

## Original Documents.

### LETTERS ILLUSTRATING THE REIGN OF QUEEN JANE.

Contributed by J. MORE MOLYNEUX, Esq., F.S.A.

THE documents now submitted to the consideration of the Institute by the obliging permission of their owner are portions of a considerable and very valuable collection preserved at Loseley Park, near Guildford, Surrey, which has long been known to the literary and historical student.

Following the description of Mr. Kempe, who published the work entitled "The Loseley Manuscripts" in the year 1836, the visitor to Loseley approaches, through a grove of forest trees, the extensive front of the venerable mansion of stone of which the Muniment Room is an appendage. "He enters the lofty hall round which the portraits of its former owners are arranged, depicted 'in their habits as they lived;' the sunbeams stream through the light shafts of the lofty embayed window, illuminating the household coats of the family emblazoned in the gorgeous tinctures of heraldry on the glass." The more matter-of-fact description of the mansion in the well-known work, "The Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages,"<sup>1</sup> says, "Loseley House was built by Sir William More in 1562—8. It is a good Elizabethan mansion, with some additions of the time of James I., and very well preserved by the Molyneux family." In that latter sentence all who have seen it will certainly agree, and nothing could perhaps be more picturesque or in better taste than the combination of modern comforts and elegancies with the graver and sterner articles of ancient family use and adornment now collected in the hall of Loseley.

The simple early history of the place is briefly, and I believe correctly told by Mr. Kempe. It is situated about two miles from Guildford, on the left bank of the Wey. Taking its name from a Saxon proprietor, the description of Loseley in the Domesday Book agrees well with its modern condition. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was purchased by Christopher More, Esq., whose grandfather was Thomas More of Norton, in the county of Derby, with whom the pedigree of More of Loseley in the books of the Herald's College begins. Christopher More was knighted in the 24th year of Henry VIII., and his son William, who succeeded him in 1549, and represented Guildford several times in Parliament, was knighted in 1576 by the Earl of Leicester, in the Earl of Lincoln's garden at Pirford, in Surrey, the Queen being present at the ceremony. As we have already heard, the mansion of Loseley was rebuilt by William More, and by him the collection of MSS. was formed. He must have been a man of excellent parts, active, energetic, and well-informed; but the careful intelligence with which he preserved every paper and docu-

<sup>1</sup> Vol. iii. p. 311.

ment containing any information, great or small, will perhaps be as good a claim as any he could have to the kindly remembrances of antiquaries. There is a Loseley chapel in the church of St. Nicholas, at Guildford, in which Sir Christopher More, Sir William More, and others of the family are buried. The interest excited in the neighbourhood of Guildford by the visit paid by the Archæological Institute in the year 1872 to its quaint church and the ruins of its castle<sup>2</sup> was the occasion of the present owner of Loseley's further contribution to the gratification of the members of the Institute. Subsequent to the Guildford excursion I was kindly invited to examine the Loseley MSS.

Knowing the collection there only by Mr. Kempe's excellent work, and by scattered references to the MSS. in the history of the county, in Ellis's "Letters" and other works, I was surprised to find that there was still a very considerable quantity of early MSS. unarranged and undescribed. The work that has been done upon the collection, good as far as it has gone, has not been sufficiently systematic. What was required in the first instance was a general chronological arrangement, and then a descriptive calendar—a work which will, let us hope, before long be undertaken. As it is, under the directions of the late historian of Surrey, William Bray, Esq., of Shere, many of the most important MSS. were bound in ten folio volumes; but this was done with a regard rather to subject matter than to chronological arrangement; and as a large section of the collection was not then, perhaps, sufficiently examined or carefully estimated, the credit of having well preserved such interesting memorials, and of making them readily accessible, is perhaps all that can be given to the labours of Mr. Bray. It was doubtless owing to the facilities thus afforded for their examination that we are indebted for the very excellent work of Mr. Kempe—a work which was produced when the history of the records of the nation was being closely looked into, with a result which showed very advantageously to the credit of the owners of private collections which had been preserved like that at Loseley.

Proceeding at once to examine the portion of the collection which had been put aside, or not worked by previous inquirers, and avoiding the bound volumes and all documents (except one) which appeared to have passed through other hands, I selected the following specimens,<sup>3</sup> which appeared to be specially worthy of being submitted to the notice of the Institute. The exception to which I allude is one which was exhibited with others in a small frame in one of the rooms at Loseley, on account of its autograph signatures, and its insulting allusions to Queen Mary. This was the work of Mr. Reginald Bray, a grandson of the historian of the county. But having previously found a letter, dated a few days earlier, relating to the then existing state of affairs, and the historical bearing of the second letter being obviously overlooked by Mr. Bray, I drew the attention of the owner to these very important and interesting letters, with the result now before us.

The documents now brought to notice are of great interest and of some historical value, and may be taken together. They are dated respectively the 8th and 16th of July, 1553, and as far as I am aware one of them only has been casually noticed.

<sup>2</sup> See report of this Special Excursion, Arch. Journ. xxix. p. 366.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 288 for list of documents exhibited by Mr. Molyneux.

