

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 30 October, said to be endorsed '1605', from Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere (1584-1631), to her uncle, Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612), concerning the recovery from a serious illness of her husband, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote, whom she had married in 1599.

According to McClure, in March 1605 Dudley Carleton (1574-1632) resigned his post as secretary to Henry Percy (1564-1632), 9th Earl of Northumberland, in order to accompany Lord Norris on a tour of Spain. On their way home Norris fell dangerously ill in Paris, and Carleton remained with him until his recovery. See McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) p. 12. Carleton had earlier been employed in the spring of 1598 as 'secretary and general factotum' to Francis Norris' uncle, Edward Norris (c.1550-1603), Governor of Ostend, and according to Lee, 'over the next few years [Carleton] spent considerable time in Ostend and at the various Norris properties in England: Rycote, Sir Edward's country house at Englefield, and his city house at Puddlewharf'. See Lee, Maurice, ed., *Dudley Carleton to John Chamberlain, 1603-1624; Jacobean Letters*, (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1972) p. 5. See also the *ODNB* articles on Edward Norris and Dudley Carleton.

For Lord Norris' lengthy illness in Paris see also TNA SP 14/15/104, TNA SP 14/19/12, TNA SP 14/19/39 and TNA SP 78/52, f. 336.

For the estrangement of Bridget Vere from her husband after his return to England, see TNA SP 14/21/22 and CP 119/76.

Right Honourable,

I cannot sufficiently express my entire and humble thanks for your Lordship's great love and care of me, which I have ever found to be such as I wish to live no longer than I may in all dutiful manner deserve the continuance of the same.

Nothing in this world could [sic] be more welcome unto me than this good news of my Lord my husband's recovery which your Honour writes of, for I have been much grieved to hear of his sickness. I have sent one a purpose two days ago to him, and have written another letter, if please your Lordship to do me the favour send it.

I refer all to God, and my estate, howsoever, still to your honourable protection. Thus I leave to trouble your Honour any further. I humbly take my leave and rest,

Your Lordship's loving niece to command,

B. Norris

I do not know whether my Lord's absence from Parliament without licence from his Majesty may be finable, though the occasion be his sickness. I humbly beseech your Lordship if you think it fit acquaint his Majesty therewith, and that you will be please[d] to entreat whom you will for his proxy.

From Rycote October the 30.

Endorsed: To the right honourable my very loving uncle, the Earl of Salisbury, give these

Endorsed: October 30, Lady Norris to my Lord