

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of the report of an audience given by the authorities in Venice to the English ambassador, Sir Henry Wotton (1568–1639), on 26 September 1617.

According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online, after the death of his mother in early 1613, Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, 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.

With King James' approval, Oxford offered to raise 6000 men for the Republic's service, an offer which the Venetian Senate declined. This offer is alluded to in the report below.

The Doge mentioned below was Giovanni Bembo (1543-1618), who died on 16 March 1618.

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. 1-14. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88661>.

Sept. 26
Collegio, Secreta
Esposizioni Principi
Venetian Archives

27. The deliberation of the Senate of the 23rd instant was read to the Ambassador of England. He said:

I thank you for your continued confidence and I will impart the whole to his Majesty, to whom the news of this peace will be very grateful. I am sorry that your Serenity has not received complete satisfaction from some of your ministers. On my journey to this city to take up my present charge, I travelled by the Mont Cenis and met Signor Bon, whom I had known at Constantinople, a man of singular zeal in the public service. What has happened cannot be from any lack of prudence or goodwill, but from some violence employed by others.

The matter of the peace seems in good train. I understand that the Catholic King has decided to promise the execution of the treaty of Asti, with the restitution of what was occupied both before and after, including Vercelli.

I proposed to take this opportunity to recall the offer of the Earl of Oxford (Ostrof), but I perceive that the present moment is inopportune. He will await events, and if the occasion for his services ceases, he will return home with the consolation of peace.

After the Doge had replied the ambassador took leave and departed.

[Italian]