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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 22 November 1601 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil in connection with his suit to secure the Queen's interest to the estates of Sir Charles Danvers, beheaded on Tower Hill 18 March 1601.

For background concerning Oxford's involvement in the Danvers escheat case, see CP 181/99 and documents mentioned there.

My good brother, in that I have not sent an answer to your last letter as you might expect, I shall desire you to hold me for excused, sith ever sithence the receipt thereof by reason of my sickness I have not been able to write. And whereas you do conceive that I have been carried too much by the conceits of Cawley, I do assure you there is no such thing. I have used him, and so do still, as a follower of my business, wherein I do not find any cause to blame, but rather recommend his diligence. For counsel I have such lawyers and the best that I can get as are to be had in London, who have advised me for my best course to desire that her Majesty would grant me her warrant signed for the drawing of a book mentioning what her pleasure is to grant me concerning the escheat of Sir Charles Danvers (*de bene esse, quantum in regina est*), whereby shall ensue no prejudice unto any of the pretenders which suggest to be interested in any of the said lands in regard that, if the Queen have no title, there passeth nothing to me. It is a common course, notwithstanding any office found against the Queen, that her Majesty granteth concealed lands in this course, whereof there are many yearly precedents, so that her Majesty granting this to me granteth but her own interest, which in effect had been nothing considering how this cause hath been carried, and so likely to have been obscured forever if it had not been my hap to have stirred therein.

For the rest of your letter, whatsoever you have written, although it be some discouragement unto me, yet I cannot alter the opinion which I have conceived of your virtue and constancy, neither can I suffer it to enter my thought that a vain fable can brandle the clearness of your guiltless conscience, sith all the world doth know that the crimes of Sir Charles Danvers were so bifold that justice could not dispense any farther. Wherefore I cannot leave that hope and trust which I have had in your promises, but as I have done, still I do wholly rely myself on your only friendship, and thus desiring you to bear with the weakness of my lame hand I take my leave from Hackney, this 22th of November, 1601.

Your loving and assured brother, to his power,

Edward Oxenford

Endorsed: To my very well beloved brother Sir Robert Cecil, Principal Secretary to her Majesty

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Endorsed: 22 November, the Earl of Oxford to my Master