

SUMMARY: The document below consists of two extracts from the Acts of the Privy Council stating that on 22 July 1556 the Privy Council, having learned of a conspiracy in Suffolk (see Dasent, p. 310), sent a letter to the 16th Earl of Oxford and to the Justices of Oyer and Terminer in Essex notifying them that Lord Darcy of Chiche had been joined in the Commission of Oyer and Terminer. Thomas (1506-1558), 1st Lord Darcy of Chiche, was the 16th Earl's brother-in-law, having married the 16th Earl's sister, Elizabeth de Vere. According to *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Darcy was known at this time as a zealous persecutor of Protestant heretics:

When Edward VI died on 6 July 1553, Darcy supported the attempt by Warwick (now duke of Northumberland) to place Lady Jane Grey on the throne, but apparently without great enthusiasm. Nevertheless his closeness to Northumberland brought him into some danger, and he was arrested after the failure of the bid. He was pardoned on 1 November 1553, but lost his offices at court and his membership of the council. Thereafter he abandoned his ostensible support for protestantism, and by 1556 was noted by John Foxe as having been one of the more zealous persecutors among the Essex justices.

The excerpts below are taken from Dasent, John Roche, ed., *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, New Series, 32 vols., (1890-1964) at vol. V, pp. 311-12.

RM: Lord Darcy of Chiche

A letter unto th' Earl of Oxford and to the Justices of Peace and Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer in Essex, signifying unto them that the Queen's Majesty hath appointed the Lord Darcy of Chiche to be joined with them in the Commissions of the Peace and Oyer and Terminer of the said county, willing them therefore so to take him, and to communicate unto him such things as shall come to their knowledge tendering to her Highness' service, and to use his advice therein.

A letter unto the said Lord Darcy of Chiche signifying the said order unto him, and requiring him both to have a good eye unto Harwich and those other places near adjoining, and to cause diligent wait to be laid for th' apprehension of one Trudgeover, a runagate that resorteth to those quarters and doth what he may to persuade the people to rebellion.