

SUMMARY: The document below is an account of Queen Elizabeth's procession to Parliament on 8 and 10 May 1572. Oxford, the Lord Great Chamberlain of England, is one of the noblemen mentioned by name.

Oxford is said to have attended 11 sessions of this Parliament:

*Oxford's presence is recorded in the minutes for May 9, 10(?) 12, 15, 17, 21, June 3, 6, 10, 24, 26; he was absent on May 14, 16, 19, 22-24, 28-31, June 2, 4, 5 (two sessions), 7, 9, 11, 25, 27 (two sessions), 28 (two sessions), 30 (2 sessions). In all he attended 11 of 35 sessions, including the opening (but not the closing) of Parliament; he was one of 11 Lords appointed as 'triers of petitions from England, Ireland, France, and Scotland', while on 12 May he was appointed to a committee 'touching the Queen of Scots' which convened at 8:00 the next morning at the Star Chamber.*

See Nelson, Alan. H., *Monstrous Adversary*, (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2003), p. 83.

It was during this Parliament, on 2 June 1572, that Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard, (1538-1572), 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk, was executed. The Duke was hereditary Earl Marshal, but as noted in the account below, at the opening of Parliament on 8 May 1572 'th' Earl of Worcester, being for that time appointed to be Earl Marshall, carried the rod next before'. The Earl of Worcester had also deputized for Norfolk, then under house arrest, at the opening of the 1571 Parliament. From the *ODNB*:

*During his enforced residence in Howard House the duke took no part in public life: so, in the parliament of April–May 1571, the earl of Worcester deputized for him as earl marshal.*

For William Somerset (1526/7-1589), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Worcester, see the *ODNB* entry.

The order of her Majesty's proceeding to the Parliament House the 8 of May 1572 the 14<sup>th</sup> year of her reign, being then at St James

[f. 73r] The Queen's Majesty did take her coach at the garden door of St James, and was conveyed through the park by her nobles, prelates and gentlemen & ladies etc. to Whitehall, where her Majesty stayed the space of one hour, & there put on her robes & a diadem of gold with rich stones & jewels on her head.

This done, she came from her privy chamber in Whitehall with her nobility through the chambers to the Hall, & so to the common bridge called the Watergate, where her Highness took her barge & was rowed to the King's bridge at Westminster, whereas her coach was ready, with all her nobles & bishops in their robes on horseback, all men in order placed, and her Majesty being set in her coach, the gentlemen-pensioners with their

axes, the sergeants [-&] set(?) were on horseback and the esquires [sic?] with others on foot on each side of her Highness' coach in good order.

Next to her Majesty rode th' Earl of Kent with the cap of maintenance, & th' Earl of Rutland bearing the sword next before. Then th' Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain of England, & with him th' Earl of Worcester, being for that time appointed to be Earl Marshall, carried the rod next before. Then the Lord Admiral, being appointed to be Lord Steward for that Parliament. Then Mr Garter, King of Arms, with 2 gentlemen ushers, he riding in the midst between them. Then the 2 Archbishops of Canterbury & York. And so every nobleman, & the bishops & barons 2 & 2 etc. in their degrees & places in order with the heralds on each side.

And so came her Majesty through the palace into the King's street, & from thence to the north door of the cathedral church of St Peter in Westminster, where there was made ready a place with carpets, stool & cushions for her Majesty, where her Majesty alighted.

And being placed therein, the Dean of Westminster with divers other of the canons, priests & choristers being ready at the said door to receive her Majesty, the Dean kneeled down & read a chapter with certain prayers, which done, he delivered unto her Highness the rod of silver & gilt with a dove in the top of it which her Majesty took & carried in her hand, & then there came six knights with a canopy, under the which her Majesty was conveyed from the same little north door with the whole choir of canons & choristers singing unto the west door of the choir, & so to the upper end of the same, where was prepared a traverse, into the which her Highness was conveyed, where she continued during the sermon that was made by the Bishop of Lincoln.

