

{ Anno 1558 }

Lady Elizabeth charged with the businesse of Peter Cantow. Lady Elizabeth threatened to goe to the Tower. Lady Elizabeth put together her selfe to the Tower.

The Friday before Palmesunday, the 13. of winchester, with xij. other of the Countaile (who shall bee here namelesse) came vnto her grace from the Queenes Maestie, and burdened her with wraies conspaciue: which she utterly denied, affirming that she was altogether guiltlesse therein. They being not contented with this, charged her grace with busines made by Sir Peter Carew, and the rest of the Gentlemen of the west countrey: which also she utterly denying, cleared her innocencie therein.

In conclusion, after long debating of matters, they declared vnto her, that it was the Queenes will & pleasure that she should go vnto the tower, while the matter were further tried and examined.

Whereat they being agast, said, that they trusted the Queenes Maestie would bee more gracious Lady vnto her, and that her highnesse would not otherwise conceyue of her, but that she was a true woman: declaring furthermore to the Lordes, that she was innocēt in all those matters wherein they had burdened her, & desired them thereto to be a further meane to the Queen her sister, that she being a true woman, it should not be committed to so notorious and dolefull a place, protesting that she would request no mercy at her hand, if she should bee proued to haue consented vnto any such kynde of matter as they layed vnto her charge: and therefore in fine desired their Lordshippes to thinke of her what she was, and that she might not so cruelly be deliued withall for her treach.

Wherunto the Lordes answered againe, that there was no remedy, for that the Queenes Maestie was fully determined that she should go vnto the Tower, wherewith the Lordes departed, with their caps hanging ouer their eyes. But not long after, without the space of an houre or little more, came foure of the foresaid Lordes of the countaile, which were the Lord Treasurer, the B. of winchester, the lord Steward, the Erie of Suffex, with the gard, who warding the next chamber to her, sciled all her Gentlemen and Yeomen, Ladies and Gentlewomen, saying that for one Gentleman Chamber, three Gentlewomen, and two Schoomes of her Chamber, were appointed in their comes three other men of the Queenes, & thire waiting women to giue attendance vpon her, y none should haue access to her grace.

At which tyme there were an hundredth of Roosther foules in white coates, warbling and warbling about the gardens all that night, a great fire being made in the midst of the hall, and two certaine Lordes watching there all with their hand and company.

Vpon Saturday following, two Lordes of the countaile (the one was the Erie of Suffex, the other shall bee namelesse) came and certified her grace, that forthwith she must go vnto the tower, the barge being prepared toher, and the tide now ready, which tarried for no body. In hea- my made her grace requested the Lordes that she might tar- ry another tyme, trusting that the next would be better and more comfortable. But one of the Lordes replied, that nei- ther tyme nor tyme was to be delayed.

And when her grace requested him that she might bee suffered to write to the Queenes Maestie, he answered, that she durst not permyt that, adding that in his iudgement it would rather hurt, then profit her grace in so doing.

But the other Lord, more courteous and fauourable, (who was the Erie of Suffex) kneeling downe, told her grace that she should haue libertie to write, and as he was a true man, he would deliuer it to the Queenes highnesse, and bring an answer of the same, what soeuer came there- of wherupon the wote, albeit she could in no case be suffered to speake with the Queene to her great discomfort, being no offender against the Queenes Maestie.

And thus the tyme and tyme passed away for that season, they pryncipally appointing all things ready that she should go the next tyme which fell about midnigh: but to feare the she should be taken by the way, they durst not. So they stayed all the next day, being Palmesunday. When a- bout it, of the clocke thre two returned againe, declaring that it was tyme for her grace to depart. She answering, if there be no remedy, I will be contented, willing the Lordes to go on before. Being come forth into the garde, she did cast vp her eyes toward the window, thinking to haue leene the Queene, which she could not, whereat she layd, she murmured much what the nobilitie of the realme ment, which in that towne would suffer her to be leade: into captiuitie, the Lord knew whether, for she did not. In the meane tyme commandement was given in all London, that euery one should keepe the Church and close their Psalmes, while in thence the reason she might be conuied without all recourse of people into the Tower.

