
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 15 July 1574 from Lord Burghley to Thomas Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Sussex. Oxford had left England without licence on 1 July 1574, and on 3 July the Queen had sent Thomas Bedingfield to Flanders to recall him. Meanwhile the Queen had decided how Oxford would be dealt with on his return, and Sussex had written to Lord Burghley to inform him of the decision.

Burghley's reply indicates his uneasiness at what has been proposed, and regrets that he was not with the court on progress so that he could have suggested a more moderate approach, although he doubts he would have prevailed. He emphasizes Oxford's loyalty to both Queen and country, and expresses his concern that if Oxford feels he has been dealt with too harshly, others may take advantage of his discontent. Lord Burghley appears to sense that he is now being deliberately kept in London and prevented from joining the progress so that he cannot speak on Oxford's behalf.

The spelling in the transcript below has been modernized from the original spelling transcript in Nelson, Alan H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), pp. 110-111, 459.

My very good Lord, I most heartily thank your Lordship for your advertisements of my Lord of Oxford's cause, wherein I am sorry that her Majesty maketh such haste, and so to answer him as I fear the sequel may breed offence if he shall be evil counselled.

My Lord, howsoever my Lord of Oxford be for his own private matters of thrift unconsiderate, I dare avow him to be resolute in dutifulness to the Queen and his country.

As for my being or coming to Reading, I meant not but at Woodstock, for so her Majesty appointed me. And yet this day I received a letter from Mr Secretary Walsingham by which he seemeth that the Queen's Majesty hath a disposition to have my Lord Keeper and me, with Sir Ralph Sadler, to abide at London, I know not yet why. I shall do as I am commanded; only I wish I had been at the court at this depeach [=dispatch], although I doubt I should not have prevailed. I pray God the usage of the poor young Lord may not hazard him to the profit of others.

From my house at Theobalds where my Lord of Surrey and his 2 brethren are sporting.

Addressed: To the right honourable my very good Lord the Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain to her Majesty