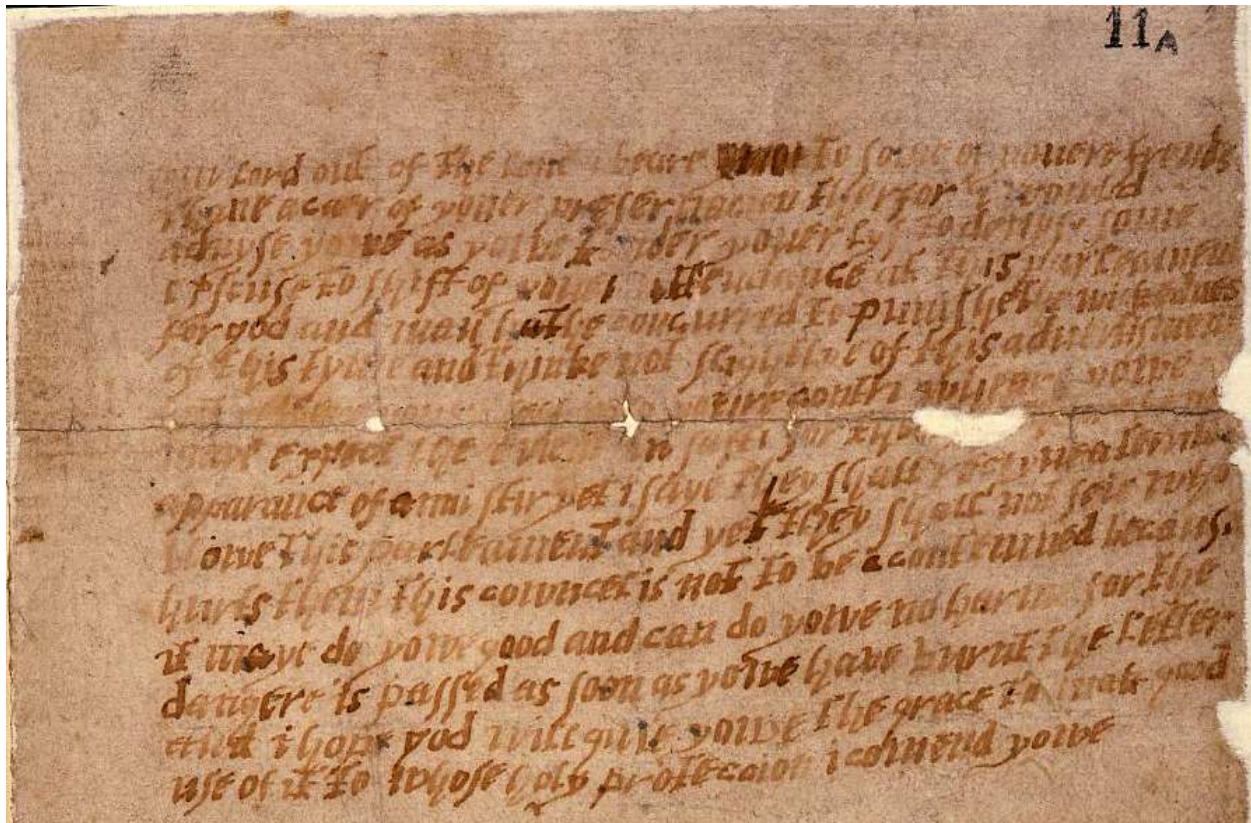


THE
GUNPOWDER
PLOT

ARTIFACT PACKAGE

1. This is the letter sent to Lord Monteaule a few days before parliament.



Transcript

My lord, out of the love I beare to some of youere frends, I have a care of youre preservacion, therefore I would aduise you as you tender your life to devise some excuse to shift youer attendance at this parliament, for God and man hath concurred to punishe the wickedness of this tyme, and thinke not slightly of this advertisement, but retire yourself into your country, where you may expect the event in safety, for though there be no apparance of anni stir, yet I saye they shall receive a terrible blow this parliament and yet they shall not seie who hurts them this cowncel is not to be contemned because it may do yowe good and can do yowe no harme for the dangere is passed as soon as yowe have burnt the letter and i hope God will give yowe the grace to mak good use of it to whose holy proteccion i comend yowe.

Simplified transcript

My lord, out of the love I have for some of your friends, I want to make sure you are safe. Because of this I would advise you to not attend this sitting of parliament because God and man have agreed to punish the wickedness of this time. Do not think this is a joke, go to your estate in the country where you will be safe, because although there is no sign of any problem yet, this parliament will receive a terrible blow, but they will not see who it is that hurts

them. This advice should not be ignored as it may do you some good, and it can do you no harm because the danger will have passed as soon as you have burned this letter. I hope God grants you the grace to make good use of it, and that he protects you.

