

Book of Common Prayer and Holy Bible (1632)

with manuscript entries noting
the Marriage of John Mordaunt and Elizabeth Carey (1657)
the Acquittal of John Mordaunt on Trial for his Life (1658)
and the Births and Godparents of their Eleven Children

Background

John Mordaunt (1626-1675) was the younger son of Charles Mordaunt, 1st Earl of Peterborough. He was raised to the peerage himself as Viscount Mordaunt of Avalon in 1659. His wife, Elizabeth Carey (c. 1632-1679) was the daughter of Hon. Thomas Carey, a younger son of Robert Carey, 1st Earl of Monmouth (of the first creation).

Though their father had initially supported the Parliamentarians during the Civil War, John Mordaunt and his brother (the 2nd Earl of Peterborough) were prominent Royalists, and John Mordaunt was active in arranging rebellions in the latter days of the Commonwealth, and in assisting arrangements for the restoration of King Charles II in 1660. In this connection he was arrested and tried for his life in 1658, but was acquitted and released.¹ A collection of his letters is held at Manchester University Library.² He is buried at All Saints Church, Fulham, where there is a spectacular marble monument to him [MOR/20] incorporating a life-sized statue alongside tablets giving a hagiographic account of his heroic life and a 17-generation family tree, both in Latin.

Elizabeth Mordaunt is notable for a personal diary which she kept (one of the earliest such kept by a woman). The original manuscript is held by Robert Jocelyn, 10th Earl of Roden (who is a descendant of John and Elizabeth's daughter Anne), and he kindly allowed me to examine it at his home in Co. Galway, Ireland, in July 2022. The text of the diary (or at least most of it) was published in 1856 by the 3rd Earl of Roden,³ and

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- 1 (a) *The several tryals of Sir Henry Slingsby, Kt., John Hewet, D.D., and John Mordant, Esq., for high treason, in Westminster-Hall together with the Lord President's speech before the sentence of death was pronounced against the afore named Sir H. Slingsby and Dr. Hewet, being the 2 of June, 1658, at which time the said Mr. Mordant was by the court acquitted.* London printed: [s.n.], 1658. [<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/eebo/A59394.0001.001>]
(b) *The Triall of Mr Mordaunt, Second Son to John Earl of Peterburgh, at the pretended High Court of Justice in Westminster-Hall, the first and second of June, 1658. With some Passages before and after it.* Edited by T.W.; London, Printed by James Flesher, 1661. [Copies held by the 10th Earl of Roden and at the British Library]
 - 2 *The Letter-Book of John Viscount Mordaunt 1658-1660.* John Rylands University Library of Manchester, English MSS. 55, Spencer 19140, ante 1669. A transcript was published in 1945, edited by Mary Coates (*Royal Historical Society Camden Third Series*, Vol. LXIX [<https://doi.org/10.1017/S2042171000005239>]) with additional information in 2018 (Cedric C. Brown, "The story of the Mordaunt Letter-Book in the Rylands Library. The Eloquence of Incompletion", *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library*, 94 (2) 51-71 (2018)) [MOR/10] [<https://doi.org/10.7227/BJRL.94.2.2>])
 - 3 *The Private Diarie of Elizabeth Viscountess Mordaunt*, Ed. Edmund Macrory. With a Memoir of Viscountess Mordaunt by Robert Jocelyn, 3rd Earl of Roden. Duncairn (1856)

though his introduction claims that Elizabeth's handwriting is almost illegible, this is not in fact the case.

Elizabeth Mordaunt, her diary, and her connections, have attracted some academic interest in recent years,^{4,5} and Elizabeth's own significant, but clandestine, role in the politics of the period has also been recognised in a recent book,⁶ which suggests that she and John acted as a team.

The Bible and Prayer-Book

The Book of Common Prayer and the Holy Bible are bound together in this single volume (38cm x 25 cm). There are manuscript entries on three of the front pages. Most of these entries are written in a clear copperplate hand in English and list the major family events; they appear to have been all written at the same time, rather than following each event. At the top of the third page, interspersed with the other entries, are three entries written in another hand in Latin, along with the dates (in English) "1 and 2 June 1658", which are the dates of John Mordaunt's trial.

