

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 21 July 1621, John Chamberlain mentions that Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, has been released from house arrest at Sir William Cokayne's. Other prisoners of note, including the Earls of Northumberland and Southampton, were released from imprisonment or house arrest at the same time. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 389-91.

My very good Lord, this week I received your letter by Martin, and presently sent away the enclosed to Sir Dudley Digges, who is not in town, but having attended a good while after the term upon hope and promises, grew wearing of court holy water and got him home. As for my Lord of Winchester, he is so much employed at court in the High Commission and other such services that he is seldom to be found, which uncertainty, together with mine own retired disposition (that grows fast upon me) is the cause that I do not often seek him. The next morning after my coming to town he sent to me to go somewhither with him to dinner, but I had then so much business that I could not then possibly attend him, though I would never so fain.

On Sunday the Earl of Arundel had the baston delivered him, and was made Earl Marshall at Theobalds. The King would have given him £2000 a year pension withal, but (whatsoever the reason was) he would not accept but the ordinary fee, which is £20 per annum.

On Monday the Marquis Buckingham came to town and made many visits. He was with the Earl of Northumberland and Sir Henry Yelverton in the Tower, with the Earl of Southampton two hours together at Westminster, with the Earl of Oxford at Sir William Cokayne's, with Sir Thomas Lake at his house, in all which places his coming was taken for a good presage, like the appearing of St. Elmo after a tempest. And accordingly on Wednesday morning very early the Lord Keeper carried the Earl of Southampton to Theobalds, where the King (before he began his progress) had long conference with him, none being admitted into the room but the Lord Keeper and the Lord of Buckingham, but in conclusion, the Lord Keeper brought him home to his own house in Holborn, dined with him, and there left him at liberty. He hath won a great deal of goodwill in dealing so really and effectually for him, and being reputed the chief instrument of his delivery, and of reconciling and salving all that was amiss. We cannot aim at the cause of his restraint. You may perhaps guess better on that side, for some think it was for looking too much that way. That afternoon the Earl of Northumberland was released from his long imprisonment in the Tower, whence the Lord of Doncaster went to fetch him, and brought him home to his house with a coach and six horses. It was my chance to see him in Paul's Churchyard, and in my judgment he is nothing altered from what he was more than fifteen years ago that he was committed. He hath liberty to lie at Petworth, or in any place within thirty miles' compass of it, within which circuit I take Sion to be. The warders of the Tower make great moan that they have lost such a benefactor. Captain

North was delivered then likewise, and Sir Henry Yelverton the next day, with hope that his fine shall be remitted. And to make up a full jubilee, Sir Edwin Sandys and Master Selden are set free from the sheriffs, and the Earl of Oxford from Sir William Cokayne, after admonition at the council-table and order to follow the King to know his further pleasure. Whatsoever his offence was, the King deals graciously with him in not withdrawing the grant he had given him of making a baron. The others are likewise to have their absolution from the King's own mouth, though perhaps their errors were different. Not so much as Floyd but shall likewise be partaker of this general grace, his enlargement being signed and by mistaking directed and sent to the Warden of the Fleet, whereas he is in Newgate. All the lords and great men about this town go to visit and congratulate with the Earl of Northumberland. The Earl of Arundel supped with him the first night, and dined there the next day, whither came likewise unbidden the Spanish ambassador, who is grown so affable and familiar that on Monday with his whole train he went to a common play at the Fortune in Golding Lane, and the players (not to be overcome with courtesy) made him a banquet when the play was done in the garden adjoining. The Earl of Northumberland continues at Sion for ten days and then goes to Petworth, from thence to Penshurst to see his daughter Lisle, and so where he thinks good within his precinct. The Lord of Doncaster went that way yesterday toward France, having in his company the young Lord Wriothesley and the Lord Treasurer's eldest son.

It is commonly reported that Sir Henry Rich shall shortly go ambassador to Brussels to condole with the Infanta the death of the Archduke. We have as much cause here to complain of the weather, for such a summer I think was never seen, specially after so hard a winter, yet there is great show of plenty of corn and grass upon the ground if it please God to send it well in, but it seems this is the age and year of extravagancies and wonders. Herewithal I send you a sermon of Dr. Laud's on the King's birthday because it is after the manner of the Bishop of Winchester's preaching, and because it somewhat touches the idle conceit of Sergeant Finch's book of the calling of the Jews. So with the remembrance of my best service to my good lady, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this 21st of July, 1621.

Your Lordship's most assuredly at command,

John Chamberlain

On Tuesday the King mourned in black for the Archduke, or the Cardinal of Guise, or both.

To the right honourable Sir Dudley Carleton, knight, Lord Ambassador for his Majesty with the States of the United Provinces at the Hague.