

# Bess of Hardwick's Letters

**Letter ID: 170 (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=170>)**

From: Hugh Fitzwilliam (London, Greater London);

To: Bess of Hardwick (Chatsworth House, Derbyshire);

Date: 31 August 1570

Summary: Hugh Fitzwilliam writes a long letter to Bess (countess of Shrewsbury), sending her the 'articles of peace concluded and proclaimed' in France, in French; and reporting in some detail the treason trials in Norfolk, as well as the earl of Leicester's furnishing Kenilworth with 'armour, ammunition and all necessaries for defence'. The writer also reports on military movements of 'the Turk' in Cyprus and Venice.

Archive: Lambeth Palace Library, Talbot Papers, MS 3206, pp. 565-68

Delivery status: to Bess, sent

Letter features: Seal intact - no. Ribbon/floss – no. Letter packet - slit and band

Hands: Hugh Fitzwilliam | archivist |

Version: 1.0

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## People Associated with Letter 170: Hugh Fitzwilliam

Little is known of Hugh Fitzwilliam other than that he was perhaps a relative of Bess and sent her news of the court and abroad.

Other letters associated with Hugh Fitzwilliam:

[23?] January 1568/9 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=164>)

28 July 1570 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=25>)

21 September 1571 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=26>)

3 February 1573/4 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=27>)

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## People Associated with Letter 170: Bess of Hardwick

Born Elizabeth Hardwick (in c.1521/2, d. 13 February 1608), the woman known to posterity as Bess of Hardwick married four times during her life, as a result of which her name changed from Hardwick to Barlow (or Barley), Cavendish, St Loe and then finally (when she was countess of Shrewsbury and then dowager countess) Talbot. As one of the five children of John Hardwick (1495-1528) of Hardwick, Derbyshire, and his first wife, Elizabeth (née Leake), Bess had three sisters (Mary, Jane and Alice) and one brother (James). The Hardwicks were established Derbyshire gentry who had inherited a modest manor house and c.400 acres in and around Hardwick. But when John died in 1528, and their lands were seized by the crown, Bess faced hardship. Bess's mother quickly remarried but her new husband, Ralph Leche of Chatsworth, Derbyshire, brought little land or money to the marriage, and three more daughters were born (Bess's half-sisters Elizabeth, Jane and Margaret). Little else is known of Bess's childhood but, while still young, she was married for the first time, to Robert Barlow (or Barley) of Barlow, Derbyshire, sometime in or before 1543. Barlow died in 1544 and Bess received a small inheritance. In 1547 she married the twice-widowed Sir William Cavendish, treasurer of the king's chamber. Bess and Cavendish had eight children, six of whom survived: Frances (1548), Henry (1550), William (1551, from whom the dukes of Devonshire are descended), Charles (1553, from whom the dukes of Newcastle and Portland are descended), Elizabeth (1554) and Mary (1556). Probably due to a mixture of affection and shared social ambition, Bess's second marriage was happy and fortuitous. She was now moving in courtly circles and experiencing (for the first time) considerable wealth. In 1549 Cavendish and Bess bought the estate of Chatsworth, which was held jointly in both their names and which he and then Bess, following Cavendish's death in 1557, ambitiously rebuilt. Soon after her second husband's death, and sometime before Elizabeth I's accession (in 1558), Bess married Sir William St Loe, a wealthy widower of ancient noble pedigree. St Loe was captain of the guard to the young queen and in addition to further improving Bess's finances, he also brought her into the queen's inner circle and she served briefly as a gentlewoman of the queen's privy chamber (in 1559). The marriage seems to have not been without affection; however, the two would have spent most of it apart - he serving the queen in London and Bess mostly at Chatsworth. Upon St Loe's death (probably in 1565), Bess inherited most of the estate. In 1567 Bess married for a final time, to George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury, one of the richest and most powerful men in England. To consolidate the union of their fortunes, the couple had Bess's eldest son, Henry, marry Shrewsbury's daughter (from his previous marriage), and Shrewsbury's eldest son, Gilbert (later the seventh earl), marry Bess's daughter, Mary. Also around this time, Shrewsbury was appointed to be the keeper of Mary Queen of Scots (from 1568-84). At first, relations between Bess and the Catholic Scottish queen seem to have been amicable; however, relations deteriorated all around as Bess's marriage to Shrewsbury broke down in the 1580s. An infamously nasty and highly public legal battle over estates ensued and finally the courts resolved that Shrewsbury provide Bess with a sizeable income from 1587 onwards (Shrewsbury died in 1590). In 1582, Bess took charge of the upbringing of her orphaned granddaughter, Arbella Stuart (1575-1615), claimant to the English

