

*Letter to Thomas Bedingfield in Cardanus Comfort, 1573*

To my loving friend Thomas Bedingfield Esquire,

one of her Majesty's gentlemen Pensioners.

After I had perused your letters, good master Bedingfield, finding in them your request far differing from the desert of your labor, I could not chose but greatly doubt, whether it were better for me to yield you your desire, or execute mine own intention towards the publishing of your Book. For I do confess the affections that I have always born towards you could move me not a little. But when I had thoroughly considered in my mind of sundry and divers arguments, whether it were best to obey mine affections or the merits of your studies: At the length I determined it better to deny your unlawful request, then to grant or condescend to the concealment of so worthy a work. Whereby as you have been profited in the translating, so many may reap knowledge by the reading of the same, that shall comfort the afflicted, confirm the doubtful, encourage the coward, and lift up the base minded man, to achieve to any true sum or grade of virtue, where to ought only the noble thoughts of men to be inclined. And because next to the sacred letters of Divinity, nothing doth persuade the same more than Philosophy, of which your book is plentifully stored: I thought myself to commit an unpardonable error, to have murdered the same in the waste bottoms of my chests, and better I thought it were to displease one, then to displease many: further considering so little a trifle cannot procure so great a breach of our amity, as may not with a little persuasion of reason be repaired again. And herein I am forced like a good and politic Captain, oftentimes to spoil & burn the corn of his own country, least his enemies thereof do take advantage. For rather then so many of your countrymen should be deluded through my sinister means of your industry in studies, (whereof you are bound in conscience to yield them an account, I am content to make spoil and havoc of your request, and that, that might have wrought greatly in me in this former respect, utterly to be of no effect or operation: and when you examine yourself what doth avail a mass of gold to be continually imprisoned in your bags, and never to be employed to your use: I do not doubt even so you think of your studies and delightful Muses. What do they avail, if you do not participate them to others? Wherefore we have this Latin Proverb. *Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter.* What doth avail the tree unless it yield fruit unto another? What doth avail the Vine unless another delighteth in the Grape? What doth avail the Rose unless another took pleasure in the smell? Why should this tree be accounted better then that tree, but for the goodness of his fruit? Why should this Vine be better then that Vine, unless it brought forth a better Grape then the other? Why should this Rose be better esteemed then that Rose, unless in pleasantness of smell it far surpassed the other Rose? And so is it in all other things as well as in man. Why should this man, be more esteemed then that man, but for his virtue, through which every man desireth to be accounted of. Then you amongst men I do not doubt, but will aspire to follow that virtuous path, to illuster yourself with the ornaments of virtue. And in mine opinion as it beautifyeth a fair woman to be decked with pearls and precious stones, so much more it ornifyeth a gentleman to be furnished in mind with glittering virtue: Wherefore considering the small harm I do to you, the great good I do to others, I prefer mine own intention to discover your volume, before your request to secrete the same: Wherein I may seem to you to play the part of the cunning and expert mediciner or Physician, who although his patient in the extremity of his burning Fever, is desirous of cold liquor or drink to qualify his sore thirst, or rather kill his languishing body: Yet

for the danger he doth evidently know by his science to ensue, denyeth him the same. So you being sick of too much doubt in your own proceedings, through which infirmity you are desirous to bury and insevell your works in the grave of oblivion: Yet I knowing the discommodities that shall redound to yourself thereby (and which is more unto your Countrymen) as one that is willing to salve so great an inconvenience, am nothing dainty to deny your request. Again we see if our friends be dead, we cannot show or declare our affection more then by erecting them of Tombs: Whereby when they be dead in deed, yet make we them live as it were again through their monument, but with me behold it happeneth far better, for in your life time I shall erect you such a monument, that as I say your lifetime you shall see how noble a shadow of your virtuous life, shall hereafter remain when you are dead and gone. And in your life time again I say, I shall give you that monument and remembrance of your life, whereby I may declare my good will though with your ill will as yet that I do bear you in your life. Thus earnestly desiring you in this one request of mine (as I would yield to you in a great many) not to repugne the setting forth of your own proper studies, I bid you farewell.

From my new country Muses at Wivenhoe, wishing you as you have begun, to proceed in these virtuous actions. For when all things shall else forsake us, virtue yet will ever abide with us, and when our bodies falls into the bowels of the earth, yet that shall mount with our minds into the highest Heavens.

By your loving and assured

friend. E. Oxenford.

***PRO SP12/151[/42], ff. 96-6v***

[1] Item to be demanded of Charles Arundel, and Henry Howard  
What combination, for that is their term, was made at certain suppers, one in Fish street as I take it, another at my Lord of Northumberland's, for they have often spoken hereof and glanced in their speeches.

[2] further for Henry Howard  
If he never spake or heard these speeches spoken that the king of Scots began now to put on spurs on his heels, and so soon as the matter of Monsieur were assured to be at an end, that then within six months we should see the *Queen's* Majesty to be the most troubled and discontented person living.

[3] further the same  
Hath said the Duke of Guise who was a rare and gallant gentleman should be the man to come into Scotland, who would breech her Majesty for all her wantonness, and it were good to let her take her humor for a while for she had not long to play.

[4] Item to Charles Arundel  
A little before Christmas at my lodging in Westminster, Swift being present and George Gifford

talking of the order of living by money and difference between that and revenue by land, he said at the last if George Gifford could make three thousand pound he would set him in to a course where he need not care for all England and there he should live more to his content and with more [contentation] reputation— than ever he did or might hope for in England and they would make all the court [-hear] wonder to hear of them. [When] With divers other brave and glorious speeches where at George Gifford replied gods blood Charles, where is this. He answered, if you have three thousand pound or can make it he could tell the other saying as he thought he could find the means to make three thousand pound. That speech finished with the coming in of supper [where Charles the say Charles] |

[5] Item

Whether Charles Arundel did not steal over into Ireland within these five years, without leave of her Majesty and whether that year he was not reconciled or not to the church likewise, or how long after.

[6] Item

When he was in Cornwall at Sir John Arundel's what Jesuit or Jesuits he met there and what company he carried with him of gentlemen.

[7] Item

Not long before this said Christmas entering into the speech of Monsieur, he passed into great terms against him, in so much he said there was neither personage, religion, wit or constancy, and that for his part he had long since given over that course and taken another way, which was to Spain, for he never had opinion thereof since my lord chamberlain played the cockscomb, so he termed my lord at that time as when he had his enemy so low as he might [tread him] have trodden him [un] quite underfoot.

[8] that then he would of his own obstinacy following no mans advise but his own, which he said was his fault, bring all things to an equality wherein he was greatly abused in his own conceit and so discouraged Seymour as never after he had mind to Spain any longer, reputed the whole cause then to be overthrown.

[9] And further for Monsieur a man now well enough known unto him and he would be no more abused in him, and it was for nothing that Simier saved himself, for he knew his unconstancy, and Bussy d'Ambois had been a sufficient warning unto him, whom Monsieur's treachery had caused to be slain, and would by practice bring Simier into the slander thereof that his villainy might not [have] be found but it was plain enough.

[10] and he had made an end and quite done with the cause and liked of it no more, and so with a great praising of the Kings [*sic*] of Spain's greatness, piety, wealth, and how god prospered him therefore in all his actions, not doubting but to see him Monarch of all the world and all should come to one faith he made an end and thus much considering his practice with Jerningham, and the other articles wherewith he is charged import a further knowledge and gives some light to his dealings with these persons of religion and Irish causes where in the king of Spain seems underhand to deal.

*PRO SP15/28[2], f. 3*

Item to my *Lord* Henry

[11] How he came to the intelligence, that there should come ambassadors of France, Spain and others which should assist the king of Scots ambassador in the demand of his mother, and this should be determined among them on the other side as he said and shall shortly come to pass. Likewise both Charles and Henry

[12] Likewise they have been great searchers in her Majesty's wealth, having intelligences out of all her receipts,

[13] from her Majesty's courts in law, customs as well of them that go out as are brought in, what subsidies, privy seals and fifteens she hath made since her coming to the crown,

[14] what helps, as they say [for] by the gatherings made[s] as for the building of Paul's steeple, the lotteries, and other devises from the clergy and what forfeits by attainder or otherwise, and what pensions, when either out of bishops livings to some of her counselors what gifts she hath bestowed, what charges she was at in her household reparations of her houses and castles, fees and a number of things which now I cannot call to remembrance, whereof they ordinarily would speak and of her Navy the charge she was at, what the wares [wars?] of Leith, Newhaven and other petty journeys in Ireland and Scotland and in the time of the rebellion [he] which are too long as well what she received as what she spent [=spent] in all offices, places [and s] &c.

likewise to the said Charles

[To what use he employed his servant Pike to la Mote who sent into Spain and another]

[15] Item for what cause he sent Pike to la Mote, and who he was [+who] went into Spain and whether Pike went or no, but he assuredly [returned] remained the others return

[16] who carried letters from la Mote and brought back again letters from the king and recompense whereupon Pike returned with answer to Charles Arundel.

[17] who helped the man as I heard to a marriage and whether the fellow brought his master some assurance and reward from the king to his Master I know not but ever since he lives of himself and gives no more attendance to color as I conjecture the cause better, and the course as I guess and have great reason to conjecture put in to [more] some others hands, a thing which if it be well looked into, cannot be void of great and some notable practice if it will please her Majesty but to look in to [+the] zealous mind which the said Charles hath since carried more then covertly to the mass. Likewise both Charles Arundel and Henry Howard are privy as often times they have declared by their speeches these last years past for 4 or 5.

[18] what increase hath been made of souls to their church in every shire through the realm

[19] who be of theirs, and who be not, who be assured and who be inclined for this difference they make between them that are reconciled, and such as are affected to their opinion and are to be brought in. and in every shire through the realm where they be strong and where they be weak, and this is known by certain secret gatherings for the relief of them beyond the seas: wherein there be notes of very households.

## LETTERS:

November 24, 1569

Sir. Although my hap hath been so hard that it hath visited me of late with sickness yet thanks be to god through the looking to which I have had by your care had over me, I find my health restored and myself double beholding unto you both for that and many good turns which I have received before of your part. For the which although I have found you to not account of late of me as in time tofore yet not withstanding that strangeness you shall see at last in me that I will acknowledge and not be ungrateful unto you for them and not to deserve so ill a thought in you that they were ill bestowed in me. But at this present desiring you if I have done anything amiss that I have merited your offence impute to my young years and lack of experience to know my friends. and at this time I am bold to desire your favor and friendship that you will suffer me to be employed by your means and help in this service that now is in hand Whereby I shall think myself the most bound unto you of any man in this court and hereafter ye shall command me as any of your own Having no other means whereby to speak with you myself I am bold to impart my mind in paper, earnestly desiring your Lordship that at this instant as heretofore you have given me your good word to have me see the wars and services in strange and foreign places sith you could not then obtain me license of the Queen's Majesty Now you will do me so much honor as that by your purchase of my license I may be called to the service of my prince and country as at this present troublous time a number are. Thus leaving to importune you with my earnest suit I commit you to the hands of the Almighty. By your assured friend this 24th of November

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his singular good friend Sir William Cecil Secretary and Master of the wards. Give these.

2.

September, 1572

My Lord, I have understood by your Lordship's letters, that Robert Christmas, according to my appointment, hath repaired to your good Lordship about my causes, and as your Lordship thinks good therein, as touching a new survey, so do I determine shall be done for both, as your Lordship perceives; and also myself I have been greatly abused in the former, by such as I put in trust tofore, but for that is past now I have no other remedy but to look better to amend the fault in the rest of my dealings hereafter. and as for my timber at Colne park; therein, I had no other meaning save only to make, as it were, a yearly rent, so as I may, without disparting the ground.

