

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Dudley Carleton on 8 July 1601, John Chamberlain mentions the death, on 25 June 1601, of Oxford's brother-in-law, Peregrine Bertie (1555-1601), Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, and that the presidency of Wales, for which Oxford had petitioned, has been awarded to Gilbert Talbot, 7th Earl of Shrewsbury. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 125-7.

Good Master Carleton, I am glad you are so well lodged and settled at Paris, where I hope my letters shall have better luck and means to find you out, for though you complain not, yet I must accuse my extraordinary ill fortune since your last going over, that though by reason of my absence I wrote not so often, nor as it were weekly (as I was wont to do), yet of those I did write, I cannot perceive that half are come to your hands, and I take the loss of the last more impatiently than the rest, which (by your sister's means) was committed to Master Burgoin that went over with the Earl of Northumberland, for therein I certified you of Sir Edward Norris' sickness and some other things I was willing you should know. I wrote not since that time by reason of the uncertainty of your abode, and your brother Carleton (who was here in the term) made full account you would be here without fail, which I could have wished had so fallen out, for I perceive by him that Sir Edward is not so thoroughly recovered but that he is in danger of a relapse, which it were good you listened after, for though he had dealt very kindly and bountifully with you if he had gone in his last sickness, yet I am persuaded your presence had doubled his kindness, for I presume he had as much confidence in you as in Captain Wenman and Captain Whiddon, whom he had made his executors. I know nothing more in this matter than I had from your brother, who no doubt hath certified you of all to the full if he have written since that time, or else Master Boulton, if he be so kind to deal plainly with you, wherefore in my opinion it were not amiss (if you understand Sir Edward to continue still crazy), to take the first opportunity or least invitation to come over and be about him, but you are best able to give yourself counsel in this case, and I at my going to Ascott within these three or four days will learn what I can, and give you advertisement, and cause your brother to do the like. Your sister Williams and her crew went to Aldersbrooke in Whitsun week, so that I saw them not since I delivered them my last letter to you to be sent, which (as I say) I am very sorry it miscarried because it contained the whole abridgment of my progress into Hampshire, my wife's marriage, and a great rabblement of such other like matter.

It were *post festum* to write you any news now that Master Edmondes hath stored you to the full and fed you with dainties, yet because sometimes *gratae divitibus vices*, it may be you will not scorn coarser cates, but find some taste in slighter dishes of less curiosity and cost. Master Bodley sets up his shop against this act at Oxford, and opens his library to a number of three or four thousand volumes. Master Howson is become vicar of Milton and canon of Christchurch in Master Purefoy's room. Dr Andrewes was installed dean of Westminster on Saturday last, and on Sunday night Master Beeston and

I supped with him in the hall amongst the electors. The Lord Chief Justice and Master Secretary have taken great pains to compound the quarrel twixt Martin and Davies, which they have effected to the satisfaction of both parts. One Sir [+George] Rodney of Somersetshire (nephew to Sir Edward Dyer) that went out of his wits about Christmas for Mistress Pranell (lately married to the Earl of Hertford), coming by the place where she dwells, cut his own throat as an earnest of his love. Oliver Cromwell, a widower (son to Sir Harry), hath married the Lady Palavicino. Secretary Herbert is become a double or treble secretary, having gotten that of York *in commendam*. The Chancellorship of the Duchy is like to fall on Sir Edward Stafford. The Lord Mordaunt, the Lord Norris, and the Lord Willoughby made great haste to overtake one another, and died in few days. We had lately a new call of councillors, the Earl of Shrewsbury, who is likewise named to be President of Wales; the Earl of Worcester, Master of the Horse; and Sir John Stanhope, Vice-chamberlain. We understand little what the camps do at Berke and at Ostend, only it is said Sir Francis Vere should have put himself into Ostend, which I do not easily believe, no more than I did a flying report was current here awhile that at a banquet in the Low Countries the Earl of Northumberland had strucken him, whereas it is most certain they have not met there since their last going over. You would little think that Master Warcop is still in question to be sent ambassador ledger into France, which if it so fall out, *quid non speremus amentes?* Sir Henry Neville was called before the Lords at the Lord Keeper's this day, but what fine or other penalty was imposed upon him I cannot learn. So with all hearty good wishes, I bid you farewell. From London this 8th of July 1601.

Yours most assuredly,

John Chamberlain

Master Gent, at his going out of town yesterday, willed me to commend him to you. We shall meet very shortly, God willing, at Ascott. If you direct your letters either to my lodging or to Master John Norton's, they will find me out.

To my assured good friend, Master Dudley Carleton, give these at Paris.