres, but his promises, beinge but delayes and shiftes, in the meane sease, I caused his officer Irland and an other to sett theare handes vnto yt, to wittnes that yt was a trwe copie. I named to yow in hast in my last letter, Mr Hykes. But I hadd forgott my self, yt was Mr Barnarddeux whome my lord employed in that cause. and therefore I think him

able to satisfise [=satisfy] all suche doutes as my lord may cast. I doo not dowte, but yf my lord hadd then any care therof, or Mr Barnarddeux but that yis assurance ys as fyrme as the lave [=law] can make yt theare was imployed in yt the Master of the Rooles then and now lord keper, and others of my lords lerned counsell in lave, whoo I hope are sufficient to passe greater matters then ytt.

Thus takinge my leaue, frome Channon Row, this 6 of September 1596.

I remayne yowre louinge friende.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed: To his very welbeloued and honorable friende Sir Robert Cecill principall secretarie to her Magestye and one of her hightnes [=highness] pryvye Councell giue theis. [seal]

Endorsed: 6 September 1596; Earl of Oxforde to my Master.

[=27] *Cecil Papers 44/101 (bifolium, 207mm x 200mm), Oxford to Cecil; 17 September 1596.*

I have sent yow by this bearer the Copie which was in my hands but pervinge the same, yt semethe to be not as I toke ytt, but rather a counterpane of her ioynture, then [=than] of her pensione. How my daughters occasions are to vse the same I am ignorant, beinge made rather aquaynted thearwythe by common report, then [=than] frome her selfe, or any of her friendes. But I dout not, but that my lord and yow, dyd so well loke to the same, when yt was to be performed, that whatt assurance was to be made, was done wythe good aduise. I know that Barnardeux was the man who was imployed, and that the intent was for a pentione [=pension] of one thowsand poundes by yeares to be assured her so longe as my Lord of Darby liued, and to that end a lease to her vse was to be made over vnto yow and myself. How yt was followed yf this be not yt I know not. Wherefore I pray yow good Sir Robert Cecill, perva [=peruse] this, and yf yt be not as I take yt yet have that care of yowre Niece, that yf yt be in the handes of Barnarddeux, yt may be sought owt. Also I am most earnestly to desyre yow that as yow are her vncle and nerest to her next my self, that yow will friendly assist her with yowre good aduise, yow know her yowthe, and the place wherin she lyves, and how mucche to bothe owre houses, yt importes that she carrie her self, accordinge to her honor. Enemies are apt to make the worst of every thinge, flatterers will doo evill offices, and trwe and faythfull aduise, will seme harshe to tender eares. But sythe my fortune hath sett me so far of [=off] as I cannot be at hand in this her troublesome occasions, I hope yow will doo the good office of an vncle, and I commit vnto yow the authorite of a parent in myne absence. Thus confounded with the smalle vnderstandinge of her estate, and the care of her welldoinge, I leaue to trouble yow any farther, most earnestly desyringe yow as yow can gett leysure, to aduertise me how her causes stand, and vpon whatt termes. whearof I assure yow I cannot yett tell whatt to thinke. this 17 of September 1596.

Yowre assured friende.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed: To the ryght honorable and his very welbeloued friend Sir Robert Cecill Secretarie to her Magesty <giue thes> [seal]

Endorsed: 17 September 1596; The Erle of Oxon to my Master.

[=28] *Cecil Papers 37/66(b) (bifolium, ____mm x ____mm), Oxford to Cecil; 11 January 1597. Accompanies =49.*

Good Sir Robert Cecill, whearas my wyfe hathe showed me, a supplicatione exhibited to the lordes of the Councell, agaynst her, I have longed bothe to yelde yow thanks for yowre curtesie, to her and my self in makinge her acquainted therwythe, and also to aduertise yow, how evdly [=lewdly, ignorantly] thearin he behaves himself. For as for my wyfe he chargethe, wythe a matter wherto she was never acknowleginge, as yf yow consider the datte of his supplicatione, which signefieth a fyve yeares agone, at whatt tyme I thinke she never knew the man, and muche lesse had any dealinges wyth him, as he cannot denye, and If I then weere married vnto her yt was all. Whearas he pretendethe I made over to her my pensione [to her] with a conditione to pay all former warrantes graunted by me, yt is mearly fals, neyther hathe he any ground to say yt. wherfore how presumptuously he dothe abuse her, yow may easly iuge, as yat [+he] dares to make so impodently his complaynte of her, beinge as she ys: and to suche personages of qualite and statte, as are the pryvie Councell. I doo not dowt therfore, but as yow have begune wythe so honorable a procedinge, but yow will lett him have his desertes accordinge to his presumptione. And in the meane seaseone for that a longe letter may be troblesome vnto yow, which have matters in hand of more importance, I thowght yt fytt, thus shortly to show the wronge don to her, and to refer the very ground and culler of his complaynt vnto an other seditie which I shall send yow.

Whearin yf he hath hadd any cause to have complayned, it shold then have bene agaynst my self, as the same will explayne. But his shyftes and knaveries are so grosse and palpable, that doutinge to bringe his partes [=parts? parties?] and iuglinges [=jugglings, deceptions] to light, he dothe adresse his petitione ^\\agaynst her// that ys vtterly ignorant of the cause. Thus desyringe yow to conceyv<.e.> how thankfully I take thys honorable dealinge with my wyfe and friendly care to me, I will the lesse sett forthe in woordes whatt I the more desyre in deeds to show, if I weare so happie as to fynd oportunitie. this 11h of Ianuarie 1597.

Yowre assured friende and Brother in lave

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and his very good friend Sir Robert Cecill on [=one] of her Magesties pryvoye Councel and principle Secretarie.

Endorsed: 12 January 1596. Earl of Oxeford to my Master. The controuersie betwene him and Gurley.

NB: Thomas Gurlyn submitted a counter-petition to Burghley 30 January 1597: Cecil Papers 173/27; CP, vii, 48.

[=29] *PRO SP12/264/111*, ff. 151-1A (bifolium, 285mm x 195mm), Oxford to Burghley; 8 September 1597 (W330;F524).

