

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Dudley Carleton on 11 November 1606, John Chamberlain mentions the rumour that King James has undertaken to pay the debts of Oxford's son-in-law, Philip Herbert, Earl of Montgomery, husband of Oxford's youngest daughter Susan de Vere. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 237-8.

Sir, I see God and fortune provide better for us both than we ourselves, for where you seem to seek advice and help out of so barren a soil as my brain, Sir Rowland Lytton hath supplied that turn, and out of his large and fertile fields hath furnished all your wants with a double harvest, unless perhaps it be but a transcript of his former letter, as indeed the cover was the very copy of that I had, almost word for word. But howsoever it be, I will not with Phormio take upon me to read a lecture to Hannibal. Only I will wish you to follow your own genius, and let your heart guide your head without overmuch curiosity, for whatsoever is feelingly spoken is commonly feelingly heard. Neither would I have you fail yourself or give over till you had touched some string or found some tune that would sound well in those ears. Your letter to Sir Wal[ter] Co[pe] shall be delivered this day or tomorrow. It cannot be amiss, for you know great men love letters, and it will be no harm to hold a candle before that devil *ne noceat*.

Your brother Williams hath gotten a piece of a tale by the end that the Earl of Northumberland should be offended with his Lady and you for complotting to wring a manor from him, whereby you may see how oddly things will spread. Your £200 is delivered already to Sir Thomas Stukeley, whereof you shall have security at your coming. The King went yesterday to Richmond, having on Saturday knighted little Winch of Lincoln's Inn that is going Chief Baron into Ireland. The city hath received £10,000 in part of payment of £60,000 lent to the late Queen upon mortgage of land, and are to have £20,000 more the next term and the rest at convenient days, and because somewhat hath some favour, they shall be allowed £3000 interest for the forbearance of that sum eight or nine years. Though money go low in the Exchequer, yet they say the King hath undertaken to pay the debts of the Earl of Montgomery, the Lord Hay, and the Lord of Haddington, which arise to no small rate, and taken order with the Lord Treasurer to provide for payment. For all the great noise of taking of Groll and Linghen by the States, yet because there comes no confirmation of it thence, men begin to doubt it was but a golden dream. The West Indian fleet, in number 54 sail, are now said to be certainly arrived. The Hollanders stood aloof and gave them the looking on, and not daring come near to bite, like curst curs shot off and barked more than two mile off. And this being all I remember, either public or private, with my best wishes I commit you to God. From London this 11th of November 1606.

Yours most assuredly,

John Chamberlain

To my very good friend, Master Dudley Carleton, give these at Eton.