6. *Mary Puttenham* v. *Richard Puttenham*[142]

6.1 *Court Order* *7 February 1566* *REQ 1/11, fo. 590*

Wheras heretofore the Quenes highnes hath graunted & gyven licence unto Richard Puttenham esquire to departe into the parties of beyonde the seas for the terme of three yeres next after the date of the same licence as by the same beringe date att Westminster the xx day of November in the [*blank*] yere of her reigne[143] with a speciall promise therein conteyned that whensoever it should please her majestie to will the said Richard Puttenham to make his retorne againe into this realme & to signifye the same unto him ether by her owne letters or by the letters of fower of her previe counsaill or by anye of her imbassadors, that then yt should not be lawfull for him the said Richard Puttenham to abyd any longer in the said parties of beyonde the seas or ells from thencefurthe the saide licence to be furthwith taken voyde and of none effecte from the begininge, to all entents & purposes as though the same had never bene given or graunted.

And where since that tyme yt hath pleasid her majestie uppon the humble complaint and sute of Marie Puttenham wiffe of the said Richard Puttenham nowe remayninge in the parties beyond the seas to directe her graces letters dated the laste of Februarie in the fyfte yere of her reigne[144] unto him the said Richard Puttenham willinge & commaundinge him thereby to take suche order by sume sufficiente acte in writinge within tooe monethes next after the receipte of her highnes letters, that the said Marie his wiffe might receive within this realme of England for the relefe & fyndinge of her and her pore infant his childe (nowe deceased) the yerelie stypende or anuitie of xxx *li* the same to be yerelye perceived & taken oute [*fo. 590v*] of the goods, lands & revenues of the said Richard Puttenham within this realme of England duringe the tyme of his absence or eles within the space of two monethes then next after the receipte of her highnes said letters to make his retorne againe in to this realme

[142] For Richard Puttenham, see Steven V. May, 'Puttenham, George', in *Oxford DNB*.

[143] 1560, although Richard was convicted of rape in 1561 before having the conviction quashed: see SP 12/66/53, fo. 145; SP 12/16/61, fo. 145.

[144] 28 February 1563; further details of this and subsequent letters mentioned in this order cannot be supplied as the privy council register for the period 23 January to August 1563 is lost.

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presentinge himself at his commynge to the lords of the Counsaille to understande her majesties further pleasure therein. Of which said letters the said Richard Puttenham havinge inteligence (as yt semed) withdrewe himself in to suche secret places as he could not be founde out. Whereupon the Quenes highnes upon the further complainte of the said Marie and consideringe the evell dealinge of the said Richard Puttenham, by her highnes other letters bearinge date the xxiiijth daye of June and in the vth yere of her reigne[145] directed to George Puttenham brother of the same Richard Puttenham (towchinge the usinge, occupienge & farminge of the lands, tenements, rents and revenues of the said Richard Puttenham within this realme of England) willid and comaunded him thereby from the daye of the receipte thereof to stey and deteyne in his hands of the rents revenues and other sommes of money as should growe or be yerely due unto the same Richard Puttenham the somme of xxx *li* of laufull money of England, the same to be yerelye payed to the said Marie towards her relef and findinge at two termes or feasts in the yere: that is to saye at the feaste of th[e] Annunciacion of our Ladye then laste paste before the date of the same letters and the feaste of St Mychaell th[e] Archaungell by even porcions and so to continue the trewe paymente yerelie of the saide somme of xxx *li* to the said Marie duringe the tyme of her husbands absence or untill suche tyme as other order shold be by hym therein taken [*fo. 591*] to her reasonable contention. And that the saide letters should be a sufficiente warrante unto the saide George Puttenham for the yerelie payment thereof as is aforesaid. All which notwithstandinge the said George Puttenham refused to make due paymente unto her of the said yerelie stypende of xxx *li* contrarye to th[e] effecte of the Quenes highnes said letters to hym directed in that behalf. Whereupon the said Marie made her humble sute & complaint unto the Quenes majesties moste honorable previe counsaill, who by the[i]r letters directed unto the same George bearinge date the xth daye of Julie *anno domine* 1563 likewise willed and commaunded him in the Quenes majesties name furthewith to contente & paye unto the saide Marie in hand the somme of xx *li* towards her presente relef untill suche tyme as the Quenes highnes had taken further order for her better & more certaine staye of lyvinge. And further by the same letters in her highnes name likewise charged the same George nether to make any chaunge or alteracion of the possessions of the said Richard Puttenham, ne y[e]t to suffer or be assistinge that any shal be made without makinge the said Counsall privie thereunto.

