



the national archives

palaeography

further practice

Document 13: Letter from Francis Throckmorton to Elizabeth I, dated about June 1584
(Catalogue reference: SP 12/171 folio 2)

Contents

About this document	1
Image	2
Transcript	4

About this document

This document is a letter from Francis Throckmorton to Elizabeth I, dating from about 1584.
(Catalogue reference: SP 12/171 folio 2)

The Roman Catholic Francis Throckmorton was arrested in 1583 due to his involvement in a conspiracy aiming to remove Elizabeth I and place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne, thereby restoring the Catholic faith. This letter, which was written to the queen at the end of Throckmorton's imprisonment in the Tower of London in the summer of 1584, shows Throckmorton desperate for mercy. It is probable that the letter never reached Elizabeth. Throckmorton was executed on 10 July 1584.

Please note:

- The document is written in secretary hand.



1.7
 The two most general ma his shen to for
 amount regard same.
 2

all general receive a very much general business
 the to me for much matters of all to make it
 for the received spirits strictly demanded by for on
 quantity a ordinary sample of go make favor, for
 always not for few means of which but being
 from: contents of much questions proposed to answer
 the and left the balls in all generally a
 business of few spirits into for favor of go
 most operations make afterwards for and fall
 to further falls some being from go: regarded as
 from for penmanship, to the by all of more
 nations; for I may observe from the and British
 and shipping of go accompanied from a many for
 the public a thousand often a several of among by
 to make for good fully abundant, and public
 of date of fall go: questions concerning several more

palaeography further practice

24/1/1888

[Handwritten text in cursive, mostly illegible due to bleed-through and slant. The text is written on aged, yellowed paper with a vertical crease.]

(11)

transcript

- 1 To her most excelent ma[jes]tie even to her
- 2 owne royall hand[es].
- 3 Moste excelent prince & my moste gracious souvereigne
- 4 sythe to me the moste myserable of all yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] dys
- 5 tressed subiect[es] beinge Justly Condemned by the or
- 6 dynary & orderly Course of yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] Lawes, there
- 7 resteth noe farther meane of Defense but submys
- 8 syon: vouchesafe moste gracious prynce to accept
- 9 the same w[hi]ch prostrate in all humylyty &
- 10 sorrowe I here presente unto the hand[es] of yo[u]r
- 11 moste excelent ma[jes]tie beseechinge the same that
- 12 as Justyce hath bene deryved from yo[u]r hyghnes as
- 13 from the fowntayne, to the tryall of myne
- 14 actions; soe I may receive from the same springe
- 15 some Droppe of yo[u]r accoustomed grace & mercy for
- 16 the greate & greevous offense whereof I remayne by
- 17 yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] Lawes Justly Condemned, some parte
- 18 I say of that yo[u]r gracious Clemency whereof moste
- 19 yo[u]r Dystressed subiect[es] have tasted & fewe bene deprieved
- 20 & albeyt the inConsiderate rashenes of unbrydled
- 21 youthe hath w[i]thdrawen me from that loyall
- 22 respect w[hi]ch nature & Dewtye bownde me to owe to
- 23 yo[u]r most excelent ma[jes]tie as to my Lawfull & natura[ll]
- 24 Dreade souveraigne & that the naturall Care in me
- 25 of the Defense of my Lyfe, dyd Lately move me to
- 26 the undewtyfull gaynsayinge & Denyall of that w[hi]ch
- 27 before had bene by me in moste humble sorte
- 28 Confessed: neverthelesse I moste humbly beseche yo[u]r
- 29 ma[jes]tie that in imitation of the example of god whose
- 30 Image (both in respect of the happy place you holde
- 31 & in regarde of yo[u]r singuler wysdome & other rare
- 32 princely vertewes & perfections wherew[i]th god & nature
- 33 hath plentyfully endowed your ma[jes]tie) you represente unto
- 34 us here in thearthe, yt may lyke yo[u]r hyghnes to
- 35 com[m]yserate the lamentable estate of me yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] poore
- 36 dystressed subiect that Does both humbly Confesse my