At RICHMOND PALACE, Surrey.
Jan 1, Wed New Year gifts.

Among 185 gifts to the Queen: by Sir Thomas Heneage:
'One jewel of gold like an Alpha and Omega with sparks of diamonds';
by William Dethick, Garter King of Arms:
'A Book of Arms of the Noblemen in Henry the Fifth's time';
by John Smithson, Master Cook:
'One fair marchpane [marzipan] with St George in the midst';
by Petruccio Ubaldini: 'A book covered with vellum of Italian.'

Also Jan 1: play, by the Children of Paul’s.

Jan 1, London, Jean Morel dedicated to the Queen: De Ecclesia ab Antechristo liberanda. [Of the Church, liberated from Anti-Christ].
Epistle to the Queen, praising her for her victories over all enemies, through God’s guidance. Preface to the Reader. Text: 104p. (London, 1589).


Jan 5: Anthony Bridgeman, of Mitcheldean, Gloucs, to the Queen: 'Sacred and most gracious Queen may it please your Majesty to accept as a New Year’s gift at the hands of me your most humble poor subject these thirteen branches...to be planted in this your Highness’s garden of England'.
Each ‘branch’ being a proposed religious or social reform, including:
'A restraint of the profaning of the Sabbath Day especially with minstrelsey, baiting of bears and other beasts, and such like'. 'A restraint of publishing profane poetry, books of profane songs, sonnets, pamphlets and such like'.
'That there be no book, pamphlet, sonnet, ballad or libel printed or written of purpose either to be sold or openly published without your Majesty’s licence'.
13th branch: 'Is the body and service of myself your most humble poor subject'.
[REED: Cumberland, Westmorland, Gloucestershire, 333-335].
Anthony Bridgeman wrote in February to complain to Sir Francis Walsingham that his gift had not been delivered to the Queen. [SP12/222/70].

Jan 6: Stationers entered the second part of 'Elizabetha’, published as: Elizabethis. By Christopher Ocland. A sequel to Elizabetha, 1582, bringing the history of the reign up-to-date, with a description of the defeat of the Armada. In rhyming Latin hexameters; to be used in schools.
With Theodore Beza’s Latin verses on the Armada, addressed to the Queen (which Dr Beza also published separately in 1588). 49p. (London, 1589).

Jan 12, Sun  play, by the Children of Paul’s.

January 12-April: Moroccan Ambassador in London. Mushac Reyz. Sent on embassy to the Queen by Mulay Ahmed el Mansur, Sharif of Morocco, also known as Mully Hamet, Emperor of Morocco and King of Fez.
The Emperor’s message was: 'To offer unto your Majesty not only to employ in your assistance men, money, victuals, and the use of my ports, but also my own person...And to desire for the better withstanding of our common enemy, the King of Spain, here might be a sound and perfect league of amity between us'.
Also to offer assistance to restore Don Antonio to the Kingdom of Portugal, and to offer, if 100 ships were sent to the coast of Barbary, for the Emperor to go into Spain, to pay the Queen 150,000 ducats. [Wernham, 82].
The Moroccan Ambassador came with Henry Roberts, Agent in Morocco for the Barbary Company since 1585.

Roberts: 'The second of November I embarked myself and one Marshok Reiz, a Captain and a gentleman, which the Emperor sent with me upon an embassage to her Majesty. And after much torment and foul weather at sea, yet New Year’s Day I came on land at St Ives in Cornwall, from whence passing by land both together up towards London, we were met without the city with the chiefest merchants of the Barbary Company, well mounted all on horseback, to the number of 40 or 50 horse, and so the Ambassador and myself, being both in coach, entered the city by torchlight on Sunday at night the 12th of January'. [Hakluyt, iv.275].

Bernardino de Mendoza (Spanish Ambassador to France), to Philip II [Feb 22]:

'A man had arrived from Fez to see the Queen and Don Antonio, and in order to beguile the people they had christened him ambassador of the Sheriff and asserted that he had brought a great sum of money for Don Antonio. They caused the merchants of London to go out and meet him with 200 horsemen, and the Queen received him with the ceremonial of an ambassador, Don Antonio doing the same, sending him a coach in which to visit him'. [Span.iv.516].

Royal watermen were paid for carrying 'the Ambassador of Barbary'.

Jan 18, Richmond, Lord Burghley to the Earl of Shrewsbury:

'Her Majesty, finding a great want of noblemen for Parliament, is minded to create some earls and some barons. Your son Lord Talbot and Lord Strange shall also be called to Parliament. Sir H.Grey, Sir Robert Sidney, Mr Richard Fiennes, shall be also called as barons’.

'Sir John Perrot is either to be called to Parliament [as a baron] or to be Controller [of the Household]. Sir Edward Clere is also named as a baron. Her Majesty had some speech with me, to call me to some other degree, but I have showed her Majesty just cause to leave me as I am’. [Bath, v.97].

Henry Grey, Robert Sidney, Richard Fiennes, became peers in the next reign.

Jan 19, Sun French Ambassador at Richmond to take leave.

Claude de l’Aubespine, Sieur de Châteauneuf, Ambassador 1585-1589, who wrote to Walsingham [Jan 23]: Her Majesty on Sunday last granted me my congé; I ask for my passport. [SPF.xxiii.55].

Jan 24: 'A choice of such persons as her Majesty is pleased to nobilitate’, including Lord Burghley to be Earl of Northampton, Lord Admiral Howard to be Earl of Nottingham.

Lord Howard of Effingham became Earl of Nottingham in 1597.

Jan 28, Richmond, Sir Francis Walsingham to Sir Edward Stafford (Ambassador to France), to ask the King’s opinion of whether the Queen should send someone to condole on ‘the late accident of the death of the Queen Mother’.

'The French Ambassador hath taken his leave of her Majesty, who...did readily give him licence to depart, and so within these three or four days he beginneth his journey’...

'If after the dispatch of his business, which he pretendeth to be the cause of his going over, the King shall not be disposed to return him hither again, you may do well to use such means as you can to procure that some other may be sent in his place, that is better affected to the maintenance of the amity between the two Crowns than this man hath showed himself to be. [Wright, ii.394-5].

The Ambassador left allegedly to attend to private business. He did not return, and a new Ambassador arrived in August.
Jan 28: London preparations for meeting the Queen.

Jan 28, Guildhall, Lord Mayor’s Precept to the Livery Companies, e.g:

To the Master and Wardens of the Company of Stationers:

‘Whereas the Queen’s most excellent Majesty intendeth in her royal person to repair to her princely palace of Whitehall on Thursday next in the afternoon. And for that I and my brethren the Aldermen are commanded to attend on her Majesty’s person from Chelsea to the Whitehall. These therefore shall be in her Majesty’s name to require you that yourselves with six of the comeliest personages of your said Company be ready at the Park corner above St James on horseback apparelled in velvet coats with chains of gold, on Thursday by two o’clock in the afternoon to wait upon me and my brethren the Aldermen to Chelsea for the receiving of her Majesty accordingly. And also that you provide six staff torches for light if need shall require. Not failing hereof as you will answer the contrary at your peril’. Lord Mayor: Martin Calthorpe, draper.

January: visit, Hampton Court, Middlesex. Crown property.

Francis Coot, Gentleman Usher, made ready for the Queen at Hampton Court.

Jan 30, Thu WHITEHALL PALACE.

‘The Queen’s Majesty came from Richmond to Chelsea, and so to Westminster, and was received by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commoners of her City of London, in coats of velvet and chains of gold, all on horseback, with the Captains of the City to the number of forty, betwixt 5 and 6 o’clock by torch-light’. [Stow].

Feb 1: Stationers entered ‘An answer to the untruths published in Spain against the English navy. Written in the Spanish tongue by a Spaniard’.

[Translated by James Lea. Licensed by Walsingham. Dedicated to the Queen].

‘An Answer to the Untruths, published and printed in Spain, in glory of their supposed Victory achieved against our English Navy, and the Right Honourable Charles Lord Howard, Lord High Admiral of England, Sir Francis Drake, and the rest of the Nobles and Gentlemen, Captains, and Soldiers of our said Navy. First written and published in Spanish by a Spanish Gentleman; who came hither out of the Low Countries from the service of the Prince of Parma, with his wife and family, since the overthrow of the Spanish Armada, forsaking both his country and Romish religion; as by this Treatise against the barbarous impiety of the Spaniards, and dedicated to the Queen’s most excellent Majesty may appear. Faithfully translated by I.L.’. (London, 1589).

Short poems: ‘England to her Queen’, by S.D. ‘England to her Admiral’, by Lea. Dedicatory Epistle by Lea to Lord Howard of Effingham. Epistle by D.F.R.de M. ‘To the Queen’s most excellent Majesty Elizabeth...all blessedness, good hap, victory, with increase of triumphant reign, and life everlasting’....

‘In the defence I make of the truth which happened in both Navies...my intent is to deal in truth and not to flatter your Majesty, you being an enemy to adulation...That which here I mean to speak of are certain truths, so clear and manifest, that they publish themselves. For who seeth not the great regard in your Majesty of divine worship, the great devotion to the sacred scripture, the fullness of Religion that shineth in your Majesty, the always opened large hand to the poor. And...the singular prudence of your Majesty, your sound justice, your excellent fortitude, your marvellous temperancy, your firm truth, your clemency, your benignity, your good government, your royal condition, and the shining of your works, interlaced with divine love. Your Majesty may be said to be a coffer wherein nature hath laid up her treasure’...

‘Your Majesty’s humble and loyal servant which kisseth your Royal feet and hands, D.F.R.de M’. Poems: By S.D: ‘The Author to her Majesty’; by Lea: ‘The Translator’. Interspersed in the text are Sonnets: ‘To England’; ‘Great Elizabeth’; in praise of Howard and of Drake; Hymns, and ‘A Song in praise of the English Nobility’. [Alleged Spanish original was also published in 1589].
Feb 4, Tues  Queen at Opening of Parliament.

Ceremonial procession from Whitehall to Westminster Abbey for a sermon, and to the Upper House. Richard Brackenbury made ready 'the Abbey Church of Westminster' and the Parliament House.' Works carried out numerous 'reparations' including making a travers for the Queen 'in the Minster Church'. St Margaret Westminster: 'For ringing when the Queen came from Whitehall to the College Church, and so to the Parliament House, 12d; for a pint of neat's foot oil for the bells the same day, 6d; to Goodman Bray for four load of gravel and two load of sand when the Queen's Majesty came to the Parliament House, 5s'.

Earl of Derby had been appointed Lord Steward for the duration of the Parliament; he continued to hold the post until he died in 1593.

Lord Chancellor Hatton in his oration took as his theme the state of the nation. He reviewed the actions against England of a number of Popes, and of Catholic traitors, then turned to attack the Puritans, and to praise the Church of England. He declared 'the Queen's gracious disposition to peace' and 'remembered her great conquest over the Spanish late wonderful Army or Fleet on the seas', but 'the King of Spain remained bent against this Kingdom'. Parliament is called in order to provide 'that arms, soldiers and money may be in readiness, and an Army prepared and furnished against all events'.

[This 'most stirring of Elizabethan Parliamentary orations' is described by John Neale, Parli.ii.195-201].

Feb 4: Edward Wotton received his instructions, prior to going to France 'to perform some ordinary compliments in condoling Queen Mother's death'. After receiving advice from her Ambassador the Queen changed her mind about sending anyone to condole on Catherine de Medici's death. [SPF.xxiii.91-93].

Feb 6, Thur  Queen at Parliament, for presentation of new Speaker of Commons.

Thomas Snagge (1536-1593), Serjeant at Law. Snagge made the usual 'disabling' speech, answered by Lord Chancellor Hatton, and followed by the new Speaker's oration, as customary, which in turn was also answered by Hatton.

Feb 9, Shrove Sunday  play, by the Queen's Men.†

Feb 10, Shrove Monday  new Privy Councillors: Sir John Perrot 'late Lord Deputy of Ireland'; John Fortescue, 'Master of the Great Wardrobe to her Majesty'.‡

Feb 11, Shrove Tuesday  play, by Admiral's Men.‡


'Certain seditious and evil-disposed persons...have devised, written, printed, or caused to be seditiously and secretly published and dispersed sundry schismatical and seditious books, defamatory libels and other fantastical writings' containing 'matters notoriously untrue and slanderous to the state, and against the godly reformation of religion and government ecclesiastical established by law and so quietly of long time continued, and also against the persons of the bishops and others placed in authority ecclesiastical under her Highness by her authority, in railing sort and beyond the bounds of all good humanity'. They tend to 'bring in a monstrous and apparent dangerous innovation' and to overthrow 'her Highness's lawful prerogative', and 'to reverse, dissolve, and set at liberty the present government of the church...with a rash and malicious purpose also to dissolve the estate of the prelacy'.

Her Highness purposes 'to have such enormous malefactors discovered and condignly punished'. All copies are to be delivered up. No person whatsoever is to 'be so hardy as to write, contrive, print, or cause to be published or distributed...any other books, libels, or writings of like nature'.

1589
Anecdote, of the Earl of Essex: 'When the Bishops (that felt the smart of it) had cried out against that lashing pamphlet called 'Martin-Mar-Prelate', and there was a prohibition published, that no man should presume to carry it about him, upon pain of punishment, and the Queen herself did speak as much, when the Earl was present: “Why then” said the Earl “what will become of me?” and, pulling the book out of his pocket, he did show it to the Queen'.

[Robert Codrington, Life and Death of...Robert, Earl of Essex (1646) in the Harleian Miscellany (1808), i.219]. Pamphlets pro and con continued to appear.

Feb 14, Fri sermon, Whitehall: Dr Tobias Matthew, Dean of Durham, Before the Queen, in the time of Parliament.

Feb 15, Sat, in the Commons: A Bill to reform disorders in Purveyors had its first and second reading. A Committee was appointed to consider it.

Officers of the Queen’s Household and of the Green Cloth could attend and be heard. [D’Ewes, 432-3].

William Harrison ’Description of England’, in Holinshed’s Chronicles, 1587: Chapter on ‘Fairs and Markets’: “Most places of the realm are pestered with purveyors, who take up eggs, butter, cheese, pigs, capons, hens, chickens, hogs, bacon, etc. in one market under pretence of their commissions and suffer their wives to sell the same in another or to poulterers of London’.

Feb 19: John Piers, formerly Bishop of Salisbury, was confirmed as new Archbishop of York.