My very good lord I have perused thes letters, which accordinge to yowre Lordships desyre I have returned. I do perceyve how bothe my Lord and Ladie doo perseuer, whiche dothe greatly content me, for Brigets sake, whome alwayes I have wished a good husband suche as yowre Lordship and my selfe may take comfort by. And as for the articles which I perceyve have bene moved betwiene yowre Lordship and them, (referringe all to yowre Lordships wisdom and good lekinge) I will frely sett downe myn opinione, accordinge to yowre lordships desyre.

My Lord of Pembroke ys a man syklye and therefore yt ys to be gathered he desyrethe in hys lyfte tyme [=lifetime] to se his sune bestowed to his lekinge. to compas which my thinkes [=me thinks] his offers very honorable, hys desyres very resonable. Agayne beinge a thinge agreable to yowre lordships fatherly care and loue to my dowghter. A thinge which for the honor, friendship, and lekinge I have to the mache [=match, marriage] ^\\very agreable to me// so that all partes [=parties] desyre but the same thyng. I know no reasone to delay yt, but accordinge to there desyres, to accomlishe yt with convenient speede. and I do not dowt, but yowre lordship and my self shall receyve great comfort therby. for the ionge gentelman, as I vnderstand hathe bene well brought vp, fayre conditioned, and hathe many good partes in hym. Thus to satisfise [=satisfy] yowre Lordship I have as shortly as I can set downe my opinion to my Lords desyres, notwythstandinge I refer thers, and myne owne which ys all on [=one] with theres, to yowre lordships wisdom. I am sorye that I have not an able bodie, which myght have serued to attend on her Magestye in the place where she ys, beinge espetially there, whyther without any other occasione, then to see yowre Lordship I would alwayes willingelye goo. September viijth 1597

Yowre Lordships most assured

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my very good lorde the lord Thresorer of England. [no seal]

Endorsed: 1597

[=30] *Cecil Papers 251/28 (single sheet, 278mm x 170mm), Oxford to Cecil; [July 1600] (Ward333-4;F540-1).*

Althoughe my badd succes, in former sutes to her Magestye, haue giuene me cause to burye my hoopes, in the diepe Abis [of] and bottome of dispayre, rather then nowe to attempt, after so many tryales made in vayne, & so many oportunites escaped, the effects of fayre woordes, or frutes of gowlden promises. yet for that, I cannot beleue, but that there hathe bene alwayes a trwe correspondencie of woord and intentione in her Magestye. I doo coniecture, that wythe a lyttell helpe, that which of yt selfe hathe brought forthe so fayre blossomes will also yeld frute. Wherefore hauinge moved her Magestye latlye about the office of the Ile whiche by the deathe of Sir Antonie Paulet stands now in her maiesties dispositione to bestowe where yt shall best pleas her, I doo at this pr'sent most hartely desyre yowre friendship and furtherance fyrst for yat I

know [that] her Magestye doothe giue yow good eare, then for yat owre howses are knyt in alliance, last of all, the matter yt self ys suche, as nothings charge the her Magestye sythe yt ys a thyng she must bestowe vpon sune one or other. I know her Magestye hath swters alreddie for yt, yet suche as for many respects her Magestye may call to remembrance ought in equall ballence, to way [=weigh] lyghter then my selfe. And I know not by whatt better meanes, or when her maiestie may have an easier oportunitie to discharge the dept [=debt] of so many hopes, as her promises have giue me cause to imbrace, then by thys, whiche giue she muste & so giue as nothings extraordinarelye doothe part frome her. yf she shall not dayne me this in an oportunitie of tyme so fyttinge, what tyme shall I attend which is vncerteyne to all men, vnles in the graues of men ther were a tyme to receyve benifites, and good turnes frome princes. well I will not vse more woordes, for they may rather argue mistrust then confidence. I will assure my self and not dwt of yowre good office bothe in this but in any honorable friendship I shall have cause to vse yow. Hakney.

Yowre louinge and assured friend and Brother.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital. f; 4+7)

NB: No address or endorsement (second sheet of presumed bifolium missing). Photo in Ward, opp. p. 334.

[=31] *Cecil Papers* 76/34 (small bifolium, 230mm x c165mm), Oxford to Cecil; 2 February [1601] (W334-5;F558).

At thys tyme, I am to trye my friendes: amonge whiche consideringe owre owlde aquayntance, familiarite heertofore, & alliance of houses, (then whiche can be noo streyghter) as of my Broother, I presume especiallye. Whearfore at thys tyme, whearas sune good fortune (yf yt be backed by friendes) doothe in a manner presente yt selfe. I moost earnestlye crave yowre furtherance soo fare as the place and fauoure yow howlde may admite. And that ys as I conceyve: that yf her Magestie be willinge, to confer the Praecidentcie of Waales to me, that I may assure my selfe of yowre voice in Councell rather then a stranger. Not that I desyre yow shoulde bee a mover, but a furtherer. for as the tyme ys yt weare nott reasone. But yf yt shall pleas her Magestie in regard of my yowthe tyme & fortune spent in her Courte, addinge therto her magesties fauours, & promises, whiche drue me one [=on] wythe ought any mistruste, the moore to praesume in myne owne expences, to confer soo good a turne to me. that then wythe yowre good woorde, and brotherlye friendship, yow will incorage her forward, and further yt as yow may. for I know her Magestie ys of that princelye dispositione that they shall nott be deceyved whiche put there truste in her. Whiche good office in yow, I will never forgett; and alwayes to my powre acknowledge in loue & kyndnes. hooping that as wee bee knytt neare in alliance: so hereafter moore nearer by good and friendly offices. Thus most earnestlye desyringe yow to haue me in friendly remembrance, when tyme servethe: I take my leaue. thys 2d of Februarie.

Yowre assured and louinge Brother.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (sec. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable and my very good Broother Sir Robert Cecil of her Magesties priuie counsel, principle Secretarie & Master of the wardes. [seal]

Endorsed: 1600 february 2; Erl of Oxford to my master.