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and Scottish crowns. In 1587, Bess undertook her remarkable building works at Hardwick: the house now known as Hardwick Old Hall was complete by 1591; next to it, the extraordinary building now known as Hardwick New Hall was complete by 1599 and is one of the greatest architectural ventures of Elizabethan England. It was at Hardwick that Bess spent most of the remainder of her life, much of it devoted to caring for and managing Arbella, who came to loathe her existence in Derbyshire and devised several bizarre plans for her escape (to Bess's great distress). Bess also quarrelled with her eldest son, Henry, and disinherited both him and Arbella in her will. She left most of her estate to her beloved and faithful son, William Cavendish, who continued her great dynasty into the seventeenth century.

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## Other letters associated with Chatsworth House, Derbyshire

- 15 Mar [1550s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=200>)
- 31 Mar [1550s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=198>)
- 13 Apr [c.1550] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=13>)
- 14 Nov [1552] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=99>)
- 13 Jan [c.1560] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=47>)
- 4 Sep [1560?] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=59>)
- 12 Oct [c.1560] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=60>)
- 24 Oct [c.1560] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=61>)
- 18 May 1562 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=55>)
- 20 Nov [1565?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=17>)
- 8 Dec [c.1565] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=28>)
- 26 Feb [1566?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=18>)
- Jun [1568?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=157>)
- 28 Jun [1568?] (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=64>)
- [1570s?] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=210>)
- [1570] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=178>)
- 28 Jul 1570 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=25>)
- 21 Sep 1571 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=26>)
- [1577] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=182>)
- 2 Aug 1578 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=197>)
- 23 Sep 1578 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=121>)
- 22 Jun 1579 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=189>)
- 15 Jul 1582 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=175>)
- 8 Apr 1594 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=236>)
- 8 May 1594 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=102>)

# Bess of Hardwick's Letters

## Other letters associated with London, Greater London

- 14 Nov [1552] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=99>)
- 25 Feb 1558 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=112>)
- 24 Oct [c.1560] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=61>)
- 4 Nov 1561 (destination) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=54>)
- 14 Dec [1564] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=50>)
- [23?] Jan 1569 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=164>)
- 28 Jul 1570 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=25>)
- 21 Sep 1571 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=26>)
- 13 Oct 1571 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=225>)
- 3 Feb 1574 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=27>)
- 9 Jul 1582 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=191>)
- 21 May 1591 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=215>)
- [c.1600] (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=22>)
- 12 Nov 1600 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=20>)
- 4 Jul 1604 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=21>)
- 23 Apr 1605 (origin) (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=23>)

## Normalised view of Letter 170

To the right honorable [the Cou]ntes of Shrevesbury ... at Chattesworthe ... whear./

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My moost humble duetie remembred vnto your honorable good Ladyship may it please the same tunderstand, that I haue sent you herein enclosed the articles of peaux concluded and proclaimed through all ffraunce, in ffrenche by cause thei be not at this howre to be had in Englishe, which be translated and in printing, and if the peaux be kepte the protestantes be indifferently well.

The great sitting is donne at Norviche, and as I do heare credebely that Apellyerd, Througmorton, Redman, and an other is condemned to be hanged drawn and quartered; and Hobert and .ij. moo be condemned to perpetuall imprisonment, with the losse of all their goodes, and landes during their lives. the .iiij. condemned for high treason, and thother for reconsilement. Thei were charged of thies .iiij. pointes. The distruction of the quenes person; The imprisonment of my Lord Keper, my Lord of Lecester, and Secretary Sicell; the setting at Libertie out of the towar the duke of Norfolk; and the banishment of all strangers; and it fell out in their examination that thei wold haue imprisoned Sir Christopher Haydon and Sr William Buttes the quenes Levetenantes; none of them cold excuse them self of any of the .iiij. points saving appellyerd said that he ment nothing towards the quenes person; for that he ment to haue bid them to a bankete, and to haue betrayd them all, and haue wonne credite thereby with the quene. Througmorton was mvte, and wold say nothing, till he was condemned; who than said Thei be full mery now; that wilbe as sory with in thies fewe dayes, Master Bell was attorney, for Master Gerrard, he being one of the iudges; and Master Bell alleged against Appelyerd that he was consenting to the treason before, alleging one Parkers wordes that was broughte prisoner with doctor Story out of fflanders, that Parker hard of the treason before Nallard came ower to the duke of Alva; and there stod one bacon by, that hard Parker say so; my lord offered a booke to bacon for to sweare; O my lord saythe Appelyerd will you condeme me of his othe that is registered for a knave in the booke of marters.

