

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 2 October 1617.

Present during the audience was Sir John Vere, the illegitimate son of Oxford's first cousin, John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall, who was given a seat of honour because the Venetian authorities apparently mistook him for his second cousin, Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford.

Count John Ernest (1582-1617), eldest son of Count John (1561-1623) of Nassau and a general in the Venetian army in the Uskok War, had died a few days earlier, on 27 September 1617, at Udine. Sir John Vere had served as Lieutenant to Count John Ernest (1582-1617) in the Low Countries, and Wotton therefore suggested to the Venetian authorities that it was fitting that Sir John Vere should succeed Count Ernest as commander. For the will of Sir John Vere, dated 13 December 1630 and proved 14 November 1631, see TNA PROB 11/160, ff. 433-4. For other documents in the State Papers Venetian mentioning Sir John Vere, see Hinds, Nos. 73, 196, 297, 322, 382, 579.

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. 14-27. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88662>.

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32. The ambassador of England came into the Cabinet and with him a gentleman who was given a seat above the Savii of Terra firma, as he was thought to be the Earl of Oxford (Ostorf). The ambassador said:

I have come upon a short but just errand. Count John Ernest of Nassau has died at Udine. As in civil life the sons succeed the father, so in military affairs the next in rank succeed to the charges. This gentleman was a lieutenant of the Count in the Low Countries, and always served faithfully and well. In birth and in the knowledge of arms there is no one above him. He is of the house of Vere by birth, a near cousin of the Earl of Oxford. The house of Vere is one of the most famous and has produced the most famous spirits that the world has seen. He has been a captain for twenty years and has taken part in all the

greatest battles which have been fought in Flanders, where he has always distinguished himself. He would as soon be hanged as miss a chance of fighting.

After some courteous words of the Doge, the ambassador continued: I omitted to say that this gentleman had relations in camp with General Lando, who will be able to bear witness to his behaviour.

[Italian]