[=32] *Cecil Papers 181/80 (small bifolium, 230mm x 170mm [1/2 sheet folded]), Oxford to Cecil; [May 1601?] (W335-6;F577).*

My very good Broother, I have receyved by Henry Loke yowre moste kynde message, whiche I so effectuallye imbrace, that whatt for the owlde loue I have borne yow, whiche I assure yow was very greate, what for the alliance which ys betwene vs, whiche ys tyed so fast by my chyl dren of yowre owne syster, what for myne owne dispositione to yowre selfe, whiche hathe bene rootede by longe and many familiarites of a moore yowthefull tyme there cowlde have beene nothings so deerly welcome vnto me. wherfore not as a stranger but in the owld style, I doo assure yow that yow shall have no faster freende & wellwisher vnto yow then my self eyther in kyndnes, which I finde beyond myne expectatione in yow; or in kyndred, wherby none ys nerer allyed then my selfe, sythe of yowre systers, of my wyfe only yow have receyved Nieces. A syster I say not by any venter, but borne of the same father, and the same moother of [=as] yowre selfe. I will say no moore, for woordes in faythefull myndes are tedious. only thys I protest, yow shall doo me wronge, and yowre selfe greater, yf eyther throwghe fables whiche are mischeuous, or conceyt, whiche ys dangerous, yow thinke otherwis of me then humanite, & consanguinite requyrethe. I desyred Henry Loke to speake vnto yow, for that I cannot so well, vrge myne owne busines to her Magestye, that yow woulde doo me the fauour, when thes troublesome tymes giue oportunitie to her Magesty to thinke of the dispositione of the Praesident of Waales that I may vnderstand yt by yowe, least [=lest] neglectinge throwgh ignorance the tyme, by mishap I may lease [=lose] the sute. for as I have vnderstood, and by good reason conceyved I am not to yowse [=use] any friend to moue yt, so my self hauing movd yt, and receyved good hoops [=hopes], I feare nothings but throwgh ignorance when to prosecut yt least I shoulde leas the benifite of her good dispositione one [=on] whiche I only depende.

(sideways in left margin)

Yowre most assured & lovinge Broother, as ever in myne owne affectione, in all kyndnes and kyndred.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital. f; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To my very good brother & honorable Sir Robert Cecil one of her Magestyes Priue Councel & principall Secretarie. [seal]

Endorsed: Erl of oxenford to my master.

NB: Fowler designates incorrectly as CP 18/80. Ward and thence Fowler date this letter March 1601; I have dated it May 1601 on the grounds of its similarity to the following letter.

[=33] *Cecil Papers 182/23 (bifolium, 298mm x 210mm); 11 May 1601 (W000;F000)*

I receyved this morninge yowre message by H{enry} Loke, wherby I see yow have not forgotten me to her Magestie, and so as yt ys muche to my contentment, I protest to god not so muche in that sumwhat her Magestie doothe satisfise my desyre, but that I finde that assurednes in yowre kindnes to me, wyth whome as we are streyghly [= straightly, closely] alyed, ther ys no reasone but I showld make especiall account of before all others, so am I glad mooreover to find an especiall friend constant and assured in yowre woorde. whiche thinge I vov [=vow] to god to acknowlege to yow in all faythe kindnes and loue, and in whatsoever I may stand yow in sted w{hi}ch accordinge to myn estate now ys littell, but in good will very great I will [acknowleg] wythe all alacrite and well wishinge performe, and this I boothe speake and wright vnto yow from my hart. Wherefore as yow have begone, so I most earnestly desyre yow to styke to me in this cause, for yt ys a thinge wherof I make great account, and yt ys a friendship whiche yow have done me aboue thanks, whiche I will frely impart to yow at my cominge to the Court, w{hi}ch I thinke shalbe to morow by the grace of God. tyll whiche tyme as a hater of ceremonies I will refer all other thanks and obseruationes whiche in me are as far from ordinarie accomplishments, as my thankfull accepetance of thys yowre frendly and brotherly office ys nere my harte simple and vnfayned. I sent my man as H. Loke informed me vnto yow that he myght open sumwhat moore playner the cause, the moore yow shall countnance him the more bouldly and frely he will certefie yow. I will only now end wholly recommendinge my cause to yowre friendship, assuringe yow that ther ys nothings in the world that I esteme more or accept more kinde [=kindly] then yowre brotherly and frendly office which yow at thy [=this?] present vndertake in my behalfe. to morrowe I hoope to se yow my selfe at the court where I will more francly and frely declare my self. for to day, althowghe I thowght to have come to yow yet consideringe yowre manyfold causes I thinke yt best to forbear. In the meane season I rest yowre most thankfull brother and assured friende

(signed) Edward Oxenford (4+7)

Addressed (O): To my very welbeloued friende and brother S{i}r Robert Cecil, principall Secretarie to her Magestie. [trace of seal]

Endorsed: xjmo Maij The Earle of Oxenford to my M{aste}r

[=34] *Cecil Papers 88/101 (bifolium, 232mm x 170mm), Oxford to Cecil; 7 October 1601 (W337;F593).*

My very good Brother, yf my helthe hadd beene to my mynde I woulde have beene before this att the Coorte, aswell to haue giuen yow thanks for yowre presence, at the hearinge of my cause debated as to haue moued her Magestye for her resolutione. As for the matter, how muche I am behouldinge to yow I neede not repeate, but in all thankfulnes acknowlege, for yow haue beene the moover & onlye follower therofe for mee, & by yowre onlye meanes, I have hetherto passed the pykes of so many adversaries. Now my desyre ys, sythe them selues whoo have opposed to her Magestyes ryghte seeme satisfisde [=satisfied], that yow will make the ende ansuerable, to the rest of yowre moste friendlye procedinge, for I am aduised, that I may passe my Booke from her Magestie, yf a warrant may be procured to my cosen Bacon and Seriant [=Sergeant] Harris to

perfet [=perfect] yt. Whiche beinge doone, I know to whome formallye to thanke, but reallye they shalbe, and are from me, and myne, to be sealed vp in an aeternall remembrance to yowre selfe. And thus wishinge all happines to yow, and sume fortunat meanes to me, wherby I myght recognise soo diepe merites, I take my leaue this 7th of October from my House at Hakney. 1601.

