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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 4 December 1601 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil in which Oxford expresses amazement at Cecil's change of attitude with respect to Oxford's suit to recover for the Queen the lands which had escheated to her on the attainder 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.

I cannot conceive in so short a time & in so small an absence how so great a change is happened in you, for in the beginning of my suit to her Majesty I was doubtful to enter thereinto, both for the want I had of friends and the doubt of the Careys, but I was encouraged by you, who did not only assure me to be an assured friend unto me, but further did undertake to move it to her, which you so well performed that after some dispute her Majesty was contented. In that good beginning, I was promised favour that I should have assistance of her Majesty's counsel in law, that I should have expedition, but for favour the other party hitherto hath found much more, and as for assistance of her Majesty's counsel (who hath been more, nay only against me), the expedition hath been such that what might have been done in one month is now almost a year deferred. At my departure from Greenwich what good words you gave me and what assurance of your constancy to me, if you have forgotten, it is in vain for me to remember. Now, besides the alteration which I find in the style of your letters, Cawley hath told me that you are exempted, and that Carey complains, as it were, of your partiality.

When I took my leave of her Majesty she used me very graciously, & moreover gave me these words, that she doubted not, for all that was said to the contrary, but that the escheat of Sir Charles Danvers would fall out well, and that with all her heart she wished it and meant it to me. I was glad to hear her, and thought myself greatly beholding to you, for I myself had never yet speech with her, wherefore I did and do still impute this her good mind to your friendly and honourable dealing towards me. Now the cause falling out to be good and by course of law her Majesty's, it is justice that her Majesty may bestow the same at her pleasure, and if she be willing to give it me I do not see in reason how partiality should or can be imputed to you, & the matter lying thus in the balance of justice, I do not see but both for your promise['s] sake, even from the beginning, and for the alliance which is between you and me, without any just imputation of partiality you may as well and with as great honour end as begin it.

And whereas you assure me that the Lord Treasurer is now very willing to further me, I am very glad if it so prove, for I have need of as many good friends as I can get, and if I could I would seek all the adversaries I have in this cause to make them my friends whereof I stand in so much need, and yet when I had done all I would especially think myself beholding to yourself on whom, for all these discouragements past, I do only rely.

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I have written to her Majesty, and received a most gracious answer to do me good in all that she can, and that she will speak with you about it. Now therefore it is in your power alone, I know it, that if you will deal for me, as I have cause to believe, that it may have an end according to mine expectation, for which I will esteem and acknowledge only to proceed from you.

The attorney hath had a device indeed, as you know if you list, by referring it to judges to delay the cause, whereby wearying me with an unreasonable time he might procure an agreement, whereto I will never agree, or else an extenuation or utter overthrow of her Majesty's liberality towards me. But my counsel doth fully advise me that if it be her Majesty's pleasure to have a short end thereof, then to grant it me *de bene esse quantum in nos est*, wherein if at any time it shall please you to hear them, I do not doubt but they are able to satisfice you. In the mean season I recommend myself and the whole cause to you as on him upon whom I rely, with this most earnest desire that, howsoever, there might be an end, for as it hath hitherto been handled, if it were to begin again I would never enter into it, and if I cannot obtain it, yet an end, as it is fallen out, is somewhat. This 4th of December, 1601.

Your most loving and assured brother-in-law,

Edward Oxenford

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

Endorsed: December 4, 1601, Earl of Oxenford to my Master