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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 13 July 1576 written by Oxford to Lord Burghley from Charing Cross. Upon his return from his continental tour, Oxford refused to live with his wife, Anne Cecil, and in the letter below agrees to allow her to return to court on certain conditions.

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. For an earlier letter of Oxford's dated 13 July 1576 stating his refusal to live with his wife and accepting Lord Burghley's suggestion that she should return to live with her parents, see CP 9/1.

My very good Lord, yesterday at your Lordship's earnest request I had some conference with you about your daughter, wherein for that her Majesty had so often moved me, and for that you dealt so earnestly with me, to content as much as I could I did agree that you might bring her to the court with condition that she should not come when I was present nor at any time to have speech with me, and further that your Lordship should not urge farther in her cause. But now I understand that your Lordship means this day to bring her to the court, and that you mean afterward to prosecute the cause with further hope. Now if your Lordship shall do so, then shall you take more in hand than I have or can promise you. For always I have and will still prefer mine own content before others', and observing that wherein I may temper or moderate for your sake, I will do most willingly. Wherefore I shall desire your Lordship not to take advantage of my promise till you have given me some honourable assurance by letter or word of your performance of the condition, which being observed I could yield, as it is my duty, to her Majesty's request, and bear with your fatherly desire towards her. Otherwise all that is done can stand to none effect.

From my lodging at Charing Cross, this morning.

Your Lordship's to employ,

Edward Oxenford

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

Endorsed: 13 Iulij 1576, the Earl of Oxford, received at St James(?)