Yowre most assured and louinge Broother.

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryghte honorable & my very good Broother Sir Robert Cecill on [=one] of her Magestyes pryvie Councel and principall Secretarie giue thes at the Coorte. [seal]

Endorsed: 1601 7 October: Erle of Oxenford to my Master.

NB: Photo in Mysterious, p. 758.

[=35] *Cecil Papers 89/124 (bifolium, 235mm x 170mm), Oxford to Cecil; 22 November 1601 (W000;F607).*

My good Brother, in that I haue not sent an answer to yowre laste letter, as yow myght expect, I shall desyre yow too [=to] hould me for excused, sythe ever sythence the receyt therof by reason of my syknes I have not been able to wryght. And whearas yow doo conceyve that I haue bene carried to [=too] muche by the conceytes of Cauley, I doo asssure yow ther ys no suche thinge. I haue vsed hym and soo doo styll as a follower of my busines, wherin I doo not finde any cause to blame but rather recommend hys diligence. for Councell I haue suche lavers [=lawyers], and the best that I can gett as are to be had in London, whoo have aduised me for my best course, to desyre that her Magestye wowlde graunt me her warrant signed, for the dravinge [=drawing] of a booke mentioninge what her plesure ys to graunt me concerninge the Escheete of Sir Charles Dauers (de bene esse, quantum in Regina est) wherby shall ensue no preiudice vnto any of the pretendes whiche subieste [=suggest, pretend?] to be interested [=interested] in any of the sayd landes, in regard, that yf the Quiene haue no titell, there passethe nothinge to mee. It ys a common course notwithstandinge any office founde agaynste the Quiene, that her Magestye grauntethe concealed landes in this course, whearof there are many yearly precidentes. So yat her Magestye grauntinge this to me, grauntethe but her owne interest, whiche in effect had bene nothinge, consideringe how this cause hathe bene caried, and so lekly to haue bene obscured for ever, yf yt had not bene my hap to have styrrred therin.

for the rest of yowre letter, whatsoever yow have written, although yt be sum discouragment vnto me, yet I cannot alter the opinion whiche I have conceyved of yowre vertu and constancie, neyther can I suffer yt to enter my thought that a vayne fable can brandel the clearnes of yowre guyltles conscience sythe all the world doothe know that the crymes of Sir Charles Dauers were so byfolde, that Iustice could not dispence any farther; wherfore I cannot leue [=leave, abandon] that hoope and trust whiche I have hadd in yowre promises, but as I have done styll I doo wholly rely my self on yowre only friendship, and thus desyring yow to beare with the weaknes of my lame hand, I take my leaue from Hakney this 22th of November 1601.

Yowre louinge and assured Brother to his powre

Edward Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To my very welbeloved Brother Sir Robert Cecil principall Secretarie to her Magestie [seal]

Endorsed: 22 Nouember 1601; The Earle of Oxford to my Master

NB: Fowler, who did not locate the original, cites an incomplete text from Trout.

[=36] *Cecil Papers 89/148 (bifolium, 233mm x 174mm, second leaf heavily repaired), Oxford to Cecil; 4 December 1601 (W000;F623).*

I can not conceyve, in so shorte a tyme, & in so smaale an absence, how so greate a change ys hapned in yow, for in the beginninge of my sute to her Magestie I was doutfull to enter therinto, boothe for the wante I hadd of friendes, and ye dowl of the Caries. But I was incorage by yow whoo dyd not onelye assure [=assure me] to be an assured friende vnto me, but further dyd vndertake to moue yt to her. whiche yow so well performed, that after sum dispute, her Magestie was contented. In that good begininge, I was promised fauoure, that I shoulde haue assistance of her Magesties counsel in law [=law], that I shoulde haue expeditione. but for fauoure the other partie, hetherto, hathe found muche moore, and as for assistance of her Magesties counsell, whoo hathe bene moore, na [=nay] only agaynst me, the expeditione hathe bene suche, that what myght haue bene done in one monthe, ys now almost a yere differred. At my departure frome Greenwich, what good woordes yow gaue me, and what assurance, of yowre constancie to me, yf yow have forgotten, yt ys in vayne for me to remember. Now besydes the alteratione whiche I finde in ye style of yowre letters, Caulye hathe towlde me yat yow ar exempted, and that Carye complaynes as yt weere of yowre partialite. When I tooke my leaue of her Magestie, she vsed me very gratuslye, & mooreover gaue me thes woordes, that she doughted not for all that was sayed to the contrarie, but that the Escheat of Sir Charles Davers woulde faal owt well and that wythe all her hart she wisht yt and ment yt to me. I was gladd to heare her, and thought my self greatly behowldinge [=beholden] to yow, for I my self had never yet speache wythe her, wherfore I dyd and doo styll imput [=impute] this her good mynde to yowre friendly and honorable dealinge towards me. Now the cause fallinge owt to be good and by course of law [=law] her Magesties, yt ys iustice, that her Magestie may bestowe the same at her pleasure, and yf she be willinge to giue yt me, I doo not see in reasone how partiallite shoulde or canbe imputed to yow, & the matter lyinge thus in the ballence of iustice, I doo not see, but boothe for yowre promise sake even frome the beginninge and for the alliance whiche ys betwien yow and me, wytheout any iust imputatione of partiallite, yow may as well and wythe as great honor end as begine yt. And wheras yow assure me that the Lord Thresorer ys now very wyllinge to further me, I am very glad yf yt soo proue, for I have need of as many good friends as I can get, and yf I could I woulde seeke all the || adversaries I have in this cause to make them my friendes. Wherof I stand in so muche need, and yet when I hadd done all, I woulde especiallye thinke my selfe behowldinge to yow[re selfe], on whome for all thes discouragments past I doo onelye relye. I have written to her Magestie, and receyved a most gratus answer to doo me good in all that she cane [=can], and that she will speake wythe yow, about yt. Now therefore yt ys in yowre poure