A typescript transcription of the English entries (noted in an unknown hand as "Description of Mordaunt Bible from A.W. Codd, 201 Sumatra Road, West Hampstead NW") [MOR/1] implies that all the entries were written by Elizabeth Mordaunt herself. The (English) entry noting John Mordaunt's acquittal is in the first person, and has Elizabeth's name below it, but the entry noting John and Elizabeth's marriage is in the third person. The handwriting of the English entries does not appear to correspond to that in Elizabeth's original manuscript diary, held by the Earl of Roden. However, the Latin entries are in her hand, as established by inspection of the original diary. It seems reasonable to conclude that these entries were made contemporaneously by Elizabeth Mordaunt herself, whilst the family events were later copied in by a secretary or by one of Elizabeth's and John's children.

John and Elizabeth Mordaunt's Children

At least nine of John and Elizabeth's children, whose births are recorded in the bible, lived into adult life, and their careers, marriages and children are well-documented. The bible records the death of Osbert Mordaunt, just four weeks after his birth in Montpellier in 1668. It also records the birth of John Mordaunt in 1659, but I am unable to find any other reference to him, so assume he must have died in childhood.

4 Botonaki, Effie. *Seventeenth Century English Women's Autobiographical Writings: Disclosing Enclosures*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellon (2004)

5 "John Evelyn and Elizabeth Carey/Mordaunt". Chapter 3 in Cedric C. Brown, *Friendship and its Discourses in the Seventeenth Century*, Oxford University Press (2016), pp 40-62.
[<https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198790792.003.0003>].

6 Nadine N. W. Akkerman, *Invisible Agents. Women and Espionage in Seventeenth-Century Britain*, Oxford University Press (2018) [ISBN-13 9780198823018]. Paperback OUP (2020) [ISBN-13 9780198849421] [MOR/9]

Apart from the youngest, George, the children were born in very rapid succession. Charles, the eldest, was born exactly nine months after his parents' marriage, and the longest gap between any of the first ten children is just twenty months. The short-lived Osbert followed his sister Anne after only eleven months, and this might indicate that he was born prematurely, which could account for his early death. George followed six years after his brother Osmund, by which time his mother was 43, though her diary (pp. 153-154 – see note 3) refers to miscarriages during the intervening period. All in all it shows a remarkable strength and resilience on Elizabeth's part, especially when one considers her simultaneous political espionage role, recently uncovered by Nadine Akkerman (see note 6). The choice of godparents, identified in footnotes below, reveals the complex web of the Mordaunts' political and familial connections.

Provenance

The volume was certainly owned by my grandfather, Percy Mordaunt Barnard (1868-1941) who was a descendant of John and Elizabeth's son Louis (or Lewis). It passed by descent to his daughter Nea Morin (1905-1986), and thus to her son Dr Ian Morin (1935-2023) who, shortly before his death, asked me to find a suitable archive or museum to donate it to. Ian's and my grandfather probably inherited it via Lewis's daughter Sophia (1706-1752) who married Sir Roger Martin Bt. (1689-1762), and their grand-daughter Everilda Dorothea (1767-1839), who married Rev Thomas Barnard (c. 1765-1799) and was Percy's grandmother. This route seems reasonable as the Letter Book of John Mordaunt at Manchester University Library (see note 2) was inherited by the Spencer family via Sophia's sister Anna Maria, whose daughter married the 1st Earl Spencer. However, it is also possible that my grandfather, who was an Antiquarian Bookseller, acquired the volume through his trade, and chose to retain it.

Transcription

The following is my own transcription of the manuscript entries, with footnotes identifying the various individuals mentioned. Images of the relevant pages and the title pages of the Bible and Prayer Book are appended.

*John Mordaunt Barnard
Updated 23 April 2024*

John MorDaVnt [and] **ELizabeth Cary** were joyned together in holy Wedlock upon Ascention Day in the Yeare of our Lord which is exactly poynted at in the Numericall letters of their two Names.⁷

John Mordaunt was married to Elizabeth Cary by Dr Wilde⁸ on the 7th day of May, being Ascention day, in the yeare of our Lord 1657 at her Grandmothers the Countess of Exeter's,⁹ at Winchester.

Charles Mordaunt,¹⁰ Borne February 4, 1657/8 (being Thursday) about 12 a clock at Noone. Memorand. the Parliament was dissolved the same houre.¹¹

Baptised February 5th. Godfathers, the King,¹² the Earl of Monmouth,¹³ the Countess Dowagir of Peterburgh¹⁴

The second of June in the yeare of our Lord 1658, being Wednesday, my deare Husband having been tryed for his life by a High Court, was cleared, and the first example of it that pleaded Not Guilty.

Which great and undeserved Mercy from God we both with Praise shall ever acknowledge Imidiatly from his great Mercy.