After all this, she took her barge with the two foresaid Lordes, three of the Queenes Gentlewomen, and three of her owne, her Gentleman Chamber, and two of her Schoomes, lying and houering vpon the water a certain space, for that they could not stowe the barge, the barge men being very unwilling to stowe the same to stow as they had, because of the danger therof: for the steme of the boate, broke vpon the ground, the fall was so big, and the water was so shallowe, that the boate being vnder the bidge, there layd agayne a while. At landing, she first layd, and demed to land at those places where all traitors and offenders customably vied to land, neither wold could she, but she should go ouer her thoe. The Lordes were gone out of the boate before, and asked why she came not. One of the Lordes went back agayne to her, & brought word she would not come.

Then sayd one of the Lordes which shall be namelesse, that she should not chafe: and because it did then raine, he offered to her his clake, which she (putting it backe with her hand with a good dally) refused. So she coming out, hauing one face vpon the staire, saide: Here landers as true a subject being prisoner, as cuer laied at thier staire: And before the Lord I speake it, hauing none other friends but thre alone.

To whom the better Lord answered againe, that if it were so, it was the better for her: for her lading there was a great multitude of her seruantes & warders standing in their order, what needed all this said she. It is the vic (sayd some) so to be when any prisoner came thither. And it is (quoth she) to my cause, I beseeche you that they may be dismissed, wherat the poore men knefeld downe, and with one voyce desired the Lord to preferre her grace, who the next day were released of their cold coates.

After this passing a little further, she sat downe vpon a cold stone & there rested her selfe. To whom the Licentiate then being, said: My aduise, you were best to come out of the raine, for you sit vntoholomely. She then repli- ing, answered againe: better sitting here then in a worse place: for I do knowe, if I know not together you will bring me. With that her Gentleman Chamber wept: she de- manding of him what he ment so vncomfortably to vie her, saying she toke him to be her comforter, and not to dis- may her, especially for that she knew her truth to be such, that no man should haue cause to weepe for her. But forth she went into the prison.

She dozes were locked and bolted vpon her: which did not a little discomfort and dishay her grace. At what tyme she called to her Gentlewoman for her booke, desiring the same not to suffer her to build her foundation vpon the sandes but vpon the rocke, wherby all blaiss of blistering weather should haue no power agaynst her. The dozes being thus locked, & the cloe shut vp, the Lordes had great cofidence howe to keepe warde and watch, euery man de- claring his opinion in that behalfe, agreeing straightly and circumferently, to keepe her.

Then one of them, which was the Lord of Suffex swearing, sayd my Lordes, let vs take heede, and doe no more then our commision will beare vs, what sooner shall happen hereafter. And further, let vs consider that she was the king, our Maesties daughter, and therefore let vs be such dealing, that we may answer vnto it hereafter, if it shall to happen, for rust dealing (quoth he) vs alwayes answerable: wherunto the other Lordes agreed that it was well sayde of him, and thereupon departed. Being in the Tower, without any daies commandement was that she should haue Maestie within her house. One day young was then her Chaplyne: and because there was none of her men so well learned to helpe the priest to say masse, y masse stayed for that day.

The next day two of her Yeomen, who had gone long to schoole before and were learned, had two Abbes provided and deliuered them, so that vpon the Abbes they should helpe the priest. One of the sayd Yeomen, holding the Abbe in his hand, pretending ignorance at his res- poynt, let the priest, making as though he could answer that no farther.

It would make a pittifull and also a strange story, here by the way to touch and recite what examinations and rackings of poore men there were to finde out that thre that should cut her throat: what gaping among my Lordes of the clergy, to see the day wherein they might walch their goodly white rochetes in her innocent blous, but especially the Bishp, of winchester Steuen Gardiner, then A. Schameclour, elder of the roff, who then with him came vnto her, with diuers other of the counsell, and examined her of the same that was at Aldridge, between her and the James Acreff, concerning her remaining from thence to Dunnington Castle, requiring her to declare

Lady Elizabeth sent to the Tower. The wordes of Lady Elizabeth entering the Tower.

The Christian prayer of Lady Elizabeth.

The Lord of Suffex speaketh for Lady Elizabeth.

The hard dealing of a certayne Lord with the Lady Elizabeth. The Erie of Suffex gentle to the Lady Elizabeth. Lady Elizabeth wretched to the Queene but it would not tene.

The Bishp of Winchester causeth to be taken to the Tower.