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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 18 June 1581 from Thomas, 2nd Lord Wentworth, to Lord Burghley regarding the proposed marriage between Oxford's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-1583), and William Wentworth (1555/6-1582), the eldest son and heir of Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Lord Wentworth, and his second wife, Anne or Agnes (d.1574), the daughter of Henry Wentworth (d. circa 1545) of Mountnessing, Essex, and Agnes Hammond. The marriage of William Wentworth and Elizabeth Cecil took place on 26 February 1582 (see CP 140/13). However William Wentworth died later that year, on 7 November 1582, and Elizabeth Cecil survived him for only a few months, dying in April 1583.

For another letter dated 20 June 1581 on the same topic, see TNA SP 12/149/46, ff. 114-15.

The transcript below was prepared from Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), pp. 40-1, available online.

My very good Lord, for answer to your letter, although I went before as far as my state would bear, yet I perceive your Lordship doth not think me so liberal in granting as I am excessive in demanding. Truly, my Lord, I did set down the reasons that moved my demands and the cause why I was no more liberal, but for that I perceive by your letter your not allowance of them, and because your Lordship shall perceive what liking I have of this match, I have by these stretched myself beyond my power, and am content to assure £200 by year for their present living, which I am content shall be the jointure of your Lordship's daughter after my son's death, and after my death to enlarge it with one hundred pound more. And this I trust your Lordship, considering that I must live in some calling, will both like and accept, for if I were able to do more, your Lordship should not be so ready to demand as I would be to give. And thus with my humble commendations I commit your Lordship to God's good keeping. Mile End, the 18 June 1581.

Your Lordship's always to command,

Thomas Wentworth