But now for the surveyor which your Lordship hath named, I must get him by your Lordships means, and for your Lordships sake, for I am utterly unacquainted with him

And as for those large leases, which your Lordship hath been advertised of, to be granted by me, I do assure your Lordship [it] without dissembling my faults to you to whom I perceive myself so much to be bound unto for your singular care over my well doing: I must confess my negligence and too little care with the too too much trust I have put to some over mine own doings; it may be I am greatly abused, but as yet till I search into those things now upon your Lordship's most gracious admonitions I do not know. But it is likelier to be as your Lordship doth guess then otherwise, and if it be not so it is more by good hap then of my providence.

The device of making free my copyholders my Lord I never thought of otherwise then a motion made to me by Robert Christmas wherein among the other things I bade him tell it your Lordship at whose liking or disliking I was to be ruled in anything. knowing if it wear a thing fit or unfit for me I should by your Lordship's good advise quickly understand, and so I left it to be not done, or taken in hand, and thus sir for these matters both in this as in all other things I am to be governed and commanded at your lordship's good devotion.

I would to god your lordship would let me understand some of your news, which here doth ring doubtfully in the ears of every man of the murder of the admiral of France and a number of noble men and worthy gentlemen, and such as greatly have in their lifetimes honored the Queens Majesty our mistress, on whose tragedies we have an number of French | AENEAS in this city that tells of their own overthrows with tears falling from their eyes, a piteous thing to hear but a cruel and far more grievous thing we must deem it than to see. all rumors here are but confused, of those troops that are escaped from Paris, and Rouen where Monsieur hath also been, and like a vesper Sicilianus as they say that cruelty spreads over all France. whereof your Lordship is better advertised then we are here. And sith the world is so full of treasons, and vile instruments, daily to attempt new and unlooked for things, good my Lord, I shall affetiously, [= affectionately] and heartily desire your Lordship to be careful both of yourself and of her Majesty that your friends may long enjoy you and you them. I speak because I am not ignorant what practices have been made against your person lately by Madder, and later as I understand by foreign practices, if it be true. And think if the admiral in France was a eyesore or beam in the eyes of the papists, that The lord treasurer of England is [.] a block and a crossbar in their way, whose remove, they will never stick to [attain] attempt, seeing they have prevailed so well in others.

This estate hath depended on you a great while, as all the world doth judge, and now [are] all men's eyes, not being occupied any more on these lost lords, are as it were on a sudden bent and fixed on you, as a singular hope and pillar whereto the religion hath to lean. And blame me not though I am bolder with your Lordship at this present then my custom is, for I am one that count myself a follower of yours now in all fortunes; and what shall hap to you I count it hap to myself; or at the least I will make myself a voluntary partaker of it.

Thus my Lord I humbly desire your Lordship to pardon my youth, but to take in good part my zeal and affection towards your Lordship As on whom I have builded my foundation either to stand or fall. And good my Lord think I do not this presumptuously / as to advise you that am but to take advise of your Lordship but to admonish you as one with whom I would spend my blood

and life so much you have made me yours. and I do protest there is nothing more desired of me then so to be taken and accounted of you. thus with my hearty commendations and your daughter's we leave you to the custody of Almighty God.

Your Lordships affectioned son in law.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his singular good Lord the lord Treasurer of England give these.

3.

September 22, 1572

My Lord, I received your letters, when I rather looked to have seen yourself here, then to have heard from you: but sith it is so, that your Lordship is otherwise, affaired with the business of the commonwealth, then to be disposed to recreate yourself, and repose ye among your own, yet we do hope, after this you having had so great a care of the Queens Majesty's service, you will begin to have some respect of your own health, and take a pleasure to dwell where you have taken pain to build; My wife (whom I thought should have taken her leave of you, if your Lordship had come, till you would have otherwise commanded, is departed unto the country this day: myself, as fast as I can get me out of town, do follow. Where <.....> I be any way employed, I am content and desirous so [?] <..... service, whereby I may show myself dutiful to her. otherwise if it were <.....> that respect, I think there is more trouble then credit to be gotten in such governments. if there were any service to be done abroad, I had rather serve there, then at home, where yet some honor were to be got; if there be any setting forth to sea, to which service I bear most affection, I shall desire your Lordship to give me and get me that favor and credit, that I might make one. which if [...] there be no such intention, then I shall be most willing to be employed on the sea coasts, to be in a readiness with my countryman against any invasion. Thus recommending myself to your good Lordship, I commit you to god. from London, this 22th of September. by your Lordship to command.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable my singular good lord, the lord Burghley, and lord treasurer of England give these at the court.

4.

Endorsed: 31 October 1572

My lord, your last letters, which be the first I have received, of your lordship's good opinion conceived towards me, (which god grant so long to continue) as I would be both desirous and diligent to seek the same, have not a little, after so many storms passed of your heavy grace towards me, lightened and disburdened my careful mind. And sith I have been so little beholding to sinister reports, I hope now, with your Lordships indifferent judgment, to be more plausible

unto you then heretofore, through my careful deeds, to please you, which hardly, either through my youth, or rather misfortune hitherto I have done. But yet, least those, (I cannot tell how to term them,) but as back friends unto me, shall take place again to undo your lordship's beginnings of well-conceiving of me, I shall most earnestly desire your Lordship to forbear to believe too fast, least I growing so slowly into your good opinion may be undeservedly of my part, rooted out of your favor. The which thing, to always obtain, (if your lordship do but equally consider of me) may see by all the means possible in me, I do aspire. though perhaps by reason of my youth, your graver and severer years will not judge the same, Thus therefore hoping the best in your lordship, and fearing the worst in myself, I take my leave, least my letters may become loathsome and tedious unto you to whom I wish to be most grateful, written this 31th of October by your Loving son in Law from Wivenhoe

Edward Oxenford

This bearer hath some need of your Lordship's favor, which when he shall speak with your Lordship I pray you, for my sake he may find you the more his furtherer and helper in his cause.

To the right honorable my singular good Lord the Lord Treasurer give these. At Court.

5.

March 17, 1575

My lord your letters have made me a glad man, for these last have put me in assurance of that good fortune which your former mentioned doubtfully. I thank god therefore, with your Lordship that it hath pleased him to make me a father where your Lordship is a grandfather. and if it be a boy I shall likewise be the partaker with you in a greater contentation. But thereby to take an occasion to return I am far off from that opinion, for now it hath pleased god to give me a son of mine own (as I hope it is) methinks I have the better occasion to travel, sith whatsoever becometh of me, I leave behind me one to supply my duty and service either to my prince or else my country.

I thank your Lordship I have received farther bills of credit, and letters of great courtesy from Mr. Benedict Spinola. I am also beholding here unto mr. Reymondo, that hath help me greatly with a number of favors whom I shall desire your Lordship when you have leisure and occasion to give him thanks, for I know the greatest part of his friendship towards me hath been in respect of your Lordship.

For fear of the inquisition I dare not pass by Milan, the Bishop whereof exerciseth such tyranny. wherefore I take the way of Germany, where I mean to acquaint myself with Sturmius, with whom after I have passed my journey which now I have in hand I mean to pass some time

I have found here this courtesy, the king hath given me his letters of recommendation to his ambassador in the Turks court, likewise the Venetian ambassador that is here knowing my desire to see those parts hath given me his letters to the Duke, and divers of his kinsmen in Venice, to procure me their furtherances to my journey which I am not yet assured to hold for if the Turks



come as they be looked for upon the coast of Italy or elsewhere, if I may I will see the service, if he cometh not then perhaps I will bestow two or three months to see Constantinople, and some part of Greece.

The English ambassador here greatly complaineth of the dearness of this country, and earnestly hath desired me to crave your Lordships favor to consider the difference of his time, from theirs which were before him, he sayeth the charges are greater, his ability less the court removes long and oft, the causes of expenses augmented, his allowance not being increased. But as concerning these matters, now I have satisfied his desire I refer them to your Lordships discretion, that is better experienced then I perhaps informed him in th<.....> negotiations of Ambassadors.

My Lord whereas I perceive by your Lordship's letters, how hardly money is to be gotten, and that my man writeth that he would fain pay unto my creditors some part of that money which I have appointed to be made over unto me, good my Lord let rather my creditors bear with me awhile and take their days assigned according to that order I left, then I to want in a strange country, unknowing yet what need I may have of money myself. my revenue I appointed with the profits of my lands to pay them as I may, and if I cannot yet pay them as I would yet as I can I will but preferring mine own necessity before theirs, and if at the end of my travel I shall have something left of my provision they shall have it among them, but before I will not disfurnish myself. good my lord have an eye unto my men that I have put in trust. thus making my commendations to your Lordship and my Lady I commit you to god, and wheresoever I am I rest at your Lordships commandment. written the xvijht of Marche from Paris

Edward Oxenford

My Lord this gentleman Mr. Corbek, hath given me great cause to like of him both for his courtesies that he hath shown me in letting me understand the difficulties as well as the safeties of my travel, as also I find him affected both to me and your Lordship I pray your Lordship that those who are my friends may seem yours as yours I esteem mine, and given your Lordships good countenance and in short I rest yours

To the right honorable and his singular good Lord my Lord Treasurer of England give these.

6.

September 24, 1575

My good lord, having looked for your Lordship's letters a great while, at length when I grew to despair of them I received two from your Lordship three packets which at sundry times I had sent this summer towards England returned back again, by reason the plague being in the passages, none were suffered to pass but as they came were returned back; which I came not to the knowledge of till my return now to Venice, where I have been grieved with a fever. yet with the help of god now I have recovered the same and am past the danger thereof though brought very weak thereby, and hindered from a great deal of travel. which grieves me most, fearing my time not sufficient for my desire. for although I have seen so much as sufficeth me yet would I have time to profit thereby. your Lordship seems desirous to know how I like Italy, what is mine

intention, in travel, and when I mean to return; for my liking of Italy, my lord I am glad I have seen it, and I care not ever to see it any more unless it be to serve my prince or country. for mine intention to travel, I am desirous to see more of Germany, wherefore I shall desire your Lordship with my Lord of Leicester, to procure me the next summer, to continue my license. at the end of which I mean undoubtedly to return. I thought to have seen Spain, but by Italy, I guess the worse. I have sent one of my servants into England, with some new disposition of my things there, wherefore I will not trouble your Lordship in these letters with the same. if this sickness had not happened unto me which hath taken away this chiefest time of travel, at this present I would not have written for further leave, but to supply the which, I doubt not her Majesty will not deny me so small a favor. by reason of my great charges of travel and sickness I have taken up of Mr. Baptisto Nigrone 500 crowns, which I shall desire your Lordship to see there repaid. hoping by this time my money which is made of the sale of my land is all come in. likewise I shall desire your Lordship that where as I had one Luke Atslow that served me, who now is become a lewd subject to her Majesty and an evil member to his country, which had certain leases of me, I do think according to Law he loseth them all to the Queen sith he is become one of the Romish church and there hath performed all such ceremonies as might reconcile himself to that church having used lewd speeches against the Queens Majesty's supremacy, legitimation, government and particular life, and is here as it were a practicer upon our nation, then this is my desire that your Lordship if it be so as I do take it would procure those leases into my hands again where as I have understood by my Lord of Bedford they have hardly dealt with my tenants. thus thanking your Lordship for your good news of my wife's delivery, I recommend myself unto your favor and although I write for a few months more yet though I have them so it may fall out I will shorten them myself. written this 24h of September by your Lordship's to command.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable his singular good Lord the Lord Treasurer of England

7.

