

ANSWER TO MARY

Lords of the Council

Tower of London, 9 July 1553

Madam, we have received your letters, the ninth of this instant, declaring your supposed title, which you judge yourself to have, to the imperial crown of this realm, and all the dominions thereunto belonging. For answer whereof, this is to advertise you that forasmuch as our sovereign lady Queen Jane is, after the death of our sovereign lord Edward VI, a prince of most noble memory, invested and possessed with the just and right title in the imperial crown of this realm, not only by good order of old ancient laws of this realm, but also by our late sovereign lord's letters patent, signed with his own hand, and sealed with the Great Seal of England in presence of the most part of the nobles, councilors, judges, with divers other grave and sage personages, assenting and subscribing to the same.

We must, therefore, as of most bounden duty and allegiance, assent unto her said grace, and to none other, except we should (which faithful subjects cannot) fall into grievous and unspeakable enormities.

Wherefore we can no less do, but, for the quiet both of the realm and you also, to advertise you that forasmuch as the divorce made between the king of famous memory, King Henry VIII, and the Lady Katherine, your mother, was necessary to be had both by the everlasting laws of God, and also by the ecclesiastical laws, and by the most part of the noble and learned universities of Christendom, and confirmed also by the sundry acts of parliaments remaining yet in their force, and thereby you justly made illegitimate and unhereditary to the crown imperial of this realm, and the rules, and dominions, and possessions of the same.

You will, upon just consideration hereof, and of divers other causes lawful to be alleged for the same, and for the just inheritance of the right line and godly order taken by the late king our sovereign lord King Edward VI, and agreed upon by the nobles and greatest personages aforesaid, surcease by any pretence to vex and molest any of our sovereign lady Queen Jane's subjects from their true faith and allegiance due unto her grace.

Assuring you that if you will for respect show yourself quiet and obedient (as you ought), you shall find us all and several ready to do you any service that we with duty may, and be glad, with your quietness, to preserve the common state of this realm, wherein you may be otherwise grievous unto us, to yourself, and to them. And thus we bid you most heartily well to fare. From the Tower of London, in this ninth of July 1553.

Your Ladyship's friends, showing yourself an obedient subject.

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury	Francis Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury
Sir John Gates	William Paulet, Marquis of Winchester
William, Earl of Pembroke	W. Peter
John Bedford	Cobham
Sir William Cecil	William Northampton
R. Riche	Sir John Cheke
Huntingdon	John Mason
Duke of Northumberland	Darcy
Edward North	Henry, Duke of Suffolk
Cheney	R. Bowes
Henry Arundel	R. Cotton
Thomas Goodricke, Bishop of Ely, Chancellor	