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SUMMARY: The excerpt below from Sir Robert Naunton's *Fragmenta Regalia* is taken from the manuscript copy dated 1638 in the Folger Shakespeare Library, a copy made after Naunton's death in 1635 but before the first edition of the work was published in 1641. The excerpt concerns Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby de Eresby, who married Oxford's only sister, Mary de Vere. Like Bertie, Oxford's instincts were to be 'none of the *reptilia*', and the two men may have gotten along well, although few records survive of their relationship apart from a brief mention in SP 12/154/13, ff. 23-4.

My Lord Willoughby was one of the Queen's first swordmen. He was one of the ancient extract of the Berties, but more ennobled by his mother, who was Duchess of Suffolk. He was a great master of the art military, and was sent general into France and commanded the second army of five that the Queen had sent thither in aid of the French.

I have heard it spoken that had he not slighted the court he might have enjoyed a plentiful portion of her grace, and it was his saying (and it did him no good) that he was none of the *reptilia*, intimating that he could not creep and crouch. Neither was the court his element, for indeed as he was a great soldier, so was he of a suitable magnanimity, and could not brook the obsequiousness and assiduity of the court. And as he was then somewhat descending from youth, happily he had *animam revertendi* and to make a safe retreat.