

{ Anno }
1558.
The Constable of the Tower discharged of his office. Syr Henry Benfield with his company, placed about the Lady Elizabeth.

they had done. wherefore afterwards the Chamberlaine rebuked highly his father, commaunding him to put him out of the house. Alasse poor infant, quoth the father. It is a cruell miserie, quoth the Lord Chamberlaine: let me see him here no more.

The day of May, the Constable was discharged of hys office of the Tower, and one Syr Henry Benfield placed in his rowne, a man unknown to her grace, and exercised the more sturdiely which lo daunc mutation was done her no little amaze. Hee brought with him an 100. soldiers in blew coats, whereby the was marvellously discomfited, & demanded of such as were about her, whether the Lady James staffold were taken away or no, fearing by reason of their coming, least the should have playing her part. To whom answer was made, that the scaffold was taken away, and that her grace needed not to doubt of any such pyramies. For God would not suffer any such reason against her person. wherewith being contented, but not altogether satisfied, hys asked what hys Henry Benfield was, and whether he was of that confidence or no, that if her matter being secretly committed to his charge, he would see the execution thereof.

She was answered, that they were ignorant what manner of man he was. Howbeit they persuaded her that God would not suffer such wickedness to proceede. wel, quoth hys; God grant it be so. For thou, O God, canst mollifie all such pyramous heares, and disappoynt all such euill purposes: and I beseeche thee to spare the creature, which am thy seruant and at thy commaundment, resting by thy grace euer so to remaine.

About which time it was seld abroad, that her grace should be carried from thence by this new wily Captaine and his followers: but whether, it could not be cleered. which was vnto her a great grief, especially for that such a company was appoynted to her guard, requesting rather to continue there still, then to be ledde thence with suche a sort of calkes. At last, plaine answer was made by the L. Shambours, that there was no remedie, but from thence the must needs depart to the shewour of woodstocke, as he thought. Being demanded of her, for what cause; for that (quoth he) the Tower is like further to be furnished. Shee being desirous to knowe what he meant thereby, demanded, wherewith. He answered, with such matter as the Queene and Louard were determined in that behalfe, whereof he had no knowledge: and so departed.

In conclusion, on a Trawtie Sunday being the 19. day of Maye, she was removed from the Tower, the Lorde Treasurer being then there for the lading of her Carttes, and discharging the place of the same. where Syr Henry Benfield (being appoynted her Waile) did receive her with a company of rachelles to Harde her, besides the Lorde of Darvies banke, wayting in the Countrey about for the moneth in the water. Vnto whom at length came my Lorde of Tame, ioyed in Communion with the sayd Syr Henry, for the safe guiding of her to prison: and they together comieid her grace to woodstocke, as hereafter followeth.

The first day they conducted her to Richmond, where she continued all night, being retained of her owne men, which were lodged in one Chambers, and Syr Henry Benfields followers appoynted in their rownes to gene attendance on her person. Whereat she being marvellously disdaind, thinking verely some secret mischief to be working towards her, called her Gentleman Officer, and desired him with the rest of his company to pray for her. For this night (quoth she) I thinke to die. wherewith hee being strictest to the heart, sayde: God forbid that any such wickednes should be pretended against your grace. So comforting her as well as hee could, at last hee burst out into teares, and went from her downe into the Court, where were walking the Lorde of Tame and Syr Henry Benfield.

Then hee coming to the Lorde of Tame (who hadde professed to him muche friendship) desired to speake with him a word or two. Vnto whom he familiarly sayde, he should wish all his heart, which when Syr Henry, standing by, heard, he asked what the matter was. To whom the Gentleman Officer answered: no great matter Syr (sayd he) but to speake with my Lord a word or two.

Then, when the Lorde of Tame came to him, he spake on this wise: My Lord (quoth he) you have ben always my good Lord, and so I beseech you to remaine. The cause why I come to you at this time, is to desire your honour, humbly to declare vnto mee whether any danger is meant towards my Wife this night, or no, that I and my poore fellows may take this part as shall please God to appoynt: for certainly we wil rather die, then she should secretly and innocently miscare. Henry (sayde the

Lord of Tame) God forbid that any such wicked purpose should be wrought: and rather thinke it best for me, if with my men are ready to die at best of all, and (so pleased be God) they passed that whole night, with no little benigne of heart.

