

# LETTER

Elizabeth I (1533–1603), Queen of England (1558–1603)

to Elizabeth Hoby (1528–1609)

Oxford, September 1566

Although We hear that since the death of your husband, Our late ambassador, Sir Thomas Hoby,<sup>1</sup> you have received in France great and comfortable courtesies from the French King, the Queen Mother, the Queen of Navarre, and sundry others, yet We make account that all these lead together cannot so satisfy you as some poor testimony of Our favor with the approbation of the late service of your husband and of your own demeanour there.

Wherefore, though you shall receive it somewhat lately in time, yet We assure the same proceeds only of the late knowledge of your return, and therefore We let you know that the service of your husband was to Us so acceptable as, next yourself and your children, We have not the meanest loss of so able a servant in that calling, and yet since it has so pleased Almighty God to call him in the entry of this, Our service, We take it in the better part, seeing it has appeared to be God's pleasure to call him away so favorably to the service of Him, especially in the constancy of his duty towards God, wherein We hear say he died very commendably.

And for yourself, We cannot but let you know that We hear out of France such singular good reports of your duty well-accomplished towards your husband, both living and dead, with other your sober, wise, and discrete behaviours in that court and country, that We think it a part of great contention to Us and a commendation of Our country that such a gentlewoman has given so manifest a testimony of virtue in such hard times of adversity as none can be greater lost there.

And therefore though We thought very well of you before, yet shall We hereafter make a more assured account of your virtues and gifts, and wherein soever We may conveniently do you pleasure, you may be thereof assured.

And so We would have you to rest yourself in quietness with a firm opinion of Our special favour towards you.

*The Camden Miscellany* (London: The Royal Historical Society, 1902), X:xxi [modernized].

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<sup>1</sup> Sir Thomas Hoby (1530–1566)