

From *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 7: 1534*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1883, p. 201.

17 April [1534]
Cleop. E. VI. 118. B. M.
Strype's Cranmer, 693.

499. CRANMER TO CROMWELL.

Does not know why my lord of Rochester and Mr. More were contented to swear to the Act of the King's Succession, but not to the preamble.

They would not give a reason for their refusal: but it must either be the diminution of the authority of the bp. of Rome or the reprobation of the King's first pretended matrimony. Does not think their oath to the Act itself should be refused if they will be sworn to maintain it against all powers and potentates, for this will be a great occasion to satisfy the Princess Dowager and lady Mary, who think they would damn their souls if they relinquished their estates. It would stop also the mouths of the Emperor and their other friends, if they gave as much credence to my lord of Rochester and Mr. More speaking and doing against them as they wished others to do when they spake and did for them. It would be a good "quietacion" to others in the realm if such men should say that the succession is according to God's laws. No one, I think, would then reclaim against it. As there are some persons who either from wilfulness will not or from indurate and invertible conscience cannot alter their opinions of the King's first marriage (thinking, perhaps, that a change of mind will injure their reputation), or of the bp. of Rome's authority, yet if all the kingdom will, with one accord apprehend the succession, it is a thing to be amplected and embraced.

The consent of these two and their confederates will not a little avail for this end. If the King pleased their oaths might be suppressed, except when and where he would derive advantage from publishing them. Croydon, 17 April.

Hol., pp. 2.