

she would arect it to the said Rochester, Inglefeild, and Waigrave; which thinge considered, they thought it better to returne without doinge their Commission and declare thus muche to their Lordshippes without meddling any further, than to proceed in the executyon of the charge before they had advertysed their Lordshippes of the premysses. The Lords, having heard thus much, commaunded them to attend untill they should knowe further of their pleasures. The said Rochester, Inglefeild, and Walgrave brought with them Letteres from the Ladie Maryes Grace to the Kinges Matie. the tenore whereof was such as followeth.

"My dutye moste humbly remembered unto yor Matie. it maye please the same to be advertysed that I have by my servantes received your moste honorable Letter, the contentes whereof doe not a little trouble me, and somuch the more for that any of my scrvants should move or attemple me in matters towching my sowle, which I thinke the meanest subjecte within yor Realme coulede evelle beare at their servantes hande, havinge for my parte utterly refused heretofor to talke with them in such matters, and of all other persones leaste regarded them therein. to whome I have declared what I thinke as she wch trusted that yor Matie. would have suffered me yor poore humble sister and beadeswoman to have used the accustomed Masse which the Kinge your father and myne with all his predecessores evermore used, wherin also I have been brought upp from my youth, and thereunto my consyence doth not only bynde me, wch by noe meanes will suffer me to thinke one thinge and doe another, but alsoe the promise made to the Emperour by yor Maties Counsell was an assurance to me that in so doinge I should not offend the Lawes, although they seeme now to qualesye and deny the thing. And at my last waytinge upon yor Matie. I was so bould to declare my mynd and consyence to the same, and desired yor Highnes rather than you should constraine me to leave the Masse to take my life, whereunto yor Matie. made me a very gentle Answer. And now I beseech yor Highnes to give me leave to write what I thinke towching yor Mats. Letteres. Indeed they be signed with yor owne hand, and nevertheless in my oppinion not yor Mats. in effecte, because it is well knowne (as heretofore I have declared in the presence of yor Highnes) that although, Our Lord be prayed, yor Matie. hath farre more knowledge and greater guiftes than otheres of yor yeares, yett it is not possyble that yor Highnes can at their yeare be a Judge in matters of religion. And therefore I take it that the matter in your Letter proceedeth from such as do wish those things to take place which be most agreeable to themselves; by whose doinges (yor Matie not offended) I intend not to rule my consyence. And thus, without molestinge yor Highnes any further, I humbly beseech the same ever, for God's sake, to beare with me as you have done, and not to thinke that by my doinges or ensample any inconvenience might growe to yor Matie or yor Realme; for I use it not after any such soarte: puttyng no double but, in tyme to come, whether I live or die,

yor Matie shall perceave that myne intente is grounded upon a true Love towards you, whose royall estate I beseech Almightye God longe to contynewe, which is and shalbe my daylie prayer, accordinge to my dutye. And after pardon craved of yor Matie for the rude and bould Letteres, yf neither at my humble suite, nor for regard of the promise made to the Emperour. your Highnes will suffer and beare with me, as you have done, till yor Matie may be a Judge herein yourselfe, and right understand their proceedinges (of which yor goodness yet I despaire not,) otherwise, rather than to offend God and my consyence I offer my bodge at yor will, and death shall be more welcom than lyfe with a troubeled consyence. Moste humbly beseeching yor Matie to pardon my slownes in Answeringe yor Letteres, for my oulde deseasse would not suffer me to write any soner. And thus I praye Almightye God to keepe yor Matie in alle vertue and honor, with good health and longe lyfe to his pleasure. From my poore Howse at Copped Hall the xix of Auguste. Yor Matie moste humble sistere

MARY."

