

SUMMARY: The document below is a translation in the Calendar of State Papers Venetian of the report of a decision made by the authorities in Venice on 28 November 1617 with respect to the offer made by Henry de Vere (1593-1625), 18th Earl of Oxford, with King James' approval, to raise 6000 men for the service of the Venetian Republic. The report below records the votes taken, and the Senate's decision to decline the offer.

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

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 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. 44-63. See also <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=88665>.

November 28
Senato, Secreta Deliberazioni
Venetian Archives

99. That the following be added when the English ambassador goes to the Cabinet to have our decision of the 25th read to him:

With regard to the Earl of Oxford, the Republic thinks very highly of him for his own sake, the greatness of his house and the recommendation of his Majesty. However, owing to the doubtful position of affairs and the present seasons being advanced, and because we do not wish to afford a pretext to others for the maintenance of present disturbances, we shall not take any further steps for the present. But we beg your Excellency to assure the Earl that we have been deeply impressed by his noble offer. We shall always be grateful, and ready to avail ourselves of it when an opportunity occurs.

We owe the same goodwill to Captain Bell, and we should accept his offer were it not for the difficulty of language, as we recognise his great merits.

That Captain Bell be given a roll of 200 crowns as a gift, and that 100 crowns for refreshments be sent to the Earl of Oxford as a mark of honour and the public goodwill.

Ayes 150
Noes 0

Neutra 16

[Italian]