For answere whereunto the saide George Puttenham by his letters directed unto the said pryvie counsall beringe date the xxxth of Julie

[145] 1563. George Puttenham was the author of *The Arte of English Poesie* (1589).

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anno domine 1563 confessed that his said brother Rychard had then receyved the Quenes majesties said letters to him addressed for the yerlye allowance & payment of the said xxx *li* to the said Marie his wyffe. And further confessed hymself to be farmor unto his said brother Rychard of all his lands and tenementes within this realme. And that his said brother Rychard Puttenham for answere unto the Quenes highnes letters had willed hym by his warrante in writinge under his hande to paye yerelie unto his said wiffe the some of xx *li* towards her [*fo. 591v*] relef & fyndinge which he showed himself verie willinge to paye unto her at suche dayes & tymes as yt should be due & paiable unto his said brother & not otherwise. Which said aunswere the said Counsaill not allowinge of by there other letters bearinge date the xvijth of Novembre *anno domine* 1565 directed to the said George Puttenham willed and straitlie charged the same George not onlie to paye or cause to be payed unto the said Marie furthewith the arrerag[e]s of the said anuitie or stypende of xxx *li* but also yerelie to contynue the paymente of the said xxx *li* oute of the lands, rents & revenues of his said brother Rychard duringe the tyme of his absence and also to make his repaire imediatlie upon the sighte of the said letters unto the said Counsaill to answere as well to his said contempts th[e] one for not paymente of the said yerelie stypend of xxx *li* and th[e] other for meaninge to alter th[e] estate of his said brothers lands contrarie to theire order to him given in that behalf.[146]

All which notwithstandinge the said George neither payed the said arrerag[e]s ne yet the said some of xxx *li* yerelie accordinge to the severall commaundements to him given as well by the Quenes majesties letters as by the severall letters of her highnes moste honorable previe counsall for redresse, whereof the said Marie was eftesones[147] constrayned to make her repaire unto the same Counsaill for remedie therein, who percevinge the evell dealinge of the same George together with his greate contempts and not havinge convenient leysure to procede in the same matter as thereunto did apperteine remitted the same & his said contempts hollie to the hearinge and determination of Walter Haddon & Thomas Sekeforde, masters of Requests to the Quenes majestie. Who, accordinglie callinge before them [*fo. 592*] at severall tymes as well bothe the said George Puttenham as the said Marie and hearinge and consideringe the hole circumstanc[e]s of the said matter together with th[e] aligacions of the said George for th[e] excusinge as well of his severall contempts

[146]The only entry for this date in the surviving *Acts of the Privy Council* makes no mention of this matter; *APC 1558–70*, pp. 292–293.

[147]i.e. 'eftsoons' – again or repeatedly (*OED*).

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as for the non paymente of the said yerelie stipende of xxx *li* with th[e] arrerag[e]s thereof, for that yt manifestlie appeared unto them that the Quenes pleasure and expresse comaundement was, as well to the said Richard Puttenham as to George Puttenham by her letters, that the saide Marie should yerelie be payed xxx *li* oute of the rents and revenues of the said Richard her husband towards her relef and fyndinge. And for that also yt was not denyed by the said George but that the said stipend of xxx *li* was for one hole yere after the departure of the said Richard her husband trulie payed unto the said Marie by one Gylbert Stocker, then factor for the said Richard Puttenham, for the relef of her & her sayde chylde, and for that also yt appered & was confessed by the said George Puttenham that the yerelie rente and terme which is reserved oute of the mannor & lands which he holdethe by demyse of his said brother is one hundrethe pounds by yere, & that likewise one other hundrethe pounds is yerelie due & payable to his said brother for the profytts of his woods for and during serten yeres yet to come. And yet neverthelesse he prayed that his said brother myght be charged onlie with the yerelie paiment of xx *li* to his seide syster, alledginge that the clere revenue of his said brothers lands dothe not excede lx *li* by reason of diverse anuities by him graunted out of the same to severall persons, whereof he hathe not made any due pro[o]fe when and to whome the said anuities were grauntid, & the moste parte of the same as yt is enformed were gyven and grauntid after the espowsells [*fo. 592v*] betwene the said Richard & Marie.

