

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)


---



---

## INTRODUCTION.

1

---

### SECT. I.

*Queen Elizabeth proclaimed. The present ill condition of the kingdom. What presently to be done. Counsels taken. A fleet set out. A plot already against the queen. Conjurors. Dangers from France and Scotland. The queen makes warlike preparations. She removes from Hatfield. France intends a conquest of England.*

FOR entrance into this present undertaking, of shewing the happy steps queen Elizabeth made for bringing in and settling religion reformed from popery in her kingdom, it is necessary to see with what policy and counsel she began her reign. Without which, and a wonderful success attending her affairs, it had been impossible she should so soon have attempted, and so fortunately proceeded in this great work. And I shall the rather do this, because our printed historians are so silent, or so short and superficial in these matters, which were the very basis of her succeeding prosperous government; and have been all taken by me, partly out of a book of the minutes of the council, sometime belonging to this queen's secretary, and partly out of divers other authentic MSS. either in the king's paper-house, the Cotton library, or elsewhere.

Queen Mary deceased the 17th day of November anno 1558. Elizabeth proclaimed queen. Cotton lib. Vitel. F. 5.

VOL. I.

B

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## 2

## INTRODUCTION

SECT. I. afternoon the bells in all the churches in London rung in token of joy; and at night bonfires were made, and tables set out in the streets, where was plentiful eating and drinking, and making merry. The next day being Friday, it was not thought decent to make any public rejoicings, out of respect, I suppose, to the day, being a fasting-day. But on the next, viz. Saturday, November 19, *Te Deum laudamus* was sung and said in the churches of London. Thus the satisfaction generally conceived by the people for this new queen superseded all outward appearances of sorrow for the loss of the old one. And no wonder, since the nation was not pleased with her administration, having left the kingdom in as low and miserable an ebb as ever it was known to have been in, in any former times: embroiled in war with France and Scotland, the exchequer very low, that queen having contracted great debts. By this means Elizabeth had formidable enemies before her and behind her: but illy guarded at Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, Dover, against France: so that an invasion was feared on that side. And on the Scotch quarters, Berwick was in a woful condition, wanting both fortifications and men. Thus the new queen's hands were now full, to secure herself and kingdom.

The present low condition of England.

Council-book.

How the queen stood affected to religion.

January 28, 1559.

Causa sine qua non.

And indeed what to think of the queen at this time, as to her religion, one might hesitate somewhat: who in her sister's reign went to mass, and complied outwardly with her practice; as John Knox told her in a letter dated from Edinburgh; though indeed (as he added) it was for fear of her life, that she declined from religion, and bowed to idolatry. And sir Richard Shelly, called lord prior of St. John's of Jerusalem, but living beyond sea under this queen, in a private letter to her, speaking of what he had lost for his diversity of conscience in religion, disagreeable to the law established, "Whereunto," saith he, "your majesty's self at the first was not easily brought to descend;" and mentioning the *schism*, as he called the religion reformed, "whereof," said he, "your majesty was not the cause efficient, but one without which it could not

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## TO THIS HISTORY.

3

“take effect.” She protested also to count Feria, whom SECT. I. king Philip had lately sent into England,) that she acknowledged the *real presence* in the sacrament. Which he signified to the said Philip in a letter dated in November, but Anno 1558. Nov. 16. the day before queen Mary died. The same also she protested to the lord Lamac; and also that she did now and then pray to the virgin Mary. Cott. libr. Titus, C.10.

And moreover, to see in what ill case the kingdom was when queen Elizabeth came to the crown, hear what one at that time spake. “She received it at the hand of her sister The nation in ill case. J. Elmer's Harb.

