

THE ELIZABETHAN COURT DAY BY DAY.

Prologue: before Queen Elizabeth I's Accession.

King Henry VII (1457-1509); reigned 1485-1509.

1st son Arthur (1486-1502): married (1501) Catherine of Aragon.

2nd son Henry (1491-1547); reigned as Henry VIII 1509-1547.

King Henry VIII's wives and children:

1st wife: 1509 June 11: Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536); marriage annulled 1533.
Daughter Mary (1516-1558).

2nd wife: 1533 Jan 25: Anne Boleyn (c.1501-1536); marriage annulled 1536;
executed 1536 May 17.

Daughter Elizabeth (1533-1603).

3rd wife: 1536 May 30: Jane Seymour (c.1508-1537), died after childbirth.

Son Edward (1537-1553).

4th wife: 1540 Jan 6: Anne of Cleves (1515-1557); marriage annulled 1540 July 9.

5th wife: 1540 July 28: Catherine Howard (c.1525-1542); executed 1542 Feb 13.

6th wife: 1543 July 12: Katherine Parr (c.1512-1548); she married (May 1547)

Lord Thomas Seymour; she died Sept 1548 after childbirth; he was executed for treason February 1549.

King Henry VIII's sisters: Margaret and Mary:

Margaret Tudor (1489-1541):

1st husband: 1503: King James IV of Scotland (1473-1513).

Son: King James V (1512-1542); 2nd wife: 1538: Mary of Guise (1515-1560).

Their daughter: Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587).

Margaret's 2nd husband: 1514: Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus (c.1540-1567).

Daughter: Lady Margaret Douglas (1515-1578):

Married 1544: Matthew Stewart, Earl of Lennox (1516-1571).

Sons: Henry Lord Darnley (1545-1567); married 1565: Mary Queen of Scots.

Charles, Earl of Lennox (c.1556-1576).

Mary Tudor (1495-1533):

1st husband: 1514: King Louis XII of France (1462-1515 Jan 1).

2nd husband: 1515 February: Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk (1484-1545).

Daughter: Frances Brandon (1517-1559).

Frances married 1533: Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk (1517-1554, executed).

Daughters: Lady Jane Grey (1537-1554, executed);

Lady Catherine Grey (1540-1568); Lady Mary Grey (1545-1578).

King Henry VIII's son, by Jane Seymour:

Edward (1537-1553); reigned as King Edward VI (1547-1553 July 6).

'Protector' Somerset, the King's uncle: Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset (c.1500-1552, executed); the widowed Duchess died in 1587.

King Henry VIII's grand-daughter: daughter of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk:

Lady Jane Grey (1537-1554); reigned as Queen Jane in July 1553:

'the Nine Days' Queen'; executed 1554 Feb 12.

King Henry VIII's elder daughter, by Catherine of Aragon:

Mary (1516-1558); reigned as Queen Mary 1553-1558.

King Henry VIII's younger daughter, by Anne Boleyn:

Elizabeth (1533-1603); reigned as Queen Elizabeth 1558-1603.

1533 Sept 7: born at Greenwich Palace.

Spent much of her childhood at Ashridge House and Hunsdon House, Herts; Elsing House, Enfield, and Enfield Palace, Middlesex.

1547-1548: at Chelsea manor-house and Hanworth House, Middx; and at Seymour Place, London, with stepmother Katherine Parr and Lord Thomas Seymour.

1548: at Cheshunt House, Herts: with Sir Anthony and Lady Denny.

Thenceforth mainly at Ashridge and Hatfield (both granted to her in 1550).

1554: after Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion in her favour Elizabeth was brought from Ashridge to London.

Planned route, to start on February 12:

Mr Cook; Mr Pope [Sir Thomas Pope, Tyttenhanger, Ridge, Herts];

Mr Stamford [Sir William Stamford, Monken Hadley, Middx];

Highgate, Mr Cholmley [Roger Cholmley]; to Westminster. [SP11/3/21].

Actual route, described in Foxe's 'Book of Martyrs':

[Feb 18-19]: Redbourn, Herts [Elizabeth's own property].

[Feb 19-20]: Sir Ralph Rowlatt, at St Albans, Herts.

[Feb 20-21]: Mr Dodds, at Mimms [William Dodds, North Mimms, Herts].

[Feb 21-22]: Highgate, Middx.

[Feb 22]: via London to Whitehall Palace.

1554 March 18: by river to Tower of London, in the Bell Tower.

1554 May 19: left the Tower by river; route described by Foxe:

[May 19-20]: Richmond Palace.

[May 20-21]: Windsor, at the Dean's house [Dean: Owen Oglethorpe].

[May 21-22]: Mr Dormer [Sir William Dormer, at Wing, Bucks].

[May 22-23]: Lord Williams of Thame [Rycote, Thame, Oxon].

[May 23]: Woodstock Palace, Oxon; in the Gate-house (to April 1555).

1554 July 25: Queen Mary married Philip of Spain, from 1556 King Philip II.

1555 Elizabeth's route from Woodstock to court, described by Foxe:

[April 27-28]: Rycote, Oxon [Lord Williams of Thame].

[April 28-29]: Mr Dormer [Sir William Dormer, at Wing, Bucks].

[April 29-30]: *The George Inn*, Colnbrook, Bucks.

[April 30]: Hampton Court, Middlesex.

1555 October-1558 November: Elizabeth was mainly at Hatfield, with visits to local houses, eg. Brockett Hall, Herts, and occasional visits to court, and stays at Somerset House, Strand.

1557 June 7: England, as ally of Spain, declared war on France.

1558 Jan 7: Calais, England's last possession in France, was captured.

1558 April 24: Queen of Scots married François, Dauphin of France (1544-1560).

Foreign Rulers at Elizabeth's Accession, November 1558.

Denmark (and Norway): King Christian III.

France: King Henri II; wife: Catherine de Medici.

Holy Roman Empire: Emperor Ferdinand, also an Archduke of Austria.

Low Countries (later Belgium and Holland): King Philip II of Spain.

Portugal: King Sebastian (a child); Queen Regent: his grandmother.

Russia: Tsar Ivan IV, Ivan the Terrible.

Scotland: Regent, Mary of Guise; 'Queen Dowager', 'the Dowager'.

Spain: King Philip II; Sweden: King Gustav.

Italy and Germany: numerous states, not united until the 19th century.