Glossary

Preservacion : safety

Concurred : agreed

Country : estate

2. This is a copy of the examination of John Johnson.

D In saying you of having met with a good deal of respect and of
making money of the King's charge, you say King's charge
some years ago first time of your parliament, and
confessing you did first meet to your Honour for your
Honour's sake.

propos'd such a proposition for King's charge.

the same small piece
E And being demanded, if you should take other, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

what he
F And being demanded, if you had not done so, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

G And being demanded, what you had done, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

what he
H And being demanded, what you had done, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

*part of the
document being
the house's record*
I And being demanded, what you had done, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

*why witness has
said that and
has done*
J And being demanded, what you had done, you
say you had done so, you say you had not, and in
other (say) you if you had been your own, you had
not done so.

Transcript

D. He saith, that he knows not but by generall report and by making ready of the kings barge, that the king was coming thither the first day of this parliament, But confesseth that his purpose was to have blowne upp the upper house whensoever the king was there.

E. And being demanded if his purpose had taken effect, what would have ben done with the Queenes Majesty and her royall issue, saith that if they hadd ben there he wuld not have helped them,

F. And being demanded if the king and his royall issue had ben all taken away whom would have ben published or elected king, Saith Percie never entered into that consultation.

G. And being demanded when the king, his royal issue, the Nobles, Bishops, Judge, and of the principall of the Comons, were all destroyed what government would have ben, Answereth we were not growne to any determination therein, and beeing but a fewe of them the could not enter into such conforsation, but that the people of themselves would decide a head.

H. He confesseth that he hath knowne Mr Percy two or three years but served him not, but about three moneths before the house was hired as is aforesaid, I. Being demanded what noble men were warned, that they would not be there at that time, Answereth, wuld durst not forewarn them for feare wich should be discovered , And being asked why he would be a partie to any acte that might destroy any that was of his owne relligion, Answereth, we meant principally to have resported [regarded, seen] somme safely, and would have prayed for them.

Simplified transcript

D. He said he did not know, except from rumours and from the Kings barge being made ready, that the king was coming here on the first day of this parliament, but he did confess that his job was to blow up the upper house when the King was there.

E. And, being asked what would have happened to the Queen and her children if his plan had been carried out, he said that if they had been there, he would not have helped them.

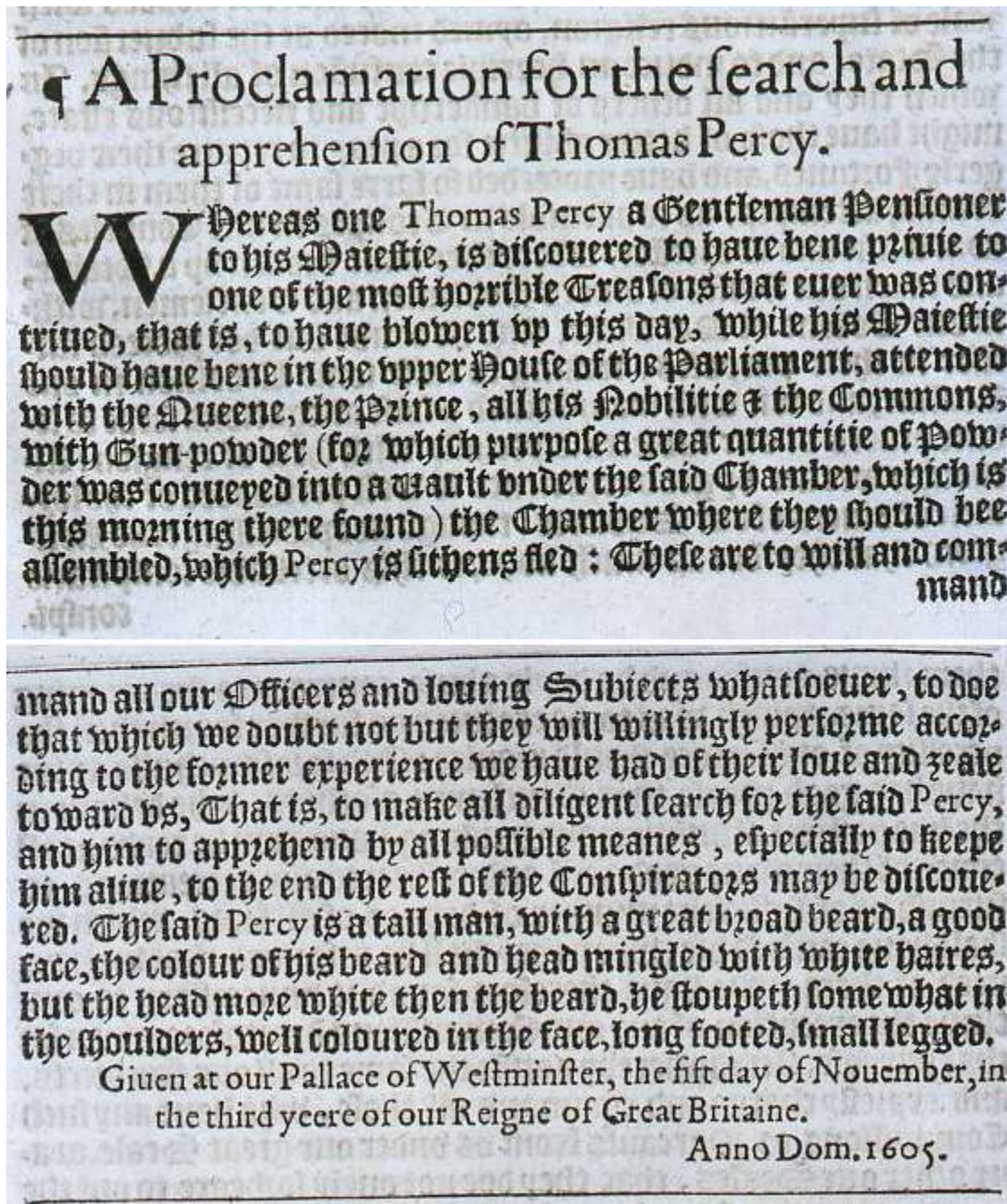
F. And, being asked who would replace them if the King and all his heirs had been killed, he said Percy never asked that question.

