

# Bess of Hardwick's Letters

**Letter ID: 086 (URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=086>)**

From: Gilbert Talbot; Mary Talbot;

To: Bess of Hardwick;

Date: [19 September 1583?]

Summary: Gilbert Talbot writes a long letter to his stepmother and mother-in-law, Bess (countess of Shrewsbury), relating various news, mostly to do with conversations between himself, his father (Bess's husband), George (sixth earl of Shrewsbury), and the earl of Rutland at Worksop. Rutland has invited Gilbert to come to see him in Newark, but Gilbert wonders whether Bess thinks the queen would approve, 'considering what speeches she used to me of him'. The letter is also signed by Gilbert's wife, Mary (née Cavendish; Bess's daughter).

Archive: Folger Shakespeare Library, Cavendish-Talbot MSS, X.d.428 (113)

Delivery status: to Bess, sent

Letter features: Seal intact - no. Ribbon/floss – no.

Hands: Gilbert Talbot | archivist | Mary Talbot |

Version: 1.0

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## People Associated with Letter 086: 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>)
- 13 February 1578/9 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=166>)
- 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>)

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31 January 1580/1 (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=227>)

[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 086: 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>)
- 13 February 1578/9 (Author)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=166>)
- [1580s] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=181>)
- [1580] (Recipient)(URL: <http://www.bessofhardwick.org/letter.jsp?letter=185>)
- [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 086: 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.

## Normalised view of Letter 086

My bounden duty duty &c: on fryday at nyghte my Lord sente to me to be with him the nexte morninge erly, I came to Worsop aboute ix a clock & founde the ij erles together, but saw them not tyll dynner was on the table after ordinary greetynge., at the borde my Lord spekyng of Welbeck my Lord of Rutlande sayde he was suer my Lord wolde pay for it, & so quod he you promised me yesternight which my Lord denyed, but sayde my Lord/ your Lordship was exceding earnest with me so to doe, wherat they were bothe very merry, & he styll was earnest with my Lord therin, but he laughed it of. after dynner, my Lord caled me to him into his chamber, & tolde me a longe tale of the cause of his metynge with that Lord, theeffecte in substance was to contynew frendshipp with him, & recyted many resons that he had to truste him better then any noble man, & sayde that I had lyke cause to doe so, bothe in respecte of kyndred & yat he loveth me excedinge well & sware by god he was never more earnestly delte with then he had bene by him synce his cumminge for me, bothe to be good to me in present & hereafter, & bad me take knowledge therof & gyve him thankes, & yat in any case I sholde goe to Newarke to him, & before he had ended all that it seemed he wolde have sayde, he was caled away by the others beyng redde to goe done to horsse so when I came oute I brefely gave him thankes for yat my Lord had tolde me, & he wysshed he were able to doe me any pleasure, desyred me to cum to Newarke & he wolde tell me more, & non lyvyng be better wellcum, & so we parted, then rode I sum parte of my Lord's way with him// he tolde me yat the cause he wolde not have me carry my wyfe to London was for yat he thoughte your Ladyship wolde goe vpp to London & then wolde my wyfe ioyn with you in exclaminge agaynste him, & so make him to Iudge the worsste of me, with much to yat effecte, I alledged the nessessitie of my wyves estate how ill I colde lyve here withoute any provisions, but he cutt me of, saynge he loked owrely for leve to goe vpp & after he had been there him selfe I mighte carry her if I wolde & if I did before he colde not thynke I loved him, & for her helthe, he sayd fisitians myghte be sente for tho he bare the charges, & wolde not suffer me to speke a worde more therof but bad me now doe it if I wolde.// Then he tolde me that Lewis beyng at Newarke hercules foliambe tolde him yat he harde my Lord had commanded me to putt away my wyfe & caled Lewis & he affyrmed it, & so my Lord willed me to charge folliambe therwith & make him bryng oute his autor // Then he tolde me that the matters was harde betwyxte your Ladyship & him & yat Sir Walter Mildmay & the master of the Rolles was wholly on your syde & wolde have sett done an order clene agaynste him, but yat the Lord chefe Iustyce wolde not therto consent, but stuck to him as frendly as ever man did & he wolde honor & love him for it whylste he lyved, and yat the order was deferred tyll thursday laste, and that this laste weeke he had founde oute & sente vpp all the paper bookes wrytten by Rychard cooke, of all maner of conveances whatsoever, wherby there appered that Knyveton & cooke delte the moste trecherously with him yat ever any men had done, but recyted not wherin, saynge that he hathe not hardwyk & the West cuntrey landes withoute Impeachment of waste, as he wolde be sworne his meninge was. further yat William candishe he sayde was not asshamed to demande xvij hundred poundes for lott & cope, & made suche a matter of yat as was never harde, wherof he spake so oute of purpos as it were in vayne

