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SUMMARY: The document below consists of an extract from the Acts of the Privy Council stating that on 6 August 1555 the Privy Council sent a letter of thanks to the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, Richard (1496/7-1567), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Rich, and the Justices of Oyer and Terminer in Essex, instructing them to examine and punish the persons connected with an intended conspiracy. The excerpt below is taken from Dasent, John Roche, ed., *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, New Series, 32 vols., (1890-1964) at vol. V, p. 173.

RM: The Essex conspirators

A letter of thanks to the Earl of Oxenford, the Lord Rich, and other the Justices in Commission of Oyer and Terminer in the county of Essex to proceed in the examination of th' offenders in the late intended conspiracy, and at their next meeting in their Commission of Oyer and Terminer to cause th' offenders to be brought before them, and if their offences shall weigh in law to be treason, then to cause them to be executed according to justice, or if their offences shall not be found so great, then to punish them according to the statutes in such cases provided, and further to bind them for their good abearing or commit them to ward at their discretions.