In April 1555 King Philip invited Elizabeth to court. It was the first time she had been at court since being held at the Tower of London the previous year.

Elizabeth "was sent for to Hampton Court. She remained a fortnight strictly guarded and watched, before anyone dared to speak with her; at length the vile Gardiner with three more of the Council, came with great submission. Elizabeth saluted them, remarked that she had been for a long time kept in solitary confinement, and begged they would intercede with the king and queen to deliver her from prison. Gardiner’s visit was to draw from the princess a confession of her guilt; but she was guarded against his subtlety, adding, that, rather than admit she had done wrong, she would lie in prison all the rest of her life.”

John Foxe Book of Martyrs, 1563

In 1546 Henry VIII and his wife Katherine Parr were at Hampton Court Palace

"The day and almost the hour appointed being come, the king, being disposed in the afternoon to take the air... went into the garden, whither the queen also came, being sent for by the king himself, the three ladies above named alone waiting upon her; with whom the king, at that time, disposed himself to be as pleasant as ever he was in all his life before: when suddenly, in the midst of their mirth, the hour determined being come, in cometh the lord chancellor into the garden with forty of the king’s guards at his heels, with purpose indeed to have taken the queen, together with the three ladies aforesaid, whom they had before purposed to apprehend alone, even then unto the Tower. Whom then the king sternly beholding, breaking off with his mirth with the queen, stepping a little aside, called the chancellor unto him: who, upon his knees, spake certain words unto the king, but what they were, (for that they were softly spoken, and the king a pretty good distance from the queen,) it is not well known, but it is most certain that the king’s replying unto him, was "Knave!” for his answer; yea, "arrant knave! beast! and fool!”

Foxe

How stable was the monarchy during the Mid Tudor period?

Under Mary a proclamation was issued forbidding anyone to come to court without a paper proving whose service they were in.

Cal Pat rolls Philip and Mary II 1554 - 5

In their sleeping chambers, the French guests found a basin and ewer of silver, wine and beer, a silver pot to drink from, and silver candlesticks. Even the shape and colour of the candles was extraordinary: both white and yellow, in three different sizes.

A description of Hampton Court during the visit of the French ambassadors in 1527.

George Cavendish Thomas Wolsey, late Cardinal, his Life and Death 1554
According to the Household accounts and disbursement books of Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester 1558 – 1561
When Robert Dudley moved his belongings from Hampton Court Palace to St James’s in November 1584, eight men spent two days transporting them.
It is also listed in his accounts that candles, wine and partridges were sent to Hampton Court by river from his house in London in 9 carts.

The Venetian Ambassador reported
“Since the residence here of the court, there have been many affrays between the Spaniards and the English, several persons on either side having been wounded and killed, the English always getting the worst of it.”
Philip was forced to issue a proclamation forbidding the Spanish from drawing their swords at court on pain of losing their right hand.
*Cal S.P Ven VI*

At Hampton Court
“The Hall door within the court was continually shut... which seemed strange to Englishmen that had not been used thereto”
*Cal Pat rolls Philip and Mary II 1554 - 5*

Thou has set to rule over us a woman, whom nature hath formed to be in subjection to man... Ah, Lord, to take away the empire from a man and give it to a woman seemeth to be an evident token of thine anger towards us Englishmen.
*Thomas Becon, a clergyman writing in 1554*

The split in the council has increased rather than diminished; the two factions no longer consult together; some councillors transact no business; Paget, seeing that he is out of favour with the Queen and most of the Council, is often in the King’s apartments.

*Simon Renard, Imperial Ambassador 10th Feb1555*

It is thought that if Mary or Elizabeth should hereafter have the crown and then marry any foreigner, he, having the government and crown, would bring this free realm into the tyranny of the bishop of Rome and have the laws and customs of his native country practised here, to the subversion of the commonwealth.

*Jane Grey’s proclamation announcing her accession – July 10th 1553 (abridged)*