

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 3 July 1578 from Oxford's steward in Cheshire, Edward Fitton (d. 4 March 1606), to Lord Burghley mentioning Oxford's manor of North Rode in Cheshire, at the time part of Oxford's wife Anne's jointure. For an earlier letter from Fitton concerning Oxford's manor of North Rode, dated 30 June 1578, see TNA SP 12/124/55, f. 161. For letters from Fitton to Oxford's brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, see CP 54/110, CP 54/15 and CP 54/21.

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, my bounden duty remembered, after the sending of letters by John Passe importing the inheritance of my Lord the Earl of Oxford and my Lady, your daughter, the Countess, for lands in Rode within this county, I was upon occasion enforced to send this bearer, partly with these letters from my father, but chiefly for a cause of my own which toucheth me near and cometh commanded from my very good Lord, the Earl of Leicester. Your Lordship granting my petition may further me to the possession of a thing worth a hundred pounds by year, and your Lordship's denial enforceth me to break off with my father-in-law, Sir John Holcroft, for the same, and therefore before I take or leave I am to crave your Lordship's favour, for I shall not be able to perform my father-in-law's demand and your Lordship's order already set down.

Therefore I beseech your Honour [+to?] deal thus favourably as [+to?] ease me of £20 per annum, which only giveth me time, and hindereth her Majesty nothing of her due.

Thus resting wholly upon your Lordship as my chief patron and at once(?) I most humbly take my leave.

Aldford, my poor cottage, this third of July 1578.

Your Honour's to command during life,

E. Fitton

For treasure this bearer can inform your Honour sufficiently, for we were at the sea together.

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I beseech your good Lordship to send me some direction by Passe for the commons in Rode. The having or losing of three hundred acres of land will hereby be in question.

Endorsed: The Right Honourable my singular good Lord, the Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England (endorsement partly cut off?).

Endorsed: 3 July 1578, Mr Edward Fitton to my Lord for a lesser stalment of his debt undertaken for Bagot.