Therefore it is now the daye and yere abovesaid by the said Walter Hadden & Thomas Seckeforde finallie ordered that the said George Puttenham and the fermor & occupiers of the lands of the said Richard, in consideracion of the deathe of the said infante and in full recompence & discharge of the saide yerelie stipend of xxx *li*, from henc[e]furth shall well and trulie contente and paye or cause to be contented and payed unto the said Marie Puttenham, or to her laufull deputie or assigne, the some of fowertie marks of laufull money &c, as is aforesaid, at the toe severall feasts or termes reheresed and expressed in the Quenes majesties said letters unto the said George directed for payment thereof, untill suche tyme as the said Richard her husband shall make his retorne into this realme of Ingland and thereuppon otherwise provide for her resonable contentacion in that behalf the same some of fowertie merks[148] to be yerelie perceived, levied and taken to her use as is aforesaid oute of the lands and revenues of the said Richard Puttenham by the same George Puttenham accordinge to th[e] effecte and true meaninge of the said letters in everie behalf. And

[148]i.e. 'marks'.

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further it is ordered that the said George likewise, in full recompence of all suche arrerag[e]s of the said anuitie of xxx *li* as are nowe due & unpayde unto the said Marye since the tyme of the Quenes highnes fyrste letters to the said Richard her husband written for the yerelie allowaunce thereof, shall paye or cause to be payed unto the same Marie or her assignee imediatlie uppon the sight or knowlege of this order, or within thyrtie dayes next after, the some of xx marks of laufull money of England without fraud or further delaye. And finallie it is ordered that the said George [*fo. 593*] Puttenham shall not hereafter permitte or suffer any kinde of alteracion, either by himself or by any other person or persons as deputie or factor for the said Richard his brother, to be had or made in any parte or parcell of the lands or tenements of the same Richard without makinge the Quenes majesties said Counsaill previe thereunto, untill he, the same Richard, shall have made unto the said Marie his wife a good & perfytt assurance in writinge of the said anuitie of fowertie marks by yere, to be payed unto her at the toe termes aforesaid duringe the tyme of his said absence or untill further order should be by him provided for her resonable contentacion, accordinge as he was comaunded by the Quenes majesties said letters. And yt is further ordered and decreed by the said Walter Haddon & Thomas Sekeford that the said George Puttenham shal be by this order discharged againste his said brother Richard for & concerninge the payment aforesaid by him made, done & hereafter to be made & done to the said Marie so as the said Rychard, for wante of paymente or deteyninge from his factors & assignes of so muche money as the said pencion & stipend & the arrerag[e]s thereof shall amounte unto, shall not incurr in to any losse, daunger or forfeiture of any bonds, covenants or recognisaunce by him made, done or knowlegid[149] to his said brother Richard.

[*fo. 594*] ~~Haddon and Thomas Seckeford, that the said George Puttenham shal be by this order discharged againste his said brother Richard for & concerninge the payments aforesaid by him made, done & hereafter to be made and done to the seide Marye so as the said Rychard for wante of paymente or deteininge from him his factors and assignes use so muche moneye as the seide pencion & stypend and the arrerag[e]s thereof shall amoute unto shall not incurr into any losse, daunger or forfeyture of any lands, tenements or recognisance by him made, done or knowledged to his seyd brother Rychard~~.

[149]i.e. 'acknowledged'.

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6.2 *Court Order* *3 November 1585* *REQ 1/14, p. 59*[150]

Whereas John Bowyer esquier one of her majesties [serjeants at[151]] armes hath this day brought & delivered into this her majesties courte of Requests the somme of forty five marks by vertue of a warrant under the hands of [the Counsaill of ?] this sayd courte, to him in that behalf directed and received and taken uppon a lawfull tender thereof [made to?] Thomas Colbie esquier,[152] to the use of Richard Puttenham, the last day of October nowe past at the tombe of Jefferye Chawcer within the church of St Peter in Westminster betwene the howers of two & fower of the clocke in the afternoon of the same. It is nowe this present day by her majesties sayd Counsaill of the sayd court ordered that the somme of x *li* parcell thereof shall furthewith be paide and delivered to the hands of Mary Puttenham, the wief of the sayd Richard Puttenham, towards her sust[enance?] and maintenance, accordinge to the effecte & meaninge of a decree in that behalf made by her majesties sayde Counsayll of this sayde courte bearinge date the vijth day of February in the viijth yeare of her highnes reigne.[153]