1558 'The 17 day of November between 5 and 6 in the morning died Queen Mary, the 6 year of her Grace's reign, the which Jesu have mercy on her soul! Amen'.
 [Henry Machyn of London's Diary].

ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

'After all the stormy, tempestuous and blustering windy weather of Queen Mary was overblown...and the dashing showers of persecution overpast, it pleased God to send England a calm and quiet season, a clear and lovely sunshine, a quietus of our broils, and a world of blessings by good Queen Elizabeth, into whose gracious reign we are now to make a happy entrance'.
 [Raphael Holinshed, Chronicles (1577)].

'Our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth began her reign the 17th of November 1558, then being Thursday, and was that day (on which the late Queen Mary her sister died), proclaimed Queen; her Highness then being at her manor of Hatfield, in the county of Hertford'.^{APC}

At Westminster Parliament was in session. Clerk of the Commons noted:

'Mr Reade and Mr Solicitor came from the Upper House, and said that the Lords required Mr Speaker and this House to come unto them, where they should hear certain matters that the Lords had to communicate to this House'.

'Whereupon immediately Mr Speaker with the rest of the House went up, and the Lord Chancellor declared that God had taken the Queen to his mercy, and had furnished us with another Sovereign Lady, my Lady Elizabeth's Grace; and willed the Knights and Burgesses to resort to the Palace, where the Lords would come and cause her Grace to be proclaimed Queen of England, etc'.

'And immediately after, the said Proclamation was there made'.

'I pray God save her Grace, long to reign over us, to the Glory of God, Amen'.

Lord Chancellor: Nicholas Heath, Archbishop of York.

Parliament was automatically dissolved. [Commons Journal].

Proclamation at Palace Yard, before members of both Houses of Parliament, announcing the Accession of Queen Elizabeth, with the titles 'Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc'.

St Margaret Westminster churchwardens paid: 'To the ringers at the singing of *Te Deum* when the Queen's Majesty was proclaimed, 6d'.

The Proclamation was also made at Temple Bar, and at Cheapside in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery Companies.

St Michael Cornhill: 'To ringers when the Queen's Grace was proclaimed, 2s'.

Armourers' Company, minutes: 'Lady Elizabeth, sister unto the late Queen Mary and daughter unto King Henry the VIIIth, was proclaimed Queen of this realm of England...And great bonfires were made the same night for joy of the same'.

Brewers' Company, minutes: 'Queen Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen at the Standard in Cheapside of London by a Herald of Arms at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the Lord Mayor of London, Thomas Leigh, with his brethren the Aldermen being in scarlet, the Duke of Norfolk with divers other lords and bishops then being present, at which time were many caps as well of velvet as other with many gloves thrown away for joy and gladness of her Highness'.

Henry Machyn: 'At afternoon, all the churches in London did ring, and at night did make bonfires and set tables in the street, and did eat and drink and made merry for the new Queen Elizabeth'.

At **HATFIELD** royal manor-house, Hertfordshire: Elizabeth received messengers from London. By tradition, when they arrived she was seated under an oak-tree in the park (a tree still cherished centuries later).

Robert Naunton: 'She being then at Hatfield and under a guard and the Parliament then sitting, she received the news both of the Queen's death and of her own Proclamation...whereat falling on her knees...she uttered this verse of the Psalms *A Domino factum est illud, et est mirabile in oculis meis* [This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes], which we find to this day on the stamp of her gold'. [Fragmenta Regalia (1641)].

There is a tradition that Lord Robert Dudley rode at once to Hatfield on a white horse. Dudley (c.1532-1588) was to be the Queen's principal favourite for the next thirty years; she created him Earl of Leicester in 1564.

Sir William Cecil, Surveyor of Elizabeth's estates since 1550, was already at Hatfield; he made his first memorandum of things to be done. [SP12/1/2].

Cecil (c.1520-1598) was created Lord Burghley in 1571; he was the Queen's Principal Secretary 1558-1572, her Lord Treasurer 1572-1598.

Nov 17: death. Cardinal Reginald Pole (1500-1558), Archbishop of Canterbury, died at Lambeth Palace, some hours after Queen Mary's death.

As the Queen's Accession was proclaimed throughout the country there were celebrations, e.g. Dover Chamberlains: 'Paid to the Mayor in payment of his hogshead of wine spent at the triumph of the Proclamation of Queen Elizabeth, 40s; paid for bread, wood, the carriage and minstrels at the said triumph, 16s3d'. Leicester, St Martin's Church: 'For ale to the ringers when the Queen's Grace was proclaimed, 8d'. Warwick, St Nicholas: 'In bread and ale to the ringers at the general procession for Queen Elizabeth, 8d'.

Windsor Chamberlains: 'Paid at John Whetley's for a drinking to the clerks when Te Deum was sung at the Queen's coming in and at the Proclamation, 27s'.

At Worcester: Christopher Dighton (later High Bailiff) proclaimed the Queen five times 'and each time set on broach in the street one hogshead of wine, and cast into the street for the poor two handfuls of silver'. [Pepys, 44].

Nov 18, Fri Councillors, Lords, Ambassador, at Hatfield. Christophe d'Assonleville, special Ambassador from the Low Countries, rode to Hatfield; he wrote on November 25 to King Philip II that on November 18 nearly all the lords, gentlemen and others of Parliament went towards the new Queen. [KL]. A number of Privy Councillors arrived to do allegiance.

Between 10 and 11 in the morning, in the presence of Edward Earl of Derby and others, Lord Chancellor Heath addressed the Queen, congratulating her on her Accession. He surrendered up the Great Seal, which the Queen gave to Sir Ambrose Cave with orders to take it to a private chamber where it should remain until she should otherwise direct. [Campbell, ii.206-7].

The Queen signed a Writ for the Lord Chief Justice, and Letters Patent for the Judges, to continue them in their offices.

First appointments:

William Lord Howard of Effingham: Lord Chamberlain.

Lord Ambrose Dudley: acting Master of the Ordnance.

Lord Robert Dudley: acting Master of the Horse.

Dr William Bill: Queen's Almoner.

Dr George Carew: Dean of the Chapel Royal.

Sir Thomas Cawarden and Sir Edward Warner:

joint Lieutenants of the Tower of London.

Nov 19, Hatfield, first warrant to the Master of the Great Wardrobe:
for the Serjeant of the Trumpets and 16 other trumpeters, to each a livery
and 'a banner of damask with our Arms'. [TNA LC5/31].

c. Nov 19: Orders on religion to the new Queen's subjects.

