

and persecuting the faith and name of Christ their Lord.

Moreover, in much like sort and condition, if leisure of tyme, or haste of matter, would suffer me a little to digresse into moze lower tymes, and to come moze nere home, the like examples I could also inferre of this our countrey of England, concerning the terrible plagues of God against the churche and unthankfull refusing or abusing the benefite of his truth. First, we read how that God stirred up Gildas to preach to the old Britains, and to exhort the unto repentance and amendment of life, and afoze to warne the of plagues to come, if they repented not. What awayed it? Gildas was laughed to scozne and taken for a false prophet, and a malicious preacher. the Britains with lusty courages, without faces, and unrepentant hartes, went forth to fume, and to offend the Lord their God. what followed? God sent in their enemies on every side, & destroyed them, and gave the land to other nations. Not many yeres past, God being idolatry, superstition, hypocritic, and wicked living bled in this Realme, rayled up that godly learned man Iohn Wickliffe, to preach unto our fathers repentance, and to exhort them to amend their lives, to forsake their idolatry & idolatry, their hypocricy, superstition, and to walke in the feare of God. His exhortations were not regarded. He with his Sermons was despised. His bookes and he himselfe after his death were burnt, what followed? they slue their right king, and set up three wrong kings on a rowe, vnder whom all the noble blood was slaine vp, & half the commons thereto, what in Fraunce, & with their own sword in fighting among themselves for the crowne, and the Cities and towne decayed, and the land brought halfe to a wilderness, in respect of that it was before. Extreme plagues of Gods vengeance. Since that tyme euen of late yeares, God once againe hauing pittie of this realme of England, raised up his prophets, namely, William Tindall, Thomas Bilney, Iohn Frith, Doctor Bartles, Ierome Garret, Andonie Perfon, with diuers other, which both with their writings and sermons earnestly laboured to call vs unto repentance, that by this means the fierce wrath of God might be turned away from vs. But how were they treated? how were their painfull labours regarded? they themselves were condemned and burnt as heretikes, and their bookes condemned and burnt as heretical. The time shall come saith Christ, that whosoever killeth you, will thinke that he doth God his good seruice, whether any thing since that tyme hath so chaunted this Realme with the name of a plague, let the godly wise iudge. If God hath deferred his punishment, or forgone vs these our wicked deedes, as I trust he hath, let vs not therfore be proud and he minded, but most humbly thanke him for his tender mercies, and beware of the like vngodly enterprises hereafter. Neither is it here any neede to speake of these our lower and latter tymes, which haue ben in king Henry and king Edwards dayes, seeing the memory thereof is yet fresh, and cannot be forgotten. But let this passe, of this I am sure, that God yet once againe is come on visitation to this church of England, yea and that more louingly & beneficially then euer he did afoze. For in this his visitation he hath redressed many abuses, and cleansed his church of much vngodlines and superstition, and made it a glorious Church, if it be compared to the olde foame and state. And now how gratefull receivers we be, with what hart, study and recurrence we embrace that which he hath giuen, that I referre either to the that see our fruits, or to the sequels, which peraduenture will declare. But this by the way of digression. Now to regresse againe to the state of the first former tymes. It remaineth, that as I haue set forth the iustice of God vpon these Romain persecutors: so now we declare their persecutions raised up against the people and seruantes of Christ, within the space of 300. yeares after Christ, which persecutions in number commonly are colled to be tenne, besides the persecutions first moued by the Iewes in Hierusalem and other places against the Apostles. In the which, first S. Steuen the Deacon was put to death, with diuers other moe, in the same rage of tyme either slaine, or cast into priss. At the doing wherof, Saule the same tyme playd the doughtie Pharisee, being not yet conuerted to the fayth of Christ, wherof the history is playne in the Actes of the Apostles set forth at large by S. Luke.

After the Martyrdom of this blessed Steuen, suffered next James the holy Apostle of Christ, and brother of Iohn. Of which James, mention is made in the Actes of the Apostles the xij. chap. where is declared, how that not long after the slaying of Stephen, king Herode stretched forth his hand, to take and afflict certaine of the congregacion: among whome James was one, whom he slew with the sword, &c. Of this James, Eusebius also inferreth mention, allcaging Clement, thus writing a memorabile

story of him. Thus James (saith Clement) when hee was brought to the tribunall seat, he that brought him (& was the cause of his trouble) seeing him to be condemned, and that he should suffer death: as he went to the execution, he being moued therewith in hart and conscience, confessed himselfe also of his owne accord to be a Christian. And so were they both led forth together, where in the way he desired of James to forgive him that he had done. After that James had a little paused with him vpon this matter, turning to him (saith he) be to thee brother, and killed him, and both were beheaded together, an. 36.

Dorotheus in his booke named Synopsis testifieth, that Nicanor one of the vii. Deacons, with 2000. other, which beloued in Christ, suffred also the same day, when as Steuen did suffer.

