

ACT FOR THE MARRIAGE OF QUEEN MARY

1554

Whereas most instant suit has been made to your most excellent Majesty on the behalf of the most noble and most victorious prince Charles, Emperor of Rome, etc., for marriage to be had between Your Highness and his only son and heir, the noble prince Philip of Spain, etc. Whereupon, to the pleasure of Almighty God, to the comfort of your most noble person, and to the great and singular honor, wealth, benefit, and commodity of this, your realm of England, and of all us, your most humble and obedient subjects of the same, there has passed and been concluded in two sundry treaties certain pacts and covenants touching the said marriage, with dependances and circumstances of the same; and in the one treaty these articles: first, it is covenanted and agreed that as soon as conveniently may be, true and perfect marriage, by words of the time present, shall be contracted, solemnized, and consummated in England between the said most noble prince and the said most virtuous lady, the Queen; by force of which marriage so celebrated and consummated, the said most noble prince Philip shall during the said marriage have and enjoy jointly together with the said most gracious Queen, his wife, the style, honor, and kingly name of the realms and dominions unto the said most noble Queen appertaining, and shall aid her Highness, being his wife, in the happy administration of her Grace's realms and dominions; the rights, laws, privileges, and customs of the same realms and dominions being nevertheless preserved and maintained.

And specially it is provided and covenanted that the said most noble prince shall permit and suffer the said most gracious Queen, his wife, to have the whole disposition of all the benefices and offices, lands, revenues, and fruits of the said realms and dominions, and that they shall be bestowed upon such as shall be naturally born in the same; and that all the matters of the said realms and dominions shall be treated and maintained in the same tongues wherein of old they have been wont to be treated, and by the natural born of the same realms.

It is also covenanted that the same most noble Queen, by virtue of the aforesaid matrimony, shall be admitted into the society of the realms and dominions of the said most noble prince, as well such as he has now presently as such other also as during the same matrimony may come hereafter unto him; and for her dower, in case that Her Highness overlive the said most noble prince, her husband, she shall yearly receive three score thousand pounds, after the value of forty groats, Flemish money, to the pound; the same to be allotted and appointed upon all the realms, lands and patrimonial dominions, of the said most victorious lord, the emperor, his father...

And lest that among their children there might arise some strife for the succession, and thereby disturb the fruit of perpetual concord that is hoped shall ensue of his matrimony between the realms and dominions of either party, the said succession shall be ordered in manner and form following: first, that as touching the right of the mother's inheritance in the realm of England, and the other realms and dominions depending of the same, the children as well males as females that shall be born of this matrimony shall succeed in them, according to the laws, statutes, and customs of the same. And as touching the lands that the said most noble prince shall leave behind him; first, there shall be reserved unto his eldest son, the lord Charles of Austria, Infante of Spain, and to the children and heirs of him descending, as well females as males, all and singular their rights which to the said prince do either now or hereafter shall belong, and shall at any time by the death either of the noble Queen, his grandame, or the most victorious Emperor Charles V, his father, (which God long defer) be devolved unto him in the realms of Spain, of both the Sicilies, with all their apurtenances, in the Duchy of Milan, and other lands and dominions in Lombardy and Italy, whatsoever name and title they have, which nevertheless shall be burdened and charged with the aforesaid dower of sixty thousand pounds; in which realms, lands, and dominions the children of this present matrimony shall pretend nothing so long as the said lord Charles the Infante, or any issue of his body lawfully begotten, do live. But if it fortune the same lord Charles to die, and the issue of his body to fail, then and in that case the eldest son of this matrimony shall be admitted into the said right, and according to the nature, laws, and customs of the said realms and dominions