'We straitly charge and command all manner of our said subjects of every
degree to keep themselves in our peace, and not to attempt upon any pretence the
breach, alteration, or change of any order of usage presently established within
this our realm, upon pain of our indignation and the peril and punishments which
thereto in any way may belong'. [Gee, *Elizabethan Prayer-Book*, 55].

Nov 19: Preparations for the Queen to be received in Middlesex and London.

Orders by the Lord Mayor (Thomas Leigh) and Aldermen:

'The Wardens both of the Parish Clerks and also of the Minstrels of this City
were here presently charged to call severally their whole fellowships together
and to put themselves with all convenient speed in good and perfect readiness
to do the best and most comely service that they can for the honour of the said
City (at the Queen's Majesty's first coming unto the same)'. Four Aldermen are
assigned 'to appoint their standings and places and to take order with them for
their decent behaviour in the doing of their said service'...

'Both Master Sheriffs of this City shall receive the Queen's Majesty at the
utter part of the Shire of Middlesex, whereof they be also Sheriffs, at the time
of her Highness's entry into the same Shire, in their coats of velvet with their
chains of gold about their necks and white rods in their hands, which rods they
must kiss and deliver them jointly to her Grace, and receiving them back again
from her Grace...place themselves amongst the gentlemen and so ride forth before
her Majesty till she come unto the Mayor and Aldermen, and then they to take
their places with my Masters the Aldermen'. [London: *Repertory* 14, f.90v].

Nov 19, Sat: 'All London sung and said *Te Deum laudamus* in every church
in London'.^{MA} [We praise thee, O Lord].

Nov 20, in London: 'Did preach at Paul's Cross Dr Bill, Queen Elizabeth's
Chaplain, and made a godly sermon'.^{MA} William Bill, the Queen's Almoner.

Nov 20, Sun At Hatfield: new appointments:

First: 'Sir Thomas Parry was by the Queen's Majesty's commandment and in
her presence appointed by her Highness Comptroller of the Household and
sworn of her Highness's Privy Council'. [Parry was newly knighted].

Sir Ambrose Cave: Privy Councillor.

Sir William Cecil: Principal Secretary, and a Privy Councillor.

Sir Edward Rogers: Vice-Chamberlain, Captain of the Guard, Privy Councillor.

Sir Richard Sackville: Privy Councillor.

'Words spoken by her Majesty to Master Cecil'.

'I give you this charge, that you shall be of my Privy Council, and content
yourself to take pains for me and my realm. This judgement I have of you: that
you will not be corrupted with any manner of gift, and that you will be faithful
to the state, and that without respect of my private will you will give me that
counsel that you think best; and if you shall know anything necessary to be
declared to me of secrecy you shall show it to myself only; and assure yourself
I will not fail to keep taciturnity therein. And therefore herewith I charge
you'. [SP12/1/7].

First Privy Council meeting.

Sir William Cecil made a memorandum, including: 'The time and place of removing.
On Wednesday [November 23] to the Lord North's'. [SP12/1/3].

[c.Nov 20] 'Words spoken by the Queen to the lords'.

'My lords, the law of nature moveth me to sorrow for my sister; the burden that is fallen upon me maketh me amazed; and yet, considering I am God's creature, ordained to obey his appointment, I will thereto yield, requiring from the bottom of my heart that I may have assistance of His grace to be the minister of His heavenly will in this office now committed to me'...

'I shall desire you all, my lords...to be assistant to me; that I with my ruling, and you with your service, may make a good account to Almighty God, and leave some comfort to our posterity in earth...My meaning is to require of you all nothing more but faithful hearts in such service as from time to time shall be in your powers towards the preservation of me and this commonwealth. And for counsel and advice I shall accept you of my nobility, and such others of you the rest, as in consultation I shall think meet, and shortly appoint'...

'Of my goodwill you shall not doubt, using yourselves as appertaineth to good and loving subjects'. [SP12/1/7].

Privy Councillors from Queen Mary's reign who attended Council meetings in November and/or December 1558 were: William Paulet, Marquis of Winchester; Henry Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel; Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby; William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke; Francis Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; Edward Lord Clinton; William Lord Howard of Effingham; Nicholas Heath, Archbishop of York; Sir Thomas Cheyne; Sir John Mason; Sir William Petre; Sir Ralph Sadler.

Also Nov 20: Thomas Gresham at Hatfield with the Queen.

Gresham (1519-1579) had been principal financial Agent to King Edward VI and Queen Mary; Queen Elizabeth asked him to continue as her Agent.

Gresham to Sir Thomas Parry, 29 June 1560, Antwerp, of 'The faithful promise that it pleased the Queen's Majesty to make unto me at her Highness's house at Hatfield, when her Highness came to the Crown...Her Highness promised me by the faith of a Queen that she would not only keep one ear shut to hear me, but also, if I did her no other service than I had done to King Edward her brother and Queen Mary her sister, she would give me as much as ever both they did: which two promises I will assure your Honour made me a young man again and caused me to enter upon this great charge again with heart and courage'. [KL.ii.487-8].

Gresham to Sir William Cecil, 3 Oct 1563, to remind the Queen of this promise made before Cecil at Hatfield on November 20. 'Thereupon her Majesty gave me her hand to kiss it; and I accepted this great charge again'...

'At her Majesty's coming to the Crown I had taken up by me in Antwerp the sum of £25,000' which 'served the turn for her Coronation'. [Burgon, ii.31].

Nov 21, Mon new Privy Councillor: Francis Russell, 2nd Earl of Bedford.

Nov 21, Hatfield, Council to Marquis of Winchester, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Earl of Derby: 'Where the Queen's Majesty minds (God willing), to take her journey upon Wednesday next [Nov 23] to London, her Highness' pleasure is that your Lordships shall both put yourselves in a readiness to attend her Majesty thither, with all your servants and train, and also give warning to all such noblemen remaining presently at London, whose names you shall receive in a schedule enclosed, to do the like. The order of your setting forth, and what else her Majesty wills to be done herein, your Lordships shall understand by our loving friend Sir Ralph Sadler, who repairs unto you for this purpose... The Archbishop of York shall remain at London, and call unto him, in all matters requisite for the preservation of order, our loving friends Sir William Petre and Sir John Mason, and to confer with them therein'...

