

Anno 1552.

After the foresaide Proclamation was proclaimed, the Lordes of the most parte of them continuing and lying in London, came y next day to the Guild hal, during the time that the Lord Maior and their brethren late in their Court of inner Chamber, and entred and communed a long while with the Maior, and at the last the Maior and his brethren came forth vnto the common Counsaile, where was read the kings letter sent to the Maior and citizens, commaunding them to aid him with a thousand wel appointed men out of their citie, and to send the same with all speede to his Castle at windsoze.

This Letter by name was directed to Syr Dentre Amcottes knighte Loze Maior, to Syr Rowlande Byll knight, Maior electe, and to the Aldermen and common Counsaile of the Citie of London. The daye and Date of the Letter, was the sixte of October, in the thirde yeare of his raigue, being assigned with the hand of the King, and of the Loze Protector, the contents of which letter, for the satisfaction of the reader, are heere to be secne in maner and forme as followeth.

EDWARD. By the King.

Trustie and welbeloued, we greete you wel. Wee charge and commaunde you most earnestly to geue order with all speede for the defence and preservation of that our citie of London for vs, and to leuy out of hande, and to put in order as many as conueniently you maye, well weaponed and arraied, keeping good watch at the gates, and to sende vs hither for the defence of our person, one thousand of that our Citie, of trustie and faithfull men to attend vpon vs and our most entirely beloued vncl, Edward Duke of Somerser, Governour of our person, and Protector of our Realmes, dominions, and subiects, well harnessed, and with good and conuenient weapon: so that they do make their repaire hither vnto vs this night, if it be possible, or at the least to morow before noone, and in the meane time to doe what as appertaineth vnto your duetie for ours and our sayd vncl's defence against all such as attempt any conspiracie or enterprise of violence against vs our sayd Vncle, & as you knowe best for our preservation and defence at thys present. Geuen vnder our Signet at our Honor of Hampton Court, the sixte of October the thirde yeare of our raigue.

You shall farther geue credite to our trustie and welbeloued Owen Cleydon, the bearer heereof, in all such things as hee shall further declare vnto you on the behalfe of vs and our sayd vncl the Lord Protector.

Edward Somerser.

This Letter of the king and of the Loze Protector was not so secretly denied, nor so speedily sente, but the Lordes keeping at London, had knowledge immediately thereof (by the meanes, as some suppose, of the Loze Maior, who was then with the King and the Protector, but the truth the Loze knoweth) being there ready furnished with their owne bandes of seruing men, and other souldiours and men of armes.

Who forthwith vpon the same addressed their letters in semblable wise to the sayd Loze Maior and Aldermen, in the kings name, not onely for suppyation of armed men to serue their purposes, and for a sufficient watche to fortifie their Citie, but also that they should not obey any suche letters, Proclamations, or Innuncions sent to them from the Duke. Which letter of the Lordes at the same instante came likewise to the Loze Maior and his brethren, the 6. day of the sayde moneth of October. The tenour and copie of which letter heere ensueth.

To our very good Lord, the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and Citizens of London.

After our right hearty commendations vnto your good Lordshippe, knowing your heartie fauour and earnest zeales to the preferuation of the person of the kings Maiestie & of this realme, and other his maiesties realmes and dominions, we haue thought good to aduertise you, that notwithstanding all the good aduice and Counsell that wee could geue to the Duke of Somerser, to staye him selfe wythin reasonable limites, and to vse hys gouernement nowe in the tender age of hys Maiestie, in suche sorte as myght tends to his highnesse furetie, to the conseruation of hys estate, and to his honour: the sayde Duke neuertheless still continuing in his pride, couetousnes, and ambition: ceaseth not daily by all the waies and meanes he can deuise, to enrich him selfe without measure, and to impouerish his Maiestie.

Hee buildeth in foure or fise places moste sumptuously, and leaueh the poore souldiours vnpaid of their wages, vnuicial-

led, and in all things so vnurnished, as the losses lately susteined, to the greatest dishonor that euer came to the king & this realme, doe declare. Hee soweth daily diuision betwene the Nobles and Gentlemen, and the Commons. Hee rewardeth and entertaineth a number of those that were Captaines of the Commons in these late insurrections: and finally in suche wise subuerteth all lawes, iustice, and good order (as it is euident) that putting hys trust in the Commons, and perceiving that the Nobles and Gentlemen should be an impediment to him in his deuillish purposes, hee laboureth first to haue them destroyed, and thinketh after easly enough to atchieue his desire, which it appeareth plainly, to occupie the kings Maiesties place: For his doings, who soeuer list to beholde them, doe manifestly declare, that hee mindeth neuer to render account to his Maiestie of his proceedings.