Feb 19: Maundy preparations. The annual Maundy Warrant was drawn up, for 165 yards of russet cloth to make 55 gowns for 55 poor women, and 55 pairs of single soled shoes, and linen cloth to make smocks for them. These and other necessaries are to be carried ‘from our Great Wardrobe to the place where (God willing) we shall make our said Maundy’. Linen cloth (measured in ells) is to be supplied for: the Queen; the Lord Bishop Almoner; the Sub-Almoner; each poor woman, cut out into one towel and one apron apiece; five Almoners, an apron and towel apiece; four of the Ewery, towels and a tablecloth; seven of the Pantry, a towel and a portepane apiece, and a tablecloth; four of the Pitcher-house, towels and a tablecloth; the Larder, to cover flasks. [BL Egerton 2806, f.236].

Linen was supplied for the Queen, but she last took part in a Maundy in 1579.

Feb 20, The Hague, Thomas Bodley to Walsingham, sending Robert Mascall with a letter from Sir Martin Schenk to the Queen. Schenk sends her as a token the colours of an Italian captain whom he defeated while Mascall was with him. [SPF.xxiii.116]. Schenk, a Dutch Colonel, had met the Queen in 1588.

Feb 20, Thur Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris at Whitehall. Prior to an expedition to Spain and Portugal, after several months preparations. Drake to command at sea, Norris on land. During February Don Antonio answered Articles proposed to him by Drake and Norris: He acknowledges the Queen’s favour in receiving him into her realm and in equipping a powerful army to restore him to his Kingdom of Portugal. Doubtless his loyal subjects will rally to him as soon as he lands. Instructions as to what is to be done after landing in Portugal. [SPF.xxiii.138-140: French].


His son Edward Somerset, Lord Herbert (c.1550-1628) became 4th Earl of Worcester. The 4th Earl’s son Henry Somerset (c.1575-1598) became Lord Herbert. The widowed Theophila (Newton), Countess of Worcester (2nd wife), married William Paratt.
Court news. Feb 22, London, William Herbert to the Earl of Shrewsbury: ‘Yesterday Lord Henry Howard was committed to the keeping of the Master of the Rolls [Sir Gilbert Gerard], Lord William Howard to the keeping of Mr Edward Cordell, and the Countess of Arundel confined to her own house’...

‘Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake with the rest of the Captains of that journey have taken their leave of her Majesty on Thursday. Notwithstanding, they were sent for again and some stay made, but I think they shall go forward out of hand. There will be some hundred sail of shipping of all sorts’...

PS. ‘The young Earl of Northumberland...is a fine gentleman...and begins to be a good courtier...Your Lordship may conjecture the rest’. [Bath, v.99].

The Earl of Arundel’s brothers and wife were put under restraint prior to the Earl’s trial on April 18. The Captains left for their ships on Feb 26 and sailed in April.

Feb 23: Stationers entered: ‘A farewell...to the famous and fortunate generals of our English forces, Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake knights, done by George Peele’. The Farewell includes verses to the Generals, declaring:

‘You fight for Christ and England’s peerless Queen,
Elizabeth, the wonder of the world...
O ten times treble happy men that fight
Under the Cross of Christ and England’s Queen,
And follow such as Drake and Norris are’.

Court news. Feb 24, from Marco Messia: ‘Certain titles of Earl and Baron are to be granted in this Parliament. This is however in suspense at present, as they are all falling out amongst themselves, there not being three great personages or members of the Council in accord with one another. Amongst others there is a great quarrel between the Earl of Essex and Walter Ralegh, and between the Lord Admiral and Drake’. [Span.iv.513].

Feb 26: William Milward, of the Merchant Adventurers’ Company, received instructions from the Queen, who ‘has present occasion to take up a loan of £100,000 sterling and hears that she may obtain it upon reasonable terms in Germany’. You ‘shall not use her Majesty’s name lest the rates of interest be thereby raised...The interest not to exceed ten in the hundred’.

In June Milward reported on his lack of success. [SPF.xxiii.127,331].

Feb 26: Mushac Reyz, Moroccan Ambassador, ‘exhibited requests’ to the Queen, for his King in case of war to be permitted to hire ships and mariners, to buy oars for his galleys, to hire carpenters and shipwrights, and to buy provisions.

Feb 27, Queen to the Emperor of Morocco: Although she has recently replied to his Ambassador, he has delayed his departure. [SPF.xxiii.125,130].

Feb 27, Thur, in Parliament: The Queen sent a message to the Lords by two Privy Councillors. Sir Francis Knollys informed the Commons that it concerned two Bills, ‘the one concerning Purveyors and the other touching Process and Pleadings in the Court of Exchequer, a thing mishared of her Majesty in both those cases, the one tending to the officers and ministers of her own Household, and the other to the officers and ministers of her own Revenues; in both of which...her Majesty was of herself (he said) both able and willing to see due reformation’. A Committee was appointed to consider a reply. [D’Ewes, 440].

March 3: Queen’s gift delivered to Mushac Reyz ‘Ambassador from the King of Fez’: one chain of gold, bought of Alderman Martin. Mushac Reyz left in Don Antonio’s ship in April.
March 3, Gilbert Lord Talbot to the Earl of Shrewsbury [from Mr Boswell’s house ‘near Clement’s Inn’], of the Bills ‘against Purveyors’ and ‘against certain abuses in the Exchequer: wherein her Majesty took offence, which hath bred some stir...by her Majesty’s especial dislike of certain young gentlemen who have been much busier both in these Bills and others than they needed...This day we are to receive answer from the nether house to her Majesty’s message...Divers articles are preferred unto the nether house for reformation of the Book of Common Prayer and such like matters, but the Speaker dare not read them, for that her Majesty especially forbade that any such matters should be dealt in the first day when she was at the Parliament House’. [Bath, v.99-100].

March 4, Westminster, Lord Burghley to Anthony Ashley:
‘Her Majesty hath thought it convenient for her better service that some one trusty servant of her own, being well qualified with knowledge, authority, learning, and discretion should be appointed to be in company with Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake in the journey towards Spain, with authority for the observation of their actions, and for writing of their common letters to her Majesty or any other, and to assist them also with good counsel and advice’. ‘For this purpose her Majesty hath made special choice of you, Anthony Ashley, being her servant and Clerk of her Privy Council, to occupy that place’...
‘As you know, her Majesty hath by her princely wise speeches to yourself informed you how to behave yourself in this service’...
‘And if you shall observe that whereof her Majesty did particularly warn you, that is to keep a true journal in writing of all public actions and proceedings ...we shall take comfort at your return to see the same reported’.
[Wernham, 102-3]. Ashley (1551-1628) was a Clerk of the Council 1587-1610.

Mar 4, Tues, in the Commons: The Committee on the Bills concerning Purveyors and the Exchequer Court resolved that the Speaker should go to the Queen to explain their reasons for proceeding with the Bills. Sir Thomas Heneage, Vice-Chamberlain, was asked to enquire how many of the Commons the Queen would permit to attend upon her with the Speaker and at what time.

Mar 6, Thur: Heneage brought word to the Commons that the Speaker and ten others would have access to the Queen that afternoon.

Mar 7, Fri: In the morning Heneage informed the Commons that those appointed to have access to the Queen yesterday ‘are to attend and and wait upon her Highness this present day in the afternoon at the court after the sermon, for that her Majesty having been abroad yesterday in the air had taken a little cold, and therefore could not yesterday give them audience’. [D’Ewes, 442-3].

Mar 7, Fri afternoon Commons deputation at Whitehall with the Queen. Speaker Snagge, with ten Members of the Commons, petitioned the Queen concerning their grievances over Purveyors, and the Court of Exchequer.

March 8, Sat, in the Commons: The Speaker reported that the Deputation received from the Queen ‘most comfortable and gracious speeches...of her Highness’s great and inestimable loving care towards her loving subjects’.

As to the abuses of Purveyors ‘her Majesty having as much skill, will and power to rule and govern her own Household as any subject’ will very shortly ‘cause a collection to be made of all the laws already in force touching Purveyors’ and will set down such a form for redress ‘as shall be as good and better for the ease of the subjects than that which this House had attempted...and in which they would have bereaved her Majesty the honour, glory and commendation of the same. And touching the Exchequer she said it was her Chamber, and so more near unto her than the Household’, and that in 1568 she had caused orders to be set down ‘for the due and fit course of such things in the said Court as her subjects seem to be grieved for’. [D’Ewes, 444].
List of the number of Purveyors.
Purveyors of Wheat for the Privy Bake-house, 2; Purveyors of Wheat for the Great Bake-house, 4; Purveyors of Beer and Ale, 6; Purveyors of Wine, 2; Purveyors of Spices, 2; Purveyors of Lambs, 4; Purveyors of [fine] Poultry, 16; Purveyors of Salt Butter, 2; Purveyors of Apples, 3; Purveyors of Sauces, 2; Serjeant of the Acatery, 1; Purveyors of Beef and Mutton, 4; Purveyors of Veals, 6; Purveyors of Seafood, 6; Purveyors of Fresh-water fish, 3; Purveyors of Salt Store, 2; Purveyors of Stable, 12; Brownbaker, 1; Purveyors of the Race, 2; Purveyors of Carts, 4; Purveyors of Long Carts within the office of Buttery and Spicery, 3; The Milkwife, 1; Purveyor of Carts for the Cellar, 1; The Turner, 1; Purveyor of Cups, 1; The Coopers, 3; The Jackmaker, 1; Purveyor of Baskets, 1; Purveyors of Wax, 4; Master Avenor, 1; Purveyor of Rushes, 2. Each Purveyor had an equal number of Deputies. The Race: the Royal Stud. Lord Burghley wrote beneath the list 'What wages have all these?' [BL Lansdowne 58/52; undated].

March 9: death. Dowager Countess of Sussex (c.1531-1589).
Frances Sidney, widow of Thomas Radcliffe, 3rd Earl of Sussex, formerly Lord Chamberlain. Main bequest: £5000 to found a new college at Cambridge University called 'Lady Frances Sidney Sussex College', for a Master, 10 Fellows, and 20 Scholars students. If the funds are insufficient, then to enlarge an existing college, Clare Hall, to be called 'Clare and Lady Frances Sidney Sussex College or Hall'. 'If in my life-time I do not obtain her Majesty’s licence for the erection of the said college, or enlargement of the said Hall called Clare Hall, that then my executors within convenient time after my decease shall present unto her Majesty a jewel which I have made of purpose like a star of rubies and diamonds, and a ruby standing in the middle, which Stockbridge made of the value of £140 or thereabout, and having on the back side a hand delivering up a heart to the Crown, with a humble suit in my name for the proceeding and establishing of the said college or enlargement...of the other Hall'.
The Countess makes many detailed bequests of apparel (including 'suits of buttons'), furnishings (including a unicorn's horn), plate, jewels, including: 'To Mrs Jane Hawkes the great jewel for the girdle with two great agates set with pearl and the Queen’s picture within it'. Hangings (tapestries) depict: Hester; Holofernes and Judith; the Israelites; leaves and personages; men of war; Nathan the Assyrian; 'old imagery'; pillars, leaves, and beasts.

Funeral: Westminster Abbey (see April 15). Monument: St Paul’s Chapel. In July 1594 the Countess's executors were licensed to erect a new college at Cambridge, and 'Sidney Sussex College' was founded in 1596. Clare Hall was later called Clare College; a new Clare Hall was founded in 1966.
Sidney Sussex dining-hall is presided over by a portrait of the Countess, with her little dog; reproduced in Frances Radcliffe’s biography, ODNB.

March 13: Seditious words at Moulsham, Essex. David Ramsey, of Moulsham, labourer, was indicted for saying on 11 August 1588: 'That he...was a Papist and that he would pray for the Pope, and that the Queen's Majesty did love the Pope better than any of them'. Guilty; remanded in gaol. [Assizes, Essex, 331].

Mar 14,Fri Lord Willoughby at Whitehall on return from Holland.
Peregrine Bertie, 13th Lord Willoughby de Eresby, at the end of his service as Governor of the Queen’s forces in the Low Countries.
A ballad celebrated one of 'brave Lord Willoughby's' victories, when:
'The news was brought to England, With all the speed might be, And told unto our gracious Queen, Of this same victory.
O this is brave Lord Willoughby, My love hath ever won;
Of all the Lords of honour, Tis he great deeds hath done'.
To the tune of Lord Willoughby. [Bertie, 253,255-258].
March 18 [Dublin], Sir George Carew (Master of the Ordnance in Ireland),
to his cousin John Stanhope (at court, a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber):

'I cannot live contentedly with the office which her Majesty hath bestowed
upon me, unless I might dwell in hope at some times, when there is no occasion
of service here, to obtain leave to behold her eyes, the world’s glory, in
whom all accomplishments of honourable virtues and rarest perfections do most
plentifully abound. Be an humble suitor to her Majesty that...she will pardon
me if I take leave...My life is hateful unto me when I am not employed in her
service or present in her sight’.

John Stanhope replied from Whitehall to Sir George Carew on April 7 that he
had offered Carew’s letter to the Queen, but she looked for one to herself, as
he had promised. 'I told her of your desire to see her. She said it was your
own fault to go away, but you were so importunate for the place...After some
arguments she said if the service did permit your absence you might come at any
time, and of this you were the best judge'. [Carew, iii.1,4]. Carew continued
to serve in Ireland until 1603, often seeking and sometimes obtaining leave.

March 19: Don Antonio and his elder son Don Emanuel left for Dover.

News from Manuel de Andrade: On the 19th 'Don Antonio and his son Don Manuel
left London for Dover...General Norris and Drake were in Dover, for the purpose
of embarking with Don Antonio...There are from 500 to 600 gentlemen going with
the fleet and about 20,000 soldiers, English and Flemish’ with 600 horses, and
provisions for six months. ‘The whole fleet will not fall short of 200 sail’...

'The Barbary Ambassador goes in Don Antonio’s ship, dressed as a Portuguese...
to carry the news of the landing to the Sheriff, who will then send a force of
Moors’. They are saying in Barbary ‘that this year Portugal would be taken from
the King of Spain...It is generally admitted that if this expedition fails Don
Antonio will never be able to raise his head again, or find anyone to help him...
Don Antonio and all his people are going wretchedly provided with necessaries.
With the exception of 6 or 8 members of his household, they are unarmed, as the
Queen has only given him 400 crowns, out of which he had to pay for the board
and lodging of his people. He could only give them three shirts of unbleached
linen each. No English gentleman attends him, and no presents were given to
him except by the Earl of Essex, who sent him a hackney, and the Lord Chancellor
[Sir Christopher Hatton], who gave some very rich arms to Don Manuel’...

