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978-1-108-07131-4 - The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries  
of the English Nation: Volume 3

Richard Hakluyt

Excerpt

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The Queenes Majesties Letters to the Emperour  
of Russia, requesting licence, and safe con-  
duct for M. Anthony Jenkinson to passe  
thorow his kingdome of Russia, into Persia,  
to the Great Sophie. 1561.



LIZABETHA Dei gratia, Angliæ, &c.  
Regina, serenissimo & potentissimo  
principi, D. Joanni Basilivich, Im-  
peratori totius Russiæ, Magno Duci,  
&c. Salutem, & omnium rerum pros-  
perarum foelicissimum incrementum.  
Potentissime Princeps, res est nobis ad  
memorandum longè gratissima, illa vestræ Majestis  
erga nos & nostros amicitia. Quæ tempore foelicissimæ  
memoriæ Regis Edwardi sexti, fratris nostri charissimi,  
Dei benigntate incepta, deinceps verò vestra non solùm  
singulari humanitate alta atque fota, sed incredibili etiam  
bonitate aucta atque cumulata, nunc autem omnibus  
benevolentia vestræ officii sic firmata est atque con-  
stabilita, ut jam minimè dubitemus, quin ea ad laudem  
Dei, ad gloriam utriusque nostrum, ad publicam nos-  
trorum utrobique regnorum immensam commoditatem,  
ad privatam singulorum utrinque subditorum optatam  
spem, certamque foelicitatem multis sit deinceps seculis  
duratura. Et quanquam hæc vestra bonitas, plenissimè  
sese effudit in omnes nostros subditos, qui sese in ulla  
imperii vestri partes unquam receperunt, (pro qua  
ingentes nostras, ut par est, gratias vestræ Majestati  
habemus, vestrisque vicissim in omni opportunitatis

III

I

A

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1561.

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[I. 339.] loco libentissimè feremus) tamen abundantia benignitatis vestræ, in accipiendo, tamque humanitè tractando nostrum fidelem & perdilectum famulum Antonium Jenkinson, qui has perfert literas, seorsim nobis gratissima existit. Nam præterquam quòd nullis non locis vestri Imperii & magna libertate, & summa humanitate vestræ serenitatis non permissu solùm, sed jussu etiam frueretur, vestra bonitas tamen non in hac domestica benignè faciendi ratione conquievit, sed perlibentè & ultrò eundem nostrum hunc per dilectum famulum, variis exteris principibus, quoquoersus ipse iter suum instituerat, literis suis, suo magno Imperiali sigillo consignatis commendavit. Quod beneficium illi ubivis gentium, & viam sine ullo periculo, propter publicam vestram fidem, & adventum cum magno favore, propter vestram commendationem, optatè quidem & fœliciter communivit. Itaque quemadmodum gemina hæc vestra benevolentia, cum illa generalis exhibita in vestro regno negotiantibus subditis nostris universis, tum ista seorsim præstita huic Antonio Jenkinson, perfideli nostro famulo, nobis in mente non solùm ad gratam perpetuamque memoriam, verùm etiam ad mutuam, vel opportunam compensationem, firmissimè defixa est: ita, petimus a vestra Majestate ut utramque benevolentia vestræ rationem & communem nostris universis, & privatam huic nostro dilecto famulo, utrisque deinceps dignetur tueri, atque conservare. Neque nos quidem diffidimus, quin quem favorem vestra Majestas antea sua sponte Antonio Jenkinson, tum quidem privato ostendit, eundem nunc nostro rogatu eidem Antonio in nostrum jam famulatum cooptato benignè velit denuò declarare. Èt propterea petimus à vestra Majestate, ut dignetur iterum concedere eidem nostro famulo, literas suas commeatus, publicæ fidei, ac salviconductus, quarum tenore, autoritate, atque præsidio, sit illi, familiaribus suis, & servis, tutum, liberumque, cum mercibus, saccis, equis, & bonis suis universis, invehendis evehendisque, per vestra regna, domicilia, atque provincias,

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proficisci, ire, transire, redire, abire, & istic morari, quamdiu placuerit, & inde recedere quodcumque illi aut suis libitum fuerit. Et sicut non dubitamus, quin vestra Majestas hæc omnia humanitatis grata officia, pro immensa bonitate suæ naturæ benignè & largiter huic famulo nostro sit concessura, ita valdè optamus, adeoque petimus, ut vestra Majestas eodem nostrum famulum, unà cum omnibus suis familiaribus, ac bonis, exteris aliis principibus literis suis dignetur commendare, præsertim verò atque seorsim Magno Sophi, Persarum Imperatori, in cujus etiam imperia & ditiones idem noster famulus gratia potissimè experiundi peregrina commercia, proficisci unà cum suis constituit.

