

THE

Golden
of Queen
to Her Last
November the 30th



Speech
Elizabeth
Parliament
June 20th 1601.

Her Majesty being at under State
White-Hall, the Speaker, ac-
tors, besides Knights & Burgeses
of Eight-score, presenting themselves
most dutifully & speedily she had heard &
repealing several grants for Mo-
nopoly Graciously to speak

in the Council Chamber at
- accompanied with Privy Councel
- of the lower House to the number
at Her Majestys Feet for if so graciously
yielded to her Subjects desires by
monopolies she took that Opportu-
- to them as follows.

M^r. Speaker,

We perceive your coming is to present thanks unto Us. Know I accept them with no less Joy then your Loves can have desired to offer such a Present, and do more Esteem it than any Treasure, or Riches for those We know how to Prize, but Loyalty Love and Thanks, I account them invaluable, and though God hath raised Me high, yet this I account the Glory of my Crown, that I have Reigned with your Loves. This makes that I do not so much Rejoyce that God hath made Me to be a Queen, as to be a Queen over so thankfull a People, & to be if mean under God to Conserve you in Safety, and Preserve you from Danger, yea to be if Instrument to Deliver you from Dishonour, from Shame, & from Infamy, to keep you from out of Servitude, and from Slavery under our Enemies, & cruel Tyranny, & vile Oppression intended against Us: for if better withstanding whereof, We take very acceptably if intended Helps, chiefly in if it manifestly your Loves & largeness of Hearts to your Sovereign. Of Myself I must say this I never was any greedy scraping grasper, nor a strict fast-holding Prince, nor yet a naster, My Heart was never set upon any worldly goods, but only for my Subjects good. What you do Bestow on Me I will not Heare up, but receive it to Bestow on you again, yea Mine own Properties I account yours to be Expended for your good, & your Eyes shall see the Bestowing of it for your Welfare.

M^r. Speaker I would wish you & the rest to stand up, for I fear I shall yet trouble you with longer Speech.

M^r. Speaker you give Me Thanks, but I am more to Thank you, & I Charge you Thank if of if Lower House from Me, for had I not received Knowledge from you, I might a fallen into if Lapse of an Error, only for want of true Information.

Since I was Queen yet did I never put my Pen to any Grant but upon pretext & Semblance made Me, if it was for if good & Avail of my Subjects generally, though a private profit to some of my ancient Servants who have deserved well: But that my Grants shall be made Grievances to my People, & Oppressions, to be Priviledged under colour of Our Patents, Our Princely Dignity shall not suffer it.

When I heard it, I could give no Rest unto my Thoughts until I had Reformed it, & those Vile, lowd Persons, abusers of my Bounty shall know I will not suffer it. And M^r. Speaker tell the House from Me, I take it exceeding Gratfull, that if knowledge of these things are come unto Me from them. And tho' amongst them if Principal Members are such as are not touched in Private, & therefore need not speak from any feeling of if Grief, yet We have heard if other Gentlemen also of the

House, who stand as free, have spoken as freely in it, & gives Us to know if no respects or intrusts have moved them other then if minds they beare to suffer for no diminution of our Honour, & our Subjects Love unto Us. The Zeal of which Affection tending to ease my People, & knit their Hearts unto Us, I Embrace with a Princely care far above all earthly Treasures, I esteem my Peoples Love, more then if. I desire not to merit. And God if gave me here to sit, & placed Me over you, knows if I never respected my self, but as your Good was conserved in Me: yet what dangers, what practices, & what Perills I have passed some if not all of you know: but none of these things do move Me, or ever made Me fear, but is God if hath delivered Me.

And in my Governing this Land, I have ever set if last Judgement Day before mine Eyes, & so to Rule, as I shall be Judged & Answer before a higher Judge, to whose Judgement Seat I doe Appeal in that never thought was cherished in my Heart that tended not to my Peoples good.

And if my Princely Bounty have been Abused, and my Grants turned to the hurt of my People contrary to my will & meaning, or if any Authority under Me have Neglected, or Converted what I have committed unto them, I hope God will not lay their Culps to my charge.

To be a King, & wear a Crown is a thing more Glorious to them that see it than is pleasant to them that bear it. For myself, I never was so much interested with if Glorious name of a King, or the Royal Authority of a Queen as delighted if God hath made Me His Instrument to Maintain His Truth & Glory, and to defend this Kingdom from Dishonour, Dammage Tyranny & Oppression. But should I ascribe any of these things to Myself, or my Sexly Weakness, I were not worthy to live, and of all most unworthy of the Mercies I have received at Gods Hands, but to God only & wholly all is given & ascribed.

The Cares & Troubles of a Crown I cannot more fitly resemble than to if Drug is of a learned Physitian, perfumed with some Aromatical Savour, or to bitter Pills Guilded over, by n^o. they are made more acceptable or less offensive, which indeed are bitter & unpleasant to take; and for My own part, were it not for Conscience sake to discharge the Duty that God hath layd upon Me, and to maintain His Glory, and keep you in Safety, in mine own Disposition I should be willing to resign if Place I hold to any other, & glad to be freed of if Glory with if Labours, for it is not My desire to Live nor to Reign, longer than my Life & Reign shall be for your Good. And though you have had & may have many mightier & wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you never had nor shall have any that will Love you better.

Thus, M^r. Speaker I commend Me to your loyal Loves, and yours to My best Care & your further Councils, and I pray you M^r. Comptroller and M^r. Secretary and you of My Council, that before these Gentlemen depart into their Countreys you bring them all to kiss my Hand.

* Complaint was made to the Parliament, against Monopolies whereupon her Majesty issued a Proclamation declaring many of those Licenses and Patents Void, upon which the Commons were now come to return her their hearty thanks.