[=power] alone, I know yt, that yf yow will deale for me, as I have cause to beleue, that yt may have an end accordinge to myne expectatione, for whiche I will esteme and acknowlege only to procede from yow. The Aturnye hathe had a deuice indede, as yow know yf yow lyst, by referringe yt to iugges to delay the cause wherby weariynge me with an vnresonable tyme he myght procure an agrement wherto I will never agree, or els an extenuatione, or vtter overthrow of her Magesties lyberalite towards me. But my counsell doothe fullye aduise me, yat yf yt be her Magesties plesure to have a short end therof, then to graunt yt me (de benne esse, quantum in nos est,) wherein yf at any tyme yt shall please yow to heare them, I doo not dowt but they are able to satisfise [=satisfy] yow. In the meane season I recommend my selfe and the whoole cause to yow as one hym, vpon whome I relye wythe this most earnest desyre, that howsoever, there myght be an end, for as yt hathe hetherto bene handled, yf yt weer to begine agayne I would never enter into yt. and yf I cannot obteyne yt, yet an end as yt ys fallne owt ys sumwhat. this 4th of December 1601.

Yowre most louinge and assured Brother in laue Edward Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To my very welbeloved Brother Sir Robert Cecill principall Secretarie to her Magestye. [seal]

Endorsed: 1601; December 4; Erle of Oxenford to my Master.

NB: Fowler, who did not locate the original, cites an incomplete text from Trout.

[=37] *Cecil Papers 181/99 (small bifolium, 232mm x 175mm), Oxford to Cecil; [January 1602] (W337;F652-3,682-3).*

It ys now almoste a yeaere sythence by the promises of yowre helpe and assistance, when the Escheate of Dauers was found nothinge for her Magestye 26 shyllinges excepted, that I dyd vndertake to recover yt. Now Brother I doo nott by thes letters make chalenge of yowre woordes, for yf yow lyst to forgett them, my puttinge in remembrance wilbe bitter, and to smaale purpose. Only this now ys myne intencion not to tell any nev [=new] thinge, but that whic [=which] ys allredie knowne, vnto yow. The matter after yt hade receyved many crosses, many inventiones of delay, yet atlength [=at length], hathe bene hard [=heard] before all the Iugges, Iugges I say boothe vnlauffull, and lauffull, for so may I affirme sythe Walmsle whoo hadd mached [=matched, married] in the house of Dauers, besydes sum other, weere admitted to the decidinge of the cause, notwithstandinge longe sythence I dyd accept [=except, protest] agaynst hym, and yt wass then thought resonable. But now tyme, and truthe, have vnmasked all difficulties, and I doo vnderstand, the Iugges are, yf they will be indifferent to make a good report to her Magestie. Yet I know not by whatt vnfortunat stare [=star], ther arre so many disposed to wythestand yt, as the truthe, mucche oppressed by the freendes of the contrarie part, [that yt] ys leklye yf not whoolye to be defaced, yet so extenuated, as the vertu therof wilbe of littell effect. Now for so mucche, as I vnderstand yt ys ment to delay the report to the end, to gett a compositione of her Magestye and so to bringe all my hoope in her Magestyes gracious woordes to smoke, I am earnestlye to solicit her, to caale for the report, whiche I showld not have neded to doo, yf gossell hadd bine in the mouthes of the Lorde chiefe Iustice and the Atturnye, whoo dyd assure me that at the next hearinge, whiche then was appoynted the second day of thys terme yt showld have a full end.

Now the matter dependinge in this sort, I fynd my statte weake and destitute of friendes for haveinge only relyed allwayes on her Magestye, I have neglected to seeke others, and this trust of myne, many thinges considered, I feare may deceyve me. An other confidence I had in yowre selfe, in whome, wytheout offence lett me speake yt, I am to cast sume dout, by reasone, as in yowre last letters I founde a waveringe style muche differinge from yowre former assurances, I feare now to be left | in medio rerum omnium certamine et discrimine. whiche yf yt soo faale owt, I shall beare yt by the grace of god, wythe an equall mynde, sythe tyme and experience have giuen me sufficient vnderstandinge of woorldlye frayelte. But I hoope better, thowghe I cast the woorste, how so ever for finis coronat opus. and then every thyng wilbe layd open, every dout resolved into a playne sence. In the meane season, I now at the laste, for now ys the tyme, crave this brotherly freendship, that as yow began yt for me wythe all kyndnes, so that yow will continue in the same affectione to end yt. and so I will end, these thinges only desyringe yow to remember, that yow may know I doo not forget, how honorablie yow delt with her Magestye at what tyme yow fyrst moved her, showinge how owt of nothings to her, for so in manner yt wass founde, yf by myne industrie I could of this nothings make sumthinge, she showld yet giue a propt [=prop] and stay to my house. Agayne I know and well perceyve how that this Eschet of Davers shalbe made a great matter, to crose my good happ and to obscure the rest of the lands whiche discend from the mother on Latimer syde, [.] to her Magestye whiche ys as clere her Magestyes as thys. Last of all I shall desyre yow to remember that I craved of this Eschette only what I cowlde recover in Wilshyre and Glocester shyres. Leuinge to her Magestye the lands of Oxford, Leicester, Northampton and Yorkshyre. whiche ys of muche moore vallue. [and] In the beginnunge the whoole was thowght desperat, and yet yow shall se now the lave to be clere of the Queens syde, notwithstandinge yt hathe indured all the crosses that can be possible, ye [=yea] mooreover I will say to yow that I must informe, this case hathe opend her ryght to a far greater Matter, then this of Davers, yf her Magestyes ryght and interest be not cunningly suppressed, and therfore I hoope her Magesty after so many gracious woordes which she gave me at Grenwiche vpon her departure excedinge this whiche I expect, will not now drave [=draw] in the beames of her princlie grace to my discouragment and her owne detriment. Neyther will I conceyve otherwise of yowre vertu and affectione towards me now att the end, then I apprehended all good ^\\hoope// and kyndnes from yow in the beginnunge. thus wythe a lame hand, to wright I take my leue, but wythe a mynde well disposd to hoop [=hope] the best of my friends, tyll otherwis I finde them. which I feare nothings att all, assuringe my self yowre woords and deeds dwell not asunder.

