

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 19 October 1581 from Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, to Charles Arundel (d.1587). The Earl addresses Arundel as ‘cousin Charles’, indicating a family relationship. Charles Arundel's aunt, Mary Arundell (d.1557), was the third wife of Robert Radcliffe (1482/3-1542), 1st Earl of Sussex, the grandfather of Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), the 3rd Earl. See the entries in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* for Mary Arundell (d.1557) and Robert Radcliffe (1482/3-1542), 1st Earl of Sussex. The 3rd Earl of Sussex and Charles Arundel were thus distant kinsmen.

The letter indicates that Arundel had gone to Petworth in Sussex, ostensibly for the purpose of hunting. Petworth belonged to Henry Percy (c.1532-1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland, and the Queen appears to have had suspicions concerning Arundel's visit. Two years later, Northumberland was placed under house arrest for assisting Charles Arundel's escape to France. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*:

Northumberland continued to dabble in treasonous plots surrounding Mary [Queen of Scots]. He had several of his sons educated in Paris by Charles Paget. Paget was an accomplice of the conspirator Francis Throckmorton, and visited Northumberland at Petworth in September 1583, perhaps hoping to make it the base for his invasion of England but more probably trying to apprise his associates of the current situation, advising them not to support any plots. Certainly Northumberland was sympathetic to Mary, enjoyed intrigue, and had a weakness for indiscreet comments. The government was convinced that he was seriously involved, and in December he was placed under house arrest for assisting Thomas Paget, third Baron Paget, and Charles Arundell to escape to France and for speaking with Charles Paget. He was removed from his governorship and his stewardship. Northumberland was sent to the Tower on 9 January 1584 for denying matters confirmed by witnesses. Sir Francis Walsingham was convinced that he was a Catholic.

Arundel's actions after his release from house arrest lend support to Oxford's earlier allegations of treason against him.

Cousin Charles, I can neither give you advice to yield to anything for hunting matters that is not true, neither to deny in anything that is truth, for that I know the truth will be known, & in fine it is but a hunting matter. The Queen is informed of your going to Petworth, as yourself knoweth, but surely I never heard her name any person to whom you went. Whether you went or went not, yourself best knoweth, whereof I must leave you. I have sought to excuse you to her Majesty in both, but as a person that hath been absent, and never heard of either until herself told me of them. What I am to do further, yourself is to instruct me. and truly I will not fail you in anything that with honour I may stand in for Sir Henry Radcliffe, for he shall find love, and rather shall it fail in me, and if matter fail me I shall be sorry, and yet I will do what I can to temper all things. And so I wish to you as to myself. From the court, 19 October 1581.

Your assured friend, and your
T. Sussex

Addressed: To my very loving cousin, Mr Charles Arundel

Endorsed: October 1581, the Earl of Sussex his letter to Charles Arundel