**November 27, 1575**

My Lord. having the opportunity to write by this bearer who departeth from us here in Padua, this night, although I cannot make so large a write as I would gladly desire yet I thought it not fit to let so short a time slip. wherefore remembering my commendations to your good Lordship, these shall be to desire yow to pardon the shortness of my letters, and to impute it at this present to the haste of this messengers departure. And as concerning mine own matters, I shall desire your Lordship to make no stay of the sales of my land, but that all things [+be] according to my determinations before I came away. with those that I appointed last by my servant William Booth might go forward, according to mine order taken, without any other alteration. thus recommending myself unto your Lordship again, and to my Lady your wife, with mine, I leave further to trouble your Lordship from Padua. the 27h of November.

Your Lordships

to command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good lord my Lord Burghley lord Treasurer of England give these

8.

**January 3, 1576**

My lord I am sorry to hear how hard my fortune is in England as I perceive by your Lordship's letters, but knowing how vain a thing it is to linger a necessary mischief, (to know the worst of myself & to let your Lordship understand wherein I would use your honorable friendship) in short I have thus determined, that whereas I understand, the greatness of my debt; and greediness of my creditors, grows so dishonorable to me, and troublesome unto your Lordship, that that land of mine which in Cornwall I have appointed too bee sold according to that first order for mine expenses in this travel be gone through withal. And to stop my creditors exclamations or rather defamations I may call them I shall desire your Lordship by the virtue of this letter which doth not err as I take it from any former purpose which was that always upon my letter to authorize your Lordship to sell any portion of my land / that you will sell one hundred pound a year more of my land where your Lordship shall think fittest, to disburden me of my debts to her Majesty my sister or else where I am exclaimed upon. likewise most earnestly I shall desire your Lordship to look into the lands of my father's will, which my sister being paid and the time expired I take is to come into my hands. and if your Lordship will for not troubling of yourself too much with my causes command, Lewin, Kelton, and mine auditor to make a view into the same, I think it will be the sooner dispatched as for Hulbert I pray your Lordship to displace him of his office which I restored unto him before mine auditor on condition he should render it up at all times that I should command. my reason is why I do the same [.] for that he bargained with me in Colne, and trusting him, therein he hath taken more then I meant and as his own letter which I have sent to my servant Kelton doth show more then himself did mean, a fit excuse | for so cozening a part and yet though it was more then he meant whereas it is conditioned that all times he should surrender the same when his money should be offered to him again in compass of certain years, yet in mine absence he hath refused the same as I understand. whereupon methinketh he deserveth very evil at my hands. and he that in so small a matter doth misuse the trust I have reposed in him, I am to doubt his service in greater causes. wherefore I do again desire your Lordship to discharge him from all dealings of mine, upon his accounts to the rest of my forenamed servants.

In doing these things your lordship shall greatly pleasure me. in not doing them you shall as much hinder me. for although to depart with land your Lordship hath advised the contrary and that your Lordship for the good affection you bear unto me could wish it otherwise, yet you see, I have none other remedy I have no help but of mine own, and mine is made to serve me, and myself not mine. whereupon till all such encumbrances be passed over and till I can better settle myself at home I have determined to continue my travel the which thing in no wise I desire your Lordship to hinder. unless you would have it thus *Vt nulla sit inter nos amicitia*. for having made

an end of all hope to help myself by her Majesty's service considering that my youth is objected unto me, and for every step of mine, a block is found to be laid in my way, I see it is but vain, *calcitrare contra li buoi*. and the worst of things being known, they are the more easier to be provided for, to bear and support them with patience. wherefore for thing passed amiss to repent them it is too late, to help them, (which I cannot but ease them that I am determined to hope for anything I do not, but if anything do happen *preter spem*. I think before that time I must be so old as my sons, who shall enjoy them, must give the thanks and I am to content myself according to this english proverb that it is my hap to starve like the horse, whilst the grass doth grow.

thus my good lord I do boldly write that you should not be ignorant of anything that I do, for if I have reason I make you the judge, and lay myself more open unto you, then perhaps if I write fewer lines or penned less store of words otherwise I could do. But for that it is not so easy a matter at all times to convey letters from these parts into England I am therefore the more desirous to use largely this opportunity. and to supply in writing the want of speaking, which the long distance between us hath taken away. thus I leave your Lordship to the protection of almighty god. whom I beseech to send you long and happy life. and better fortune to define your felicity, in these your aged years, then [to] it hath pleased him to grant in my youth. but of a hard beginning we may hope a[n] good and easy ending. Your Lordship's to command during life. the 30 of January. from Siena

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his singular good lord, my lord Burghley, lord Treasurer of England give this

9.

**April 27, 1576**

My lord, although I have forborne, in some respect, which I hold private to myself either to write or come unto your Lordship, yet had I determined, as opportunity should have served me, to have accomplished the same in compass of a few days.

But now urged thereunto by your letters, to satisfy you the sooner, I must let your Lordship understand thus much.

That is until I can better satisfy or advertise myself of some mislikes, I am not determined as touching my wife to accompany her. What they are because some are not to be spoken of or written upon as imperfections I will not deal withal, some that other ways [=otherwise] discontent me I will not blaze or publish until it please me. and last of all I mean not to weary my life any more with such troubles and molestations as I have endured nor will I to please your Lordship only, discontent myself. Wherefore as your Lordship very well writeth unto me that you mean if it standeth with my liking [that] to receive her in to your house, these are likewise to let your Lordship understand that it doth very well content me, for there as your daughter or her mother's more than my wife you may take comfort of her and I rid of the cumber thereby, shall remain well eased of many griefs. I do not doubt but she hath sufficient proportion for her being

to live upon and to maintain herself. This might have been done through private conference before and had not needed to have been the fable of the world if you would have had the patience to have understood me, but I do not know by what or whose advise it was, to run that course so contrary to my will or meaning, which made her disgraced, [too?] the world raised suspicions openly, that with private conference might have been more silently handled, and hath given me more greater cause to mislike. Wherefore I desire your Lordship in these causes now you shall understand me not to urge me any farther. and so I write unto your Lordship as you have done unto me. this friday the 27h of April.

Your Lordships to be used in all things reasonable.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good lord, the Lord Burghley Treasurer of England give these.

**10.**

July 13, 1575

My very good lord, yesterday, at your Lordship's earnest request I had some conference with you about your daughter, wherein for that her Majesty had so often moved me, and for that you dealt so earnestly with me, to content as much as I could, I did agree that you might bring her to the court with condition that she should not come when I was present nor at any time to have speech with me, and further that your Lordship should not urge farther in her cause. But now I understand that your Lordship means this day to bring her to the court and that you mean afterward to prosecute the cause with further hope. Now if your Lordship shall do so, then shall you take more in hand then I have or can promise you. for always I have and will still prefer mine own content before others. and observing that wherein I may temper or moderate, for your sake I will do most willingly. Wherefore I shall desire your Lordship not to take advantage of my promise till you have given me some honorable assurance by letter or word, of your performance of the condition which being observed, I could yield, as it is my duty to her Majesty's request, and bear with your fatherly desire, towards her. otherwise, all that is done can stand to non effect. from my lodging at Charing cross. this morning. Your Lordship's to employ

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good Lord the lord Treasurer of England give these.

**11.**

May 21, 1578

To my very loving friends william pellham & thomas randolph esquires, Mr young, Mr Lok, Mr Hogan, Mr field, & others the Commissioners for the voyage to Meta incognita.

After my very hearty Commendations / understanding of the wise proceeding & orderly dealing for the continuing of the voyage for the discovery of Cathay by the Northwest, which this bearer my friend Mr frobisher hath already very honorably attempted, and is now eftsoons to be employed for the better achieving thereof and the rather induced as well for the great liking her Majesty hath to have the same passage discovered, as also for the special good favor I bear to Mr frobisher, to offer unto you to be an adventurer therein for the sum of one thousand pounds or more, if you like to admit thereof, which sum or sums upon your certificate of admittance, I will enter into bond shall be paid for that use unto you, upon Michaelmas day next coming Requesting your answers therein, I bid you heartily farewell / from the Court the xxj of May 1578.

Your loving friend,

Edward Oxenford

**12.**

July 13?, 1581

My lord, Robin Christmas did yesterday, tell me, how honorably you had dealt with her majesty as touching my Liberty, and that as this day she had made promise to your lordship that it should be. unless your Lordship shall make some to put her majesty in mind thereof, I fear, in these other causes of the two Lords, she will forget me. for she is nothing of her own disposition, as I find, so ready to deliver, as speedy to commit. and every little trifle, gives her matter for a long delay. I willed E. Hamond to report unto your Lordship, her majesty's message unto me by mr secretary Walsingham which was to this effect, first that she would have heard the matter again touching Henry Howard, Southwell and Arundel. then that she understood I meant to cut down all my woods, especially about my house; which she did not so well like of. as if I should sell some land else other where. and last that she heard I had been hardly used by some of my servants, during this time of my commit [=commitment]. wherein she promised her aid so far as she could with justice, to redress the loss I had sustained thereby. to which I made answer, as I willed Hamond to relate unto your Lordship. | further my lord, whereof I am desirous something to write, I have understood of certain of my men have resorted unto your lordship, and sought by false reports of other of their fellows, both to abuse your lordship and me. but for that this bearer seems most herein to be touched, I have sent him unto your lordship, as is his earnest desire, that your lordship might so know him, as your evil opinion, being conceived amiss by these lewd fellows may be removed. and truly my lord, I hear of those things wherewith he is charged, and I can assure you wrongfully and slanderously. but the world is so cunning, as of a shadow they can make a substance, and of a likelihood a trothe [=truth]. and these fellows, if they be those, which I suppose, I do not doubt but so to decipher them to the world, as easily your lordship shall look into their lewdness and unfaithfulness. Which till my liberty I mean to defer, as more mindful of that importing me most at this time, then yet seeking to revenge myself of such perverse and impudent dealing of servants. which I know have not wanted encouragement and setting on. but letting these things pass for a while, I must not forget to give your lordship those thanks, which are due to you, for this your honorable dealing to her majesty in my behalf. which I hope shall

not be without effect. the which attending from the court, I will take my leave of your lordship, and rest at your Commandment, at my house this morning

Your lordship's assured

Edward Oxenford

For my lord Treasurer

**13.**

June 20, 1583

I have been an earnest suitor unto your Lordship, for my Lord Lumley, that it would please you for my sake to stand his good lord and friend which as I perceive your Lordship hath already very honorably <..... for the which I am in a number of things more then I can reckon bound unto your lordship so am I in this likewise especially. for he hath matched with a near kinswoman of mine, to whose father I always was beholding unto, for his assured and kind disposition unto me. further among all the rest of my blood, this only remains in account either of me or else of them, as your lordship doth know very well, the rest having embraced further alliances, to leave their nearer consanguinity. and as I hope your lordship doth account me now on whom you have so much bound as I am to be yours before any else in the world, both through match, whereby I count my greatest stay, and by your lordship's friendly usage and sticking by me in this time wherein I am hedged in with so many enemies, so likewise I hope your lordship will take all them for your followers and most at Command which are inclined and affected to me. Wherefore I shall once again be thus bold with your lordship to be importunate in this matter for your lordship's favor in easing my lord Lumley's payment to her majesty wherein we do all give your lordship thanks, and you shall do me as great an honor herein, as a profit if it had been to myself. in th<..> through your lordship's favor I shall be able to pleasure my friend, and stand needless of others, that have forsaken me. thus for that your lordship is troubled with many matters where you are I crave pardon for troubling you. your lordship's to Command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good lord my lord Treasurer of England give these.

