
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 13 June 1595 from Oxford to Lord Burghley concerning his offer to increase the Queen's profits from the tin mines. In the letter Oxford asks Lord Burghley that Alderman John Catcher be sent down to Cornwall to investigate the true quantity of tin produced, although he fears Thomas Middleton (1549x56-1631), whom the Queen had sent down earlier, will return before Catcher can be sent, it being advisable that the two should work together. Oxford had made the request that someone of his appointment be sent down to Cornwall with Middleton on 7 June 1595 in TNA SP 12/252/57.

My good Lord, although I doubt that Middleton will be ready to return before any other can now arrive to the place where he is, yet sith I have engaged myself so far in her Majesty's service to bring the truth to light (although some cause I have had to discourage me to proceed further in this matter), yet I would be glad that Alderman Catcher might have warrant to join with Middleton for mine own satisfaction, who although some have reported him simple, yet I have found honest, and whither I direct him I know he will both speedily go and effectually and honestly perform what is to be expected, & what I most earnestly in her Majesty's service desire. This 13 June, 1595.

Your Lordship's to command,
Edward Oxenford.

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable and his very good Lord, my Lord Treasurer of England; (2) 13 June 1595, Earl Oxford, Alderman Catcher.