'The Queen also gave Don Manuel, when he took leave of her, a windmill made of
precious stones, valued at 800 crowns. Don Antonio is determined to be the first
to set foot on shore’. [Span.iv.522-525]. Drake and Norris, with Don Antonio
and Don Emanuel, left Dover for Plymouth on March 25.

Mar 25, Tues Sir John Perrot at Whitehall with the Queen.

Lord Deputy of Ireland 1584-1588, when he was replaced after many complaints
about his offensive behaviour and language. March 25, Thomas Windebank (Clerk
of the Signet) to Sir Francis Walsingham: 'I was sent for in, immediately after
Sir John Perrot was come from her, and whatsoever had passed between her Majesty
and him I know not, but I found her out of tune'. [SP12/223/28].

Perrot was imprisoned in 1591, and tried for high treason in April 1592.

March 27-c.May 3: Scottish special Ambassador in London.

James Colville, Laird of Easter Wemyss, who came to inform the Queen of King
James’s intended marriage with the King of Denmark’s sister Anne, and to obtain
financial assistance for James. Feb 20 [Edinburgh], Thomas Fowler to Francis
Walsingham: ‘Wemyss had been there ere now but for want of money to furnish him.
At last they have borrowed it’. Wemyss left in late March, with Richard
Cockburn, nephew of Sir John Maitland, Chancellor of Scotland. In London they
stayed in Lime Street with Archibald Douglas, the resident Scottish Ambassador.
[Scot.ix.682; x.13,21]. First audience: April 1.
Mar 27, Maundy Thursday ceremonies and alms-giving, at Whitehall Palace; By William Wickham, Bishop of Lincoln, acting Queen’s Almoner; to 55 poor women, each 20s in a red purse and 55d in a white purse. 

Mar 28, Good Friday sermon, Whitehall: Dr Tobias Matthew, Dean of Durham. Before the Queen, in the time of Parliament. Text: St Paul’s Epistle to the Hebrews: 10:10: ‘By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all’. 

Mar 29, Sat  Queen at Closing of Parliament. St Margaret Westminster: ‘To the ringers for ringing when the Queen’s Majesty came to the Parliament House, being the last day of the Parliament, 12d’. There was the customary speech by the Speaker of the Commons, answered by Lord Chancellor Hatton in a much praised oration, but which is not extant. Parliament was dissolved. Next Parliament: February 1593. 

A portrait of Sir Christopher Hatton, dated 1589, depicts him holding a jewelled cameo of the Queen. [Reproduced in Gloriana, by Roy Strong, 123]. A portrait of the Queen depicts her in her robes of state, as worn in Parliament; late 1580s. [Reproduced in Elizabeth, ed. Susan Doran, 203-4].

March 31, Plymouth, Sir Roger Williams (one of the army commanders) to Lord Chancellor Hatton, Lord Treasurer Burghley, and Sir Francis Walsingham, taking his last leave of them before going on the voyage to Portugal. There are 18,000 ‘willing minds’. Failure would ruin many of them, and would cast the baser sort on the country, so that the counties ‘will be full of thieves and disorders’. There is no means like this journey to bridle the King of Spain. Compared with former Kings’ expeditions, they will ‘find this army the best cheap that ever was levied’. No sovereign ‘since England was England’ had more need to make wars than the present Queen. [SPF.xxiii.186].

Mar 31, Easter Mon Master of Gray at Whitehall for first audience. Patrick Master of Gray (c.1559-1611), was returning from France to Scotland, from which he was banished in 1587 after his unsuccessful embassy to England on behalf of the Queen of Scots. He remained in London until mid-May.

Apr 1, Easter Tues Laird of Wemyss at Whitehall for first audience. James Colville; with Richard Cockburn.

Court news. April 2, London, Richard Cockburn to Sir John Maitland: ‘I found the Master of Gray here, where he had remained eight days before... The occasion of his stay here was only to kiss her Majesty’s hand, which he did on Monday last, with great conference’... ‘Her Majesty looking the Laird of Wemyss should have desired presence the day after his coming to this town, which was on Thursday the 27th of March, which he could not conveniently do at that time, deferred to give him audience till Tuesday last, the 1st’. I ‘received that honour as to kiss her Majesty’s hand...I am as the rest with the Laird of Wemyss in Mr Archibald Douglas’s house’. [Scot.x.21].

April 2, Edinburgh, William Ashby (Ambassador to Scotland) to Lord Burghley: Lord John Hamilton means ‘to invite me to be his gossip [godfather], as we term it in England. I thought good to acquaint your Honour, to know your Lordship’s advice and direction, for the charge will be her Majesty’s in this case, I being invited to the christening in respect of the place I hold here for her Majesty’s service. The solemnity will be at Hamilton’. [BL Cotton Caligula D.I, f.424].

Christening of James Hamilton: June 22.
April 3, Thur: **Earl of Essex’s secret departure from court to join the Portugal Voyage.** The Queen had forbidden noblemen to join the expedition.

Essex secretly set off from St James’s Park for Plymouth, where Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Norris, Don Antonio, and the rest of the fleet were preparing.

Apr 4, Fri: Essex’s uncle Sir Francis Knollys went towards Plymouth after him to endeavour to stop him sailing, and at night the Earl of Huntingdon also.

April 4: death. Lady Burghley died at Cecil House, Strand. She was Mildred (Cooke) (c.1525-1589), 2nd wife of William Cecil 1st Lord Burghley. Funeral: April 21, Westminster Abbey, where her monument includes her deceased daughter.

Chief Mourner: Lady Russell (sister). Burghley appointed 315 mourners to have ‘blacks’. [HT.xiii.409]. John Clapham, one of Burghley’s clerks, recalled in 1603 that Lady Burghley was ‘a woman of a great wit, and as some persons may suppose, of more learning than is necessary for that sex’. [Clapham, 84].

Apr 5, Sat visit, Chelsea, Middlesex.

April 5, Chelsea, Sir Thomas Heneage to Sir Francis Walsingham, concerning the Queen and Scottish affairs. ‘The Lord of Gray is now by her appointment here with her’. [Scot.x.23]. The precise location at Chelsea is not given.

April 5, Sat night: Earl of Essex, and his brother Walter Devereux, sailed from Plymouth in The Swiftsure with Sir Roger Williams.

April 7, Plymouth, Drake and Norris to the Privy Council: ‘Since the coming of the Earl of Huntingdon we have again written to the Earl and Sir Roger Williams, who is gone with the Earl, to require them to return’. [Devereux, i.199].

April 7, Plymouth Sound, Captain William Bailey to the Earl of Shrewsbury: ‘The Earl of Huntingdon’s coming hither for the staying of the Earl of Essex’s passage hath wonderfully daunted all the whole army; but he is at sea; but for what place, or whither he is bound, there is none, so far as I can learn, can tell...We shall away with the next wind that will serve...The army is supposed to be, for the land service, at the least twenty thousand strong. The navy contains two hundred sail, or near thereabouts’. [Lodge, ii.355].

April 8, court, Whitehall, Anthony Bagot to Richard Bagot, his father, of Essex’s departure: ‘My Lord upon Thursday night last with one Reynolds, a Gentleman of his Chamber, and another that kept his hunting horses, betwixt 5 and 6 o’clock took horse in St James’s Park. My Lord desired my Lord Rich to stay in his chamber, and he would come to supper with him. But my Lord is gone to Plymouth, and I fear away with the fleet to Portugal’...

‘Sir Francis Knollys, his uncle, the next day went post after him, with letters to stay him; but I fear he could not reach him...My Lord Huntingdon upon Friday night went after him also, and how they speed we know not yet. But he that brought back the horses which carried my Lord eighty miles and eight, brought my Lord Rich a letter, and the keys of his desk, wherein there was letters above forty, of my Lord’s own handwriting, to the Queen, the Council, and other of his friends in court, and his servants, with resolution not to be stayed by any commandment excepting death’...

‘I am appointed to wait and keep my Lord’s lodgings and his table, till I be commanded the contrary’. [Devereux, i.196-7].

Essex’s letters included one to Sir Francis Knollys, saying that his debts were at least £22,000. ‘Her Majesty’s goodness hath been so great as I could not ask more of her; no way left to repair myself but mine own adventure, which I had much rather undertake than to offend her Majesty with suits, as I have done heretofore. If I should speed well, I will adventure to be rich; if not, I will never live to see the end of my poverty’...

‘From my study, some few days before my departure’. [Devereux, i.206].
April 8: Sir Edward Stafford, Ambassador to France since 1583, returned on private business, writing to Sir Francis Walsingham from Devon, April 8, ‘being newly landed here at Dartmouth and so beaten at sea as I was never more sick in my life. I hope to be at court in five or six days’. [SPF.xxiii.209]. Stafford went back to France in September for a month, and in summer 1590 returned as resident Ambassador.

During his absences William Lyly was in charge of English affairs in France.

Court news. April 9, Sir John Popham (Attorney-General) to Sir Francis Walsingham, of the Earl of Arundel’s trial, having received from Lord Burghley ‘the copy of the most wicked Bull set forth by this last Pope Sixtus Quintus against her Majesty, which is a matter most necessary in some parts to be used in evidence against the Earl’, although ‘there is such matter in it, as is not fit almost to be looked on, much less to be read’.

Her Majesty ‘is resolved the matter shall proceed on Monday next [April 14], and she hath already given order to have the scaffolds [seating and stands] made ready’. [SP12/223/77]. Trial: April 18. The so-called Bull: 12 June 1588.

April 13, Sun Privy Council sent letters to Captain Goring, of The Swiftsure, to return to the fleet and procure Essex’s ‘repair to the court to give his attendance on her Majesty’s person according to the place of his service’.

Also letters to Essex advising him to return, otherwise they will not be able ‘to appease her Majesty’s displeasure’; he should take heed not to incur ‘the weight of her Majesty’s indignation’. APC

April 15, Queen to the Earl of Essex: ‘Essex, Your sudden and undutiful departure from our presence and your place of attendance, you may easily conceive how offensive it is, and ought to be, unto us. Our great favours bestowed on you without deserts hath drawn you thus to neglect and forget your duty’. You are ‘to make your present and immediate repair unto us’...

‘Whereof see you fail not, as you will be loth to incur our indignation, and will answer for the contrary at your uttermost peril’. [Devereux, i.204-5].

Essex received this six weeks later in Portugal, and promptly left for England, on June 6.

April 15: Funeral, Westminster Abbey: Frances, Dowager Countess of Sussex. The Countess’s monument remains in the Abbey (St Paul’s Chapel).

At funerals of noblemen and women the Heralds were usually led by Garter King of Arms, William Dethick. Robert Glover, a Herald, later wrote a ‘Remembrance’ of Dethick’s ‘abuses’, including: ‘In the carriage of himself unto his fellows in office he was always a tyrant, for some he sued, some he charged with felony, some he beat, others he reviled and all he wronged...His assaults and batteries were too long to write...At the funeral of Sir Henry Sidney at Penshurst [1586] he beat the Minister in the Church. And in the Abbey of Westminster at the funeral of the Countess of Sussex he struck and hurt with his dagger one Browne a draper, brother-in-law to Sir William Waad. For the which he indicted him at Newgate. But by the favour of Mr Fleetwood then Recorder, at a purchased Sessions, Dethick was acquitted, because Browne not knowing thereof appeared not’.[Bodleian Ashmolean MS 857, f.494-5]. For another assault see July 7.

Note: The records of Middlesex Sessions date Dethick’s assault on Browne in the Abbey as two years later: see 18 April 1591.

Apr 16, Wed Council ordered Drake and Norris not to take Essex with them. Warrant to pay £8 to ‘Webb, gentleman, sent by her Majesty’s order into the West Parts after the Earl of Essex’. Payment, April 27, Whitehall. APC

Sir Francis Knollys returned; his son Sir William Knollys was sent after Essex, who did not meet up with the rest of the fleet until May 13.
April 18, Fri: Trial for high treason of Philip Howard, Earl of Arundel, who had been imprisoned in the Tower of London since April 1585.

Richard Brackenbury made ready and attended 'at Westminster Hall for the arraignment of the Earl of Arundel'.

It was said of the Earl that 'being discontented he became a Catholic, and being so great a man he became a captain of the Catholics, which is much as to be a captain over Traitors'; he had 'private and secret conference' with 'traitors and seminary priests'; he wrote to Cardinal Allen 'to find which way he might further the cause Catholic', and secretly attempted to flee abroad. The Queen of Scots sent word to Anthony Babington that the Earl 'was a fit man to be a chief head for the Catholics'. Dr Allen had stated that the Earl was a procurer of the Pope’s Bull against the Queen, and 'of the invasion also'.

Thomas Egerton, Solicitor-General, described the Earl’s behaviour in the Tower in 1588 'Before the arrival of the Spanish fleet; at the instant of its coming; and after it fled...Before the fleet appeared, he had been guilty of treason, in wishing it happy success; when it was arrived, in making a form of prayer suitable to his wishes, and causing the Mass of the Holy Ghost to be said, and a course of devotions to be used for 24 hours together; and then when the fleet was gone, in lamenting its defeat with all the marks of an extraordinary sorrow’. Evidence was given by several fellow prisoners.

The Earl of Arundel was found guilty of high treason, his titles were forfeited, and he was sentenced to death. [State Trials, i.1249-1264].

The Queen never signed the Earl’s death-warrant. He was not kept as a close prisoner, but had 'the liberty of the Tower’, where he died in October 1595.

April 18–July 2: Portugal Voyage.

Don Antonio sailed with Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris, who had Instructions: to distress the King of Spain’s ships; to get possession of some of the Azores to intercept the treasure fleet from the Indies; finally, to attempt to restore Don Antonio as King of Portugal, if the public feeling to him there is favourable. The Moroccan Ambassador also left. [Wernham, 82-88].

Apr 22, Tues Eve of Garter ceremonies, Whitehall.
At a Chapter held in the Privy Chamber the Queen appointed a Lieutenant, who went to evening service with the other Garter Knights.

John Wolley became the new Chancellor of the Order.

