
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 9 January 1598 from Bridget (nee Hussey), Countess of Bedford, to Sir Robert Cecil (1563-1612) requesting that her grandson, Francis Norris (1579-1622), later 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote and 1st Earl of Berkshire, be permitted to accompany Cecil on an embassy to France. In 1599 Norris married Oxford's daughter, Bridget Vere.

For the Countess' letter expressing her gratitude to Cecil at his acceptance of her request, see CP 49/1.

For the Countess of Bedford, see also her will, dated 2 and 14 June 1600 and proved 12 January 1601, TNA PROB 11/97/10.

Sir, having a great desire and care to see Francis Norris brought up in some degree answerable to his birth and the quality he is like to hold in his country (if God shall lend him life), to the end he may hereafter be the better able to do her Majesty service, and both I and mine having been so exceeding much beholding to yourself in your many favours and love towards us, and now hearing that you are very shortly to go ambassador from her Majesty to the French King, I would be most glad, for his further experience, to commend him (one of my chiefest jewels) to so faithful a friend, under whose countenance and protection I do assure myself of his chiefest safety, he being young and little experienced how to direct himself in courses fitting in a strange country. Herein as you shall bind us still more and more beholding, so shall you ever find me ready as I may to requite, and him by all serviceable endeavors to deserve your great favours.

And so with my best wishes I leave you to the happy protection of the Almighty. Whitefriars, this 9 of January 1597.

Your assured friend,

B. Bedford

Endorsed: To the right honourable Sir Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to her Majesty, deliver these

Endorsed: 9 January 1597, Countess of Bedford to my Master