

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 10 February 1606 from William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, mentioning his wife, Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), and their son.

According to the ODNB, James Stanley (31 January 1607 – 15 October 1561) was the eldest son of William Stanley and Elizabeth de Vere. However the letter below indicates that James Stanley was not the eldest son, but rather the eldest surviving son of the 6th Earl of Derby and Elizabeth de Vere.

My very good Lord, I have received your Lordship's letters concerning Sir Richard Houghton, and thereby perceive your Lordship's honourable care of my honour and quietness in this country, for both which I am exceedingly bound unto you.

The gentlemen's names that I commend unto your Lordship to write unto are these: Robert Hesketh, John Ireland and Hugh Hesketh, esquires, all justices of peace. These are perfectly acquainted with these occasions, and my nearest neighbours, and for Mr Robert Hesketh, he hath been my deputy vice-admiral in this business, and is acquainted with what several parcels of goods (besides the wines) he detaineth. The 27th of this month or the 6th of March next are our market days at Ormskirk town, through the which the carriages are to pass, and one of those days I think it convenient for them to be here at this my house at Knowsley.

Your little nephew, my son, I thank God battens well, and my wife commends her kindly to your Lordship.

Thus having no other occasion at this time, but always resting thankful to your Lordship, I commit you to God's protection. Knowsley, my house, this 10 of February 1605 [=1606].

Your Lordship's loving nephew and friend to my power,

William Derby

Endorsed: To the right honourable my very good Lord the Earl of Salisbury, one of the Lords of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, these

Endorsed: 20 February 1605 [=1606], Earl of Derby to my Lord