
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 10 November 1582 from Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Lord Wentworth to Lord Burghley regarding the death of Oxford's brother-in-law, William Wentworth (1555/6-1582), Lord Wentworth's eldest son and heir.

William Wentworth married Lord Burghley's second daughter, Elizabeth Cecil (1564-/1583), on 26 February 1582 (see CP 140/13). He died at Lord Burghley's estate of Theobalds only a few months later, on 7 November 1582. As Lord Wentworth's letter below indicates, at the time of her husband's death, Elizabeth Cecil Wentworth was pregnant. However she died only a few months after her husband, in April 1583, perhaps in childbirth.

The transcript below was prepared from the copy of Lord Wentworth's letter in Ellis, Henry, *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (London: Richard Bentley, 1846), p. 44, available online.

My very good Lord,

I humbly pray your Lordship to bear with me that I have not written to your Lordship before. The loss common to us both is such as would have stayed a wiser man than I am, and although many crosses hath fallen upon me, yet none so great as this. But I thank my God that he hath made the burthen somewhat the lighter that he hath left my daughter with child, whom if it please his goodness to bliss, as my prayer is, we shall receive some comfort after this sorrow, praying your Lordship to continue that goodwill and favour toward me that you would have done if our son had lived, until I deserve the contrary. And thus leaving your Lordship, I have sent this bearer to declare unto your Lordship my opinion as concerning the will and other things, whom I beseech your Lordship favourable [=favourably] to hear, and look what your Lordship shall do in this matter I shall willingly agree unto it. And thus God to sent you all your honourable desires. Mile End, the 10 November 1582.

Your Lordship's always most assured,

Thomas Wentworth.

Endorsed: To the right honourable and my very good Lord, the Lord Treasurer of England