
SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt below from a letter dated 23 March 1581 written from court by Sir Francis Walsingham (c.1532-1590), who advises Henry Hastings (1536-1595), 3rd Earl of Huntingdon, of the birth of Oxford's illegitimate son, Edward Vere. Walsingham says that the child's mother, Anne Vavasour (fl. 1580-1621) was moved from court within a few hours of giving birth on the night of Tuesday, 21 March, and committed to the Tower the next day, 22 March, and that the ports were being watched in order to apprehend Oxford, who was reputed to be attempting to leave England.

On Tuesday at night, Anne Vavasour was brought to bed of a son in the maidens' chamber. The Earl of Oxford is avowed to be the father, who hath withdrawn himself with intent, as it is thought, to pass the seas. The ports are laid for him, and therefore if he have any such determination, it is not likely that he will escape. The gentlewoman, the selfsame night she was delivered, was conveyed out of the house, & the next day committed to the Tower. Others that have been found anyways parties to the cause have been also committed. Her Majesty is greatly grieved with the accident, and therefore I hope there will be some such order taken as the like inconvenience will be avoided. At the court the 23 of March, 1580 [=1581].

Your Lordship's to command,
Francis Walsingham

Endorsed: 24/27 Martii, 1581