In the month of April, 1553, when King Edward VI. seemed to be mortally sick at Greenwich, the Earl of Northumberland (then chief minister of the State) bowed outwardly to the general feeling which looked upon the Princess Mary as the successor to the throne. She was then at Hunsdon, where he supplied her with regular bulletins of the King's health, and restored to her the arms and quarterings which she had borne as heir presumptive before the divorce of her mother.

In the month of May, the King getting worse, and Northumberland evidently plotting against the Princess Mary, the Emperor's ambassador reported that he heard Northampton and Suffolk were going down into Hertfordshire to form a cordon silently round Hunsdon, and to take possession of Mary's person when the signal should be given them in London. The plot thickened, and its supposed details were duly reported to the Emperor. In the beginning of June, the King was persuaded to write with his own hand what he called "his devise for the succession," which was afterwards so altered as to make the Lady Jane Grey his heir. The scheme met with much opposition, but the dying King insisted upon it, and the letters patent altering the succession were completed, and the King's sisters rendered incapable of reigning. The instrument pledging support to the scheme was afterwards signed by all whom Northumberland could influence, the Lord Mayor and citizens of London not signing till the 8th of July. On the 6th July the King died at Greenwich, and the Princess Mary had been already counselled to flee from Hunsdon to Framlingham Castle, where she would find friends; advice which she speedily followed.

On the 8th July—the very day on which the Mayor and Aldermen of London signed their adhesion to the change of succession—the first of the two following letters was addressed to the chief persons in the county of Surrey, of whom Mr. More was one.

The sequel is well known—the Lady Jane's arrival in state at the Tower, her proclamation as Queen, the short struggle between the contending parties, and the final triumph of Queen Mary.

The second letter now printed is a new and interesting contribution to the history of this eventful time. It emanated from the Council on Sunday, July 16, the day on which Bishop Ridley preached against the Princess Mary at Paul's Cross. Three days afterwards Queen Mary was proclaimed in London, and on the 25th of the same month the Duke of Northumberland was brought a prisoner to the Tower of London by the Earl of Arundel, one of the signatories of both the letters now printed. But the Earl of Arundel did not sign the "Devise for the Succession to the Crown," nor did Sir Robert Bowes, whose name appears to the second letter, though their names are appended to the Letters Patent.<sup>4</sup>

In the interval between the dates of these two letters a circular letter was addressed to the Lieutenants of Counties, announcing the accession of the Lady Jane Grey, a copy of which is also among the Loseley MSS.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix i. to "The Chronicle of Queen Jane and Two Years of Queen Mary," &c., edited for the Camden Society by J. G. Nichols, F. S. A., (whose recent decease the Institute has deeply to deplore)

for "The Will of King Edward the Sixth, and his Devise for the succession the of Crown."

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Appendix ii

[Letter from the Privy Council, July 8, 1553.]

"After our right hartie commendacions, Thies shalbe to signify unto you that the Lady Mary being at Honsdon is sodenly departed with her trayne and famyly toward the sea coast of Norfolk, uppon what occasion we knowe not, but as yt ys thought eyther to flye the realme or to abide there sume foreyne power, intending by suche ungodly meanes and wayes to disturbe the commune quyet of this realme and to resist syche ordinances and decrees as the Kinges Majesty hathe sett forth and establisshed for the succession of thimperiall crowne of this realme after his deceasse if God shall call him owt of this lief without issue of his owne body. Wherefore to avoide the danger that may ensewe to the state and to preserve the realme from the tyranny of foreyne nacyons which by the said Lady Maries ungodly pretenses maye be brought into this realme to the utter ruyne and distruction of the same, We have thought goode to require and charge you, not onely to putt your selves in a readynes after youre best power and maner for the defence of our naturall cuntree against all syche attemptes, but likewise exhort you to be ready uppon an howers warning with youre said power to repayer unto us, and to stand fast with such ordinances as be prescribed unto us by his Majestie signed with his owne hand and sealed with the great seale of England, the which we shall cause to be imparted unto you with as convenyent spede as we maye. And in the mean tyme we require and praye you to take syche goode ordres for the maintenance of the continuall watches in every place within that shyre as no styrrer nor uprore be attempted but that the dooers therof be by your industries and pollicyes stayed and the styrrers apprehended, and advertise-ments sent unto us by you from tyme to tyme as occasion shall serve. And thus we byd you right hartely well to fare. From Grenewich the vij<sup>th</sup> of July 1553.

"Your loving frendes

|            |                |                 |               |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| "T. Cant'. | T. Ely, Canc'. | Winchester      | Northüb'rland |
|            | "J. Bedford    |                 | W. Northt'.   |
| "Arundell. |                | F. Huntyngdon   | Penbroke      |
|            |                | "Rychard Cotton |               |
|            | "T. Darcy      | G. Cobham."     |               |

Endorsed "To our loving frendes the Deputies of the Kinges Majestie's Lieutenautes in the County of Surrey, and to the Shirif, the Chief Justices and others the worshipfulls of the same County. With all dilligence.