**14.**

October 30, 1585

*(In hand of amanuensis)*

It is not unknown to your Lordship that I have entered into a great number of bonds to such, as have purchased lands of me, to discharge them of all Encumbrances: And because I stand indebted unto her Majesty (as your Lordship knoweth) many of ye said purchasers do greatly fear some trouble likely to fall upon them, by reason of her Majesties said debt, & especially if the Bonds of ye Lord Darcy and Sir William Walgrave should be extended for the same, who

have two several statutes of great sums for their discharge Whereupon [did] many of ye said purchasers have been suitors unto me to procure the discharging of her Majesty's said Debt, and do seem very willing to bear the burden thereof, if by my means the same might be stalled payable at some convenient days / I have therefore thought good to acquaint your Lordship with this their suit, requiring most earnestly your Lordships furtherance in this behalf, whereby I shall be unburdened of a great care, which I have for the saving of my honor, And shall by this means also unburden my wife's Jointure of that charge which might happen hereafter to be imposed upon ye same, if god should call your Lordship and me away before her.

*(Oxford's hand takes over)*

Your Lordships

Edward Oxenford

My lord, this other day your man stainer told me that you sent for Amis my man, and if he were absent that Lyly should come unto you. I sent Amis for he was in the way. And I think very strange that your Lordship should enter into that course towards me, whereby I must learn that I knew not before, both of your opinion and good will towards me. but I pray, my lord, leave that course, for I mean not to be your ward nor your child, I serve her majesty, and I am that I am, and by alliance near to your lordship, but free, and scorn to be offered that injury, to think I am so weak of government as to be ruled by servants, or not able to govern myself. If your Lordship take and follow this course, you deceive yourself, and make me take another course then yet I have not thought of. wherefore these shall be to desire your Lordship if that I may make account of your friendship, that you will leave that course as hurtful to us both.

To the right honorable my very good Lord the Lord Treasurer of England

**15.**

June 25, 1586

My very good lord as I have been beholding unto you divers times & of late, by my brother R. Cecil, whereby I have been the better able to follow my suit, wherein I have some comfort at this time from Mr. Secretary Walsingham, so am I now bold, to crave your lordship's help at this present. for being now almost at a point to taste that good which her Majesty shall determine yet <am> I [as] one that hath long besieged a fort and not able to compass the end or reap the fruit of his travail, being forced to levy his siege for want of munition. Being therefore thus disfurnished and unprovided to follow her Majesty as I perceive she will look for, I most earnestly desire your lordship that you will lend me 200 pounds till her Majesty performeth her promise. out of which I shall make my payment if it please you with the rest that your lordship hath at sundry times to my great furtherance and help in my causes sent me by your servant and steward Billet. I would be loathe to have troubled your lordship with so much if I were not kept here back with this tedious suit, from London, where I would have found means to have taken up so much to have served my turn till her majesty had dispatched me, but for that I dare not, having been here so long, and the matter growing to some conclusion, be absent. I pray your lordship bear with me,



that at this time wherein I am to set myself in order I do become so troublesome from the Court this morning

Your Lordships ever bounden

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and my very good Lord my Lord Treasurer of England give these

**16.**

August 5, 1590

My very good Lord, where I mortgaged my lease of Avely to Mr. Herdson, and not as yet redeemed, and now as well for the supply of my present wants, as also to have some three hundred pounds of ready money, to redeem certain leases at Hedingham, which were gotten from me very unreasonably, for divers years yet enduring, and are of as good clear yearly value, as my said lease of Avely is, I therefore most earnestly desire your Lordship, to signify your liking to me in writing, to dispose of the said lease, at my pleasure; otherwise there is not any will deal with me for the same, nor for any part thereof, wherein I shall be greatly beholding to your Lordship, as I am in all the rest of my whole estate. the 5th of August

your lordship's.

to Command.

Edward Oxenford

The lease dependeth upon divers casualties, which lease I hold chiefly by your lordships favor, and the casualties, & defects are as follow.

First the lease is made by the name of the master and chaplains called the Hospital of the Savoy, where the corporation is, the master & the chaplains of the hospital of the Savoy, & not called the Savoy, & therefore the lease supposed void.

Secondly Mr Paynes claim, and pretending interest to the said lease, doth cost me one hundred pound by the year to defend.

Thirdly any creditor of mine, to whom I am indebted, may by write of *elegit*, or *fire facias*, or *levare facias*, extend and sell the said lease for a trifle, and utterly defeat me thereof. And I intend for 300l in money, to redeem leases of mine own Land, of a greater yearly value.

To the right honorable and his very good Lord the Lord Treasurer of England give these

**17.**

September 8, 1590

I would have been with your Lordship before this, but that I have not had my health, Nevertheless Hampton being returned from the Country, I have sent him to your Lordship, that he may advertise you of his proceedings there. At Oatlands I think your Lordship remembers a complaint, of (\_\_\_\_\_) Bellingham son, of his mother's putting forth of the castle, which was before anything done, whereupon your Lordship directed a letter unto <...> sheriff, <.....> whereof, as it seems, Thomas Hampton, had dealt with more favor towards her, then the letters unto the Sheriff imported. Notwithstanding I understand Bellingham is gone to the Court, encouraged I know not by what friends, to complain, as he did report here in town not to your Lordship, but to her Majesty's self. My lord it was ever meant that he should have consideration, as reason and conscience might afford him. But sithence he taketh a violent course, and refuseth reasonable offers, I have sent Hampton to inform your Lordship, the state of the man, who hath received heretofore a pardon for three burglaries, and stands bound to the good behavior. which behavior for sundry and manifest breeches thereof, which I can prove, he hath lost the benefit of his pardon, whereby as Lord of the manor by escheat, I am to deal with him, as he hath given me occasion, and herein I hope her Majesty will have consideration, sith the same case hath been seen once in Henry the seventh's time, and one example in this her Majesty's. for those things which falls to me by escheat I do not doubt that her majesty will [+not] against her law give any ear, or hearken to such wrongful complaint.

Skinner hath been often with me, for a composition: upon what point of law Hampton is to inform your Lordship, referring myself wholly to your lordship who In all my causes I find mine honorable good Lord, and to deal more fatherly then friendly with me. for the which I do acknowledge and ever will myself in most especial wise bound. And whereas there is a lease in Arthur Miles hand of the manor and Lands of Lavenham, I desire your Lordship to cause him to make over his trust unto my servant Minn, to whom the other lease is made. If there be complaints made unto your Lordship as I doubt not but that there will, against the proceedings of mine officers; I most earnestly desire, that there may be some reasonable time appointed for the answering of them, because my council is not in town, but shall be before, or at the beginning of the term, to satisfy your lordship and answer their particular complaints. London this 8th of September.

Your lordships to Command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good lord the Lord Treasurer of England give these at the Court

**18.**

May 18, 1591

My Lord I do thank your Lordship for the punishment of Hampton whose evil dealings towards me, being put in trust with my causes in Law, I hope your Lordship will think them sufficient to

deserve your disgrace, especially knowing his corruptions, which for the more assured knowledge of your lordship, I have sent unto the parties themselves, from whom he hath drawn money to his own behalf. whose confirmations so soon as they can be brought out of the country, they shall be delivered to your lordship. In the mean season I shall most heartily pray your lordship to persevere in your good favor towards me, whereby I may procure redress against this which Amis hath passed under the great seal, by the practice of Hampton's fraudulent devise, as shall appear, if I may have leisure to manifest the same every day more and more. The changing of the name of my servant without my privity and putting in another [.] in trust for himself, as bad as I understand as himself. if your Lordship will, [+I] may give your Lordship certain knowledge of the deceit. The cozening of so many tenants of their money, and the forfeiting of my lease of Skinners land, do witness enough his corruption. I know if your lordship will stand mine honorable good lord and friend herein, by handling this Hampton roughly, and this Amis so that he be but put in fear, that you may bring them to that order which is reason, that I may enjoy mine own lands, as from the beginning was meant by her majesty. And as for this letter of Amis's which I have returned to your lordship, both concerning my messages to him and the dealing of my servant, as he reports is most false. wherefore I will refer all to your lordship who knows the intent of her Majesty's first meaning to me, was far otherwise in the beginning, when with this suit of mine, she thought to recompense me in some sort, for forbearing my suit for the forest. and can judge how unfaithfully I am dealt withal by these parties. Which favor if your lordship shall do for me, then would I gladly break unto your Lordship another matter which I would have done ere this, had I not been intercepted by these unlooked for troubles. And this it is.

Whereas I have heard, her majesty meant to sell unto one Middleton a merchant, and one Carmarden the demesnes of Denbigh, which as I am informed is 230l by yearly rent, now as it is, I would be an humble suitor to her majesty, that I might have had this bargain paying the 8000l, as they should [doo] have done accepting for 5000l thereof the pension which she hath given me in the exchequer and the other 3000l the next term, or upon such reasonable days as her majesty would grant me by her favor. and further if her majesty would not except the pension for 5000l that then she would yet take unto it, to [the] make it up that value, the title of the forest which by all counsel of law, and conscience is as good right unto me as any other land in England. And I think her majesty makes no evil bargain, and I would be glad to be sure of something that were mine own and that I might possess. If her majesty thinketh it should offend the tenants, and [sh] for that she hath granted them a lease, if they complain or be against it, I will cease my suit. but if I can get their good wills, and that they shall let their lease fall which her majesty hath granted, whereupon I dare presume to your lordship, then that her majesty will let me have it on those former conditions. This is a thing that I have been desirous to impart unto your lordship, but that I have either found you troubled with other business, or I myself have been [.] encumbered with these treacheries of Hampton.

The effect hereof is I would be glad to have an equal care with your Lordship over my children, and if I may obtain this reasonable suit of her majesty, granting me nothing, but what she hath done to others and mean persons, and nothing but that I shall pay for it, then, those lands which are in Essex as Hedingham, Brets and [that] the rest whatsoever, which will come to some 5 or 600l by year, upon your Lordship's friendly help towards my purchases, in Denbigh, shall be

presently delivered in | possession to you, for their use. And so much I am sure to make of these demaynes for myself.

So shall [yo] my children be provided for, myself at length settled in quiet, and I hope your lordship contented, remaining no cause for you to think me an evil father, nor any doubt in me, but that I may enjoy that friendship from your Lordship, that so near a match, and not fruitless, may lawfully expect. good my Lord, think of this, and let me have both your furtherance, and council, in this cause. for to tell trothe [=truth] I am weary, of an unsettled life, which is the very pestilence that happens unto courtiers, that propound to themselves no end of their time, therein bestowed. Thus committing your Lordship to Almighty god, with my most hearty thanks, and commendations I take my leave. this 18th of May. Your Lordships ever to Command.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable & his very good Lord the Lord Treasurer of England give these.

