

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

KING CHARLES, MAR. 27, 1625.

(Crowned Feb. 2, following.)

HIS comming to the crowne was very joyous to the well-affected, but to Papists not very welcome.

Of the matche with France then on foote, rumours were diverse, yet at length arrived in England Mary sister to Lewes XIII. of France, about Whitsontide. Newes of her arrivall, and the occurrences thereof, was very litle and very uncertaine in Norfolke, by the reason of the plague beginning to be hote in London, so that the parliament assembled was kept at Oxford, and travaile was dangerous.

This summer the King was Westward in progresse, where he visited and viewed his navie at Plimmouth, the greatest that ever England sent out, the expectation thereof being extraordinary; but in the ende all came to nothing but this, an arrivall at Cales^a in Spaine, with the taking of a forte or two, and then a shamefull returne. Where the faulte was, time may fully discover.^b

The plague caused Michaelmas terme to be kept at Reding in Barkeshire.

^a Cades, Cadiz.

^b The Admiral, Edward Cecill, lord Wimbledon, having a large fleet under his command, and meeting with little opposition, was much blamed for not doing more execution. Rushworth, pt. i. p. 196.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk, from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

In the ende of this summer were many rumors of letters taken that discovered trechery of Papists, readie to have received (after some way made) marquis Spinola at Harwich and Ipswich, who had great forces (as was said) together at Dunkirke. Soldiers out of Suffolk and Essex lay in garrison at Langher point, and this feare hath caused strong fortes to be builte there.^a

Proclamations came forth against Papists; and some stricter courses with them, for their arrerages to the King, and for executing of penall statutes, were set on foote and doe continue.^b

1626. Our trayned soldiers were often exercised by Captaines chosen. The long continued peace with Spaine (being nowe 1625 in the breaking of) caused such security in our townes and ordinary shippes, that many had sould away their ordinance, being nowe enforced to buy newe, the advantage whereof the Dunkirkers haue made use of, and troubled our seas, taken our shippes, and feared our merchants and smaller sea townes, to the causing of much discontented rumour in the country.

Sir Edward Cooke (late lord Cooke) was chosen knight of the shire for Norfolk, (as before in the former parliament ended at Oxford,) but for prevention he and some others free speakers in parliament (*ut dicitur*) were made high sheriffes;^c so that in the beginning of this parliament (begunne in the ende of 1625) much adoe there was about this pointe; making way, as was thought, for the utter bringing under of parliament power, and the jealousie betwixt the King's prerogative and the freedome of the country, with the Parliamentary power, encreasing (by the sending of the earle of Arundle to the Tower, the King refusing to shewe his reason), there

^a Landguard or Langer Fort, near Harwich. See Rushworth, pt. i, p. 195.

^b See the Petition of the Commons against recusants, with the king's Answers, in Rushworth, vol. i. pp. 181–6. Also *Fœdera*, Hague edit. vol. viii. pt. i. pp. 128, 189.

^c The others were sir Robert Philips and sir Thomas Wentworth. The office of high sheriff incapacitated the person from becoming member of Parliament so long as he held it, and was therefore a penalty to those who were ambitious of parliamentary distinction.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A.D. 1626.]

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

3

was much grieffe in the country. At the last it came to this. Sir Edward Cooke was a parliament man, but by the parliament house (to satisfye the King) forbidden to meddle untill he were called. The earle of Arundell, whose faulte was (*ut ferunt*) a presuming to steale a matche of his sonne the lord Matrevers with the duke of Lennox daughter,^a wherein the King was interested, entending to marry her within fewe dayes to the earle of Argile's sonne, (as his father king James had directed,) was set at libertie.^b

This Parliament hath as yet, June 1626, bent almost wholly against the duke of Buckingham, (who lately, after the death of the earle of Suffolk, was chosen Chancelor of Cambridge, some agents, *ut dicunt*, pressing others for their voices with him,) being questioned at Parliament, to the greate wonder of the country, considering the strange, usuall, and bould reportes that be made of him; which, if true, 'tis pity he liveth; if otherwise, God graunte him a true cleering.^c

About June 11, the Parliament was dissolved, nothing being done. The lord keeper, sir Thomas Coventry, being (*ut dicitur*) earnest with the King, upon his knees, to have it continued.

The cause, as farre as country intelligence could telle us, was that the nether house delayed the grante of subsidies untill the duke had bene tried, which the King was against. The reporte that the King sending to them to conclude for subsidies, with promise that they should afterward sitte againe, they put it to voices, and there were one hundred more against the grante then for it, is not contradicted. Presently after the Parliament's dissolution, the newes was, that the duke had sent to the Parliament sitting; others say, spake himselfe to the Parliament, in way of answeere for himselfe (which

^a Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Esme Stuart, duke of Lennox. For particulars of this love-match, see Court and Times of Charles I. vol. i. pp. 86, 90.

