

the world, therefore, everything appeared open, and consistent. The Earl received her license to leave England, and on the 23rd of September, he arrived in Edinburgh, bringing with him a strong letter of recommendation from the English Queen,¹ which Mary, who knew her real sentiments, must have read with no very favourable opinion of her sincerity. This princess was then absent, on a northern progress, but she returned before the end of the month, and Lennox, having been invited by his royal mistress to present himself at Court, obeyed her injunction with much state and ceremony. He rode to the palace of Holyrood, having twelve gentlemen before him, splendidly mounted and clothed in black velvet; behind him came a troop of thirty attendants bearing his arms and livery: having dismounted, the Queen instantly sent for him, and their interview which took place in the presence of the nobility was flattering and cordial.² Mary immediately communicated these particulars to Elizabeth, informing her, that from her anxiety to show deference to her request, she had not only already given the Earl some proof of her goodwill, but meant also to "proceed further to his full restitution, whereby he should be able to enjoy the privileges of a subject, the liberty of his native

to her highness, but I was answered, that the letter was burnt at her own request. * * I have, according to your desire, returned unto you, your own letter."

¹ Keith, p. 254.

² Diurnal of Occurrents in Scotland, p. 77.

country, and his old titles.¹” Soon after, the restored Lord invited Randolph to dinner, and the ambassador wrote to Cecil an account of the entertainment which proves, that the Scottish Queen had been as good as her word. “I dined with my Lord of Lennox,” said he, “being by him required in the morning. I found nothing less for the beautifying and furniture of his lodging than your honour hath heard by report; the house well hanged, two chambers, very well furnished, one special rich and fair bed, where his lordship lieth himself, and a passage made through the wall to come the next way into court when he will. I see him honourably used of all men, and that the Queen’s self hath good liking of his behaviour. There dined with him the Earl of Athol, in whom he reposes singular trust, and they are seldom asunder, saving when the Earl of Lennox is at the sermon (Athol was a Roman Catholic). There was also his brother, the Bishop of Caithness, a Protestant, who sometimes preacheth. His lordship’s cheer is great and his house held many, though he hath dispatched divers of his train away. He findeth occasion to disburse money very fast, and of his 700*l.* brought with him, I am sure that much is not left. If he tarry long, Lennox may, perchance, be to him a dear purchase. He gave the Queen a marvellous fair and rich jewell, whereof there is made no small account, a clock, and a dial curiously wrought and

¹ Keith, p. 254, Mary to Elizabeth. Keith printed from a contemporary copy, which leaves the day of the month blank. The original is in the State Paper Office, dated 28th Sept., 1564.

set with stones, and a looking glass, very richly set with stones, in the four metals; to my Lord of Lethington, a very fair diamond in a ring; to my Lord Athol, another, as also somewhat to his wife—I know not what—to divers others somewhat, but to my Lord of Murray, nothing. He presented also, each of the Marys with such pretty things as he thought fittest for them; such good means he hath to win their hearts, and to make his way to farther effect. The bruit is here, that my Lady herself, and my Lord Darnley are coming after, insomuch that some have asked me, if she were upon the way. This I find, that there is here marvellous good liking of the young Lord, and many that desire to have him here.¹

Whilst Lennox found himself thus happily restored after so long a banishment, and when Mary enjoyed the satisfaction of extending to him her favour and forgiveness, Elizabeth's mind was torn with doubt and reduced to a state of the greatest perplexity. We learn this from the following remarkable letter written in her own hand to Cecil. This Minister, her director in every difficulty, was then confined to his chamber by sickness, and the Queen, snatching a sheet of paper, wrote to him these few lines in latin. "In ejusmodi laberintho posita sum de responso meo reddendo R. (reginæ) Scotiæ, ut nescio quomodo illi satisfaciam, quum neque toto isto tempore, illi ullum responsum dederim, nec quid

¹ MS. Letter, St. P. Office, Randolph to Cecil, 24th Oct. 1564. A long, minute, and most interesting letter, of which Keith, p. 259, had only seen a brief abstract in the Cotton Collection.