G. And being asked, when the King, his heirs, the Nobles, Bishops, Judge and the leader of the commons were all destroyed, what kind of government would there be, he answered that the people themselves would elect a head.

H. He confessed that he has known Mr Percy two or three years, but hasn't worked for him, however about three months ago the house was hired as is already mentioned.

I. Being asked what Noble men were advised to stay away from parliament at that time, he answered that he wouldn't dare warn them for fear that they should be discovered. And asked why he would be a part of any act that might kill someone of his own religion [Catholic], he answered that some would have been seen safe and they would have prayed for them.

3. This is a proclamation (royal demand) made after the plot was discovered.



Transcript

Whereas one Thomas Percy, a Gentleman Pensioner to his Majesty, is discovered to have been privy to one of the most horrible Treasons that ever was contrived, that is, to have blown up this day, while his Majesty should have been in the upper House of the Parliament, attended with the

Queen, the Prince, all his nobility and the Commons with Gunpowder (for which purpose a great quantity of Powder was conveyed into a vault under the said Chamber, which is this morning there found) the Chamber where they should be assembled, which Percy is sithens fled: These are to will and command all our Officers and loving Subjects whatsoever, to do that which we doubt not but they will willingly perform according to the former experience we have had of their love and zeal towards us, That is, to make all diligent search for the said Percy, and to apprehend by all possible means, especially to keep him alive, to the end the rest of the Conspirators may be discovered. The said Percy is a tall man, with a great broad beard, a good face, the colour of his beard and head mingled with white hairs, but the head more white than the beard, he stoopeth somewhat in the shoulders, well coloured in the face, long footed, small legged. Given at our Palace of Westminster, the fifth day of November, in the third year of our reign in Great Britain. Anno Domini 1605

