

~~loving subjects the commoners of that City. Given under our signet at our castle of Windsor the 18 of August, 1586, annoque regni nostri 28^o.³~~

70 ~~ELIZABETH TO JAMES, OCTOBER 4, 1586¹~~

~~[Addressed] To Monsieur, my good brother and cousin the king of Scots~~

~~[Endorsed] Of the 4 of October, 1586~~

I hope, my dear brother, that my many weighty affairs in present may make my lawful excuse for the retardance of the answer to your ambassador's charge, but I doubt not but you shall be honorably satisfait in all the points of his commission. And next after my own errand done, I must render you my innumerable thanks for such amicable offers as it hath pleased you make, making you assured that with God's grace you shall never have cause to regret your good thoughts of my meaning to deserve as much goodwill and affection as ever one prince owed another. Wishing all means that may maintain your faithful trust in me, that never will seek aught but the increase of your honor and safety.

I was in mind to have sent you such accidents² as this late month brought forth, but the sufficiency of Master Archibald³ made me retain him. And do⁴ render you many loving thanks for the joy you took of my narrow escape from the chaws⁵ of death, to which I might easily have fallen but that the hand of the Highest saved me from that snare.⁶ And for that the curse of that design rose up from the wicked suggestion of the Jesuits,⁷ which make it an acceptable sacrifice to God and meritori-

3. "and in the twenty-eighth year of our reign."

1. Source: BL, MS Additional 23240, art. 16, fol. 49; in Elizabeth's hand, with remnants of seal attached. (For original-spelling version, see *ACFLO*, part 1.)

2. accidents the Babington Plot, whose chief conspirators were executed on September 20 and 21. Within a few days thereafter, it was determined that Mary, Queen of Scots, should be tried for treason.

3. Master Archibald Archibald Douglas, James's current representative in England.

4. do I do. 5. chaws jaws.

6. Highest . . . snare "The most High shall . . . deliver thee from the snare of the fowler" (Psalm 91.1, 3).

7. Cf. Lord Burghley's *Execution of Justice in England* (1583), which claimed that the illegal Jesuit mission launched by Robert Parsons and Edmund Campion in 1580 aimed at inciting English Catholics with their "religious obligation to rise in revolt against Elizabeth at the earliest feasible moment," since the papal bull of 1570 had deposed her and absolved

ous to themself⁸ that a king not of their profession should be murdered, therefore I could keep my pen no longer from discharging my care of your person, that you suffer not such vipers to inhabit your land. They say you gave leave under your hand that they might safely come and go. For God's love, regard your surety above all persuasions, and account him no subject that entertains them! Make not edicts for scorn, but to be observed. Let them be rebels, and so pronounced, that preserve them. For my part I am sorrier that they cast away so many goodly gentlemen than that they sought my ruin. I thank God I have taken more dolor for some that are guilty of this murder than bear them malice that they sought my death; I protest it before God, but such iniquity will⁹ not be hid, be it never so craftily handled. And yet when you shall hear all, you will wonder that one accounted wise will use such matter so fondly. But no marvel, for when they are given to a reprobate sense,¹⁰ they often make such slip. I have been so tedious that I take pity of your pain and so will end this scribbling, praying you believe that you could never have chosen a more sure trust that will never beguile than myself, who daily prays to God for your long prosperity.

Your most assured, loving sister
and cousin, Elizabeth R

~~71 ~~ELIZABETH'S LETTER TO MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS, OCTOBER 6, 1586¹~~~~

~~[Headed] 6 October 1586. A minute of her majesty's letter written to the Scottish queen to prepare herself to her arraignment.~~

~~Whereas we are given to understand that you, to our great and inestimable grief, as one void of all remorse of conscience, pretend with~~

English Catholics of all allegiance to her. See Robert M. Kingdon, ed., *The Execution of Justice in England by William Cecil, and A True, Sincere, and Modest Defense of English Catholics by William Allen* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1965), p. xx.

8. themself themselves. 9. woll will.

10. A reference to the doctrine of reprobation—the state of being already damned in this life, invoked by militant Protestants and Catholics alike against those of the opposite persuasion.

1. Source: BL, MS Cotton Caligula C.IX, fol. 459r; copy.