
SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 8 June 1622, John Chamberlain mentions that Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, is still held as a close prisoner in the Tower, and that a suit made on his behalf by his cousin, Robert Bertie, Lord Willoughby, has failed. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 438-40.

My very good Lord, your brother Carleton was here a few days, but he comes and goes like a lightning.

The court is now settled at Greenwich, and no speech of any progress this summer more than about Windsor, or to Farnham at furthest. Some speak of a choice cabinet council to be selected out of the body of the whole table to whom matters of most secrecy and importance are to be committed, in which number the Prince, the Duke, both the Marquises, the Lord Treasurer, Lord Chamberlain, Lord Marshall, and Secretary Calvert are nominated.

The Earl of Southampton is here about the stopping of his pension out of the sweet wines and other payments granted him out of the Exchequer for the damage done him and his tenants by the increase of deer in the New Forest. He hath taken the best way, and addressed himself to the Lord of Buckingham, from whom he hath fair promises.

The Lord Willoughby made petition to the King in the behalf of the Lord of Oxford for more liberty, for he continues close prisoner. The like was done by other friends for Sir Robert Phelips, but without effect. Two days past the Lord Saye was committed to the Fleet from the council-table for hindering the contribution or benevolence in his quarters, and for speaking somewhat to that purpose that is not well taken, and poor Sir Jerome Horsey is restrained somewhere for being overbusy in some such matters.

The Lord of Buckingham is lately made Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, a place I have not known given before, unless it were to the Lord Chancellor Hatton. He dined this week at Sion with the Earl of Northumberland. The Countess of Buckingham hath recanted again, and is come home to her mother church, and goes duly to the sermons in the chapel. Good Dr. White, our lecturer at Paul's and the Bishop of St David's, Dr. Laud, have the honour of reducing her, but the world says the danger of leaving the court was the greatest and most pregnant motive. Kit Villiers, that was in so fair a way to preferment, is said to have marred his marriage, and given his cousin Bess Sheldon such earnest that he cannot well forsake the bargain. The Lord of Purbeck is out of order likewise, for this day sevenight, getting into a room next the street in Wallingford House, he beat down the glass windows with his bare fists, and all bloodied, cried out to the people that passed by that he was a Catholic, and would spend his blood in the cause, etc. His lady on Sunday made a petition to the King for alimony or maintenance, which reflecting upon the old Countess, the Lord Marquis, that was by, very nobly said he would answer the petition,

and take such order hereafter that she should be furnished to the full, and have no more cause to complain.

I heard yesterday that the Bishop of London should preach the first Sunday next term at Paul's Cross, and there Pareus' (an old divine at Heidelberg, as I take it, yet alive) works should be publicly burnt, for that Knight (who preached that scandalous sermon at Oxford) took his authority from his writings. I know not what good it can do to burn a few books here when they are current all Christendom over, and for aught I hear there is but one 13th chapter that is so offensive.

Sir John Ayres is come from Constantinople. The Turkey Merchants and he have great complains and contestations each against other at the council-table, but he hath marred Sir Paul Pindar's market by offering the King a diamond for ten thousand pound, upon peril to have nothing for it if it be not better and more esteemed by men of skill than one that Sir Paul Pindar would sell to the King for five and thirty thousand pound.

Monsieur Soubise came hither on Wednesday from Rochelle. He landed at Southampton, and lodgeth over against Denmark House. What audience he hath had or what his errand is I cannot learn, but we may easily guess it is for succour. I doubt we are not in case to help others. It is well that we hold our own.

We have news this morning of two East India ships come into the Downs, which I hope will put some life into that Company, that did languish and was brought very low. They bring word likewise of three Hollanders come thence, or hard [], for they left them at their last watering-place. So with the remembrance of my best service to my good lady, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this 8th of June 1622.

Your Lordship's most assuredly at command,

John Chamberlain

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