

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Rome summarizing a letter dated 2 August 1574 written at Augsburg by Bartolomeo Portia (1525?-1578), Papal Nuncio in Germany, to Tolomeo Galli (1526?-1607), Cardinal of Como, mentioning that Oxford, having come to Flanders without licence, had been ordered home 'under very heavy penalties'.

On 1 July 1574 Oxford had left England without licence, reportedly travelling to Calais in the company of Lord Edward Seymour (1548-1574), and from thence to Flanders, and 'carrying a great sum of money with him'. The Queen recalled him, and Oxford was back in England by 28 July. By 21 August Oxford had won back the Queen's favour because of his loyalty to her when approached by her exiled rebel subjects in Flanders, and had secured from her a promise to grant him licence to travel.

For other documents mentioning Oxford's departure from England without licence and his restoration to the Queen's favour, see TNA SP 12/45, p. 59; TNA SP 12/45, p. 60; TNA SP 15/26/1, f. 73; and TNA PROB 11/89, f. 161.

The transcript below is taken from Rigg, J.M., ed., *Calendar of State Papers Relating to English Affairs Preserved Principally at Rome in the Vatican Archives and Library*, Vol. II, 1572-1578, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1926), p. 182. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=92617>.

Vatican Archives
Nuntio Germ.
vol. lxxx.
p. 207d.

336. Protonotary Portia, Nuncio in Germany to [Ptolemy Galli,] Cardinal of Como.

By letters from Antwerp of the to [sic] we understand that the siege of Leidem [Leyden] was being pressed, and that Gorcon [Gorinchem] was not wholly neglected; also that Schoonhoven, a small town in Holland, had surrendered, and that thither would go as Governor the Sieur de Rassenghem [Rassenghien], heretofore Governor of Lille and Douai.

The negotiation by the States has resulted in nothing, but for all that in that city [Antwerp] they expected the Comendador Mayor to stay there for some days.

They further announce that Don Bernardino de Mendoza had arrived in England, not without much travail, having been pursued for a long distance by the rebels who dominate and harass perpetually the shores of the narrow seas between Flanders and England with plenty of well armed ships.

The Earl of Oxford, an Englishman, having come to Flanders without the Queen's licence, was bidden to return under very heavy penalties.

The much desired Spanish fleet, it was hoped, had sailed for those parts on the 20th of last month, because it was reported that it was in good condition on the 6th, and since then there might have been a very favouring breeze.

2 August, 1574
Augsburg

[Italian]