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TRANSCRIPTIONS OF THE ROYAL LETTERS



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My devise for the succession. made 317

For lakke of ^{make} ~~my~~ ^{to the issue continuing of} ~~my body~~ ^{of my body} To the L^e Fran^cces heires masles, ~~for lakke of such issue~~ ^{for lakke of such issue} ~~to the~~ ^{before my death} L^e James heires masles, To the L^e Katerins heires masles, To the L^e Maries heires masles, To the heires masles of the daughters w^{ch} she she shal have hereafter. Then to the L^e Mar gets heires masles. For lakke of such issue, To theires masles of the L^e James daughters To theires masles of the L^e Katerins daughters and so forth til you come to the L^e Mar gets ^{daughters} heires masles.

2 If after my death there masle be entred into is yere old, then he to have the hole rule and gouernance thereof.

3. But if he be under 18, then his mother to be gouernes til he entre 18 yere old ^{and agromet} But to dee nothing about the ^{use} of ~~20~~ 6 parcel of a counset to be pointed by my last will to the nomore of 20.

4 If the mother die befor there entre into 18 the realme to be gouerned by the coun. Provided that after he be 14 yere al great matters of importance be ~~to~~ opened to him.

5. If i died wth ~~issue~~ ^{issue} and ther were none heire masle, then the L^e Frances to be ^{gouernes} ~~regent~~ for lakke of her the her eldest daughters and for lakke of them the L^e Margery to be

Transcription of Edward VI's "Devise for the Succession"

Recto

My devise for the succession

masle

masle ~~to the issu ^ cumming of~~

For lakke of issu ^ of my body ^. To the L Fraunces

~~thisse femal I haue after declared~~

If she haue any before my death
seses heires masles, ~~for lakke of~~ ^ such issu ^ to the
and her

L Jane ^ heires masles, To the L Katerins heires
masles, To the L Maries heires masles, To
the heires masles of the daughters wich she
she shal haue hereafter. Then to the L Mar[garet]
gets heires masles. For lakke of such issue,
To theires masles of the L Janes daughters
To theires masles of the L Katerins daughters
and so forth til yow come to the L Margaret
daughters
gets ^ heires masles.

If after my death their masle be entred into
18 yere old, then he to haue the hole rule
and gouernaunce thereof.

But if he be under 18, then his mother to
be gouuernres til he entre 18 yere old.

and agrement

But to doe nothing *without* tha[d]uise ^ of 6
parcel of a counsel to be pointed by my
last will to the nombre of 20.

If the mother die before th'eir entre into 18
the realme to ~~the~~ be gouuerned by the counsel
Prouided that after he he be 14 yere al
great matters of importaunce be opened
to him.

~~If I died without issu, and ther were none~~

~~gouernes~~

~~heire masle, then the L Fraunces to be ^ regent
For lakke of heir, the her eldest daughters
and for lakke of them the L Marget to be~~

gouvernres after as is aforaid, til some
her maste be borne, and then the
mother of that child to be gouvernres.
6 And if the during the rule of the
gouvernres ther die 4 of the counsel
then shal she by her letters call an asse-
ble of the counsel in on month following
and chose 4 more, wherein she shal
have thre voices. But after her death
the is shal chose among themselves
til theire come to 14 years olde,
and then he by ther adurce shal
chose the.



Transcription of Edward VI's "Devise for the Succession"

Verso

~~gouernres after as is aforesaid til sume
heir masle be borne, and then the
mother of that child to be gouernres.~~

~~And if the during the rule of the
gouuernres ther die 4 of the counsel
then shal she by her letters cal an *assembly*
and chose 4 more, wherein she shal
haue thre uoices. But after her death
the 16 shal chose among themseles
til th'eire come to 18 14 yere olde,
and then he by ther aduice shal
chose the'eir.~~

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.317]

By the queen.

