

Bess of Hardwick's Letters

Letter ID: 166 (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=166>)

From: Gilbert Talbot (Charing Cross, London, Greater London); Mary Talbot (Charing Cross, London, Greater London);

To: Bess of Hardwick; George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury;

Date: 13 February 1578/9

Summary: Gilbert Talbot writes to his father, George (sixth earl of Shrewsbury) and his stepmother and mother-in-law, Bess (countess of Shrewsbury), reporting that Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, 'has written unto your lordship such news as is stirring, for my self I know none, but such as are common'. Nonetheless, he writes at length on news from the court: the visit of Johann Casimir and gifts given to him; about the queen's 'good usage of Monseieur Simier [Jean de Simier] and all his company'; 'of queen mother her coming into England'; an unresolved matter between the earl of Rutland and Master Markham; and various other news. The letter is also signed by Gilbert's wife, Mary (née Cavendish; Bess's daughter).

Archive: Lambeth Palace Library, Talbot Papers, MS 3197, fol. 287

Delivery status: to Bess, sent

Letter features: Seal intact - no. Ribbon/floss – no. Letter packet - slit and band

Hands: Gilbert Talbot | Nathaniel Johnston | archivist | Mary Talbot |

Version: 1.0

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People Associated with Letter 166: Gilbert Talbot

Gilbert Talbot (1552-1616) was the son of George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury, and his first wife Gertrude (née Manners; d.1566). Gilbert was the second son but as his older brother Frances died in 1582, Gilbert succeeded to the earldom and became seventh earl of Shrewsbury after his father died on 18 November 1590. After his father's marriage to Bess (and to serve their interests), on 9 February 1568 Gilbert was married to Bess's daughter from her second marriage, Mary (née Cavendish). That is to say, Gilbert was married to his step-sister, at which point Bess became both his step-mother and mother-in-law. (At the same time, his sister Grace was married to Bess's eldest son Henry.) Gilbert and Mary were known for living large and eventually relations between Gilbert and his father Shrewsbury deteriorated over what Shrewsbury saw as his son and daughter-in-law's careless spending and the resultant debt. Gilbert also became notorious for his quarrelsome disposition. His relationship with his father suffered further damage when he accused him of siding with his wife Bess during their marriage breakdown. After his father's death he became engaged in litigation with Bess over the will (a legal battle which Bess won). Then, in 1594, he challenged his brother, Edward Talbot, to a duel amidst allegations of poisoning. These and other feuds were often long-lasting and expensive and left Gilbert with many enemies and debts. Gilbert had five children with Mary. His two sons, George and John, died in infancy and therefore his three daughters became joint heirs to their father's titles and great estate: Mary Herbert, countess of Pembroke (d. 1650), Elizabeth Grey, countess of Kent (1582-1651) and Aletheia Howard, countess of Arundel (b. After 1582, d. 1654).

Other letters associated with Gilbert Talbot:

- 4 November 1570 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=171>)
- 28 June 1574 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=80>)
- 14 May 1575 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=81>)
- [October 1575?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=218>)
- 13 October 1575 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=217>)
- 20 February 1575/6 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=165>)
- 28 May 1576 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=82>)
- [July 1577?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=84>)
- 1 August 1577 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=85>)
- [30 June 1578?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=83>)
- 28 February 1578/9 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=174>)
- 11 September 1580 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=154>)
- 31 January 1580/1 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=228>)
- 31 January 1580/1 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=227>)

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[19 September 1583?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=86>)

[February 1589] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=87>)

1 July 1589 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=88>)

28 February [1597/8?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=187>)

[November 1604] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=177>)