**19.**

June 30, 1591

My very good Lord. I do understand by Mr Foscue, your Lordship's good disposition, and willingness to pleasure me, in this my cause, wherein being deceived by Hampton, whom I did put in trust to follow the matter, for so much as he was the deviser of the suit I sought remedy to her majesty that I might have a new lease to perform the first intention of her grant. In this I did not doubt but to have had your Lordship's favor, for that I was born in hand by hampton that I should have a better lease. But I do find his report was untrue, and your Lordship not advertised of mine estate. Now therefore I have sent unto your Lordship a remembrance, whereby your Lordship may understand how I have been dealt with. And I hope there is no occasion given, but that your Lordship may both favor, and further, my matter as you have ever done, being rightly informed. which being once ended as I doubt not by your Lordship's good means, and her Majesty's disposition to succor me at this time. As I desired of your Lordship by my letters when first this trouble began to break out, whilst her Majesty was at Theobalds so I remain in every point to satisfy your Lordship, to your content and my quiet. which I hope by these few lines you will conceive. and I have included herein these notes as briefly as I may. which also I have sent unto her majesty for the better understanding how to give me remedy. Thus desiring your Lordship to favor me at this present as you have done in this suit and in others heretofore I will take my leave, remaining your Lordship's to Command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good Lord the lord Treasurer of England give these.

**20.**

October 25, 1593

My very good lord, I hope it is not out of your remembrance, how long sithence I have been a suitor to her majesty, that she would give me leave to try my title to the forest at the law. But I found that so displeasing unto her, that in place of receiving, that ordinary favor, which is of course granted to the meanest subject, I was browbeaten, and had many bitter speeches given me. Nevertheless at length by means of some of the lords of the council, among which your lordship especially, her majesty was persuaded to give me ear. At that time which was at Somerset house, if your lordship please to call to mind, her majesty would needs have it committed unto arbiters, pretending therein, to do me especial favor, in cutting off the long circumstances of the law, and charges pertaining thereto. But after I had consented thereunto, for me, could be no other arbiter permitted, then the lord Chancellor, whom she had chosen for herself. this I am assured your lordship hath good cause to remember, by her majesty's exception against you, in that she thought you partial, to your son in law. But these things I call only to mind for your lordship's better remembrance, which through so many affairs otherwise, in so long a time, it is no marvel, if perhaps you have easily forgotten. therefore I will to purpose only further call to remembrance the success of this arbitrement. which was thus. After much ado, and a good year spent, by delays from her majesty, my lord Chancellor then Sir Christopher Hatton being earnestly called upon, appointed a time of hearing both for her majesty's learned, counsel at the law, and mine. Whereupon what he conceived thereby of my title, he was ready to have made his report unto her majesty. But such was my misfortune, (I do not think her mind to do me any wrong,) that she flatly refused, therein to hear my lord Chancellor, and for a final answer commanded me no more to follow the suit, for whether it was hers or mine, she was resolved to dispose thereof at her pleasure. A strange sentence methought: which being justly considered, I may say, she had done me more favor, if she had suffered me to try my title at law, then this arbitrement under pretence of expedition, and grace. the extremity had been far more safe, then the remedy, which I was persuaded to accept. But after I had made some complaint of this hard determination, yet in so desperate a state, she promised this relief to my cause, that in some other matter, that should be as commodious as that unto me, she would recompense me in the mean while. Hence riseth the cause, my lord, wherefore I have preferred many suits to her majesty, but have found in them all, the same delays, and difficulties, that I did in the other before. But now the ground whereon I lay my suit being so just and reasonable, that either I should expect some satisfaction, either by way of recompense, or restoration of mine own, as I am yet persuaded, till law hath convinced me: these are most earnestly to desire a continuance of your lordship's favor and furtherance in my suit, which I made at Greenwich, to her majesty at her last being there, about three commodities, to wit the oils, wools, and fruits, in giving therefore, as then my proffer was. I do the rather now renew the same for that I do not hear as yet they are disposed otherwise, and that the time, is fittest, as well for her majesty's commodity, as his that shall take it. and considering, if her majesty will have a just consideration of the premises, I am to challenge and expect somewhat. your lordship knows the whole process of the matter, and can better judge then any other, as to whom my estate is best known, & how hardly I may forbear so great an interest, without any recompense. And therefore as to the meetest, (for that my state and cause, both in right, and conscience is best understood,) to conceive of the just desire I make of this suit, I do address myself to your lordship, most earnestly to crave both your opinion, and counsel, your favor, and furtherance, whether I were best to follow this suit, which I have commenced, or it standing so, that there is no good or hope to be done, or conceived therein, to seek again her majesty's favor, that I might proceed, in law, to try my title to the forest. And thus desiring your lordship to hold

me excused, for that I am so long, in a matter that concerneth me so much, I will make an end, this 25 of October, 1593 and always rest

Your lordship's to Command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good lord, the Lord Treasurer of England.

**21.**

July 7, 1594

My very good Lord. if it please you to remember, that about half a year or there about past, I was a suitor to your lordship, for your favor. that whereas I found sundry abuses, whereby both her majesty, & myself, were in mine office greatly hindered, that it would please your Lordship, that I might find such favor from you, that I might have the same redressed. At which time I found so good forwardness in your Lordship, that I thought myself greatly beholding for the same; yet by reason at that time mine Attorney was departed the town, I could not then send him to attend upon your Lordship, according to your appointment. But hoping that the same disposition still remaineth, towards the justness of my cause, and that your Lordship to whom my estate is so well known & how much it standeth me on, not to neglect as heretofore, such occasions as to amend the same may arise, from mine office, I most heartily desire your Lordship, that it will please you to give ear to the state of my cause, and at your best leisure, admit ether mine Attorney, or other of my counsel in law to inform your Lordship that the same being perfectly laid open to your Lordship, I may enjoy the favor from you which I most earnestly desire. In which doing I shall think myself singularly beholding in this, as I have been in other respects. this 7th of July 1594.

Your Lordships ever to Command

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable & his very good Lord the Lord Treasurer of England.

**22.**

Sir Robert Cecil. whereas I have dealt with the Earl of Darby, [=Derby] about my daughter's allowance, and that he hath promised me to assure her to that intent a thousand pound a year, for so much as I now understand upon some discontentment that he hath not attained to that honor which it seemeth he did at this time expect, he determines tomorrow to depart into Lancashire, and that he hath neither in his house, or for herself, set down any stay, whereby either in her own lodging, or if she shall follow her attendance upon her Majesty, she is provided as his wife. I do therefore most heartily desire you as her uncle, and good friend to deal earnestly with my Lord Treasurer, unto whom I have also written, that he would send unto him, or else speak with him, to the end that either he should fulfill his promise, or until such time as he shall, to take that order

which is fit for her place wherein she serves her Majesty and for his wife. I do understand by my daughter how good an uncle she finds you, and how ready to friend her, wherein I also take myself beholding unto you. of what fancies his humors are compounded, you know well enough, and therefore I pray you to be earnest with my lord, that he may deal effectually upon so good a ground as his word and honor, which he hath given. Also I understand that my Lady Russell for some offence conceived of my daughter hath lately written to my Lord Treasurer to discourage and dissuade him to urge the Earl of Darby.[=Derby] But for that she was herself the first that moved this allowance, and hath sithence altered her mind upon some conceit, I hope my lord will not be carried away upon such unconstant balance. Yet if you find any such hindrance, I pray you never the less stick to your niece, and further her in what you can, sith her desire is just, in that it is his promise, & reasonable in that she is his wife. Thus what you shall do for her, esteeming it mine own bond, I refer her whole cause to your kindness.

Your Assured friend.

Edward Oxenford

To ye right honorable & his very good friend Sir Robert Cecil one of her Majesty's privy Council give these.

**23.**

October 20, 1595

Good Sir Robert Cecil. I have often received from you many words of courtesies, & favors, when I should have occasion to use ye, all which I have believed, & do still, imagining those promises to proceed of a free & liberal disposition. wherefore having at this time an especial opportunity to try my friends In a cause which I do not doubt but just, I make thus far bold with you, that whereas a few years sithence I was a suitor to her Majesty, for her favor thus far, that my right which I did not doubt, to the forest of Waltham & park of Havering concerning the keeping thereof, might have trial at law, which is a common course to every subject, & that then under pretense to do me a favor her Majesty to avoid charge, and delay of the law, greatly to mine ease and for better expedition, her pleasure was that the matter should be referred to arbitrament, which was so done as her Majesty taking exception to my arbiter, had her own Sir Christopher Hatton then Lord Chancellor, appointed as indifferent for us both, as she did measure it. He having heard the matter and her Majesty counsel with mine, was resolved, and hereupon wished me to urge her Majesty to call for his report, which accordingly I did and the lord chancellor present. In short she refused to hear him. she flatly said whether it were mine or hers she would bestow it at her pleasure, and so under pretence of keeping the same from spoil till the matter were decided between her Majesty and myself, she put it into the hands of Sir Thomas Heneage, and this after a year's travail, I had for my short expedition. Now my lord your father is a full witness of all these things, being present when the matter was committed, and the intentions and all are sufficiently known to him with all the course observed. I have written also to him and also to her Majesty. I only desire my friends that may speak their minds to her Majesty & have opportunity that they will be means, that either she will let me enjoy that which my right doth cast upon me and the law with her favor, or that she will protect me with her law

as her subject, and that if it be none of mine she will rather take it away by order, then oppression.

this 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1595

Your assured friend,

Edward Oxenford

As I was folding up this letter I received a very honorable answer from my Lord Treasurer. my whole trust in this cause is in you two, my lord for that he is privy to the whole cause and handling thereof from time to time, and in you for that I assure myself in so just a matter you will not abandon me.

He seemeth to doubt yet of his death, & wisheth me to make means to the Earle of Essex that he would forbear to deal for it. A thing I cannot do in honor, sith I have already received diverse injuries and wrongs from him, which bar me of all such bass courses. If her majesty's affections be forfeits of men's estates we must endure it.

To the right honorable & his very good friend & brother, Sir Robert Cecil one of her Majesty's privy Council.

**24.**

October 21, 1595

There are times, wherein the use of friends, are so necessary, that although we be loathe to be cumbersome, yet are we compelled, to thrust into their hands, the trust of our troublesome causes. Such is my state at this present, who in mine own conceit have no mistrust of your good disposition towards me, yet am I forced by what unlooked for occasion I cannot tell, at this time to turn my thought upon you, as the only friend, with whom, I think I may be boldest.

Wherefore for that I understood, the great danger of life, wherein Mr. Vice chamberlain lay, considering the veins & humors of this world, I do not mistrust, but many things hereby, falling into her Majesty's hands to bestow, that there would be many suitors. And for that to the keeping of the forest of Waltham, & the park of Havering, mine evidences show me a certain right to the same, from which I cannot be persuaded till I know better to the contrary. I have most humbly written to her Majesty that after so many bestowings of it upon others void of any pretence, she will now at length give ear, to the justness of my cause, & at length as she hath often disposed it upon others upon favor, that now not only upon justice, but also upon grace she will deign it to the rightful keeper.

And this I do not notice to you, as if I thought it in your power to do more then it shall please to come of her majesty's own disposition, but for that you are the only person that I dare rely upon in the Court, and at this present to implore as an instrument, to make my desire known unto her Majesty.



And thus having opened to you my cause, what I have written in effect to her Majesty and what I crave of your courtesy, I commit you to God. this 21 of October 1595.

Your loving and assured friend and brother.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable & his very well beloved friend & Brother in Law, Sir Robert Cecil, one of her Majesty's privy Council.

