

DIARY

Henry Machyn, Furnisher of Funeral Trappings

11 April 1553

The King removed from Westminster by water to Greenwich; and passed by the Tower, and there were a great shot of guns and chambers, and all the ships shot off guns all the way to Ratcliff, and there the 3 ships that were rigging there, appointed to go to the Newfoundland, and the 2 pinnaces shot guns and chambers a great number.

17 April 1553

Came a commandment down unto London that all the church-wardens of London should go unto Guildhall afor the commissioners, the Bishop of London, and my Lord Mayor, and master Cholmeley, the King's Chief Justice,¹ and that they should bring a true certificate of all the church goods, jewels, and money, and bells, and all copes and ornaments that belong to the church.

25 April 1553

Were hanged at Saint Thomas of Watering on Saint Mark's Day six felons. Four were hanged with two halters apiece, and the two were poor with one.

6 June 1553

Died fallen down a house in Saint Clement's Lane beside. There the good-man of the house was killed, and the good-wife sore hurt, and the maid. The man's name was Benbrike; a sad accident!

30 June 1553

Was set a post hard by the Standard in Cheap, and a young fellow tied to the post with a collar of iron about his neck, and another to the post with a chain. And two men with two whips whipping him about the post for pretended visions, and for opprobrious and seditious words.

6 July 1553

As they say, deceased the noble King Edward VI and the seventh year of his reign, and son and heir to the noble King Henry VIII. And he was poisoned, as everybody says, where now, thank be unto God, there be many of the false traitors brought to their end, and I trust in God that more shall follow as they may be spied out.

7 July 1553

Was an old man set on the pillory for counterfeit false writings. The same day there came to the Tower the Lord Treasurer, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and the Lord Admiral, with others. And there they discharged Sir James Croft of the Constableness of the Tower, and there they put in the said Lord Admiral, and took his oath and charge of the Tower, and the morrow after he conveyed into all places of the Tower great guns, as the White Tower on it.

9 July 1553

Was sworn unto the Queen Jane all the head officers and the guard as Queen of England, daughter of the Duke of Suffolk, and served as Queen.

10 July 1553

Was received into the Tower the Queen Jane with a great company of lords and nobles. After the Queen, and the Duchess of Suffolk, her mother, bearing her train, with many ladies, and there was a shot of guns and chambers as has not be seen oft between four and five of the clock. By six of the clock, began the proclamation the same afternoon of Queen Jane with two heralds and a trumpet blowing, declaring that my Lady Mary was unlawfully begotten, and so went through Cheap to Fleet Street proclaiming Queen Jane. And there was a young man taken that time for speaking of certain words of Queen Mary, that she had the right title.

¹ Sir Roger Cholmeley (c. 1485–1565), Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench (1552–1553)

11 July 1553

At eight of the clock in the morning, the young man for speaking was set on the pillory and both his ears cut off; for there was a herald and a trumpeter blowing. And incontinent, he was taken down and carried to the Counter. And the same day was the young man's master dwelling at Saint John's Head (his name was Sandur Onion) and another (master Owen, a gown-maker at London Bridge) drowned, dwelling at Ludgate.

12 July 1553

By night was carried to the Tower three carts full of all manner of ordinance, as great gun and small, bows, bills, spears, mores-pikes, harness, arrows, gunpowder, and victuals, money, tents, and all manner of ordinances, gunstones a great number, and a great number of men of arms. And it had been for a great army toward Cambridge. And two days after the Duke, and diverse lords and knights went with him, and many gentlemen and gunners, and many men of the guard and men of arms toward my Lady Mary to destroy her grace, and so to Bury, and all was against himself, for his men forsook him.

19 July 1553

Was Queen Mary proclaimed Queen of England, France, and Ireland, and all dominions, as the sister of the late King Edward VI and daughter unto the noble King Henry VIII, between five and six of the clock at night, and there were at proclamation four trumpeters and two heralds of arms, and the Earl of Arundel, the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Pembroke, my Lord Treasurer, my Lord of Preveselle, my Lord Cobham, my Lord Warden, master Mason, and my Lord Mayor, and diverse other noblemen. And this was done at the cross in Cheap, and from that place they went unto Powell's and there was *Te Deum Laudemus*, with song and the organs playing, and all the bells ringing through London, and bonfires and tables in every street, and wine and beer and ale, and every street full of bonfires, and there was money cast away.

21 July 1553

Was taken in Cambridge the Duke of Northumberland,¹ with diverse lords and knights. And that day Queen Mary was proclaimed in Cambridge, and through England.

22 July 1553

Was a fellow set in the pillory for speaking against the good Queen Mary. The same day came riding through London my Lady Elizabeth, and through Fleet Street and so to my Lord Somerset's place that was, and is, my Lady's place. Attended with two thousand horse, with spears and bows and guns, and other.