Thei had set out a proclamation; and had .iiij. provisies, one was touching the wantenes of the court; and thother touching this land to be quonquered by the Scottes; and .ij. moo that I cannot remember. There was meny in troble for speaking of seditious wordes; as

Thomas Sicell sayd that the duke of Norfolk was not of that religion as he was accompted for to be; and that his cosen Sicell was the quenes darling, who was the cause of the duke of Norfolks imprisonment with suche lyke, who is put of to the nexte assyse./

Arthur Midelton said; my Lord Morley is gonne to set the duke of Alva into Yermouthe; and if William Kete had not accused Througmorton and the reste; we had had a hott harvest; but if the duke of Norfolk be alive; Thei all dare not put them to deathe./

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Medclalfe said; that he wold helpe the duke of Alva in to Yermouthe; and to washe his handes in the protestantes bloud.

Marshame said; that my lord of Lecester had .ij. childerne by the quene; and for that he is condemned to lowse bothe his eares; or elles pay a .C.li presently.

Chipline said he hoped to the see duke of Norfolk too be king before Michelmas nexte; who dothe interprete that he ment not to be king of England, but to be king of Scotland.

Master Bell and Master Solliciter said bothe to this effecte to the prisoners. What mad fellowes were you, being all rangk papistes, to make the duke of Norfolk your patronne that is as good a protestand as any is in England; and being wicked traytors to hope of his helpe to your wicked intente and purpose; that is as true and as faythefull a subiecte as any is in this lande; saving only that the quene is mynded to imprison him for his contempte.

Doctor Story is at Master Archedeacon Wattes howse in custody besides Powles.

Thurleby the late Busshopp of Ely dyd this last weke at Lambethe.

The Spanishe quene is arryved in the Lowe countries and will imbarke as sowne as may be.

The Emperour is setting forward his other doughter towardes Mettes to be maryd to the ffrenche king.

It is written by lettres of the xxvijth of the last from Venece that the Turk hathe landed in Ciprus a C.ml men and moo and hathe besiged the .ij. great cities within that kingdome, Nicosia, and famagosta; at one assalte at famagosta thei lost .xij.ml men. Vpon the which repulse the Bebarbey of Nattolia the generall of the Turkes army writte to the great Turk his master that he thoughte it was vnvincible; he aunswered that if thei did not wyne it or thei came, thei shold be put to the sword at their returne home.

The Turk hathe sent on other army by land against the Venetians in to Dallmatia, and are besiging of Hara with .xx.ml footemen and .xx.ml horsemen; and divers townes thei haue taken as Spalatro, Elisa, Ebba and Nona. with great spoile and bloudshed; and it is wrien that the Turke[s] severall armes be abowe tow hundrethe thousand men; against the Venetian[s] The men first sent by the Venetians fell so in to deseases at Corfue by the waye, as thei were fayne to prepare new men, which is thoughte will hardly comme to do any good in Ciprus; a man may for



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[your] Ladyship's ever to command during life

[Hugh Fitzwilliam]

## Diplomatic view of Letter 170

[Address Leaf]

### [Address Leaf: Notes]

newes

ultimo Aug 1570 [Later editorial note, hand: archivist]

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To the right honorable

...ntes of Shrevesbury ~

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[Letter Text]

### [Letter Text: Notes]

A<sup>o</sup> 1570

(12 Eliz) [Later editorial note, hand: archivist]

X X XX [Later editorial note, hand: archivist]

565 [Foliation, hand: archivist]

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may it please the same tunderstand, that I haue sent yo<sup>u</sup> herein  
enclosed the articles of peaux concluded and proclamed through  
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[page break]

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... .L. ever to comm<sup>and</sup> during life

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Version: 1.0