

CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

anonymous Englishman

15 January ^{1558/1559}

First, Her Grace sat in a Chair of State in the middle of the church before the high altar and immediately Her Grace was conducted from the said chair and led between two lords¹ to be proclaimed by a Bishop Queen of England at 4 places, and the trumpets blowing at every proclamation. And immediately the Queen's Majesty was brought to the Chair of State.

And immediately Her Grace was led before the high altar. And there sitting a Bishop, the Queen's Majesty kneeling before the Bishop and kissed the paten, Her Grace offered money and the Bishop laid it in the basin and immediately offered a pall of red silk wherein the paten was covered.

And immediately Her Highness sat in a chair before the altar, there being a Bishop in the pulpit preaching a sermon before the Queen's Majesty and all the Lords Spiritual and Temporal. And after the sermon done, the Bishop bade the bedes;² Her Grace void out of the chair, kneeling, and said the Lord's Prayer.

And after that Her Grace sat in her chair. And the Bishop gave her a book which she had, taking her oath. And after that the Bishop, kneeling before the altar, read in two books; and Her Grace gave a little book to a lord to deliver unto the Bishop. The Bishop returned the book to the lord, and read other books. And immediately the Bishop took the Queen's book and read it before the Queen, Her Grace.

And after that her Grace kneeled before the altar and the Bishop read a book before Her Grace. And immediately Her Grace went to shift her apparel.

And the Bishop sang the ... of the Mass in a book which was brought in before the Queen. And then and there was a carpet with cousins of gold spread before the altar. And Secretary Cecil³ delivered a book to the Bishop and there was a bishop standing at the left hand of the altar.

And the Queen's Majesty, being newly appareled, came before the alter and leaned upon the cousins, and over her was spread a red silken cloth. And then and there the Bishop anointed Her Grace. And that done, changing apparel, Her Grace returned and sat in her chair.

And there was a sword with a girdle put over her, and upon one of her shoulders and under the other, and so the sword hanging by her side. And after that two garters upon her hands, and then one crown put the Bishop upon her head, and then trumpets sounding and the Bishop put a ring upon her finger and delivered the scepter in her hand and then after the Bishop sat a crown upon her head and the trumpets sounding.

And after that, Her Grace offered the sword and laid it upon the altar and returned, kneeling. And the Bishop reading upon a book, and she having a scepter and a cross in her hand. And after that, Her Grace returned to the Chair of State.

And then the Bishop put his hand to the Queen's hand and read certain words to Her Grace. And then the lords went up to Her Grace, kneeling upon their knees, and kissed Her Grace. And after the lords had done, the bishops came one after another, kneeling and kissing Her Grace.

And after that the Bishop began the Mass, the Queen's Majesty having the scepter in the right hand and the world in the left hand, the Epistle read first in Latin and after that in English. And after that, the Bishop brought Her Grace the Gospel, which also was read first in Latin and after in English, and she kissed the words of the Gospel.

¹ Francis Talbot (1500–1560), Earl of Shrewsbury and William Herbert (c. 1501–1570), Earl of Pembroke

² **bedes** — prayers of the people

³ William Cecil (1521–1598), Secretary of State (1550–1553, 1558–1572)

And immediately after Her Majesty went to the offering. And before Her Grace were borne three naked swords and a sword in the scabbard. And Her Grace kneeling before the altar and kissed the Paten, and offered certain money into the basin. And then and there was read to Her Grace certain words. And then Her Grace returned into her closet, hearing the consecration of the Mass, and Her Grace kissed the pax.

And when Mass was done, Her Grace removed behind the high altar, and then and there Her Majesty changed her apparel. And so Her Majesty was conducted from the Abbey to Westminster Hall, and there dined.

C.G. Bayne, "The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth," *English Historical Review* 22 (October 1907):666–671.