15 January [1606] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=180>)

People Associated with Letter 166: Mary Talbot

Mary Talbot (née Cavendish; b. 1556, d. 1632) was one of Bess's daughters from her marriage with Sir William Cavendish, who died in 1557 when she was only a year old. Following her mother's marriage to George, sixth earl of Shrewsbury (and to serve their interests), on 9 February 1568, when Mary was around twelve-years old, she was married to the earl's son from his previous marriage, Gilbert Talbot. That is to say, Mary was married to her step-brother, at which point the earl became both her step-father and father-in-law. (At the same time, her brother Henry was married to the earl's daughter Grace.) Mary's husband Gilbert was the second son but as his older brother Frances died in 1582, Gilbert succeeded to the earldom, and he and Mary became seventh earl and countess of Shrewsbury, after his father died on 18 November 1590. Mary and Gilbert's two sons, George and John, died in infancy and therefore their three daughters became joint heirs to their father's titles and great estate: Mary Herbert, countess of Pembroke (d. 1650), Elizabeth Grey, countess of Kent (1582-1651) and Aletheia Howard, countess of Arundel (b. after 1582, d. 1654). Mary was better educated than her mother Bess and is known for her strong-mindedness, intelligence and opinions, as well as for her conversion to Roman Catholicism as an adult. She was involved in the elopement and escape plans of her niece Arbella Stuart in 1610 and subsequently, when she refused to testify, was imprisoned in the Tower for several years. She spoke up for her mother, Bess, to queen Elizabeth, in 1587, during her estrangement from Shrewsbury. Despite some of their differences, Mary is said to have been genuinely distressed when her mother died in 1608 and was remembered by Bess in her will.

Other letters associated with Mary Talbot:

- 1 August 1577 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=85>)
- [1580s] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=181>)
- [1580] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=185>)
- [19 September 1583?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=86>)
- [February 1589] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=87>)
- 1 July 1589 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=88>)
- 18 February [1590/1?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=233>)
- 28 February [1597/8?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=187>)
- 15 January [1606] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=180>)
- 8 July [1607] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=89>)
- 30 November 1607 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=179>)
- 30 December [1607?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=90>)

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People Associated with Letter 166: Bess of Hardwick

Born Elizabeth Hardwick (in c.1521/2, d. 13 February 1608), the woman known to posterity as Bess of Hardwick married four times during her life, as a result of which her name changed from Hardwick to Barlow (or Barley), Cavendish, St Loe and then finally (when she was countess of Shrewsbury and then dowager countess) Talbot. As one of the five children of John Hardwick (1495-1528) of Hardwick, Derbyshire, and his first wife, Elizabeth (née Leake), Bess had three sisters (Mary, Jane and Alice) and one brother (James). The Hardwicks were established Derbyshire gentry who had inherited a modest manor house and c.400 acres in and around Hardwick. But when John died in 1528, and their lands were seized by the crown, Bess faced hardship. Bess's mother quickly remarried but her new husband, Ralph Leche of Chatsworth, Derbyshire, brought little land or money to the marriage, and three more daughters were born (Bess's half-sisters Elizabeth, Jane and Margaret). Little else is known of Bess's childhood but, while still young, she was married for the first time, to Robert Barlow (or Barley) of Barlow, Derbyshire, sometime in or before 1543. Barlow died in 1544 and Bess received a small inheritance. In 1547 she married the twice-widowed Sir William Cavendish, treasurer of the king's chamber. Bess and Cavendish had eight children, six of whom survived: Frances (1548), Henry (1550), William (1551, from whom the dukes of Devonshire are descended), Charles (1553, from whom the dukes of Newcastle and Portland are descended), Elizabeth (1554) and Mary (1556). Probably due to a mixture of affection and shared social ambition, Bess's second marriage was happy and fortuitous. She was now moving in courtly circles and experiencing (for the first time) considerable wealth. In 1549 Cavendish and Bess bought the estate of Chatsworth, which was held jointly in both their names and which he and then Bess, following Cavendish's death in 1557, ambitiously rebuilt. Soon after her second husband's death, and sometime before Elizabeth I's accession (in 1558), Bess married Sir William St Loe, a wealthy widower of ancient noble pedigree. St Loe was captain of the guard to the young queen and in addition to further improving Bess's finances, he also brought her into the queen's inner circle and she served briefly as a gentlewoman of the queen's privy chamber (in 1559). The marriage seems to have not been without affection; however, the two would have spent most of it apart - he serving the queen in London and Bess mostly at Chatsworth. Upon St Loe's death (probably in 1565), Bess inherited most of the estate. In 1567 Bess married for a final time, to George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury, one of the richest and most powerful men in England. To consolidate the union of their fortunes, the couple had Bess's eldest son, Henry, marry Shrewsbury's daughter (from his previous marriage), and Shrewsbury's eldest son, Gilbert (later the seventh earl), marry Bess's daughter, Mary. Also around this time, Shrewsbury was appointed to be the keeper of Mary Queen of Scots (from 1568-84). At first, relations between Bess and the Catholic Scottish queen seem to have been amicable; however, relations deteriorated all around as Bess's marriage to Shrewsbury broke down in the 1580s. An infamously nasty and highly public legal battle over estates ensued and finally the courts resolved that Shrewsbury provide Bess with a sizeable income from 1587 onwards (Shrewsbury died in 1590). In 1582, Bess took charge of the upbringing of her orphaned granddaughter, Arbella Stuart (1575-1615), claimant to the English

