

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dating from 29-31 July 1597 from Sir Edward Fitton (c. 4 March 1606) to Sir Robert Cecil concerning the arrival of William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6th Earl of Derby, and his wife, Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575-1627), at Knowsley. For other letters from Fitton to Cecil on this topic see CP 54/15 and CP 54/21.

The letter also mentions the allowance of £1000 a year promised by the Earl to his wife, as well as the lease providing for her jointure. For letters from Oxford to Cecil concerning the allowance of £1000 see CP 31/106, CP 44/63 and CP 44/101.

For earlier letters from Fitton concerning Oxford's manor of North Rode, dated 30 June and 3 July 1578, see TNA SP 12/124/55, f. 161 and CP 10/4.

For Sir Edward Fitton, see his will, TNA PROB 11/107/223; the *ODNB* article; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/fitton-edward-1548-1606>.

See also the will of his uncle, Francis Fitton (d. 17 June 1608), TNA PROB 11/112/118.

Right Honourable, we are arrived here the 28th of this July, all (blessed be God) in perfect health, and your honourable and virtuous niece so without all weariness cared for her house as, I assure you, I rejoiced much, as one that honour her above others, and so will do still, both for her family, to which (God is my judge) I ever have been devoted, and for her own virtue. I will end here all compliments.

I assure you, Sir, my cousin Booth, to whom I sent, and some few other of my kinsmen & friends to whom I sent (so soon as I could, but not how as I would because my Lord was somewhat doubtful of his day certain of coming into Cheshire), met my Lord at the confines of Cheshire and Shropshire near the Nantwich, and there lodged all night, with near 500 horse. Mr Booth, being sheriff, and this company with others did attend his Lordship to Chester, and from thence to Sir John Savage's, and so until Sir Richard Molyneux[*'s*], and a great number of Lancashire to the number of 700 horse, as I am credibly informed, met my Lord near Warrington, at which town Mr Ireland made his Lordship a banquet in the street, and so Sir Richard Molyneux and divers others attended his Lordship to Knowsley, but went home that night.

Now Sir, for the lease made to my Lord of Oxford and you, there is no other lease nor assurance but the lease made for my Lady's jointure, which lease is warranted by fine, and the deed doth remain, as Mr Ireland assureth me, under my Lord Treasurer's hand, the Earl of Oxford's and yours, with my Lord, and my Lord Treasurer hath the deed under the Earl of Derby's hands, whereby the very interest of the possession is in your Honour

instantly. It were good you caused my Lord, your father, to seek it up and peruse it, but this is most true if Ireland say true. But I beseech your Honour, keep this to yourself till I see you, for it is better for me to speak all I know than write.

I have appointed all the names of the gentlemen that met my Lord to be set down for your Lordship to see.

My Lady was honourably entertained at Sir Thomas Gerrard's, but his mother's sickness did keep thence both her daughters and sons-in-law.

Thus briefly and truly laying down all I know, I rest, and will

End at your commandment,

Edward Fitton

Endorsed: To the right honourable Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to the Queen's most excellent Majesty.

Endorsed: August 1597, Sir Edward Fitton to my Master.