Apr 23, Wed St George’s Day Garter ceremonies, Whitehall.
Queen’s Lieutenant: Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon. 8 other Garter Knights.
The Queen was in processions and at the service, not in Garter robes; she dined in the Privy Chamber. In the afternoon the Lords held a Chapter ‘touching her Majesty’s pleasure for the scrutiny [votes for new Knights]’.

Apr 24, Thur Final 1589 Garter ceremonies, Whitehall.
At a Chapter of the Order two new Knights were elected:
Henry Radcliffe, 4th Earl of Sussex; Thomas Sackville, 1st Lord Buckhurst.
‘My Lord of Sussex was called in and had the Garter put on his leg by my Lord Admiral; her Majesty did put the George on him herself’. Lord Buckhurst was not in town, and the Queen sent him a letter. The Knights went to morning service. [Alnwick Castle, DNP: MS 468].

New Knights installed at Windsor: Dec 16.

April 24, in Spain: The English fleet anchored at Corunna, against the Queen’s orders first to destroy the many returned Spanish Armada ships at two other ports. At Corunna they burnt ships, seized provisions and attempted to capture the town. The locals fought back, and the English standard-bearer was killed by a spear thrown by a local woman, still honoured as a heroine. Many men fell sick during the 3 weeks the fleet stayed at Corunna.
Apr 26, Sat James Colville, Laird of Wemyss, at Whitehall for audience. Lord Burghley wrote a summary of what might be answered to the propositions of King James presented by James Colville on April 26. [Murdin, 635-6].

April 26: Stationers entered a book published as:
'A Second Sound, or Warning of the Trumpet unto Judgement. Wherein is proved that all the tokens of the Latter day are not only come, but well near finished. With an earnest Exhortation to be in continual readiness.

By Anthony Marten, Sewer of her Majesty's most honourable Chamber'.

'To the Queen’s most excellent Majesty. Most renowned and mighty Prince, It pleaseth your Highness, after a long winter’s abode in some one of your Princely Palaces (the storms of cold being past, and the pleasant spring-tide come) to remove your household into a fresh and wholesome air. And for a warning to your officers, and servants of your court, you do cause the Trumpet to be three several times sounded, against you descend from the higher part of your mansion. But if it happen to be long before the second warning of the trumpet be given, the third is no sooner sounding, but your own Person is then coming. Then must all your servants be ready to wait upon you: you are the Sovereign, and not to expect for any. They that be not ready at the same instant are not worthy of such a Prince, nor to have reward for such a service’. ‘

Even so the most invincible King of glory Christ Jesus, who by his holy spirit hath been present in this worldly mansion with his household the Church well near 1600 years, while it...hath been as it were imprisoned within the Palace of this wretched world, is now minded speedily to remove the same into his own Country, a pleasant land, and place of felicity’.

‘The first warning of his remove he sounded by his Apostles, when his fame was spread all over the world by the first preaching of the Gospel. The second he hath proclaimed by the preachers of his word, whom he revived (as it were) out of the dust, within these 70 years. And together with them are sent all the promised tokens of his coming. Howbeit the day being so far spent, before his second coming we shall see himself speedily descend from above with the third sound of the trumpet, and in the voice of an Archangel’.

Your Highness is ‘at this day the chief Steward of his household’.


Apr 30, Wed Master of Gray at Whitehall with the Queen.

May 1, London, Gray to Sir Francis Walsingham: ‘Yesterday I was with her Majesty’. The Laird of Wemyss (Colville) ‘is at great charges here’.

May 1, Thomas Milles: ‘The Laird of Wemyss is upon departure, rewarded for himself with the gift of transporting certain thousands raw cloths’.

Wemyss had a warrant to officers at ports to allow him to export 1000 cloths or kerseys beyond seas, custom free: May 2. [Scot.x.57; SP12/224/3; HT.iii.409].

May 1, Thur dinner, Ely House, Holborn, Middlesex; Sir Christopher Hatton. Leased by Lord Chancellor Hatton. Privy Council meeting, Ely House. APC St Martin Orgar churchwardens paid: ‘For bread and beer for ringers when the Queen went to the Lord Chancellor’s, 8d’.

Work carried out in Holborn and elsewhere, March 1589-March 1590, included: ‘making of 7 new field-gates, mending 6 old gates, putting in sundry new posts for gates for the Queen’s Majesty’s ways behind St Giles and Holborn, making and mending of field-gates in sundry places between St Giles, Holborn, and Pancackeredge [Pancras] Church; cutting out of timber into planks for the King’s Bridge and for a bridge between St James’s Park gate and Ebury Farm’.

May 2, Philip Gawdy to my ‘good sweet brother’: ‘The Queen dined yesterday at my Lord Chancellor’s. No news of the fleet. No news of my Lord of Essex’.
May 2, Barn Elms, in haste, Sir Francis Walsingham to Thomas Windebank, Clerk of the Signet, of a strongly worded letter which the Queen proposes to send to Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris concerning Sir Roger Williams, with whom the Earl of Essex had sailed in April:

'The draft of the letter is in as mild terms as may be, considering how her Majesty standeth affected. The two Generals are wise and men of courage. They will venture rather to hazard her Majesty's dislike than to overthrow the action. You may let fall unto her Majesty at the time that you shall offer the letter to be signed, that...considering how greatly Sir Roger Williams is beloved of both captains and soldiers, that the proceeding against him may breed a mutiny and division in the army with the overthrow of the whole action, to her Majesty's infinite dishonour'. Endorsed by Windebank: 'Mr Secretary, of his opinion not to send the letter'. (See May 4).

c.May 3: James Colville, Laird of Wemyss, and Richard Cockburn left for Scotland. The Queen sent King James £3000, by Wemyss, with a letter dated May 2 describing him as 'a most careful subject of his Prince'.

As to the Master of Gray (returning after two years' banishment) 'with whom I have had long discourse...I find him the most greediest to do you acceptable service that I have ever heard any...and hopeth with his good endeavour to merit your former grace...I must confess, being as honest as he is sufficient, I think your realm possesseth not his second'.


May 4, Queen to Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake: We doubt not that because of 'the heinousness of the offence lately committed by Roger Williams' [with whom Essex had sailed] you have discharged him and appointed another in his place and 'have also laid punishment upon him according to his desert'.

You should know 'our just wrath and indignation against him', and his 'intolerable contempt against ourself...in that he forsook the army...and conveyed away also one of our principal ships from the rest of the fleet...His offence...deserveth by all laws to be punished by death'. If he is not yet executed he is 'to be safely kept, so as he slip not away until you shall know our further pleasure therein, as you will answer to the contrary at your peril. For as we have authority to rule, so we look to be obeyed'.

If Essex is now with the fleet he is 'to be sent hither forthwith, which if you do not, you shall look to answer for the same to your smart'.

[It appears that this letter was not sent, but a milder letter, of criticism and further orders, was sent on May 20].

Court news. [May 5], London, anon newsletter: 'Some envoys from the States of Holland are expected here, but it is considered certain that the Queen will give them no men, and very little money...The Queen is now in London, but will start in a week to pass the summer in a house ten miles from here called "Nonsuch"'.

[Assizes, Essex, 339]. The Queen moved to Nonsuch on June 19.

May 5: Scandalous words at Colchester. Thomas Wenden, of Aldham, yeoman, said 'God's wounds, I will keep it no longer, Parson Wilton spoke openly in the Church of Aldham...that the Queen's Majesty was an arrant whore'.

John West of Aldham, tailor, horrified by his words, denied that John Wilton had ever said this, whereupon Wenden retorted 'Why, the Queen is a dancer and Wilton saith all dancers are whores'.

Wenden was bound over for a year for spreading mis-information.
May 11: Richard Cockburn and James Colville returned to Edinburgh.

May 12, Edinburgh, James Hudson to Sir Francis Walsingham: 'I understand her Highness gave order for a chain of 300 crowns to be given to Mr Cockburn. I wish it might be sent by the Master of Gray'.

May 23, Thomas Fowler to Walsingham: Mr Cockburn 'since he came home, told me there was a chain or some gift for him by your means, but the matter was so crossed as he saw none'.

May 16, Fri  Sir William Knollys at Whitehall on return from Corunna.

May 16, court, Sir Thomas Heneage (Treasurer of the Chamber) to Walsingham: 'This morning Sir William Knollys came hither from the Groyne [Corunna], where he left our navy ready to set sail toward Lisbon this day sevennight [May 9]... My Lord of Essex, at his coming away, could nowhere be heard of and yet divers boats and pinnaces were sent along the coast to seek him'.

'Her Highness mindeth to be with you upon Thursday or Friday next [May 22/23], as they tell me in the Chamber, but this night I will know from herself'.

[SP12/224/48].

The Queen arrived at Barn Elms on May 26.

May 16: The English landed on the coast of Portugal.

No further news reached court from the Fleet for five weeks.

Robert Carey (1560-1639), son of Lord Hunsdon, Governor of Berwick, wrote of 'the Journey of Portugal, where my Lord of Essex stole from court to go that journey, and left me behind him, which did so much trouble me, that I had no mind to stay in the court; but having given out some money to go on foot in twelve days to Berwick, I performed it that summer, which was worth to me two thousand pounds, which bettered me to live at court a good while after'.

[Carey, Memoirs, 12].

Berwick is over 330 miles from London.

May 17, Thomas Windebank to Walsingham, with a 'placard for 6 horses (her Majesty not being willing to grant more) for the King of Scots. I had made it for horses, geldings, or mares, but her Majesty willed me to cross out mares'...

'I told her Majesty that among other her Highness's good and true servants I rejoiced and gave God thanks for this beginning that God had sent of good success to her army at the Groyne, for which truly, Sir, her Majesty praised God, but added withal that Sir John Norris and Sir Francis Drake had not performed that which they promised to have done before they went, which was that they had left two places where they should have done greater service in taking and burning the ships'. She said 'that they went to places more for profit than for service'.

[SP12/224/50].

May 19, Whit Monday Master of Gray at Whitehall to take leave.

May 20, Gray to the Queen, for her promised letter of credit to King James, which he forgot to ask her for yesterday.

[HT.iii.411].

May-September: Dutch Commissioners in England.

The Commissioners from the States-General were Councillors of State:
Jacques d'Egmont, Sieur de Kennenburch; Sebastian van Loosen; Jacques Valck.

May 23, Fri Dutch envoys at Whitehall for first audience.
They requested continuance of the Queen's favour, and presented a copy of their 'remonstrance'; she directed them to confer with the Council on May 25.

[SPF.xxiii.283].
Court news. May 26, Mr Boswell’s house, Gilbert Lord Talbot to the Earl of Shrewsbury, his father: 'The Low Country causes...have these two or three days occupied her Majesty and the Council, having given audience to four or five of the States who are now here’...

'This day her Majesty goeth to Barn Elms, where she is purposed to tarry all day tomorrow, being Tuesday, and on Wednesday to return to Whitehall again, and from thence not to remove till the term be ended, and then either to Richmond or to Nonsuch. I am appointed (amongst the rest) to attend on her Majesty to Barn Elms. I pray God my diligent attendance there may procure me a gracious answer in my suit at her return, for whilst she is there nothing may be moved to her but matter of delight, and to content her, which is the only cause of her going thither’...

'The Master of Gray hath taken his leave of her Majesty, and carrieth letters from her in his own recommendation to the King of Scots’. [LPL 3200/9].

Lord Talbot’s suit was for the reversion of his father’s offices.

Trinity law term 1589: May 30-June 18.

May 26, Mon BARN ELMS, Surrey; Sir Francis Walsingham.

Barnes manor-house, Barn Elms; leased by Walsingham (c.1532-1590), the Queen’s Principal Secretary, who was away from court through sickness from mid-March until June; 2nd wife: Ursula (St Barbe), widow of Sir Richard Worseley.

St Margaret Westminster: ‘For ringing the 26th of May when the Queen’s Majesty went from Whitehall to Barn Elms to Mr Secretary, 6d’.

Most of the Royal household remained at Whitehall.

May 27, ‘from a poor lodge near my house at Theobalds’, Burghley to Earl of Shrewsbury. with a PS: ‘The Queen is at Barn Elms, but this night I will attend on her at Westminster, for I am no man meet for feastings’. [Lodge, ii.375].

May 28, Wed Privy Council meeting, Barn Elms. ‘The Queen being there’. APC

May 28, Wed WHITEHALL PALACE.

Fulham Church: ‘To the ringers at the Queen’s return from Barn Elms, 6d’.
Lambeth Church: ‘Paid for ringing to the ringers the 28th of May when the Queen’s Majesty came from Barn Elms to Whitehall, 2s’.


Published anonymously. [By George Puttenham].

Frontispiece portrait of the Queen, with an inscription in Italian meaning: 'To her who resembles herself and no one else’. Parts of the book are directly addressed to the Queen.

The printer (Richard Field), in an Epistle to Lord Burghley, states that: 'This book...coming to my hands, with his bare title without any author’s name.. I doubted how well it might become me to make you a present thereof, seeming by many express passages in the same at large, that it was by the author intended to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and for her recreation and service chiefly devised’. Yet ‘seeing the thing itself to be a device of some novelty...and a novelty so highly tending to the most worthy praises of her Majesty’s most excellent name (dearer to you I dare conceive than any worldly thing besides) methought I could not devise to have presented your Lordship any gift more agreeable to your appetite, or fitter for my vocation and ability to bestow, your Lordship being learned and a lover of learning, my present a book and myself a printer’...‘From the Blackfriars this xxviii of May 1589’. R.F.

The author gives extracts from his 'Parthenaides', poems addressed to the Queen (New Year 1579), and quotes a lost ‘hymn written by us to the Queen’s Majesty entitled Minerva’. 
The first Book ends with a list of English poets, e.g. Chaucer, Sidney, Spenser ('that other gentleman who wrote the late Shepherd's Calendar').

'But last in recital and first in degree is the Queen our Sovereign Lady, whose learned, delicate, noble Muse easily surmounteth all the rest that have written before her time or since, for sense, sweetness and subtlety, be it in Ode, Elegy, Epigram, or any other kind of poem Heroic or Lyric, wherein it shall please her Majesty to employ her pen, even by as much odds as her own excellent estate and degree exceedeth all the rest of her most humble vassals'.

