

SUMMARY: The document below is a warrant dated 12 April 1611 from King James to Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, concerning a grant to Thomas Gurlyn for his prosecution of recusants.

One of the recusants named, Parnella Towerson (d.1615), was the second wife of William Towerson (d.1584) of London. See:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/towerson-william-i-1563-1630>.

Another recusant, 'Lady Mary Culpeper, widow', was the daughter of William Dacre (29 April 1500 – 18 November 1563) Lord Dacre of the North, and the wife of Sir Alexander Culpeper (c.1535 – 19 January 1599) of Bedgebury. See the entry for Mary Dacre at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenD.htm>.

For a similar grant to Gurlyn on 21 March 1610 concerning recusants, among them Sir Thomas Russell (1577 - 30 December 1632) of Strensham, son of Sir John Russell (1552-1593), and nephew of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, see:

'James I: Volume 53: March, April 1610', *Calendar of State Papers Domestic: James I, 1603-1610* (1857), pp. 590-605. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=15038>.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Russell at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/russell-thomas-1577-1632>.

For other documents concerning Gurlyn see CP 37/66, CP 37/67, CP 173/27, CP 176/64, and CP 195/76.

James R{ex}

Right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor, we greet you well.

Whereas Thomas Gurlyn, gentleman, hath presented unto us the names of Lawrence Michelborne, esquire, and William Waller, gentleman, of our county of Southampton; Parnella Towerson, widow, Anne Clarke, widow, Jane Leake, spinster, Francis Lockley, gentleman, the Lady Mary Culpeper, widow, Thomas Rawlyns, gentleman, Thomas Barram, gentleman, Henry Smith, gentleman, (blank) Melvyn, widow, Frances Culpeper and Mary Culpeper, spinsters, of our city of London; Francis Poultney, gentleman, J.

Brutenell [=Brudenell?], gentleman, and William Tressam [=Tresham?], gentleman, of our county of Northampton; Margery Bendishe, widow, of our county of Essex; Elizabeth Carredyn & Isabel Oliver, widows, of our county of Hereford; and Edward Eccleston, of Eccleston in our county of Lancaster, esquire, detected for recusancy, and whom he undertaketh by his industry and travail to prosecute and convict according to the laws in that case provided in the proper counties where the said recusants are commorant, and upon such their convictions to cause inquisitions to be made of the goods and two parts of the lands of the said recusants, and the same to be certified of record into our Exchequer as in that case is accustomed, craving of us to bestow upon him such benefit as in the like grants we have been pleased heretofore to reward others our servants;

Therefore we have thought good to signify unto you that when it shall appear by certificate out of the office of the Treasurer's Remembrancer of our Exchequer that the said recusants are according to the course of our laws duly convicted, their goods found or lands seised to our use, and the same returned into our said Exchequer, that then you, our said Treasurer, do give order to our Attorney-General or other of our learned counsel to make a bill for a grant and lease unto the said Thomas Gurlyn of the goods and two parts of the lands of the said recusants according to a form already agreed on remaining with our said Attorney, and with such reservations as are usual in leases of recusants' lands;

Moreover because our intent is not by this our warrant that any delay shall be used in the prosecuting of the said recusants than otherwise by the course of our laws they should be, you shall understand and our meaning is that if the said Thomas Gurlyn doth not within the space of one year next after the date of this our warrant convict the said recusants and return the inquisitions of their lands or goods, or in case the said Thomas Gurlyn shall in the meantime make any private composition or receive any money or other matter of reward from any of the said recusants, that then upon proof thereof made before any of the Barons of our Exchequer, this our warrant shall be immediately void and of none effect to the said Thomas Gurlyn, and that other our well-deserving servants may then petition to us touching the said recusants as if this our warrant had not been formerly granted;

Given under our signet at our Palace of Westminster the twelfth day of April in the ninth year of our reign of England, France & Ireland, and of Scotland the 44<sup>th</sup>.

Endorsed: To our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor Robert, Earl of Salisbury, our High Treasurer of England.

Endorsed: 1611, 12 April, his Majesty's letters to my Lord on the behalf of Thomas Gurlyn, gentleman, concerning recusants

Endorsed: Thomas Gurlyn fir(?) 20 recusants