Confidimus igitur hæc omnia nostra postulata pro famuli spe, pro nostra expectatione, pro vestra bonitate, pro nostrorum utrinque subditorum commoditate, fausta illi, grata nobis, accepta etiam vestræ Majesti, & nostris utrobique perquam utilia evasura. Deus vestræ Majestatis, &c. Datum in celeberrima nostra Civitate Londini, anno mundi 5523. Domini ac Dei nostri Jesu Christi 1561. regnorum verò nostrorum tertio.

The same in English.

**E**Lizabeth by the grace of God, Queene of England, &c. to the right excellent, and right mightie Prince, Lord John Basiliwich, Emperour of all Russia, &c. greeting, and most happie increase in all prosperitie. Right mightie Prince, the amitie of your Majestie towards us and our subjects is very pleasant to us to be remembred, which being begun by the goodnesse of God in the reigne of our most deare brother of happie memorie, King Edward the sixt, and afterwards, through your not onely singular humanitie, fed, and nourished, but also through your incredible goodnesse increased, and augmented, is now firmed and established, with all maner of tokens of your benevolence, that now we doubt not, but that from hencefoorth, during many ages, the same shall endure to the praise

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of God, to both our glories, to the publike great commoditie of our Realmes on either part, and to the private desired hope, and certeine felicitie of all our subjects. And although that this your goodnesse hath bene abundantly extended to all our subjects, that have at any time repaired into any part of your Empire, for the which wee give (as reason is) your Majestie right heartie thanks, and will againe shew the like unto yours, right willingly, whensoever opportunitie shall require; yet the abundance of your benignitie both in receiving, and also in enterteining our faithfull and beloved servant, Anthonie Jenkinson, the bringer of these our letters, is unto us for him privately very thankfull. For besides this, that in all places of your Empire, he not onely by your Majesties sufferance, but also by your commandement, enjoyed much libertie, and great friendship, your goodnesse not ceasing in this your domesticall disposition of clemencie, did right willingly, and of your owne abundant grace, commend the same our welbeloved servant, by your letters sealed with your Imperiall seale, to sundrie forren Princes, unto whom he was minded to journey: which your magnificence did purchase unto him happily, according to his desire, both passage without all perill, through your notable credit, and also atchieving of his journey through your commendation. Thereforelike as these your duplicated benevolences, both that one generally exhibited to all

[I. 340.] our subjects frequenting that your Realme, and also this the other extended apart to this our right faithfull servant Anthonie Jenkinson, is right assuredly fastened in our remembrance, not onely for a perpetuall and gratefull memoriall, but also for a mutuall and meet compensation: so we desire of your Majestie, to vouchsafe from hencefoorth to conserve and continue the geminate disposition of your benevolences, both generally to all our subjects, and also privately to this our beloved servant. And we doubt not, but that at our request, you will againe graciously shew

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unto the same Anthony, now admitted into our service, the like favor as heretofore your Majesty of your meere motion did exhibite unto him, being then a private person. And therefore we desire your Majesty eftsoones to grant to the same our servant, your letters of licence, pasport, & safe conduct, through the tenour, authority, and helpe whereof, he, his servants, together with their merchandises, baggages, horses, and goods whatsoever, that shall be brought in, or carried out, by or thorow all your empire, kingdome, dominions, and provinces, may surely and freely journey, go, passe, repasse, depart, and there tary so long as it shall please him: and from thence returne whensoever it shall seeme good to him or his: and as we doubt not, but that your Majesty in the goodnesse of your nature will graciously and abundantly grant all these good offices of humanity, so we do heartily desire that your Majesty wil likewise vouchsafe to commend the same our servant, together with all his goods, by your letters to other forren Princes, and specially to the great Sophy, and Emperour of Persia, into whose empire and jurisdictions the same our servant purposeth with his for to journey, chiefly for triall of forren merchandises.

We therefore doe trust that all these our demands shall tend, and have effect, according to the hope of our servant, and to our expectation, for your wealth, for the commodity of both our subjects, lucky to him, thankfull to us, acceptable to your Majesty, and very profitable to our subjects on either part. God grant unto your Majesty long and happy felicity in earth, and everlasting in heaven. Dated in our famous city of London the 25 day of the moneth of April, in the yeere of the creation of the world 5523, and of our Lord God Jesus Christ, 1561, and of our reigne the third.