**25.**

September 6, 1596

The writing which I have is in the country, for I had such care thereof as I carried it with me in a little desk, tomorrow or the next day I am to go thither, and so soon as I come home by the grace of god I will send it you. The Earle of Derby should have set his hand and seal to this copy, as he had done to yours, but his promises, being but delays and shifts, in the mean season, I caused his officer Ireland and another to set their hands unto it, to witness that it was a true copy. I named to you in haste in my last letter, Mr. Hickes. But I had forgot myself, it was Mr Barnarddeux whom my lord employed in that cause. and therefore I think him able to satisfy all such doubts as my lord may cast. I do not doubt, but if my lord had then any care thereof, or Mr Barnarddeux but that this assurance is as firm as the law can make it there was employed in it the Master of the Rolls then and now lord keeper, and others of my lords learned counsel in law, who I hope are sufficient to pass greater matters then it.

Thus taking my leave, from Channon Row, this 6 of September 1596.

I remain your loving friend.

Edward Oxenford

To his very well beloved and honorable friend Sir Robert Cecil principal secretary to her Majesty and one of her highness privy Council give theis. [=this? these?]

**26.**

September 17, 1596

I have sent you by this bearer the Copy which was in my hands but perusing the same, it seemeth to be not as I took it, but rather a counterpane of her jointure, than of her pension. How my daughter's occasions are to use the same I am ignorant, being made rather acquainted therewith by common report, than from herself, or any of her friends. But I doubt not, but that my lord and you, did so well look to the same, when it was to be performed, that what assurance was to be made, was done with good advice. I know that Barnardeux was the man who was employed, and that the intent was for a pension of one thousand pounds by years to be assured her so long as my

Lord of Derby lived, and to that end a lease to her use was to be made over unto you and myself. How it was followed if this be not it I know not. Wherefore I pray you good Sir Robert Cecil, peruse this, and if it be not as I take it yet have that care of your Niece, that if it be in the hands of Barnarddeux, it may be sought out. Also I am most earnestly to desire you that as you are her uncle and nearest to her next myself, that you will friendly assist her with your good advice, you know her youth, and the place wherein she lives, and how much to both our houses, it imports that she carry herself, according to her honor. Enemies are apt to make the worst of everything, flatterers will do evil offices, and true and faithful advice, will seem harsh to tender ears. But sith my fortune hath set me so far off as I cannot be at hand in this her troublesome occasions, I hope you will do the good office of an uncle, and I commit unto you the authority of a parent in mine absence. Thus confounded with the small understanding of her estate, and the care of her well doing, I leave to trouble you any farther, most earnestly desiring you as you can get leisure, to advertise me how her causes stand, and upon what terms. whereof I assure you I cannot yet tell what to think. this 17 of September 1596.

Your assured friend.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very well beloved friend Sir Robert Cecil Secretary to her Majesty give these

27.

January 11, 1597

Good Sir Robert Cecil, whereas my wife hath showed me, a supplication exhibited to the lords of the Council, against her, I have longed both to yield you thanks for your courtesy, to her and myself in making her acquainted therewith, and also to advertise you, how lewdly therein he behaves himself. For as for my wife he chargeth, with a matter whereto she was never acknowledging, as if you consider the date of his supplication, which signifieth a five years ago [= ago] at what time I think she never knew the man, and much less had any dealings with him, as he cannot deny, and If I then were married unto her it was all. Whereas he pretendeth I made over to her my pension [to her] with a condition to pay all former warrants granted by me, it is merely false, neither hath he any ground to say it. wherefore how presumptuously he doth abuse her, you may easily judge, as that [+he] dares to make so impudently his complaint of her, being as she is: and to such personages of quality and state, as are the privy Council. I do not doubt therefore, but as you have begun with so honorable a proceeding, but you will let him have his deserts according to his presumption. And in the mean season for that a long letter may be troublesome unto you, which have matters in hand of more importance, I thought it fit, thus shortly to show the wrong done to her, and to refer the very ground and color of his complaint unto another schedule which I shall send you.

Wherein if he hath had any cause to have complained, it should then have been against myself, as the same will explain. But his shifts and knaveries are so gross and palpable, that doubting to bring his parts and jugglings to light, he doth address his petition against her that is utterly

ignorant of the cause. Thus desiring you to conceive how thankfully I take this honorable dealing with my wife and friendly care to me, I will the less set forth in words what I the more desire in deeds to show, if I were so happy as to find opportunity. this 11h of January 1597.

Your assured friend and Brother in law

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and his very good friend Sir Robert Cecil one of her Majesty's privy Council and principle Secretary.

**28.**

September 8, 1597

My very good lord I have perused these letters, which according to your Lordships desire I have returned. I do perceive how both my Lord and Lady do persevere, which doth greatly content me, for Bridget's sake, whom always I have wished a good husband such as your Lordship and myself may take comfort by. And as for the articles which I perceive have been moved between your Lordship and them, (referring all to your Lordship's wisdom and good liking) I will freely set down mine opinion, according to your lordship's desire.

My Lord of Pembroke is a man sickly and therefore it is to be gathered he desireth in his lifetime to see his son bestowed to his liking. to compass which me thinks his offers very honorable, his desires very reasonable. Again being a thing agreeable to your lordship's fatherly care and love to my daughter. A thing which for the honor, friendship, and liking I have to the match, very agreeable to me so that all parties desire but the same thing. I know no reason to delay it, but according to their desires, to accomplish it with convenient speed. and I do not doubt, but your lordship and myself shall receive great comfort thereby. for the young gentleman, as I understand hath been well brought up, fair conditioned, and hath many good parts in him. Thus to satisfy your Lordship I have as shortly as I can set down my opinion to my Lord's desires, notwithstanding I refer theirs, and mine own which is all one with theirs, to your lordships wisdom. I am sorry that I have not an able body, which might have served to attend on her Majesty in the place where she is, being especially there, whither without any other occasion, then to see your Lordship I would always willingly go. September vijth 1597

Your Lordship's most assured

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable my very good lord the lord Treasurer of England.

**29.**

July 1600

Although my bad success, in former suits to her Majesty, have given me cause to bury my hopes, in the deep Abyss [of] and bottom of despair, rather then now to attempt, after so many trials made in vain, & so many opportunities escaped, the effects of fair words, or fruits of golden promises. yet for that, I cannot believe, but that there hath been always a true correspondency of word and intention in her Majesty. I do conjecture, that with a little help, that which of itself hath brought forth so fair blossoms will also yield fruit. Wherefore having moved her Majesty lately about the office of the Isle which by the death of Sir Anthony Paulet stands now in her majesty's disposition to bestow where it shall best please her, I do at this present most heartily desire your friendship and furtherance first for that I know [that] her Majesty doth give you good ear, then for that our houses are knit in alliance, last of all, the matter itself is such, as nothing chargeth her Majesty sith it is a thing she must bestow upon someone or other. I know her Majesty hath suitors already for it, yet such as for many respects her Majesty may call to remembrance ought in equal balance, to weigh lighter then myself. And I know not by what better means, or when her majesty may have an easier opportunity to discharge the debt of so many hopes, as her promises have given me cause to embrace, then by this, which give she must & so give as nothing extraordinarily doth part from her. if she shall not deign me this in an opportunity of time so fitting, what time shall I attend which is uncertain to all men, unless in the graves of men there were a time to receive benefits, and good turns from princes. well I will not use more words, for they may rather argue mistrust then confidence. I will assure myself and not doubt of your good office both in this but in any honorable friendship I shall have cause to use you.  
Hackney.

Your loving and assured friend and Brother.

Edward Oxenford

**30.**

February 2, 1601

At this time, I am to try my friends: among which considering our old acquaintance, familiarity heretofore, & alliance of houses, (then which can be no straighter) as of my Brother, I presume especially. Wherefore at this time, whereas some good fortune (if it be backed by friends) doth in a manner present itself. I most earnestly crave your furtherance so far as the place and favor you hold may admit. And that is as I conceive: that if her Majesty be willing, to confer the Presidency of Wales to me, that I may assure myself of your voice in Council rather then a stranger. Not that I desire you should be a mover, but a furtherer. for as the time is it were not reason. But if it shall please her Majesty in regard of my youth time & fortune spent in her Courte, adding thereto her majesty's favors, & promises, which drew me on without any mistrust, the more to presume in mine own expenses, to confer so good a turn to me. that then with your good word, and brotherly friendship, yow will encourage her forward, and further it as you may. for I know her Majesty is of that princely disposition that they shall not be deceived which put their trust in her. Which good office in you, I will never forget; and always to my power acknowledge in love & kindness. hoping that as we be knit near in alliance: so hereafter more nearer by good and friendly offices. Thus most earnestly desiring you to have me in friendly remembrance, when time serveth: I take my leave. this 2d of February.

Your assured and loving Brother.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable and my very good Brother Sir Robert Cecil of her Majesty's privy council, principle Secretary & Master of the wards.

**31.**

May 1601?

My very good Brother, I have received by Henry Lok your most kind message, which I so effectually embrace, that what for the old love I have born you, which I assure you was very great, what for the alliance which is between us, which is tied so fast by my children of your own sister, what for mine own disposition to yourself, which hath been rooted by long and many familiarities of a more youthful time there could have been nothing so dearly welcome unto me. wherefore not as a stranger but in the old style, I do assure you that you shall have no faster friend & well wisher unto you then myself either in kindness, which I find beyond mine expectation in you; or in kindred, whereby none is nearer allied then myself, sith of your sisters, of my wife only you have received Nieces. A sister I say not by any venter, but born of the same father, and the same mother of [=as] yourself. I will say no more, for words in faithful minds are tedious. only this I protest, you shall do me wrong, and yourself greater, if either through fables which are mischievous, or conceit, which is dangerous, you think otherwise of me then humanity, & consanguinity requireth. I desired Henry Lok to speak unto you, for that I cannot so well, urge mine own business to her Majesty, that you would do me the favor, when these troublesome times give opportunity to her Majesty to think of the disposition of the President of Wales that I may understand it by you, lest neglecting through ignorance the time, by mishap I may lease [=lose] the suit. for as I have understood, and by good reason conceived I am not to use any friend to move it, so myself having moved it, and received good hopes, I fear nothing but through ignorance when to prosecute it least I should leas [= lose] the benefit of her good disposition on which I only depend.

Your most assured & loving Brother, as ever in mine own affection, in all kindness and kindred.

Edward Oxenford

To my very good brother & honorable Sir Robert Cecil one of her Magestyes Prui Council & principall Secretarie.

**32.**

May 11, 1601

I received this morning your message by Henry Lok, whereby I see you have not forgotten me to her Majesty, and so as it is much to my contentment, I protest to god not so much in that somewhat her Majesty doth satisfy my desire, but that I find that assuredness in your kindness to me, with whom as we are straightly allied, there is no reason but I should make especial account of before all others, so am I glad moreover to find an especial friend constant and assured in your word. which thing I vow to god to acknowledge to you in all faith kindness and love, and in whatsoever I may stand you instead which according to mine estate now is little, but in good will very great I will [acknowledge] with all alacrity and well wishing perform, and this I both speak and write unto you from my heart. Wherefore as you have begun, so I most earnestly desire you to stick to me in this cause, for it is a thing whereof I make great account, and it is a friendship which you have done me above thanks, which I will freely impart to you at my coming to the Court, which I think shall be tomorrow by the grace of God. till which time as a hater of ceremonies I will refer all other thanks and observations which in me are as far from ordinary accomplishments, as my thankful acceptance of this your friendly and brotherly office is near my heart simple and unfeigned. I sent my man as H. Lok informed me unto you that he might open somewhat more plainer the cause, the more you shall countenance him the more boldly and freely he will certify you. I will only now end wholly recommending my cause to your friendship, assuring you that there is nothing in the world that I esteem more or accept more kindly then your brotherly and friendly office which you at thy [=this?] present undertake in my behalf. tomorrow I hope to see you myself at the court where I will more frankly and freely declare myself. for today, although I thought to have come to you yet considering your manifold causes I think it best to forbear. In the mean season I rest your most thankful brother and assured friend

Edward Oxenford

To my very well beloved friend and brother Sir Robert Cecil, principal Secretary to her Majesty.

