

SUMMARY: In this letter to Sir William Cecil dated 28 January 1564, Thomas Browne, feodary of Cornwall, refers to the survey of Oxford's lands in Cornwall which he had certified to the Court of Wards pursuant to the Queen's commission in the previous Trinity term, and expresses surprise that the revenues from Oxford's lands in Cornwall are to go to Cecil to Oxford's use during Oxford's minority rather than to the Queen's use.

May it please your Honour to be advertised, I understand by your letters that you have not only the government of my young lord, the Earl of Oxford, but also the direction of the receipt of his revenues within the county of Cornwall to the said Earl's only use, whereas before I thought his said lands within that county should be answered to the Queen's Majesty's use during his minority, and so much the rather for that you directed the Queen's Majesty's commission out of her Highness' Court of Wards and Liveries to me for the survey of the same, and accordingly I did take a survey thereof and certified the same into the said Court of Wards and Liveries in Trinity term last, which book of survey, if it so please your Honour, my servant, the bearer hereof, shall fet from Mr Auditor & bring him either to you or otherwise to deliver the same as you shall appoint. And for that your Honour may the better understand of my doings therein, I have sent you herewith a breviat with the note that you sent me, wherein is contained the whole revenues by the year, and what resolutes goeth out of the same, and also what the clear yearly value is, the which this bearer, my servant, shall make payment for one year due at Michaelmas last, even as it shall please you to appoint him. And for the first half year, the bailiff saith it was paid to Mr Receiver of the Court of Wards and Liveries at Allhallowtide last was twelvemonth; the certainty thereof my man shall know, and so to advertise you if you so appoint him. I did wholly determine, as my duty is, to have waited upon your Honour myself at this time, as well for to have certified you of those things as also for the passing of mine account, but I am now so troubled with the rheum (as this bearer can show you) by reason of this cold weathering that I am not able to travel, wherefore I will most humbly desire your Honour to pardon me at this time, and accept this my poor servant with the help of other that I have appointed to aid him, as well in the passing of mine account as in all other things which you shall command me. And thus I commit your Honour to Almighty God, who send you long life and health with increase of much honour. Rudely written with little leisure the 28th of January.

Yours always at commandment,
Thomas Browne

Addressed:

To the right honourable Sir William Cecil, knight, Master of the Queen's Majesty's Court of Wards and Liveries and Principal Secretary to her most excellent Highness, give these.

Modern spelling edition prepared by Nina Green from the original document and from an original spelling transcript by Christopher Paul, September 2005.