



January 27, 1984

Dr. Charles Ryrie
Dallas Theological Seminar
3901 Swiss Street
Dallas, Texas 75204

Dear Dr. Ryrie:

I have been asked a question and, as happens so frequently, I do not know the answer. I am told that you are an expert on the King James translation of the Bible and, therefore, I pose the question to you. The Bible is dedicated to "the Most High and Mighty Prince, James, by grace of God King of Great Britain, France and Ireland". I had always thought that by that time the monarchy had given up claim to the throne of France, but maybe I am misinformed. I recognize that my question is more historical than theological, but I would be grateful if you could provide an explanation.

Yours sincerely,

Robin C. Watson

Robin C. Watson, M.D.
Chairman
Diagnostic Radiology

gv

*Many, & of Scots, married French daughter at 16 (1558)
Soon after he became Francis II 1559-60
Many ret. Scot 1561. France Abdicated 1567 in favor of John VI who was 1 yr old.
1603 Acc. John I*

Feb. 11, 1984

Dear Dr. Watson,

King James' claim to the throne of France is based on his mother's being Queen of France for a short time. His mother, Mary, Queen of Scots, married the French dauphin at age 16. Shortly thereafter he became Francis II, King of France, but only reigned from 1559-60 when he died.

Mary returned to Scotland in 1561 and was forced to abdicate the throne of Scotland in 1567 in favor of her infant son, who became James VI of Scotland. In 1603, of course, he became James I of England and Scotland.

Apparently he never renounced his claim to the throne of France. I have been told there are other references to that claim even later than 1611 when the Bible was first published. However, the claim was little more than wishful thinking, though it is very interesting that it persists in such a prominent place as the dedication of the 1611 Bible. James was a very vain man which may not be irrelevant to this matter!

Cordially,