“A SUMMARY OF MATTERS TO BE CONCLUDED

10 Bringing the Augmentation Court into the Exchequer, and likewise the Court of First Fruits and Tenths, and saving all those fees that may be spared.


18. The sale of bell metal

FOR RELIGION

1 A catechism to be set forth to be taught in all grammar schools.

2 An uniformity of doctrine to which all preachers should set their hand to.

3 Commissions to be granted to those bishops that be grave, learned, wise, sober, and of good religion, for the executing of discipline.

4 To find fault with the slothfulness of pastors and to deliver [to] them articles of visitation, willing and commanding them to be more diligent in their office and to keep more preachers.

FOR THE STRENGTH AND WEALTH OF THE REALM

1 The fortifying of Portsmouth.

7 Repairing of Dover castle and haven.

12 The making of more great ordnances of the copper in the Tower and the bell metal.

An abbreviated version of a memorandum prepared by Edward for the Privy Council, April 1551
Portrait of Edward Seymour, the Duke of Somerset.
Portrait of John Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland.

“[Somerset was] a very great man whose magnanimity and high idealism were never to be forgotten as Englishmen spoke in quiet corners, in the fields and on the sea of the age of the ‘Good Duke’.”


“Ambitious he certainly was, yet his was an ambition animated by no mean or selfish motives, but by desire to achieve aims that were essentially noble.”

F. Pollard, who wrote in 1902, quoted in J. Loach, Protector Somerset: A Reassessment, 1994, p.9
“[Northumberland was in] the most unprincipled gang of political adventures and predators that England had seen for many centuries.”


“John Dudley was arguably the most evil statesman to govern England during the sixteenth century. He was greedy and rapacious, corrupt, cruel, and unscrupulous.”


“Thus it would appear that the London lords’ charges against the Protector had considerable justice: he had, indeed, failed in Scotland and France, he had mishandled his colleagues and the crisis on 1549, and he was both corrupt and greedy. There is no need, then, to see his overthrow as the ‘triumph of reaction.’ Indeed, few of the articles laid against Somerset related to social matters; other than the clauses relating to the enclosure commission, the only charge made against Somerset which might be held up as the London lords’ harshness towards the lower orders related to the court of requests which the duke held in his own house.”

**J. Loach, Protector Somerset: A reassessment, 1994 p.42**

“Underlying the policy of the Somerset regime was the Scottish war. Because of the war, the course it took and the pressures it exerted, the government’s policy as a whole acquired much of its character. The war determined the nature of the regime’s domestic as well as its foreign concerns. It strongly influenced the evolution of the government’s social programme, largely by preventing the government from proceeding against inflation with a monetary solution; it determined the government’s treatment of peasant rebellion in 1549 when the tactics employed against the rebels owed much to Somerset’s initial wish not to be diverted from his Scottish plans. It made a decisive effect upon the religious settlement since the Scottish war made it essential not to antagonize Emperor Charles V, and thus Somerset had to proceed with caution and ambiguity rather than in accordance with his religious beliefs.”

“He was both more honest and skilful than he has often been given credit for, and in power he was an effective chief executive. The extent of his achievements, however, beyond the building of his own career, remains problematical. He was probably most successful as Lord Admiral... However, it must also be remembered that he held the minority government of Edward VI together from 1550 to 1553, and enabled it to survive a period of acute financial and social stress which could have inflicted much greater damage than it did.”

D. Loades, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, 1996, p.81

“Politically, the future lay with the Council, a Council whose members would in reality share the authority to govern England during the remainder of Edward’s minority. It was Northumberland’s genius to see that his political ambition depended on procedural control of such a Council. However, the fact that he achieved this administrative control by February 1550 was the accidental result of the fiercest struggle for the powers of the Crown since the Wars of the Roses. In this struggle (October 1549 to February 1550) Northumberland simply aimed to avoid political destruction... Indeed, given the circumstances which he inherited in 1549, the duke of Northumberland appears to have been one of the most remarkably able governors of any European state during the sixteenth century.


Bishop Latimer, one of the leading reformers, preaching before the King.