Elizabeth Mordaunt

John Mordaunt¹⁵

Borne at Parsons Greene the 20th of March 1658/9 being Sunday about two of the clock in the Morning. Baptised March the 24 1658/9. Godfathers the Earle of Northampton,¹⁶ Mr Newport,¹⁷ The Lady Herbert Grandmother¹⁸

7 If the capital letters in the names (ignoring the E) are rearranged to the more conventional order of MDCLVII, they form the Roman numeral 1657.

8 Unidentified

9 Frances Brydges (1580-1663) married firstly Sir Thomas Smith, and secondly Thomas Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter (who was 40 years older than her). By her first husband she was the mother of Elizabeth Mordaunt's mother, Margaret Smith. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral. Note that the widow of the 3rd Earl and the wife of the 4th Earl were also both living in 1657.

10 Charles Mordaunt (1658-1735) succeeded to his father's titles in 1675; he was created 1st Earl of Monmouth in 1689 (this was the second creation, his maternal great-uncle and godfather, the 2nd Earl of the first creation having died without surviving male issue in 1661); he succeeded his paternal uncle as 3rd Earl of Peterborough in 1697.

11 This was the dissolution of the Second Protectorate Parliament, which had been summoned by Oliver Cromwell, as Lord Protector, in 1656.

12 The exiled Charles II.

13 Henry Carey, 2nd Earl of Monmouth (1596-1661), elder brother of Elizabeth Mordaunt's father, and thus great-uncle to the infant Charles. He took little part in contemporary politics, and devoted himself to translating historical works from Italian and French. He died without surviving male issue, and the title became extinct, but it was re-created for Charles in 1689.

14 Elizabeth Howard (1603-1671), widow of John Mordaunt, 1st Earl of Peterborough (1599-1644), and thus grandmother to the infant Charles. She was a celebrated beauty and a fervent anti-monarchist who disapproved of her son's Royalist activities (see also note 39).

15 John Mordaunt's birth in 1659 is also recorded in his mother's diary (see note 3) but he does not appear to be mentioned in other records and presumably died young.

16 James Compton, 3rd Earl of Northampton (1622-1681) fought with the Royalists in the Civil War before retiring to his estates where he wrote a number of plays, which were only rediscovered in 1977.

17 Probably Andrew Newport (1622-1699), younger brother of Francis Newport, 2nd Baron Newport and later 1st Earl of Bradford (1619-1708). See note 27. He was an active Royalist and granted an estate on the Restoration.

18 Elizabeth Mordaunt's mother Margaret (née Smith) married firstly Thomas Carey (1616-1649) and secondly Sir Edward Herbert (c. 1591-1658) who had been Attorney General under Charles I, and was in exile with Charles II.

Charlot[te] Mordaunt

Borne in Lincolnes Inn fields London, June 21, 1660, being Thursday, about 2 a Clock in the Morning. Baptized July the first 1660. Godmothers, The Countess Dowager of Derby¹⁹ and the Countess of Exeter, Grandmother.²⁰ The Lord Chancellor.²¹

Cary Mordaunt²²

Borne at Parsons greene 29 of July 1661 on Monday 7 of the clock in the Morning, Baptized the 6th of August. Marquiones of Dorchester,²³ Sister Lyttelton,²⁴ Earle of Peterburgh²⁵

Harry Mordaunt²⁶

Born at Parsons greene 29th of March 1663 at 7 a clock in the morning being Sunday. Baptized 9 of Aprill 1663 Godfathers, Earle of Peterburgh, S^r Henry Lyttelton²⁷ La: Mary Cary,²⁸ Earl of Monmouth's daughter

Sophia Mordaunt²⁹

Born the 15 of July 1664 at Parson's Greene being Fryday half an Houre past one in the Afternoone Baptized July 26 by the B^{pp} of London.³⁰ Princess Sophia,³¹ Queene of Bohemia's daughter, Countess of Monmouth,³² Earl of Craven.³³

