

SUMMARY: In this letter dated 1 June 1585 (22 May 1585 Old Style) Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604) confirms his earlier report to King Philip II that Oxford's second cousin, Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13th Earl of Arundel, had been captured as he attempted to flee England, and adds news of the arrests of Philip Howard's brother, William, and of Oxford's first cousin, Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614), who he says have been placed in the custody of Leicester's friend and ally Roger (1531-1600), 2nd Lord North. According to *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Lord Henry Howard was arrested five times during Queen Elizabeth's reign:

In the agitation following Elizabeth's papal excommunication, Howard was arrested in 1571 under suspicion of involvement in his elder brother Norfolk's aspirations for the hand of Mary, queen of Scots. He returned to partial favour after his brother's execution in 1572 but remained linked to a group of Catholic gentlemen, several of them with French connections, who sought to advance the interests of the Scottish queen and improve the lot of English Catholics. He came under suspicion again in 1574 and 1581; in September 1583, suspected of involvement in the Throckmorton plot, he suffered miserable conditions of imprisonment in the Fleet prison, and in July 1585 he was confined to Sir Nicholas Bacon's house in Suffolk. In all he was arrested and imprisoned five times.

The Dictionary of National Biography makes no mention of Lord Henry Howard's having been arrested as early as 1 June 1585 (22 May 1585 Old Style), or of his having been placed in the custody of Lord North, and it unclear whether Mendoza was misinformed on those points. For the roles played by Charles Arundel and Lord Henry Howard in events involving Oxford in 1580/1 see TNA SP 15/27A/46, ff. 81-2 and other documents on this website, in particular the letters of the Spanish ambassador to England, Don Bernardino de Mendoza (d.1604).

The letter is also noteworthy for Mendoza's mention of Queen Elizabeth's efforts to bring pressure on King Charles IX to prohibit the sale of the French edition of *Leicester's Commonwealth*, and to arrest the translator.

The translation below is taken from Hume, Martin, ed., *Calendar of Letters and State Papers relating to English Affairs*, Vol. III, 1580-1586, pp. 538-9.

I have received confirmation of the news from England I sent in my last, to the effect that they had captured, whilst he was attempting to escape from the country, the Earl of Arundel, who is a brother (son?) of the Duke of Norfolk whom the Queen beheaded. As soon as the Earl reached London he was lodged in the Tower, and at the same time the Earl of Northumberland was kept closer in the same fortress. The Queen also ordered the immediate arrest of my Lord (William), the brother of the Earl of Arundel, and that of Lord Harry his uncle, who are consigned to the care of Lord North, a great heretic, and it is said they are to be cast into the Tower. At the same time they took prisoner Harehilo

(Harpesfield?), a Catholic and a very great physician, who had been put to the torture on suspicion of carrying on communications with Catholics and the partisans of the Queen of Scots under cover of his profession. They have also hanged a man before the Queen of Scotland's window for having in his possession secret letters written by her. Paulet has now the care of her, his illness having for some time delayed his taking over the charge.

An Act was passed in Parliament ordering all priests to leave the country within 40 days, both those who are imprisoned and others, for whom passage will be found for any port they may choose, upon their presenting themselves during the period named. After that time is expired any justice may hang them without further formality or trial. Although some of them have taken advantage of this concession, yet, God be thanked! He has infused so much fervour in many of the seminarists that they go over daily to England with glad hearts and wonderful firmness to win the crown of martyrdom. Of the 10,000 men the Queen had ordered to be raised there had been mustered in London 2,000 pikemen, 1,600 harquebussiers, and 400 halberdiers; and a number of Englishmen had shipped over clandestinely to reinforce the fleet in Zeeland, which was about to attempt the blockade of Antwerp. With this object foreigners had been paid four or five pounds sterling each. Although it was said that the levy had been made by the Queen in consequence of a promise to the King of France that she would fulfil her treaty obligations to help him with 10,000 men against the forces of Cardinal Bourbon and the Guises, she has really secretly sent officers to Rochelle and to the Prince of Bearn, offering help and succour.

The Earl of Leicester was on very bad terms with Master Raleigh, the Queen's new favourite. The ambassador here, Stafford, has, by the Queen's orders, been bringing great pressure to bear upon the King to prohibit the sale of certain books which have been translated into French about the lives of the Queen and the Earl of Leicester, and to order the arrest of the translator, who is an Englishman.

A letter dated 9th instant confirms the return of Raleigh's ships in bad case. Paris, 1st June 1585.