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to wryte it.// Then commended henry Candishe exceedingly for mayntayninge his honor, which he sayde he sholde fare the better for, & tolde yat dyvers noble men had of late answered for him very stoutely espetially ye erle of cumberland.// Then tolde yat Bentall herynge how evell he was spoken of at London, & for yat your Ladyship had caled him traytor, he desyred leve to goe vpp, ether to be clered or condemned, & yat he had wrytten by him to my Lord Tresurer & my Lord of Lester yat he mighte be thoroly tryed & have as he had deserved, as for his knowledge of him he wrote he had founde him the truest & faythfullest servante yat ever he hadd. he sayde Bentall rather chose to goe vpp of him selfe then to be sente for And yat he had bene twice examined before my Lord Tresurer & my Lord of Lester, & had sped well & so wolde doe he hoped Thes are all the spetiall poyntes yat I can remember he spake of. I began many tymes to tell him my greffes & to open my estate but he wolde not suffer me to speke but sayde he loved me beste of all his chyltren & yat I had never geven him cause of offence, but in tarrynge so longe at chatesworthe, which thyng he also wolde not suffer me to answer, but sayde it was paste, & he wolde not here more therof. he apoynted me to mete him at Wynkefeld to morrow at nyghte touching the cause with the purveors which is apoynted at belper chappell the nexte day beyng Sainte Mathews day.// When I was parted with my Lord I mett style with the stuffe.// The secrete he tolde me of thestate of my Lord's boddy was yat swellinge, which he sayde he thoughte none but him selfe did know, but when I tolde him where it was he marvayled yat I knew it he tolde me yat bentall perswaded my Lord yat he was able to doe him suche servis above as he never had done him, and to discover the secretes of all thynges, espetially by his brother yat serves my Lord of Lester, but Steele sayd he verely thoughte he sholde be layde vpp in pryson he sayde he talked with curle all the day before he wente, & all yat morninge, but I colde gett oute no partyculer thyng of him besydes his contynuall familiaritie with all the scottes, he sayde ther is not any aboute my Lord but Strynger but sekethe my vndoyng. I am in hope to mete master Seriante Roodes at Wynkefeld.// herinclosed is a note for your Ladyship to reede.// the remaynder of Rufford & Langeford is assuredly in my brother henry Candishe as the other landes yat are vnrevocable are.// I desyre to know whether your Ladyship thynkethe that her Majestie will be offended with my goynge to Newarke to yat erle or not, considerynge what speches she vsed to me of him. if it be not in yat respecte I thynke it is very nessessary I goe thither seeynge yat he hath vsed so good offyces for me to my Lord.// my Lord sayde to one yat my Lord of Lester was Bentalls gret frend & had promised to brynge him to her majestie to clere him selfe.// god prosper your Ladyship in all thynges

We moste humblie beseche your Ladyship's blessinge to vs all./

G Talbott

Mary Talbott

## Diplomatic view of Letter 086

[Letter Text]

### [Letter Text: Notes]

X.d.428

(113) [Item number, hand: archivist]

185 [Old foliation/item number, hand: archivist]

173 [Old foliation/item number, hand: archivist]