13 Marye the quene

Right trustie and right welbelovyd Cousyn we greete you well. Advertisinge you that
to o' greake greiff and hevyned of harte we have receyved newes and
advertisment that the Kinge o' deareste brother and late souerayn lord is departed
to godde merite upon thursdaye at night by meanes wherof the right of the Crowne
of this Realme of Englande wth the goodgovernance therof and the title of ffraunce is
instynce come unto us by godde meane providence as appereth by furthe provision
as have been made by acte of parliament and the testament and last will of o'
late deareste father Kinge Henrys the eight for o' ffraunce in this behalf. Wherby
you are now discharged of yo' Dutie of allegiaunce to o' said brother the Kinge
and submytted and sett at Large to obeye execute or obey any commandment hereafter
or hereafter to be addrested unto you by Lord or otherwise from or in the name or by
conceit of the authority of the same Kinge o' late brother and on this to us and to o' person
now and once to be hie Legeman. Wherfore right trustie and right welbelovyd for
the ffeithfull truste and affiaunce now have in you. And as you be a noble man we
require commaund and charge you to have an harte and an eye vigilant and ffirmye looke
to godde glorie o' Hono^r the Dutie of o' persone the commonwells quietnes of the whole
Realme. Specially of that o' Countie of Middelsex whiche we have by writt and manerion is
and that you stonde not in any forcible wayes at the commandment call or biddinge
by Lord or otherwise of any person or persons what power except of us yo' shew
Ladre and except also if any worfulf person as goddes frend will dare and attempte
anye violence and by force that shall to you seme pynfull unto o' right and title
apreside for the p^{re}servation of us safe and also to the intent you shall maye be ready to
fue us at o' commandment hereafter to be addrested unto you. We will you shall to the
best of yo' power fortifie and prepare yo' self. And last o' late signed us o' hand
with yo' warrant and discharge in this behalf. With o' you shew not to double
but that we shall in the balance of equitye reason and justice consider yo' endow
and also employe o' oved persone and stoure accordinglye and be assured you wth
furthe o' good furthe and grace we shall deserve godde glorie
to yo' comfort wth the helpe of godd we goe have not all
at o' mane of Lemington the wth of June in the year of o' Lord
D. liij.

Transcription of Mary I's Letter to Sir Edward Hastings, 9 July 1553

By the Quene

Marye the Quene

Right trustye and right welbeloved Cosen we greete you well, Advertisyng you that to our greate greeff and hevynes of harte we have received woofull newes and advertysement that the Kinge our deareste brother late soueryn lorde is departed
last

to godde mercye vppon thursdaye ^ at nyght, by meanes wherof the right of the Crowne of this Realme of Englande *with* the governeunce therof and the tytyle of France is instly come vnto vs by gode mere providence, as apperithe by suche provisyons as have been made by arte of parlyament, and the testament and laste will of our late deareste father Kinge henrye the eight for our *preferment* in this behalf, Wherebye you arr now discharged of your duties of allegiance to our same brother the Kinge and vnburdened and sett at lardge to obserue execute or obey anye commaundement heretofore or hereafter to be addressed vnto you by *lettres* or otherwise from or in the name or by coulour of the auctorytye of the same kynge our late brother, and only to vs and to our persone arr and owe to be true legeman, wherefore right trustie and right welbeloved for the especyall trustie and affiance wee have in you, And as you be a noble men wee require commande and charge you to haue an harte and an ie vigilant and Fullye bent to godes glorie our honour the Suertie of our persone the vnyuersalle quyetnes of the whole Realme, specyallye of that our Counties if Middlesex and Buckes, wher your habitacion and mancyon is and that you stirre not in anye forcyble arraye at the [com]mandement call or biddyne by *lettres* or otherwyse of anye persone or persones what soever excepte of vs your soueryn ladie, and excepte also, if Anye wilfull persone as god forbid will darre and attempte aught violentlye and by force, that shall to you seme *preiudiciall* vnto our right and title aforesaide for the prevencion of *which* case and also to thentent you shall maye be readie to pursue vs at our commandement hereafter to be addressed vnto you, we will you shall to the beste of your powre, fortifie and prepayre yourselfe, And this our *lettre* signed *with* our hand shall your warrant and discharge in this behalf, With[out]e you Further not to doubte but that we shall in the balans of equtye reason a[nd] [i]ustice consider your endeavour and also employe our owne persone and studie accordyngly <...> presente you *with* suche our good favour and grace shall avauance goddes <gl...> weale, to your comforte *with* the helpe of gode who have vs all <...> Yeoven at our manour of Kenninghall the ixth of Julie in the yere of our Lorde <...>liij

