

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 2 February 1601 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil requesting his assistance in obtaining the Presidency of Wales, left vacant by the death on 19 January 1601 of Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke. The Queen granted the post to Edward Zouche (1556?-1625), 11th Baron Zouche of Harringworth. He was appointed Lord President of Wales in June 1602; four months later John Chamberlain wrote that, 'Lord Zouche plays *rex* in Wales with both council and justices, and with the poor Welshmen'. He remained Lord President until 13 July 1615, when he was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. See the *DNB* entry for Edward Zouche.

At this time I am to try my friends, among which, considering our old acquaintance, familiarity heretofore, & alliance of houses (than which can be no straiter) as of my brother I presume especially. Wherefore at this time, whereas some good fortune (if it be backed by friends) doth in a manner present itself, I most earnestly crave your furtherance so far as the place and favour you hold may admit. And that is, as I conceive, that if her Majesty be willing to confer the Presidency of Wales to me, that I may assure myself of your voice in Council rather than a stranger. Not that I desire you should be a mover, but a furtherer, for as the time is, it were not reason. But if it shall please her Majesty in regard of my youth, time & fortune spent in her court, adding thereto her Majesty's favours & promises which drew me on without any mistrust the more to presume in mine own expenses, to confer so good a turn to me, that then with your good word and brotherly friendship you will encourage her forward and further it as you may, for I know her Majesty is of that princely disposition that they shall not be deceived which put their trust in her. Which good office in you I will never forget, and always to my power acknowledge in love & kindness, hoping that, as we be knit near in alliance, so hereafter more nearer by good and friendly offices. Thus most earnestly desiring you to have me in friendly remembrance when time serveth, I take my leave this 2nd of February.

Your assured and loving brother,

Edward Oxford

Endorsed: To the right honourable and my very good brother, Sir Robert Cecil, of her Majesty's Privy Council Principal Secretary, & Master of the Wards

Endorsed: Earl of Oxford to my Master