6.3 *Copy of Letter* *3 May 1587* *REQ 1/14, p. 559*[154]

To the right worshipfull masters of the honorable court of Requests, master Dale and master Harbert, doctors of lawe and others &c

May yt please your worships to understand, that wheareas your supplyaunt Richard Puttenham esquier, sworne servaunt to her majestie, hathe nowe a longe tyme, as above twenty yeares together, been most hardly dealte withall in your courte by some of your predecessors, by takinge from him without due course or order of lawe yearely at least xx *li* and otherwhile xl marks and xxx *li* out of his poore livinge, a bare c *li* rent secke,[155] to mainteine a proude stubborne woman his wief in unbrydled libertie from him. So yt is that your supplyaunt nowe having lately endured imprisonment fower yeares together in all necessitie and to his utter spoile and

[150] Or fo. 29.

[151] The right hand edge of the page is damaged and faded.

[152] Thomas Colby, adm. Gray's Inn 1549, bar 1553, purchased a moiety of the manor of Sherfield and became involved in long-running litigation over payment to Richard of an annuity. See P.W. Hasler, 'Colby, Thomas', in *History Of Parliament 1558–1603*; *VCH Hants*, vol. 4, p. 105; REQ 2/240/54.

[153] See **6.1** above.

[154] Or fo. 279.

[155] A rent seck was similar to a rent charge, a rent reserved to an individual other than the owner by deed, but without any clause of distress in case of arrears.

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undoinge by most wrongefull vexacion and meanes oppressed, and a great deale the sooner and the more by this defaltinge and taking from him his owne, wherewith he might have defended and nourished himself. And nowe at lengthe by Gods helpe and some freendshippe of men hath recovered his libertie, but in great povertie and necessitie still nevertheles susteined onely by charitie and borrowinge of some pittifull men, he beseecheth your worships to have better consideracion of him then your saide predecessors before have had, that he be no more molested in your courte for that matter. But that he may quietly enjoy his owne right and livinge, and the lawes of this realme his enheritance with others, as well as all other the Quenes majesties true subjects are suffred to doe, especially seinge your supplyaunts said wief is not divorced from him by lawe, nor ever brought pennie or penyworth with her to him her husband, the case pertaineth not to your courte but to the spirituall courtes and censures, as yourself master Dale once openly in your courte tolde her no lesse. Assuring you that your supplyant is no more worthe in certaintie at this present howre then the simple garments on his backe, which he hath worne in prison almost fower yeares and not all scarce worthe fifteene shillings to be solde. Besides that he is indebted by meanes of his troubles above cc *li*, as this bearer and others knowe, and hath nothing toward the payment thereof, nor yet to live on the while, but his halfe yeares rent l *li*, the last Sonday from him attached, whereby your supplyaunt also against his will hath broken his promises and creditt with diverse honest persons, for lacke of his money to pay them theire dueties, and moreover disapointed his other busines many waies to his great shame and more heapinge of his losses. And which towcheth him neerest of all unlesse some good man had releived him, he had by this time in so fewe daies perished for wante, to you perhappes incredible, but to your supplyaunt in deede sensible, much marveilinge also that for a lesser portion and not of righte due shoulde be witholden from your supplyaunt, his wholl porcion and lawfull livinge without regarde of any his losses or necessitie to you unknowne.

Neverthelesse, seinge yt seemeth your supplyaunt is ordeined by fate to take all manner of wronges, he is rather contented to submitt himself to the order of your courte then thus continually to be [*p. 560*] consumed with vexacion and penurie for lacke of his owne. And so humbly requesteth you first to consider his said debts which must be payed or els[e] he returne to prison againe; secondarily his yearely revenewe not onely small but in controversie and uncertaine; thirdly, the quallitie of your supplyants wief, being of no such highe parentage why to challenge or to be allowed this great prerogative in your courte more then all other wives in England have been accustomed unto, her father knowne to be but a poore franklyn of the countrey who never

