How the Queen’s Marriage to King Don Philip Took Place, and with it the Reconciliation of the Realm with the Apostolic See

Our Lord undid the counsels of the heretics, dispersed their hosts and armies, confounded their hopes, and uncovered their secret tricks and sins, while the queen’s justice and truth prevailed. As we have said, the queen had agreed to marry Don Philip, prince of Spain: with an immense fleet and a retinue of countless knights and lords, he landed in England on July 19, 1554, where he was received with the ceremony and dignity befitting so great a prince. Then his marriage to the queen took place with the same pomp and majesty, the emperor his father having first abdicated and transferred to him the kingdom of Naples and the duchy of Milan, so that the prince could marry the queen with greater rank and status, not only as the heir to so many realms and states, but as a true king and lord in his own right. Several months passed in festivities and celebrations, in the encounters and interactions of the Spanish and the English, and in the instruction of the king and his ministers in the affairs of the realm.

Initially, there were deep suspicions and fears among the English: some abhorred the new king because they were infected by heresy, he being so

1 Sander, De origine ac progressu, 344–48.
2 Philip journeyed to England with a retinue of thousands, escorted by several thousand more sailors and soldiers. The imperial party reached Southampton on July 20, 1554, where Philip was ceremonially welcomed by a delegation of noblemen, including no fewer than four earls, who inducted him into the Order of the Garter. Kamen, Philip of Spain, 56. Loades, Mary Tudor, 223–24.
3 The Chronicle of Queen Jane records that “On saynt James’s day, being the xxv. of July, the king and quene weare maried at Winchester,” before offering detailed descriptions of the lavish ceremonies, pageants, and displays celebrating the nuptials. Nichols, Chronicle of Queen Jane, 78–81.
4 Another contemporary account of the ceremony is printed in Ibid., Appendix x.
5 Charles V had designated Philip as heir to the duchy of Milan as early as 1540, and formally confirmed this in 1546. On July 24, 1554, Philip and Mary received word that the emperor had effectively abdicated as duke and as king of Naples, and invested his son with those titles: “Philip was now in his own right a king, and could marry Mary on equal terms.” Kamen, Philip of Spain, 27, 57.
devout a Catholic prince, while others feared that with his overwhelming power he intended to subdue the kingdom and secure it for himself and his descendants, dismantling the government, transforming the laws, and handing it over to whatever foreigners he pleased. Still others could not bear to see so many illustrious knights and lords of so many nations—Spaniards, Italians, Flemings, Burgundians, and all of them vassals of the king—who dazzled the kingdom with their profligacy, apparel, domestic furnishings, and the number and prowess [loçania] of their servants. For these and other reasons, the English were unfriendly, sour, and brusque with the Spaniards, and unhappy with the royal marriage to the king. But he conducted himself with such wonderful thoughtfulness and such extraordinary discretion while in the kingdom, and showed such generosity to its inhabitants, performing singular kindnesses to all those who demonstrated their loyalty or did some service to the queen, as well as preserving the customs and laws of the realm, taking nothing for himself or his men (instead rewarding and enriching them out of his own property), to say nothing of the generosity of the many illustrious persons who came with him, that the English began to lose their fear, and to love and respect (the heretics excepted) the king and his courtiers with the greatest goodwill. And once their spirits had become more tractable and obedient, parliament was convened on November 12 of that year to propose and enact the kingdom’s reconciliation with the Apostolic See, so fervently desired by the monarchs.

King Don Philip himself described the manner of it in a letter of January 15, 1555 to his sister, Doña Juana, princess of Portugal, whom he had left as regent of Spain. This I wish to insert here, to recount so illustrious and noteworthy a deed in the words of the one God our Lord took as the means of effecting it. And so, he says,

By what I wrote on September 4 and 18 and November 4 past, you will have understood the beginning the most serene queen and I have made in the affairs of this kingdom, and how we had ordered the convocation

5 “At this tyme ther was so many Spanyerdes in London that a man shoulde have mett in the stretes for one Inglisheman above iiiij. Spanyerdes, to the great discomfort of the Inglishe nation.” Nichols, *Chronicle of Queen Jane*, 81.

In a proclamation of March 1554, Mary demanded the courteous treatment of her soon-to-be husband’s attendants: *TRP*, 2:33–34.

6 1 and 2 Phil. and Mar. c. 8, 9:246–54.

7 Juana (or Joanna) of Austria (1535–73), Philip’s younger sister, had married João Manuel, prince of Portugal (1537–54) in 1552. After João’s death a few years later, Juana returned to Spain, where she served as regent in her brother’s absence. Kamen, *Philip of Spain*, 56.

8 *CSPS* 13:53, 59, and 88, respectively.