**33.**

October 7, 1601

My very good Brother, if my health had been to my mind I would have been before this at the Court, as well to have given you thanks for your presence, at the hearing of my cause debated as to have moved her Majesty for her resolution. As for the matter, how much I am beholding to you I need not repeat, but in all thankfulness acknowledge, for you have been the mover & only follower thereof for me, & by your only means, I have hitherto passed the pikes of so many adversaries. Now my desire is, sith themselves who have opposed to her Majesty's right seem satisfied, that you will make the end answerable, to the rest of your most friendly proceeding, for I am advised, that I may pass my Book from her Majesty, if a warrant may be procured to my cousin Bacon and Sergeant Harris to perfect it. Which being done, I know to whom formally to thank, but really they shall be, and are from me, and mine, to be sealed up in an eternal remembrance to yourself. And thus wishing all happiness to you, and some fortunate means to me, whereby I might recognize so deep merits, I take my leave this 7th of October from my House at Hackney. 1601.

Your most assured and loving Brother.

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable & my very good Brother Sir Robert Cecil one of her Majesty's privy Council and principal Secretary give these at the Court.

**34.**

November 22, 1601

My good Brother, in that I have not sent an answer to your last letter, as you might expect, I shall desire you to hold me for excused, sith ever sithence the receipt thereof by reason of my sickness I have not been able to write. And whereas you do conceive that I have been carried too much by the conceits of Cawley, I do assure you there is no such thing. I have used him and so do still as a follower of my business, wherein I do not find any cause to blame but rather recommend his diligence. for Council I have such lawyers, and the best that I can get as are to be had in London, who have advised me for my best course, to desire that her Majesty would grant me her warrant signed, for the drawing of a book mentioning what her pleasure is to grant me concerning the Escheat of Sir Charles Danvers (*de bene esse, quantum in Regina est*) whereby shall ensue no prejudice unto any of the pretenders which suggest to be interested in any of the said lands, in regard, that if the Queen have no title, there passeth nothing to me. It is a common course notwithstanding any office found against the Queen, that her Majesty granteth concealed lands in this course, whereof there are many yearly precedents. So that her Majesty granting this to me, granteth but her own interest, which in effect had been nothing, considering how this cause hath been carried, and so likely to have been obscured forever, if it had not been my hap to have stirred therein.

for the rest of your letter, whatsoever you have written, although it be some discouragement unto me, yet I cannot alter the opinion which I have conceived of your virtue and constancy, neither can I suffer it to enter my thought that a vain fable can brandel [=brandle] the clearness of your guiltless conscience sith all the world doth know that the crimes of Sir Charles Danvers were so bifold, that Justice could not dispense any farther; wherefore I cannot leave that hope and trust which I have had in your promises, but as I have done still I do wholly rely myself on your only friendship, and thus desiring you to bear with the weakness of my lame hand, I take my leave from Hackney this 22th of November 1601.

Your loving and assured Brother to his power

Edward Oxenford

To my very well beloved Brother Sir Robert Cecil principal Secretary to her Majesty

**35.**

December 4, 1601

I cannot conceive, in so short a time, & in so small an absence, how so great a change is happened in you, for in the beginning of my suit to her Majesty I was doubtful to enter thereunto, both for the want I had of friends, and the doubt of the Careys. But I was encouraged by you who did not only assure me to be an assured friend unto me, but further did undertake to move it to her. which you so well performed, that after some dispute, her Majesty was contented. In that good beginning, I was promised favor, that I should have assistance of her Majesty's counsel in law, that I should have expedition. but for favor the other party, hitherto, hath found much more, and as for assistance of her Majesty's counsel, who hath been more, nay only against me, the expedition hath been such, that what might have been done in one month, is now almost a year deferred. At my departure from Greenwich, what good words you gave me, and what assurance, of your constancy to me, if you have forgotten, it is in vain for me to remember. Now besides the alteration which I find in the style of your letters, Cawley hath told me that you are exempted, and that Carey complains as it were of your partiality. When I took my leave of her Majesty, she used me very graciously, & moreover gave me these words, that she doubted not for all that was said to the contrary, but that the Escheat of Sir Charles Danvers would fall out well and that with all her heart she wished it and meant it to me. I was glad to hear her, and thought myself greatly beholding [=beholden] to you, for I myself had never yet speech with her, wherefore I did and do still impute this her good mind to your friendly and honorable dealing towards me. Now the cause falling out to be good and by course of law her Majesty's, it is justice, that her Majesty may bestow the same at her pleasure, and if she be willing to give it me, I do not see in reason how partiality should or can be imputed to you, & the matter lying thus in the balance of justice, I do not see, but both for your promise sake even from the beginning and for the alliance which is between you and me, without any just imputation of partiality, you may as well and with as great honor end as begin it. And whereas you assure me that the Lord Treasurer is now very willing to further me, I am very glad if it so prove, for I have need of as many good friends as I can get, and if I could I would seek all the adversaries I have in this cause to make them my friends. Whereof I stand in so much need, and yet when I had done all, I would especially think myself beholding [=beholden] to yourself, on whom for all these discouragements past I do only rely. I have written to her Majesty, and received a most gracious answer to do me good in all that she can, and that she will speak with you, about it. Now therefore it is in your power alone, I know it, that if you will deal for me, as I have cause to believe, that it may have an end according to mine expectation, for which I will esteem and acknowledge only to proceed from you. The Attorney hath had a device indeed, as you know if you list, by referring it to judges to delay the cause whereby wearying me with an unreasonable time he might procure an agreement whereto I will never agree, or else an extenuation, or utter overthrow of her Majesty's liberality towards me. But my counsel doth fully advise me, that if it be her Majesty's pleasure to have a short end thereof, then to grant it me (*de benne esse, quantum in nos est,*) wherein if at any time it shall please you to hear them, I do not doubt but they are able to satisfy you. In the mean season I recommend myself and the whole cause to you as one him, upon whom I rely with this most earnest desire, that howsoever, there might be an end, for as it hath hitherto been handled, if it were to begin again I would never enter into it. and if I cannot obtain it, yet an end as it is fallen out is somewhat. this 4th of December 1601.

Your most loving and assured Brother in law Edward Oxenford

To my very well beloved Brother Sir Robert Cecil principal Secretary to her Majesty.



36.

January 1602

It is now almost a year sithence by the promises of your help and assistance, when the Escheat of Danvers was found nothing for her Majesty 26 shillings excepted, that I did undertake to recover it. Now Brother I do not by these letters make challenge of your words, for if you list to forget them, my putting in remembrance will be bitter, and to small purpose. Only this now is mine intention not to tell any new thing, but that which is already known, unto you. The matter after it had received many crosses, many inventions of delay, yet at length, hath been heard before all the Judges, Judges I say both unlawful, and lawful, for so may I affirm sith Walmsley who had matched in the house of Danvers, besides some other, were admitted to the deciding of the cause, notwithstanding long sithence I did except against him, and it was then thought reasonable. But now time, and truth, have unmasked all difficulties, and I do understand, the Judges are, if they will be indifferent to make a good report to her Majesty. Yet I know not by what unfortunate star, there are so many disposed to withstand it, as the truth, much oppressed by the friends of the contrary part, [that it] is likely if not wholly to be defaced, yet so extenuated, as the virtue thereof will be of little effect. Now for so much, as I understand it is meant to delay the report to the end, to get a composition of her Majesty and so to bring all my hope in her Majesty's gracious words to smoke, I am earnestly to solicit her, to call for the report, which I should not have needed to do, if gospel had been in the mouths of the Lord chief Justice and the Attorney, who did assure me that at the next hearing, which then was appointed the second day of this term it should have a full end. Now the matter depending in this sort, I find my state weak and destitute of friends for having only relied always on her Majesty, I have neglected to seek others, and this trust of mine, many things considered, I fear may deceive me. Another confidence I had in yourself, in whom, without offence let me speak it, I am to cast some doubt, by reason, as in your last letters I found a wavering style much differing from your former assurances, I fear now to be left in *medio rerum omnium certamine et discrimine*. which if it so fall out, I shall bear it by the grace of god, with an equal mind, sith time and experience have given me sufficient understanding of worldly frailty. But I hope better, though I cast the worst, how so ever for *finis coronat opus*. and then everything will be laid open, every doubt resolved into a plain sense. In the mean season, I now at the last, for now is the time, crave this brotherly friendship, that as you began it for me with all kindness, so that you will continue in the same affection to end it. and so I will end, these things only desiring you to remember, that you may know I do not forget, how honorably you dealt with her Majesty at what time you first moved her, showing how out of nothing to her, for so in manner it was found, if by mine industry I could of this nothing make something, she should yet give a prop and stay to my house. Again I know and well perceive how that this Escheat of Danvers shall be made a great matter, to cross my good hap and to obscure the rest of the lands which descend from the mother on Latimer side, [...] to her Majesty which is as clear her Majesty's as this. Last of all I shall desire you to remember that I craved of this Escheat only what I could recover in Wiltshire and Gloucester shires. Leaving to her Majesty the lands of Oxford, Leicester, Northampton and Yorkshire. which is of much more value. [and] In the beginning the whole was thought desperate, and yet you shall see now the law to be clear of the Queen's side, notwithstanding it hath endured all the crosses that can be possible, yea moreover I will say to you that I must inform, this case hath opened her right to a far greater Matter, then this of Danvers, if her Majesty's right and interest be not cunningly suppressed, and therefore I

hope her Majesty after so many gracious words which she gave me at Greenwich upon her departure exceeding this which I expect, will not now draw in the beams of her princely grace to my discouragement and her own detriment. Neither will I conceive otherwise of your virtue and affection towards me now at the end, then I apprehended all good hope and kindness from you in the beginning. thus with a lame hand, to write I take my leave, but with a mind well disposed to hope the best of my friends, till otherwise I find them. which I fear nothing at all, assuring myself your words and deeds dwell not asunder.

Your Loving Brother in Law

Edward Oxenford

To my very well beloved Brother in Law Sir Robert Cecil of her Majesty's privy council and principal Secretary.