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had for himself, his wief and all his children to lyve on, above x *li* a yeare land or rent, nor ever was at cost he or any her kindred or freends with her mariage the value of a gallie halfepennie.[156] But contrarywise an uncle of hers, like an errand theefe, stole out of your supplyants howse then in Redrosse streete in his absence without leave or licence twenty pounds worthe of tapistrie and fetherbedds, which your supplyaunt never could gett againe. Your suppliant hath served and is readie to serve the Quenes highenes in some degree, yf he might quietly enjoye his owne, wheareas this clamorous and shameles strumpett nor ever served but molesteth her majestie and you continually, being boldened thoroughe sufferance, and impudently craveth twise or thrise so much to lyve on alone out of her husbands poore annuall rent (bringinge naught with her) as her father, mother, brothers, systers and herself were wonte and fayne to lyve on all together.

Finally, your supplyaunt sayth that thoughe yt so were that this his case pertained to your courte, and the decree made therein in his absence & without notice to him given to paye her yearely any stipende were sufficient and lawfull, as yt is not, yet he your supplyaunt ought to be dischardged thereof of covenaunt by his tennaunts as for fyve or sixe the first yeares he was both by his sonne in lawe & daughter, and afterward by their assignes untill some of your predecessors by labor of the newe tenaunt had turned the payment from the land to the poore yearely rent of your supplyaunt, who nowe nevertheles to ende this his disquietnes in your courte humbly desireth you to lett him scape[157] at this time with v *li* lost out of his sayd fiftie pounds rent attached. And so half yearely by your order thoughe much above his abilitie as yet to spare he is content to cast away uppon her at your commaundements till she lyst to keepe him companie againe, yea althoughe he lye in prison himself, as he is lyke to doe, which being accomplished she hath no reason to be greaved when such allowaunce is as much as her father or mother or any her lin[e]age hath to live on or ever had. And thus your supplyant committinge his needie estate to the good consideracion of your gravities resteth yours to pray &c. The third of May 1587.

By your poore supplyant newely delivered out of prison
Richard Puttenham

This supplicacion was by master Doctor Dales appointment entred into this register to testifie what Richard Puttenham esquier hath of his owne free will under his owne hand wryting offred yearely towards the releif of Mary Puttenham his wief.

[156] A silver coin, the use of which had been prohibited by law since the reign of Henry V.
[157] i.e. 'escape'.

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6.4 *Court Note* *17 June 1587* *REQ 1/14, p. 618*[158]

Memorandum, that wheere x *li* currant money was broughte into the Quenes majesties court by [*blank*] Cobbe, sergeant at armes, for Mary Puttenham wief of Richard Puttenham [xx *s* thereof[159]] was by the Counsaill of this said courte delivered unto the said sergeant at armes, and seaven pounds was lykewise delivered to the sayd Mary Puttenham and nowe xl *s* the rest of the x *li* is this day payed and delivered over to Robert Kynningham to the use of the sayd Richard Puttenham.

By me Steven Treviell By me Robart Kenyngham

6.5 *Parchment Interrogatories* *[1591]* *REQ 2/256/75, m. 4*

Interrogatories to be ministred unto William Robinson upon the behalfe of Mary Putenham

1. Inprimis, whether did you knowe that it was ordered by her majesties Councell of her highnes court of Requests that the recevor or receyvors of certaine monny to be payd to the use of Richard Putenham gentleman at the tombe of Jeffery Chawcer at Westminster upon the last day of Aprill last past should be attached and apprehended and brought before her majesties sayd Councell.
2. Item, whether was the sayd monny tendered at the sayd place yea or noe. And yf it were not, what was the cause why the same was not tendered there and whether did not you procure, devise or advise that the sayd monny should not be payd at the sayd tombe of Chawcer.
3. Item, yf you did procure, devise or advise that the sayd monny should not be payd there but at some other place, what was the cause & consideracion why you did procure and advise the same to be payd at some other place.
4. Item, whether was not the cause and intent of your procurement and advise therin to th[e] end and purpose that the sayd order or trew meaning of her majesties Councell of her sayd court of Requests should not be observed.
5. Item, whether did you at any tyme heretofore pay any monny unto Marye Putenham, wyfe of the sayd Richard Putenham, and when did you pay the same and howe much did you pay and for

[158] Or fo. 308v.
[159] The page is damaged and faded.