Yowre Louinge Brother in Lave [=law]

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To my very welbeloued Brother in Lave Sir Robert Cecill of her Magestyes priuie counsell and principall Secretarie. [seal]

Endorsed: Ianuary (blank) 1601 [=1602]; The Earle of Oxford to my Master

[=38] *Cecil Papers 85/103 (bifolium, 305mm x 205mm), Oxford to Cecil; 22 March [1602] (W337;F707-8).*

It ys now a yeare sythence by yowre only meanes her Magestye graunted her intereste in Danvers escheete. I hade only then her woorde from yowre mouthe I fynde by thys waste of Tyme, that landes will not be carried wythoute deedes. I have twice therfore moved her Magestie that yt wowlde please her to graunte me that ordinarie course (de bene esse quantum in nobis est) wherof there are moore then an hundred examples. myne answer ys that I shoulde receyve her pleasure from yow. But I vnderstand by Cauley that shee hathe never spoken therof. The matter hathe bene hard [=heard] accordinge to the order with muche a doo twice before ^\\the// Iugges, and many also standers by dyd heare the same, ther in open aparance, her Magesties tytell was questionles, The Lord chyef Iustice vpon thys as in forme I was made [+to] beleue, was to have taken the opinion of the rest of the Iugges and conferringe yt wythe his owne to have made vp a report to her Magestie. As for the Iugges report they weere never caald vnto yt, and the principall poyntes to confirme her Magesties tytell never opned or moved, but contrarie kept bake. So that vnder there hands the Lord chiefe Iustice hathe made no report. Yet sumthinge he hathe done owt of his owne brest that ys secret and I cannot lerne, yf he have reported nothinge to Eschete to her Magestie, then ys my sute as yt was the fyrst day, that ys where her Magestie thowght she hadd nothinge, that she wowlde graunt me her Interest. thys sut I obteyned by yowre espetiall meanes, and this she promysde me, wherfore [...] Hervpon I chalenge that sumthyng myght be done, wherby I may vpon grovnde seke and trye her Magesties ryght, whiche cannot be done wythout this dede a fore spoken of. The course whyche syldome or never hathe bene vsed before in this cause, to refer yt to the Iugges, how pr'iuditiall a pr'sident I know not to her Magestie, hathe bene obserued, and the effect hathe showed that whearas yt was pretended to be shortest, yt hathe bene the furthest way about. and as the beginninge was but sume opinione the end ys but confusione. Now therfore the matter havinge bene directed by this course for a whoole yeares space, and come to no better termes, my desyre ys to know her Magesties plesure touchinge [my desyre of] her patent, (De bene esse) whyther she will performe yt or noo. If not then have I bene mocked, yf ye [=yea], that I myght have answer, wherby I may vpon reason quiet my selfe, and not vpon wearines. How sooever an answer shalbe most welcome vnto me, now beinge the best expectatione of my tedious sute, thinkinge therin, my tyme lost, more pretious then the sute yt selfe. Thus takinge my leave frome Hackney thys 22tie of Marche I remayne

Yowre assured friende & Brotherinlave

(signed) Edward Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my verye good Brother Sir Robert Cecill, her Magestyes principall Secretarie [seal]

Endorsed: 1601 March 22 Erl of Oxenford to my Master

[=39] *Cecil Papers 99/150 (bifolium, 278mm x 168mm), Oxford to Cecil; 25, 27 April 1603 (W340-2; F739-40).*

Sir Robert Cecill. I have alwayes founde my selfe behowldinge to yow, for many kyndnesses, and curtesies. Wherefore I am bowlde, at thys presente, whiche gyvethe occasione of many consyderationes, to desyre yow as my verye good friende and kynde brother in Lawe to impart to me whatt course ys deuised by yow of the Councell, & the reste of the lords, concerninge owre dutyes to the kynges Maiestie Whyther yow doo expect any messenger before hys comminge to lett vs vnderstand hys plesure, or els hys personall arryvall, to be praesently or very shortlye. And yf yt be so, what order ys resolued one [=on] amongste yow, eyther for the attendinge, or metinge [=meeting] of hys Magestye, for by reasone of myne infyrmite, I cannot come amonge yow so often as I wishe, and by reasone my house ys not so nere, that at every occasione I canbe praesent, as were fitt, eyther I doo nott heare at all frome yow, or at leaste wythe the lateste, as thys other day yt hapned to me, receyvinge a letter at nyne of the cloke, not to fayle at eyght of the same mornynge to bee at Whyte Haale. whyche beinge impossible, yet I hasted so muche as I came to followe yow into Luggate, thoughe throwghe presse of people and horses I could not reache yowre compaignie as I desyred, but followed as I myght.

I cannot but finde a greate gryefe in [...] my selfe, to remember the mistres whiche we have loste, vnder whome booth yow and my selfe frome owre grenest yeares have bene in a manner brought vp. and althowghe yt hathe pleased god, after an earthlye kyngdome to take her vp into a more permanent and hevenlye state, wherein I doo not doubt but she ys crowned wythe glorie, and to gyve vs a prince wyse, lerned, and inryched wythe all vertues, yet the longe tyme whyche we spent in her seruice, we cannot loke for so muche left of owre dayes, as to bestowe vpon an other, neyther the longe aquayntance, and kynd familiarites, wherwythe she dyd vse vs, we are not ever to expect frome an other prince, as denyed by the infermite of age, and common course of reasone. In thys common shypwrake, myne ys aboue all the reste. whoo least regarded, thowghe often comforted, of all her followers, she hathe left to trye my fortune amonge the alterationes of tyme, [fortune] and chaunce, eyther wythe owt sayle wherby to take the aduantage of any prosperous gale, or wythe [+out] anker to ryde tyll the storme be over paste. Ther ys nothinge therfore lefte to my comfort, but the excellent vertues, and diepe wisdomes wherwythe god hathe indued owre new master, and soueraygne Lord, whoo doothe not come amongst vs as a stranger but as a naturall prince, succedinge by ryght of bludd, and inhaeritance, not as a conqueror, but as the trwe shepperd of Chrystes floke to cherishe and comfort them.