“entangled (I will not say oppressed) with foreign wars: “the French on the one side, and the Scots on the other: “which sucking out of their ancestors’ poisoned breasts immortal and deadly hatred against this realm, lay in wait like thieves to invade and spoil it. The French, though in truce, when he heard of queen Mary’s death, kept still his Germans about him, upon hope, that if there had been any stirs in England, he might have set in a foot. And for that purpose had willed the cardinal of Lorraine to confer with our churchmen to see what might be done. Whether he did so or no, God knoweth: but it was certain that the cardinal had such commission. And besides that she was thus left, who saw not the realm not *phibbed*, but fleeced for Philip’s sake, by maintaining all the last summer such a navy on the seas, and an army on the land; besides some tokens of love [money and provisions sent over] that past, I am sure, from the queen to her spouse, to shew that she was a loving wife?”

This was well known and observed by the wise men in 3 those days. Insomuch that the lord keeper Bacon in his speech, at the opening of her first parliament, spared not to call it *the ragged and torn estate* of her kingdom by *mis-governance*: and noted “the great decays and losses of honour, strength, and treasure, and the peril that happened to this imperial crown of late time, . . . . . the marvellous waste of the revenue of the crown, the inestimable consumption of the treasure, levied both of the crown and of the subject, the exceeding loss of munition and artillery, Lord keeper's account thereof to the parliament. D'Ewes' Journ.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

SECT. I. “ the great loss of divers valiant gentlemen of very good  
 service, the incredible sums of money owing at that pre-  
 Anno 1558. “ sent, and in honour due to be paid, and the biting interest  
 “ that was to be answered for forbearance of this debt.”

The late  
 queen's  
 misgovern-  
 ment.

These evils the said statesman, under the commendation  
 of the present queen, laid to the charge of the former, say-  
 ing, “ that she [the present queen] was a princess, that was  
 “ not so wedded to her own will and fantasy, that for the  
 “ satisfaction thereof she would do any thing that were  
 “ likely to bring servitude or bondage to her people ; or  
 “ give any just occasion to them of any inward grudge,  
 “ whereby any tumults or stirs might arise, as had been  
 “ done of late days, [by the Spanish match.] Things most  
 “ pernicious and pestilent to the commonwealth : a princess  
 “ that never meant nor intended, for any private affection,  
 “ to advance the cause or quarrel [of another] with any  
 “ foreign prince or potentate, [as Mary did with France for  
 “ her affection to king Philip,] to the destruction of her own  
 “ subjects, to the loss of any of her dominions, or to the im-  
 “ poverishing of her realm.”

The queen's  
 course in  
 govern-  
 ment.  
 Harb. of  
 the Faithf.  
 By J. Elmer.  
 Pr. at  
 Strasb.  
 1559.

Of this queen's first course she took in her government,  
 this account was given by one who had opportunity of  
 knowing well the court, and lived at that time: “ That  
 “ whereas the former queen did all in haste in the beginning  
 “ of her reign, her sister did every thing with more advise-  
 “ ment and less trust. For she knew,” said he, “ that to be  
 “ true which Seneca saith, *Velox consilium sequitur pœni-*  
 “ *tentia*, i. e. Repentance follows that counsel that is taken  
 “ too speedily. Whereas she, being God's chosen instrument  
 “ to represent here among us his majesty, walked wisely in  
 “ the steps of him that called her ; and studied diligently to  
 “ represent a lively image in her mortality of the incompa-  
 “ rable and infinite Majesty, by using correction without  
 “ severity, by seeking the lost with clemency, by governing  
 “ wisely without fury, by weighing and judging without  
 “ rashness, by purging evil humours with deliberation ; and  
 “ to conclude, in doing her duty without affection.”

The choice  
 of her coun-  
 cil.

The choice of her counsellors bespake also her wariness

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## TO THIS HISTORY.

5

and great discretion, and contributed much to her first suc- SECT.  
I.  
cesses. For such she picked out to serve her (as the former Anno 1558.  
observing man related) as were neither of common wit nor  
common experience. Of whom some by travel in strange  
countries, some by learning, some by practice, and like au-  
thority in other rulers' days, some by affliction, either one  
way or other, for their gifts and graces which they had receiv- 4  
ed at God's hand, were men meet to be called to such rooms.

