1602.

who asked why I came to Spain, and which of the Council sent me, saying the King was informed of me and the causes of my coming, and if he desired it, I should be extremely tortured, and no mercy afforded; therefore I told the truth, that I had been twice a prisoner in England, on suspicion as a spy for the King of Spain, and that my eldest brother still remained a prisoner; that I was offered by Mr. Waad, Clerk of the Council, employment in Her Majesty's service; that I confessed that I was a Catholic, but professed readiness to serve Prince and country in cases of allegiance and not religion; that you then offered me to go to Spain, living in St. Lucar or Seville, and giving account of preparations by sea or land; that as nothing was requested against religion or the person of the King of Spain, hoping freedom and recovery of my living, and fearing to be proceeded against as a traitor if I refused, I chose the least of two evils, and accepted the offer, only intending to write information that would come other ways. I besought pardon, having a mother and brethren prisoners in England, one a Capuchin friar, and all having lost their livings and been imprisoned for religion. I denied knowledge of any other intelligencer in Spain, not wishing to be the author of other men's destruction. Walpole carried this confession to the King, but brought no answer. I remained seven months more in irons, suffered to speak to no one, and expecting execution, the galleys, or to perish in prison; but on 8 May last, two scriveners came, ordered my irons off, and read me my liberty. I obtained it chiefly through my brother, who serves in the King's new monastery.

The Jesuits were my mortal enemies, and never relieved me in my extremity. I went to the college to beg help in my travel, but was not admitted. I only had a sword, hat, and 2s. in money; they blamed me for frequenting Mr. Waad, the only persecutor of Catholics. The Jesuits had me apprehended, as believing I was come to store the seminary against them, and was sent by you to breed factions, as in Rome and England. The Jesuits care neither for the King of Spain nor any other, but only aspire to be rulers of the world.

Spain is more miserable than it has been for years, for the war with England destroys their men and money, so that it is almost without people. Don [Juan] de Aguila is much lamented by the graver sort. It is thought the King intends again for Ireland, as Donell, the Irish rebel, has been in Spain ever since the last overthrow. The 40 companies gathered in Castile to succour Don Juan are gone to Lisbon, and Don John also. Travelling in Biscay, I met many wains laden with pikes, and heard that 23,000 were