

POPISH PLOT

Daniel de la Place

to Henry Herbert (1654–1709), M.P. for Bewdley (1677–1679)

London, 31 October 1678

I do now expect you every day, having told you by two former letters how necessary it was you should be here in Parliament. You may imagine that some will make no good construction of your absence.

This night was buried Sir Edmund Godfrey¹ in Saint Martin's church, with a sermon, and an extraordinary concourse of people.

My Lord Sunderland is come home from France, and with him came Sir Ellis Leighton, who was no sooner ashore at Dover but was clapped up, and since brought up to Newgate. His crime is said to be his bringing letters to the plotters, and having received an abbey in France.

The Parliament is busy every day in the examination of the plot, and are gone so high that they are almost at a stand, and thence it is, as people imagine, that the Parliament begins now to go more slowly and warily than at first, in imitation of the Council.

Coleman, in his examination, would excuse himself upon his master, as if he had done nothing but by his order.

You have here in the *Gazette* the proclamation for the fast which, though it was ordered the 25th, came out but yesterday. That against the Papists is not come out yet.

Rebecca Warner, ed. *Epistolary Curiosities, Series the First. Consisting of Unpublished Letters of the Seventeenth Century Illustrative of the Herbert Family* (Bath: Cruttwell, 1818):112–113. [modernized]

¹ Sir Edmund Godfrey (1621–1678), Justice of the Peace for Westminster who deposed Oates and Tonge on 28 September 1678. Reported missing on 12 October, his strangled body was found on Primrose Hill on 17 October with all his money still on his person.