

SUMMARY: The document below is a copy in Sir Christopher Hatton's letter book of a letter dated 25 August 1579 from Philip Sidney in which Sidney responds to Hatton's advice that the 'tennis-court quarrel' between Sidney and Oxford should be made up. For the background to the quarrel, see *Edward De Vere Newsletter* (No. 53, July 1993) on this website.

Harris suggests that the letters in BL Add. 15891 were copied by Hatton's secretary, Samuel Cox. See Nicolas, Harris, *Memoirs of the Life and Times of Sir Christopher Hatton* (London: Richard Bentley, 1847), pp. vi-v [sic], 127-9 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=5uQDAAAQAAJ&pg=PR21&lpg=PR21&dq=%22Sir+Christopher+Hatton%22+%22Samuel+Cox%22&source=bl&ots=-3rP5EuNra&sig=zqv9T3IQA1yBQSVDElhI7EIN5So&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiSw6CphpPRAhVD3GMKHXYX_Bf0Q6AEIGjAA#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20Christopher%20Hatton%22%20%22Samuel%20Cox%22&f=false.

A renumbering in pencil of BL Add. 15891 places this letter on f. 34v.

Sir, the great advantage which I have by the singular goodness and friendship it pleaseth you to show me (which in truth I do and have a good while reputed amongst the chief ornaments of my life and fortune), makes me find myself at as much disadvantage when my heart, longing to show myself grateful, can present nothing which may be serviceable unto you. But as I know and have well found that you do esteem a true goodwill of some value, in that kind only can I show myself, and assure you that the little that I am, is and shall be at all times and fortunes so to be disposed by you as one that hath promised love, and is bound by desert to perform it. This is all therefore I can say: though you lose me, you have me. As for the matter depending between the Earl of Oxford and me, certainly, sir, howsoever I might have forgiven him, I should never have forgiven myself if I had lain under so proud an injury as he would have laid upon me, neither can anything under the sun make me repent it, nor any misery make me go one half word back from it. Let him, therefore, as he will, digest it. For my part, I think tying up makes some things seem fiercer than they would be. Sir, let me crave still the continuance of my happiness in your favour and friendship, and I will ever pray unto God that among those I most honour I may ever see you have prosperous causes of contentment. 28 August 1579.

Your Honour's to be commanded, even by duty,
Philip Sidney