



71

***In the Style of Cornelis Janssens van Ceulen (1593-1661)***

MATTHEW PLUNKETT, 5th BARON OF LOUTH (1588-1629), c.1620

oil on canvas

with inscribed label detailing title on reverse; also with label inscribed "Property of Prof.

Stewart" on reverse

26 by 22in. (66.04 by 55.88cm)

Cornelis Janssens van Ceulen painted Lady Louth, wife of the Fourth Baron, and mother of the present sitter. Matthew Plunkett married Mary Fitzwilliam daughter of Sir Richard Fitzwilliam. Together they had eight children including Oliver Plunkett, 6th Baron Louth. Mary Fitzwilliam later married Gerald Aylmer.

The title of Baron Louth in the Peerage of Ireland was created in 1541 for Sir Oliver Plunkett by Henry VIII. His great-great-great-grandson, the seventh Baron, also called Matthew Plunkett, served as Lord Lieutenant of Co. Louth. He was a supporter of King James II and was later outlawed. The title was restored by the 11th Baron (1757–1823). It still survives and is held by the 17th Baron. Saint Oliver Plunkett Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland was related to Barons of Louth. His shrine is housed in St Peter's, Drogheda.

€5,000-€7,000 (£4,200-£5,880 approx.)