

SUMMARY: In this letter written from London to Sir Dudley Carleton on 31 March 1614, John Chamberlain mentions the restoration, through the aegis of Sir Christopher Hatton, of Oxford's son and heir, Henry de Vere, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, to his rights in Waltham Forest, despite opposition from William Herbert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Pembroke, and Robert Sidney, Viscount Lisle. The transcript below is taken from McClure, Norman Egbert, *The Letters of John Chamberlain*, Vol. I, (Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1939) pp. 520-22.

My very good Lord, I perceive by yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> of February that my old friend the Friar of St. Apostolos holds on his wonted course of telling lies and wonders, wherein I am sorry he should be interrupted, for howsoever he may prevail and win credit with foolish women, yet to men of mean judgment these absurd miracles make him and the rest of them more ridiculous, and give greater advantage than they can do hurt.

It is like you will have heard of a foul practice of the Venetian ambassador here to make away and murder his secretary, and though it were carried close awhile, yet it hath found vent and is come abroad, but if you have it not from others, I would not be the author.

We hear of an extraordinary ambassador coming from Savoy, or as some say, he is come already. The world is very inquisitive what so many *allees* and *venues* from thence should mean, for they see it but a matter of great expense on both sides, and for aught that appears, to little purpose.

Upon the death of Sir Robert Wroth (who was a great commander, or rather by the King's favour an intruder, in Waltham Forest), Sir Christopher Hatton set the Earl of Oxford's claim on foot (being during his absence abroad put in trust with all his business), and hath so wrought with the King that though he had in a manner bestowed and given away all the walks, and notwithstanding the great opposition and contestation of the Earl of Pembroke, the Lord Lisle and others, yet he hath not only preserved the Earl's right, but gotten the disposing of the walks, reserving one to the Lady Wroth, one to Sir Thomas Lake, and Sir Thomas Edmondes challengeth a promise from my Lord of another. The rest by the King's own appointment are bestowed on Sir Christopher and his brother Thomas.

Sir Arthur Chichester, Deputy of Ireland, arrived here on Saturday last, being brought in with many coaches and more than 200 horse. He had access to the King the next day, but referred for further audience till better leisure. His stay may not be long here, for their parliament draws on, being to begin in May. Here are a great number of the nobility and gentry of that country at this present, and great care is to be taken that matters may be so accommodated beforehand that there be no more *dispareri* at their next meeting.

Our parliament is to begin on Tuesday next, when the Archbishop of York is to preach before the King and peers at Westminster. Dr. Morton, Dean of Winchester, makes the

*concio ad clerum* the next day, and Dr. Abbot is appointed prolocutor of the convocation. There is much business about choosing knights. Sir Anthony Cope and young Sir John Croke are for Oxfordshire, Sir Richard Tichbourn and Sir William Uvedale for Hampshire, so that Sir Henry Wallop hath missed his mark, but pretends very foul play from the sheriff, as likewise Sir Ralph Grey in Northumberland and divers others in other shires complain of their indirect dealing, which is like to breed many questions and disputes. But the greatest difference is and will be in Somersetshire against Monday next, where the Master of the Rolls sets up his rest for his son against Sir Maurice Berkeley and Master Paulet, and complains and mutines with open mouth of ill measure from them both.

Upon Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month Sir Ralph Winwood (after so many traverses) was sworn Principal Secretary, for by that title he was sworn, and Sir Thomas Lake of the Privy Council, without any place or other title, but if you knew *quantae molis erat* to bring in the one and hold out the other, you would think it *vix tanti* but that when a man is halfway over he were as good go forward as turn back, and yet I assure you on my faith and conscience I do not think it hath stood him in the value of one groat more than what I wrote you at the wedding, though perhaps the world is otherwise persuaded. I am sorry at my heart for Sir Thomas Edmondes that he would be present and see it done, and troubled himself so much, solicited so openly, and laboured so long in vain, but sure his coming over did him no good, and he trusted too much to broken reeds, so that for his own sake I would he had saved the journey and sat still, but the woman's violence (I doubt) prevailed with him more than his own judgment, and indeed in all this business women have had a great part, specially the Lady Lake, who not only played herself, but is played all over. It is yet but young days, so that I know not what is like to fall out about your stay or remove. I have put him in mind of it, and I doubt not but he will do what lies in him for the rest, so that you shall need no better solicitor than yourself in whatsoever shall concern you, and I make no doubt but by these enclosed he gives you assurance of his good affection. My Lady Winwood enjoins me often to remember her in all kindness to you and my lady, and so I commend you both to the protection of the Almighty. From London this last of March, 1614.

Your Lordship's to command,

John Chamberlain

To the right honourable Sir Dudley Carleton, knight, Lord Ambassador for his Majesty at Venice