shall succeed. The same eldest son shall also succeed in all the dukedoms, earldoms, dominions and patrimonial lands belonging unto the said lord the Emperor, as well in Burgundy as in the lower Germany... Provided nevertheless and expressly reserved in all and singular the above declared cases of succession that whatsoever he or she be that shall succeed to them, they shall leave to every of the said realms, lands, and dominions whole and entire their privileges, rights, and customs, and the same realms and dominions shall administer and cause to be administered by the natural born of the same realms, dominions, and lands, and in all things faithfully procure their utility and quiet, and shall rule and nourish them in good justice and peace, according to their statutes and customs. Finally, that between the said Emperor, the prince, and his successors, their realms and dominions whatsoever, and the said most gracious Queen and her realms and dominions, there shall be from henceforth an entire and sincere fraternity, unity, and most strait confederacy, forever (God willing) happily to endure, so as they shall mutually one of them aid another in all things which to themselves and their honor, and to the conservation of their heirs and successors shall be most agreeable, according to the strength, form, and effect of the latter treaty of a strait amity, bearing date at Westminster the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred forty and two, the declaration of which treaty bears date at Utrecht the sixteenth day of January in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred forty and six. And in one other treaty these articles following:

That the said most noble prince shall not promote, admit, or receive to any office, administration, or benefice in the said realm of England, and the dominions thereunto belonging, any stranger or person not born under the dominion and subjection of the said most noble Queen of England.

That the said most noble prince shall receive and admit into the service of his household and court gentlemen and yeomen of the same realm of England in a convenient number, and shall esteem, entertain, and nourish them as his proper subjects, and shall bring none in his retinue, nor have none with him that will do any displeasure or wrong to the subjects of the said realm; and if they do, he shall take order to correct them with condign punishment and see them expelled his court.

That the said most noble prince shall do nothing whereby anything be innovated in the state and right, either public or private, or in the laws and customs of the said realm of England or the dominions thereunto belonging; but shall contrary-wise, confirm and keep to all estates and orders their rights and privileges.

That the said lord prince shall not lead away the aforesaid most noble lady the Queen out of the borders of Her Highness' realm, unless she herself desire it, nor carry the children that shall be born of this matrimony out of the same realm of England, but, to the hope of succession to come, shall there suffer them to be nourished and brought up, unless it shall be otherwise thought good by the consent and agreement of the nobility of England; and in case that no children being left, the said most noble Queen do die before him, the said lord prince shall not challenge any right at all in the said kingdom, but without any impediment shall permit the succession thereof to come unto them to whom it shall belong and appertain by the right and laws of the said realm.

That the said most noble prince shall not bear or carry over out of the aforesaid realm the jewels and precious things of estimation, neither shall he alienate or do away any whit of the appurtenances of the said realm of England, or suffer any part of them to be usurped by his subjects or any other; but shall see that all and singular places of the realm, and specially the forts and frontiers of the same, be faithfully kept and preserved to the use and profit of the said realm and by the natural born of the same; he shall not suffer any ship, guns, ordnances whatsoever of war or defence to be removed or conveyed out of the said realm, but shall contrary-wise cause them diligently to be kept and renewed when need requires, and shall so provide that the same way always be ready in their strength and force for the defence of the realm.

That the realm of England, by occasion of this matrimony, shall not directly or indirectly be entangled with the war¹ that is between the most victorious lord the Emperor², father unto the said lord prince, and Henry³, the

¹ France and the Emperor were struggling for control of Italy (1551–1559)

French King, but he, the said lord Philip, as much as shall lie in him, on the behalf of the said realm of England, shall see the peace between the said realms of France and England observed, and shall give no cause of any breach...

So it may also please your Majesty for the more perfect corroboration and strength of the said articles, grants, pacts, and agreements, and to the intent that the same may be the more inviolably observed and kept, that it may be enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, that all and singular the said articles, covenants, grants, pacts, treaties, and agreements had, made, and concluded for and concerning the said marriage between Your Highness and the said prince of Spain, and all and singular the dependances thereof before rehearsed, shall immediately after the said marriage had and solemnized, stand, remain, and abide in perfect force and efficacy, according to the effect, sense and true meaning of the said treaty.