'Noblemen appointed to attend upon the Queen's Majesty at her coming to London'. Duke of Norfolk and 29 other nobles listed. [Lodge, i.369-372].

Court news. Nov 21, London, Count de Feria to Philip II, in Brussels:

[After Queen Mary died] 'after the customary Proclamation was made at Westminster and London, the Council decided that the Chancellor, the Admiral, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Derby and Lord William Howard should go to the new Queen and perform the ordinary ceremonies, and that the remainder should stay behind, but everyone wanted to be first to get out'.

'I sent D'Assonleville to excuse me from going, as I waited here according to her orders. She sent word that she was sorry she could not see him in consequence of her grief, but that he was to speak to the Council, which he did ...about his grief at the Queen's death, and congratulations on the new Queen's accession'. The Count lists the new appointments of the Dudleys, Lord Howard, and of Councillors.

'It is said the Queen will come here during this week...The more I think over this business the more certain I am that everything depends upon the husband this woman may take. If he is a suitable one religious matters will go on well ...If she decides to marry out of the country she will at once fix her eyes on your Majesty...She is very much wedded to the people and thinks as they do'.

[Span.i.2-4].

Count de Feria, an envoy from Philip II to Queen Mary, became Spanish Ambassador, and remained in England until May 1559. His dispatches are quoted from the translations in the Calendars of State Papers, Simancas. [Span].

Also Nov 21: Common Council of London ordered a levy of money for a present for the Queen at her coming through the City before her Coronation, and 'for the furniture of divers pageants and other necessaries'.

[London: Letter Book S, f.182v].

Nov 23, Wed dinner, Monken Hadley, Middx; Lady Stamford. Barnet.^c Monken Hadley manor-house; in Middlesex, but close to the parish boundary of Barnet, Herts; occupied by Alice Lady Stamford, daughter of John Palmer, and widow of Sir William Stamford, a Judge who died 28 August 1558.

She re-married, died in 1573; her monument is in Monken Hadley Church.

'The Queen Elizabeth's grace took her journey from Hadley beyond Barnet toward London, unto my Lord North's place, with a thousand and more of lords, knights, and gentlemen, ladies and gentlewomen'.^{MA}

'The Sheriffs of London meeting her Grace at the further end of Barnet town, within the shire of Middlesex, and so rode afore her till she came to Charterhouse gate'. [Wriothesley, *Chronicle*].

The Queen was 'met by the Bishops at Highgate, who kneeling acknowledged their allegiance, which she very graciously accepted, giving to every of them her hand to kiss, except Bishop Bonner [Bishop of London], which she omitted for sundry severities in the time of his authority, and was...met by the Lord Mayor and whole estate of London, and so brought to the Charterhouse'. [Stow, *Annals*].

'The people of all sorts...went many miles out of the City to see her...contending who should most nearly approach unto her, who should most cheerfully bestow upon her all honourable titles and happy wishes. Now, if ever any person had either the gift or the style to win the hearts of people, it was this Queen; and if ever she did express the same, it was at that present, in coupling mildness with majesty as she did...Her eye was set upon one, her ear listened to another, her judgement ran upon a third, to a fourth she addressed her speech; her spirit seemed to be everywhere...Some she pitied, some she commended, some she thanked, at others she pleasantly and wittily jested...Thereupon the people again redoubled the testimonies of their joys'. [Hayward, *Annals*].

Nov 23, Wed **CHARTERHOUSE**, Middlesex; Lord North.

Owned by Edward North, 1st Lord North (c.1496-1564);

1st wife: Alice (Squire), twice widowed, died 1560.

Count de Feria to Philip II, Nov 25: 'The day before yesterday the Queen came to a house of my Lord North, formerly a Carthusian monastery, close to the horse market [Smithfield], and the whole of London turned out and received her with great acclamations. They tell me her attitude was more gracious to the common people than to others...There is great rejoicing amongst the common people and young folks and those who were persecuted for heresy or treason'. [Span.i.4-5].

D'Assonleville to Philip II, Nov 25: 'The Queen, clad in a gown of purple and crimson velvet and riding on a white hackney, came to Lord North's house whilst preparations were being made at the Tower. In front of the house were great numbers of people congratulating and welcoming her and making the greatest possible show of elation and joy; the Queen for her part showed both by words and actions how pleasing this was to her'.

'When she alighted there was an artillery salute. On the 28th she will make her entry to the Tower to take possession of the kingdom according to ancient custom, and will stay there for nine days'. [KL.i.314].

D'Assonleville's dispatches are in Kervyn de Lettenhove's Relations Politiques des Pays-Bas et de l'Angleterre, vol I. French. Given in English versions. [KL].

23 November 1558-January 1559: William Brooke 10th Lord Cobham was special Ambassador to King Philip II in Brussels. Earlier in 1558 Queen Mary had sent the Earl of Arundel, the Bishop of Ely (Dr Thirlby), and Dr Nicholas Wotton to France for peace negotiations; their commissions expired with Mary's death.

Nov 23: 'Lord Cobham was sent to the Low Countries to the King of Spain, and carried with him a new commission and instructions to the Earl of Arundel, Bishop of Ely and Dr Wotton'.^B Earl of Arundel returned in December.

Nov 24-28, at Charterhouse: Privy Council meetings, daily.

26 November 1558-January 1559: Sir Thomas Chaloner was special Ambassador to Emperor Ferdinand, the Holy Roman Emperor; he had audience in Germany.

Nov 27, Sun Ambassadors from Low Countries, Spain, Sweden, at Charterhouse.

Christophe d'Assonleville to Philip II, Nov 30:

'Last Sunday I went with the Count de Feria to kiss the Queen's hands, and after he had finished I also complimented and congratulated her'. [KL.i.317].

Count de Feria to Philip II, Dec 14: 'When I saw her at North's she began taking off her glove as soon as she saw me, so that I might kiss her hand, as I did. I did not speak of business, confining myself to compliments'...

'When I left on that day I sent her by the Admiral's wife [Lady Clinton] the two rings that your Majesty gave me which belonged to the late Queen, because...I saw she was so fond of her jewels'...

'The day I saw the Queen at Lord North's the Swedish Ambassadors spoke with her...They still urge the marriage [with Prince Eric of Sweden], but these people take no notice of them'. [Span.i.10,12].

Nov 27, Paul's Cross: sermon by Dr John Christopherson, Bishop of Chichester.

