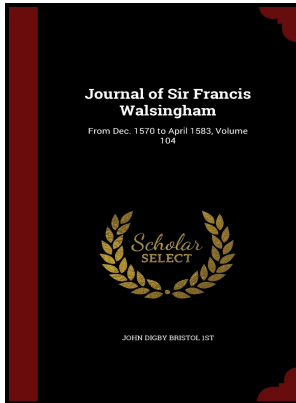


Journal of Sir Francis Walsingham - from Dec. 1570 to April 1583.

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Between 1578 and 1581 the Queen resurrected attempts to negotiate a marriage with Henry III's youngest brother, the Duke of Alençon, who had put himself forward as a protector of the Huguenots and a potential leader of the Dutch. Walsingham believed that it would serve England better to seek a military alliance with France against Spanish interests.

Journal of Sir Francis Walsingham

Walsingham urged her to pursue warlike operations with sustained vigour, but he was hampered by his being kept, at the queen's suggestion, in ignorance of much of the correspondence that was passing between her and English envoys in the Low Countries. Dent of Sudeley, of Lord Zouche, and Lord Sackville at Knole Park. He acquired by royal grant or purchase much property in the neighbourhood of Chislehurst.

Journal of Sir Francis Walsingham

In September 1586, Babington and most of the conspirators were executed. He had underwritten the debts of his son-in-law, Sir , had pursued the Sidney estate for recompense unsuccessfully and had carried out major land transactions in his later years. Walsingham's other two stepsons, Ursula's sons John and George, were killed in a gunpowder accident at Appuldurcombe in 1567.

Biography: Sir Francis Walsingham

In these circumstances Burghley appealed to the queen for her assistance. It was the unravelling of the Babington conspiracy that involved Mary Queen of Scots in a definite crime of treason—of abetting the murder of Elizabeth. Mary was misled into thinking these secret letters were secure, while in reality they were deciphered and read by Walsingham's agents.

Journal of Sir Francis Walsingham

His father was a very wealthy lawyer who died in 1534 when Francis was around two years old.

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But she recognised from first to last his abilities and patriotism, and he was not many months in England before she took him permanently into her service. One of his duties was to continue negotiations for a marriage between Elizabeth and Charles IX's younger brother.

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