My bounden duty duty &c: on fryday at nyghte my L:  
sente to me to be w<sup>th</sup> him the nexte morninge erly, I  
came to Worsop aboute ix a clock & founde the ij erles  
together, but saw them not tyll dynner was on the table  
after ordinary greetynge., at the borde my L: spekyng  
of Welbeck my L: of Rutlande sayde he was suer my L:  
wolde pay for it, & so q<sup>d</sup> he you promised me yesternight  
w<sup>ch</sup> my L: denyed, but sayde my L:/ yo<sup>r</sup> L: was exceding  
ernest w<sup>th</sup> me so to doe, wherat they were bothe very  
merry, & he styll was ernest w<sup>th</sup> my L: therin, but he  
laughed it of. after dynner, my L: caled me to him  
into his chamber, & tolde me a longe tale of the cause  
of his metynge w<sup>th</sup> that Lord, theffecte in substance was  
to contynew frendshipp w<sup>th</sup> him, & recyted many resons  
that he had to truste him better then any noble man,  
& sayde that I had lyke cause to doe so, bothe in  
respecte of kyndred & y<sup>t</sup> he loveth me excedinge well  
& sware by god he was never more earnestly delte w<sup>th</sup>  
then he had done <sup>^bene</sup> by him synce his cumminge<sup>^</sup> for me, bothe to be good to him me  
in present & hereafter, & bad me take knowledg therof  
& gyve him thankes, & y<sup>t</sup> in any case I sholde <sup>^goe^</sup> to  
Newarke to him, & before he had ended ended more <sup>^all^</sup>  
that it seemed he wolde have sayde, he was caled  
away by the others beyng redde to goe done to horsse  
so when I came oute I fin brefely gave him thankes  
for y<sup>t</sup> my L: had tolde me, & he wysshed he were  
able to doe me any pleasure, desyred me to cum to  
Newarke & he wolde tell me more, & non lyvyng  
be better wellcum, & so we parted, then rode I sum parte  
of my L: way w<sup>th</sup> him// he tolde me y<sup>t</sup> the cause

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he wolde not have me carry my wyfe to London was  
for y<sup>t</sup> he thoughte yo<sup>r</sup> La: wolde goe vpp to London &  
then wolde my wyfe ioyne w<sup>th</sup> you <sup>^in exclaminge^</sup> agaynste him,  
& so make him to Iudge the worsste of me, w<sup>th</sup> much  
to y<sup>t</sup> effecte, I alledged the nessessitie of my wyves estate  
how ill I colde lyve here w<sup>th</sup> oute any *provisions*, but  
he cutt me of, saynge he loked owrely for leve to goe vpp

[page break]

& after he had been there <sup>^him selfe^</sup> I mighte carry her if I wolde  
& if I did before he colde not thynke I loved him, & for her  
helthe, he sayd fisitians myghte be sente for tho he bare the  
charges, & wolde not suffer me to speke a worde more therof  
but bad me now doe it if I wolde.// Then he tolde me  
that Lewis beyng at Newarke hercules foliambe tolde him y<sup>t</sup>  
he harde my L: had *commanded* me to putt away my wyfe  
& caled Lewis & he affyrmed it, & so my L: willed me  
to charge folliambe therw<sup>th</sup> & make him brynge oute his autor  
//Then he tolde me that the matters was harde betw=yxte yo<sup>r</sup> La: & him & y<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> W: M: & the  
m<sup>r</sup> of the Rolles  
was wholly on yo<sup>r</sup> syde & wolde have sett done an order clene  
agaynste him, but y<sup>t</sup> the L: chefe Iustyce wolde not therto  
consent, but stuck to him as frendly as ever man did &  
he wolde *honor* & love him for it whylste he lyved, and  
y<sup>t</sup> the order was deferred tyll thursday laste, and that  
this laste weeke he had founde oute & sente vpp aH  
all the *paper* bookes wrytten by Ryc: cooke, of all *maner* of  
conveances whatsoever, wherby there appered that Knyveton  
& cooke delte the moste trecherously w<sup>th</sup> him y<sup>t</sup> ever any  
men had done, but recyted not wherin, savyng that  
he hathe not hardwyk & the West cuntrey landes w<sup>th</sup> oute  
Impechem<sup>t</sup> of waste, as he wolde be sworne his meninge  
was. further y<sup>t</sup> W: candishe he sayde was not asshamed  
to demande xvij hundred poundes for lott & cope, & made suche  
a matter of y<sup>t</sup> as was never harde, wherof he spake <sup>^so^</sup> oute of  
purpos as it were in vayne to wryte it.// Then *commended* h:  
Candishe excedingly for *desharding* <sup>^mayntayninge^</sup> his honor, w<sup>ch</sup> he sayde