^b See Rushworth, pt. i. pp. 363 et seq.

^c See Rushworth, pt. i. pp. 371-4. Here follow the Articles presented by the earl of Bristol against lord Conway and the duke of Buckingham, which it is not thought desirable to reprint, they being already printed in Rushworth, pt. i. pp. 264-6, and elsewhere.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

4

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

[A.D. 1626.]

Jun.

answere is in writing), not denying many articles, but intreating favourable construction, as, namely, his offensive incontinency, that it might be imputed to his youth; and the miscarriage of maine busines to error of judgment, which the happiest counsellor of all is subjecte to, &c. There was it seemeth an offer made to permitte the duke to a triall by his peeres at the King's Bench barre, but it was refused, both because it was at this time (thus to be granted) an impeachment to the honour and equality of a parliamentary triall, and for that it is thought, *rege favente*, the peeres might have beene his speciall frends if not creatures; unto which it is added by reporte, that if he had beene found guilty, yet all had beene nothing, for he had, (they say,) three pardons, one from king James, one from king Charles, at his first beginning to reigne, and one other, sealed, very lately. I sawe a proclamation at this time running thus: By the King. His majestie being given intelligence that certaine of the House of Commons (committees) did entende to present to him a copie of remonstrance, &c. which copie his majestie refused to be presented to him; the House having refused a most equall tryall of matters objected, at the honourable courte of the King's Bench, and his majestie understanding that they meante to disperse copies of the same remonstrance; and for that it containeth in it things touching the honour of the late deceased King, the nowe King reigning, and the credite of a great Peere of this realme, therefore his majestie forbiddes all his subjects the keeping of the same remonstrance, charging them immediatly upon sight of it to burne it, otherwise, if it be found with any, that they expecte his displeasure according to the qualitie of this facte, &c.^a This proclamation having the third person altogether, "his majestie," never having "we," or "our pleasure," or the like, had yet no counsellors' handes to it, being subscribed, "God save the King," the printer added.

About this time there came forth diverse proclamations; as,

^a Printed in *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 65; date 17th June, 1626.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A.D. 1626.]

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

5

I. That men should forbear writing of controversies; it restraining and aiming at controversies lately on foote against Montagu,^a who wrote “Apello ad Cesarem,” and before that, “The Gagge.”^b This booke hath bene answered by Doctor Carleton, bishop of Chichester;^c by Mr. Rous, Esqu., of Essex;^d by Mr. Yates, late preacher in Norwich;^e by one Mr. H. Burton,^f and by others. I did see 4 or 5 sheetes of a booke in the presse, whereof the copie was taken from the printer by the bishop of London. This was (some say) Dr. Sutcliffe’s;^g but I am sure it was tarte and bitter as gall, surpassing Martin Marprelate, &c.; it called Montagu “Mountebanke” and “Runnagate Dicke,” &c. I commende not this straine, but leave all to the censure of the wise, who may see more then I can what danger this “Apello ad Cesarem” hath done and may doe. One other proclamation was to prohibite saylers to goe out, and to commande a readines for the King’s service.^h A rumour there was nowe of a Spanish fleete, some fearing, and some contemptuously and lightly regarding the force of it and the reporte.

The proclamation restraining controversies and newe opinions

^a Rushworth, pt. i. p. 412; *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 64, date 16th June, 1626.

^b Richard Montagu, afterwards Bishop of Norwich and Chichester. His books are entitled, “A Gagge for the new Gospell? No; a New Gagge for an Old Goose, or an Answer to a late Abridgment of Controversies and Belyar of the Protestants’ Doctrine.” 4to. London, 1624; and, “Appello Cæsarem, A Just Appeale from Two Unjust Informers.” Lond. 1625.

^c In a quarto pamphlet of 236 pages, entitled “An Examination of those things wherein the Author of the late Appeale holdeth the Doctrines of the Pelagians and Arminians to be the Doctrines of the Church of England.” 4to. Lond. 1626.

^d Francis Rous: “Doctrine of King James, of the Church of England, and of the Catholic Church, shewed to be the same in Points of Predestination, Freewill, and Certainty of Salvation.” 4to. Lond. 1626.

^e “*This ad Cæsarem*; or, an Answer to Mr. Montagu’s Appeal in the Points of Arminianism and Popery against the Doctrine of the Church of England.” 4to. Lond. 1626.

^f “A Plea to an Appeal traversed dialoguewise.” 4to. Lond. 1626.

^g Matthew Sutcliffe: “Unmasking of a Masse-monger, or a Vindication of St. Augustine’s Confessions from the Calumnies of a late Apostate.” 4to. Lond. 1626.