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- 19 Charlotte de la Trémoille (1599-1664), widow of James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby. She was the daughter of a French nobleman, and was noted for her robust defence of Latham House, the last Royalist stronghold in Lancashire, in 1644.
- 20 Frances Brydges (1580-1663) widow of Thomas Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter (see note 9). She was actually the infant Charlotte's great-grandmother.
- 21 Edward Hyde (1609-1674) was appointed Lord Chancellor by King Charles II in 1658 (two years before the Restoration) and was later created Earl of Clarendon. His daughter Anne was the first wife of James, Duke of York (later King James II) and he was thus grandfather both to Queen Mary II and to Queen Anne.
- 22 Also spelled Carey Mordaunt (1661-1713), she died unmarried. Portrait (attributed to Mary Beale) at Castle Ward, Co. Down.
- 23 Catherine Stanley, daughter of James Stanley (7th Earl of Derby – see note 19) and second wife of Henry Pierrepont (1606-1680), 1st and last Marquess of Dorchester.
- 24 Unidentified, but possibly Catherine Lyttelton, sister of Sir Henry Lyttelton, 2nd Baronet, the infant Cary's uncle by marriage (see note 27). She died unmarried in 1691.
- 25 The infant Cary's paternal uncle, Henry Mordaunt, 2nd Earl of Peterborough (1621-1697).
- 26 Lieutenant General Henry Mordaunt BA (Ch. Ch., Oxon), MP (1663-1720).
- 27 Sir Henry Lyttelton, 2nd Baronet (1624-1693). His wife was Philadephia Carey, sister of Elizabeth Mordaunt, making him the infant Harry's uncle by marriage. Philadephia died just a few months later on 2 Aug 1663, after which Lyttelton married Elizabeth Newport, sister of Francis Newport, later 1st Earl of Bradford (see notes 17 and 24).
- 28 Lady Mary Carey (c. 1632-1719), Elizabeth Mordaunt's paternal first cousin. She later married William Feilding, 3rd Earl of Denbigh.
- 29 Lady Sophia Mordaunt (1664-1735) married James Hamilton of Bangor, Ireland and had two daughters.
- 30 Humphrey Henchman (1592-1675) helped King Charles II escape from England in 1651. On the Restoration he was consecrated Bishop of Salisbury, and translated to London in 1663.
- 31 Princess Sophia (1630-1714) was the daughter of Elizabeth Stuart (1596-1662), sister of King Charles I, sometime Queen of Bohemia, and a close contact of Elizabeth Mordaunt's. In 1658 Sophia married Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover and under the Act of Settlement of 1701 she was designated as heiress presumptive to the English crown, to which her son succeeded as George I just two months after her death. See also note 33.
- 32 Martha Cranfield, wife of Henry Carey, 2nd Earl of Monmouth, and thus the infant Sophia's great-aunt by marriage
- 33 Lt.-Gen. William Craven (1608-1697), 1st Earl of Craven, fought in the Thirty Years War on the side of Frederick V of the Palatinate, and fell in love with Frederick's wife Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia (see note 31). She returned to England after the Restoration, and Craven is said to have built Ashdown House in Oxfordshire for her.

Louis Mordaunt³⁴

Born at Oxford in university College 22 of December 1665 being Thursday about Midnight. Baptized 2nd of January. Godfathers Dr Fell,³⁵ Deane of Christ Church, Dr Allest[ree],³⁶ Provost of Eaton, Lady Eliz Carey,³⁷ Earle of Monmouths daugh[ter.]

*Connectere anima mea in requiem finam: quia Dominus
beneficit tibi. Quia exipuit animam meam te morte, oculus
meos a Lacrymis pedus meos a Lapsu.*

[Connect my soul to the end of rest: because the Lord benefits you. Because you redeemed my soul by death, [save] my eye from tears, my feet from the Fall]

June 1 and 2

1658

Por resciam sed aminam et ramabo opera Domini

[I will bear fruit, but I will love and cherish the works of the Lord]

Borum est spexare in Domino quam spexare in Principebus.

[It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in princes"]

[Translations adapted from Google Translate]

Anne Mordaunt³⁸

Born at Parsons green on Tuesday the 5th of March Ano. Dni. 1667 at one a clock in the morning; Baptized Sunday 17 of March. Godmothers the Countess Dowager of Peterburgh³⁹ & the Countess of Newburgh,⁴⁰ L^d Cornbury Godfather.⁴¹

34 Brigadier-General the Hon. Lewis Mordaunt (1665-1713) married firstly Anne Martin of Long Melford and secondly Mary Collyer, having issue by both ladies. His daughters by his second marriage are respectively ancestors of the "Mordaunt Barnards" (Sophia), who include myself, and of the 2nd Earl Spencer and his descendants (Anna Maria), who include the current Prince of Wales.

35 John Fell (1625-1686) bore arms for the Royalists in the Civil War, and was Dean of Christ Church, Oxford from 1660, later also serving as Bishop of Oxford and as Vice-Chancellor of the University. He was the subject of Tom Brown's well-known epigram (a loose translation of the 32nd epigram by Marcus Valerius Martialis) "I do not like thee, Doctor Fell, The reason why I cannot tell; But this I know, and know full well, I do not like thee, Dr Fell."

