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SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 17 May 1602 from Roger Wilbraham and George Carew to Sir Thomas Egerton and Sir Robert Cecil concerning slanderous speeches by Stephen Proctor against Oxford's son-in-law, William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby.

For the schedule enclosed with the letter, in which the witnesses swore, *inter alia*, that Proctor had said that the Earl of Derby 'was a fool and would make all away', see CP 93/50.

May it please your Honours, we understand it is your pleasure to be certified from us of the truth of some accusations against Mr Proctor for his slanderous speeches against the Earl of Derby.

We examined four witnesses produced against him, who have made declaration of the speeches, as by the schedule enclosed appeareth, offering confidently to depose the same, and seeming to us to agree in circumstances of time and place, yet for some respects finding suits in law (that commonly induce malice) between those witnesses and Mr Proctor, we did forbear to swear any of them, advising Mr Proctor to submit himself to the Earl as he promised, and the witnesses being the Earl's tenants, to use good offices towards them both.

And so leaving the consideration hereof to your Honours, we humbly take leave this 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1602.

Your Honours' to command,

Roger Wilbraham

George Carew

Endorsed: To the right honourable Sir Thomas Egerton, knight, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, and Sir Robert Cecil, knight, her Majesty's Principal Secretary

Endorsed: Earl of Derby, May 17