Edwin Sandys to Henry Bullinger, Dec 20, Strasbourg: 'The Bishop...a notorious Papist...with great vehemence and freedom...refuted everything that had been said on the Sunday preceding [Nov 20]; loudly exclaiming "Believe not this new doctrine; it is not the gospel, but a new invention of new men and heretics"... As soon as this came to the ears of the Queen, she caused this good bishop to be summoned into her presence; and after he had been examined respecting his sermon commanded him to be sent to prison'. [Zurich, 5]. He died in London in December.

Nov 28, Mon **via the City** to the **TOWER OF LONDON**.

Machyn: 'The Queen removed to the Tower from the Lord North's place'...
'All the streets unto the Tower of London was new gravelled. Her Grace rode through Barbican and Cripplegate, by London Wall unto Bishopsgate, and up to Leadenhall and through Gracechurch Street and Fenchurch Street; and afore rode gentlemen and many knights and lords, and after came all the trumpets blowing, and then came all the Heralds in array; and my Lord of Pembroke bore the Queen's sword; then came her Grace on horseback, apparelled in purple velvet with a scarf about her neck, and the Serjeants of Arms about her Grace; and next after rode Lord Robert Dudley the Master of her Horse; and so the Guard with halberds. And there was such shooting of guns as never was heard afore; so to the Tower, with all the nobles...There was in certain places children with speeches, and other places singing and playing with regals [small organs]'

Hayward: 'At the Charterhouse Gate the Mayor of the city met her, and the Recorder with a short speech saluted her in the name of the whole city. She rode in great state through Barbican, the Mayor riding with Garter King at Arms, and carrying a sceptre before her; she entered at Cripplegate, and so passed by the Wall to Bishopsgate. This gate was richly hanged, and thereupon the Waits of the City sounded loud music. At the head of the street a scholar of Paul's School made to her a short speech in Latin verses; next unto him stood the Company of Mercers within their rails, and after them all the other Companies, extending to the furthest end of Mart Lane. When she entered Mart Lane a peal of ordnance began at the Tower, which continued half an hour or thereabouts'.

'The presence of the Queen gave perfection and life to all these solemnities. She answered such speeches as were made unto her...she so cheerfully both observed and accepted everything, that in the judgement of all men, all these honours were esteemed too mean for her worth'.

'When she was entered into the Tower, she thus spoke to those about her:
"Some have fallen from being Princes of this land, to be prisoners in this place. I am raised from being prisoner in this place to be Prince of this land. That dejection was a work of God's justice; this advancement is a work of his mercy; as they were to yield patience for the one, so I must bear myself towards God thankful, and to men merciful and beneficial for the other". [Annals].

Dr Bill, the Queen's Almoner, received £20 'to give and distribute to the poor at her Majesty's first coming to the city'. [HT.MS 230/9].

St Michael Cornhill: 'To ringers when the Queen came to the Tower, 2s'.

Bakers' Company: 'In the first year of the reign of the most gracious, benign and merciful lady and our right dear Sovereign Elizabeth', paid 'for packthread for the banner staves when the Queen came first through the city, 1d'.

Coopers' Company: 'Paid when Queen Elizabeth came to take possession of the Tower, for the loan of a broad cloth for our standing, 2d; carriage of our standing from the hall and home again, 1s; to the carpenter for setting up and taking down and mending our frame, 3s; nails, 4d; the Beadle's dinner, 6d'.

Grocers' Company fined William Young 'for that he did not serve as a whiffler at the coming of the Queen from Charterhouse to the Tower, 2s, whereof to the Beadle, 4d'. Whifflers cleared the way and controlled the crowds.

Vintners' Company: 'For a dinner at The Bishop's Head in Lombard Street', 57s.

Nov 30, Wed, Tower, Privy Council to the Customers of London 'to stay all silks of the colour of crimson as shall arrive within that Port until the Queen's Majesty shall first have had her choice towards the furniture of her Coronation and to give warning of any such shall arrive there to the Lords of the Council, and to keep this matter secret'.^{APC}

c. November: marriage. Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk (1538-1572), married (2nd wife) Margaret Lady Dudley (1540-1564), daughter of Lord Audley of Walden and widow of Lord Henry Dudley (elder brother of Lord Ambrose and Lord Robert Dudley). Queen became godmother to their child (November 1559).

Dec 1, Thur, Tower, Privy Council to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton and Sir Gawain Carew, 'to entreat Senor Priola [Cardinal Pole's executor] to suffer certain parcels of the late Cardinal's plate which are thought meet by the Officers of the Jewel-house for the service of the Queen to be brought hither by some of his own folks, to the end that, the same being viewed, he may receive the value thereof or of so much of it as shall be thought meet for her Highness's use, and the rest to be safely returned back again unto him, and that they may be bold in her Majesty's name to assure him'.^{APC} (See Dec 8).

Dec 5, Mon **SOMERSET HOUSE**, Strand.^C

Crown property; also referred to as Somerset Place or Strand Place.

'Her Grace removed by water under the Bridge unto Somerset Place, with trumpets playing, and melody and joy and comfort to all true Englishmen and women, and to all people'.^{MA} St Olave Southwark, Surrey: 'Paid for ringing the bells when the Queen went through the Bridge, 12d'.

Dr John Dee (1527-1609), astrologer, mathematician, mystic, noted:
'Before her Majesty's Coronation I wrote at large and delivered it for her Majesty's use by commandment of the Lord Robert...what in my judgement the ancient astrologers would determine of the election day of such a time, as was appointed for her Majesty to be crowned in'...
'Her Majesty very graciously took me to her service, at Whitehall before her Coronation', being recommended by the Earl of Pembroke and Lord Robert Dudley. [Dee, *Rehearsal*, 11-12, 21]. The date selected was 15 January 1559.

Dec 7, Wed: City of London began preparations for Coronation Pageants.
'Commoners appointed to devise Pageants against the Queen's Majesty's Coronation'. 'The worshipful commoners hereunder named were nominated... to cause at the City's costs and charges all the places hereafter mentioned to be very well and seemly trimmed and decked for the honour of the City against the coming of our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is to her Coronation through the City with pageants, fine painting, and rich cloths of arras, silver and gold, in such and like manner and sort as they were trimmed against the coming of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Mary to her Coronation, and much better if it conveniently may be done'. 44 names, listed beside the following places: Conduit in Cornhill, and the Stocks; Standard in Cheap; Great Conduit in Cheap; Cross in Cheap; Little Conduit in Cheap; Conduit in Fleet Street; Fenchurch; Ludgate; Temple Bar. [London: *Repertory* 14, f.97-97v].