In the second book 'Of Proportion Poetical' the author includes verses of his own in the shape of a spire, 'Her Majesty...resembled to the Spire'; and in the shape of a crowned pillar, 'Her Majesty resembled to the Crowned Pillar'; also verses headed 'A general resemblance of the Roundel to God, the World and the Queen', 'A special and particular resemblance of her Majesty to the Roundel'.

'Being informed that her Majesty took pleasure sometimes in deciphering of names' the author composes two Latin anagrams on 'Elissabet Anglorum Regina', with their translations.

In the third book 'Of Ornament', in a section on 'the sage sayer' is 'that which our sovereign Lady wrote in defiance of fortune:

'Never think you fortune can bear the sway,
Where virtue's force can cause her to obey'.

The Queen's poem 'The doubt of future foes' is given in full, and there is an anecdote about a progress in Huntingdonshire. For the poem see 1569, end; and for the anecdote see 'Anecdotes': (Bendiowes). 258p. (London, 1589).

The printer, Richard Field, a native of Stratford-upon-Avon, went on to print Shakespeare's Venus and Adonis and The Rape of Lucrece.

May 31, death: Sir Walter Mildmay died in London.
Chancellor of the Exchequer 1559–1589, Founder of Emmanuel College, Cambridge (1584); Privy Councillor; widower.

Will: 'I give and bequeath unto the Queen's most excellent Majesty, my most gracious Sovereign Lady and mistress, as a remembrance of my duty to her Highness, a jewel to be bought by my executors of the price of £100, most humbly beseeching her Majesty to accept the same in good part, which ought to have been far greater in respect of her favour and goodness ever showed unto me'.

Other bequests include: To the Masters and Fellows of Emmanuel College: £200. Funeral: St Bartholomew the Great, London, where his monument remains.

June 9, Mon HIGHGATE, Middlesex; Lady Sheffield. Highgate house of Lady Sheffield. She was Douglas (Howard) (1543–1608), daughter of William 1st Lord Howard of Effingham; widow of John 2nd Lord Sheffield and alleged but repudiated wife of the deceased Earl of Leicester; wife of Sir Edward Stafford (1552–1605), Ambassador to France 1583–April 1589. Sir Edward's mother was Dorothy Lady Stafford, a Lady of the Privy Chamber 1559–1603. Royal household remained at Whitehall. St Martin in the Fields: 'For ringing at her Majesty's going and coming from Highgate and going to Nonsuch, 2s'.

June 11, Wed WHITEHALL PALACE. St Margaret Westminster: 'To the ringers for ringing the 11th of June 1589 when the Queen's Majesty came from Highgate, 6d'.

*June 12, Thur De Buhy at Whitehall for audience. Pierre de Mornay, Sieur de Buhy, special Ambassador from King Henri III, sent to request money for levying troops, a loan of 250,000 crowns – some £45,000 sterling. The Privy Council told De Buhy on June 14 that the Queen had to maintain armies at sea and in the Low Countries, in addition to her expenses in Ireland and Scotland, so could not comply. [SPF.xxiii.lvi]. (See June 26).
June 14, Edinburgh, Thomas Fowler to Sir Francis Walsingham:
‘His Majesty lacks horses, and takes unkindly that the Queen will send him none for hunting; he has to borrow of his servants’.

Fowler to Lord Burghley, June 24: ‘I beseech you to procure the King’s horses to be sent hither; it will content him and do much good’.  

June 15, Sun sermon, Whitehall: Dr Tobias Matthew, Dean of Durham.

Text: from St Paul’s Epistle to the Romans: 12, beginning ‘I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service’.

June 19, Privy Council to Thomas Bodley, in Holland: Her Majesty found ‘by the Commissioners lately sent over from the States-General that the purpose they came for did in no sort answer her expectation’. They had no authority to deal in any matters of weight. After doing little or nothing, the Dutch left in September, leaving fundamental points at issue still undecided.

June 19, Thur dinner, Merton Abbey, Surrey.

Merton Abbey; Crown property, leased from 1582 by Gregory Lovell (c.1521-1597); Cofferer of the Household 1582-1597.
2nd wife: Dorothy (Green); she married (2) Captain Henry Masterson.

June 19, Thur NONSUCH, Cheam, Surrey; Lord Lumley.

Built by Henry VIII; now owned by John Lord Lumley (c.1533-1609).
2nd wife: Elizabeth (Darcy), died 1617. During the Queen’s stay at Nonsuch part of the Royal household was at Cheam.

Simon Bowyer made ready ‘Nonsuch House two several times’, June.

June 21, Nonsuch, Lord Howard of Effingham to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who had given the Queen a horse: ‘Her Majesty doth mean with her own hand to give you thanks, but she stayeth to make my Lord your son [Gilbert Talbot] the carrier. In the meantime her Majesty hath willed me to give you her most hearty thanks, and say that she doth take it very kindly, and most graciously, the care that you should think of such a thing that she did so greatly want, and she commanded me to write to your Lordship that in her life she never had any that she had a greater liking to. Her Majesty hath not yet ridden on him, but meaneth the next time she rideth to prove him. I am well assured that he will wonderfully please her, for, my good Lord, the day of the remove, which was the 19th of this present, her Majesty commanded me to ride on him, and I assure your Lordship I could not give more commendations of him than he doth deserve’. [Lodge, ii.378].

Parents: Lord John Hamilton, 3rd son of 3rd Earl of Arran (and himself later 5th Earl of Arran); wife: Margaret (Lyon), widow of the Earl of Cassillis.
Godfathers: King James; William Ashby, English Ambassador. (See July 13).
2nd son: James Hamilton (1589-1625), born c.March; married (1603), Lady Anne Cunningham. He became 6th Earl of Arran and 2nd Marquis of Hamilton.

c.June 24: Earl of Essex returned to Plymouth from Portugal.
Essex remained at Plymouth, but sent his brother Walter Devereux up to court to sue for his pardon, for his disobedience to the Queen. [Wernham, lvi].

Essex had left court secretly, without permission, on April 3rd to join the Portugal Voyage.
June 26, Nonsuch, Queen to King Henri III ‘with her own hand’, complaining of his special Ambassador De Buhy, but offering to pledge her credit for the loan required by him. \[SPF.xxiii.340-341: French\].

The Queen’s letter was to be taken by Monsieur de Buhy, and on June 27 he had a passport to return to France, but the Queen told the King that she was detaining him, and it seems that he remained in England. On July 3 from ‘Martine abbey’ (probably Merton Abbey, Surrey) he wrote to Lord Burghley, asking him ‘as father of this state, to persuade her Majesty to lend a hundred thousand crowns in cash’. On July 20 (on which date he was again at Nonsuch) he had another passport to return to France, but was still in England in August when an ambassador arrived from the new King. \[SPF.xxiii.360,393; lvi,lvii\].

June 27: Instructions from the Privy Council to Sir Robert Sidney, appointed Governor of Flushing, replacing Sir William Russell. \[SPF.xxiii.343\]. Sir Robert’s brother Sir Philip Sidney was Governor 1585-1586.
Sir Robert arrived in Flushing in May 1590; he was Governor until 1616, when England ceased to hold Cautionary Towns.

July 2 onwards: Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Norris, Don Antonio, returned to Plymouth from the Portugal Voyage, after their unsuccessful attempt to restore Don Antonio as King of Portugal. Thousands of men had died, thousands who returned were sick. Drake and Norris stayed in Devon for several weeks.

July 4: Norris sent his brother Sir Edward Norris up to court; Sir Edward had been wounded at Corunna.

July 6, Nonsuch, Council to the Justices of Assize in Kent ‘to examine such persons as they should think were likely to take’ from those ‘that brought fish for her Majesty’s diet and provision’ so much fish ‘as their Lordships were informed were by certain lewd persons carried and taken away, either in taverns, inns, ale-houses, victualling houses or other places, and all other persons suspected, as they were coming hither from Rye [Sussex]’. \[APC\]

July 7: News that William Dethick, Garter King of Arms, had assaulted Richard Scarlett, a painter frequently employed by the Queen’s Office of Works.

July 7, Privy Council to Lord Burghley: ‘Whereas one Richard Scarlett, a painter, informed their Lordships that Dethick alias Garter King of Arms, did assault him and beat him with his dagger in very violent manner, and since hath threatened and menaced him in such sort as he stood in great fear, their Lordships thought good that some good order might be took for Scarlett’s security, in respect that Garter (being an Officer of Arms) is under his Lordship’s government in the Earl of Shrewsbury’s absence, to pray his Lordship to examine the cause and variance between them’. \[APC\] Burghley was deputy to Shrewsbury, Earl Marshal, in overall charge of the College of Arms.

July 9, Wed Earl of Essex at Nonsuch on his return from Portugal. \[B\]

Court news. July 13 [London], Robert Naunton to William Ashby (Ambassador to Scotland, who was at James Hamilton’s christening on June 22):
‘I resorted yesterday Saturday to the court at Nonsuch’. The Queen ‘rested especially well satisfied and content’ at the report of your ‘commendable behaviour at the great christening, as well for your present, which she doubted before that the country there would hardly have afforded; and therefore is to provide a second compliment here wherewith to present my Lady Hamilton there’...

‘My Lord of Essex is returned to the court, in favour with her Highness... Drake and Norris are said to continue still at Plymouth, with small forwardness to make report of their success to her Majesty’. \[BL Egerton 2598, f.12v-12v\].
July 17, Nonsuch, Privy Council: Justices of the Peace in Surrey are to confer and 'to take order that such soldiers which come from the Fleet may not repair to the court for fear of bringing infection thither'.

Plymouth Corporation records: 'This year there are six of her Majesty's ships, and two pinnaces, with 180 sails of merchant ships, which are in warlike manner gone to the coast of Spain under the command and direction of Sir John Norris knight and Sir Francis Drake knight, Lord Generals. They took divers places...of Spain, but having a great sickness happening amongst their men, they returned without entering into the city of Lisbon, to which place their chief bent was. Yet entered they the suburbs and took it and came to the gate of the city, where it is, and the right honourable the Lord of Essex knocked with such instrument as he had in his hand'.

Captain William Fenner to Anthony Bacon, from Plymouth, September, describing 'that miserable action'. In the march towards Lisbon, Don Antonio the King and the Prince of Portugal (his son Emanuel) 'being there in person, looked for the nobility and chief of the country to come and submit themselves, with offer of such forces as they were able to make to assist the King. But none came, save only a company of poor peasants without hose or shoes, and one gentlewoman which presented the King with a basket of cherries and plums'...

'At our coming to Lisbon we won the suburbs of the town...The Earl of Essex went in company and knocked at the gates of the town'.

The King of Morocco had broken his promise to send aid to Don Antonio.

July 18, marriage. Sir William Hatton (c.1565-1597), nephew and heir of Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor, married Elizabeth Gawdy, daughter and heiress of Francis Gawdy of Norfolk, a Judge of the Queen's Bench; at Sir Christopher’s house, Holdenby, Northants. John Pigeon, Jewel-house Officer, went from Nonsuch to London 'for providing a gift given by her Majesty at the marriage of Sir William Hatton'.

Queen's gift to Sir William Hatton: 'one basin and a lair of silver gilt fair wrought'.

Captain Francis Allen to Anthony Bacon, Aug 17: 'My Lord Chancellor danced the measures at the solemnity. He left the gown in the chair, saying, "Lie there, Chancellor"'.

Edward Garrett to Captain Wenman, Aug 31, London: 'Sir William Hatton was married the 18th of July at Hombie in Northamptonshire, whereat my Lord Chancellor with many more were'.

July 19, King James to Lord Burghley, in favour of two Edinburgh merchants he is sending to London 'for buying and provision of certain habillements and other ornaments requisite for decoration of our marriage'.

Scottish Ambassadors had been in Denmark since June negotiating the terms of the King’s marriage to Anne of Denmark; this took place by proxy on August 20.

July 20, Sun French special Ambassador at Nonsuch. De Buhy, with the secretary of the former resident Ambassador. [SPF.xxiii.393].

Court news. July 21 [Plymouth, news from Manuel d’Andrada]: 'Don Antonio and his people had arrived in Plymouth in a wretched state...The Portuguese were now more unpopular in England than the Spaniards themselves'...

'As soon as the Earl of Essex arrived he sent his brother post-haste to the Queen to ask her pardon for the fault he had committed in going with the expedition without her permission'...

'Don Antonio signified to me that if he was not well received by the Queen he would leave the country for France or Hamburg, in order to proceed to Constantinople or Barbary'. [Span.iv.549-550]. When the Queen discovered his intentions Don Antonio remained in England until the end of 1593.
July 22, Tues, Nonsuch. **Proclamation** (712): Prohibiting members of the Fleet from approaching court. ‘Forasmuch as it is found...that many persons which have served of late on the seas in the journey towards Spain and Portugal, in coming from Plymouth and other ports of the realm, have fallen sick by the way and divers died as infected with the plague, and that it is likely that many will have of purpose to come from the said Navy to the city of London and so consequently to the court, whereby danger of infection may come to her Majesty's household and so approach to her sacred person:

Therefore it is commanded by publication hereof, both at the court gate and in all the towns within the Verge [12 miles of court], that no person that hath served within the said fleet shall come to the court nor within the Verge except such as shall be specially sent from those which were the Generals of the Navy with letters to the court; which persons shall not enter within the court gates until the cause of their coming from the Generals with letters of importance be notified to some of her Majesty's Privy Council and thereupon the Queen’s Porters warned to suffer them to enter into the court’.

And if any such person shall, contrary to this commandment, from this day... attempt to come either to the court or within the Verge, and shall not, immediately upon knowledge hereof, depart with convenient speed, the same shall be apprehended by the Knight Marshal and his deputies, or by any Justice or Constable dwelling within the Verge, and shall be committed to the Marshalsea without any bail until he shall be dismissed by some two of the Privy Council’.

July 24 (o.s), in France: death. King Henri III (1551-1589) died after being stabbed by a friar on the previous day.

King Henri of Navarre (1553-1610), a Huguenot, became King Henri IV of France. The War of Religion continued, as Henri IV was not universally recognised as King until after he converted to Catholicism in 1593; he entered Paris in 1594.