Simplified transcript

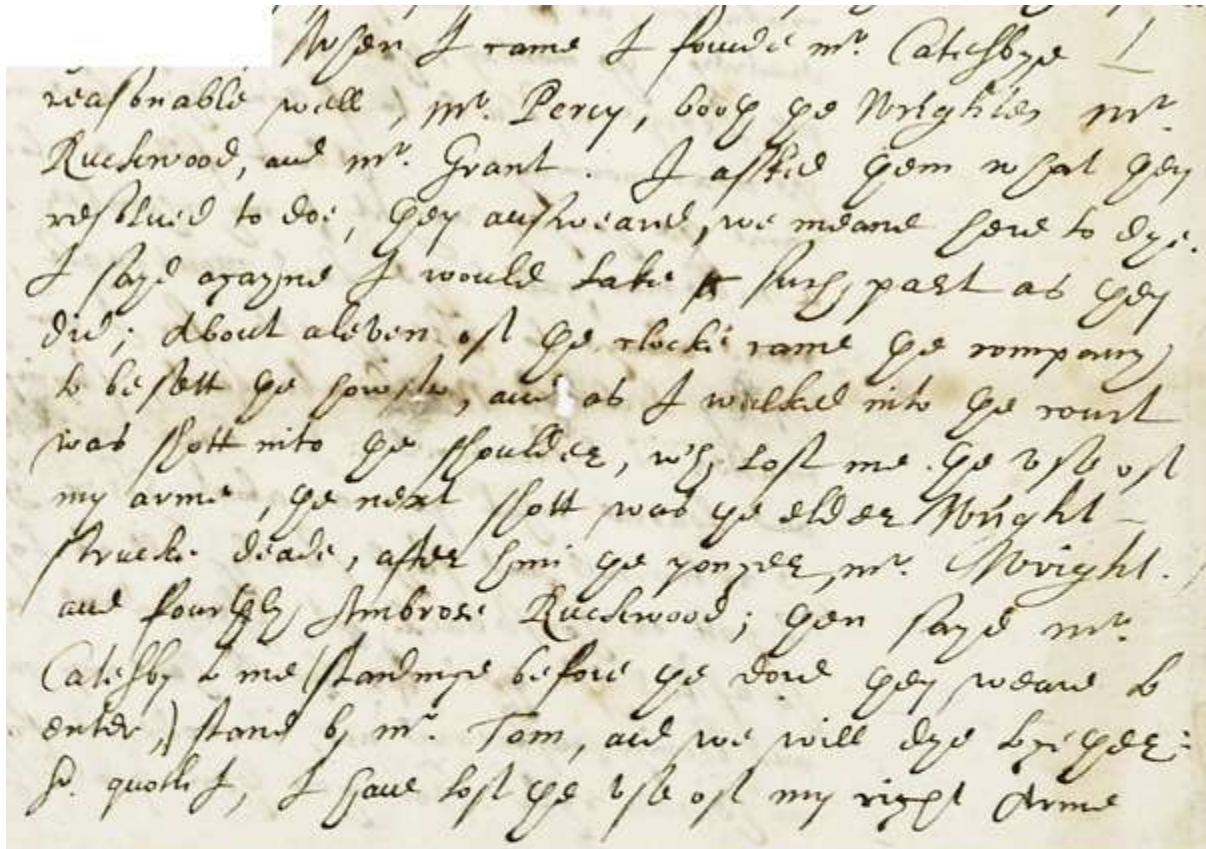
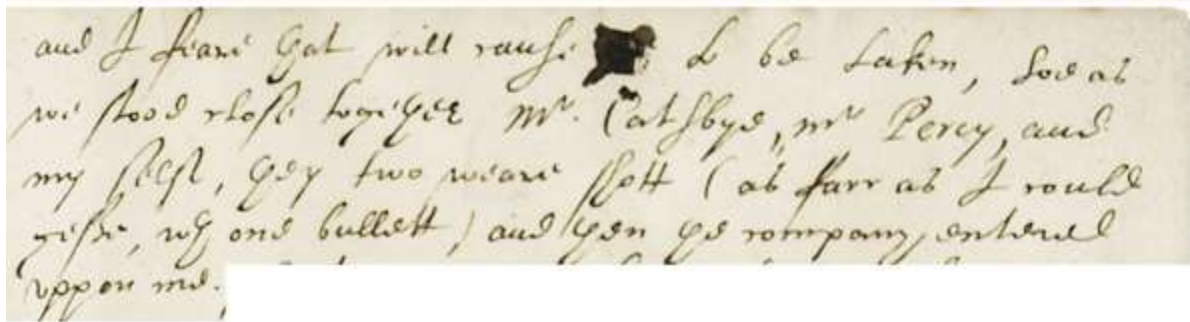
Whereas one Thomas Percy, a bodyguard to the King is found to have been involved in one of the most horrible acts of Treason ever planned, that is, while the King, Queen, Prince, all the nobility and the commons were in the upper house, it was to be blown up with gunpowder (and for this purpose a great deal of powder was moved into a cellar under the house which was found there this morning), and Percy has now run away. These commands call our Officers and loyal subjects to willingly search for Percy and arrest him using all possible means, but keeping him alive, so we can discover the rest of the plotters. Percy is a tall man with a great broad beard and a good face. His beard and head is sprinkled with white hairs, however his head is whiter than his beard. He stoops slightly and has a good colour in his face as well as big feet and short legs. Given at the Palace of Westminster, the fifth of November 1605.

Glossary

Gentleman Pensioner: Bodyguard

Sithens : now

4. Soldiers tracked Thomas Percy to Holbeach House in Staffordshire. This is a statement given by Thomas Wintour, another one of the plotters who was there.