36 Richard Allestree (1622-1681) was an ardent Royalist and friend of John Fell (see note 35). He was Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford and was appointed Provost (chair of the Governors) of Eton College in 1666.

37 Lady Elizabeth Carey (1630-1676), Elizabeth Mordaunt's paternal first cousin and sister to Lady Mary Carey (see note 28)

38 Anne Mordaunt married James Hamilton of Tollimore, Co. Down, Ireland. She was an ancestor of the Earls of Roden, who inherited the manuscript of Elizabeth Mordaunt's diary (see note 3).

39 Elizabeth Howard (1603-1671), widow of John Mordaunt, 1st Earl of Peterborough (1599-1644), and thus grandmother to the infant Anne. See note 14.

40 Anne Poole (before 1640 – 1692) was the second wife (m. 1660) of James Livingstone, 1st Earl of Newburgh, who was a prominent Royalist. She was the daughter of Beatrice (née Brydges), sister of Elizabeth Mordaunt's grandmother Frances (see note 9).

41 Henry Hyde, Viscount Cornbury (1638-1709) was son and heir of Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (see note 21).

Osbert Mordaunt⁴²

Born at Montpellier the 2nd of March 1668 English Stile⁴³ about 4 a clock afternoon. Baptized the 22nd of March and dyed Sunday following being 29th of the same. His Godfather Mr Dunnabrand, Godmother Madam de Verune.

Osmund Mordaunt⁴⁴

Born at Parsons green the 13 of October 1669 about 4 a clock in the morning⁴⁵ his Godfathers Mr Lory Hide⁴⁶ & Mr Matthew Wren,⁴⁷ Lady Midleton⁴⁸ Godmother

George Mordaunt⁴⁹

Born at Parsons green the 3^d of December 1675 between 3 and 4 a clock in the morning being friday. Baptized monday following, Dec 6. Godfathers Dr George Morley⁵⁰ B^{pp} of Winchester & Dr Dalbin⁵¹ B^{pp} of Rochester, Countess of Middlesex⁵² Godmother.

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- 42 Osbert Mordaunt was born in the south of France and lived for only four weeks. His godparents were presumably French and the only suitable ones available in Montpellier.
- 43 i.e. in the Julian calendar – by 1668 France was using the Gregorian calendar.
- 44 Osmund Mordaunt is said to have been killed at the Battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690, aged 20, though the mordaunt.me.uk website notes that there appears to be no primary evidence for this. The same site also mentions the suggestion that he was an ancestor of the “Irish Mordaunts” (who include Henry Mordaunt, the author of that website, and his niece, the politician Penny Mordaunt). However this suggestion is dismissed as it depends on an apparently forged marriage record for Osmund dated 15 Jun 1673, when he would have been only 3 years old.
- 45 This is more-or-less consistent with a sheet of paper inserted in the Letter Book of John Mordaunt (see Note 2) which notes that Osmund was born on “Oct. 13 1669, neere 5 of the clocke in the morning being Wensday”. 13 Oct 1669 was a Sunday in the Gregorian calendar, but a Wednesday in the Julian calendar, which was still being used in England in 1669.
- 46 Probably Lawrence Hyde (1642-1711), younger son of Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (see note 21), and later himself ennobled as Earl of Rochester.
- 47 Matthew Wren (1629-1672), was a cousin of the architect Sir Christopher Wren, and acted as Secretary to Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (see note 21) from 1660 to 1667, and as Secretary to James, Duke of York (later King James II) from 1667 to 1672.
- 48 There are several Midletons (with various spellings) who were knights or baronets in the late 17th century, and this is probably the wife of one of them. The most likely is Mary Napier (1598-1675) daughter of Sir Robert Napier (1st Baronet), and widow of Sir Thomas Myddelton (1586-1666), who had been part of John Mordaunt’s Royalist rising in 1659.
- 49 Rev. Hon. George Mordaunt (1662-1728) was born 6 months after his father’s death. He was Vicar of Little Paxton in Huntingdonshire and was married three times, his third wife, Elizabeth Collier, being the sister of his brother Louis’s second wife Mary (see note 34). It is a matter for speculation as to whether he was intended from birth for a church career (hence the choice of ecclesiastical godfathers) or if those godfathers, once chosen, influenced him in that direction.
- 50 George Morley (1598-1684) was one of the leading clergymen in the exiled court of Charles II in The Hague. In 1660 he was made Dean of Christ Church, Oxford and consecrated Bishop of Worcester; two years later he was translated to Winchester.
- 51 John Dolben (1625-1686) fought with the Royalists in the Civil War, and was made Bishop of Rochester in 1666. He was a friend of Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon (see note 21), and was made Archbishop of York in 1683.
- 52 Rachel Fane (1613-1680) was the daughter of the 1st Earl of Westmorland, and in 1638 she married Henry Bourchier, 5th Earl of Bath, who was active in the Royalist cause. After his death in 1654 she married Lionel Cranfield, 3rd Earl of Middlesex, but the couple separated in 1661.