These things, with many moe too long to recite, considered, wee pondered wyth our selues, that either wee muste trauaile for some reformation, or wee must in effecte as it were consent with him to the destruction of oure soueraigne Lorde and Countrey. Wherevpon laying apart all respectes, and resting onely vpon our dueties, wee ioyned in Counsell, and thought onely to haue treated the matter with him. Who perceiuing that we ioyned for the king and would haue suche order as might be for the furetie of his Maiesties persone, and the common wealth, strait put him selfe in force, and resteth at plaine poynt (as it appeareth) eyther to goe through with his detestable purpose, in sorte as hee hath done, or to tris it by the sword.

Nowe, for as much as we see presently, that vnlesse there be a reformation, the personne of the kings Maiestie is in moste certaine danger, and this Realme our naturall Countrey lyke to be destroyed wyth all our posterities, like as we haue againe fully resolved wyth Gods helpe, eyther to deliuer the kings Maiestie and the realme from this extreme ruine and destruction, or to spend our liues for the declaration of our faithfull hearts and dueties: so knowing your heartie good-willes and trowth to his Maiestie, and therefore nothing doubting of your readinesse to ioyne with vs in our godly purpose, wee thought good to lette you knowe the very trowth of our enterprise, and in the kings Maiesties behalfe to require you, not onely to putte good and substantiall order for watche and warde, but also to haue an earnest continuall regard to the preservation within your City, of all harnes, weapons, and munitions, so as none be suffered to be conueyed to the sayde Duke, nor any others attending about him: and besides that, you from henceforth obey no letters, proclamations, nor other commaundements to be sent from the sayd Duke. And thus we bid your Lordship most heartily fare well. From London, the sixt of October.

Your Lordships assured louing frendes.

- Will. Saint Iohn. Arundell. Edward North.
W. Northampton. Th. Southampton. Iohn Gage.
Iohn Warwike. William Peter. Rich. Southwell.

After the receiuinge of these two Letters aboue mentioned, the one from the King, the other from the Lordes, whiche came both at one instant, wyth contrarye commaundement to the Loze Maior and Citizens of London, the case seemed harde to them, and very doubtfull (as it was in dede) what waye to take, and what were best for the Citizens to doe. On the one side the name and authority of the king was much, on the other side the power and garrisons of the Lordes, lyinge then in London, was not little, which seemed then to be suche, as would haue no repulle.

The case thus standing perplexedly, first by the mouth of the Recorder it was requested, that the Citizens would graunt their aide rather vnto the Lordes, for that the Protector had abused both the kings maiestie, and the whole Realme, & that without he were taken from the king, and made to vnderstande his follie, this Realme was in great hazards, and therfore required that the citizens would willingly assent to ayd the Lordes with 500. men.

Hereunto of a great parte of the Common Counsaile, was no other answere made but silence. But the Recorder (who at that time was M. Brooke) still cryed vpon them for answere. At the last drayped by a wife and a good Citizen named George Stralowe, and sayde:

In thys case, it is good for vs to thinke of things past, to auoyde the danger of thynges to come. I remember (sayeth he) in a Booke wyrtten in Fabians Chronicle, of the warre betwene the King and his Barons, which was in the time of King Dentre the thirde, & the same time the Barons (as our Lordes do now) remanued aide of the Maior and Citie of London, and that in a rightfull cause for the common weale, which was for execution of diuers god lawes against y king, which would not suffer those lawes

Crimes layd to the Lord Protector by the Lordes

Iuste iudicate filij hominum.

The City of London vrged with two contrary letters at one instant.

The Recorder speaketh for the Lordes

The grane Oration of a discrete Citizen speaking for the king whose name was George Stralowe a Parliament man. Deuision betwene the

The Lordes coming into the Guild hall.

The Copy of the kinges letter sent to the L. Maior, Aldermen and Citizens of London, in the behalfe of the L. Protector.

The letter of the Lordes sent to the L. Maior & Coucell of London, agaynst the Lord Protector.