Wherefore I most earnestlye desyre yow of thys fauowre, as I have wrytten before, that I may be informed frome yow concernynge thes poyntes, and thus recommendinge my self vnto yow I take my leave.

Yowre assured friende and vnfortunat Brother in Lawe

(signed) E. Oxenford (ital.; 4+7)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my very good Brother in Lawe, Sir Robert Cecil, principall secretarie [excellent wax seal: boar]

Endorsed: 25.27 April 1603 Earle of Oxford to my Master

[=40] *Cecil Papers 99/161 (bifolium, 305mm x 195mm), Oxford to Cecil; 7 May [1603] (W342-3;F770-1).*

My very good Lord I vnderstande by Mr Atturnye that he hathe reported the state of my Tytell to the keepership of Waltham foreste, and of the housse and parke of Haueringe, wherby yt appeares to hys Magestye what ryght and aequite [=equity] ys therin. Tyll the 12th of Henry the 8th myne Auncesters haue posessed the same, almost sythence the tyme of William Conqueroure, and at that tyme whiche was the 12th yeare of Henrye the 8th the kynge tooke yt for terme of hys lyfe from my grandfather, sythence whiche tyme, what by the alterationes of princes, and wardshipes, I haue bene kept from my ryghtfull posession, yet frome tyme to tyme, boothe my father and my selfe, we haue as oportunites fell owt not neglected owre clayme, twice in my tyme yt had passage by lawe, and iugment was to haue passed one [=on] my syde, wherof her Magestie the late Quiene, beinge aduertised wythe assured promises and woordes of a Prince to restore yt herself vnto me causd me to lett faale the sute. But so yt wass, she wass not so redie to performe her woorde as I was to [=too] redie to beleue yt. Whervpon pressinge my tytell farther yt was by her Magesties pleasure put to Arbitrement and althoughe yt was an vnaequall course, yet not to contradict her will, the Lord Chancellor Sir Chrystopher Hattone was sole Arbitrer, whoo after all the delayes, deuised by Sir Thomas Hynnage, and the Quienes counsell in lave [=law] then beinge, hauinge harde [=heard] the cause was redie to make hys report for me, but her Magestie refusd the same and by no meanes woulde heare yt, So that by thys and the former meanes, I haue bene thus longe disposeste. but I hoope, truthe ys subiect to noo prescriptione, for truthe ys truthe though never so owlde, and tyme cannot make that falsse whiche was once trwe. and though the thys threscore yeares boothe my father and my selfe have bene disposessed therof, yet hathe ther bine claymes made therto many tymes wythin those threscore yeares, whiche I take sufficient by lave to avoyd praescriptione in thys casse [=case]. Now therefore hys Magestie hauinge hard [=heard] the report I hoope [=hope] he will in his iustice and fauoure doo me that ryght whiche ys to be expected frome so gracious and vertuous a Soverayne. But for that I knowe, amonge so many matters of importance, vnles hys Magestie be put in remembrance, he may forget a pryvat cause, therefore I shall moost earnestly desyre yowre friendship in thys that yow will ioynge wythe my Lord Admyrall my very good Lord and friende to helpe me to hys Magesties resolutione. my Lord Admirall ys Lord chiefe Iustice of Oyer and determiner, and to whoose office indeed as I vnderstande yt apperteynes to have hard [=heard] my cause, but I know not why or wythe what aduise yt was referred to Mr Atturnye and his Magesties counsell in lave. But now howsoever, hys Magestye hathe the report made vnto hym, whiche yf yt be forgotten shall lyttell prevayle me. but I hoope in his Iustice, and in yowre twoo Lordshipes friendships whiche the cause beinge so iust and honorable, I doo fullye relye vpon. Hys Magestie departethe [=parteth] wythe nothinge but a keepership, and a keeper he must haue. wherfore yt ys muche moore princlye for him to restoore yt to me hys lafull keeper, then contrarye [=contrariwise] to bestowe yt vpon an intruder. Nothinge adorne a kynge moore thein Iustice, nor in any thinge, doothe a kynge moore resemble god then [^]in// iustice, whiche ys the Hed of all vertue, and he that ys indued therwythe, hathe all the reste. So longe as yt was in the custodie of myne Auncesters the woodes were preserved, the game cherished, and the forest mayntayned in hir full state. but sythence yt was otherwise disposede, all thes thynges have impayred as experience doothe Manifest. Thus therefore most earnestlye cravinge yowre Lordships

friendly and honorable furtherances I most harttelye recommende my selfe vnto yowre good Lordships from Hackne this 7th of May.

(sideways in left margin)

Yowre Lordships most assured friende and brother in lave to Commande.

(signed) E. Oxenforde (ital.; knot)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my very good Lord the Lord of Essendone, one of his Magetyes pryvye Councell. [excellent seal (paper)]

Endorsed: 7 May 1603 Erle of Oxford to my Lord

[=41] Cecil Papers 100/93 (bifolium, 305mm x 200mm); 12 June 1603 (W000;F000)

My very good L{ord} I know that yowe are soo charged wythe publeke affayres, that yow can haue lyttell lesure or none at all, to vndertake a priuat cause, especiallye concerninge an other. this therfore whiche yow doo for me I doo conceyve yt in yowre particular fauour, and so I take yt and yow shall fynde me therfore ever thankfull. thes shalbe therfore to desyre yowre L{ordship} that wythe my very good L{ord} and friend my L{ord} Admirall, that yow will procure me a full end, of thys sute wherin I haue spent so longe a tyme, and passed the greatest part of myne age. the cause ys ryght, the kynge luste, and I doo not dowt but yowre L{ordship}'s boothe myne honorable friendes, accordinge to yowre woordes I shall fynd yow in deedes therfore in a full confidence of yowre L{ordship}'s most frendlye favours, I will leaue to hynder yowre moore serious busnises. this 12 of Iune.