During December the Livery Companies contributed money for pageants, e.g. the Bakers paid 'for the furniture of pageants against the Coronation', 13s4d.

Dec 8: Gilt basins, ewers, salts, purchased from Cardinal Pole's executor. Warrant to pay £124.11s11d for 439¼ oz gilt plate, at 5s8d oz. [*Jewels*, 1029]. The Cardinal's body was conveyed on December 10 from Lambeth toward Canterbury.
Funeral: December 15, Canterbury Cathedral, Kent.

Dec 9, Fri At Somerset House: new appointments:
Thomas Seckford: a Master of Requests.^{APC}

There were created: Norroy King of Arms; Bluemantle Pursuivant.^{MA}
Laurence Dalton, Norroy 1558-1561; John Hollingsworth, Bluemantle 1558-1559.

Dec 10, Strand Place, Queen to Sir Thomas Cawarden, relieving him of the office of joint Lieutenant of the Tower. [HMC 7th Report, 614].
Cawarden remained Master of the Revels, a post he had held since 1545.

*Dec 10, Sat Spanish Ambassador at Somerset House for audience.
De Feria to Philip II, Dec 14, London: 'The Bishop of Aquila arrived here on the 7th [as did the Earl of Arundel]...I saw the Earl at the palace very smart and clean, and they say he carries his thoughts very high'. I saw the Queen 'three days after the Bishop of Aquila arrived, and gave her an account of the position of the peace negotiations...Both times I have spoken with her have been in the Presence Chamber crammed with people'. [Span.i.10].

Alvaro de Quadra, Bishop of Aquila, became resident Spanish Ambassador when De Feria left in May 1559. Earl of Arundel was replaced as a Peace Commissioner by William Lord Howard of Effingham, who left for France after the Coronation.

*Dec 11, Sun Low Countries Ambassador at Somerset House for audience.
De Feria to Philip II, Dec 14: 'Councillor D'Assonleville...wishes to leave as he does not think this a safe place to stay in during such times as these... He is trying to prevent the breaking out of war between Scotland and your Majesty's Flemish States, and has spoken to the Queen who refers him to the Council...He comes to me sometimes...to tell me that all is lost...At other times he comes and assures me that the Queen will only do what your Majesty wishes, and so on. The last time he saw the Queen was the day after I had spoken to her, and he came back delighted. He speaks to the Council today'. [Span.i.11-12]. D'Assonleville left for the Low Countries on December 16.

Dec 13, Tues Henry Middlemore was sent into Flanders by the Queen for the provision of things 'against her Highness's Coronation'.^{APC}

Also Dec 13: 'The corpse of Queen Mary was honourably carried from the manor of St James in the afternoon to the Abbey in Westminster. Her picture [effigy] lying on the coffin apparelled in her royal robes, and a crown of gold on the head. And in the Abbey was a sumptuous and rich hearse made, under which the corpse stood all night'. [Wriothsley, Chronicle].

Dec 14, Wed Funeral of Queen Mary, Westminster Abbey.
Requiem Mass, and interment. Chief Mourner: Countess of Lennox, a first cousin of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, all grand-daughters of King Henry VII.
St Martin in the Fields: 'For ringing at the burial of Queen Mary, 8d'.
Cofferer of the Household paid £1100.18s3d. for funeral expenses.^C

Funeral sermon by Dr John White, Bishop of Winchester.
Dr White gave his text as 'I can commend the state of the dead above the state of the living; but happier than any of them both is he that was never born'.
Of Protestant ministers returning from exile he said 'I warn you, the wolves be coming out of Geneva, and other places of Germany, and hath sent their books before, full of pestilent doctrines, blasphemy, and heresy, to infect the people'. Queen Mary 'found the realm poisoned with heresy, and purged it'; she refused to write herself 'Head of the Church'.

John Jewel to Peter Martyr, 26 Jan 1559, Strasbourg: White 'delivered a most furious and turbulent discourse at the funeral of Mary, in which he declared that everything was to be attempted, rather than that any alteration should be made in religion; and that it would be a meritorious act for anyone to kill the exiles on their return. He was charged with sedition'. [Zurich, 16].

Dr White was confined to his house until 19 January 1559, when he was summoned by the Council and after 'a good admonition' was set at liberty. Jewel, one of the Protestant 'exiles' in Mary's reign, returned to England in March 1559.

John Harington, of Dr White's 'black sermon' at Queen Mary's funeral:
 'The offence taken against him was this. His text was out of Ecclesiastes 4:2...
 Speaking of Queen Mary...he fell into such an unfeigned weeping that for a long
 space he could not speak. Then recovering himself, he said she had left a sister
 to succeed her, a lady of great worth also, whom they were now bound to obey;
 for, saith he, "melior est Canis vivus Leone mortuo [better a living dog than a
 dead lion], and I hope she shall reign well and prosperously over us, but I must
 say still with my text, laudavi mortuos magis quam viventes [I have praised the
 dead more than the living]; for certain it is Maria optimam partem elegit".
 [Mary has chosen the best part]. [Nugae Antiquae, ii.85].
 Full details of and expenses for the funeral: State Papers Foreign, ii. Preface.

Court news. Dec 14, London, Count de Feria to Philip II:

'It gives me great trouble every time I write to your Majesty not to be able
 to send more pleasing intelligence, but what can be expected from a country
 governed by a Queen, and she a young lass, who, although sharp, is without
 prudence, and is every day standing up against religion more openly? The
 kingdom is entirely in the hands of young folks, heretics and traitors'...

'On her way from the Tower to her house where she now is, she saw the Marquis
 of Northampton, who is ill with a quartan ague, at a window, and she stopped her
 palfrey and was for a long while asking him about his health in the most cordial
 way in the world. The only true reason for this was that he had been a great
 traitor to her sister, and he who was most prominent in this way is now best
 thought of'...

'She seems to me incomparably more feared than her sister and gives her orders
 and has her way as absolutely as her father did. Her present Controller [Parry]
 and Cecil govern the kingdom, and they tell me the Earl of Bedford has a good
 deal to say'...

'I am trying to get a chamber in the palace when she goes to Whitehall,
 although I am very much afraid they will not give me one...The best thing will
 be to get my foot into the palace, so as to speak oftener to the Queen, as she
 is a woman who is very fond of argument'.

