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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter written on 6 January 1613 by Sir Thomas Lake (bap. 1561, d. 1630) to Sir Dudley Carleton (1574-1632), then the English ambassador in Venice, advising of the recent death of Oxford's widow, Elizabeth (nee Trentham) de Vere, Countess of Oxford. For the Countess' will, dated 25 November 1612 and proved 15 February 1613, see TNA PROB 11/121, ff. 74-5.

My Lord Ambassador, I have nothing to trouble you to at this time but to convey(?) these letters to yourself and to the Duke of Mantoua [=Mantua?] to whom you will find thereby(?) you are to make a journey. His Majesty conceiveth(?) the journey not to be long and the charge not great, but for it hath commanded me to let you know upon your bills sent hither it shall be allowed.

We are here wearing out of our black and providing for the pomp of the marriage, which is to be on Shrove(?) Sunday next, and immediately after the Prince Palatine to return into Germany, as I hear, and the Lady Elizabeth(?) to be sent after him before midsummer. They were openly contracted on St John's Day in Christmas, being the 27 December.

Saving this, there is no other matter occupieth us but that the winter hath been very stormy and rainy, and doth so yet continue, making the physicians hope for much sickness in the spring, and the countrymen feareth(?) murrain of cattle.

The Countess of Oxford is lately dead, and the Countess of Bedford dangerously sick.

Our offices remain still undisposed, and I think will rest so till the marriage is treated(?) of no longer.

I received two packets from your Lordship, one being only a letter to myself, the other a packet to his Majesty.

So I leave further to trouble your Lordship. From the court at Whitehall this 6 January being Twelfth Day 1612.

Your Lordship's to command,

Thomas Lake

Endorsed: (1) To the right honourable Sir Dudley Carleton, knight, his Majesty's ambassador resident with the Duke and Senate of Venice; (2) 6 January 1612 [=1613], Sir Thomas Lake to my Lord.