

SUMMARY: The documents below are two letters from the Queen dated 8 September 1560 concerning the prospective arrival of Eric, the young King-elect of Sweden in England. Eric's brother, John (1537-1592), Duke of Finland, had arrived in England in October 1559 to negotiate a marriage between Eric and Queen Elizabeth, and upon his arrival had been entertained by the 16th Earl of Oxford (see TNA SP 12/7/1, ff. 1-2, and TNA SP 12/7/2, ff. 3-4). Both letters are in the hand of Sir William Cecil, later Lord Burghley. The first is to John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, the second to Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth. From the online edition of the *Dictionary of National Biography*:

Wentworth was part of the entourage that received Eric XIV, king of Sweden, on 8 September 1560.

Although the DNB states that Wentworth was among those who received Eric of Sweden on 8 September 1560, a letter from Henry Knolles to Cecil suggests that he did not arrive in England until 27 December (see TNA SP 12/ 7/72, ff. 183-4).

Right trusty and right well-beloved cousin, we greet you well. Because we be given to understand that the young King-elect of Sweden hath now of good time been in readiness to take his voyage out of Sweden hither into this our realm, and as now hath no other let but uncertainty of wind, we have thought it convenient, for that he may (page torn) or lack of wind be constrained to take harbour (page torn) some parts of the sea-coast other [=either] of Suffolk or Essex, although his purpose and course be met(?) towards the Thames, to warn you and so therewith also to require you to put as well yourself as the gentleman of that country in order, and to send commandment to the seaports that if he shall arrive in any part of that shire he may be offered such courtesy and reverence as to such a personage belongeth, and that he may also receive from you, as in like case you did to his brother, offer of such things as the country may yield and he have need;

In which your doings, beside that ye shall well answer the office of a nobleman, ye shall also therein honour (page torn) and our realm. And (page torn) upon that coast, our pleasure is that ye shall certify us (page torn), and yet nevertheless offer to him the commodity and choice of coming to our city of London by land or by water, as the time shall require.

Right trusty and well-beloved, we be presently advertised that the young King-elect of Sweden is in that readiness to come into this our realm as he stayeth upon nothing but convenient wind, wherefore although his purpose and course be to come with his ships into the (blank), considering he may by force of winds be forced to take harbour upon that coast of Suffolk, we have thought it convenient that ye give regard thereto, and so do heartily require you to put yourself and the gentlemen of those parts in such readiness as

if he should so chance there to arrive, he may be used with such humanity and reverence as to such a person belongeth, and to certify us thereof with all speed possible.

Given under our signet.

Endorsed: 8th of September 1560(?) (page torn)

Majesty to the Earl of Oxford & to the Lord Wentworth touching the King of Sweden's coming into England. [In a later hand? = July 1560, Domestic]