

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 1 July 1622, John Chamberlain mentions that Oxford's daughter Elizabeth, Lady Derby, has come up to London to make suit on behalf of her half-brother, Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, a close prisoner in the Tower, and that an earlier suit made on his behalf by Oxford's sister Mary had failed. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. II, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 442-5.

My very good Lord, Sir Thomas Wynn being upon his departure towards you, I would not omit to give you thanks for yours of the 16th of June which I received two days since.

On the first Sunday of this term the Bishop of London preached at Paul's Cross, where there was a great assembly but a small auditory, for his voice was so low that I think scant the third part was within hearing. The chief points of his sermon were touching the benevolence, wherein he would prove that what we have is not our own, and what we gave was but rendering and restoring. Another part was about the repairing of Paul's, and the largest in confuting Pareus' opinions touching the people's authority in some cases over unruly and tyrannical princes, for which heresy of state his books were publicly burnt there toward the end of the sermon. That afternoon our Dean made a very good sermon in the church, as he hath done divers of late with great concourse.

On Tuesday the King and the ladies went to Rochester to see the navy, where I do not hear what passed more than the knighting of one or two of little name, as indeed they are grown so familiar that baronets themselves are brought down to £220 or £250. The King began his progress on St Peter's day from Greenwich to Nonsuch, whither all the council were warned yesterday, and this day he is to remove to Oatlands. The council increases still, for on Friday Sir Edward Conway was sworn, and some speech there is he may be secretary. Sir Oliver St John or Lord Grandison was then likewise made a councillor, with expectation of the controllership. Other removes and alterations are spoken of, as likewise the creating of dukes, in which rank the two marquises are named, and the Lord Marshall, besides the now Duke and Duchess, who must lose no place. The new earls come not on so fast neither as was bruited, the hindrance whereof some will needs have to be the difficulty to content the Lord Treasurer and the Lord Digby about priority or precedence, which was stood upon while the Lord Digby was here, and in his absence his friends insist upon the same reasons, as that he is a gentleman of blood and ancient descent, that he hath served the King more years than the other hath done months, and that he was ennobled or made baron before him. Kit Villiers is newly become a gentleman of the bedchamber.

The Lord of St Alban's hath put a bill into the Chancery against the Lord Marquis Buckingham, which the world will not believe but to be done by consent. The substance is that having contracted for the lease of York House for the sum of £1300, whereof £500 was to be paid to the Lady of St Alban's, the time of payment being past and no money

appearing, the poor lady is in fear to be defrauded by her lord, for whose satisfaction he desires the Lord Marquis may show cause why he goeth not on with the contract as was agreed. There is a hot suit commenced in the Star Chamber twixt Sir John Davies' lady and the Lady Jacob about womanish brabbs, and an uncivil scurrilous letter written by Kit Brooke in his wife's behalf. And there is a bill put in there by the King's attorney against Sir John Bennet for extortion and malversation in his office, but the cause cannot be determined till next term at soonest. Much arguing there hath been last term and this in the Court of Wards about a case of Sir Edward Coke's, as having defrauded the King of great sums in the extent he had, together with his lady, of Sir Christopher Hatton's lands. It should have been decided on Saturday, but the three Chief Justices who were present at all the hearings have not digested the matter sufficiently to give their sentence.

After so long close imprisonment, some three or four days since Sir Robert Coke's eldest son and his daughter Sadler have obtained leave to converse with him at meals. Sir Robert Phelips cannot yet find the like favour, having been six months in strait hold. The Countess of Derby is come up to sue for her brother of Oxford who is in the same case, though the Lady Willoughby, his aunt, had no success in the suit.

The smallpox reign and rage very much, both in city and country. Your cousin Windham (or Bess Lytton), coming lately to town with her husband in her way to go visit his friends in Somersetshire, was surprised and oppressed by them, so that on Wednesday morning last she died, to the great grief and discomfort of her friends, especially of her husband, of whom she was entirely beloved, and not without cause, for she hath left the report and reputation of an excellent wife. This week he carries her down to be buried in Norfolk.

I send you a copy of a petition delivered by Sir Robert Phelips' brother three months since, but without effect, as it seems, for he continues as he was.

Touching Barclay's book, I ran it over in haste three or four months ago, and never saw it since, for it is yet but rare, whereupon our stationers are in hand to print it here, and we look for it to come forth very shortly. Yet what I can remember to have observed then is here in a paper by itself. So with the remembrance of my best service to my good lady, I commend you to the protection of the Almighty. From London this first of July 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.