^h *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 65, date 18th June, 1626.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

contrary to the peace of the church, &c., was used by some bishops to the suppressing of those that had confuted Montague (or rather abused), whereas Montague hath but only fathered his opinion upon the Church of England in his blinde conceite. Witnessse “Novem assertiones orthodoxæ,” Mr. Rogers’ Tables and Exposition of the Articles,^a the continuall determinings at the scholes Cambridge and Oxford, and the confutations of Montague by Bishop Carleton, by Mr. Rous, Mr. Yates, &c.

A third proclamation was about such as had the king’s evill to repaire to the courte at a certaine time of the yeere.^b

There was a proclamation of a fast about August 2,^c some causes alledged as, namely, the contagion spreading in the country, &c., but the chiefe troubles abroad and invasion at home threatned by a potent enemy, etc., of which what wise men thought I leave to others to utter. I am sure at Bury assizes and Norfolk, also at Thetford (the plague being at Norwich), letters came and justices met, but nothing was obtained. It was said that at the first there was endeavor to have gotten by authority the subsidies agreed upon at the parliament, but not granted because it was untimely broken up; but after it came to a persuasion by the justices for a voluntary yeelding of so much, or neere so much, &c. Privy scales had this summer beene talkte of.

Thomas Scotte, “Vox Populi,” was slaine about June or July.^d

^a Thomas Rogers: “The Faith, Doctrine, and Religion professed and protected in the realme of England, expressed in xxxix Articles, the said Articles analysed, with Propositions, and the Propositions proved to be agreeable both to the written Word of God, and to the Confessions of all the neighbour Churches Christianly reformed.” 4to. Lond. 1629.

^b *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. i. p. 86; date 18 June, 1625. It might probably be re-issued this year in the same form.

^c It was for the 5th of July in town, and August 2nd in the country. See *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 68; date June 30, 1626.

^d “Vox Populi, or Newes from Spayne,” 1620, the Second part, 1624, by Thomas Scott, B.D. English minister at Utrecht. The account of his death was published in “A Briefe Relation of the Murder of Mr. Thomas Scott, Preacher of God’s Word and

Some thought
it a policy to
drawe monies.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A.D. 1626.]

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

7

About September 29, I sawe a proclamation which seemed to impute the not payment of privy seales to some miscarriage, &c. and not to the subjects' disloyaltie; withall, also notice was given that there were other projects, wherefore the King had taken order that such monies as were paid upon privy seales or benevolence, should be presently repayed.^a

In Suffolk a benevolence was yeilded and in parte paid.

The King's navy went forth about Michaelmas.

This summer was greate preparation and building about the forte at Langer Pointe; and upon some displeasure the earle of Warwicke, Lieftenant of Essex and the chiefe overseer, was turned out of his offices, and the worke forsaken. September —, sir John Rous, of Henham,^b had spoken something of the duke at the last parliament, and he was turned out of his offices.

The French were all shipped away from the queene.

The king of Denmarke had a greate overthrowe.^c

Sir Jacob Asteley was said to be made generall of all the English in the Netherlands.

Newes came in October of count Mansfeld, that he had given diverse overthrowes to the emperor's parte, and slaine the duke of Friedland in the field.^d Newes is newes. Many corantoos confirmed an overthrowe given to the duke of Friedland.

During Michaelmas terme, a projecte was on foote for 5 subsidies, to be paid all at once. The judges would neither yeeld to this for to be lawe or conscience; and sir Randolph Crewe, chief justice of the king's bench, was suspended from his office. This was prose-

Bachelor of Divinity, committed by John Lambert, soldier of the garrison of Utrecht, the 18th of June, 1626." 4to. Lond. 1628. See also Court and Times of Charles I. vol. i. p. 123.

^a Fœdera, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 94 ; date 22nd Sept. 1626.

^b This is the nephew of the diarist, son of his elder brother Thomas.

^c He was defeated by Tilly, Aug. 27th.

^d A false report ; the story of Wallenstein's murder in 1634 is too well known to need an allusion.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

cuted by all helpes, as persuasions from the clergie; and about the middle of December at Bury by the earles of Shrewsbury and Suffolke, &c., and it was generally yielded, and so in Norfolk.

The French stayed our marchants' shippes.

The queenes lutener, a Frenchman, layd in the Tower, for that he had a pistoll charged with double bullett, to kill the duke, *ut dicitur*.^a Newes in February, that the king of France (who had stayed our shippes that went for wines, with their ordonance, whereupon letters of marke were granted against the French,^b) had proclaimed open warres against England; or rather, as some say, had begunne to levie a great armie for his own defence, perhaps against England. Sir John Hevingingham, being in the Marshalsey for refusing to pay the 5 subsidies, the newes held currant that 4 or 5 shires held out whole; as Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby, &c.