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and Scottish crowns. In 1587, Bess undertook her remarkable building works at Hardwick: the house now known as Hardwick Old Hall was complete by 1591; next to it, the extraordinary building now known as Hardwick New Hall was complete by 1599 and is one of the greatest architectural ventures of Elizabethan England. It was at Hardwick that Bess spent most of the remainder of her life, much of it devoted to caring for and managing Arbella, who came to loathe her existence in Derbyshire and devised several bizarre plans for her escape (to Bess's great distress). Bess also quarrelled with her eldest son, Henry, and disinherited both him and Arbella in her will. She left most of her estate to her beloved and faithful son, William Cavendish, who continued her great dynasty into the seventeenth century.

People Associated with Letter 166: George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury

George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury (c.1522-90), was the eldest and only surviving son of Francis Talbot, fifth earl of Shrewsbury (1500-60), and his first wife, Mary (d.1538). In 1538, at the age of sixteen, he took up the title of Lord Talbot, until he succeeded to the earldom after his father's death twenty-two years later. In 1539 he married his first wife, Gertrude (née Manners; d.1566/7), with whom he had seven children: four daughters and three sons. Early on he acquired a number of honours stemming from his family's well-established prominence in the north: knight bachelor (1547), member of the council of the north (1549), knight of the Garter (1561), and lord lieutenant of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire (1565). Following the death of his first wife, he married Bess, then the widow of William St Loe (c.1520-65?), in 1567. At this point Shrewsbury was one of the wealthiest men in England, derived from his estates and also business adventuring in farming, shipping, coal-mining, glassworks and lead extraction and production. Soon after his marriage to Bess, however, he was appointed keeper of Mary Queen of Scots, a custodianship he would hold from 1569-84. Shrewsbury prided himself on his loyalty to Elizabeth I, but he soon found her reluctant to provide sufficient diet money to keep Mary and her retinue. This, in addition to the monies needed for expensive building projects (at Worksop and Chatsworth), and his eldest son Gilbert's debts led to serious financial anxiety for Shrewsbury. Furthermore, he was forced to remain with Mary at all times and was therefore losing his place at court. As Shrewsbury's stresses grew and he became increasingly irascible, his marriage with Bess broke down spectacularly amid quarrelling to do with family finances and the allocation of estates. Scandal and mutual bad-mouthing soon became very public and the queen herself intervened, eventually dictating that Shrewsbury pay Bess a regular income (from 1587), while the two lived apart. Shrewsbury was an ill man for many years and suffered with a severe rheumatic condition, what he referred to as 'gout', which contributed to his terrible handwriting. He died in the company of his mistress, Elinor Bretton, at Sheffield Manor, on 18 November 1590, after being administered a mercury cure. His son Gilbert Talbot succeeded him as the seventh earl of Shrewsbury.

Other letters associated with George Talbot, sixth earl of Shrewsbury:

- 28 June [1568?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=64>)
- [December 1568] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=65>)
- 13 December [1568] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=66>)
- [1569?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=67>)
- [1570s?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=184>)
- [c. 1570] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=9>)
- [1570] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=178>)
- [1570s] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=203>)
- [c. 1570] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=68>)

