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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 27 April 1576 written by Oxford to Lord Burghley from Greenwich. Upon his return from his continental tour, Oxford refused to live with his wife, Anne Cecil, and in the letter below accepts Lord Burghley's suggestion that she should return to live with her parents.

For the unusual circumstances surrounding Anne Cecil's pregnancy, see Dr Richard Masters' letter dated 7 March 1575 to Lord Burghley, BL Lansdowne 19/83, ff. 181-2.

My Lord, although I have forborne in some respect which I hold private to myself either to write or come unto your Lordship, yet had I determined, as opportunity should have served me, to have accomplished the same in compass of a few days. But now, urged thereunto by your letters to satisfy you the sooner, I must let your Lordship understand thus much. That is, until I can better satisfy or advertise myself of some mislikes, I am not determined, as touching my wife, to accompany her. What they are, because some are not to be spoken of or written upon as imperfections, I will not deal withal. Some that otherways discontent me, I will not blaze or publish until it please me. And last of all, I mean not to weary my life any more with such troubles and molestations as I have endured, nor will I, to please your Lordship only, discontent myself. Wherefore as your Lordship very well writeth unto me that you mean, if it standeth with my liking, to receive her into your house, these are likewise to let your Lordship understand that it doth very well content me; for there, as your daughter or her mother's, more than my wife, you may take comfort of her, and I, rid of the cumber thereby, shall remain well eased of many griefs. I do not doubt but she hath sufficient proportion for her being to live upon and to maintain herself.

This might have been done through private conference before, and had not needed to have been the fable of the world if you would have had the patience to have understood me, but I do not know by what or whose advice it was to run that course so contrary to my will or meaning which made her disgraced to the world, raised suspicions openly that with private conference might have been more silently handled, and hath given me more greater cause to mislike. Wherefore I desire your Lordship in these causes (now you shall understand me) not to urge me any farther. And so I write unto your Lordship, as you have done unto me, this Friday, the 27th of April.

Your Lordship's to be used in all things reasonable,

Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To the right honourable and his very good lord, the Lord Burghley, Treasurer of England, give these

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Endorsed 27 April 1576, Earl of Oxford from Greenwich