Afterwards passing ouer the water at Richmond, going towards woodstocke, her grace eyed certain of her poore seruantes standing on the other side, which were very desirous to see her. Whom when she beheld, turning to one of her men standing by, the sayd poynter: I see certain of my men: goe to them and lay their woordes from me: Tanquam ouis.

So the passing forward to woodstocke, was lodged there that night in the Deane of woodstocke house, a place more meete in decree for a prison then a prisonelle.

And soon thence her Grace was garded and brought the next night to W. Domes house, where much people standing by the way, some presented to her one gize, and some an other. So that Sir Henry was greatly moued therewith, and troubled the some people very sore, for the seeing their loving hearts in such a manner, calling them rebels and traitors, with such like vile woordes.

Besides, as she passed through y villages, the townes men taking the bells, as being ioyful of her coming, thinking verely it had bene other while then it was in decree, as the league promised after to the sayd poynter, for musicke vnto the side by Henry hearing the same, sent his followers thither, who apprehended some of the rugges, resting them in the stocks, & other wise vncourteously insulting other some for their good willes.

On the morrow her grace passing from maister Domes (where was for y time of her abode there, a straight watch kept) came to the Lorde of Tames house, where they lay all the night, being very princely entertained, both of his saythes and Ladies. Benfield and Benfield women. Whereat Syr Henry Benfield grummed, and was highly offended, saying vnto them, that they could not tell what they did, and were not able to answer to their doings in that behalfe, letting them to vnderstand that there was the Queene and Ladies prisoner, and no other wise: abusing them therfore to take heed and beware of after clappes, wherunto the Lord of Tame answered in this wise: that he was well aduised of his doings, being ioyed in Communion as well as hee, adding with warrant, that her grace might and should in his house be merry.

The next day, as she should take her journey fro Richmond toward woodstocke, the Lord of Tame, with another Gentleman being at Tables, playing, and dropping vnto crownes, the Lorde Elizabeth passing by, stayed and sayde, hee would see the game played out, which Sir Henry Benfield would faine permit. The game running longe about, and they playing drop vnto crownes, come out, sayd he, I will care, sayd she, and will for this game out.

After this, Sir Henry went by into a chamber, where was appoynted for her grace a chaire, two cushions, and a fower carpet very faire & princelike, wherein sitting vnto her late, and called one Barwicke his mans to play of his bowes, which as some as it was known among y Ladies and Gentles, cryed one miled therat, and laugged him to scorn, observing his vndiscreet manners in that behalfe, as they might very well.

When supper was done, he called my L. and willed him that all the Gentlemen and Ladies should withdraw themselves euerie one to his lodging, meaning which y he would permit there such a company, considering to great a charge committed to him.

Sir Henry (quoth my Lord) content your self, all that hee voydes, your men and all. For my followers (quoth Sir Henry) shall watch all night. The Lord of Tame answered, it shall not need, well sayd he, neede of me or not, they shall do, mistaking betwix the company, which God knoweth was without cause.

The next day her grace took her journey from thence to woodstocke, where she was inclosed, as before in the Tower of London, the foundations euerie day and dropping both within and without the walls, every day to y number of thre score, and in the night without the walls playing the tyme of her imprisonment there.

At length there had gardens appoynted for her walke, which was very comfortable to her grace. But alwayes when she did recreate her selfe therein, the bowes were fast locked by, in as strange manner as they were in the Tower, being at the least, v. or vi. lockes betwix her lodging and her walke: Sir Henry himselfe keeping the keyes, and resting no man there with, wherupon she called him her Waile: and hee kneeling downe, desired her grace not to call him so, for he was appoynted there to be one of her officers, from such officers (quoth she) good Lord deliver me.

The gentle hart of the Lord of Tame to Lady Elizabeth.

Tanquam ouis. Like a sheepe to the slaughter.

Lady Elizabeth honourably received and received of the people.

The gentle entertainment of Lady Elizabeth at the Lord of Tames house.

M. Benfield grudging at the gentle entertainment of Lady Elizabeth. The rude and vngentle manly behaviour of Syr Henry Benfield.

Lady Elizabeth cometh to woodstocke.

The stragg watch kept at woodstocke.

Lady Elizabeth in doubt of Syr Henry Benfield.

Lady Elizabeth removed from the Tower to Woodstocke. Lady Elizabeth excluded from her seruantes.

Lady Elizabeth with the Lord of Tame.