[The Queenes

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The Queenes Majesties Letters to the great Sophy  
of Persia, sent by M. Anthonie Jenkinson,  
1561.



LIZABETHA Dei gratia, Angliæ, Franciæ,  
& Hiberniæ Regina, &c. Potentissimo  
& invictissimo Principi, Magno Sophi  
Persarum, Medorum, Parthorum, Hir-  
canorum, Carmanorum, Margianorum,  
populorum cis & ultra Tygrim fluvium,  
& omnium intra Mare Caspium, & Per-  
sicum sinum nationum atque Gentium Imperatori  
salutem, & rerum prosperarum fœlicissimum incremen-  
tum. Summi Dei benignitate factum est, ut quas gentes,  
non solum immensa terrarum spacia, & insuperabiles  
marium vastitates, sed & ipsi etiam cœlorum cardines  
longissimè disjunxerunt, ipsæ tamen literarum bono &  
mentis certa cogitata, & humanitatis grata officia, &  
intelligentiæ mutuæ multa commoda facillè inter se  
& opportunè possint communicare. Itaque cùm perdi-  
lectus, & fidelis noster famulus Antonius Jenkinson, qui  
has literas nostras perfert, cum bona venia, favore, &  
gratia nostra hoc Angliæ nostræ regnum excedere, & in  
Persiam usque, vestrâque alias ditiones Dei benignitate  
penetrare constituerit, hoc illius institutum perlaudabile  
quidem grato nostro favore prosequi, & promovere  
studuimus: id quod eo nos libentiùs facimus, quoniam  
hoc ejus propositum ex honesto studio commercii con-  
stituendi potissimum cùm vestris subditis, aliisque pere-  
grinis hominibus, ad vestra regna confluentibus, omninò  
exortum sit. Propterea nobis & scribendum ad vestram  
Majestatem, ab eaque petendum esse duximus, ut nostro  
rogatu dignetur concedere huic famulo nostro Antonio  
Jenkinson literas publicæ fidei, & salvi conductus,  
quarum autoritate atque præsidio, licitum, liberumque  
sit illi, unâ cum suis familiaribus, servis, sarcinis, mer-  
cibus & bonis universis, per vestra regna, domicilia,

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1561.

ditiones, atque provincias liberè, & sine impedimento proficisci, ire, transire, redire, abire, & istic morari, quamdiu placuerit, & inde recedere, quodcumque illi vel suis lubitum fuerit. Si hæc sancta hospitalitatis jura & dulcia communis humanitatis officia, inter nos, nostra regna, nostròsque subditos libentè constitui, sincerè coli, & constanter conservari queant, speramus nos, Deum Optimum Maximum effecturum, ut ab hiis parvis initiis, grandiora rerum momenta, nobis ad magna ornamenta atque decus, nostris ad summa commoda atque usus, aliquando sint oritura: siquidem, ut non terra, non mare, non cælum, ad nos longissimè seperandos, quàm divina ratio communis humanitatis, & mutuæ benevolentiae ad nos firmissimè jungendos plus virium habuisse videatur. Deus salutem omnem, & foelicem in terris, & [I. 341.] perpetuam in cœlis, vestræ concedat Majestati. Datum in Anglia, in celebri nostra urbe Londino, 25 die mensis Aprilis, anno mundi, 5523, Domini ac Dei nostri Jesu Christi, 1561, regnorum verò nostrorum tertio.

The same in English.

**E**Lizabeth, by the grace of God, Queene of England, &c. To the right mightie, and right victorious Prince, the great Sophie, Emperour of the Persians, Medes, Parthians, Hircans, Carmanians, Margians, of the people on this side, and beyond the river of Tygris, and of all men, and nations, betweene the Caspian sea, and the gulfes of Persia, greeting, and most happie increase in all prosperitie. By the goodnesse of the Almighty God it is ordeined, that those people, which not onely the huge distance of the lands, and the invincible wide-nesse of the seas, but also the very quarters of the heavens do most farre separate, and set asunder, may neverthesse through good commendation by writing, both ease, and also communicate betweene them, not onely the conceived thoughts, or deliberations, and gratefull offices of humanitie, but also many commodities of mutuall intelligence. Therefore whereas our faithfull,