John MorDaVnt ELizabeth Cary

Were joynd together in holy Wedlock upon Ascension
Day in the Yeare of our Lord, which is exactly
pointed at in the Numericall letters of their two
Names.

John Mordaunt was married to Elizabeth Cary,
by Dr Wilds on the 7th day of May, being Ascension
Day, in the yeare of our Lord 1657 at her Grandmothers
The Countess of Exeter's at Winchester.

Charles Mordaunt

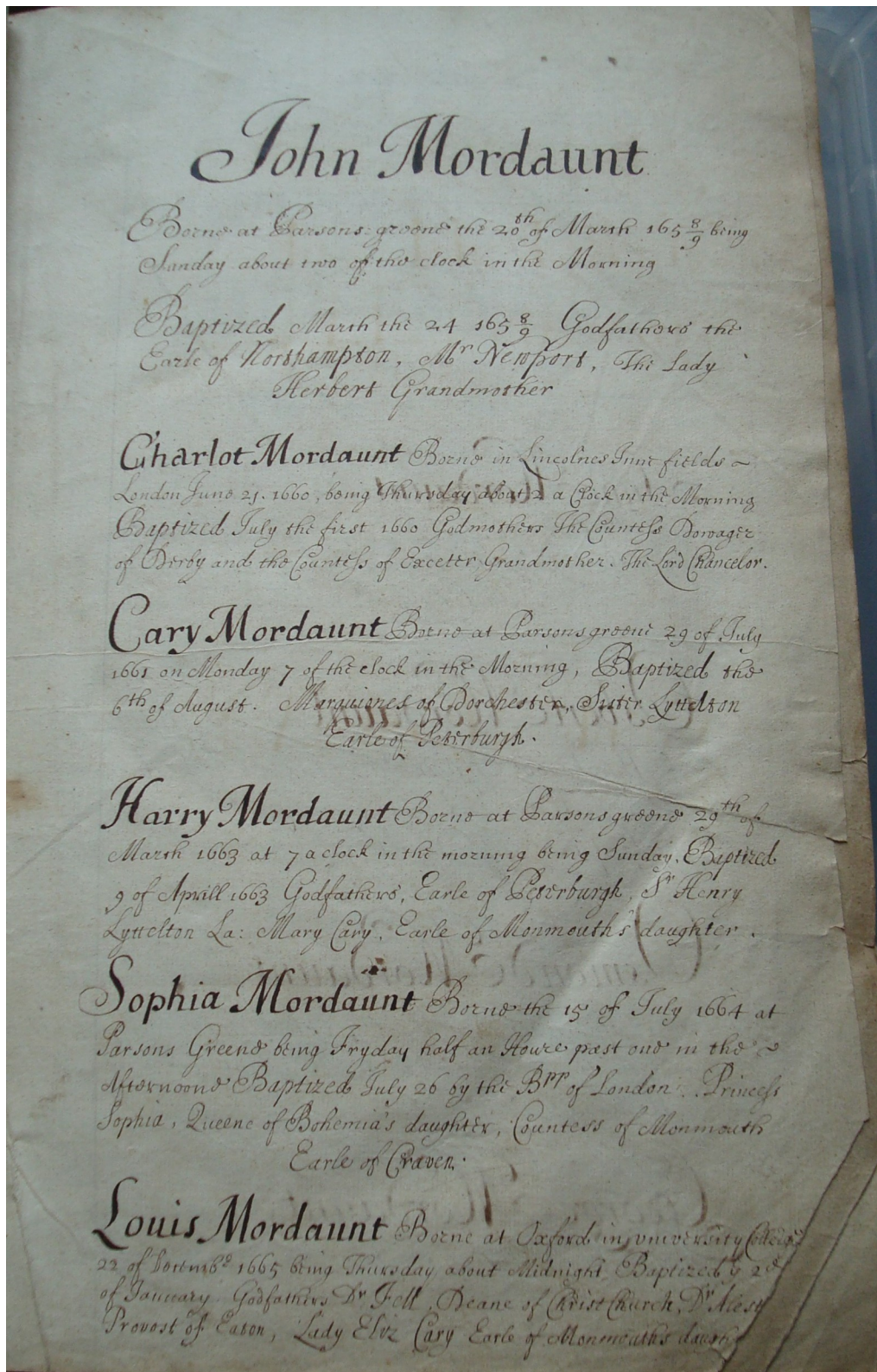
Borne February 4. 1657 (being
Thursday about 12 a clock at noon.
Memorand the Parliamt was dissolved the same hour.

