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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 21 October 1595 from Oxford to Robert Cecil requesting Cecil's assistance with his suit concerning Waltham Forest. As Oxford mentions in the letter, the death of Sir Thomas Heneage (c.1532 – 17 October 1595), Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, who had died four days before the date of Oxford's letter, would cause the offices held by Heneage to come to the Queen's hands to be bestowed as she saw fit. For the Queen's earlier grant to Heneage of the keepership of Waltham Forest, see Oxford's letter to Cecil written the previous day, 20 October 1595, CP 35/84.

For the writ of privy seal dated 18 July 1603 by which King James restored to Oxford his rights to the keepership and stewardship of Waltham Forest see TNA C 66/1612, mm. 29-30.

There are times wherein the use of friends are so necessary that although we be loath to be cumbersome, yet are we compelled to thrust into their hands the trust of our troublesome causes. Such is my state at this present, who in mine own conceit have no mistrust of your good disposition towards me, yet am I forced (by what unlooked for occasion I cannot tell) at this time to turn my thought upon you as the only friend with whom, I think, I may be boldest.

Wherefore for that I understood the great danger of life wherein Mr Vice-Chamberlain lay, considering the veins and humours of this world I do not mistrust but many things hereby falling into her Majesty's hands to bestow, that there would be many suitors. And for that to the keeping of the Forest of Waltham & the Park of Havering mine evidences show me a certain right to the same from which I cannot be persuaded till I know better to the contrary, I have most humbly written to her Majesty that after so many bestowings of it upon others void of any pretence, she will now at length give ear to the justness of my cause, & as she hath often disposed it upon others upon favour, that now not only upon justice but also upon grace she will deign it to the rightful keeper.

And this I do not notice to you as if I thought it in your power to do more than it shall please to come of her Majesty's own disposition, but for that you are the only person that I dare rely upon in the court and at this present to implore as an instrument to make my desire known unto her Majesty.

And thus having opened to you my cause, what I have written in effect to her Majesty and what I crave of your courtesy, I commit you to God. This 21 of October 1595.

Your loving and assured friend and brother,

Edward Oxeford

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Endorsed: To the right honourable & his very well beloved friend & brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, one of her Majesty's Privy Council

Endorsed: 21 October 1595, Earl of Oxford to my Master