'Everybody thinks that she will not marry a foreigner and they cannot make
 out whom she favours, so that nearly every day some new cry is raised about a
 husband. They have dropped the Earls of Arundel and Westmorland, and say now she
 will marry William Howard's son [Charles Howard] or [Sir William] Pickering...
 They will look with more favour on the Archduke Ferdinand than on your Majesty..
 As to the Duke of Savoy...they will not agree to him'...

'I am told the Coronation will take place on the 15th of January'.

The Count was refused a chamber in the palace. [Span.i.7-9,13].

*14 December 1558-1572: Dr Christopher Mount (or Mundt) was Agent in Germany.
 Mount lived in Strasbourg, and undertook missions to numerous German States.*

*Dec 16: death. Sir Thomas Cheyne (1480s-1558), K.G., died at the Tower.
 He was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports since 1536, Treasurer of the Household
 since 1539, and a Privy Councillor since 1539. Funeral: 3 Jan 1559, at Minster,
 in the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. His monument is in Minster Church.*

Dec 16: new appointment: William Brooke, 10th Lord Cobham:
 Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Lord Warden 1558-1597.

Court news. Dec 17, London, newsletter from Il Schifanoja, a Venetian:
 'The affairs of the religion continue as usual, but I hear that at the court
 when the Queen is present a priest officiates, who says certain prayers with
 the Litanies in English, after the fashion of King Edward...They then say
 Vespers and Compline in the old style'. [Ven.vii.1].

Dec 19, Mon: Mercers' Company preparations for the Coronation.

Mercers' Act of Court: The Wardens 'shall choose and pick out 12 comely personable men out of the Livery to be in velvet coats and chains of gold as whifflers and stand before our Company the day the Queen's Grace cometh through the City to Westminster to her Grace's Coronation, and to have white staves in their hands to keep the people from the Company that no press be had there'.

The Bachelors shall 'assemble themselves and lay their heads together and consult for the honour of the City and the worship of this Company for the furniture of a barge...upon the Thames...in the goodliest and best manner that can or may be devised for the receiving of the Queen's Grace from Westminster to the Tower of London, and to encourage them to do the same well the Company have given them toward their charge thereof £10, which was never seen before, over and beside 3s4d apiece of every Bachelor that waits and wears his hood'.

Other Livery Companies were making similar preparations.

*c. Dec 21: new appointment: Sir Ralph Hopton: Knight Marshal.^{APC}
In charge of law and order at court, and of the Marshalsea Prison.*

*Dec 21, Wed: Further City of London orders for Coronation preparations.
'Forasmuch as the painters of this City did utterly refuse to new paint and trim the Great Conduit in Cheap...for the sum of 20 marks, it was therefore ordered ...that the Surveyors of the same shall cause it to be covered with cloths of arras and such other rich cloths as they can get and cause certain scutcheons of the Queen's highness's arms to be finely made and set upon the same, and David Playne, Head Warden of the Painters, was commanded to attend upon the said Surveyors of the Conduit and the Surveyors of all the other pageants of the City, and to help them with his advice and workmen for reasonable wages to the best of his power, whereunto he willingly agreed and promised so to do'.*

*A carpenter shall 'set up the scaffold in St Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street for the children of the house of the poor'. [Christ's Hospital, a school]. The Great Conduit was eventually painted, for painters received £18.
[London: Repertory 14, f.103v,104,138].*

Dec 22, Thur new appointments: Sir Nicholas Bacon, newly knighted, was made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and a Privy Councillor.^{APC}

Sir Ambrose Cave was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Clerk's description: 'Between the hours of 10 and 11 in the forenoon, at the Queen's Royal Palace of Somerset House in the Strand, the Queen, taking the Great Seal from its white leather bag and red velvet purse before the Lord Treasurer and many others, delivered it to Sir Nicholas Bacon, with the title of Lord Keeper, and all the powers belonging to a Lord Chancellor; and he, gratefully receiving it from her Majesty, having sealed with it a summons to the Convocation, returned it into its leather bag and velvet purse and carried it off with him, to be held during the good pleasure of her Majesty'.

[Campbell, ii.213-4; translated from Latin].

*Dec 22, Thur **WHITEHALL PALACE.**^C*

Anthony Light, Gentleman Usher, with five Yeomen and four Grooms, made ready 'her Highness's lodgings at Whitehall'.^T

Dec 23, Fri new appointment: John Astley was made Master and Treasurer of the Queen's Jewels and Plate. Master 1558-1596.

Dec 23: death. Sir John Baker (c.1489-1558), Chancellor of the Exchequer since 1540 and a Privy Councillor since 1540, died in London.

Funeral: January 1559, Cranbrook, Kent.

Dec 24: Westminster Abbey: Obsequies (memorial service) for Emperor Charles V, former Holy Roman Emperor, who died 21 Sept 1558; father of Philip II of Spain. Chief Mourner: Count de Feria, Spanish Ambassador.

'In Christmas week they began to build scaffolds in divers places in London for pageants against the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, that is to be the 15th day of January, and the Conduit new painted'.^{MA}

Dec 25, Sun: new Privy Councillor sworn: Lord Marquis of Northampton.^{APC} William Parr, brother of Queen Katherine Parr, last wife of King Henry VIII. His honours were forfeited in 1553 after he did homage to Lady Jane Grey as Queen; he was restored as Marquis of Northampton in January 1559.

Also: Christmas Day service, Whitehall.

Court news. [Dec 26]. St Stephen's night, Sir William Fitzwilliam to Mr [William] More: 'For news you shall understand that yesterday being Christmas Day the Queen's Majesty repaired to her Great Closet [a chapel] with her nobles and ladies, as hath been accustomed in such high feasts. And she perceiving a Bishop preparing himself to Mass all in the old form, she tarried there until the Gospel was done, and when all the people looked for her to have offered according to the old fashion, she with her nobles returned again from the Closet and the Mass unto her Privy Chamber, which was strange unto divers'.

Bishop: Dr Owen Oglethorpe, Bishop of Carlisle. [Kempe, 183-4].

Dec 27, Tues, Westminster. Proclamation (451): Prohibiting Unlicensed Preaching; Regulating Ceremonies. Permissible 'until consultation may be had by Parliament', are: the Gospels and Epistles, the Ten Commandments, the Litany, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, all in English. Proclaimed in London Dec 30.

