

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of the report of a letter written 1 December 1617 by the authorities in Venice to the Venetian ambassador in England, Piero Contarini. The letter alludes to the Senate's decision to decline the offer made by Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, to raise 6000 men for the service of the Venetian Republic.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, after the death of his mother in early 1613, Henry de Vere embarked upon an extended tour of Europe, remaining overseas for over five years, first in the Spanish Netherlands, then in France, and finally, in Venice. He returned to England in October 1618.

The English ambassador in Venice referred to in the report below was Sir Henry Wotton (1568–1639).

The transcript below is taken from Hinds, Allen Banks, ed., *Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts Relating to English Affairs Existing in the Archives and Collections of Venice and in Other Libraries of Northern Italy*, Vol. XV, 1617-19 (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1909), pp. 63-75. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88666>.

December 1
Senato, Secreta Deliberazioni
Venetian Archives

105. To the ambassador in England

In conformity with what we wrote a week ago, we passed an office with the Ambassador Wotton informing him of the difficulties raised by the Spaniards over the treaty, and what we wrote to the Ambassador Giustinian about the two princes nominated by their Majesties of Germany. We send copies of these. We have only to add that on the 11th the Viceroy of Naples ordered his galleys to enter the Gulf, although the pirate who furnished the pretext was near Sicily. We hear from Rome that an encounter took place between the two fleets on the 19th, but no particulars. It is important as a sign of confidence and in our interests that his Majesty should have full particulars of this direct from you, and we direct you to obtain a special audience to strongly urge our claims. You will also speak to such ministers as you think fit, and to the ambassadors of France and the States.

We have no despatches from you this week, so we cannot say more. Other despatches have been delayed, and we suspect some fraud for the purpose of procrastinating.

You will see for your information what we have decided about the Earl of Oxford and Captain Bell.

Ayes 137
Noes 0
Neutra 3

[Italian]