
SUMMARY: The document below is a statement, dated 20 August and said to date from the year 1597, by William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, concerning his wife, Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), whom he had married on 26 January 1595. It would appear that Derby had uttered speeches which could have been construed as allegations that she had committed adultery, and that he had been forced to issue a signed retraction witnessed by three of his wife's close relations.

If anyone can say that I know my wife to be dishonest of her body, or that I can justly prove it by myself or anyone else, I challenge him the combat of life.

If anyone suppose any speeches of mine to have proceeded out of that doubt, he doth me wrong, the 20th of August at Greenwich.

William Derby

In the presence of us,

William Burghley

Charles Howard

Robert Cecil

Endorsed: Earl of Derby