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he sholde fare the better for, & tolde y<sup>t</sup> dyvers noble men had of late answered for him very stoutely espetially y<sup>e</sup> erle of cumberland.// Then tolde y<sup>t</sup> Bentall herynge how evell he was spoken of at London, & for y<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> La: had caled him traytor, he desyred leve to goe vpp, ether to be clered or condemned, & y<sup>t</sup> he had wrytten by him to my L: Tresurer & my L: of Lester y<sup>t</sup> he mighte be thorroly tried & have his as s<sup>o</sup> he had deserved, as for his knowledge of him <sup>^he wrote^</sup> he had founde ~~founde~~ him the truest & faythfullest *servante* y<sup>t</sup> ever he hadd. he sayde Bentall rather chose to goe <sup>^vpp^</sup> h of him selfe then to be sente for

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And y<sup>t</sup> he had bene twice examined before my L: Tresurer & my L: of Lester, & had sped well & so wolde doe he hoped Thes are all the spetiall poyntes y<sup>t</sup> I can remember he spake of. I began many tymes to tell him my greffes & to open my estate but he wolde not suffer me to speke but sayde he loved me beste of all ~~the~~ his chyldren & y<sup>t</sup> I had never geven him cause of offence, but in tarrynge so longe at chatesw<sup>r</sup> the, w<sup>ch</sup> thyng he also wolde not suffer me to answer, but sayde it was paste, & he wolde not here more therof. he apoynted me to mete him at Wynkefeld to morrow at nyghte touching the cause w<sup>th</sup> the purveors w<sup>ch</sup> is <sup>^apoynted^</sup> at belper chappell the nexte day beyng S<sup>te</sup> Mathews day.// When I was parted w<sup>th</sup> my L: I mett style w<sup>th</sup> the stuffe// The secrete he tolde me of thestate of my L: boddy was y<sup>t</sup> swellinge, w<sup>ch</sup> he sayde he thoughte none but him selfe did know, but when I tolde him where it was he marvayled y<sup>t</sup> I knew it he tolde me y<sup>t</sup> bentall *perswaded* my L: y<sup>t</sup> he was able to doe him suche servis above as <sup>^he^</sup> never had done him, and to discover the secretes of all thynges, espetially by his brother y<sup>t</sup> serves my L: of Lester, but Steele sayd he verely thoughte he sholde be layde vpp in pryson he sayde he talked w<sup>th</sup> curle all the day before he wente, & all y<sup>t</sup> morninge, but I colde gett oute no *partyculer* thyng <sup>^of him^</sup> besydes his contynuall

# Bess of Hardwick's Letters

familiaritie w<sup>th</sup> all the scottes, he sayde ther is not any  
aboute my L: but Strynger but sekethe my vndoyng.  
I am in hope to mete m<sup>r</sup> Siant Roodes at Wynkefeld.//  
herinclosed is a note for yo<sup>r</sup> La: to reede.// the remaynder of  
Rufford & Langford is assuredly in my bro: h: Candishe as the  
other landes y<sup>t</sup> are vnrevocable are// I desyre to know whether  
yo<sup>r</sup> La: thynkethe that her Ma:<sup>tie</sup> will be offended w<sup>th</sup> my goynge to  
Newarke to y<sup>t</sup> erle or not, considerynge what speches she vsed to  
me of him. if it be not in y<sup>t</sup> respecte I thynke it is very  
nessessary I goe thither seeynge y<sup>t</sup> he hathe vsed me so  
good offyces for me to my L:// my L: sayde to one y<sup>t</sup> my L:  
of Lester was Bentalls gret frend & had promised to brynge him to her  
ma:<sup>tie</sup> to clere him selfe.// *[deletion]* ~~this be~~ god prosper yo<sup>r</sup> La: in all thynges

We moste humblie beseche yo<sup>r</sup> La: blessinge to vs all./

G Talbott

Mary Talbott

Version: 1.0