And where among other the articles above remembered, it is agreed that the said most noble prince shall, during the said marriage, have and enjoy jointly together with Your Majesty, the style, honor, and kingly name of the said realms and dominions to Your Highness appertaining, and shall also aid Your Highness, being his wife, in the happy administration of your realms and dominions, the rights, laws, privileges, and customs of the said realms and dominions being nevertheless reserved and maintained;

And where also it is provided, covenanted, and agreed among other the said articles in the said treaty by and on the behalf of the said most noble prince that the said most noble prince shall permit and suffer your most excellent Majesty to have the whole disposition of all the benefices and offices, lands, revenues, and fruits of the said realms and dominions, and that the said most noble prince shall not do anything whereby the estate and right, either public or private, or the laws and customs of the said realm of England, or the dominions thereunto belonging be innovated.

For the more express explanation and declaration of the premises, we, your faithful, loving, and obedient subjects, do most humbly beseech Your Highness that it may be provided, enacted, and established by the authority of this present Parliament that Your Majesty, as our only Queen, shall and may solely and as a sole queen, use, have, and enjoy the crown and sovereignty of and over your realms, dominions, and subjects, with all the pre-eminences, prerogatives, dignities, authorities, jurisdictions, honors, castles, manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments belonging to the same, in such sole and only estate and in as large and ample manner and form in all degrees, acts, exercises, and conditions from and after the solemnization of the said marriage, and at all times during the same, which God grant long to continue and endure, as Your Highness now has, uses, exercises, and enjoys the same, and as Your Grace has had, used, exercised, and enjoyed, or might have had, used, or enjoyed the same before the solemnization of the said marriage;

Without any right, title, estate, claim, or demand to be given, come, or grow unto the said most noble prince as tenant by the courtesy of this realm, or in or by any other means by force of the said marriage, of, in, and to your said imperial crown, sovereignty, realms, dominions, subjects, pre-eminences, prerogatives, dignities, authorities, jurisdictions, honors, castles, manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments belonging to the same, by any laws, usage, or custom whatsoever; the said marriage or any statute, custom, prescription, or other thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And yet nevertheless that it may be enacted, ordained, and established by the authority of this present Parliament that all and singular gifts, grants, letters patents, exchanges, confirmations, leases, and other writings which after the said marriage and during the same shall pass and be made of the said benefices, offices, lands, revenues, and fruits or any of them, shall be entitled, set forth, and made in the names of the said most noble prince and of your most excellent Majesty, whether the said most noble prince shall be present within the said realms and dominions or within any of them, or absent.

² Charles V (1500–1558), King of all the Spains (1516–1556), Holy Roman Emperor (1519–1556)

³ Henry II (1519–1559), King of France (1547–1559)

And the same gifts, grants, letters patents, exchanges, confirmations, leases, and other writings so set forth and made shall be signed and firmed with the sign manual of Your Highness; and the same so signed, and sealed with the Great Seal of this realm, or with such seal as has been accustomed, shall be by authority of this present parliament deemed, adjudged, declared, and pronounced to be as good, perfect, and of like force, strength, and effect in the law, to all intents, constructions, and purposes, against the said most noble prince, and against Your Highness, your heirs, and successors, as if your excellent Majesty had been at the time of the making thereof sole and unmarried....

And that it may be also further enacted, ordained, and established by the authority aforesaid that all commissions, instructions, pardons, writs of summons, prorogations or dissolutions of parliaments, royal assents, adjournments of terms, original writs and other process, instruments, licenses, judicial acts, and all manner writings, other than the said gifts, grants, letters patents, exchanges, confirmations, leases, and other writings concerning or in any wise touching the said benefices, offices, lands, revenues, and fruits or any of them, after the said marriage and during the time of the same, whether the said most noble prince shall be present within the said realms and dominions, or within any of them, or absent, after the signing by Your Majesty of the warrants or writings of them heretofore used to be signed, shall pass, be set forth, and made from time to time in the names of the said most noble prince, and your most excellent Highness, by such officers and ministers and in such manner, form, and order as has been used and accustomed to pass, be set forth and made in the time or times of your Grace's most noble progenitors or any of the same and like force, strength, and effect in the law to all intents, constructions, and purposes, as if your most excellent Majesty were then sole and not married, the said marriage or any law, usage, or custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.