

---

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 1 April 1605 from Alice Spencer (1559–1637), widow of Ferdinando Stanley (1559? – 16 April 1594), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby, to Robert Cecil, Viscount Cranborne, concerning the agreement reached about her thirds between herself and her brother-in-law, William Stanley (1561 – 29 September 1642), 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby, husband of Oxford's daughter, Elizabeth de Vere (1575–1627).

Honourable Lord, may it please you concerning the agreement between the Earl of Derby, my brother, and me for my thirds, it is not unknown to you how in some countries I parted with my thirds to him, and he likewise in other parts passed his two parts to me, and I having the entire lordship of Hawarden with all the royalties, incidents and appurtenances for term of my life, part by recovery by writ and part by agreement with him and by assignment from him, he nevertheless hath granted the parsonage thereof to one Rankyns, sometime his man, and now conveyed over to one Mr Davenant to be presented by reason [+of the death] of the late incumbent, desirous I am there should be no breach of love but all kindness between my said brother and me, and that I may present one I have chosen as in way of my own right, which I assure me may the easier be done if please you to advise him hereunto, himself being well knowing that by the like title and the same agreement he doth enjoy during my life things of greater value, and hath already presented to some benefices of good worth which otherwise he could not have done, I having but this one advowson in all the living I enjoy under my late husband.

Thus leaving my desire to your honourable regard, I rest,

Your Lordship's very assured friend and cousin,

Alice(?) Derby

York House this first of April 1605

Endorsed: To the right honourable my very good Lord and cousin the Lord Viscount Cranborne

Endorsed: 1 April 1605, Countess of Derby to my Lord