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4 November 1570 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=226>)
4 November 1570 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=171>)
[c. 1571] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=70>)
[c. 1571] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=69>)
[1574?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=72>)
[1574?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=71>)
8 August 1574 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=73>)
[c. 1575?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=76>)
[c. 1575] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=75>)
[1575-7] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=245>)
7 June 1575 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=74>)
June 19 [c. 1575?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=77>)
20 February 1575/6 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=165>)
19 November [1576?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=115>)
[1577] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=183>)
[1577] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=182>)
18 May [1577?] (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=109>)
4 June 1577 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=221>)
25 June 1577 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=172>)
14 May 1578 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=188>)
[30 June 1578?] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=83>)
2 August 1578 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=197>)
28 December 1578 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=193>)
28 February 1578/9 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=174>)
22 June 1579 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=189>)
17 January 1579/80 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=190>)
13 May 1580 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=194>)
21 June 1580 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=78>)
11 September 1580 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=154>)
10 October 1580 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=79>)
8 February 1581/2 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=195>)
4 August 1584 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=119>)
26 August [1584] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=116>)

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14 October [1585] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=229>)

23 October 1585 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=117>)

9 June 1586 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=176>)

4 August 1586 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=202>)

[April 1587] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=186>)

Normalised view of Letter 166

[To] my Lorde [and] my Lady

My duty moste humbly Remembred. may it please your honors Accordynge as my Lord of Lecester wyllthe me, so doe I advertyze him of every conveyent messenger that I know passethe vnto your honours And so he promysethe as his leasure wyll permytte, to wryte vnto your honors, And this mornynge tellynge him of a messenger, he promysed to wryte if he colde fynde any tyme, And so he sytting in the starre chamber, did ryse sumwhat before the reste, and wrote this lettre to your Lordship/ I have shewed him the sondry commendacions which your honors hathe done vnto him in your lettres to me, the which he takethe ever moste thankfully and Ioyouslye as any man can doe/ This day vpon the Lordes rysynge in the starre chamber, The arbytrators in Burrells cause have appoynted, that on Wednesday nexte they wyll heare & determyne it/ And in the meane tyme I wyll fynde meanes that my Lord of Lecester And my Lord cheife Iustyce shalbe throughly acquaynted with the cheffeste poyntes on our sydes, and wyll travell with all my Indevoyre to brynge it to a good ende, yet am I in great doubte that we shall lose all the lande, for yat they all, And my Lord of Lecester also is fully resolved that it is so suffitiently assured vnto the younger brother, as it were dyrectely agaynst the lawes of the realme to putt it from him And so my Lord of Lecester sayde vnto me this mornynge/ I can not gesse what ende it wyll cum vnto/ but I wolde I had no greater discomforte in it, then my Lord of Rutlandes travell, And then I wolde be in better hope, altho I thynke he laborethe earnestly for the younger brother / master Solysitor dothe promis me all care in the matter, and wyll be with vs on wednesday, The miserye of the elder Burrell is suche, as for remorse I have releaved him ij or iij tymes, and muste pay the lawyers fees of my owne pursse god grant vs a good ende./

I thynke my Lord of Lecester hathe wrytten vnto your Lordship suche newes as is styrrynge, for my selfe I know none, but suche as are common/ the duke Casymyre departethe hens to morrow, and hathe yesterday taken his leave of her majestie who as I heare wyll gyve him at his departure ij Cupps of goulde, of severall fassions worthe CCli a peece, there hathe bene sumwhat to doe it and master Secretary Wallsyngham bare the brunte therof, on Sunday laste this duke was chosen one of thorder of the garter, And my Lord of Lecester gave him for a present A ryche collar, and A George at it, And ij other Georges besydes, wherof one of them was an Aggett, a Curyous and ryche pece/ also my Lord of Pembroke hathe sente Casymyre from Wyllton where he is sumwhat sycke a fayre george at a cheane of goulde sett with stones which Coste a CL.li/ my Lord of Lecester also hathe geven him dyvers other thynges, as geldyngs, hawks and hounds woddknyves falchynes, hornes, crossebowes, And sondry peces of brode clothe fytted for huntynge garmentes; bothe for wynter & sumer/ for he delyghtethe greatly in huntynge, and can chouse his wynter deere very well, he kylled a barren dooe with his pece this other day in hyde park, from emongest CCC other deere/

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her majestie contynuethe her very good vsage of Monsieur Semyer and all his companye, and he hathe conference with hir iij or 4 tymes A weeke/ And she is the best disposed, & pleasantest, when she talkethe with him, as by her gestures apperethe, that is possible The opinion of Monsieurs cummynge styll holdethe, And yet it is shoretely bruted that he can not take vpp so muche monny as he wolde of suche a soddayne, And therefore will not cum so sone