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what purpose and by whose appointment. And whether did not you promise that if you ever receyved the sayd monny or yearly pension you wold pay the monny demanded by the sayd Marye and what promise made you unto the sayd Marye Putenham touching the payment.

6. Item, whether did not you say unto the sayd Marie what was she the better for the warrant & serjant at armes which she procured out of the sayd court and what moved you soe to say.

6.6 *Paper Depositions* *21 October 1591* *REQ 2/256/75, m. 1*

Depositiones capte apud Westmonasterium xxj die Octobris anno regni domine regine Elizabethe nunc &c xxxiij ex parte Marie Puttenham[160]

William Robinson of the parishe of St Mary Bowe in London marchaunt taylour of the age of xliiij yeres or thereaboughts sworn and examined the day and yere above said deposithe and saiethe:

1. To the first interrogatory the deponent saiethe that he did not knowe that it was ordered by her majesties Councell of the honorable court that the receyvor or receyvors of certein money to be paid to the use of the said Richard Puttenham gentleman at the tombe of Jeffery Chawcer at Westmynster upon the said last day of Aprill last past should be attached and apprehendid and brought before her majesties said Councell.
2. To the second interrogatory this deponent saiethe that he knowethe not whether that any money was tendirid at the said place, but saiethe that the cause why that the same was not tendirid at the saide place as this deponent thinckethe was this, *viz*: he the said Puttenham, havinge made to hym this said deponent a letter of attorney to receyve the said money, *viz*: a part thereof to this said deponents own use and an other parte to the use of the said Puttenham, and he this said deponent beinge there the said last day of Aprill and fyndinge there in the said chorche certein servants of one Mr Mollyns[161] who then were there reddy [*m. 2*] to pay the said money to the use of the said Puttenham, this deponent then sayd to them these words or the lyke: Masters, the last tyme that I did receyve money heare for Mr Puttenham I was in some daunger

[160] 'Depositions taken at Westminster on 21 October 1591 on the part of Mary Puttenham'.

[161] Probably Michael Molyns, adm. Inner Temple 1561, MP for Wallingford 1589. He married Elizabeth, the widow of Thomas Colby, who in 1572 had purchased a moiety in the manor of Sherfield from Richard's daughter and son-in-law. Alan Harding, 'Molyns, Michael', in *History of Parliament 1558–1603*; and see n. 152 above. W.H. Cooke lists him as 'Nicholas' in *Inner Temple Admissions*, p. 45.

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that the same shold have bene taken from me. And I now have a letter of attorney from Mr Puttenham but I do perceyve heare is lykelie to grow some stur abought it. I will goe therefore agein to Mr Puttenham and gyve hym his letter of attorney. And they answered sayinge that they must tender the money there, and askid hym this said deponent where the said Puttenham was and this deponent then answered he was in the gatte house.[162] And so this deponent departid from them and did repayre to the said Puttenham. And the servants and frends of the said Mr Mollins folowid hym this said deponent to the said Puttenham. And then comynge thether they offered the said money to the said Puttenham and the said Puttenham did desire hym this deponent to tell the same, which he saiethe he did. And havinge told the same he this said deponent did receyve xx *li* thereof to this said deponents own use and the residew did gyve to the sayd Puttenham.

3. To the third interrogatory this deponent can say nothing more then he hathe all reddy deposid.
4. To the iiijth interrogatory this deponent saiethe that the cause of the payment of the said money at the said place was [*m. 3*] not to th[e] end and purpose that the said order or the trew meanynge of her majesties Councell of this her most honorable court should not be observid.
5. To the vth interrogatory this deponent saiethe that he this said deponent to his now remembraunce did pay to the said Mary Puttenham, wyffe of the said Richard Puttenham, the some of fyve ponds by the appointment of the said Richard. But saiethe he did not promyse that if he this deponent did ever receyve the said money or yearlie pencion that he wold pay the said money demanded by the said Mary. But saiethe that he did promyse her that he wold doe what he might to th[e] end she might have her money paid to her quietlie.
6. To the vjth interrogatory this deponent saiethe that to his now best remembraunce he did not at any tyme say unto the said Mary what was she the better for the warrant and serjeant at armes which she procured owt of this honorable court, nor any words to that effect.

William Robinson

[162]The prison over the gate of the Palace of Westminster.

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