

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 27 December from Henry Knolles to Sir William Cecil. For the letter, see also *The Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction*, New Series, Vol. V, (London: Aird & Burstall, 1844), pp. 258-9, available online.

There appears to be some question concerning the identity of the Duke referred to by Knolles in the letter below. A letter dated 1 October 1559 from John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, to the Privy Council reports the arrival of John, Duke of Finland, and that he is now at Colchester (see TNA SP 12/7/1, ff. 1-2). A letter from Sir Thomas Smith (1513-1577) to the Council of the same date conveys similar information (see TNA SP 12/7/2, ff. 3-4). John, Duke of Finland, was the future John III of Sweden (20 December 1537-17 November 1592), who had come to England to negotiate a marriage between his elder brother Eric, and Queen Elizabeth.

John, Duke of Finland, arrived in London on 5 October 1559. 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 19th (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.

See also 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 palace(?), 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 19th day of October the prince of Sweden went to the court again, for my Lord Robert Dudley gave him a great banquet.

The statement in Henry Knolles' letter below that the Duke had just arrived in Harwich circa 27 December is inconsistent with the facts stated in the other sources noted above, and it seems at least possible that the Duke to whom Knolles is referring was in fact John, Duke of Finland's brother, the future Eric XIV of Sweden (1533-1577). For letters to John de Vere (1512-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, and Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth, dated 8 September indicating that Eric of Sweden was expected to arrive in England, see TNA SP 12/13/29, ff. 71-2. It seems possible that the date '1559' at the beginning of the letter below and the endorsement which dates the letter to 1559 are in error. Neither is in Knolles' hand.

1559

Sir, at 7 of the clock in the morning this day I came unto Harwich, & at 9 of the clock, after I had tarried together with Sir Thomas Smith in the Duke's hall more than half an hour, I was admitted unto the Duke's presence, who, sitting in a chair without moving himself, offered me his hand, as it seemed by the manner of the holding thereof, to kiss, but I, that had been otherwise brought up than to kiss the hands of any subject other than of the parentage of my natural prince, after I had with reverence kissed mine own hand, I joined my hand with his, according to the manner of this our native country.

The Queen's message he received very thankfully, but her Majesty's letters he looked not on at that present. Only he said he would take a time to deliberate, & then make me further answer. All that I spake in declaring how much the Queen's Highness rejoiced on his behalf that he had escaped the perils of the seas, & was now safely arrived within her Majesty's realm, he interpreted it even as courtly(?) lovers do, applying it altogether for a testimony of the Queen's good inclination towards the liking of his embassy, wherein he tarried so much that I was marvellously perplexed, fearing lest that upon occasion of my words he would take hold towards a promise of some inconveniency, wherefore after he had ended his tale, I said that it was the manner not only of the Queen's Highness that now is, but also of all her Majesty's progenitors at what time any noble prince such as he was came hither to see other [=either] the realm or their person, alway to receive them most thankfully, & to omit no manner of courtesy or favour whereby they might other [=either] do them honour or show them any pleasure, whereunto when he replied nothing, I took my leave of him for that time.

After dinner my Lord of Oxford had him forth on hawking, & showed him great sport, killing in his sight both pheasant & partridge, wherein he seemed to take great pleasure. Towards night, as he came homewards, I was so bold to enquire of him whether it would please him to use my service any longer here, or otherwise in case I should return, whether his pleasure were I should say anything on his behalf unto the Queen's Majesty. He answered that he intended to write unto her Highness, & what time he delivered me

his letters, I should know further what to say. Afterwards, in talk of his removing towards London, I was very desirous, by reason of the doubtfulness that he kept all men in so long time, to know when he intended to take his journey that way, whereunto he answered that by reason his horse were much impaired through the noisomeness of the seas, they were not yet able to serve him, but after 4 or 5 days he thought he should be ready to go.

Thus much I thought it my duty to signify unto you by letters, inasmuch as I am detained myself longer than my time appointed, wherein also I think you will declare mine excuse unto the Queen's Majesty.

Thus after mine humble commendations, I pray God assist you always with his grace to his glory & the honour of the Queen. From Harwich the 27 of December.

Your poor friend,

H. Knolles.

Sir, you would think peradventure by this that I have written before that the Duke minded to go by land. So did I then take him also. But after I had spoken with him, the Duke, devising with my Lord & Sir Thomas Smith, did plainly declare unto them, as they tell me, that if the pilots of the town would have conducted forth his ships, he would have gone by water yesterday or thother when the wind served, and that if he could get his ships surely conveyed out shortly, his mind was to go by water, so that I perceive by my Lord & by these doings that he is yet so uncertain that there can be no very sure & fixed determination sent unto you to trust upon.

H. Knolles

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable Sir William Cecil, Secretary unto the Queen's Majesty & one of her most honourable Council, give this at the court. Haste post haste for the Queen's affairs, (2) 27 of [] 1559, Mr Knolles to Mr Secretary.