/ I can not learne any thyng more of Quene mother her cumming into Inglande, yet sum doe thynke that she will cum very sodenly, but for my owne parte I doe not beleave it./

I had forgotten to wryte vnto your Lordship before I wrote of seinges that my Lord of Huntyngdon goethe with Casymyre to gravesende And Sir henry sydney to Dover. The frenchemen here & the Spanyshe Ambassadors dothe very greatly repyne, at the great Intertaynement of this duke./ my Lord of Leicester, hathe bene allmost continually with him synce his commynge to London./

The matter betwyxte my Lord of Rutland & master markham resteth as it did, And nothyng as yet hathe bene done therein, synce theyr laste commynge vpp. her majestie hathe talked ofener with thomas markham than with the other, and shewethe to markham very great good countenance. And suerly he hathe many good freindes that doe stycke vary well vnto him./ Touchyng the effecte of the laste letre which I receaved yesterday from your Lordship concernyng Roulsoon/ I will betymes to morrow imparte it to master myddellmore/ for he hathe bene oute of the Towne thes iij dayes, but wylbe here at courte to morrow mornynge/ I wyll also imparte it to my Lord of Leicester & to master Skidmore, And desyre them as occasion servethe; & yat they heare that this impudent fellow dealethe in any suche sorte, to informe her majestie of the truthe therof, yet I intende to tell master myddellmore therof, & not doe it withoute his advyse leaste he sholde thynke any thyng therat. I can not learne that Roulston is come vpp./ This day in the starre chamber the lordes examyned iij messengers suche as are daly sente of errantes from the courte, who are founde by counterfeytyng of the Lord chamberlayne And ye secreteryes handes, to have deseaved the Quene above three thousande poundes within thes vij yeres, they and theyr confederates, whervppon they muste stande of the pyllerye, at Westmester, at the courte gates, & in chepesyde, on certayne dayes appoynted, and then have theyr eares cutte of./ on thursday laste, as my Lorde Rytche was rydyng in the stretes, there was on wyndam that stode in a dore and shott A dagge at him, thynkyng to have slayne him, but god provyded so for my Lord ryche, that this Wyndam apoyntyng his servante yat mornynge to charge his dagge with ij bullets; the fellow doubtinge he mente to doe sum myschefe with it, charged it only with pouder & paper, & no bullett, and so this Lord's lyfe was therby saved for otherwyse he had bene slayne, Wyndam was presently taken by my Lord Rytches men, & beyng broughte before the counsell confessed his Intende, but the cause of this quarrell I know not but he is commytted to the Towre/ The same day also as Sir Iohn Conway was goeyng in the stretes, master Lodovyke grevell came sodenly vppon him, and stroke him on the hedd with

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a great Cougell & felled him, And beyng doune stroke at him with a sworde And but for one of Sir Iohn Conways men who warded the blow he had Cutte of his Legges, yet did he hurte him sumwhat on bothes his shynns/ The councell sente for Lodovyke grevell, and hathe commytted him to the marshallcye: I am forced to troble your honors with thes tryflynge matters, for yat I know no greater. / my wyfe dothe very well, I thanke god, And is an obedyente patient, & lykethe thos easye thynges yat are applyed to her very well. for thestate of her boddy master Iulio toulde me that he hadd wrytten it at Lengethe to your Ladyshypp. And thus moste humbly we beseche your honors daly blesynge, praynge to allmyghtye god for your Lordships longe contynuance in all honor, moste perfyte healthe and longe lyfe. at your Lordships lyttell house nere charing crosse this present fryday late at nyghte. the xijth of february 1578

your honors moste humble and obedient Lovynge chyldren.

