

{Anno} 1553.

The Lady Mary wedded to Custome.

The Lady Mary in displeasure both with her brother and father.

Lady Mary writeth to K. Henry her father.

The Protestation of Lady Mary.

Lady Mary standeth to the Popes judgement.

This briefly may suffice to vnderstande, that for all the writing, sending, and practising with the Lady Mary, by the King and his Counsaile, and also by the Bishop Ridley, yet would she not be reclaimed from her owne singular opinion fixed vpon custome, to giue anye indifferente hearing to the word and voice of veritie. The whiche set will of the said Lady Mary, both this yong King and also his father King Henry before him right well perceauing and considering, they were both much displeas'd agaynst her: In to much that not onely her brother did bitterly sequester her in his will, but also her own father considering her inclination, conceiued suche hatt agaynst her, that for a great space he did seclude her from the title of Princesse, yea and seem'd so egerly intenc'd agaynst her, that he was fully purposed to proceede further with her (as it is reported) had not the intercession of Thomas Cranmer the Archbysnop, reconciled the King agayne to fauour and pardon his owne daughter. For the better vnderstanding whereof, by these her owne letters copied out of her owne hand writing (whiche I haue to shew) something may be perceiued, and more peraduenture may be gessed. The words out of her owne hand writing be these. And first her letter to King Henry her father becometh followeth.

* A Letter of the Lady Mary, to King Henry her father.

In my most humble wife I beseeche your grace of your dayly blessing. Pleaseth it the same to be aduertised, that this morning my Lord my Chamberleyne came and shewed me, that he had receiued a letter from sir William Paulet Controller of your house. The effect whereof was, that I should with all diligence remove vnto the Castle of Herford. Whereupon I desired him to see the same letter, which he shewed me. Wherein was written, that the Lady Mary the Kings daughter should remove to the place before said, leaving out in the same the name of Princesse. Which when I heard, I could not a little marueyle, trusting verily that your grace was not priuie to the same letter as concerning the leaving out of the name of Princesse, for as much as I doubt not in your goodnes, but your grace doth take me for your lawfull daughter, borne in true Matrimonic. Wherefore if I should agree to the contrary, I should in my conscience runne in the displeasure of God, whiche I hope assuredly your grace will not that I should. And in all other things your grace shall haue me alwayes as humble and obedient daughter and handmayd, as euer was child to the father, which my duty bindeth me to: as knoweth our Lorde, who haue your grace in his most holy tuition, with much honour and long life, to his pleasure. Written at your Manor of Beaulieu this second day of October.

By your most humble daughter, Mary Princesse.

* A protestation of the Lady Mary, to certayne Lordes sent by the King her father, with certayne requestes vnto her.

My Lordes, as touching my remaining to Hatfield, I will obey his Grace, as my duty is, or to any other place that his grace will appoint me. But I protest before you and all other that be here present, that my conscience will in no wise suffer me to take any other then my selfe for the Kings lawfull daughter, borne in true matrimonic, or Princesse, and that I will neuer willingly and wittingly say or do, whereby any person might take occasion to thinke that I agree to the contrary, not of any ambition or proud mind, as God is my Iudge: but that if I should say or do otherwile, I should in my conscience slander the beede of our mother holy Church and the Pope, who is the iudge in this matter, and none other: and also dishonour the King my father, the Queene my mother, and falsly contesse my selfe a Wharid, which God defende that I should do, seeing the Pope hath not so declared it by his sentence definitive, for to his iudgement I submit me.

As you haue heard some part already of the stout courage of the Lady Mary toward her father, and also by her letters no lesse was declared toward King Edward her brother and other of his Counsaile: as well may appeare by the letters aboue specified, betweene her and the King

her brother and his counsaile: So now let vs inferre somewhat likewise of the stout talke and demeanour of the sayd Lady Mary toward D. Ridley Bishop of London, who gently comming to her of his good will, had his communication to her, and the same as here followeth.

