

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 28 January 1600 from Oxford's son-in-law, William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby, to Sir Robert Cecil concerning an inquisition taken in Lancashire in his absence in which a freeholder of part of his manor of Lathom was found to hold of the Queen.

The letter was written from Hackney, where Oxford was then living.

Good Uncle, in th' absence of me and my officers forth of Lancashire this last term, and upon information given and received by such as have intended the impeachment of mine inheritance in my chiefest manor, namely Lathom, an office hath been sitten after the death of a poor freeholder of mine there, Gilbert Beaconsall, and his son, whose heir of a few acres of land within that my manor is found to hold of her Majesty, which hath fallen out by way of default by reason none for me was present to deliver evidence, to my great prejudice, being the only first precedent attempted there in that case.

In regard whereof I have thought meet as well to make known this hard measure, as for remedy thereof and in furtherance of justice & preservation of my inheritance to entreat you to give order that I may have so much favour and indifferency as that my cause and evidence (which by sound advice I conceive to be good and which hitherunto hath never been impeached) may be heard before a jury, whereunto I will refer myself upon notice thereof from th' escheator and feodary, and evidence on both sides heard, whereof I pray your favourable consideration and of some course for my good and right, thinking I have been hardly dealt withal by the officers and prosecutors of this matter, whereby my inheritance hath been mightily impeached without the view of my evidence and the state thereof.

And so in this as in all others commending myself to your good and wonted favour, with my very hearty commendations do end. Hackney, this 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1599 [=1600].

Your loving nephew,

William Derby

Endorsed: To my very honourable good uncle, Sir Robert Cecil, knight, Principal Secretary to the Queen's most excellent Majesty

Endorsed: 28 January '99, Earl of Derby