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SUMMARY: Excerpt from *The Rare and Most Wonderful Things Which Edward Webbe, an Englishman born, hath seen and passed in his troublesome travels in the cities of Jerusalem, Damascus, Bethlehem and Galilee, and in the lands of Jewry, Egypt, Grecia, Russia, and in the land or Prester John*, published in London in 1590. Webbe's account of his travels and periods of imprisonment and servitude as a galley slave leaves much to be desired. He is imprecise about dates, and as he himself admits, his memory is faulty in many respects because of the extreme hardships and tortures he endured for years at the hands of Turks, Tartars, and Christians alike. Nonetheless, the incident in Palermo involving Oxford's challenge to all comers stuck out vividly in Webbe's memory, and there appears to be no reason to doubt that it was something he witnessed personally. The incident must have occurred during Webbe's time as a galley slave when the Turkish ship he was with put into Palermo in early 1576.

Many things I have omitted to speak of, which I have seen and noted in the time of my troublesome travel. One thing did greatly comfort me which I saw long since in Sicilia, in the city of Palermo, a thing worthy of memory, where the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford, a famous man for chivalry at what time he travelled into foreign countries, being then personally present made there a challenge against all manner of persons whatsoever and at all manner of weapons, as tournaments, barriers with horse and armour, to fight a combat with any whatsoever in the defence of his prince and country, for which he was very highly commended, and yet no man durst be so hardy to encounter with him, so that all Italy over he is acknowledged the only chevalier and nobleman of England. This title they give unto him as worthily deserved.