

SUMMARY: The document below is a scribal copy in Sir Francis Walsingham's files of an undated letter, apparently written in October 1581, which is calendared in the State Papers Domestic 1581-1590 (p.39) as having been written by Charles Arundel to an unidentified person. However the content of the letter, and the content of another letter, TNA SP/12/151/56, f. 117, to which it appears to be related, do not comport well with Arundel's circumstances at the time. It may be that the letter is entirely unrelated to Arundel. If the letter does relate to Arundel, it seems that he was involved in sending money overseas, perhaps to some of the Catholic exiles there, a circumstance which would lend support to Oxford's allegations against him.

I have chosen this opportunity to call upon you in a matter of some importance, not to make trial of your friendship, as it would seem to those that look only to the exterior show of things, but to show you proof of mine (as I trust you will take), being to use your help in the behalf of such a party as you have cause to love and honour, and may by this means make assured of your zealous affection to his benefit which your own credit and commodity it is.

So then that, for the dispatch of some(?) causes which require speed, I had of late order addressed unto me for the receipt here of a round sum of money, whereof the greatest part was to be paid to yourself, be it spoken, the rest to some other use for myself, and to have been taken up here at the hands of some persons who, by unexpected accidents, are gone into the country. To expect their return were to let skip the present opportunity to do myself good by, and to disappoint my brother, who presumes of my credit with you. To deal with other friends here in that behalf would perhaps dislike him whose case it is, being not willing that many should be acquainted therewith. It resteth it be done by some friends there, whereof you are not ignorant that my brother's credit may command many, not only for the sum of five hundred pounds, but to engage the credits if cause so required. But amongst all I have picked you out to serve this turn, knowing your inclination towards him nothing inferior to the greatest, and your means to do it, though not equal to some other whom I might have been bold withal, yet sufficient and able for a greater matter, and for your satisfaction, albeit it be no competent surety, yet by the knowledge you have of me and may have by the testimony of your best friends, the engaging of my life and credit to you shall, I trust, suffice.

The sum is but five hundred pounds, to be delivered to this bearer, but in such sort that no other man living be acquainted withal, whereof I pray you be very careful, whether you perform my demand or not, and if you be not in case to do it (for goodwill I am persuaded shall not want), let me with all speed by some means understand it, that I may either take some order here if the parties be returned, or move some other friend there in the matter whom I am sure half a word will persuade, albeit I confess to you that for the sound disposition I bear you, it would be a singular grief unto me that you should [+lose] so good an opportunity to show your zeal and affection in that place where I know it would be so well accepted and requited. Wherefore I will hope and wish the best, and

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end with this, that if you perform it and do not hereafter find comfort of it, I shall be contented to lose that good opinion which you and your like have retained of me, and so in haste I take my leave, and commit you to God, who preserve you always.

Endorsed: (in a later hand?) October 1581