A snippet of a handwritten manuscript in cursive script, showing the beginning of a statement. The text is written on aged, slightly yellowed paper. The ink is dark, and the handwriting is somewhat slanted and dense. The visible text reads: "Upon I came I founde Mr. Catesby reasonable well, Mr. Percy, both the Wrights, Mr. Ruckwood, and Mr. Grant. I asked them what they resolved to do; they answered, we meane here to dye. I sayd againe I would take the same part as they did; about eleven of the clocke came the company to besett the house, and as I walked into the court was shot into the shoulder, which lost me the use of my arme; the next shot was the elder Wright struck; after him the younger Mr. Wright, and fourthly Ambrose Ruckwood; then said Mr. Catesby to me (standing before the door they were entered) stand by Mr. Tom, and we will dye by you: I quoth, I have lost the use of my right armeA second snippet of the handwritten manuscript, continuing the statement. The text is written on the same aged paper as the first snippet. The handwriting is consistent. The visible text reads: "and I thanke God will raunge; I be taken, soe as we stood those by you Mr. Catesby, Mr. Percy, and my selfe, they two were shot (at farr as I could give, wch one bullet) and then the company entered upon me.

Transcript

When I came I found Mr. Catesby reasonable well, Mr. Percy, both the Wrights, Mr. Rokewood and Mr. Grant. I asked them what they resolved to do. They answered "We mean here to die". I said again I would take such part as they did. About eleven of the clock came the company to beset the house, and as I walked into the court was shot into the shoulder, which lost me the use of my arm. The next shot was the elder Wright struck; after him the younger Mr. Wright, and fourthly Ambrose Rokewood. Then, said Mr. Catesby to me (standing before the door they were

to enter), “Stand by, Mr. Tom, and we will die together.” “Sir,” quoth I, “I have lost the use of my right arm and I fear that will cause me to be taken.” So as we stood close together Mr. Catesby, Mr. Percy and myself, they two were shot, and then the company entered upon me.

Simplified transcript

When I came I found Mr. Catesby reasonably well. Mr Percy, both the Wrights, Mr Rokewood and Mr Grant were also there. I asked them what they planned to do. They answered “We mean to die here”. I said again that I would do the same as them. At about eleven o’ clock the house was raided by soldiers and as I walked into the courtyard, I was shot in the shoulder, which lost me the use of my arm. The next shot struck the elder Wright, and after him the younger Mr Wright, then fourthly Ambrose Rokewood. Mr Catesby then said to me (standing in front of the door they were about to come through) Stand by Mr Tom, and we will die together.” “Sir,” I said “I have lost the use of my right arm and think that means I will be captured.” So as we stood close together, Mr Catesby and Mr Percy were shot and I was arrested.

Glossary

Quoth : said

Beset : attacked

5. Guy Fawkes/John Johnson has been questioned and given more information.

It was further resolved amongst us, that the same day
that this act should have been performed, some other
of the confederates, should have surprised the person of
the Lady Elizabeth the Kings eldest daughter, who was
kept in Warwickshire in the Lo. Harringtons house, and
presently have proclaimed her Queen, having a protest
of a proclamation ready for that purpose, wherein was
made no mention of altering of Religion nor would have
avowed her death to be so, but till we could have had
power enough to make it certain good, and then we

would have avowed both. Concerning Duke Charles
the Kings sonne some were of the sundry consultations to
to pass on his person, but because we should have no means
to compass it (the Duke being kept near London)
where we had not power enough, was resolved to pass
it further into the Lady Elizabeth.

The names of other principall persons that were made
privie afterwards to this horrible conspiracy.

Guy Fawkes

Transcript

Forasmuch as they knew not well how they should come by the person of the Duke Charles [the future King Charles I, aged 5], being near London, where they had no forces (if he had not been also blown up) he confesseth that it was resolved among them that, the same day that this detestable act should have been performed, the same day should other of their confederacy have surprised the person of the Lady Elizabeth [the King's eldest daughter, aged 9] and presently have proclaimed her Queen, to which purpose a proclamation was drawn, as well to avow and

justify the action, as to have protested against the Union, and in no sort to have meddled with religion therein, and would have protested against all strangers, and this proclamation should have been made in the name of the Lady Elizabeth.

Simplified transcript

They did not know how they would be able to get Duke Charles [son of King James] if he had not also been blown up as they did not have any forces (soldiers) near London. He confessed that it was decided amongst them that, on the same day that this horrible act was carried out, one of their group should kidnap the Lady Elizabeth [eldest daughter of King James] and declare her Queen, and a statement made in her name which justified this step and that it was her wish not to interfere in religion of the country.