

## D21 Heere lyes great Salisbury though little of Stature

*Notes.* Croft (“Reputation” 49-50) discusses and contextualizes the charges of financial oppression and mismanagement that are a central feature of this libel.

Heere lyes great Salisbury though little of Stature<sup>1</sup>  
A Monster<sup>2</sup> of mischeif Ambitious of Nature:  
A States man that did Impoverish the Crowne  
Sould Mylles & lands & Forrests cut downe.<sup>3</sup>  
His care for the commons his country none feeles  
With trickes & with traps & with privye Seales<sup>4</sup>  
King cuntrye & commons doe mourne & lamente  
For he is gone to hell to raise the devills Rente.

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**Source.** NCRO MS IL 4304

D21

<sup>1</sup> *great Salisbury though little of Stature*: several poems play on the contrast between Cecil’s political greatness and his small physical stature. See, for instance, line 2 of “Passer by know heere is interrred”, the opening line of “Heere lyes Salisbury that little great comaunder”, and line 5 of Samuel Daniel’s “If greatnes, wisdom, pollicie of state”.

<sup>2</sup> *Monster*: refers to Cecil’s crooked back.

<sup>3</sup> *Sould...cut downe*: this line charges Cecil, somewhat unfairly, with selling off and spoiling the royal lands.

<sup>4</sup> *privye Seales*: a controversial form of prerogative finance that raised revenue by forced loans. Croft (“Reputation” 49-50, n.22) notes that the “collection of privy seals was at the forefront of attention early in 1612”.