

M.S. in Heber Library No. 1523; but this is doubtful."¹ Mr. Sidney Lee tells us that "in 1549 he was in the service of Protector Somerset, who wrote, 5 Oct., requesting him to solicit the aid of the Earl of Oxford's servants in repressing rebellion."² The letter in question reads as follows :

"We commend us unto you. And for the confidence we have in you, being our servant, we will and require you to solicit and give order for our very good Lord the Earl of Oxford's things, servants, and ordinary power, that he himself, and the same also, be in good readiness, whatsoever shall chance to require his service for the King's Majesty; whereof, if any occasion shall chance, we will signify by our letters. Thus we commit the order of the whole unto your good discretion, and will you to use herein convenient secrecy. From Hampton Court the 5th October, 1549.

Your loving Lord and Master,

"E. SOMERSET."

"To our loving servant,

——— Golding, Esquire."³

I do not know upon what authority it has been assumed that this letter was addressed to Arthur Golding, but surely that assumption is a mistake. In the copy of the letter which is here reproduced there is a blank before the name 'Golding.' If we remember that at this time Arthur Golding was just thirteen years of age, is it not absurd to think of the Protector's writing to him on such high matters, and referring to "the confidence we have in you" and "your good discretion"? The fact, however, that the services of a Golding are bespoken with the Earl of Oxford makes it inherently probable that the letter was addressed to a relative of Margaret Golding, wife of the sixteenth Earl. We can hardly be far wrong in assuming that her brother Sir Thomas, at this time a young man nearly thirty years of age, is the Golding in question; at any rate we may dismiss the idea that the letter was addressed to a lad of thirteen years.

¹ *Op. cit.*

² V. article on "Arthur Golding" in *Dictionary of National Biography*.

³ "Somerset to Golding. Orig. St. P. Off. Domestic, 5th Oct. 1549." Quoted in P. F. Tytler's *England under the Reigns of Edward vi. and Mary*.