

RECEPTION OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO

3 July 1687

The town of Windsor was so full of all sorts of people, from all parts, that some of the inhabitants were astonished. And it was very difficult to get provisions or room either for horse or man; nay, many persons of quality, and others, were forced to sit in their coaches and calashes¹ almost all the day.

So great were the expectations of all people to see this ceremony, supposing it to be greater than ordinary by reason there has not been any public minister of state from the Pope for above an hundred and forty years that has made any public entry, as I am informed.²

All the spectators supposed he would set out a little after noon, but did not till between five and six of the clock in the afternoon, at which time His Excellency³ took coach, it being one of His Majesty's, for that purpose at his own lodgings, the Duke of Grafton⁴ and Sir Charles Cotterel being in the coach with him. His Excellency was clothed in purple and a gold crucifix hanging at his breast.

The first that appeared in this ceremony was one of the Knight-Marshal's⁵ men on horseback, and after him two others followed on foot. After them went His Excellency's footmen, being twelve in number, their coats being all of a dark-grey coloured cloth with white and purple lace. After them followed the Coach of State,⁶ in which was His Excellency, having four pages to attend him, two on each side, taking hold of the coach; their coats were very richly laced. His Excellency had three coaches with six horses apiece in each coach. Immediately after His Excellency, in two of his coaches, were ten priests, his coach of state going empty. After them went the Lord Chancellor's,⁷ two of the Lord President's,⁸ the Lord Privy Seal's,⁹ and the Lord Chamberlain's¹⁰ coach. There were eighteen coaches more besides them, with six horses apiece; in which number the Lord Bishop of Durham's¹¹ was one and the Bishop of Chester's¹² another. In this order they went up to the castle, where they stayed about a quarter of an hour, and then His Excellency returned back to his lodgings.

"A Full and True Relation of His Excellency the Pope's Nuncio Making his Public Entry at Windsor" in Sir Walter Scott, ed. *A Collection of Scarce and Valuable Tracts on the Most Interesting and Entertaining Subjects*, Second Edition (London: Cadell and Davies, 1813), IX:268.
[modernized]

¹ A coach is completely enclosed, while a calash has only a folding roof (and sometimes only two wheels)

² Reinald Pole (1500–1558), Archbishop of Canterbury (1554–1558) during the reign of Mary I, also served as Papal Legate in England

³ Ferdinando d'Adda (1649–1719), Archbishop of Amasea *in partibus infidelium* (1687–1690) and Nuncio to England (1687–1688)

⁴ Henry FitzRoy (1663–1690), Duke of Grafton, an illegitimate son of Charles II

⁵ Sir Edward Villiers (1620–1689), nephew of the Duke of Buckingham

⁶ The Monarch has at his disposal several coaches, of varying degrees of precedence. The Coach of State is used on the most formal occasions, typically coronations.

⁷ George (1645–1689), Baron Jeffries of Wem, Lord Chancellor (1685–1689) and an Anglican

⁸ Robert Spencer (1641–1702), Earl of Sunderland, Lord President of the Council (1685–1688)

⁹ Henry (c. 1607–1694), Baron Arundell of Wardour, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal (1687–1688)

¹⁰ John Sheffield (1647–1721), Earl of Mulgrave, Lord Chamberlain (1685–1689)

¹¹ Nathaniel (1633–1721), Baron Crew, Bishop of Oxford (1671–1674) and Durham (1674–1721) and Dean of the Chapel Royal

¹² Thomas Cartwright (1634–1689), Bishop of Chester (1686–1689)