Dec 28, Queen to Albert Duke of Prussia: Your present of eight falcons sent to Queen Mary has been delivered to me. [SPF.i.44]. Albert (also called Marquis of Brandenburg) sent a falconer with a similar gift each year.

Court news. Dec 29, London, Count de Feria to Philip II:

'On the Sunday of Christmastide the Queen before going to Mass sent for the Bishop of Carlisle who was to officiate, and told him that he need not elevate the Host for adoration. The Bishop answered that her Majesty was mistress of his body and life, but not of his conscience, and accordingly she heard the Mass until after the Gospel, when she rose and left'.

Yesterday she 'heard Mass said by another Bishop who was requested not to elevate the Host, and acted accordingly, and she heard it to the end'...

'The Queen has ordered certain portions of the Mass to be said in English.. A litany has been printed which used to be sung in the time of King Edward... and she hears Mass in this way'...

'The Earl of Arundel has been going about in high glee for some time and is very smart. He has given jewels worth 2000 crowns to the women who surround the Queen, and his son-in-law Lord Lumley has been very confidential with her. I was rather disturbed at this for a time, as an Italian merchant from whom he has borrowed large sums of money told others here that he heard that he was to marry the Queen, but I did not lose hope as the Earl is a flighty man of small ability. The affair has ended in his being again made Lord Steward [of the Household], whilst they have returned to the Marquis of Winchester the office of [Lord] Treasurer... There is a great deal of talk lately about the Queen marrying Duke Adolphus, brother of the King of Denmark'...

'A few days after the Queen's accession she made a speech to the women who were in her service commanding them never to speak to her on business affairs, and up to the present this has been carried out'. [Span.i.17-21].

Dec 29: The Queen made her first grant to Lord Robert Dudley, being a house at Kew, Surrey. His Steward made a payment in December 'for your Lordship's Letters Patents of your house at Kew, £14.12s8d'.¹ Kew was Dudley's country residence until sold by 1565.

Dec 29: private marriage, in the Savoy Chapel, of the Spanish Ambassador and Jane Dormer. He was Don Gomez de Figueroa y Cordove, Count de Feria (c.1517-1571); she was Jane (1538-1612), daughter of Sir William Dormer, of Bucks, and formerly a Gentlewoman of the Bedchamber to Queen Mary.

The Count's marriage - a love-match - was kept secret for several months; he left England in May 1559; Jane followed in July.

Forty years later Charles Howard (by then Earl of Nottingham) recalled 'that she was the fairest and the sweetest woman of the world, and that the whole court did admire her'. [Joseph Stevenson, Life of Jane Dormer, Duchess of Feria (1887), 68].

Court news. Dec 31, London, Il Schifanoia to Ottaviano Vivaldino, Mantuan Ambassador with King Philip at Brussels:

'They are preparing here for the Coronation, and work day and night both on holidays and weekdays. The court is held at Westminster and they are intent on amusing themselves and on dancing till after midnight'. [Ven.vii.3].

Sir Richard Sackville, a cousin of the Queen, was in charge of arrangements for the Coronation.

Note: Alleged tournament, 1558. Referred to solely in The Book of Honor and Arms (1590). Details: Nichols, Progresses (2014), i.109-110. There is however neither corroboration nor likelihood that any tournament took place in 1558.

The first tournament of the reign was after the Coronation, 1559.

**1558: Dr Walter Haddon (1516-1571), lawyer and prolific Latin poet, newly appointed a Master of Requests, wrote a congratulatory poem to the Queen: 'In auspiciatissimum serenissimae Reginae Elisabethae regimen'.*

Published in Haddon's Poemata (London, 1567), with a consolatory poem for Elizabeth written during her imprisonment in 1554.

1558: 'A brief declaration of the Institution and true effect of the Lord's Supper, performed in metre by John Mardeley anno 1558'.

With 'an invective also against the Papists'.

'To the redoubted and our most dread Sovereign Lady Elizabeth...John Mardeley your most humble subject and late Clerk of your Majesty's Mint wisheth the abundant grace of the Holy Ghost daily may provoke, tempt and stir up your noble grace earnestly to promote the Gospel of Christ, to the maintenance of true religion and virtue, and long to reign over us. Amen'.

Preface on 'the late time of persecution and slaughter of the Christians'. With a petition to the Queen to restore Mardeley to his office; ending: 'Gracious Queen now pity my petition'. 36 folios. [BL Royal MS 17.B.XXXVII].

1558: 'A Special Grace, appointed to have been said after a banquet at York, upon the good news and Proclamation there, of the entrance in to reign over us, of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth the supreme head of the Church of England, and also of Ireland, in November 1558'. 77p. (London, 1558).

A presentation copy for the Queen begins 'A Grace of a goodfellow', described as 'a grace to be said ere water be given'; signed 'W.P'. [BL Royal MS 7.C.III].

An attack on Papists, rather than a Grace. 'W.P' is not identified.

Winter 1558-1559: Stationers entered, by William Birch:
 'A Dialogue set forth between the Queen's Majesty and England'.
 Modern edition: Ross W.Duffin, ed. *Shakespeare's Songbook*, (2004) 105-7,
 with music. 22 stanzas, including:

1. E. 'Come o'er the bourn, Bessy,
 Come o'er the bourn, Bessy,
 Sweet Bessy come over to me.
 And I shall thee take
 And my dear lady make
 Before all other that ever I see.
2. B. Methink I hear a voice
 At whom I do rejoice
 And answer thee now I shall.
 Tell me I say
 What art thou bids me come away
 And so earnestly dost me call?
3. E. I am thy lover fair
 Hath chose thee to my heir
 And my name is merry England.
 Therefore come away
 And make no more delay,
 Sweet Bessy, give me thy hand.
4. B. Here is my hand
 My dear lover England,
 I am thine both with mind and heart.
 For ever to endure
 Thou mayest be sure,
 Until death do us two depart.
5. E. Lady, this long space
 Have I loved thy Grace
 More than I durst well say.
 Hoping at the last
 When all storms were past
 For to see this joyful day.
17. E. Oh, sweet virgin pure
 Long may you endure
 To reign over us in this land,
 For your works do accord
 You are the handmaid of the Lord
 For he hath blessed with his hand.
21. E. Therefore let us pray
 To God both night and day
 Continually and never to cease,
 That he will preserve your Grace
 To reign over us long space
 In tranquillity, wealth, and peace'.