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SUMMARY: These excerpts from Anthony Weldon's book on the court of King James describe the character of Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton. Weldon was an eyewitness to Howard's character, and his view of Howard's vindictive disposition merits consideration. It is revealing that Howard's 7-year pursuit of allegations of fraud against Sir Robert Mansell resulted in the finding that Mansell's only impropriety had been the receipt by one of his servants of a pair of silk stockings. Howard's vindictive pursuit of Mansell on what were apparently baseless charges perhaps sheds light on Howard's vicious allegations in 1580 against Oxford, many of which appear to have been equally baseless. The excerpts printed below are taken from Weldon's *Court and Character of King James*, published in 1650 (see full title of original edition below).

NORTHAMPTON, though a great clerk, yet not a wise man, but the grossest flatterer of the world, and as Salisbury by his wit, so this by his flattery raised himself. (p.15)

[SIR JOHN HAY, Earl of Carlisle] was hated of none that ever I heard of but the Earl of Northampton, who had no patience to see him, being himself of so venomous and cankered a disposition that indeed he hated all men of noble parts, nor loved any but flatterers like himself, yet it was great question whether he hated that Earl of Carlisle or Sir Robert Mansell most, by whom he hath been heard to say, "Body of God, I will be damned perpetually in Hell, to be revenged of that proud Welshman", and did so hate him that he kept an inquisition on him seven years to prove that he had cozened the king of fourteen thousand pound, which at the seven years' end at a hearing before the king, the Lords, the Queen and all, the Ladies being present, with all the gallantest of the court, ended in one pair of silk stockings given by one for a New Year's gift to Master Wells, Sir Robert Mansell's servant . . . (pp.21-2)

Title-page of original 1650 edition: *The Court and Character of King James*, written and taken by Sir A.W., being an eye and ear witness. *Qui nescit dissimulare, nescit regnare*. Published by authority. London, printed by R.I., and are to be sold by John Wright at the King's Head in the Old Bailey. MDCL.