

Gunpowder Plot Threatens to Bring Anarchy to the UK

Extremist Catholic group claim responsibility for lethal parliamentary coup; King feared dead



The capital city is in shock today as the Houses of Parliament lie in ruins following a devastating explosion and the throne sits empty with a guessing game surrounding the whereabouts of his excellency King James I.

At 7 p.m. last night, merchants on the River Thames and townsfolk crossing Westminster Bridge bore witness to a fireball that ripped through the edifice of the national legislative chambers and promises to send even greater shockwaves through the constitution of the fragile United Kingdom.

King James, the monarch charged with uniting the crowns of England and Scotland, was initially alleged to have perished in the explosion, timed to coincide with the rising of parliament. The death toll is estimated to number in the hundreds, among them several pre-eminent Lords and members of the clergy. Innocent bystanders were also caught up in the mayhem.

Reputable eyewitnesses, however, claim to have seen their sovereign leave the Palace of Westminster by coach shortly before the tragedy unfolded. It is thought that he might have taken sanctuary at Hampton Court.

An extremist group calling themselves the Catholic Knights issued a statement through Mr Thomas Bates, 38, junior recruit and servant of ringleader Robert Catesby, 33, declaring that justice had been served and demanding equal rights between Catholics and Protestants. Bates was promptly arrested for treason and is due to be hanged, drawn and quartered later today.

During interrogation, Bates named Guy Fawkes, 35, as the mastermind behind the bomb blast. Born into a Protestant family, Fawkes later aligned himself with his recusant Catholic grandparents and earned a reputation for himself as a man highly skilled in matters of war whilst fighting for Catholic Spain against the Protestant Dutch. It is believed that Fawkes procured thirty-six barrels of gunpowder which he then stored in a cellar beneath the House of Lords. It is not known if Fawkes himself lit the fuse but associates have quoted him speaking of "a desperate remedy" and branding his King "a heretic" for denouncing the faith of his own mother, Mary Queen of Scots.

As news ripples through the regions, the full impact of last night's events will become clearer, but what is already certain is that the fifth of November is a date that will be remembered.