Gilbert Talbott

Mary Talbott

I never sawe Thomas Cornyshe but once synce he came vpp, nether doe I know whether he wyll goe into fraunce, or returne to your Lordship agayne/ nor any thyng at all of his besynes more than your Lordship's lettre./

I pray your Ladyship lett me know your pleasure for ye parsonage of Tormorton

Diplomatic view of Letter 166

[Address Leaf]

[Address Leaf: Notes]

Lord Gilbert to his father
the E of Sh:

13 Feb 1574 [Later editorial note, hand: Nathaniel Johnston]

... my Lorde

... my Lady

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[Letter Text]

[Letter Text: Notes]

X X [Later editorial note, hand: archivist]

287 [Foliation, hand: archivist]

289 [Foliation, hand: archivist]

My duty moste humbly Remembred. may it please yo^r honors
Accordynge as my L. of Lecester wyllethe me, so doe I advertize
him of every convenyent messenger that I know passethe vnto yo^r ho:
And so he promysethe as his leasure wyll permytte, to wryte vnto
yo^r honors, And this mornynge tellynge him of th^t a messenger, he
promysed to wryte if he colde fynde any tyme, And so he sytting
in the starre chamber, did ryse sumwhat before the reste, and
wrote this *lettre* to yo^r L./ I have shewed him the sondry com=^mendacions w^{ch} yo^r honors hathe
done vnto him in yo^r *lettres* to me,
the w^{ch} he takethe ever moste thankfully and Ioyouslye as any
man can doe/ This day vppon the Lordes rysynge in the starre
chamber, The arbytrators in Burrells cause have appoynted, that
on Wednesday nexte they wyll heare & determyne it/ And in
the meane tyme I wyll fynde meanes that my L. of Lecester
And my L: cheife Iustyce shalbe ~~th^row~~ throughly acquaynted
wth the chefeste poyntes on our sydes, and wyll travell wth all
my Indevoyre to brynge it to a good ende, yet am I in great
doubte that we shall lose all the lande, for y^t they all, And
my L. of Lecester also is fully resolved that it is so suffitiently

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assured vnto the younger brother, as it were dyrectely agaynst
the lawes of the realme to putt it ^{^from him^} And so my L. of Leicester
sayde vnto me this mornynge/ I can not gesse what ende
it wyll cum vnto/ but I wolde I had no greater discomforte in it,
then my *Lord* of Rutlandes travell, And then I wolde be in better
hope, altho I thynke he laborethe earnestly for the younger brother
/ m^f Solysitor dothe *promis* me all care in the matter, and
wyll be wth vs on wednesday, The miserye of the elder Burrell
is suche, as for remorce I have releaved him ij or iij tymes,
and muste pay the lawyers fees of my owne pursse god grant
vs a good ende./

I thynke my L. of Leicester hathe wrytten vnto yo^r L. suche newes
as is styrrynge, for my selfe I know none, but suche as are common/
the duke Casymyre departethe hens ~~tø-mørre~~ to morrow, and hathe
yesterday taken his leave of her ma.^{tie} who as I heare wyll gyve
him at his departure ij Cupps of goulde, of severall fassions worthe
CCC^{li} a peece, the w^{ch}- there hathe bene sumwhat to doe ...
... ^{^it^} and m^r Secretary Wallsyngham bare the ~~brut~~ ^{^brunte^} therof,
on Sunday laste this duke was chosen one of thorder of the garter,
And my L. of Leicester gave him for a present A ryche collor, and
A George at it, And ij other Georges besyds, wherof one of them was an
Aggett, a Curyous and ryche pece/ be also my L. of Pembroke hathe

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sente Casymyre ^{^from Wyllton where he is sumwhat sycke^} a fayre george at a cheane of goulde
sett wth

stones w^{ch} Coste a CL.^{li} / my L. of Leicester also hathe
geven him dyvers other thynges, as geldyngs, hawks and hounds
woddknyves falchynes, hornes, crossebowes, And sondry peces of
eløthe brode clothe fytted for huntyng garments; bothe for wynter
& sumer/ for he delyghtethe greatly in huntyng, and can chouse
his wynter deere very well, he kylded a barren dooe wth his pece
this other day in hyde park, from emongest CCC other deere/

her ma.^{tie} contynuethe her very good vsage of *Monsieur* Semyer and
all his companye, and he hathe conference wth hir iij or 4 tymes
A weeke/ And she is the best disposed, & pleasantest, when

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she talkethe wth him, as by her gestures apperethe, that is possible
The opinion of *Monsieurs cummyng*e styll holdethe, And yet it is
shoretely bruted that he can not take vpp so muche monny as
he wolde of suche a soddayne, And therefore will not cum so sone

/ I can not learne any thyng more of Quene mother her *cumming*
into Inglande, yet sum doe thynke that she will cum very
sodenly, but for my owne *parte* I doe not beleave it./

