

26 July 1641, Castlelyons, Alice née Boyle Barry (1608-1667), 1st countess of Barrymore to Sir Ralph Verney¹ (Claydon House Trust, Buckinghamshire. Verney Papers, Letters 1641). Autograph. For Sir Ralph Varney att [/] his Lodgings in Coven Garden [/] these att London dd². Endorsed: Countess of Barrimore 1641 July. Received 7 August 1641.

Noble Enemy

I shall begge your beliefe of the truth of this , that theare is not any one , that was so unfortunate , as to have so Littell , aquain\ance/ with my Lady³, that was more truley sorowfull for her Lose[loss] then my selfe , butt shuch greate blesings are not given us from God , with a fixe time , when wee should parte with them or how Long wee shall keepe them , because wee should allwayes pray to him for the continuance of the happines , and my praiers[prayers] shall be that wee may all tre\ad in ~~that~~ thoes paths shee did , that wee may injoye[enjoy] the felicity shee now doth , and ever shall posese and in the fruision[fruition] of her unspeakable Content , I beceach you Comfort your selfe, I am sorrey nothing butt your Princis Comands , which you dare not disobey Can make you thinke of visiting this place , which puts me outt of all hope of seing you , for Kings doe not use to grace beggers with theare presence and as my Lord of Strayford[Thomas Wentworth, 1st earl of Strafford]⁴ hath handeld the matter , wee are all butt Littell better , for I am perswaded the greatest tyrant that ever historey makes mension of never destroyed so florishing a Cuntrey in so short a time , so that posterity will this ma\n/y ages have Cause to

<Curse him, I shall beceach you , if theare be shuch a man Living , as your unckell doctor⁵ , to present my sarvis to him , and tell him his Continued silence ever sence my Coming over makes me his trew patient , my sarvis to your sweete Lady⁶ , and that I may allwayes Live in your good graces , I heare vowe to Live and deye>

Your freindley Enemy to sarve you

¹ Susan E. Whyman, "Sir Ralph Verney, first baronet (1613-1696), landowner and politician," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [ODNB].

² dd, the Latin for this day.

³ Ralph's mother, Lady Margaret née Denton Verney died at Covent Garden 5 April 1641, see Adrian Tinniswood, *The Verneys* (London, 2008), p.146.

⁴ Thomas Wentworth, 1st earl of Strafford was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1632 but his arrival into Dublin was delayed until July 1633. Relations between Wentworth and Alice's father, Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork became severely strained once Wentworth commenced his campaign to root out the avarice and corrupting influences, as he perceived it, among the New English in Ireland. Boyle became the main target of Wentworth's investigations and as soon as sufficient evidence was collected, Boyle had to face the prospect of either a damaging public trial or pay a significant fine of £15,000 and surrender some of his Youghal properties. In August 1638, having suffered public humiliation and embarrassment, Boyle departed from Ireland and spent over three years in England, alternating between his estate at Stalbridge Manor in Dorset and working to rehabilitate his reputation at court in London. As Wentworth's power increased so too did his enemies and in 1641 he was impeached; Boyle gave opposing evidence during the subsequent trial. On 12 May 1641, Thomas Wentworth was beheaded following the passing of a bill of attainder. For more see, Ronald G. Asch, "Wentworth, Thomas, first earl of Strafford (1593-1641), lord lieutenant of Ireland," *ODNB*.

⁵ See, "Denton, William (bap. 1605, d.1691), physician," *ODNB*.

⁶ Lady Mary Verney (1616-1650).

A Barrymore

Castelyons the 26 of

July 1641

< Jemey is your Sonns⁷ humble sarvant , and your sister Carews⁸ obedient husband, whoe now stands bey me, and Comands me to saye soo>

⁷ Ralph and Mary Verney had two surviving children, Edmund (1636-1688) and John (1640-1717), see Whyman, *ODNB*.

⁸ Cary Verney (c.1623) was Ralph's younger sister, she went on to marry Thomas Gardiner in the spring of 1642, see Tinniswood, *The Verneys* (London, 2008), pp 168-9.