

John Knox in Controversy by Hugh Watt, Principal of New College, Edinburgh University.
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First Interview

p. 83 Mary must have insisted that no-one should be permitted to disturb her Mass under penalty of death. . .

Since the Proclamation was issued on a Monday, John Knox had almost a full week to ponder its implications before any utterance would be expected from him in St. Giles. Before a tense audience he delivered his considered verdict, viz, that 'one Mass ((there was no more suffered at the first)) was more fearful to him than if ten thousand armed enemies were landed in any part of the realm, of purpose to suppress the whole religion.'²

p. 84 On the Thursday following . . . Knox was summoned to Holyrood. ((There he defended himself against the charges brought against him of rebellion and sedition.))
'Madam,' said he, 'as right religion took neither original strength nor authority from worldly princes, but from the Eternal God alone, so are not subjects bound to frame their Religion according to the appetites of their princes.' 'So, Madam, you may perceive that subjects are not bound to the religion of their princes, albeit they are commanded to give them obedience.'

Second Interview

p. 88 Nearly fifteen months elapsed before the second encounter on 15th December 1562. . . . Holyrood, on Mary's return, seemed given over to a perfect orgy of dancing. . . It seemed to him((Knox)) a deliberate and indecent rejoicing at the discomfiture and death of his Protestant kindred. So he lashed out in the pulpit against the unseemly celebration. . . . Knox was summoned for a second admonition.

This time there was quite an audience of the nobility and of witnesses. Mary charged him with so speaking of her as to bring her into hatred and contempt, instancing many of the things reported to have been said. Whereupon Knox took the effective way of countering the charges by repeating the sermon he had delivered. All the obnoxious words and phrases were there, such as 'the reward ~~of~~ dancers will be drink in hell.'