

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter said to be dated 20 June 1583 from Oxford requesting Lord Burghley to intercede in the matter of payments to the Queen by John Lumley (c.1533-1609), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Lumley, for whom see the *ODNB* article.

Lumley was the only son of George Lumley, executed on 2 June 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace, and Jane Knightley, one of the five daughters and coheirs of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 30 March 1538). For the will of Sir Richard Knightley, dated 29 March 1537 and proved 14 July 1540, see TNA PROB 11/28/156.

By a settlement made after his father's attainder, Lumley was heir to his grandfather, John Lumley, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Lumley, at the latter's death in 1545, and in 1547 was restored in blood. He married firstly, about 1550, Jane Fitzalan (1537-1577), the eldest child of Henry Fitzalan (1512-1580), 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel, by Katherine Grey (d.1542), the daughter of Thomas Grey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess of Dorset, by whom he had two sons and a daughter who died young.

When Lumley's father-in-law died on 24 February 1580, Lumley inherited his 'huge arrears in debt'. According to the *ODNB*:

*The greatest single amount owed was the so-called 'Florentine debt'. This was a loan of £11,000 owed to Henry VIII by a group of Florentine merchants. Arundel and Lumley were given responsibility in 1564 for repaying the money, now owed to Elizabeth; they hoped to make money on the deal but were unable to fulfil their promise. Lumley began to negotiate terms for the payment of the debt in 1590 and in 1592 it was agreed that he would give Nonsuch to the queen but remain resident as keeper. He was allowed a lease on the great park and was excused from paying after a few years.*

This 'Florentine debt' is the subject of Oxford's letter to Lord Burghley below.

Oxford states in the letter that Lumley had 'matched with a near kinswoman of mine to whose father I always was beholding unto for his assured and kind disposition unto me'. Oxford's 'near kinswoman' was Lumley's second wife, Elizabeth Darcy (d.1617), whose father, Oxford's first cousin John Darcy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, had guaranteed Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards, along with Sir William Waldegrave, when Oxford sued his livery in 1572. Lord Darcy and Sir William Waldegrave jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 on Oxford's behalf (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). For the will, dated 3 February 1581 and proved 14 March 1581, of John Darcy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Darcy of Chiche, see TNA PROB 11/63/135. For the will of John Lumley, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Lumley, proved 22 April 1609, see TNA PROB 11/113/308. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Darcy), Lady Lumley, proved 8 February 1617, see TNA PROB 11/129/144.

A few words which are illegible in the original letter have been supplied in square brackets in the transcript below.

I have been an earnest suitor unto your Lordship for my Lord Lumley, that it would please you for my sake to stand his good Lord and friend which, as I perceive, your Lordship hath already very honourably [performed, for?] the which, [as I?] am in a number of things more than I can reckon bound unto your Lordship, so am I in this likewise, especially for he hath matched with a near kinswoman of mine to whose father I always was beholding unto for his assured and kind disposition unto me. Further, among all the rest of my blood, this only remains in account either of me or else of them, as your Lordship doth know very well, the rest having embraced further alliances to leave their nearer consanguinity. And as I hope your Lordship doth account me now one whom you have so much bound as I am to be yours before any else in the world, both through match, whereby [I?] count my greatest stay, and by your Lordship's friendly usage and sticking by me in this time wherein I am hedged in with so many enemies, so likewise I hope your Lordship will take all them for your followers and most at command which are inclined and affected to me. Wherefore I shall once again be thus bold with your Lordship to be [the more?] importunate in this matter [for?] your Lordship's favour in [easing?] my Lord Lumley's payment to her Majesty, wherein we [shall?] all give your Lordship thanks, and you shall do me as great an honour herein as a profit if it had been to myself, in that through your Lordship's favour I shall be able to pleasure my friend and stand needless of others that have forsaken me. Thus, for that your Lordship is troubled with many matters where you are, I crave pardon for troubling you.

Your Lordship's to command,

Edward Oxeford

Addressed: To the right honourable and his very good Lord, my Lord Treasurer of England, give these

Endorsed: [*In Lord Burghley's hand*: Earl of Oxford for the Lord Lumley. [*In another later(?) hand*: 1583]