

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 24 June 1573 from Oxford's brother-in-law, Edward Windsor (1532?-1575), 3rd Lord Windsor, to Queen Elizabeth from the Spa concerning a book which had been delivered to him. The title of the book is not given; however from the description in the letter below and in a letter from Lord Windsor to Lord Burghley from Venice dated 10 January 1574, it seems likely that the book was the anonymous *A Treatise of Treasons* (1572), which was highly critical of both Lord Burghley and his brother-in-law, Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper.

Lord Windsor married Oxford's half-sister, Katherine de Vere (1538-1600). For his will, dated 20 December 1572 and proved 25 June 1575, see TNA PROB 11/57/332. For the wills of Katherine (nee de Vere) (1538-1600), Lady Windsor; Frederick Windsor (1559-1585), 4th Lord Windsor; and Henry Windsor (1562-1605), 5th Lord Windsor, see TNA PROB 11/95/237, TNA PROB 11/69/1, and TNA PROB 11/105/359.

In most humble manner unto your Most Excellent Majesty, craving pardon of the same if in this my bold writing unto your Highness I should offend, as to do the con[t]rary in my simple opinion might be greatly more offence in keeping that from your Majesty which came unto me by a post unknown that brought letters unto the Italian merchants to the Spa, & thereby delivered to one of my chamber for me, which when I perused and found it touched a discourse of the government of England, and chiefly as it is set forth by that author the preservation of your Majesty's person & realm, I could do no less of duty as a good & faithful subject (which your Majesty shall always find in me by God's grace) but to advertise your Majesty's person by presenting the said book unto your Highness, in reading whereof your Majesty may gather the author's meente(?) better than I can judge these, of which book after that I had read it I never spake with any of it, never showed unto any, but have kept it to myself, either minding with mine own hands to deliver it or by some other whom I might know and trust better than any servant.

And although it may be your Majesty hath received of them from some other, a thing unknown unto me, I could not of duty nor allegiance keep such a thing from your royal person in the discharge of my duty, hoping your Majesty will think of the presenter that he is & will be one always ready to serve, defend and maintain anything that shall touch your Highness' honour and that doth pertain to the duty of a subject.

Most humbly beseeching your Highness to keep this to yourself from whence it comes, for I am not without your Majesty's favour to bear half his displeasure, but the worse is I weigh more your Majesty's safety and your realm than the displeasure of any, although for my part in mine opinion I suppose he is too wise to be overtaken in many of those things which he is touched withal.

And so your Majesty being satisfied therewith, I am & shall be a sure & a secret servant of yours which shall never be found a blab or an utterer of matter of state, but as sure as a Collonna [=column?] of marble, for in that consisteth true nobility.

Most humbly beseeching your Most Excellent Majesty after the reading thereof you commit it to Vulcan, or as it shall best like your Highness. From the Spa this 24 of June 1573.

Your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant,

Edward Windsor

Endorsed: To the high and mighty Prince Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

Endorsed (in Lord Burghley's hand): 24 June 1573, Lord Windsor to the Queen's Majesty with a lewd book