July 26: News of court appointments.
Lady Elizabeth Vere (1575-1627) became a Maid of Honour; she was 1st daughter of Edward de Vere 17th Earl of Oxford, and a grand-daughter of Lord Burghley.
Lady Bridget Manners (c.1575-1604) became a Lady of the Privy Chamber; she was daughter of John Manners 4th Earl of Rutland deceased, and a ward of the Countess of Bedford. July 26, Winkburn (Notts), Elizabeth Countess of Rutland (Lady Bridget’s widowed mother) to Bridget Countess of Bedford: ‘I understand... the Queen’s gracious disposition towards my daughter Bridget for receiving her into her service. I did not expect the favour because it pleased the Queen so lately to receive Lady Elizabeth Vere...I send £200 towards furnishing her for the place, which is all I can afford now’.

Advice to Lady Bridget: Aug 29.

July 27, Sun: Book ‘delivered’ to the Queen, Nonsuch.
Anonymous work dedicated to the Queen (published in England in 1642):
‘Asinus Onustus. The Ass Overladen. To his loving and dear Mistress, Elizabeth the Blessed Queen of England. This book was delivered to Queen Elizabeth being at Nonsuch, July 27, Anno 1589’.

‘The Effect of the Book, and the Ass’s Intent, to the Reader’.
'The poor Ass to his Mistress complains of three injuries: That he is despised; That he is Overladen; That his Provender is taken from him. This Ass is the Ministry and Clergy of England, compared to an Ass for strength, and for patience, and clemency, etc’. In three Parts, the second Part being:
'The Ministry overladen of late with Taxes'; the third Part: 'The Church robbed by such as beg away her livings'. 69p. (London, 1642).

July 28, court at Nonsuch, Sir Francis Walsingham to Thomas Bodley: We heard today of the French King’s murder by a Jacobin and that the nobility and captains of the army swore loyalty to the King of Navarre. [*SPF*.xxiii.404].
July/August 1589, at Northampton: 'A warlike fight prepared by the townsmen in honour of victory over the Spanish Armada was well performed'...

'This year a warlike feat was exhibited in the market place by the townsmen; the hall over the conduit (in which the companies of townsmen used to meet) was metamorphosed into a Castle, and surnamed the Groyne, on the top of which a tower was made. In the front of the hall, towards the market place, a court was made, with a fence like to the town wall, fitted up with gates'.

'Edward Hensman was Captain of the Groyne, and he with his band kept the Castle, while Thomas Judkin and Thomas Sambrook commanding the besieging party (called the English), after various marches, counter-marches, manoeuvres and skirmishes, were, on the first two days of attack, repulsed, though without any very serious loss; but on the third day the attack succeeded, and the assailing party having beaten their opponents in their stronghold, set the tower on fire'.

'This business was well performed; and all the towns, far and near, came to see it'. [C.A. Markham and J.C. Cox, Records of the Borough of Northampton, (Northampton, 1898), ii. 472-3].

Aug 4, Nonsuch: 'Here came Thomas Wilkes, Clerk of the Council in Ordinary, after 2 years' absence, to give his attendance on the Lords of the Council'.

Aug 4-11: Sir Martin Frobisher's prisoners at Nonsuch. Captain Frobisher was at sea in The Repentance, July-August.

He was paid £17.8s 'for the charges of 16 prisoners by him taken in a frigate on the Narrow Seas who were conveyed from Dover to the court then at Nonsuch'.

Aug 12, Tues dinner, West Molesey, Surrey; Mr Brend.

West Molesey manor-house; owned by Thomas Brend (c.1517-1598).

2nd wife: Mercy, died 1597.

Aug 12, Tues OATLANDS PALACE, Weybridge, Surrey.

The Queen was at Oatlands with her whole Household. For a comparison with expenses in a week in August 1590, see 28 August 1590.


Latin dedication (8p), with 14 lines of verse celebrating the victory which God's winds and waves brought to the Queen in 1588. 344p. (London, 1589).

The book was soon translated into English: see 9 February 1590. The verses on the Armada victory had already been published.

Court news. Aug 17, London, Captain Francis Allen to Anthony Bacon (Francis Bacon's brother, abroad from 1579-1592): 'I imagine you expect some news'...

'My Earl of Essex hath chased Mr Ralegh from the court, and hath confined him into Ireland. Conjecture you the rest of that matter'.

'Three Generals, Sir John Norris for land and Sir Francis Drake for sea, are returned from their Portugall voyage, with no better success than must needs'...

'Your cousin Mr Robert Cecil shall marry very shortly my Lord Cobham's daughter'...

'My Lady of Leicester hath married the Gentleman of her Horse, Sir Christopher Blount, knighted by my Lord Willoughby in Flanders'...

'There was never in court such emulation, such envy, such back-biting, as is now at this time; when you come home, you must:

Cog, lie, flatter, and face

Four ways in court, to win you grace...'. [LPL 647/122].
Lady of Leicester: Countess of Leicester: Lettice (Knollys) (1543-1634),
cousin of the Queen; widow of (1) Walter Devereux 1st Earl of Essex;
(2) Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, who died in September 1588.
Probably about July 1589 the Countess, mother of the Earl of Essex,
made Sir Christopher Blount, her Master of the Horse (c.1556-1601, executed).

Aug 20, in Denmark: marriage of King James.
James VI of Scotland (1566-1625) was married by proxy to Anne of Denmark
(1574-1619), sister of Christian IV, King of Denmark and Norway.
When the news reached Queen Elizabeth she appointed Henry Clinton 2nd Earl
of Lincoln as special Ambassador to go to Scotland with gifts for James and
Anne, who was expected to arrive in mid-September (but arrived in May 1590).

Aug 21, Thur dinner, Thorpe, Surrey; ‘Mr Secretary Wolley’. Hall Place manor-house. John Wolley, Latin Secretary to the Queen 1569-1596,
Privy Councillor; 2nd wife: Elizabeth (More) (1552-1600), daughter of Sir
William More of Loseley, Surrey, and widow of Richard Polsted of Thorpe,
who settled Hall Place manor on her; she married (3) Sir Thomas Egerton.

Aug 22, Oatlands, Council to the Recorder of London (William Fleetwood):
‘Certain soldiers that were employed in the late voyage to Portugal repaired
hither to the court on Thursday last in a most disordered manner, being well
near 100 in number, who by order from her Majesty were commanded to repair to
Westminster...to the end there may be some order taken for the dispersing of
them into the several counties where they were last abiding’.
Council to Sir John Norris: ‘Loose and scattered soldiers...have of late
in sundry troops resorted hither to the court to demand pay for their service
in the late voyage of Portugal’. Stow, Annals: Some of the returned soldiers and sailors ‘so rudely behaved
themselves about the country, about the court, and elsewhere, that many men
misliked of their doings’. Eight were hanged.

Aug 24, Sun, Oatlands. Proclamation (715): Prohibiting Unlawful Assembly by
members of the Fleet. Some of the 'soldiers or mariners employed in the late
Portuguese voyage' have 'assembled themselves in disordered troops...and have also
presumed to repair to her Majesty’s court contrary to a former Proclamation made
(on July 22) in respect of the infection of the parts and ships from whence they
came’. There are orders as to due payment to be made to soldiers and mariners.

Jean de la Fin, Sieur de Beauvoir la Nocle, Ambassador 1589-1595; his wife was
Béraude de Ferrières. King Henri IV 'sent a large commission to his Ambassador,
and to De Buhy and Buzenval, to require aid of men and money'.
De Buhy: special Ambassador; Buzenval: formerly resident Agent for the
King when he was King Henri III of Navarre.

Sir Francis Walsingham to William Ashby, Aug 27, Barn Elms: 'Monsieur Beauvoir
la Nocle is come out of France to crave assistance for the King of Navarre.
Her Majesty seemeth very forward to yield him the same, but her means to perform
it I doubt will not be answerable to that the world expecteth at her hands'.
[BL Egerton 2598, f.60].

The Queen responded swiftly in this emergency, and 4000 men, with a large
loan, were shipped to France in September.
August 26: John Colville, Scottish special Ambassador, at Oatlands. Richard Douglas to his uncle Archibald Douglas (resident Scottish Ambassador in England), Aug 12, Falkland: As to King James's marriage John Colville is to be sent 'to persuade the Queen to be contented and approve this marriage, to require some help in money, and to beg some provision of plate and other meubles [furnishings] for his Majesty'. He is to ask the Queen 'to honour his marriage with the presence of some noble personage'. [HT.iii.272]. King James planned a second marriage ceremony to take place when Anne of Denmark arrived in Scotland.

Aug 26, Tues Scottish special Ambassador at Oatlands for first audience. John Colville, well-known at the English court, was in England for a month.

Aug 27, Francis Walsingham to William Ashby: 'I understand he was graciously received, so that there is great good hope of an answer to his contentment'.

Aug 29: Advice for Lady Bridget Manners, new young Lady of the Privy Chamber. Aug 29, Uffington, Roger Manners (an Esquire for the Body) to his niece Lady Bridget 'of her Majesty's Privy Chamber', with advice.

'First and above all things...to use daily prayers...Then that you apply yourself wholly to the service of her Majesty with all meekness, love and obedience; wherein you must be diligent, secret and faithful. To your elders and superiors, of reverent behaviour; to your equals and fellow-servants civil and courteous; to your inferiors you must show all favour and gentleness. Generally that you be no meddler in the causes of others. That you use much silence...That your speech and endeavours ever tend to the good of all and to the hurt of none'...

'Commend me to my beloved cousin Mistress Mary Radcliffe'.RT

Mary Radcliffe was in attendance on the Queen 1562-1603. The Countess of Rutland's accounts list numerous sums of money sent to her daughter Lady Bridget at court from 27 July 1589 (£150) until 1593; she left court in 1594 before marriage. [Rutland MSS. iv. 394-403].


The Queen became godmother to their son (April 1591).

Aug 31 [Edinburgh], William Ashby to Sir Francis Walsingham (after King James learnt that his marriage to Anne of Denmark by proxy had already taken place):

'This hasty marriage makes the King half amazed, being so unprovided every way as he knows not which way to turn himself...His only refuge is to her Majesty, whose gracious dealing at this present will bind him more than all that has past, and a penny now sent will be better accepted than a pound hereafter'.

'This day Roger Aston took his journey towards London to make provision of things necessary for the marriage'...

'The Queen at her first landing, which is daily expected, is to remain at Leith for 10 or 12 days till Holyroodhouse be ready, so as it is thought by the 20th of September the marriage will be celebrated at Edinburgh. The Queen’s convoy will be about 16 or 18 ships'. [BL Egerton 2598, f.68].

Sept 1: Queen Anne embarked at Copenhagen for Scotland. It was not known for several weeks that storms had forced the ships back to land.

c.Sept 1-c.Oct 10: Sir Edward Stafford was special Ambassador to France. Stafford negotiated about the use of English forces sent to France.

By Richard Hakluyt. Epistle Dedicatory to Sir Francis Walsingham, Nov 17. This enlarges on 'that just commendation which our nation do indeed deserve; it cannot be denied, but as in all former ages they have been men full of activity, stirrers abroad, and searchers of the remote parts of the world, so in this most famous and peerless government of her most excellent Majesty, her subjects through the special assistance and blessing of God, in searching the most opposite corners and quarters of the world, and to speak plainly, in compassing the vast globe of the earth more than once, have excelled all the nations and people of the earth'.

'For which of the kings of this land before her Majesty had their banners ever seen in the Caspian Sea? which of them hath ever dealt with the Emperor of Persia, as her Majesty hath done, and obtained for her merchants large and loving privileges? who ever saw before...an English lieger [ambassador] in the stately porch of the Grand Signor at Constantinople? who ever found English Consuls and Agents at Tripoli in Syria, at Aleppo, at Babylon, at Basra, and which is more, who ever heard of Englishmen at Goa before now? what English ships did heretofore ever anchor in the mighty river of Plate? pass and repass the unpassable (in former opinion) strait of Magellan, range along the coast of Chile, Peru, and all the back side of Nova Hispania, further than any Christian ever passed, traverse the mighty breadth of the South sea, land upon the Luzones [the Philippines] in despite of the enemy, enter into alliance, amity, and traffic with the princes of the Moluccas and the Isle of Java, double the famous Cape of Bona Speranza [Good Hope], arrive at the Isle of Santa Helena, and last of all return home most richly laden with the commodities of China, as the subjects of this now flourishing monarchy have done?'.

Hakluyt (c.1532-1616) brought out an enlarged second edition, 1598-1600.

c.Sept 2: Dr Giles Fletcher returned from a special embassy to Tsar Feodor of Russia, begun in June 1588, on behalf of the merchants of the Muscovy Company. He reported to the Queen on 'The sum of my negotiation', including: 'My whole entertainment from my first arrival till towards the very end was such as if they had devised means of very purpose to show their utter disliking both of the trade of the Merchants and of the whole English nation...The presents sent by your Highness to the Emperor, and delivered to him in his own presence, were the day following returned to me, and very contemptuously cast down before me'. Fletcher wrote Of the Russe Commonwealth, dedicated to the Queen (see end 1591) ([Report, book: E.A.Bond, Russia at the Close of the Sixteenth Century (1856)].

Sept 7,Sun: Queen's birthday celebrations, e.g. St Ethelburga Bishopsgate: 'For candles, bread and drink for the ringers on the Queen's birthday, 8d'.

Court news, of preparations for King James’s marriage.
Sept 8, Westminster, Lord Burghley to Lord Mayor of London (Sir Richard Martin): 'My Lord Mayor. Where one Mr Colville, the Scots King’s Ambassador, hath cause to buy certain plate for the King his master, and also certain other stuff for the appareling of the said King and his family, for the discharging whereof he hath not here ready money, her Majesty is pleased to be answerable for the same to the value of £2000 sterling. Wherefore I do on her Majesty’s behalf require your Lordship that upon conference with the said Ambassador or such as he shall assign, you will in this service help him to make the said provisions both of the plate and of other things so far forth as the value thereof do not exceed £2000, and that he may be served at reasonable prices...I pray you deliver your several bills, promising payment within one month, and I will in her Majesty's behalf discharge your Lordship thereof'. [HT.MS 18/44].
Sept 9, Oatlands, Council sent letters to 12 gentlemen appointed to accompany the Earl of Lincoln to go into Scotland for the marriage of the King of Scots, including sons of the Earl of Shrewsbury, of Lord Eure, and of Lord Willoughby. Also a placard for the Scottish Ambassador (Colville) to take provision and stuff from London to Berwick by a cart and horses.

Also Sept 9: Council to Lord Willoughby, to come to court. Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby de Eresby. Many preparations were being made to send aid to King Henri IV.

