

SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from a letter dated 10 January 1581 from Thomas Norton (1530x32-1584) to Sir Francis Walsingham. According to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, between 1578 and 1583 Norton served as a commissioner to examine Catholic prisoners, and it may have been in that capacity that he prepared the interrogatories enclosed with his letter. The endorsement indicates that the interrogatories had already been administered to Lord Henry Howard (1540-1614) prior to 10 January. Howard himself says that the examiner was the Lord Chancellor, Sir Thomas Bromley (see BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff.7-8). Howard's answers to the interrogatories have not survived. Interrogatories similar to 1-6 below were also put to Charles Arundel (d.1587) (see TNA SP 12/151/47, ff. 105-8). The Gregory Martin (1542?-1582) about whom Howard was questioned in interrogatories 10-11 was the principal translator of the Catholic version of the Bible known as the Rheims New Testament. Prior to 1570, Martin had been a tutor to the sons of Lord Henry Howard's elder brother, Thomas Howard (1538-1572), 4th Duke of Norfolk.

It may please your Honour, I have sent you the interrogatories. I humbly thank you for the other contents of your letter, and for the answer thereof I will confer with those whom you have appointed. . . . At London this 10th of January, 1580.

Your Honour's humble,
Thomas Norton

Addressed: To the right honourable Sir Francis Walsingham, knight, Principal Secretary to the Queen's most excellent Majesty.

Endorsed: 10 January 1580 [=1581]. From Mr. Thomas Norton. The articles ministered to the Lord Henry Howard.

1 Have you not seen a treatise published in English touching the doings and troubles of the late Duke, your brother, beginning in these words, 'Good men and evil, etc.'? And whether you have noted the same treatise to bear 2 letters, 'R.G.', as for the author's name in the title?

2 Have you seen any book written for answer against the said treatise in defence of the innocency of the Scottish Queen and of your said brother? And how many sorts of such books have you seen, either in English, French or other language, and how do they begin, or what title bear they?

3 Were the same books of answer, or any of them, written originally in French, or in English and translated into French?

4 Who was the author of every of the said books, and who the translator, and were not yourself the author of them, and who gave you any advice or instruction, and who have you made privy thereof?

5 If you were not the author, what conference had you with the author thereof, or with any other touching them before or after the writing of them, and what instructions gave you or any other, to your knowledge, for the writing thereof?

LM: Dalton at Arundell's

6 Have you not used at common tables and other public places and assemblies to make challenges and to maintain disputations in defence of certain articles of papistry against the doctrine published by her Majesty's authority, and where and with whom have you so done?

7 Have you seen the bull of Pius V for excommunicating the Queen, and for deposing her and assoiling her subjects from their allegiance? Or if you have not seen it, have you so heard of it that you believe that there is such a bull?

8 Have you known or heard that in the same bull is contained to this effect, that such as from thenceforth continue to yield obedience to the Queen should stand likewise accursed?

9 Have you known or heard that the same bull is revoked or annulled, or remaineth in force, or is in any point qualified or dispensed for a time or forever, either touching herself or her subjects, and specially to dispense with the subjects that they may obey the Queen without accursing?

10 Do you know Gregory Martin? Where is he now, as you have known or heard? For what cause did he depart the realm, and what conference had you with him before his departure? And what warrant had he from you or any other to treat, move or conclude anything there for you or any other?

11 What do you take to be the cause that the said Martin hath wished you to be where he is, and to say that if he were in your case he would be there? And what letters or messages have passed between you and him?