The answere of Anthony Babbington

Most mightie, most excellent, my dread Soveraigne Lady and Queene, unto whom I owe all fidelitie and obedience. May it please yor gracious Matie to admitt the excuse of my longe silence, and the discontinuance of the dutifull office incepted upon the remove of yor regall person from the place of yor ancient aboad to the custodie of a wicked Puritan and meere Lycestrian a mortall enemie both by faith and faction to yor Matie and the Estate Catholique. I held the hope of our Countrie weale (dependinge next under God upon the lyfe and death of yor Matie) to bee desperate, and thereupon resolved to depart the land, determyninge to spend the remaynder of my life in such solitarie sort as the wretched and miserable estate of my Countrie did require, daylie expectinge accordinge to the iust iudgem^t of God the deserved conclusion thereof, wch our Lord for his mercies sake prevent: the wch my purpose beinge in execucion, and standinge upon my departure, there was addressed unto me from the parties beyond the Seas one Ballard, a man of vertue and learninge, and of

and of singuler zeale to the Catholique Cause and yor Maties service. This man informed me of greate preparacions by the Christian Princes yor Maties Allies, for the deliverance of our Countrie from the extreame and miserable estate wherein it hath see longe remayned, wch when I understood, my especiall desire was to advise by what meanes wth the hazard of my life and freinds in generall I might doe yor sacred Matie one daies good service. Whereupon most deere Soveraigne accordinge to the greate care wch those Princes have of the preservacion and safe deliverie of yor Maties person; I advised of meanes, and considered of the circumstances accordinge to the waight of the affaires, and after longe consideracion and Conference had wth see many the wisest and most trustie as wth safetie I might commend the safetie thereunto, I finde by the assistance of our Lord Jesus assurance of good effect and desired fruite of our travailes. These thinge are first to bee advised in this greate and honorable action, upon the yssue whereof depends