Sept 20, Sun new appointment: Lord Willoughby de Eresby to be 'Lieutenant-General of the 4000 men levied for the succour of the French King'. The men are to be paid for a month, and are then to return if the King does not pay them. They embarked late in September for Dieppe. [SPF].

*September: Queen’s Printer, Christopher Barker, printed ‘A Form of Prayer, thought fit to be daily used in the English Army in France’. Including ‘A Prayer for the Queen’s Majesty’. [Liturgy, 626-631].

Sept 20, Carlisle, Lord Scrope to William Ashby: 'Upon a letter received from Mr Roger Aston, signifying unto me that it was the King’s earnest desire for to have her Majesty’s players for to repair into Scotland to his Grace, I did forthwith dispatch a servant of my own unto them where they were in the furthest part of Lancashire, whereupon they made their return hither to Carlisle, where they are, and have stayed for the space of ten days, whereof I thought good to give you notice in respect of the great desire that the King had to have the same to come unto his Grace; and withal to pray you to give knowledge thereof to his Majesty’. [BL Egerton 2598, f.82].

The players in Lancashire and Cumberland were ‘the Queen’s Men’.

Sept 20: Seditious words at Bermondsey, Surrey. Cecily Burch, of London, spinster, said 'She trusted in God to see the blood run through the streets as the water runneth in the Thames. And she trusted to see a new prince to reign over us'. Guilty; to be pilloried. [Assizes, Surrey, 345].

Sept 22, court, Lord Burghley to William Ashby, who had sent word that Anne of Denmark had not yet landed: 'Yet doth the Lord Chamberlain [Lord Hunsdon] by such intelligence as he hath assure her Majesty of her arrival. And my Lord of Lincoln is hastened away, who will depart hence about Thursday or Friday [Sept 25 or 26] at the furthest’. [BL Egerton 2598, f.85].


Sept 27, Edinburgh, William Ashby to Lord Burghley: 'John Colville arrived here the 22nd at night, and the next day acquainted the King his master with her Majesty’s bountiful consideration, whereupon his Highness resorted hither the 25th of purpose to see the plate and other furniture he brought, which was said to be such as never the like known in Scotland in no Prince’s time, and is kindly accepted of’. There is a full list of the plate taken by John Colville, being gilt plate, parcel gilt plate, and white plate; £200 was paid to a mercer for silks. Total value £2000. King James assumed all of this to be a gift from the Queen, and failed to pay for it. [BL Egerton 2598, f.90; Scot.x.160-162].
Sept 28, Sun Richmond: Council placard for John Cotton, gentleman, ‘for taking up of two carts with two sufficient teams, as also four horses either for post or journey, to convey certain stuff into Scotland for her Majesty’s services’.  

September: Revels preparations for a masque ‘sent into Scotland’. Revels made or altered garments for ‘a masque for 6 masquers and 6 torch-bearers and such persons as were to utter speeches at the showing of the same masque sent into Scotland to the King of Scots marriage by her Majesty’s commandment’.

Six masquers in purple gold tinsel coats, two with sleeves of red cloth of gold, four with sleeves of white cloth of copper silver; with head-pieces, four of cloth of gold, two of purple cloth of gold; with feathers; mantles, four of orange cloth of gold, two of purple and white cloth of silver; vizards, gilded falchions [swords].

Six torch-bearers in damask cassocks and hose (three in red and three in yellow), with hats of crimson cloth of gold with feathers; vizards. There were ‘four hairs of silk and four garlands of flowers for the attire of them that are to utter certain speeches at the showing of the same masque’. [Revels, 392].

Sept 30, Richmond, Council’s warrant: To William Martin, Keeper of the Counter in Wood Street, ‘for the charges of Sir Thomas Gerard knight remaining in his custody 39 weeks and for other necessary expenses allowed to him’, £100.

Gerard, a Catholic, father of John Gerard, Jesuit priest, had several spells in prison, suspected of treason. He was pardoned in 1594 and died in 1601.

September: dinner, Hampton Court, Middlesex. Crown property. Richard Brackenbury made ready for the Queen ‘to dine at Hampton Court’.

Thomas Nower, Royal waterman, for ‘himself and others attending at Hampton Court Ferry for carrying over her Majesty and her Highness’s train to Hampton Court and back again at sundry times, September’, £6.8s8d.

1 October 1589-14 March 1590: Edward Dyer was special Ambassador to Denmark.

Oct 7: News of Essex’s secret letters to King James. Oct 7, Edinburgh, Thomas Fowler to Lord Burghley, informing him that Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, wrote to the King assuring him of his fidelity.

The Earl’s sister Penelope, Lady Rich, wrote several letters to Richard Douglas on the Earl’s behalf to be shown to the King. Douglas took the letters to Scotland. In them names were given as nicknames, devised by Lady Rich; Douglas had ‘a long scroll, as an alphabet of cipher to understand them by’.

They included: Queen Elizabeth: Venus, or Pallas; King James: Victor; Earl of Essex: Ernestus, and also the ‘weary knight’ wishing for change; Lord Rich: Richardo; Lady Rich: Rialta. The letters assured the King that the Queen could not live above a year or two. [Murdin, 636-640]. (See Oct 20).

Oct 9, Richmond, Sir Thomas Perrot to his cousin’s husband (unnamed), with thanks for sending him ‘a very fat doe’, and partridges and pheasants: ‘And because you shall make me more beholden unto you, I pray you to send me against Monday or Tuesday next (if my hawk will kill them) some pheasants and partridges, for that I have promised some such ware unto my Lady Marquis, who meaneth to feast the Queen at Sheen about that time’. [BL RP 6631(1)].

Oct 10: The Scots received the first definite news of Anne of Denmark since she embarked. She was on the coast of Norway, having been driven back by storms five times. King James began making preparations to go himself to fetch her. The Earl of Lincoln was still waiting in suspense with their presents.
Court news. Oct 12, Burghley to William Ashby, from my house in Westminster:  
‘Her Majesty hath thought good...to cause direction to be given to my Lord of  
Lincoln, her Ambassador, and also to certain that have the carriage of certain  
presents, both to the King and young Queen, to stay on the way until they may  
have more certainty either of her coming or of her stay until the Spring’.  
As for the plate bought for King James, I am committed to paying £2000, now  
overdue. ‘I must in honesty pay the same, which I will do, though I have not  
myself a spoon of silver’. Oct 13, Richmond, Walsingham to William Ashby:  
‘I have written unto the Earl of Lincoln to proceed onwards by small journeys  
towards Carlisle, and there to stay till such time as he shall understand from  
you of her arrival’.  
[BL Egerton 2598, f.110,115].

Dissolved Priory; Crown property; leased in 1584 to the Lady Marquis, a Lady  
of the Privy Chamber, and her husband Sir Thomas Gorges, a Groom of the Privy  
Chamber. She was Helena (Snakenborg) (1549-1635), Swedish-born widow of William  
Parr, Marquis of Northampton. Covenant in lease: ‘that at her Majesty's access  
to Richmond her officers may have lodging there’, except at ‘the Prior’s house’.  
Works, 1589-1590: ‘making new bridges in the meads between Richmond and Sheen’.

Oct 20, Edinburgh, Thomas Fowler to Lord Burghley, with news that  
young Constable’, brought ‘Rialta’s picture’ to ‘Victor’. [Murdin, 640].  
Lady Rich was a noted black-eyed, golden-haired beauty; Henry Constable  
took King James her portrait, a (lost) miniature painted by Nicholas Hilliard.  
Constable wrote a sonnet ‘To Mr Hilliard: upon occasion of a picture he made  
of my Lady Rich’, referring to ‘her black sparkling eyes’. (Published 1592).

Oct 21, Doncaster, Earl of Lincoln to William Ashby:  
‘For that I may the sooner be warned of the approaching of the Princess, my  
desire is that you will direct your letters either to Sir Richard Maliverer,  
Sheriff of Yorkshire, who lieth hard by the post way (where I have left my  
carriages and some of my men, with my charge), or to the Post of Doncaster,  
for that I have left order with my servants whom I left purposely in that town  
to bring your letters with speed, finding that when I lie out of the post way  
they are either slowly brought to me or not at all by the Posts’...  
‘I am now resolved to retire for a time to Lincoln, and to leave my carriages  
and my people at Doncaster and Allerton, as I have said before in the highway,  
and the gentlemen at York; so shall I be reader upon any advertisement from you  
to return myself with more speed’.  
[BL Egerton 2598, f.127].

Oct 23: Charges are to be brought against Sir Francis Drake and Sir John  
Norris ‘concerning their proceedings in the late voyage of Portugal, as not  
having performed the effect of such instructions as they received from her  
Majesty’. [Wernham, 291-4. With their answers]. Norris did not lead  
another expedition until 1591, Drake until 1595.

Oct 23 [Lincoln], Earl of Lincoln to Lord Burghley, sending a letter from  
William Ashby ‘which maketh me afraid that the coming of the Princess will not  
befall the Spring, which would put me to unreasonable charges if I should  
continue my company so long, especially by the way and at inns at those  
unreasonable rates that they demand and I have paid hitherto...I came home  
this day very weary’. Endorsed ‘Post haste’.  
[SP12/227/36].

Oct 24: King James sailed for Norway to fetch his bride.  
There was a second marriage ceremony in Upsala, Norway, Nov 24. The Danish  
Council would not permit Anne to set sail again until Spring, and the couple  
spent the winter in Norway and Denmark, arriving in Scotland on 1 May 1590.
Oct 24, Edinburgh, John Colville to Burghley, acknowledging the Queen’s present taken by him to King James. ‘There came never gift from England so acceptable to him as that which I brought’. Endorsed: ‘The King of Scots acceptance of the Queen’s present of plate’. [HT.iii.440]. ‘£3000 granted to the King of Scots, whereof £1000 delivered to Mr John Colville...and £2000 to certain merchants for plate and silks for the King’.  


Edmund Spenser (1554-1599) lived in Ireland from 1580; earlier in 1589 he became Clerk of the Council of Munster. He journeyed to England with Sir Walter Ralegh, bringing with him the manuscript of the first part of ‘The Faerie Queene’, which was published during his stay in England.

Spenser described his voyage to England with Ralegh, and his meetings with the Queen, in verse in Colin Clout’s Come Home Again, largely completed in Ireland in 1591, dedicated to Ralegh in December 1591, published in 1595.

In this Spenser is ‘Colin Clout’, the Queen is ‘Cynthia’, and Ralegh ‘the Shepherd of the Ocean’. ‘Water’ Ralegh wrote ‘The Ocean’s Love to Cynthia’, an ambitious work in verse, which circulated in manuscript. (See 1592, end).

c.October 1589-c.1591: Edmund Spenser’s meetings with the Queen.

Described in Colin Clout’s Come Home Again.

Sir Walter Ralegh had ‘counselled’ Spenser to go with him ‘his Cynthia to see, Whose grace was great, and bounty most rewardful’. Spenser/Colin took only his ‘oaten quill’. Ralegh guided him ‘to Cynthia’s presence’.

That Goddess...to mine oaten pipe inclined her ear, That she thenceforth therein gan take delight, And it desired at timely hours to hear’.

Spenser praises numerous poets, including William Alabaster, and some of the court ladies (the ‘many Nymphs’), and eulogises the Queen, referring to ‘Great Cynthia’s goodness and high grace... Every gift and every goodly meed [reward], Which she on me bestowed... Her words were like a stream of honey... Her deeds were like great clusters of ripe grapes... Her looks were like beams of the morning Sun... Her thoughts are like the fume of Frankincense... Much like an Angel in all form and fashion’.

In contrast, to explain his return to Ireland, Spenser goes on to attack the vices of the court, its malice and strife. [For his list of court ladies see 27 Dec 1591, and for Alabaster’s poem dedicated to the Queen see end 1591].

6 November 1589/14 July 1590: christening: Queen was godmother to ‘Monsieur Clarhagen’s child’.

Gift: ‘one nest of three bowls with a cover of silver gilt...by us given to Monsieur Clarhagen at the christening of his child’. Ps

Colonel Julian Clarhagen was formerly Governor of Gorcum and Worcum in the Low Countries. He was imprisoned at Utrecht in 1588, but was released and, after leaving his older children as pledges, arrived in England in May 1589.

Nov 7,Fri French Ambassadors at Richmond for audience.

Beauvoir and a special Ambassador, Philippe Canay, Sieur de Fresne, came to thank the Queen for a loan of £15,000 to Henri IV. [SPF List 1, 298].


His son William Compton (1568-1630) became 2nd Lord Compton (and took part in his first Accession Day Tilt on November 17). Funeral: December 10, at Compton Wynates, Warwickshire. The widowed Anne (Spencer), Lady Compton, married (1592) Robert Sackville, later 2nd Earl of Dorset.
Nov 14: Lord Mayor, John Hart, sent a Precept to the Livery Companies to escort the Queen to Somerset House on November 15, on horseback, in velvet coats with gold chains, by torch-light. [Journal 22]. Similar to January 28 Precept.

Nov 15, Sat dinner, Putney, Surrey; Mr [John] Lacy. a bridge for the landing of the Queen’s Majesty at Putney.

Nov 15, Sat SOMERSET HOUSE, Strand; Crown property. Keeper: Henry Carey, 1st Lord Hunsdon (1526-1596), Lord Chamberlain, the Queen’s cousin; wife: Anne (Morgan), died 1607. Works did repairs to the Keeper of the house’s lodging; the Lady Hunsdon’s lodgings over the gate; the Savoy Church. Anthony Wingfield made ready Somerset House and ‘at the Savoy Church’.

Works, 1589-1590: ‘a bridge for the landing of the Queen’s Majesty at Putney’.

Nov 15, Sat dinner, Putney, Surrey; Mr [John] Lacy. a bridge for the landing of the Queen’s Majesty at Putney.

Nov 17, Mond Accession Day celebrations, e.g.

At Paul’s Cross: sermon by Dr Thomas White (1550-1624), Vicar of St Gregory by St Paul. Dr White declared: ‘Our gracious Sovereign did suffer long, and too long almost, before she took the sword in hand, and stood to her defence in the cause of the gospel’...

‘Hold you not your peace, but tell it in Spain, and in the islands there about...that as Elizabeth of England lived by the Grace of God...He that is mighty hath magnified her, and holy is his name’. [Printed, 1589].