Add, that this wisdom and caution wherewith she ma- Qualified to  
reign by her  
afflictions,  
naged herself and her affairs, took place in her in a great  
measure by occasion of the hardships and misusages she  
underwent before: whereof she had a greater share than  
commonly falls to the lot of princes born; but out of which  
dangers God miraculously delivered her. She was taught  
by afflictions. I think (saith the person before mentioned)  
no Englishman is ignorant, that her afflictions were far  
above the condition of a king's daughter; for there was no  
more behind to make a very Iphigenia of her, but her  
offering up upon the altar of the scaffold. How she be-  
haved herself in those storms and tempests, let them wit-  
ness, who, being her adversaries, had the musing of her: of  
which he would say nothing, though he could say much.  
But this he must say, that then she must be in her afflictions  
marvellous patient, who shewed herself now in her prosper-  
ity to be utterly without desire of revenge, or else she  
would have given some token, ere this day, of remembrance  
how she was handled. And then he descends to some par-  
ticulars of her unjust sufferings: "Was it no wrong, think  
" you, that she sustained to be first a prisoner, and guarded  
" with a sort of cut-throats, which ever gaped for the spoil  
" of her house, that they might have been fingering of  
" somewhat? Then with great solemnity, with bands of  
" harnessed hangmen (happy was he that might have the  
" carrying of her) to be fetched up as the greatest traitor in  
" the world; hoisted into the Tower; there kept, not like a  
" king's daughter, nor a queen's sister, but as one that had  
" come out of Turkey to betray England: What assemblies  
" and councils, what examinations and wrackings of poor

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## 6

## INTRODUCTION

**SECT.** “men were there, to find out the knife that should cut her  
**I.** “throat! What gaping among many lords of the clergy to  
**Anno 1558.** “see the day wherein they might wash their goodly white  
 “ratchets in her innocent blood!”

The mea-  
sures she  
took.

But through all these difficulties the divine Providence brought Elizabeth safe to the government; which nevertheless ended not her dangers, beginning her reign at so great disadvantage, as was shewn before. But she, by taking other measures than her sister did, and using more moderate counsels, and favouring a reformation of religion, was as prosperous to this church and nation, and retrieved again its ancient splendour and glory. Insomuch that within four or five years after her accession to the crown, by means of her wise and careful administration, she was extolled among her people for a princess, “worthily to be compared with the “most noble, most peaceable, most honourable, most merciful, and most godly governors that ever reigned in the “world.”

Elizabeth a  
most fortun-  
ate queen.  
Epist. de-  
dicat. to  
Muscul.  
Comm.  
Place.

A memorial  
of Cecil for  
her govern-  
ment.

And what methods she took we may perceive by a paper or memorial drawn by her great counsellor sir William Cecyll, November the 17th, (that is, on the very day of the former queen's decease,) for the first steps she was to take in her government; taken out of one of the volumes of the Cotton library, viz.

Cott. libr.  
Titus, C.10.

5 **I.** “To consider the proclamation, and to proclaim it;  
 “and to send the same to all manner of places, and sheriffs,  
 “with speed, and to put it in print.

**II.** “To prepare the Tower, and to appoint the custody  
 “thereof to trusty persons: and to write to all the keepers  
 “of forts and castles in the queen's name.

**III.** “To consider for removing to the Tower: and the  
 “queen there to settle her officers and council.

**IV.** “To make a stay of passages to all the ports, until  
 “a certain day. And to consider the safety of all places  
 “dangerous toward France and Scotland; especially in this  
 “change.

**V.** “To send special messengers to the pope, emperor, the  
 “kings of Spain and Denmark, and to the state of Venice.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## TO THIS HISTORY.

7

VI. “ To send new commissioners to the earl of Arundel, SECT. I.  
 “ and the bishop of Ely, (who were treating a peace at Cam-  
 “ bray.) And to send one into Ireland with a new commis- Anno 1558.  
 “ sion, and letters under the queen’s hand, to all ambassa-  
 “ dors with foreign princes, to authorize them therein.

