
SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 17 September 1596 from Oxford to Sir Robert Cecil concerning the allowance of £1000 a year promised by William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, to Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), whom he had married on 26 January 1595.

For other letters concerning the allowance see CP 31/106, CP 44/63, CP 54/110 and CP Petitions 1964.

I have sent you by this bearer the copy which was in my hands, but perusing the same it seemeth to be not as I took it, but rather a counterpane of her jointure than of her pension. How my daughter's occasions are to use the same I am ignorant, being made rather acquainted therewith by common report than from herself or any of her friends. But I doubt not but that my Lord and you did so well look to the same when it was to be performed that what assurance was to be made was done with good advice. I know that Barnardeux [=Bernardeau?] was the man who was employed, and that the intent was for a pension of one thousand pounds by years to be assured her so long as my Lord of Derby lived, and to that end a lease to her use was to be made over unto you and myself. How it was followed, if this be not it, I know not. Wherefore I pray you, good Sir Robert Cecil, peruse this, and if it be not as I take it, yet have that care of your niece that if it be in the hands of Barnardeux it may be sought out.

Also I am most earnestly to desire you that as you are her uncle and nearest to her next myself, that you will friendly assist her with your good advice. You know her youth and the place wherein she lives, and how much to both our houses it imports that she carry herself according to her honour. Enemies are apt to make the worst of everything, flatterers will do evil offices, and true and faithful advice will seem harsh to tender ears. But sith my fortune hath set me so far off as I cannot be at hand in this her troublesome occasions, I hope you will do the good office of an uncle, and I commit unto you the authority of a parent in mine absence.

Thus confounded with the small understanding of her estate, and the care of her well-doing, I leave to trouble you any farther, most earnestly desiring you as you can get leisure to advertise me how her causes stand and upon what terms, whereof I assure you, I cannot yet tell what to think. This 17 of September 1596. Your assured friend,

Edward Oxeford

Endorsed: To the right honourable and his very well beloved friend, Sir Robert Cecil, Secretary to her Majesty, give these

Endorsed: 17 September 1596, the Earl of Oxford to my Master