Lady Jane Grey's Letter to Sir John St. Lowe and
Sir Anthony Kingston

Jane the Queene

12

Trusty and welbelovyd we grete yo well. By cause we
doubt not but this is most lawfull possession of the Crowne
we have free consent of the nobilitie of our Realm and of the
the states of the same. is both plegynly knowne & undoubted wher
as is most loving subiecte. therefore we do not reuerent
the same but none most earnestly will and require & by the
great warrant of the assembly mustre & love all the
power yet can possible make edges of your limits demit
officers or founden where persons as persons referring
to right trustie & right welbelovyd persons of the
of the same is Henbrooke. their limits limits and officers
and to the same to repaire to all possible speede knowe
Buckinghamshire for the repressing & subduing of certain
tumulte and rebellions moved there against us and of the
by certain persons men for the repressing wherof we
have given order to divers other our good subiectes &
gentlemen of high degree as yo are to repaire in like
manner to the same part. So as we nothing doubt
but upon the same of high & loving subiecte as has
appointed for that purpose to the place where the persons
people yet remain for some space after lacke shute
to abate in their malicious purposes or else to be
possessed and gotten as they deserve. being the
disturbance of their native countries and the subduing
of all men in their degree by rebellion of the base
multitude of rage. Long stand as as of the
wherof hath been seen must needs be the confusion of
the whole nation weale wherof our state trust is in yo
courage wisdom and fidelity in the matter to be done
yo see both to power and to the end wherof
in high sort as by the nobilitie and comber of the
also prescribed unto yo. And for the
of yo charge in the behalf of the same person
of the same to be order to yo satisfaction
as by the same also shall appere unto yo

**Transcription of Lady Jane Grey's Letter to Sir John St. Lowe and
Sir Anthony Kingston**

Recto

Jane the Quene

Trusty and welbeloued we grete yow well. By cause we doubt not but this *our* most lawful possession of the Crowne *with* the free consent of the nobilitie of our Realm and other the states of the same is both playnly known and accepted of yow as *our* most loving subiects therfore we doo not reiterate the same but nowe most ernsetly will and requier and by auctorite hereof warrant yow to assemble mustre and levye all the power ye can possible make either of your seruantes tenantes officers or fryndes aswell horsemen as footemen Reserving to *our* right trustie and right welbeloued Cousens therles of Arundell and Penbroke their tenantes seruantes and officers. And *with* the same repaire *with* all possible speed towards Buckinghamshire for the repressing and subduing of certeyn tumultes and rebellions moved there against vs and our Crown by certayn seditious men for the repressing wherof we haue geuen ordre to dyverse others our good subjects and gentlemen of suche degre as yow ar to repaire in like maner to the same parties : So as we nothing doubt but vpon thaccess of such *our* loving subiectes as be appoynted for this purpose to the place where thies seditieus people yet remayn the same shall either lack hartes to abyd in their malitious purpose or elles receve suche punisshement and execucion as they deserve seking the distruction of their natyve countrie and the subuersion of all men in their degrees by rebellion of the base multitude whose rage being styrrred as as of late yeres hath byn seen must needs be the cunfusion of thole common weale wherfor our speciall trust is in *your* courage wisdom and fydelities in this matter to aduance yorself both *with* power and spede to this entreprise in suche sorte as by *our* nobilitie and Counsell shallbe also prescribed vnto yow And for the sustentation of *your* charges in this biehalf *our* said Counsell by *our* Comaundement furthwith gyve order to *your* satisfaction as by their Lettres also shall appere unto yow and

Be ite that we do assure yo^r of our speciall consideration
of yo^r petition to us to be received and expressed to the
preservation of the 3^e Realme and common weale. Given
under our Signet at the towne of London the xxvijth
July, in the first yere of our reign.