**37.**

March 22, 1602

It is now a year sithence by your only means her Majesty granted her interest in Danvers escheat. I had only then her word from your mouth I find by this waste of Time, that lands will not be carried without deeds. I have twice therefore moved her Majesty that it would please her to grant me that ordinary course (*de bene esse quantum in nobis est*) whereof there are more then an hundred examples. mine answer is that I should receive her pleasure from you. But I understand by Cawley that she hath never spoken thereof. The matter hath been heard according to the order with much ado twice before the Judges, and many also standers by did hear the same, there in open appearance, her Majesty's title was questionless, The Lord chief Justice upon this as in form I was made [+to] believe, was to have taken the opinion of the rest of the Judges and conferring it with his own to have made up a report to her Majesty. As for the Judges report they were never called unto it, and the principal points to confirm her Majesty's title never opened or moved, but contrary kept back. So that under their hands the Lord chief Justice hath made no report. Yet something he hath done out of his own breast that is secret and I cannot learn, if he have reported nothing to Escheat to her Majesty, then is my suit as it was the first day, that is where her Majesty thought she had nothing, that she would grant me her Interest. this suit I obtained by your especial means, and this she promised me, wherefore [...] Hereupon I challenge that something might be done, whereby I may upon ground seek and try her Majesty's right, which cannot be done without this deed afore spoken of. The course which seldom or never hath been used before in this cause, to refer it to the Judges, how prejudicial a precedent I know not to her Majesty, hath been observed, and the effect hath showed that whereas it was pretended to be shortest, it hath been the furthest way about. and as the beginning was but some opinion the end is but confusion. Now therefore the matter having been directed by this course for a whole year's space, and come to no better terms, my desire is to know her Majesty's pleasure touching [my desire of] her patent, (*De bene esse*) whether she will perform it or no. If not then have I been mocked, if yea, that I might have answer, whereby I may upon reason quiet myself, and not upon weariness. Howsoever an answer shall be most welcome unto me, now being the best

expectation of my tedious suit, thinking therein, my time lost, more precious then the suit itself. Thus taking my leave from Hackney this 22<sup>tie</sup> of Marche I remain

Your assured friend & Brother in law

Edward Oxenford

To the right honorable my very good Brother Sir Robert Cecil, her Majesty's principal Secretary

**38.**

April 27, 1603

Sir Robert Cecil. I have always found myself beholding to you, for many kindnesses, and courtesies. Wherefore I am bold, at this present, which giveth occasion of many considerations, to desire you as my very good friend and kind brother in Law to impart to me what course is devised by you of the Council, & the rest of the lords, concerning our duties to the king's Majesty Whether you do expect any messenger before his coming to let us understand his pleasure, or else his personal arrival, to be presently or very shortly. And if it be so, what order is resolved on amongst you, either for the attending, or meeting of his Majesty, for by reason of mine infirmity, I cannot come among you so often as I wish, and by reason my house is not so near, that at every occasion I can be present, as were fit, either I do not hear at all from you, or at least with the latest, as this other day it happened to me, receiving a letter at nine of the clock, not to fail at eight of the same morning to be at White Hall. which being impossible, yet I hasted so much as I came to follow you into Ludgate, though through press of people and horses I could not reach your company as I desired, but followed as I might.

I cannot but find a great grief in [.] myself, to remember the mistress which we have lost, under whom both you and myself from our greenest years have been in a manner brought up. and although it hath pleased god, after an earthly kingdom to take her up into a more permanent and heavenly state, wherein I do not doubt but she is crowned with glory, and to give us a prince wise, learned, and enriched with all virtues, yet the long time which we spent in her service, we cannot look for so much left of our days, as to bestow upon another, neither the long acquaintance, and kind familiarities, wherewith she did use us, we are not ever to expect from another prince, as denied by the infirmity of age, and common course of reason. In this common shipwreck, mine is above all the rest. who least regarded, though often comforted, of all her followers, she hath left to try my fortune among the alterations of time, [fortune] and chance, either without sail whereby to take the advantage of any prosperous gale, or with [+out] anchor to ride till the storm be over paste. There is nothing therefore left to my comfort, but the excellent virtues, and deep wisdom wherewith god hath endued our new master, and sovereign Lord, who doth not come amongst us as a stranger but as a natural prince, succeeding by right of blood, and inheritance, not as a conqueror, but as the true shepherd of Christ's flock to cherish and comfort them.

Wherefore I most earnestly desire you of this favor, as I have written before, that I may be informed from you concerning these points, and thus recommending myself unto you I take my leave.

Your assured friend and unfortunate Brother in Law

E. Oxenford

To the right honorable my very good Brother in Law, Sir Robert Cecil, principal secretary

**39.**

May 7, 1603

My very good Lord I understand by Mr. Attorney that he hath reported the state of my Title to the keepership of Waltham forest, and of the house and park of Havering, whereby it appears to his Majesty what right and equity is therein. Till the 12th of Henry the 8th mine Ancestors have possessed the same, almost sithence the time of William Conqueror, and at that time which was the 12th year of Henry the 8th the king took it for term of his life from my grandfather, sithence which time, what by the alterations of princes, and wardships, I have been kept from my rightful possession, yet from time to time, both my father and myself, we have as opportunities fell out not neglected our claim, twice in my time it had passage by law, and judgment was to have passed on my side, whereof her Majesty the late Queen, being advertised with assured promises and words of a Prince to restore it herself unto me caused me to let fall the suit. But so it was, she was not so ready to perform her word as I was too ready to believe it. Whereupon pressing my title farther it was by her Majesty's pleasure put to Arbitrament and although it was an unequal course, yet not to contradict her will, the Lord Chancellor Sir Christopher Hatton was sole Arbiter, who after all the delays, devised by Sir Thomas Heneage, and the Queen's counsel in law then being, having heard the cause was ready to make his report for me, but her Majesty refused the same and by no means would hear it, So that by this and the former means, I have been thus long dispossessed but I hope, truth is subject to no prescription, for truth is truth though never so old, and time cannot make that false which was once true. and though this threescore years both my father and myself have been dispossessed thereof, yet hath there been claims made thereto many times within those threescore years, which I take sufficient by law to avoid prescription in this case. Now therefore his Majesty having heard the report I hope he will in his justice and favor do me that right which is to be expected from so gracious and virtuous a Sovereign. But for that I know, among so many matters of importance, unless his Majesty be put in remembrance, he may forget a private cause, therefore I shall most earnestly desire your friendship in this that you will join with my Lord Admiral my very good Lord and friend to help me to his Majesty's resolution. my Lord Admiral is Lord chief Justice of Oyer and determiner, and to whose office indeed as I understand it appertains to have heard my cause, but I know not why or with what advise it was referred to Mr. Attorney and his Majesty's counsel in law. But now howsoever, his Majesty hath the report made unto him, which if it be forgotten shall little prevail me. but I hope in his Justice, and in your two Lordship's friendships which the cause being so just and honorable, I do fully rely upon. His Majesty departeth with nothing but a keepership, and a keeper he must have. wherefore it is much more princely for him to restore it

to me his lawful keeper, then contrary to bestow it upon an intruder. Nothing adorns a king more than Justice, nor in anything, doth a king more resemble god then in justice, which is the Head of all virtue, and he that is endued therewith, hath all the rest. So long as it was in the custody of mine Ancestors the woods were preserved, the game cherished, and the forest maintained in her full state. but sithence it was otherwise disposed, all these things have impaired as experience doth Manifest. Thus therefore most earnestly craving your Lordships friendly and honorable furtherances I most heartily recommend myself unto your good Lordships from Hackney this 7th of May.

Your Lordships most assured friend and brother in law to Command.

E. Oxenforde

To the right honorable my very good Lord the Lord of Essendon, one of his Majesty's privy Council.

**40.**

June 12, 1603

My very good Lord I know that you are so charged with public affairs, that you can have little leisure or none at all, to undertake a private cause, especially concerning another. this therefore which you do for me I do conceive it in your particular favor, and so I take it and you shall find me therefore ever thankful. these shall be therefore to desire your Lordship that with my very good Lord and friend my Lord Admiral, that you will procure me a full end, of this suit wherein I have spent so long a time, and passed the greatest part of mine age. the cause is right, the king Just, and I do not doubt but your Lordship's both mine honorable friends, according to your words I shall find you in deeds therefore in a full confidence of your Lordship's most friendly favors, I will leave to hinder your more serious businesses. this 12 of June.

Your Lordship's most assured friend and Brother in Law

Edward Oxenforde.

To the right honorable my very good Lord the Lord of Essendon.

**41.**

June 16, 1603

My very good Lord his Majesty hath heard his Attorney general's report as touching mine interest to the keeping of the forest and the park of Havering, and I receiving from your Lordship and mine Lord Admiral his resolution according to my Lord Admiral's direction I have sent to Mr. Attorney to set his hand to my particular. But as I am answered by his letter, that he cannot do the same, unless he be warranted by six of the Council's hands, according to a late decree of his Majesty which he doth require, I most earnestly therefore desire your Lordship as to the like

purpose I have written to my Lord Admiral that you will procure me such a warrant sith it is agreeable to his Majesty's mind, as from your selves I have been ascertained. And this in effect is my request which not to be troublesome to your Lordship I end with my hearty commendations. this 16 of June. Your.

Lordship's assured friend and Brother in Law.

Edward Oxenforde.

To the right honorable my very good Lord the Lord Cecil of Essendon.

**42.**

June 19, 1603

My Lord I understand how honorably you do persevere in your promised favor to me, which I taking in most kind manner, can at this time acknowledge it but by simple yet hearty thanks, hoping in god to offer me at sometime or other the opportunity whereby [some] I may in [a] more effectual manner express my grateful mind. I further also understand that this day Mr. Attorney is like to be at the Court. Wherefore I most earnestly desire your Lordship, to procure an end of this my suit in seeking whereof I am grown old and spent the chiefest time of mine age. The case as I understand by your Lordship, Sir E. Cooke his Majesty's Attorney hath reported, the Justice thereof I do not doubt, but [+it] doth appear, there remaineth only a warrant according to the king's late order to be signed by the six Lords in Commission whereby Mr. Attorney general may proceed according to the course usual.

The King I hear doth remove tomorrow towards Windsor, whereby if by your Lordship's especial favor you do not procure me a full end this day or tomorrow, I cannot look for anything more then a long delay. I do well perceive how your Lordship, doth travail for me in this cause of an especial grace and favor, notwithstanding the burden of more importunate and general affairs, then this of my particular. wherefore how much the expedition of this matter concerns me I leave to your wisdom, that in your own apprehension, can read more then I have written. to conclude I wholly rely upon your Lordship's honorable friendship, for which I do vow a most thankful and grateful mind. this 19 of June.

Your most loving assured friend and Brother in Law

E. Oxenforde

To the right honorable my very good Lord the Lord Cecil of Essendon.

**43.**

January 30, 1604 [PERMISSION](#)

Seeing that it hath pleased your Majesty of your most gracious inclination to Justice & right to restore me to be keeper of your game as well in your forest of Waltham, as also in Havering park. I can do no less in duty and love to your Majesty, but employ myself in the execution thereof. And to the end you might the better know in what sort both the forest, & the park have been abused, and yet continued, as well in destroying of the Deer, as in spoiling of your demesne wood, by such as have patents, & had licenses heretofore for felling of Timber in the Queen's time lately deceased, presuming thereby that they may do what they list. I was bold to send unto your Majesty a man skillful, learned & experienced in forest causes, who being a dweller and eye witness thereof might inform you of the truth. And because your Majesty, upon a bare information, could not be so well satisfied of every particular, as by lawful testimony & examination of credible witness upon oath, according to your Majesty's appointment, by Commission a course hath been taken, In which your Majesty shall be fully satisfied of the truth. This Commission together with the depositions of the witness I do send to your Majesty by this bearer, who briefly can inform you of the whole contents. So that now, having lawfully proved unto your Majesty that Sir John Gray hath killed and destroyed your Deer in Havering park without any warrant for the same, his patent is void in law, & therefore I most humbly beseech your Majesty to make him an example for all others that shall in like sort abuse their places & to restore me to the possession thereof, in both which your Majesty shall do but Justice and right to the one & other. this 30 of January 1603.

Your Majesty's  
most  
humble  
Subject and  
Servant  
E Oxenforde

for his most excellent Majesty.