How the Queen Negotiated a Marriage with the Prince of Spain, and of the Disturbances This Provoked in the Kingdom, and How They Were Quelled

In addition to the counsel of Cardinal Pole, a wise man, experienced in the public and private affairs of the realm, and his authority as legate of the Apostolic See to reform religion (two considerations of the highest importance), the queen and her advisers thought it likewise meet to have a strong secular arm alongside the spiritual, to quell and restrain the rebellious and the audacious, and to execute with force what had been decided with prudence. Therefore, although the pious queen had lived in chastity into her thirty-eighth year of life, and for her own part wished to persevere in her virginal purity, yet, looking to the greater glory of God and the public good, at the entreaty of the entire realm, and with the advice of thoughtful, Catholic men, she decided to marry, judging that by this route she could better settle and determine religious matters. So, turning her eyes in every direction, in order to choose the husband who could best aid her goals and intentions, after proposals and discussions of many men within and without the kingdom, she ultimately chose to marry the prince of Spain, Don Philip, the son of Emperor Don Charles and the heir to countless sprawling kingdoms and domains. He was the widower of the Princess Doña Maria, the daughter of King Don John III of Portugal and Queen Doña Catherine, sister of the aforesaid emperor. For she felt the need, as we have said, of a strong arm and the valiance of a mighty Catholic prince, such as the prince, to rule the kingdom and to return it to the Catholic faith and the obedience of the Apostolic See. The business was discussed with the emperor, who was then in the provinces of Flanders: seeing the good that could

1 Sander, De origine ac progressu, 329–31, 341–42.
2 Philip had married Maria Manuela of Portugal (1527–45) in 1543. The princess was the daughter of John III of Portugal (1521–57) and his wife, Catherine of Austria (1507–78), Charles V’s younger sister. Maria Manuela died on July 12, 1545, killed by a hemorrhage suffered in the birth of her son, Carlos (1545–68). Kamen, Philip of Spain, 12, 20.
3 There were only a few potential English husbands for Mary: the only serious candidate was Edward Courtenay (Mary was distinctly uninterested), and though it was suggested that Pole could be dispensed from his deacon’s orders, this was not pursued. Outside of England, possible suitors included Luís, duke of Beja (1506–55), the king of Portugal’s younger brother.
be done for all of Christendom in reducing that kingdom to the obedience of the Catholic Church—as well as the benefit to his son, and the protection for all his realms and provinces if they were joined with the strength of so large and powerful a nation—he took it as settled. The matter was concluded with a few conditions, asked of him for the sake of the calm, tranquility, and docility of the English. And so the agreement was made and signed by both parties; I will not include it here because it does not really pertain to this history, being ecclesiastical.

The conclusion of the marriage deeply perturbed certain powerful heretic English lords, who attempted to unsettle the realm in order to prevent it and the fruits that must follow. One of these was the earl of Devon, the son of the marquess of Exeter, who hoped to marry the queen himself (because she had initially given some indication of this)—and rebelled after nothing came of it. The queen arrested him and threw him into the Tower of London, later banishing him to Italy. Another was the duke of Suffolk, whose life she had previously spared; seeing him a malcontent, and once more stirring up the kingdom, she had him beheaded. Similarly, Thomas Wyatt, an influential knight who had agitated in several towns, was defeated and subdued not by The Spanish match seems to have been Charles’s suggestion to Mary, rather than vice-versa. Charles first instructed his ambassador Simon Renard (1513–73), to raise the idea in August 1553; Mary was immediately receptive, and by October 29 had pledged to marry Philip. Loades, Reign of Mary Tudor, Chapter 2.

4 The articles of marriage between Mary and Philip were announced in a royal proclamation of January 14, 1554. See TRP, 2:21–26. Cf. Loades, Reign of Mary Tudor, 72–74.

5 “Theis newes, althoughe before they wer not unknown to many, and very moche mysliked, yit being nowe in this wise pronounced, was not onely credited, but also hevely taken of sondery men, yea and therat allmost eche man was abashed, loking daylie for worse mattiers to growe shortly after. [...] Within vj. dayes after ther was worde brought howe that sir Peter Carowe, sir Gawen Carowe, sir Thomas Dey, and sir [blank], with dyverse others, wer uppe in Devonshire resysting of the king of Spaynes comyng, and that they hade taken the city of Exeter and castell ther into their custodye.” Nichols, Chronicle of Queen Jane, 35.

6 Courtenay was first proposed as a husband for Mary in Henry VIII’s lifetime. On his release from prison, the earl conceived new ambitions for the marriage, but the queen never took the prospect seriously. Courtenay’s possible involvement in plots against Mary and her marriage to Philip led to several further stints of incarceration and then his dispatch to mainland Europe in 1555. He took up residence in Padua, where he died the following year. Archer, “Courtenay, Edward,” in ODNB, 13:675–77.

7 By the end of 1553, Henry Grey was plotting with other Protestant nobles to block Mary’s marriage with Philip. After several inept attempts at rebellion in January 1554, he was captured, tried as a traitor, and executed on February 23. Robert C. Braddock “Grey, Henry, duke of Suffolk (1517–1554),” in ODNB, 23:845–47, here 846.