

Anno 1558.

Lady Elizabeth examined by the h. of Winchester.

The friendly speech of the Earle of Arundell to the Lady Elizabeth.

Syr James Acroft examined touching the Lady Elizabeth.

These were not the officers of the Tower, but such as went in white & greene.

Lady Elizabeths servants restrained for bringing her dyet to the Tower.

Displeasure betwene the Lord Chamberlayne and Lady Elizabethes men.

Lady Elizabethes waytingmen in the Tower.

what she ment thereby. At the first, she being so sodainly asked, did not well remember any such house: but within a while, well advyising her selfe, she sayde: In deede (quoth she) I doe now remember that I have such a place, but I never laye in it in all my lyfe. And as for any that hath moued me thereunto, I do not remember.

Then to enforce the matter, they brought forth sir James Acroft. The W. of Winchester demanded of her what she said to that man. She answered, that shee had little to say to hym, or to the rest that were then prisoners in y^e tower. But my Lordes (quoth she) you do examine every mean prisoner of me, wherein I thinke you doe me great injury. If they haue done euill and offended the Queenes Maicesty, let them answer to it accordingly. I beseech you my Lordes, toyne not me in this sort with any of these offenders. And as concerning my goyng vnto Dunnington Castle, I do remember that M. Hobby and mine officers and you sir James Acroft, had such talk: but what is that to the purpose, my Lordes, but that I may goe to myne owne houses at all tymes?

The L. of Arundell kneeling downe, said: your grace sayth true, and certainly we are very soyy that we haue so troubled you about so vayne matters. She then sayd: my Lordes, you do sift me very narrowly. But will I am assured, you shall not do moze to me then God hath appointed, and so God forgyue you all.

At their departure, sir James Acroft kneeled downe, declaring that he was soyy to see the day in which he shuld be brought as a witness against her grace. But I assure your grace (sayd he) I haue bene maruelously tossed and examined, touching your highnesse, which the Lord knoweth is very strange to me. For I take God to record before all your honours, I do not know any thing of that crime that you haue layd to my charge, and will thereupon take my death, if I should be dynen to so trait a triall.

That day, or thereabouts, diuers of her owne officers who had made prouision for her diet, brought the same to the utter gate of the Tower, the common rascall souldiours receiuing it: which was no small grieffe vnto the Gentlemen, the bringers thereof. wherfore they required to speak with the Lord Chamberlayne, being then Constable of the Tower, who, commyng before his presence, declared vnto his Lordship, that they were much astrayd to bypng her graces diete, and to deliuer it vnto such common and desperate persons as they were which did receiue it, beseeching his honor to consider her grace, and to geue such order, that her viands might at all tymes bee brought in by them which were appointed thereunto. Vea Sirs said he: who appointed you this office? They answered, her graces counsaile. Counsaile quoth he? There is none of them which hath to do, either in that rale, or any thing els within this place: and I assure you, for that she is a prisoner, she shall be serued with the Lieutenants men, as other the prisoners are. wherat the Gentlemen sayd, that they trusted for moze fauour at his hands, considering her personage, saying, that they mistrusted not, but that y^e Queene and her Counsaile would be better to her grace then so, & therewith shewed themselues to be offended at y^e vngatefull words of the L. Chamberlayne towards their Ladye and maistresse.

At this he sware by God, striking hymselfe vpon the brest, that if they did either scorne or spyng at him, he wold let them where they should see neither sunne nor Moone. Thus taking their leaue, they desired God to bypng hym into a better kynde toward her grace, and departed from hym.

Vpon the occasion wherof, her graces Officers made great sute vnto the Queenes Counsaile, that some might be appointed to bring her dyet vnto her, and that it might no moze be deliuered into the common souldiours of the Tower, which bypng reasonably considered, was by the granted. And thereupon were appointed one of her Gentlemen, her clarke of her kitchen, & her two Burneyers to bring in her prouision once a day. All which was done, the warders ener waiting vpon the bringers thereof.