I had forgotten to wryte vnto yo^r L. before I wrote of seinges
that my L. of Huntyngdon goethe wth Casymyre to gravesende
And S^r henry sydney to Dover. The frenchemen ^{^here^} & the Spanyshe
Ambassadore dothe very greatly repyne, at the great Intertaynem^t of
this duke./ my L. of Leicester, hathe bene allmost continually
wth him synce his *commynge* to London./

The matter betwyxte my L. of Rutland & m^r markham resteth
as it did, And nothyng as yet hathe bene done therein, synce
theyr laste *commynge* vpp. her ma.^{tie} hathe talked ofener wth thomas
mark markham than wth the other, and shewethe to markham very great
good countenance. And suerly he hathe many ^{^good^} freindes that doe stycke
vary well vnto him./ Touchynge the effecte of the laste *lettre* w^{ch}
I receaved ^{^yesterday^} from yo^r L. concernynge Roulsoon/ I will betymes to morrow
imparte it to m^r myddellmore/ for he hathe bene oute of the Towne
thes iiij dayes, but wylbe here ^{^at courte^} to morrow mornynge/ I wyll also
imparte it to my L. of Leicester & to m^r Skidmore, And desyre them as
occasion servethe; & y^t they heare that this impudent fellow dealethe
in any ^{^suche^} sorte, to *infere* informe her ma.^{tie} of the truthe therof, yet I
intende to tell m^r myddellmore therof, & not doe it wth oute his advyse
leaste he sholde thynke any thyng therat. I can not learne that
Roulston is come vpp./ This day in the starre chamber the lordes ~
examynd iiij messengers suche as are daly sente of errantes from the courte, who

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are founde by counterfeytyng of the L. chamberlayne And ye secreteryes
handes, to have deseaved the Quene above three thousande poundes
wth in thes vij yeres, they and theyr confederates, whervppon they

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muste stande of the pyllerye, at Westmester, at the courte gates, & in chepesyde, on certayne dayes appoynted, and then have theyr eares cutte of./ on thursday laste, as my Lorde Rytche was rydyng in the streetes, there was on wyndam that stode in a dore and shott A dagge at him, thynkyng to have slayne him, but god *provyded* so for my L. ryche, that this Wyndam apoyntyng his servante y^t mornynge to charge his dagge wth ij bulletts; the fellow doubtinge he mente to doe sum myschefe wth it, charged it only wth pouder & paper, & no bullett, and so this L. lyfe was therby saved for otherwyse he had bene slayne, Wyndam was p^r sently taken by my L. Rytches men, & beyng broughte before the counsell confessed his Intende, but the cause of this quarrell I know not but he is commytted to the Towre/ The same day also as S^r Iohn Conway was goeyng in the strees stretes, m^r Lodovyke grevell came sodenly vppon him, and stroke him on the hedd wth a great Cougell & felled him, And beyng doune stroke at him wth a sworde And but for one of S^r Iohn Conways men who warded the blow he had eutte Cutte of his Legges , yet did he hurte him sumwhat on bothes his shynns/ The councell sente for Lodovyke grevell , and hath commytted him to the marshalle: I am forced to trouble yo^r honors wth thes tryflyng matters, for y^t I know no greater. / my wyfe dothe very well, I thanke god, And is an obedyente patient, & lykethe thos easye thynges y^t are applyed to her very well. for thestate of her boddy m^r Iulio toulde me that he hadd wrytten it at Lengethe to yo^r Ladyshypp. And thus moste humbly we beseche yo^r honors daly blessynge, praynge to allmyghtye god for yo^r Lps. longe contynuance in all honor, moste *perfyte* healthe and longe lyfe. at yo^r Lps. lyttell house nere *charing crosse* this p^r sent fryday late at nyghte. the xiiijth of february 1578

yo^r honors moste humble and obedient Lovynge chyldren.

Gilbert Talbott

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Mary Talbott

Bess *of* Hardwick's Letters

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I never sawe Thomas Cornyshe but once
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of his besynes more than yo^r L. lettre./

I pray yo^r La. lett me know yo^r pleasure for
y^e parsonage of Tormorton [*deletion*]
[*deletion*]
[*deletion*]

Version: 1.0