25 July 1553

On Saint James' Day there came in to London, and so to the Tower, certain traitors. The first was doctor Sandys,² a priest. And next him Sir Thomas Palmer, Sir Harry Gates, Sir John Gates, Sir Andrew Dudley, Lord Harry Dudley, Lord Ambrose Dudley, Lord Hastings, the Earl of Huntingdon, the Earl of Warwick, and the Duke of Northumberland, attended by four thousand men beside the guard with guidons and trumpeters, and with spears and guns to the Tower.

26 July 1553

Came unto the Tower my Lord Marquis of Northampton, and my Lord Robert Dudley, and the Bishop of London, and Sir Richard Corbett. And after came into the Tower my Lord Chief Justice Cholmeley and the Lord Montague, at five of the clock at night.

27 July 1553

The Duke of Suffolk, master Cheke, the King's schoolmaster, master Coke, and Sir John York to the Tower.

31 July 1553

Was delivered out of the Tower the Duke of Suffolk. And the same day rode through London my Lady Elizabeth to Aldgate, and so to the Queen, her sister, with a thousand horse with a hundred velvet coats. The same time came to the Fleet the Earl of Rutland and my Lord Russell, in hold. The Queen made Sir Thomas Jarningham

¹ John Dudley (1504–1553), Duke of Northumberland and Lady Jane Grey's father-in-law

² Edwin Sandys (1519–1588), Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, had preached a sermon in favor of Lady Jane Grey

Vice-Chamberlain and captain of the guard, and Sir Edward Hastings she made him the master of the horse at the same time.

3 August 1553

The Queen came riding to London, and so to the Tower; making her entrance at Aldgate, which was hanged and a great number of streamers hanging about the said gate. And all the street unto Leadenhall and unto the Tower were laid with gravel, and all the crafts of London stood in a row with their banners and streamers hanged over their heads. Her grace came, and before her a thousand velvet coats and cloaks in brodere, and the Mayor of London bore the mace and the Earl of Arundel the sword, and all the trumpets blowing. And next her my Lady Elizabeth, and next her the Duchess of Norfolk, and next her the Marchioness of Exeter and other ladies. And after her the aldermen and then the guard with bows and javelins. And all the residue departed at Aldgate in green and white, red and white, and blue and green, to the number of three thousand horse, spears, and javelins....

13 August 1553

Did preach at Powell's Cross Doctor Bourne, parson of High Ongar in Essex, the Queen's chaplain, and there was a great uproar and shouting at his sermon—as it were, like mad people—what young people and woman as ever was heard, as hurley-burley, and casting up of caps. If my Lord Mar¹ and my Lord Courtenay² had not been there, there had been great mischief done.

17 August 1553

Was made a great scaffold in Westminster Hall against the morrow, for the Duke of Northumberland coming to be arraigned with others, as the Marquis of Northampton and the Earl of Warwick.

18 August 1553

Was arraigned at Westminster Hall the Marquis of Northampton, and the Duke, and the Earl of Warwick, and so they were condemned to be had to the place that they came from, and from thence to be drawn through London onto Tyburn, and there to be hanged, and then to be cut down and their bowels to be burnt, and their heads to be set on London Bridge and other places.

20 August 1553

Did preach at Powell's Cross master Watson, and there were present all the crafts of London in their best livery, sitting on forms, every craft by themselves, and my Lord Mayor and the aldermen, and two hundred of the guard to see no disquiet done. The same day was buried master Kirton, alderman and merchant tailor, and merchant of the staple of Calais, afornoon.

21 August 1553

Was, by eight of the clock in the morning, on the Tower Hill about ten thousand men and women to see the execution of the Duke of Northumberland, for the scaffold was made ready, and sand and straw was brought, and all the men that belong to the Tower, as Hogston, Shoreditch, Bow, Ratcliff, Limehouse, Saint Katherine's, and the waiters of the Tower, and the guard and sheriff's officers, and every man stand in order with their halberds, and lanes made, and the hangman was there, and suddenly they were commanded to depart. And the same time after was sent for my Lord Mayor and the aldermen and chiefest of the crafts in London, and diverse of the council, and there was said Mass afore the Duke and the rest of the prisoners.

Was set on the pillory two men, one a priest and another a barber, and both their ears nailed to the pillory, the parson of Saint Ethelburga within Bishop's Gate for heinous words and seditious words against the Queen's Majesty's Highness at the sermon at Powell's Cross, that was the Sunday 23 August, and for the uproar that was there done. Was a proclamation that no man should reason against Her Gracious Majesty and her council, doing the which she will do to the honor of God and His mother....

J.G. Nichols, ed. *The Diary of Henry Machyn, Citizen and Merchant-Tailor of London* (The Camden Society, 1848):28–40. [modernized]

¹ John Erskine (–1555), Earl of Mar

² Edward Courtenay (c. 1527–1556), son of the attainted Marquis of Exeter