will by no possible means be suddenl which

building at Moundsmere to

earnestly exhorted them so to prepare themselves as if they did look for their passage out of this life, since the whole now lay in the King s breast, whose heart is in God

the four men.

Though Bilson was temperamentally incapable of providing solace to the condemned men, he was sufficiently perceptive to be aware of his own inability in this matter. He told the Privy Council that he had appointed surrogates to carry out the pastoral care of the prisoners and concluded:

> Your favourable respecting of my crazedness [*infirmity*] I most humbly thank you for, and think that my absence will keep them in some more quietness till his Majesty declare his will, since they so much misdoubt my presence to be the presage of their imminent danger.

In this letter he nominates John Harmar as the provider of solace to Lord Cobham, adding,
I have left Mr. Harmar to attend the Lord Cobham, and two others
of good gifts and gravity to perform the like office to Sir Walter Ralegh and Sir Griffin
others was Arthur Lake, the second has not been identified.

Even more curiously, it would appear that the Privy Council had been well aware 746.02 Tm25.55 5

affliction unto the end. Notwithstanding, I may not dissemble but that out of common frailty he desireth rather to prolong his affliction by life than to end it by death; in which desire out of Christian commiseration he hath, I must confess, myself inwardly   though openly I arm him to the contrary   a companion, which maketh me beg your continual mediation towards the King for his life. You shall win a brother in affinity to go beyond a natural brother in affection when he findeth that as you hate his fault (which with incredible vigilancy for the safety of his Majesty s person you