**Transcription of Lady Jane Grey's Letter to Sir John St. Lowe and
Sir Anthony Kingston**

Verso

besides that we do not assure yow of our speciall consideration of
this your seruice to vs our crowne and expressely to the
preservation of this our Realme and common weale Geuen
vnder our Signet at our towre of London the xvijth of
July in the first yere of our Reign

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.12]

The Commission foritelye her Stat made in the xxijth yeare of her
 Quenes ma^{tie} Raigne, And Authoryseth the Commissioners to examine
 whether Marye the Quene of Scotte since the 1st June the
 said xxijth yeare hath compassed or imagined any thinge tending
 the hurte of the Quenes ma^{tie} person, or whosoever she hath bene
 pryncipe to any other person hath compassed or imagined any
 thinge tendinge to the hurte of the Quenes ma^{tie} person. And heretofore
 to good contentment or Indignit as shalbe good proofe the matter
 shall appere.

She was directly charged by the Quenes Seriant that she had
 compassed and imagined the death and destruction of her ma^{tie}
 and also was pryncipe and consentinge to the conspirators and traitors
 of Anthony Babington & John Ballard. & their confederates, &
 so was wthin the compass of both the said Statutes of the Statute
 and Commission.

For declaration whereof, first it was opened that Ballard beinge
 a seminarye priest, and one that by the space of fyve or six yeares
 had ranged through many pt of the Realme, disguised in
 apparell, and under sundrye small names, servinge the Quenes
 Subiecte, & withdrawinge hym from his due obedience did
 goe into Avignon laste & about a weeke after Easter laste
 conference in paris wth Charles Paget. Tho. Morgan and
 Bernardine de Mendoza the Spanish Embassadores, touchinge
 the Invasiinge of this Realme by forren force, rebellion to be
 stirred amongst the ma^{tie} Subiecte & a stronge pte made to
 assiste and wyne wth the Invasioⁿ, and the Statute Quene to be
 deluded. In wth enterprise Charles Paget affirmed that there
 was no hope to prevail duringe the ma^{tie} life.

Whereupon Ballard was sent into England by direction from
 Charles Pagett. and Mendoza to sollicite and practise the
 execution of this their complotte.

He returned to London the xxijth daye beinge the xxijth of
 May laste. and wthin foure or fyve dayes after he conferred
 wth Babington & acquainted hym wth all the whole plotte of this
 treason.

In this conference Babington & Ballard resolved that all forren
 powere and Invasi^on were in payde, but the Quenes ma^{tie}
 were taken awaye. wth. Whereupon they concluded that
 Six gent

Transcription of Proceedings Against Mary, Queen of Scots, 1586

The Commission Recitethe the Statute made in the xxvijth yeare of the Quenes Maiesties Raigne, And Auchorise the Commissioners to examine whether Marye the Quene of Scottes since the [blank] of June the same xxijth yeare hath Compasses or imagined any thinge sending the hurte of the Quenes maiestes person, or whether she hathe bene pryvye that any other person hathe compassed or Imagened any thinge tendinge to the hurte of her highnes person. And thervppon to youe sentence or Iudgment us vpon good profe the matter shall appere.

She was directly chardged by the Quenes Seruant that she hadd Compassed and Imagined the death and destruccion of her Maiestie and also was pryvye and Consenting to the Conspiracies and treasons of Anthony Babington and Iohn Ballard and their Confederates, and so was within the Compas of bothe the said Articles of the Statute and Commission

For declaracion wherof, fyrst it was opened that Ballard beinge a seminarye preist, and one that by the space of fyve or six yeare had ranged throughe many partes of the Realme, disguised in Apparel, and vnder sundrye seuerall names, seducinge the Quenes Subiectes, and withdrawynge them from their due obedience, did goe into France in lent laste and about a weeke after Easter hadd Conference in Paris with Charles Paget Thomas Morgan and Bernadine de Mendoza the spanish Embassador ther, touchinge the Invadinge of this Realm by forein forces, Rebellion to be stirred amongst her maiestes Subiectes and a stronge parte made to assiste and wyne with the Invadors, and the Scottes Quenes to be deliuered, In which enterprise Charles Paget affirmed that ther was no hope prevaile duringe her Maiesties Liffe.

heruvvpon Ballard was sent into England by direccion from Charles Pagett and Mendoza to sollicite and pratise the execucion of this their Complotte.