*This letter  
was also writ-  
ten in Hebrew  
and Italian.*

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and right welbeloved servant Anthonie Jenkinson, bearer of these our letters, is determined with our licence, favour, and grace, to passe out of this our Realme, and by Gods sufferance to travell even into Persia, and other your jurisdictions: we minde truely with our good favour, to set forward, and advance that his right laudable purpose: and that the more willingly, for that this his enterprise is onely grounded upon an honest intent, to establish trade of merchandise with your subjects, and with other strangers traffiking in your realmes. Wherefore we have thought good, both to write to your Majestie, and also to desire the same, to vouchsafe at our request, to grant to our sayd servant, Anthonie Jenkinson, good pasports, and safe conducts, by meanes, and authoritie whereof, it may be free and lawfull for him, together with his familiars, servants, cariages, merchandise, and goods whatsoever, thorow your Realmes, Dominions, Jurisdictions, and Provinces, freely, and without impeachment, to journey, go, passe, repasse, and tary so long as he shall please, and from thence to returne whensoever he or they shall thinke good. If these holy dueties of entertainment, and sweet offices of naturall humanitie may be willingly concluded, sincerely embraced, and firmly observed betweene us, and our Realmes, and subjects, then we do hope that the Almighty God will bring it to passe, that of these small beginnings, greater moments of things shall hereafter spring, both to our furniture and honours, and also to the great commodities, and use of our peoples: so it will be knowen that neither the earth, the seas, nor the heavens, have so much force to separate us, as the godly disposition of naturall humanity, and mutuall benevolence have to joyne us strongly together. God grant unto your Majestie long and happy felicity in earth, and perpetuall in heaven. Dated in England, in our famous citie of London, the 25 day of the moneth of April, in the yere of the creation of the world, 5523, and of our Lord and God Jesus Christ, 1561, and of our reigne the third.



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## THE RUSSIA COMPANY'S INSTRUCTIONS

A.D.  
1561.

A remembrance given by us the Governours, Consuls, and Assistants of the company of Merchants trading into Russia, the eight day of May 1561, to our trustie friend Anthonie Jenkinson, at his departure towards Russia, and so to Persia, in this our eight journey.



First you shall understand that we have laden in our good ship, called the Swallow, one Chest, the keyes whereof we doe heere deliver you, and also a bill, wherein are written particularly the contents in the sayd Chest, and what every thing did cost: and because, as you know, the sayd Chest is of charge, we desire you to have a speciall regard unto it, and when God shall send you unto Mosco, our mindes and will is, that you, with the advise of our Agents there, doe appoint some such presents for the Emperour and his sonne, either wine, cloth of golde, scarlet, or plate, as to your good discretion shall be thought meet, and when you have delivered unto him the Queenes Majesties Letters, and our sayd present in the name of the Company, we thinke it good that you make your humble sute unto his Highnesse in our name, to get his licence or safe conduct for you and all other our servants or Agents at all times hereafter with such wares and merchandise as you at this time, or they hereafter at all other times shall thinke good to passe out of his dominions towards Tartaria, Persia, or other places, and also to returne unto Mosco with such wares and merchandises as you shall bring or send from any land or countrey that is not in his dominions, and if it be thought good by you and our Agents there to make [I. 342.] composition with the emperor or his officers for some certeine custome or tole upon such goods as we shall

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passee that way, to the intent we might be the better favored, we refer it to your descretion, foreseeing that ye opening of this matter be not prejudiciall unto our former privileges.

And for the sale of our cloth of gold, plate, pearles, saphyres, and other jewels, we put our trust and confidence in you principally to sell them for ready money, time to good debtors, or in barter for good wares, so that you make our other Agents privy how and for what price you sell any of the premisses, and also deliver such summes of money, billes or wares, as you shall receive, unto our said Agents: thinking good further, that if you perceive that the plate or other jewels, or any part thereof will not be sold for profit before your departure from the Mosco, that then you cause them to be safe packed, and set order they may be sent hither againe in our shippes the next yeere, except you perceive that there may be some profit in carrying some part of them into Persia, which we would not to be of any great value.

We have also laden in the sayd Swallow and the other two ships 80 fardles, conteining 400 kersies, as by ye invoice doth appeare, which fardles be packed, & appointed to be caried into Persia: neverthelesse, if you chance to finde good sales for them in the Mosco, we thinke it were good to sell part of them there, and to cary the lesse quantity with you, because we be uncertaine what vent or sale you shall finde in Persia or other places where you shall come.

If you obtaine the Emperours licence to passe out of his dominions, and to returne, as aforesaid, & that you perceive you may safely do the same, our minde is, that at such time as you thinke best and most convenient for that purpose, you do appoint so many, and such of our hired servants or apprentices as you thinke necessary & meet for our affaires, and may best be spared, to go with you in your said voyage, whereof we would one to be such as you might make privy of