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SUMMARY: The document below consists of twelve articles proposed by William Cecil, Lord Burghley, followed by Oxford's answers to them. Both the articles and Oxford's answers to them would appear to have been compiled by Sir William Cordell (1522-1581), Master of the Rolls. For additional background to these articles, see CP 159/110 on this website.

1 To determine what the debts are, and to consider how many of them may be moderated and made less, and how the creditors may be compounded withal for reasonable days of payment.

2 To consider how the same may be paid, and what lands may be limited to be answerable for the same.

3 To make estates of his lands according to his own disposition how his lands shall remain if he should die without heirs of his body, and how much shall remain to the issue female if he should have no heirs male, and what shall be assigned for his wife to live on in his absence, and what to be a jointure for her.

4 Item, what lands and how much shall remain to the heir that shall have the earldom.

5 Item, what money may be provided presently for him to take with him, and to make over by exchange for 6 months, and so from 6 months to 6 months.

6 Item, what revenues shall be left to these several uses: first, to be answerable for his charges abroad; secondly, for maintenance of his wife & her servants & company; thirdly, for his Lordship's sister and such of his servants as he will also leave behind him to live upon his charge.

7 Item, how he will leave order for money to give his sister in marriage, how for his father's will.

8 Item, to consider whom he will appoint receiver, who had need to be a man of livelihood.

9 Item, to appoint certain attorneys for his suits in law.

10 Item, to name some to hear the accounts of all such as have had to deal with my Lord's money and payments, and also to examine the state of all his leases past.

11 To make inventories of plate, apparel, wardrobe stuff, horses & geldings, that they may be praised saving his horses & geldings that shall not be used may be sold.

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12 Item, to consider how and by what means his money shall be made over to him by exchange from 6 months to 6 months and from 3 months to three months.

1 To determine what my debts are certainly, it is not possible because as yet I cannot have the sight of them all, but my debt to the Queen's Majesty and those which I have gathered together considered, I have just cause to think that the sum of my debts will be £6000 at the least. The moderation & stalling of them I must leave to such as shall be put in trust with my lands.

2 For the payment of my debts, I have assigned between 4 & £500 by the year over and besides such profits and improvements as may reasonably be raised in my absence of my lands or otherwise.

3 My meaning is that the earldom shall remain to my heir male, & withal so much land as I may leave by law.

To my issue female, if I should have no heirs male, must needs remain certain lands amounting to £214 7s 1-3/4d, as by the particulars appeareth.

For my wife to live on in my absence, I have assigned £300, and for her jointure, £669 6s 8d, in consideration whereof I require of your Lordship for my marriage money £3000, and am content to resign over Combe again.

4 The 4<sup>th</sup> is answered in the third.

5 I have appointed for myself to serve my turn beyond the seas £1000, and hope to be furnished with present money by your Lordship for my marriage money, in consideration whereof I am content to resign my interest & estate in Combe as I have said before.

6 The 6<sup>th</sup> is answered before in part, viz., for myself I have appointed £1000, for my wife £300, for my sister £100, and the rest of my necessary charges at home I leave to be ordered by my commissioners.

7 My sister's marriage money is to be levied of such lands as by statute are limited to the performance of my Lord my father's will, and the same will is to be answered in like manner.

8 For my receiver I do appoint & nominate (blank).

9 For my attorneys for suits in law (blank).

10 To hear th' accounts of all such as have had to deal for me and to examine the state of leases & patents past I leave to my general commissioners, viz., to (blank).

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11 The making of inventories of my plate, apparel, wardrobe stuff, horses and geldings, and the order of all saving such as must serve for my wife's necessary use, I leave to the said commissioners.

12 So do I also leave to them to consider how my money may be made over unto me from time to time.

Endorsed: 2 September 1573. Master of the Rolls. Earl of Oxford's answer to the articles.