St Antholin Budge Row: ‘Bread and drink for ringers on the Queen’s night, 6d; for one pound of candles for the ringers that night, 4d; two pound of candles that night for the lecture, 8d’.

St Mary Woolnoth: ‘Paid the 17th day of November 1589 for ringers for the Queen’s Majesty’s Coronation, 2s6d; for two pound of candles spent the same night at a sermon made by Mr Vaughan, 8d’.

Ironmongers’ Company: ‘Paid for a form at Paul’s for the Company the 17th of November 1589, 2s’.

Bristol Chamberlains: ‘Paid by Mr Mayor’s commandment to Mr Woodson’s scholars for making of two orations on Michael’s day, and the Queen’s holiday, 5s; to the four trumpeters sounding before Mr Mayor then, 10s; and for making clean all the swords, 12d’. New Mayors of Bristol took office on Michaelmas Day, Sept 29.

Cambridge, St John’s College: Dr William Whitaker (Master of St John’s 1586-1595) to Lord Burghley, 14 May 1590: ‘On the Queen’s day last...we had an oration in our college hall on that night...at which oration I was present, and our whole company, and divers of other colleges...The action was solemn, with bonfires in both the courts of the college, as also it hath been ever since I came to this college’.

Cratfield Church, Suffolk: ‘Paid to the ringers of the Crownation day, 2s; for bread and wine for the Communion the 17th day of November, 19d’.

Heckington Church, Lincs: ‘For bread and drink for the ringers of the Queen’s Anniversary day, 2s6d; for bread and wine for the Communion the same day, 16d’.

Norwich, St Peter Mancroft: ‘For ringing on the Crownation day, 2s8d; for ringing on the rejoicing day for victory against the Spaniards, 2s6d’.

Norwich Chamberlains: ‘To the Waits of the City by Mr Mayor’s commandment for their painstaking as well on the day of the alteration of her Majesty’s reign as on the day of thanksgiving for driving away and discomforting the huge and great navy of Spaniards, 20s; to three trumpeters for those two days, 3s4d; to the fluter and drummer for those two days, 2s6d; to the Waits for torches and lights those two nights playing at Mr Mayor’s gates and at the Aldermens’ gates, 20d’.
Oxford Chamberlains paid: ‘Becket for making a fire at Carfax on the Queen’s day, 4d’.
Salisbury, St Edmund, 1589: ‘Ringers for the Queen’s Majesty birth, 5s; the Queen’s Coronation day, 8s; the Queen’s holiday, 4s’.
St Edmund continued to ring on these days from 1590-1602, paying each year 4s for the birthday, 8s for the Coronation day, and 4s (4s 6d in 1602) for the Queen’s holiday, also called ‘the Triumphing day’, ‘the Triumphant day’ or ‘the day of Triumph’.
South Weald Church, Essex: ‘Paid the ringers’ dinners on the Crownation day for the Queen, 8s 6d’.
At Rayleigh, Essex, on Coronation day, two local men ‘fought with boys and struck them in the church’. [Emmison, Morals, 114].

Accession Day Tilt preparations.
Works: ‘making of a great new scaffold and stairs to it under her Majesty’s window in the Tilt-yard; setting up and boarding of the Judge-house; mending the Tilt; framing and setting up of posts and rails in the Tilt-yard’.
Anthony Wingfield made ready ‘at Whitehall against the running’.
Tilt-list: College of Arms MS M.4, f.37.

Nov 17, Mon Accession Day Tilt, Whitehall, 1589. 12 pairs.
Sir Henry Lee v Earl of Essex
Lord Thomas Howard v Lord Strange
Lord Burgh v Lord Compton
Robert Carey v William Gresham
Sir Charles Blount v Sir Philip Butler
Sir Edward Wingfield v Thomas Sidney
Henry Brouncker v Robert Alexander
Henry Noel v Anthony Cooke
John Needham v Richard Acton
Everard Digby v Thomas Gerard
Ralph Bowes v Robert Knollys
Fulke Greville v Sir William Knollys.

Nov 17: Hugh Broughton (1549-1612), divine, Hebrew scholar, presented to the Queen: A Concent of Scripture. Dedicated ‘To the most high and mighty’ Queen. With ‘Directions to the Reader, and the old reading of the Law and the Prophets’. Broughton states: ‘The heavenly Concent of holy Writers, who have penned for us the book of Truth, is needful to be known for to strengthen our Faith, that we may see a constant agreement in several ages, for matters often told in divers parts and manner...I labour in this Book to lay down certain principal heads drawn through the whole body of Scripture’.

Broughton goes through the Old Testament, relating it to the New Testament. There are maps, e.g. ‘A map of the north part...with the ancient seats of the families mentioned in Genesis’, and illustrations, e.g. ‘Babylon, the mother of filthy fornication’.

The Concent (published in 1590) proved controversial. Broughton’s Works (1662) include an Epistle to the Queen, concerning ‘the dissent’ it provoked, and referring to: ‘My pains in opening and declaring the Concent, which the Scripture hath, I humbly presented to your Majesty, November 17, 1589, knowing it a Prince’s honour and work to defend and countenance this Argument’.
He requested her to make an authoritative determination. His Works also include ‘An Explication of Christ’s Descent into Hell’, with an Epistle to the Queen. In another Epistle (29 May 1597) he recalls her praise of the Concent.
He dedicated to her An Epistle of an Ebrew willing to learn Christianity: with some further speech upon it. (1598).
Court news, of Lady Bridget Manners (c.1575-1604), new Lady of the Privy Chamber. Nov 18, Somerset House, Mary Harding (Lady Bridget’s attendant) to Elizabeth Countess of Rutland (Bridget’s mother): ‘The place will be greatly chargeable to her, and something more painfuller than any would judge. And so will it be to me also, for that the late watchings and sittings up are tedious; yet, God be thanked, she liketh very well and is very healthful’...

‘For money against Christmas, I think it will come in good time, because I suppose she shall receive divers New Year’s gifts, and so she must reward the bringers thereof as the manner and order is’...

‘She is very well thought of, as well of her Majesty, as also especially of the Lady Dorothy Stafford, who she findeth more like a mother than a stranger; and so doth she of Mistress [Mary] Radcliffe also; and great kindness is showed her also by the Lady Talbot and divers others’.

Countess of Rutland’s New Year gift list: New Year’s Day 1590.

November 22: Dr John Dee returned to England.
John Dee (1527-1609), astrologer, mathematician, philosopher, went abroad with Alasco of Poland and the alchemist Edward Kelley in September 1583.
Dee wrote from Bohemia to the Queen, 10 November 1588, after her ‘Wonderful Triumphant Victory’ over the Armada, that a year before by letters she had called him, Kelley, and their families home to ‘your British Earthly Paradise and Monarchy incomparable’; we will ‘endeavour ourselves faithfully, loyally, carefully, warily and diligently to rid and untangle ourselves from hence’.
The Lord ‘grant unto your most excellent Royal Majesty the Incomparlest Triumphant Reign and Monarchy that ever was, since Man’s Creation’.
Dee and his large family sailed back on The Vineyard. Edward Kelley never returned to England. [Dee’s letter: illustrated, Pryor, No.44].

Dec 1, Queen to Peregrine Bertie, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, commanding English forces in France; giving instructions, and adding in her own hand: ‘Good Peregrine, suppose not that your travail and labours are not graciously accepted, and shall be ever kept in good memory’. [Elizabeth, Works, 360].

Dec 1: Stationers entered a book published as: ‘A Brief Discourse of the Spanish State, with a Dialogue annexed entitled Philobasilis’.
By Edward Daunce. Dedicatory Epistle: ‘To the most high, mighty, and virtuous’ Queen ‘be a most prosperous, long, and victorious reign’.
‘If Caesar, most gracious Sovereign Lady, encouraged his Pilot being fearful in a tempest, by saying to him, Fear not, thou carriest Caesar: how much more may we be comforted, and fear no wind of fortune, your sacred person being in our ark, and your royal hand at the stern of our government: for greater is your Majesty than Caesar, and of more power to give life to the fifth Monarchy which shall have no end, than he to the fourth almost ended’.
‘To conquer men with piety...is to leave a Trophy of your Majesty’s victories so great as no age can comprehend. The consideration of this moveth the world with a reverent regard of your Majesty’s proceedings’...
‘Who would an instance hereof, he can have none more honourable than the resolution of all men to withstand the Spaniards’ intended invasion; they being then most inclined to your Majesty’s service when the danger seemed greatest by the near approach of the Spanish Armado’...
‘I thought meet...to display some Spanish colours, whereby the brightness of your glory...may the sooner appear to all men’.
Also a Preface ‘To the noble and virtuous Reader’, ending: ‘Farewell, noble and virtuous Reader, with this caution, that upon any danger of thy country, thou place thy mind in heaven, thy heart in court, and thy body in thy cuirass’.
1 Dec 1589-15 Nov 1597 (died): Robert Bowes was Ambassador to Scotland, replacing William Ashby; with George Nicholson as his Secretary.

Dec 2, Tues dinner, Putney, Surrey; Mr [John] Lacy. 'As the Queen returned from Somerset House'.  

Dec 2, Tues RICHMOND PALACE.  
St Martin in the Fields: 'Paid the 2nd of December for ringing at her Majesty's going from Somerset House to Richmond, 12d'.

Dec 6, Queen to Lord Willoughby de Eresby, in France, with more instructions, adding in her own hand:
'My good Peregrine, I bless God that your old prosperous success followeth your valiant acts, and joy not a little that safety accompanieth your luck. Your loving sovereign, Elizabeth'. [Elizabeth, Works, 360].

Dec 7, Sun Danish Ambassador at Richmond.  
Dr George Schomaker; in England from December 1589 to July 1590.  
Dec 7, Richmond, Privy Council: 'There is a gentleman sent hither from the King of Denmark', concerning English pirates. APC

Dec 9, Tues Dr John Dee at Richmond with the Queen on return from abroad.

Dec 15: Dee returned to his house at Mortlake, Surrey.  

John Stephenson, Keeper of the Standing Wardrobe at Windsor Castle, 'making ready the Dean of Windsor's house and Sir Henry Neville's lodging, for the coming of the noblemen to be installed of the honourable Order of the Garter, for himself and four labourers six days, and for setting things in order afterwards other six days', 52s.  

Court news. Dec 22, New Park [Lancs], Earl of Derby to Earl of Shrewsbury: 'Sir Walter Ralegh is returned to London and lieth at Durham House, and as yet cometh not to the court as heretofore, the Earl of Essex in all the favour with her Majesty. These be the very words which a friend did lately write unto me touching court news'. [LPL 3200/102].  
Dec 22, Richmond, John Stanhope to Gilbert Lord Talbot: 'The Queen is so well as I assure you six or seven galliards in a morning, besides music and singing, is her ordinary exercise'. [Lodge, ii.386].

Geneva was once again besieged by Carlo Emanuele, Duke of Savoy. Jacob Leck was sent to Holland and then to England to ask for aid. At his audience the Queen assured him of her goodwill towards Geneva.  
Leck to Lord Burghley, 3 January 1590, London, to secure prompt execution of what the Queen had promised 12 days ago. I am waiting for letters addressed to myself and the Lord Mayor, which I had seen written and signed before I left court. [SPF List 1, 392-3]. Sequel: 2 January 1590.

Dec 26, Fri play, by the Queen’s Men.

Dec 28, Sun play, by the Children of Paul’s. Feats of activity, by Admiral’s Men.
1589: Anonymous book dedicated to the Queen: *Temporis Filia Veritas*. [Truth the daughter of Time]. 'A merry device called the Troublesome travaill of Time, and the dangerous delivery of her Daughter Truth'.

'Interlocutors: Bennion the Button-maker, and Balthasar the Barber'. [A Dialogue between these two, pleading for toleration for all religions. The dedication to the Queen is in the final section, 'To the Reader'].

'After such time as I had considered the many-manner of Religions, Sects, and Opinions (gentle Reader) that are now risen up out of mens’ high knowledge and goodthinking, and whereout (for the most part) proceedeth also all contention, Envy, Disobedience, Rebellion, Lying, Backbiting, Slandering, Imprisoning, Killing, and Murdering, etc., together with all liberty of life in committing wickedness, which is now frequented (without fear or shame) among the children of men, I took this device in hand for six special causes...The sixth or last cause is this, for that I, who have been these many years most injuriously slandered and defamed, most cruelly persecuted, and imprisoned, as also most despitefully spoiled and impoverished to my utter discredit and undoing...am still ready (during life) to answer boldly for myself, belief, and religion...And therefore (for the clearing of myself) and for the recovering of my good name (which I esteem above gold and silver), I am bold to dedicate this my device to her Majesty, and to make known (there through) my Religion openly’. The author ends by asking his friends and acquaintances to pray for the Queen and her Privy Council. 23p. [1589. Printed in the Low Countries].

1589: *Jane Segar* dedicated to the Queen: *The Divine Prophecies of the Ten Sibyls*. 'To the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty. Sacred Majesty, May it please those most gracious eyes (acquainted with all perfections, and above others most excellent) to vouchsafe to make worthy of their princely view the handiwork of a Maiden, your Majesty’s most faithful subject. It containeth (renowned Sovereign) the divine prophecies of the ten Sibyls (Virgins) upon the birth of our Saviour Christ, by a most blessed Virgin. Of which most holy faith, your Majesty being chief Defendress, and a virgin also, it is a thing (as it were) preordained of God, that this Treatise written by a Maiden your subject should be only devoted unto your most sacred self. The which, albeit I have graced both with my pen and pencil, and late practice in that rare Art of Charactery invented by Dr Bright, yet accounting it to lack all grace without your Majesty’s most gracious acceptance, I humbly present the same, with hearty prayers for your Majesty’. Comprising ten verses translated from a 14th century work in Latin, and a final verse, Jane’s own prophecy. Each has the verse in Bright’s ‘Charactery’ [shorthand], on the facing page. The final verse to the Queen ends: 'You are such, Of whose perfections none can write too much'. [BL Add MS 10037]. Jane Segar was the sister of William Segar, a painter and calligrapher, who was appointed Somerset Herald on 4 Feb 1589. For Timothy Bright and his Charactery see 13 July 1588. [Susan Frye, *Pens and Needles* (Pennsylvania, 2010), 86-102, discusses Jane Segar’s manuscript, and reproduces the dedication and final page].