*At Windesore, the xxij. Day of August, ano. 1551.*

"This Daye Mr. Rochester, Sir Francis Inglefeild, and Mr. Walgrave, the Lady Maryes grace's offyceres were called for to come eich of them all one and by themselves before the Lordes, where it was severally laid to their charges that they havinge bene comaunded by their Lordshippes in the Kinges Mats; name to declare to the Chaplens and Houshold of her grace such matter as they were enjoyed at Hampton courte the xiiijth of this presente to saye unto them as appeareth before in this register. They did not execute the said Comaundemente but without sayinge any thinge to the said Chaplens and Houshold, did trouble her grace with the openinge of their message to her, contrarye to the order and charge prescribed to them, and see returned without doinge any thinge in the Charge and comissyone given unto them, wherfore eich of them by his selfe, and aparte was comaunded to returne to her graces house and to execute the said Charge aparte, in sorte as the order was given to them all joyntely at Hampton Courte, The which thinge they all refused to doe; albeit they were injoynd to doe the same in vertue of their allegiaunce, and as comaunded from the Kinges Matie. the sayd Rochester and Walgrave saying that they had rather endure whatsoever punishmente or imprisonmente the Lordes should thinke meete for them, and Sr. Francis Inglefeild alledging that he coulede neither fynd in his hart nor in his consyence to doe it; wherupon, beinge all three, after they had bene severally enjoyed as is besoresaid, comaunded to departe for the tyme into severall places. They were sone after caled all in before their Lordshippes together, by whom they were comaunded to attend contynually upon them untill such tyme as they should knowe their further pleasure. That done, it was decreed that the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Secretary Peeter, beinge then in Essex, and

Sr. Anthonye Wingfeild Comptroler of his Mat. household beinge here at Windesore, should repair to the Lady Maryes Grace with such Letteres as follow.

"Right deare, and right entirly beloved Sister we greete you well, and lett you knowe that it greeveth us much to perceave no amedement in you of that which we for God's cause, your soules health, our consyence, and the comon tranquility of our Realme, have so longe desired, assuringe you that our sufferance hath much more demonstration of naturall love then contentacon of our consyence and foresight of our safetie, wherfore although you give us occasion as much almoste as in you is to deminish our naturall love yet we lothe to seele it decaye, and mente not to be so careles of you as we be provoked; and therefore meaninge your weale, and therewith joyning a care not to be founde in our consyence to God having cause to require forgiveness, that we have soe long for respecte of Love towards you omitted our bounden dutye: we do send at this presente our right trusty and right well beloved Counselor the Lord Riche our Chauncelor of England, our trusty and right well beloved Counselore Sr. Anthony Wingfeild, knight, Comptroler of our Howshold, and Sir William Peeter, knight, one of our two princepall Secretaries, in message to you, touchinge the order of your Houshold, willinge you to give them firme credit in those thinges they shall saye to you from us, and doe ther in our Name. Givene under our Signete, &c."

*At Windesore the xxix. Day of August ano. 1551.*

"The Lord Chauncelor, Mr. Comptroler, and Mr. Secretary Peeter beinge returned from the Ladie Maryes Grace, made such reporte of the executyone of their Charge, and of her Grace's Answer as followeth.

"A Note of the Reporte of the Message done to the Lady Maryes Grace by us the Lord Riche Lord Chauncelor of Englande, Sr. Anthony Wingfeild Knight of the Order and Comptroler of the Kings Mats. moste honorable Howshoulde, and William Peeter, knight, one of his Mats. two principall Secretaries: and of her Grace's Answer to the same reported by us all three to the Kinges Matie. and the Lordes of his Mats. Privie Counsell at Windesore the xxixth daye of Auguste Ano. 1551.

"Firste havinge received Comaundemente and Instructions from the Kinges Matie. we repaired to the sayd Lady Maryes Howse at Coppet-Hall in Essex on Fridaie laste, beinge the 28th of this instante in the Morninge, where, shortelic after our cominge, I the Lord Chauncelor delivered his Mats Letteres to her, which she received upon her knees sayinge that for the honore of the kinges maties. hand, wherewith the said Letteres were signed, she would kisse the Ire. and not for the matter contained in them, for the matter (sayd she) I take to proceed not from his matie. but from you of the Counsell.

"In the readinge of the letter, which she did reade secretly to herselfe, she said these wordes in