He returned to London þe vppon whitsunday beinge the xxijth of May laste and within foure or fyve dayes after Conferred with Babington and acquaynted hym with all the whole plotte of theise Treasons.

In this Conference Babington and Ballard resoleed that all forein Power and Invasion were in vayne vnlesse the Quenes Maiestie Were taken awaye. ~~Wh.~~ Whervppon they Concluded that
six gent[lemen]

Elizabeth I's Letter to Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury,
20 August 1571

50
Elizabeth

By the Queen.

50
Most Reverend father in God. Right trusty and right worshipful we greet you well.
Where we required you as the Metropolitan of our Realm, and as the principall
person in our Commission for causes ecclesiastical, to have good regard, that sure
& uniform order in the divine service and rules of the church might be duly kept
as by the Lawes in that behalf is provided and by our Injunctions also decreed and
explained; and that you should call unto you for your assistance & counsel of
Bishops to reforme the abuses and disorders of sundry persons seeking to make alteration
therin: we understanding that with few sleep of the Reverend fathers in God
the bishops of Winchester and Bay and some other ye have well entered in to sum
convenient information of things disorderly, and that now the said Bishop of Bay
is by our commandment repayed in to the Diocese whereby you shall want his
assistance: We minding earnestly to have a perfect information of all abuses
attempted to deforme the uniformitie prescribed by our Lawes and Injunctions,
and that none should be suffered to decline either on the left or on the right
from the strict Line limited by authority of our said Lawes and Injunctions,
do earnestly by our authoritie Royall, will and charge you, by all means lawfull
to proceed therein as you have begun, And for your assistance we will that you
shall by authority execute and in our name send for the Bishops of London and Sarum
and communicate unto our Lord Bishops, them, and straightly charge them to assist
from tyme to tyme betwixt tyme and the month of October; to do all manner of
things requisite to reforme such abuses as afore said mentioned in whomsoever you
shall find the same. And if you shall find in any of the said Bishops
(whom we trust ye shall not) or in any other whosoever ye shall require,
remission to aide and assist you, if upon your admonition the same shall not
be amended, we charge you to advertise us, for we mean not that any person
having credit by their vocation, to aide you, should for any respect forbear or be
remiss in the service tending to the preservation of our Lawes, Injunctions and
commandments. Given at our Manor of Hatfield the first
day of August in the thirtieth year of our reign.

**Transcription of Elizabeth I's Letter to Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury,
20 August 1571**

Elizabeth R

By the Quene

Moost Reuerend Father in God. Right trusty and right welbilouid we grete you well Where we required youe as the metropolitan of our Realm, and as the principal person in our domminion for causes ecclesiaticall, to haue good regard, that such vniform order in the devine seruice and rules of the church might be duely kept as by the lawes in that behalf we provided and by our Iniunctions also declared and explained, and that you shuld call vnto you for yore assistance certayn of our Bisshopes to inform the abuses and disorder of sundry persones seking to make alteration therin : We vnderstanding that with the help of the Reverend fathers in God the bisshops of wynchester and Ely and som other *the* same well enterd in to sum convenient reformation of thinges disorded, and that now the said Bishop of Ely is by one commandement repaid in to the Diocese wherby you shall want his assistance : We minding earnestly to haue a perfect reformation of all abuses attempted to deforme the vniformitie prescribed by our lawes and Iniunctions and that none shuld be sufferd to declyne either on the left or on the right ha[nd] from the direct lyne limited by authoritie of our said lawes and Iniunctiones do earnestly by our authoritie Royall, will and chardg you, by all means law[ful] to proceed herin as you haue begun, And for your assistance we will that you shall by authority herof and in our name send for the Bishops of London and Sa[rum] and communicate these our Let[ters] with them, and straightly charg them to assist vs from tyme to tyme betwixt this and the moneth of Octobre, to do all manner of thinges requisite to reform such abuses or afer ar mentioned in whom soeuer you shall find the same. And if you shall find in any of the said Bisshops (wich we trust ye shall not) or in any other whose ayde you shall requier, any remis[s]nes[s] to ayde and assist you, if vppon your admonition the same shall not be amended, we chardg you to aduertise vs, for we mean not that any persons having credit by there vocation, to ayde you, shuld for any respect forbear or be remiss in the seruice tending to the observation of our lawes, Iniunctions, and commandements. Geven at our Manor of Hatfield the twe[ntieth] Day of August in the thirteenth yere of our reign.