Yowre L{ordships} most assured friende and Broother in Lave

(signed) Edward Oxenforde. (knot)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my very good Lord the Lord of Essingedone. [seal torn away]

Endorsed: 12 Iune 1603. Erle of Oxenford to my Lord.

[=42] Cecil Papers 100/99 (bifolium, 310mm x 200mm); 16 June 1603 (W000;F000)

My verye good L{ord} hys Magestye hathe harde hys Atturnye generales report as touchinge myne interest to the kepinge of the forest and the parke of Haueringe, and I receyvinge frome yowre L{ord}ship and myne Lord Admirall hys resolutione accordinge to my L{ord} Admiralls directione I have sent to Mr Atturnye to sett hys hande to my particular. But as I am ansuerd by hys letter, that he cannot doo the same, vnles he be warranted by syx of the Councels handes, accordinge to a late decre of hys M{ajestie}'s whiche he doothe requyre, I most earnestlye therfore desyre yowre L{ord}ship as to the leeke purpose I have written to my Lord Admirall that yow wyll procure me suche a warrant sythe yt ys agreable to hys M{ajestie}'s mynde, as frome yowre

selues I have bene acertined. And this in effect ys my request whiche not to be troublesome to yowre L{ord}ship I end wythe my hartye commendationes. this 16 of Iune. Yowre.

L{ord}shipes assured friende and Brother in Lave.

(signed) Edward Oxenforde. (knot)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my verye good L{ord} the Lord Ceclil [sic] of Essingedone. [seal beneath paper]

Endorsed: 16 Iune 1603. Erle of Oxford to my Lord

[=43] *Cecil Papers 100/108 (bifolium, 305mm x 200mm), Oxford to Cecil; 19 June 1603 (W343-4;F802-3).*

My Lord I vnderstand how honorablye yow do perseuer in yowre promised fauoure to me, whiche I takinge in most kynde manner, can at thys tyme acknowledge yt but by simple yet hartye thanks, hopeinge in god to offer me at sumtyme or other the oportunitie wherby [sume] I may in [a] moore effectuall manner expresse my gratfull mynde. I further also vnderstande that thys daye Mr Atturnye ys leeke [=like, likely] to be at the Courte. Wherefore I most earnestly desyre yowre Lordshype, to procure and [=an] ende of this my sute in sekinge wherofe I am growne owlde and spent the chieftest tyme of myn age. The casse as I vnderstand by yowre Lordship, Sir E. Cooke his Magestyes Atturnye hathe reported, the Iustice therof I doo not dout, but [+it] doothe appere, there remayneth only a warrant accordinge to the kinges lat [=late, recent] order to be signed by the syx Lordes in Commissione wherby Mr Atturnie generall may procede accordinge to the course vsuall.

The Kynge I here [=hear] doothe remoue to morow towards Windsor, wherby yf by yowre Lordships especiall fauour ^\\yow// doo not procure me a full end thys day or to morrowe, I cannot looke for any thyng moore then a longe delaye. I doo well perceyve how yowre Lordship, doothe traurll [=travail] for me in this cause of an espetiall grace and fauoure, notwythstandinge the burden of moore importunat and generall affayres, then thys of my particular. wherefore how muche the expeditione of this matter concernes me I leaue to yowre wisdom, that in yowre owne apprehensione, can reede moore then I have wrytten. to conclud I wholye relye vpon yowre Lordships honorable friendship, for whiche I doo vove [=vow] a most thankfull and gratfull mynde. thys 19 of Iune.

Yowre most louinge assured friende and Brother in Lave

E. Oxenforde (ital.; knot)

Addressed (O): To the ryght honorable my very good Lorde the Lord Cecill of Essingedone. [seal]

Endorsed: 19 Iune 1603 Erle of Oxford to my Lord

[=44] *Essex Record Office MS D/DMh C1 (bifolium, ___ mm x ___ mm); Oxford to King James 30 January 1604 (W000;F000)*

Seinge y{a}t yt hathe pleasede yowre Magestye of yowre moste gracious inclinatione to Iustice & ryght to restore me to be keper of yowre game aswell in yowre forest of Waltham, as also in Haueringe parke. I can doo no lesse in dwtye and love to yowre Magestye, but imploye my selfe in the executione therof. And to the end yow myght the better knowe in what sorte boothe the forreste, & the parke have ben abused, and yet continued, as well in distroyinge of the Dere, as in spoylinge of yowre demesne woode, by suche as haue pattents, & had lycences hertofore for felling of Tymbre in the Quiens [=Queen's] tyme latlye deceasede, præsuminge therby that they may doo what they lyste. I was bowld to sende vnto yowre Magestye a man skilfull, lerned & experiencede in foreste causes, who beinge a dweller and ey wytnes therof myght informe yowe of the truthe. And because yowre M{aies}tye, vpon a bare infomatione, cowlde not be so well satisfye of every particular, as by lafull testimonye & examinatione of credible wytnes vpon othe, accordinge to yowre Magestyes appoyntmente, by Commissione a course hathe bene taken, In whiche yowre Magestye shalbe fully satisfysde of ye truthe. This Commissione together w{i}th the depositiones of the witnes I doo sende to yowre M{aies}tye by y{i}s bearer, whoo brieflye can informe yow of the whoole contence [=contents]. So y{a}t now, hauinge lafullye provede vnto yowre Magestye y{a}t S{i}r Ihon Graye hathe kylled and destroyede yowre Dere in Haueringe parke wythoute any warrante for the same, hys patent ys voyde in lawe, & therfore I moste humblye beseche yowre Magestye to make hym an example for all others that shall in leke sort abuse there places & to restore me to the possessione therofe, in boothe whiche yowre M{aies}tye shall doo but Iustice and ryght to the one & other. this 30 of Ianuarie 1603.

Yowre Magestyes

most

humble

Subiect and

Servant

E Oxenforde