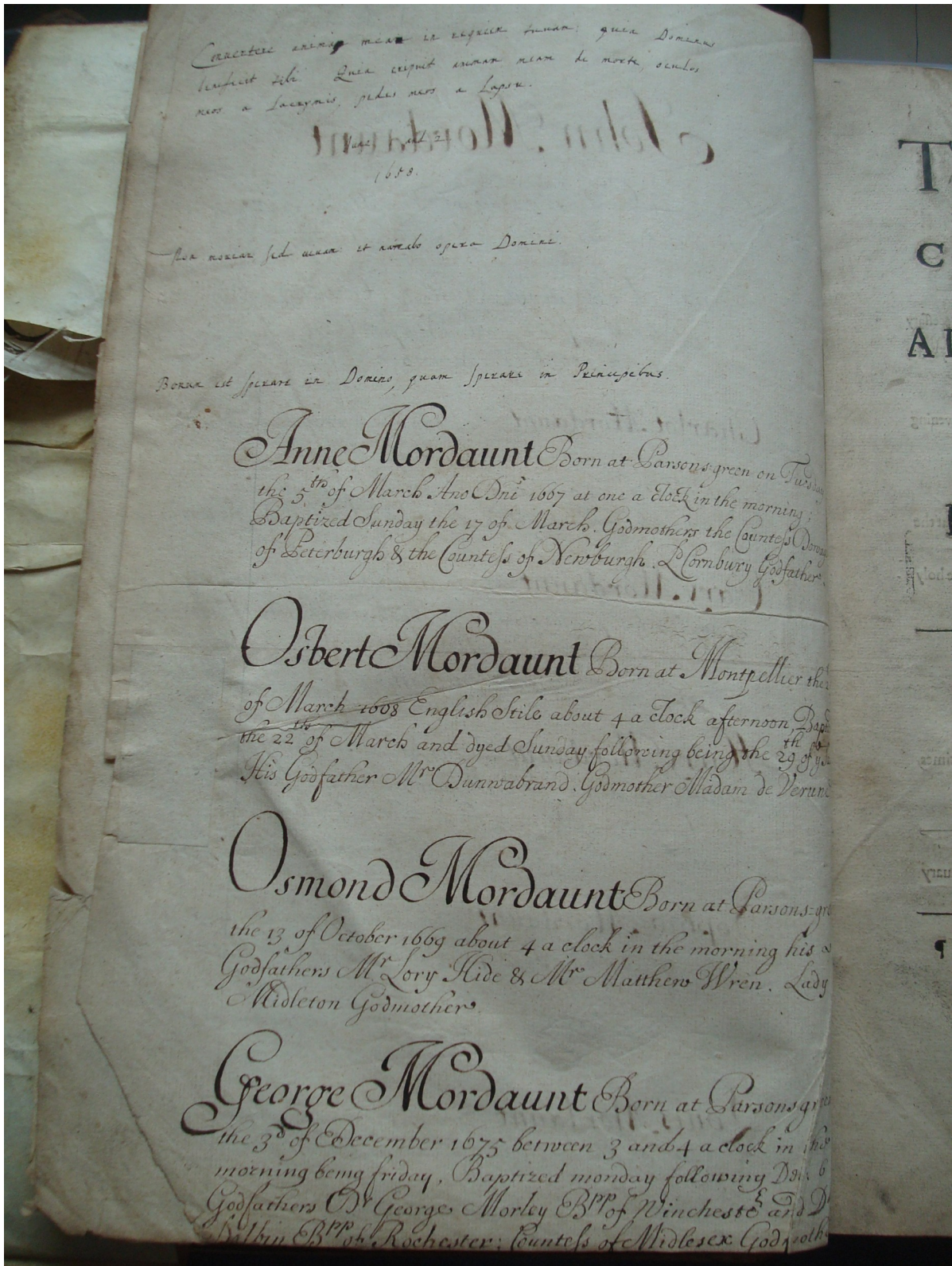
Baptized February 5.
Godfathers, The King, the Earle of Monmouth, the
Countess Dowager of Peterburgh.

