

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 1 October 1559 from John de Vere (1512-1562), 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to the Privy Council. For a letter from Sir Thomas Smith (1513-1577) to Sir William Cecil on the same topic, see TNA SP 12/7/2, ff. 3-4. The Duke of Finland was the future John III of Sweden (1537-1592), who had come to England to negotiate a marriage between his elder brother Eric (1533-1577), later Eric XIV of Sweden, and Queen Elizabeth.

Some sources state that both the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and Lord Robert Dudley (later Earl of Leicester) brought the Duke to London from Colchester. However Leicester's household accounts and the letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl and Sir Thomas Smith suggest that Leicester was not involved at this early stage of the Duke's visit. See Adams, Simon, ed., *Household Accounts and Disbursement Books of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, 1558-1561, 1584-1586* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), pp. 100-1, available online:

*John, Duke of Finland (1537-1592), the future John III. His embassy had been announced in July 1559, but he did not arrive in England until early in October, having been expected for some time (see Paget Papers V, fo. 3, Leicester to Sir Henry Paget, 13 Sept. 1559). Leicester and the Earl of Oxford met him at Colchester and escorted him to London, where he arrived on 5 October (Machyn, 214, AMAE, CAP XIII, fo. 325v, Noailles to Francis II, 6 Oct.). Leicester also entertained him at Court on the 19<sup>th</sup> (Machyn, 215). He stayed in England until April 1560. . . . the absence of expenses [in Leicester's household account books] arising from the journey to Colchester is curious.*

From Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn* (London: Camden Society, 1848), pp. 214-15, available online:

*The 5 day of October came to London by Aldgate the Prince of Sweden, and so to Leadenhall, and down Gracious Street corner in a house stood the Lord Marquess of Northampton and my Lord Ambrose Dudley and other gentlemen and ladies, and my Lord of Oxford [+who] brought him from Colchester, and my Lord Robert Dudley, the Master of the Queen's horse, and trumpets blowing in divers places. And they had a great number of gentlemen ride with chains afore them, and after them a 200 of yeomen riding, and so riding over the bridge unto the Bishop of Winchester's place, for it was richly hanged with rich cloth of arras wrought with gold and silver and silk, and there he remaineth.*

*The 12 day of October went by water unto the court the King of Sweden's son and his guard, and there he was honourably received with many honourable men at the hall door where the guard stood in their rich coats unto the Queen's chamber, and there he was received of the Queen's grace, and after he had great cheer as could be had.*

*The 19<sup>th</sup> day of October the prince of Sweden went to the court again, for my Lord Robert Dudley gave him a great banquet.*

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The first page of the letter is damaged on the right side and at the bottom. Missing words have been conjecturally supplied in square brackets in the transcript below.

For the letter, see also <http://www.sp12.hull.ac.uk/image/image7.htm>.

After my hearty commendations to [your good] Lordships. This morning I received [your letters]. And touching the proclamation, I [caused Sir] Thomas Smith to talk with the Duke's [grace] by the way, and at Colchester [he gave] to him the copy of the proclamation [done] into Latin.

First, for the deceit [of the] Queen's subjects, he speaketh very [ ], and saith he is very sorry that any of his [men] been so lewd to put forth any such coins [as is] declared unto him by Mr Smith, and saith although they have the bigness, they be no dollars, nor be not accepted so in Sweden, but are called a double mark, and thother a mark, and so an half mark, and these are current only in their own county, where every man knoweth them, and that they only be dollars which have the image of Christ on the one side. Thother (saith he) were forbidden pain of death to be brought with me, and to be uttered forth, and surely they were but shipmen or soldiers and such lewd fellows that uttered them. And I am sorry, saith he, that I heard not of this before, but if th' Earl will cause them which so have been deceived to come to London and bring the money to me, I will pay them that they shall be no losers, and rather bear their charges than they should not come.

It was answered to him again that that was very honourably spoken, and rather it might have been said that they might well have their amends in their hands for [their] foolishness which would take such [strangers'] money and make neither the Lord [Lieutenant] nor his Council privy.

Ny, saith he, it is but reason and [conscience] that they should be paid who of [simpleness] was deceived, [besides that the actions] of such lewd men of mine should bring the money of Sweden into slander and contempt.

For the proclamation, he saith it is a very reasonable and honourable proclamation, and he thanketh the Queen's Majesty that it pleased her Highness to remember him and that his coin should be exchanged to the valor. And he saith he is content, so that he may have other money for it, for else he hath none to lay out but of that coin, and would gladly promise that none should be uttered but only the true dollars.

So this night he is come to Colchester with 11 carts and 44 horse, and of his own horse about 30.

I must be fain to make shift and lay out money for them this night, seeing the proclamation is now known abroad they will take none of his coin, and if they should, as ye perceive, the poor men should be great losers.

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He liketh the county very well, and I have prepared for him and his uncle handsome ambling geldings, and will do still for his journey, so that I do not doubt to bring him to London as was tofore appointed on Wednesday at night betimes.

And thus I bid your Lordships heartily farewell from Colchester the first of October 1559.

Your Lordships' assuredly,

Oxford.