The sermon being done, her Majesty was conveyed under the canopy again, & so with her nobles, prelates, barons & ladies etc., every man in order as before, brought her to the east door of the church, & so to the west door of the Parliament House, where at the stair foot the canopy was taken away & delivered to the footmen which were ready there to receive the same as a fee due unto them.

Then her Majesty was conveyed up to the Parliament House where there is a place made ready to withdraw herself, stayed there a little space until the lords & bishops had taken their places, and then her [f. 73v] Majesty came forth. The hat of maintenance, sword, the Lord Marshall & Lord Chamberlain, and Garter, King of Heralds & gentlemen ushers going before to make place, she was brought to the royal seat prepared on degrees with carpets, chair, stool, cushions under a rich cloth of estate. The Lady Lennox carried the train all this time.

Thus her Majesty being set in her chair of estate, th' Earl of Kent with the hat standing on the right hand & the Lord Chamberlain with him, th' Earl of Rutland and th' Earl of Worcester with the sword and rod on the left hand. All placed (viz., the Lower House came into the same place), the Lord Keeper stood up on the right hand of her Majesty's cloth of estate, having a place there made for him, began an oration declaring the cause of her Majesty's summoning of this High Court of Parliament, which done, the knights &

burgesses being appointed to repair to the Lower House to choose their Speaker, then her Majesty came down from her seat to her withdrawing-chamber where she put off her robes, & in the meantime the lords shifted them, which done, her Majesty came forth, & the lords & gentlemen went on before with the sword & rod carried, & the heralds on the sides of the noblemen.

And so came down the privy stairs on the east side of the Parliament House to the Queen's bridge, where she took her barge, the sword & Marshal's rod delivered to the gentlemen ushers. Other lords departed, & her Majesty was rowed to Whitehall stairs, whereas she before had taken barge, & so went through the house to the park, where her coach was ready, & with divers noblemen & ladies returned to St James again. And this was the end of that first day of her Majesty's going to the Parliament House, viz., 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1572 Anno 14<sup>th</sup> of the Queen's Majesty's reign.

LM: 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1572

The Saturday following, being the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1572, her Majesty went again from St James to Whitehall in her coach to the hall door, where she alighted, & with her nobles, ladies etc. was conveyed to the common bridge called the Watergate, where she entered her barge rowed by her watermen to the Queen's bridge at Westminster, where her nobles, ladies & gentlemen, her gentlemen-pensioners there with their axes ready to receive her, and the sword & Marshal's rod borne before her from the waterside with the Lord Chamberlain, gentlemen ushers, sergeants of arms & heralds before her Grace, came to her withdrawing-chamber there made ready.

Then the lords & bishops went into the utter chamber to make them ready to put on their robes, & came & sat in their places in the Parliament House, saving such noblemen as were appointed for the hat, sword & rod of the Marshal, Chamberlain & such other, the ushers & Garter, with [sic?] all stayed for her Majesty, who came forth with a diadem on her head & in her robes, proceeded in such order with the said lords before her unto her seat royal, & there being set, & the Lower House called in, Mr Bell, the Speaker, being chosen by the assent of the knights & burgesses of the same House, who came in between Mr Treasurer on the right hand & Mr Comptroller on the left hand, after his duty obeisance made to her Majesty, he began an oration in the [f. 74r] disabling of himself, & prayed to be sent back again, and that there might be a better choice made of a more fit man than he, or to this effect.

Then her Majesty called to the Lord Keeper & willed him to deliver her pleasure of the good opinion & her allowance of him, which done, he began a new oration touching divers points, & of allowance, or as I take it, from her Majesty in his access to her Majesty, & of free speech to be had in the House.

This ended, her Majesty called the Lord Keeper & delivered to him her answer, which when he had done, the Speaker & others were licenced to depart, & her Majesty came down & withdrew herself to her chamber as before, where she put off her robes, & was

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conveyed by the back stairs to the said Queen's bridge, & there took her barge & came to the foresaid common stairs at the Whitehall, & so to the door. There in the court she mounted into her coach, & many of the noblemen, gentlemen & pensioners with their axes waited on her through the park to St James, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the same Parliament 1572, which Parliament continued long by sundry prorogations.