VII. “ To appoint commissioners for the interment of  
 “ the late queen.

VIII. “ To appoint commissioners for the coronation ;  
 “ and the day.

IX. “ To make a continuance of the term, with patents  
 “ to the chief justice, to the lord treasurer, justices of each  
 “ bench, barons, and masters of the rolls ; with inhibition,  
 “ *quod non conferant aliquod officium.*

X. “ To appoint new sheriffs and justices of peace, or  
 “ continue the old, by a proclamation to be sent to the she-  
 “ riffs under the great seal.

XI. “ To inhibit by proclamation the making over of  
 “ any money by exchange, without knowledge given to the  
 “ queen’s majesty ; and to charge all manner of persons,  
 “ that either have made any, or have been privy to any ex-  
 “ change made by the space of one month before the 17th  
 “ of this month.

XII. “ To consider the condition of the preacher of  
 “ Paul’s Cross, that no occasion be given by him to stir any  
 “ dispute touching the governance of the realm.”

As to the first of these articles, she took care with speed  
 to have her right and title proclaimed to the imperial crown  
 of this realm, “ as the only right heir by blood and lawful  
 “ succession to the kingdoms: giving knowledge by the The queen  
 hath her  
 title pro-  
 claimed.  
 “ same proclamation to all her subjects, that from the be-  
 “ ginning of the seventeenth day of November, at which  
 “ time her sister departed this life, they were discharged of  
 “ all bonds and duties of subjection towards her, and bound  
 “ only to Elizabeth, as their only lady and queen. And  
 “ then professing on her part no less love and care towards  
 “ their preservation, than had been in any of her progeni-  
 “ tors. And lastly, straitly charging all her subjects to  
 “ keep themselves in peace. And [as though she meant the

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## 8

## INTRODUCTION

SECT. I. “better to conceal her intention of altering religion] not to attempt upon any pretence the breach or alteration of any order or usage at that time established in the realm.”

Anno 1558. “The proclamation may be read in the Repository.”

Numb. I.  
The queen's  
first council,  
November 20.  
Council-book.

The lady Elizabeth was at her seat at Hatfield when queen Mary died. Thither some great persons forthwith repaired to her, namely, the earl of Pembroke; lord Clinton, lord admiral; the earl of Arundel, lord chamberlain: which three, with sir Thomas Parry, sir William Cecil, sir Ambrose Cave, sir Ralph Sadleir, (who was sent from the lords at London,) and sir Richard Sackville, sat at Hatfield in council with her, being the first privy council she held. (Yet the lords of the deceased queen's council sat at London.) The chief matters then done were, that sir Thomas Parry, knt. aforesaid, who had been a servant much about her, was by her command, and in her presence, declared the comptroller of her household, and sworn of her privy council; sir Edward Rogers, knt. her vice-chamberlain and captain of her guard, and one of her privy council; sir William Cecil, knt. her principal secretary, and one of her privy council. And letters were despatched by this present council to Dr. Walter Haddon to repair thither: and in like manner to John Norris, esq. late gentleman usher of the deceased queen's privy chamber.

The next day, viz. November 21, the earl of Bedford came to Hatfield, and sat in council with the rest before named.

Robbers. And whereas robberies were now very rife, the robbers expecting their pardon of course upon the coronation; this occasioned the drawing up of a proclamation touching such as robbed on these hopes: which was sent to the lords of the council at London by sir Ralph Sadleir; who also carried letters to the said lords.

A fleet set  
forth to  
sea.

The late queen's commissioners were now treating beyond sea about Calais, lately lost. And now at this council, November 21, a letter was dated from Hatfield, sent by the queen and her council there to Malyn, vice-admiral of the narrow seas, to equip the ships in his charge to the seas, to



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## TO THIS HISTORY.