The Lord Chamberlayne hymselfe being alwayes with them, circumspectly and narrowly watched, and searched what they brought, and gaue heede that they should haue no talke with any of her graces waiting seruantes, and so warded them both in and out. At the said sute of her officers were sent by the commandement of the Counsaile, to waite vpon her grace, two Yeomen of her chamber, one of her Robes, two of her Pantry & Tray, one of her Buttry, another of her Seller, two of her Kitchen, & one of her Larder, all which continued with her the tyme of her trouble. Where the Constable, bypng at the first not very well

pleased with the commyng in of such a company agaynst his will, would haue had his men still to haue serued with her Graces men, which her seruants at no hand would suffer, desiring his Lordship to be contented, for that order was taken, that no stranger should come within their Offices. At which answer being soze displeased, he brake out into these threacynng wordes: well (sayd he) I will handle you well enough. Then went hee into the kitchen, and there would needs haue his mee costed with her Graces meate, and sayd, that his Cooke should come thither and dresse it. To that her Graces Cooke answered: my Lord, I will neuer suffer any stranger to come about her diete, but her owne sworne men, so long as I lyue. He said they should. But the Cooke sayd, his Lordship should pardon hym for that matter. Thus did hee trouble her poze seruants very stoutly: though afterward he were otherwile aduised, and they moze curteously vsed at his handes. And good cause why, for he had good there, & feared of the best, & her grace payed well for it. wherfore he vsed hymselfe afterward moze reuerently toward her grace.

After this sort, hauyng lye a whole moneth there in close prison, and being very euill at ease therewithall, he sent for the L. Chamberlayne, and the Lord Shandoyes to come and speake with her. who commyng, she requested them that she might haue liberty to walke in some place, for that she felt her selfe not well. To the which they answered, that they were right soyye that they coulde not facilitate her graces request, for that they had commaundement to the contrary, which they durst not in any wise break. Furthermore, she desired of them, if that could not be granted, that she might walke but into the Queenes lodgyng. No noz yet that (they answered) could by any means be obtained without a further sute to the Queene & her Counsaile. well sayd she, my Lordes, if the matter be so hard y^e they must be sued vnto for so small a thyng, & that friends ship be so trait. God comfort me, and so they departed, she remaining in her old dungon still, without any kynde of comfort but onely God.

The next day after, the L. Shandoyes came again vnto her grace, declaring vnto her that he had sued vnto the counsaile for further liberty. Some of them consented thereunto, diuers other dissented, for that there were so manye prisoners in y^e tower. But in conclusion, they did all agree, that her grace might walke into those lodgings, so that he and the L. Chamberlayne, and thre of the Queens Gentlewomen did accompany her, the windowes being shut, and she not suffered to looke out at any of them: wherwith she contented her selfe, and gaue him thanks for hys good will in that behalfe.

Afterwards there was libertie granted to her grace to walke in a litle garden, the dozes and gates being shut vp, which notwithstanding was as much discomfort vnto her, as she walke in the garden was pleasure & acceptable. At which tynes of her walking there, the prisoners on that side straightly were commaunded not to speake or looke out at the windowes into the garden, till her grace were gone out agayne, haining in consideration thereof, their keepers waiting vpon them for that time. Thus her grace with this small libertie, contented her selfe in God, to whom be prayse therfore.

During this tyme, there vsed a litle boy, a mans child in the Tower, to resort to their chambers, and many times to bring her grace flowers, which likewise he did to the other prisoners that were there. wherupon naugbry & suspicious heades thinking to make and wyng out some matter therof, called on a tyme the childe vnto the, promising him figges and apples, and asked of him wher he had bene with the Earle of Deuonshyre, not ignorant of the childes wounding frequenting vnto him. The boy answered, that he would go by and by thither. Further they demanded of him, when he was with the Lady Elizabethes grace. He answered euery way: Furthermore they examined him, what the Lord of Deuonshyre sent by him to her grace. The childe sayd, I will go know what he will geue to carry to her. Such was the discretion of the childe, being yet but foure yeares of age. This same is a crafty boye, quoth the Lord Chamberlayne. Howe say you my Lordes Shandoyes? I pray you my L. (quoth the boy) geue me the figges you promised me. No Mary (quoth he) y^e shall be whipped if thou come any moze to the Lady Elizabeth, or the Lordes Courtny. The boy answered: I will bypng my Lady my mistres, moze flowers. wherupon the childes father was commaunded to permit the boye no moze to come vp into they chambers.

The next day, as her grace was walking in the garde, the childe peeping in at a hole in the doze, cryed vnto her, saying: mistres, I can bring you no moze flowers, wherat she smiled, but sayd nothing, vnderstanding thereby what they

Variance betweene the Lord Chamberlayne and Lady Elizabethes seruantes.

Lady Elizabeth denied the libertie of the Tower.

Liberty granted to Lady Elizabeth to walke in a litle garden.

Suspicious heades.

A young childe examined for bringing flowers to the Lady Elizabeth.