

SUMMARY: The document below is a scribal copy in Sir Francis Walsingham's files of an undated letter written by Charles Arundel circa July 1581 while Arundel was still under house arrest at Sutton in West Sussex. Arundel addresses the unidentified recipient as 'Right Honourable', and is of the view that he can influence the Queen. It thus appears that the recipient was a highly-placed personage, perhaps Sir Christopher Hatton (c.1540-1591), or Arundel's kinsman, Thomas Radcliffe (1526/7-1583), 3rd Earl of Sussex, Lord Chamberlain of the Household.

A very similar letter from Arundel addressed 'To my dear friend X' is found in TNA SP 12/151/44, f. 99. In that letter Arundel states that he has been imprisoned 8 months, and repeats the assertion that he had been kept closely imprisoned for 4 months.

Right Honourable, such comfort I conceived of your last message by my man as I am moved thereby to require your aid and favour in my cause, and either to procure my trial that will acquit me, I humbly desire you, or to release me of my bond with free enlargement that would much ease me.

I trust her Majesty will not deny you as much favour in the behalf of me, lightly suspected of nothing, and never offending in thought, I take God to witness, as she hath lately granted unto some others in the behalf of my monstrous adversary Oxford, a person convicted of great beastliness, as you know.

If her Majesty upon your motion pretend a pause or promise to take a time, as she hath done all this while without any fruit, you may weaken that excuse by alleging my 7 months' imprisonment without either care of my defence or regard of my credit or calling me to answer.

If she limit my restraint by Oxford's punishment, first remember that our causes are not one. Then, that I was kept close in a manor(?) house four months together when Oxford went up and down the town grazing in the pastures. If this [] not satisfy, or that my hard estate can move no pity, I will not press it further, but attend the time that her Majesty shall appoint for my happy deliverance, and in the mean rest contented with that she lays on me.

Endorsed: Charles Arundel, 1581. Concerning the quarrel with my Lord of Oxford.