The same Dorotheus witnesseth also of Simon, an other of the Deacons, Bishop afterward of Bosdrum in Arabia, there to be burned. Patmenias also an other of the Deacons suffred.

Thomas preached to the Parthians, Medes, and Persians: Also to the Germans, Hiraonis, Bacris, & Magis. He suffred in Calamina a Citie of Judea, being slaine with a dart.

Simon Zelotes preached at Gaunitania, and in the Countrey of Arike. And in Britania hee was lykewise crucified.

Judas brother of James, called also Thaddeus, and Lebeus, preached to the Edessens, and to all Mesopotamia. He was slayne vnder Augarus, king of the Edessens in Berito.

Simon called Cananeus, which was brother to Jude about mentioned, and to James the younger, which all were the sonnes of Mary Cleopha, and of Alphaeus, was Bishop of Hierusalem after James, and was crucified in a Citie of Egypt in the tyme of Traianus Emperour, as Dorotheus recordeth. But Abdias writeth, that hee with his brother Jude, were both slayne by a tumult of the people in Suary, a Citie of Iaridus.

Marke the Euangelist, and first Bishop of Alexandria, preached the Gospell in Egypt, and there drawn with ropes vnto the fire, was burned, and afterward buried in a place called there Bucolus, vnder the raigune of Traianus Emperour.

Bartholomeus is sayd also to preach to the Indians, and to haue conuered the Gospell of S. Mathew into their tongue, wher he continued a great space doing many miracles. At last in Albania a Citie of greater Armenia, after diuers persecutions, he was beateu doune with slaues, then crucified, and after being exornate, he was at length beheaded. Ioan. De Monte Regali.

Of Andrew the Apostle and brother to Peter, thus writeth Ierome in his booke De catalogo scriptorum Eccles. Andrew the brother of Peter (in the tyme and raigune of Vespasianus, as our auncestres haue reported) did preach in the 80. yeare of our Lord Iesu Christ to the Scythians, Sogdians to the Saryons, and in a Citie which is called Augustia, where the Ethiopians do now inhabit. He was buried in Patris a Citie of Achaia, being crucified of Egeas the gouernour of the Edessians: hitherto writeth Ierome. Although in the number of yeares he seemeth a little to misse, for Vespasianus reached not to the yere 80. after Christ. But Bernard in his second Sermon, and S. Cyprian in his booke De duplici Martyrio, doe make mention of the confession and Martyrdom of this blessed Apostle, wherof partly out of these, partly out of other credible writers we haue collected after this manner: that when as Andrew being conuerted in a Citie of Achaia called Patris, through his diligent preaching had brought many to the faith of Christ: Egeas the gouernour knowing this, reformed thither to the intent he might constraine as many as did beleuee Christ to seee God, by the whole consent of the Senate, to doe sacrifice vnto the Idols, and so geue diuine honours vnto them. Andrew thinking good at the beginning to resist the wicked counsaile, and the doings of Egeas, went vnto him, saying in this effect vnto him: that it behoued him which was Iudge of men, first to know his Iudge which dwelleth in heauen, and then to worship him being knower, and so in worshipping the true God, to renoue his mynd from false Gods and blynd Idols. These wordes spake Andrew to the Consul.

But he greatly therewith discontented, demanded of him whether he was the same Andrew that did ouerthrowe the Temple of gods, and perswaded men of that superstitious sect, which the Romains of late had commaunded to be abolished and reiected? Andrew did plainly affirme that the Princes of the Romains did not vnderstand the truth, & that the sonne of God comming from heauen into

Hist. Eccle. lib. 2. cap. 9. Ex clemente Septima Hypolypposeon.

A notable confession of a wicked accuser, and after a martyr.

Nicanor one of the seven Deacons, with 2000. other martyred. Ex Dorotheo in Synopsi.

Symon a Deacon martyred. S. Thomas the Apostle suffred.

Simon Zelotes crucified. Thaddeus the Apostle slayne.

Simon Cananeus crucified.

Marke the Euangelist burned.

Bartholomeus the Apostle, crucified and beheaded. Ex Ioan. de Monte Regali.

Andrew the Apostle crucified for the Gospell. Ex Hieronimo in Catalogo script. Eccles.

Ex Cypriano. lib. De duplici Martyrio.

Ex Bernardi de serm. 2. de Sanct. Andrae.

The words of Andrew to the Consul.

The seruencie of Andrew a gaynt idolatry.

S. Steuen the first ringleader of all Christes Martyrs.

S. James the Apostle, brother of Iohn Martyr. Act. 12.

Brittaines. Gildas.

Wickliffe and his bookes condemned and burnt for an hereticke after his death.

fig. 16.

Gods benefites toward England.

A cause for England.

S. Steuen the first ringleader of all Christes Martyrs.

S. James the Apostle, brother of Iohn Martyr. Act. 12.