Of 5 Lord Chiefe Justices of the king's bench, living at one time, Feb. 1626, *stilo n̄to*,^c

Learned Cooke and Montagu,
St James Leigh, and honest Crewe,
Two preferd, two put beside,
There's *now in place* sir Nicholas Hide.^d

Now skipt in.

^a His name was Galtier, but this was not his real offence. See Court and Times of Charles I. vol. i. pp. 183, 186, 189, 190.

^b See *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. pp. 119, 182.

^c *Stilo nostro*: the old style.

^d There are other readings of this popular skit:—

Learned Cooke and Montagu,
Grave Leigh, and honest Crew,
Two preferred, two set aside,
Then starts up sir Nicholas Hyde.

Another has—

Learned Coke, curt Montagu,
The aged Leigh, and honest Crew.

See Court, &c. of Charles I. vol. i. p. 199; and Yonge's Diary, p. 100.

Sir Edward Coke and sir Randolph Crewe were both displaced during the reign of James I. Sir Henry Montagu, afterwards earl of Manchester, had been made lord president of the council by that king, and sir James Ley, afterwards earl of Marlborough, lord high treasurer.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A.D. 1627.]

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

9

March 15. Newes that the king of France having gotten some company into Rochell deceitfully, there arose a sudden conflicte, many of the Protestants slaine, yet the towne not surprised, but the king's forces approaching to the towne warde. Of 130 ships stayed in France, it is thought we shall have none sent home, but all are employed in the siege of Rochell; in liewe of which ships, we have taken some 30 base ships of the French. Some say our navy shall aide Rochell.

That the earle of Lincolne is in the Tower, about the subsidies; and the earle of Essex sent for by pursevants. That Yorkeshire, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, with others, and Wales, doe wholie denie this subsidie. That the Hollanders have sent messengers to demande restitution of something the duke withholdeth; and, in case of deniall, doe say that they are to stande on their owne feete, and to grant letters of marke to take so much from us.

That there is proclamation that no merchant shall trade, in any kind, with Spaine, upon paine of ^a

That the Dunkerkers have taken 50 coliers of ours.

That the earle of Warwicke's pinnace hath taken ij ships of 10,000*l.* prise, comming now into the Thames to the Tower ward: whereof 1000 is the king's, 1000 the duke's; or the tenth for the king, the ninth for the admirall; the rest is the adventurers'.

That letters of marke are daily given out against the Dunkirkers, as the sole helpe our haven towens have to helpe themselves.

May. Newes about Witsontide was that the earles of Warwick 1627, in May. and Essex were gone to sea, with a small navy of perhaps xx ships, having letters of marke. Also, that we have had from the French full satisfaction for our ships stayed; and proclamation was made

^a Of his ships being seized as prizes. *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 156; date 4th March, 1626-7. The proclamation prohibits the furnishing the Spaniards with provisions or munition of war.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07388-2 - Diary of John Rous: Incumbent of Santon Downham, Suffolk,
from 1625 to 1642

Edited by Mary Anne Everett Green

Excerpt

[More information](#)

10

DIARY OF JOHN ROUS.

[A.D. 1627.]

that all that had sustained losse by the French should, upon prooffe of theire losses made to the Councell, be satisfied out of the prises taken from the French.^a

Proclamation prohibiting all trade with the French.^b

Also that the duke was to goe forth, with a greate navy of the King's ships, of his owne, and others, above 100.

That the prisoners for refusing the subsidies imposed are yet in prison, and others brought in unto them, out of Norfolk, Lincolnshire, and other places.

That captaine Penniton, being abroad with letters of marke, had by a wile taken and sent home 20 French ships at one time. He went in among theire ships with French flagges, and then, being once in the midst of them, he shewed himselfe enemy, and so caused the most of them to yeeld.^c

June 15. The newes was, about the last of June, that the duke was gone out from Portsmouth, with 90 saile of ships. This newes was confirmed from Cambridge commencement.

July 7. About July 7, it was rumoured that he had taken St. Martin's, in a little island lying before Rochelle in France.

Sept. 20. The rumour was true, but the whole island of Ree (de Rey) was not taken; for the citadell commanding the towne was thought not to be taken. September 20.

Sept. A towne called the Grolle, in Gelderland, was taken lately by the prince of Aurange.

Sept. Greate diversity of reportes about an overthrowe given to Tilly of 8000 men by the king of Denmarke; some affirming it a tale, some saying it was true.

Sept. 24. There were, on the Bell corner post at Thetford, a proclamation to give the forfeitures of papists, &c. to the erle of Sunderland,

^a See *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 134.

^b *Fœdera*, vol. viii. pt. ii. p. 175, 12th May, 1627.

^c See *Court and Times of Charles I.* vol. i. pp. 221, 228; and *Yonge's Diary*, p. 105. These prizes were sold by the King to Burlamachi for 150,000*l.*