About the eight of Sept. 1553. D. Ridley then Bysnop of London, lying at his house at Hadham in Hartfordshire: went to visite the Lady Mary then lying at Hadden two myles off: & was gently entertained of Sir Tho. Wharton & other her officers, till it was almost xi. of the clock. About which time the said Lady Mary came forth into her chamber of presence, and then the said Bishop there saluted her grace, and sayde, that he was come to doe his duty to her grace. When she thanked him for his paynes, and for a quarter of an hour talked with him very pleasauntly: and sayd, that she knew him in the Court when he was Chapleine to her father, and could well remember a sermon that hee made before King Henry her father, at the marriage of my Lady Clinton y now is, to Sir Anthony Browne &c. and so desired him to dine with her officers.

After dinner was done, the bishop being called for by the said Lady Mary, returned agayne to her grace, betwene whome this communication was, first the bishop began in manner as followeth.

Bishop. Wherewith I came not onely to do my duty to see your Grace, but also to offer my selfe to preache before you on Sunday next, if it will please you to heare me. At whos her countenance chaunged, and after silence for a space, he answered thus.

Mary. My Lorde, as for this last matter, I pray you make the answer to it your selfe.

Bishop. Madam, considering mine office and calling, I am bounde of duty to make to your grace this offer, to preache before you.

Mary. Well, I pray you make the answer (as I haue sayd) to this matter your selfe: for you know the answer well enough. But if there be no remedy but I must make you answer, this shall be your answer: The doore of the parische Church aduoyning shalbe open for you, if you come, and ye may preache, if you list, but whether I, or none of mine shall heare you.

Bishop. Madam, I trust you will not refuse Gods word. Mary. I cannot tell what ye call Gods word. What is not Gods worde now, that was Gods word in my fathers dayes.

Bishop. Gods worde is all one in all times, but hath bene better vnderstanded and practised in some ages, then in other.

Mary. You durst not for your eares, haue aduouced that for Gods worde in my fathers dayes, that now you doe. And as for your new booke, I thanke God I neuer read none of them: neuer did, nor neuer will doe.

And after many bitter wordes against the forme of religion then established, and against the gouernment of the Realme, and the lawes made in the young yeares of her brother, which she sayd she was not bound to obey, till her brother came to perfect age, and then affirmed shee would obey them. She asked the Bishop whether he were one of the Counsaile: He answered, No. You might well enough (sayd she) as the Counsaile goeth now a dayes.

And so she concluded with these wordes: My Lord, for your gentleness to come and see me, I thanke you, but for your offering to preache before me, I thanke you neuer a whit.

Then the lady M. was brought by sir Thomas Wharton, to the place where he dwelt, & desired to drink. And after he had drunke, he paused a little while, looking very sadly, & suddenly brake out into these wordes: Surely I haue done amisse, why so, quoth sir Thomas Wharton: For I haue drunke (sayd he) in that place where Gods word offered, hath bene refused: whereas if I had remembered my duty, I might haue departed immediately, and haue shak'd of the dust of my shooes for a testimonie agaynst this house. These wordes were by the sayd bishop spoken with such a vehemencie, that some of the hearers afterward confessed they heare to stand vponight on their brades. Thys done, the sayd Bishop departed, and so returned to hys house. Testified by a certayn reuerend personage yet aliue, being then the bishops Chaplaine.

Talke betweene Lady Mary and Bysnop Ridley.

Bysnop Ridley offereth to preache before the Lady Mary.

Lady Mary refused to heare Bishop Rydley to preache before her.

It is lykelyhood was perswaded by Witches and blinde prophesies that King Edward should neuer liue so long.

Bysnop Rydley repented to haue dronken there where Gods worde was refused.

And touching the nature and disposition of the Lady Mary, whereby the way may be prepared the better to the troubles of the next Booke following: we intend (the grace of God assisting vs therein) now further to proceede in describing the actes and proceedings of the foresayde Lady Mary, comming now to be Queene, and aduanced next after this godly King Edward, to the Crowne of this Realme of England.

¶ The end of the ninth Booke.