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SUMMARY: Dedicatory epistle to Oxford in the second edition of Angel Day's *The English Secretary*, published in 1599.

To the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenford, Viscount Bulbeck, Lord Sandford and of Badlesmere, and Lord Great Chamberlain of England.

It is now a few years past, right honourable & my very good Lord, since, emboldened by your favour, this book, rudely digested and then roughly delivered, I did in the very nonage thereof recommend unto your patronage. And howbeit at that time very little therein appeared worthy so honourable acceptance, yet pleased it your Lordship the same should then pass under your favourable countenance.

To answer so great bounty therein showed I have naught but my simple acknowledgement, and in signification of the will I have to do unto your Lordship any acceptable service no other matter in show than a fresh renovation of the selfsame title by another presentment, howbeit in far more orderly manner than formerly was delivered.

Your Lordship may please, of your own ennobled condition to well-doing, in pardoning the presumption of the former to vouchsafe your liking to this latter, wherein (notwithstanding the title all one) yet shall you find the work both in order, habit, and shape to be diversly changed.

To excuse the defect of the one or enlarge my pains taken in publishing the other were on either part needless, seeing my desire in both hath principally sorted to one self meaning: if your Lordship find aught herein answerable to your judgment, it is enough, and the users shall thereby (I hope) find more cause to be satisfied. The wisest of all ages have not at one instant collected their experience. Plato in his first original was nothing so divine; Socrates in his cradle had no taste of his after-wisdom; Hercules passed many years ere he grew famed by his labours, & only use and practise enableth unto the greatest perfection.

This being so, it will, I trust, seem in me a matter the more pardonable to have adventured as I did the foremost of this purposed labour, regarding that by a review of the same it hath now received some shape and proportion. Such as it is I humbly recommend as before unto your honourable liking, and for myself do remain always by your honourable Lordship to be commanded,

Angel Day