At Mr. Cardens or Mr. Saunders."

[Letter from the Privy Council, July 16, 1553.]

"After our most hartie commendacions, Albeit it hath been heretofore openly published in all partes of this Realme by open proclamacions, letters, and many other wayes, upon what groundes of nature, justice and common ordre, our most gracious Souveraigne Lady Quene Jane is presently investid, and in just possession of thimperiall Crowne of this Realme of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, with all authoritees, rightes

and preeminences thereunto belonging. Yet forasmuche as the Lady Mary, bastard daughter of the noble Prince King Henry theight, seeking dayly more and more by all wayes and meanes she can to stirre and move sundry of the nobles, gentlemen and others the Queenes Majesties subjectes to rebellion, ceassith not to spread and sett furthe most traytorously sundry untrue reportes of our Sovereigne Lady Quene Jane and falsely also of some of us of her Majesties Privey Counsell. We have thought good by thies our letters, to open and declare unto you in few wordes the very trueth and originall ground of this matter. Which is that our late Master and Sovereigne Lord King Edward the Sixt considering that if the Crowne Imperiall of this Realme shuld have descended to his bastard sister the Lady Mary, it shuld have bene prejudicialle to all those that be of the whole blood descended of thimperial Crowne of this Realme; And been occasion of thutter disheresone of all personages descended of the said blood royalle, and a mean to the bringing in of straungers. Whereof was like to have folloed the bondage of this Realme to the old servitude of the Antechriste of Rome, the subversion of the true preaching of Goddes worde, and of thauncient lawes, usages and liberties of this Realme, did first in his lief tyme, will, declare and limitte the said Imperiall Crowne to remayne in suche sorte and ordre as we and our posterities by the grace of God mighte be well assured to live many yeres under Princes naturally borne in this Realme, and lefully begotten, and descending of the blood royal of the same. Unto which his pleasure being by him self in his royall person openly declared unto us long before his deathe, not only we and every of us being of his Majesties Privie Counsell did consent and subscribe, but the most parte of all the nobilitie of this Realme, Judges, the Mayor and Aldermen of London, and many other grave personages of good reputacyon did also subscribe and agree. According to which limitation and agreement of the States aforesaid, our said Sovereigne Lady is presently in actuall and reall possession of the said Imperiall Crowne, not by any specialle procurement of particuler men, but by the fulle consent and agreement of the hole State as is aforesaid. Wherunto as we did at the beginning with good deliberacion assent and agree upon many just and good groundes; So doo we still holly remayne and God willing minde alwayes to remayne of that same concord, and to maunteyne and defend to the deathe our said Sovereigne Lady Quene Janes just title during our lives. Sory we be that thies unnaturall seditious and tumultes stirred by the said bastard daughter to the great daunger of this Realme shuld in this sorte disquiett you or any others the Queenes Majesties subjectes, for the stay wherof, if it might have liked her to have been contented with the honorable state she was by the noble Prince King Henry the Eight left in, and by our late Sovereigne Lord and Maister King Edward the Sixt confirmed and increased, nothing hath byn on our behalf omitted. But considering that through the counselle of a nombre of obstinate Papistes she forsakeeth as by her seditious proclamacions may appere the just title of supremacie annexed to thimperialle Crowne of this Realme, and consequently to bring in again the miserable servitude of the Bysshop of Rome, to the great offence of Almighty God and utter subversion of the hole state of this Realme, the Queenes Majestie hath appointed our very good Lord the Duke of Northumberland and with him the Lord Marques Northampton, the Erle

of Huntingdon, the Lord Admiralle, and other noble men to goo forward for the stay of the said seditions and tumultes. Wherof, as we have at good length made you privy by thies our letters, so we doubt nothing, but considering your dueties to Almighty God, your naturalle Sovereigne Lady Quene J . . . you will conforme your self to the common . . . peax and concorde of the nobilitie and state of . . . Tra-  
vailing by all wayes and meanes, that al . . . rebellions and tumultes upon any pretence of . . . doughtters unlauffull clayme or otherwise . . . and the authors or procurers of any suche a . . . and punisshed. Wherby you shall not only escha . . . punishment of the lawes ordeyned for such as shall attempt any thing against their Sovereigne Lord or Lady being in possession of the Imperial Crowne : but also be well assured to finde our said Sovereigne Lady Quene Jane your good and gracious Lady, and us most willing to further any your reasonable suites when occasion shall serve. And so fare you most hartely well. From the Toure of London the xvj<sup>th</sup> of July 1553.

“ Your assured loving freendes

|             |               |                |            |            |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| “ T. Cant’. | T. Ely Canc’. | Winchester     | J. Bedford | H. Suffolk |
| “ Arundell  |               | F. Shrewesbury |            | Penbroke   |
| “ T. Darcy  |               | G. Cobham      |            | R. Ryche   |

“ Robert Bowis,”

(Endorsed) “To our very loving ffrendes the Shirref, Justices of peax and other gentilmen of the countie of Surrey and to every of them.”

JOSEPH BURTT.