9

keep the passage, and to hinder as much as he might the victualling of Calais, and to see good wafting of such as should come from the commissioners; and to set none over, except he had a passport from hence. SECT. I.

And this order was so strict to Malyn, that not so much as fishermen or coasters were allowed to go out. But the inconvenience arising hence made the lords of the council soon after, viz. November 24, to send a letter to the lord admiral, that he would take order, “that fishermen and other coastmen, that crossed not the seas, should be suffered to go to sea about their occupations and business, notwithstanding the former restraint: yet foreseeing that such as had charge of the ports should have good eye unto them that were so suffered, that they carried not out any of the commodities of the realm, or any persons not having licence; and to stay all persons that should be found suspicious herein.”

And on the same November 24, this restraint was taken off in a great measure by another order to the lord warden of the cinque ports, to set the passages at liberty, and to suffer all men that were not otherwise prohibited by the law to pass thereby. And the lord admiral was required to suffer such lords as had been stayed, to pass to the seas. And to the lord warden of the cinque-ports. 7

The queen and council, still at Hatfield, are taking care of her remove to London; and considering what noble persons to have present. Whereof the marquiss of Winchester, and the earls of Shrewsbury and Darby were sent for by a letter; in which were enclosed the names of such other noblemen as her highness thought good to attend upon her to London; and the archbishop of York, with sir William Petre and sir John Mason, appointed in the interim to transact any urgent business emerging. The letter may be consulted in the Repository. Care for the queen's remove.

There were some already of the popish faction contriving mischief against the queen, by setting up the Scotch queen's title, and by getting assistance from the Guises in France to carry on their designs in her behalf, and by dealing with some conjurers, to cast their figures to calculate the queen's Number II. Some already plotting against the queen, apprehended.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01798-5 - Annals of the Reformation and Establishment of Religion,  
Volume 1 - Part 1

John Strype

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## 10

## INTRODUCTION

**SECT.** life, and the duration of her government, and the like. In  
<sup>I.</sup>  
 this plot cardinal Pole's brothers were concerned. The  
 Anno 1558. knowledge of this coming to the queen and her council, it  
 was ordered at council, November 22d, that Anthony For-  
 rescue, who had been comptroller to the cardinal, should  
 be apprehended; a letter being sent for that purpose to the  
 earl of Rutland; and that he should have conference with  
 nobody. Sir John Mason had the bodies of two more  
 charged in the said accusation, viz. Kele and Prestal. He  
 was willed to examine them diligently upon such points as  
 the said Kele should open unto him, and to keep Kele in  
 safe custody in his house; so as none should have confe-  
 rence with him. Accordingly examinations were taken by  
 Mason and the earl of Rutland: which examinations the  
 lords perused November 25, and resolved, they should be  
 forthwith set at liberty; bonds being first taken of each of  
 them for their forthcoming, when they should be called by  
 the lords of the council.

Conjurers. One named Thirkel, a tailor, was now also in hold for  
 conjuring about the matters aforesaid, and in the custody  
 of John March, esq. who was ordered, November 24, to ex-  
 amine him, and to keep him in safe custody without con-  
 ference with any. And Richard Parlaben was another of  
 these conjurers, taken up, and in custody of Thomas Sackford  
 of Greys-inn, esq. Thus early did this excellent lady's ene-  
 mies plot, and continue their devices of mischief against her,  
 and combine to dethrone her, when she had been scarcely  
 possessed of her crown.

Orders to  
 bishop Bo-  
 ner to pro-  
 ceed against  
 them. Divers other conjurers were now also in custody, of the  
 same design and purpose, I suppose, with the former; and  
 were examined. And December 18, the lords sent their let-  
 ters to the bishop of London, viz. Boner, with certain exa-  
 minations, sent withal by Mr. Attorney: and he was willed  
 to proceed by such severe punishments against them that  
 should be proved culpable herein, according to the order of  
 the ecclesiastical law, as he should think meet; and to sig-  
 nify back what he did herein.

8 It is strange to consider, how these sorceries prevailed