

SUMMARY: The document below is a letter dated 23 March 1557 from John Hales (1516?–1572) to Sir William Cecil announcing the death of Sir Richard Morison and requesting that Cecil assist his widow, Bridget (nee Hussey), in obtaining custody of their son, Charles Morison (1549-1599).

Sir Richard Morison died as a Marian exile in Strasbourg on 20 March 1557. Since Hales' letter is dated 23 March 1557, the endorsement '18 March' in Cecil's hand appears to be an error. For Sir Richard Morison's will, dated 22 September 1550 with a codicil dated 15 March 1557, proved 18 August 1557, see TNA PROB 11/39/330.

For the friendship between Sir Richard Morison and John Hales see the *ODNB* entry:

On 2 February 1551 Hales obtained a licence to leave England with his friend Sir Richard Morison, the new ambassador to Emperor Charles V. Hales remained first in Brussels with Morison before going to Germany with his brother Christopher.

For Sir William Petre (1505/6–1572) see the *ODNB* article.

For Sir Richard Morison's wife, Bridget (nee Hussey), see her will, dated 2 and 14 June 1600 and proved 12 January 1601, TNA PROB 11/97/10.

For Sir Richard Morison's son and heir, Sir Charles Morison (d. 31 March 1599), see the History of Parliament entry, which states that his wardship was granted to John Throckmorton (c.1520-1580), seventh son of Sir George Throckmorton (d.1552):

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/morison-charles-1549-99>

Charles Morison was probably with his parents in Strasbourg as a child, but he had presumably returned to England with his mother by July 1557, when his wardship was granted to John Throckmorton I, despite his father's expressed wish that his wardship should be granted to Katherine, Duchess of Suffolk, whose religious views coincided with his own.

Bridget (nee Hussey), later Countess of Bedford, remained on close terms with Sir William Cecil, and after his death was given charge by Sir Robert Cecil of Oxford's two daughters, Bridget Vere (1584-1631) and Susan Vere (1587-1629). In 1599 Bridget Vere married the Countess' grandson, Francis Norris (1579-1622), 2nd Baron Norris of Rycote.

I would if it had pleased God I had had some other occasion to write to you than I have presently, but being we [+are?] all subject to the hand of God, must be content & thank him for his visitation. He hath taken out of this miserable life Mr Morison, who hath left a very poor widow, and careful, and like to be more careful unless by Mr Secretary

Petre's means and your furtherance she may obtain the custody of her son, who lame still lieth under the surgeon's fingers.

She hath written to Mr Secretary therein, desiring him to be a suitor for him, & that she may redeem him of him. The thing is not profitable, whosoever shall have him, but to her it should be a great relief of her misery if she might obtain it, wherefore on her behalf and for the love ye bare to Mr Morison, I am so bold to beseech you to help to further her suit to Mr Petre, which I doubt not she will consider, and to her power be ready to do you pleasure, and I, whom Mr Morison hath required & bound to do for her & his what I can, will be ready to do you any pleasure or service that I can.

Thus for this time I commit you to God, who endue you with his grace. The 23 of March 1556.

Yours to command,

John Hales

Endorsed: To the right worshipful Sir William Cecil, knight

Endorsed: (in Cecil's hand) 1556 18 [sic?] Martij John Hales tow(?) Mr Morison's death