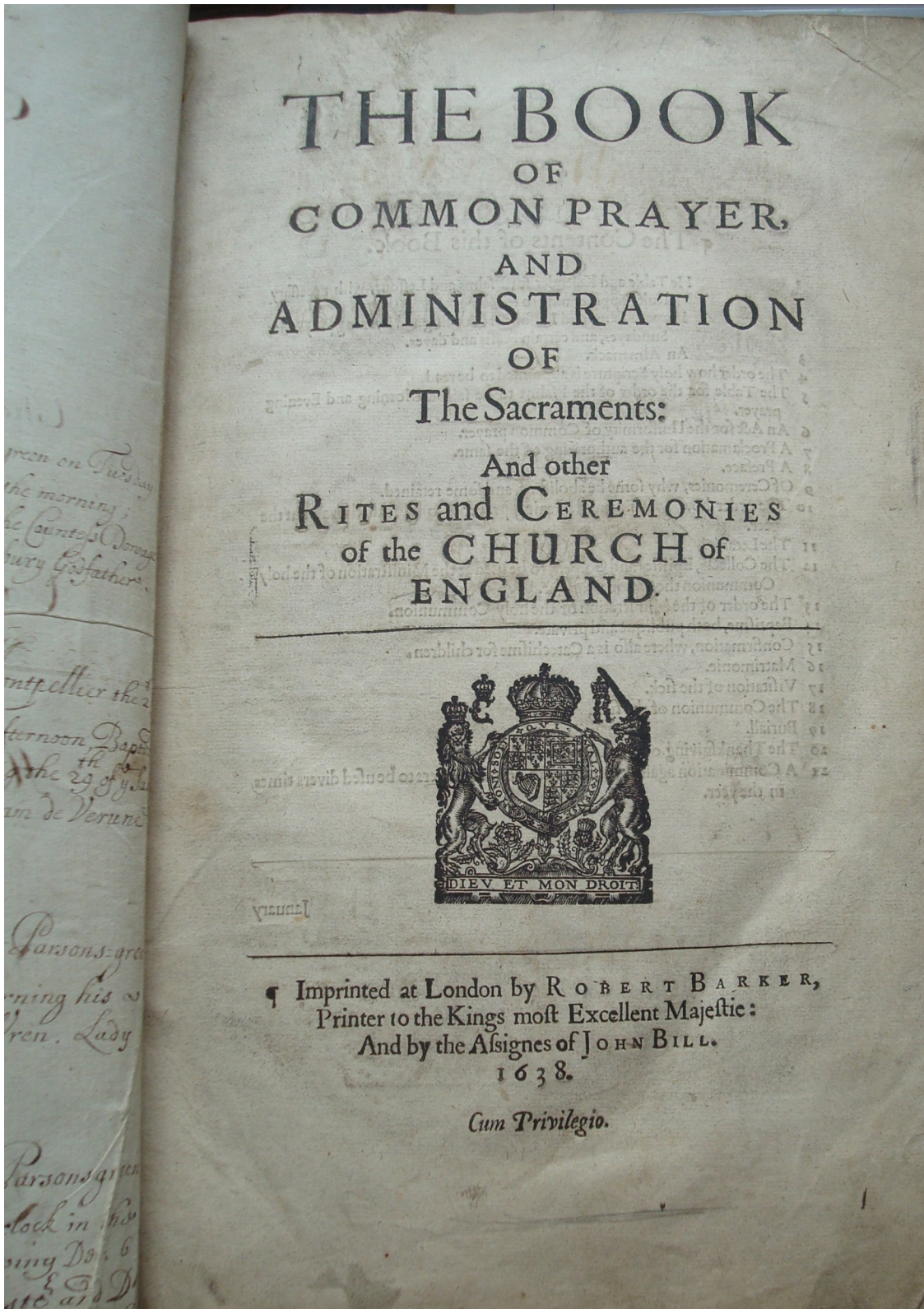
The second of June in the yeare of our Lord 1658 being
Wednesday, my deare Husband having been tryed for his
life by a High Court, was cleared, and the first example
of it that pleaded Not Guilty.

Which great and undeserved Mercy from God, we
both with Praise shall ever acknowledg. Immediatly
from his great Mercy.

Elizabeth Mordaunt







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