[Petyt MS 538 vol. 47 f.50]

Charles I

58

Right and wellbelov'd We greet you well. Whereas according to sundrie good Lawes and ancient Constitutions of this our Realme, We have published our Proclamation for the due observation of Lent, and for restraint of killing and eating of flesh during the same; we in regard of our Royall Comaundment, and in that it should be more to the publique good, both for maintenance of Navigation and fishing, and for increase of provisions of flesh; & thus, we doubt not but all our Subjects, not ill affected to Government, will readily, and willingly obey, and most of all, those of your Society; we trusting easily of sure we profess the Lawe, ought to be most forward and exemplary in willing conformity thereto; Nevertheless because we have observed, that one of the Readings in your House usually falls in this time of Lent, and that they are of late grown to an excess of Entertainment and charge, more beyond that of former times we we will reforme; And because this ill custome may, trayne we it a libertie of transgressing this our strict Comaundment for observation of Lent, and become of very ill consequence in opening a way to others to use the like licentiousnes, we we will by no means indure. We have therefore thought fitt, in our private care of you (and to prevent those Intemperances) to lett you know, that we expect extraordinary diligence from you in causing our said Proclamation to be strictly observed in that House during this time of Reading, and the rest of the Lent; and likewise at other times of Reading upon any fasting, and these dayes rogatidays, and that you returne us a true account thereof, both now and hereafter from time to time, that so in case of disorder, we may take such course for punishing the offenders as may answer the gravity of so light a contempt, given under our Signett at our Pallace of Westm. the sixteenth day of Marche in the eight yere of our Reigne.

Benchers of the Inner Temple.

Abram Williams.

Transcription Charles I's Letter to Benchers of the Inner Temple, 18 March 1633

Charles R

Trustie and welbeloved Wee greet you well. Whereas according to sundrie good lawes and ancient Constitucions of this our Realme Wee have published our Proclamacion for the due observacion of Lent, and for restraint of killing and eating of Flesh during the same, *which* in regard of our Royall Commaundiment, and in that it tends soe much to the publique good, both for mayntenance of Navigacion and fishing, and for increase of provisions of Flesh ; though Wee doubt not but all of Subiects, not ill affected to Governement, will readily and willingly obey. And most of all, those of *your* Societies ; *which* consisting chiefly of such as professe the lawe, ought to be most forward and exemplary in yielding Conformity thereunto ; Nevertheles because Wee have observed, that one of the Readings, in *your* house vsually falls tn this tyme of Lent, and that they are of late growne to an excessive of Entertainment and charge, much beyond that of former tymes *which* Wee wish reformed ; And because this ill custome may trayne with it a libertie of transgressing this our strict Commaundiment for observacion of Lent, and become of very ill Consequence in opening a way to others to vse the like licentiousnes, *which* Wee will by no meanes indure. Wee have therefore thought fitt, in our princely care of you (and to prevent those Inconveniencies) to lett you know, that Wee expect extraordinary diligence from you in causing our said Proclamacion to be strictly observed in that house during this tyme of Reading, and the rest of the Lent ; and likewise at other times of Reading uppon any Fasting and Fish dates whatsoever ; and that you returne Us a true accompt hereof, both now and hereafter from tyme to tyme, that soe in Case of disorder, Wee may take such Course for punishing the Offendors as may auswer the haynousnes of soe high a Contempt. Given vnder our Signett at our Pallace of Westminster the eighteenth day of March in the eight years of our Raigne.

Benchers etcetera of the Inner Temple

Abra[ham] Williams

[Misc. MS 30 f.58]