

deny himselfe to be a Christian, and that he do it vnfeinedly in open audience, and do sacrifice to our Gods, howfoeuer he hath bene suspected before, let him be released vpo promise of amendment. Such libels as haue no names, suffice not to any iust crime or accusation, for that should geue both an euill President, neither doth it agree with the example of our tyme.

Tertullian writing vpon this letter of Traianus aboue prefixed, thus saith: Sentence of a confused necessitie: He would not haue them to be sought for as men innocent, & yet caught them to be punished as persons guilty. And thus the rage of that persecutio ceased for a tyme, although notwithstanding many naughty disposed men and cruell officers that were, which vpon false pretence to accomplishe their wicked myndes, ceased not to afflict the Christians in diuers prouinces. And especially if any occasio were geuen neuer so litle for the enemies to take hold, or if any commotion were raised in the prouinces abroad, by and by the fault was laid vpon the christians. As in Iherusalem after that the emperor Traianus had sent doume his commaundement, that whofoeuer could be founde of the stocke of Dauid, he should be enquired out and put to death: vpon this Egessippus writing, saith, that certaine sectaries there were of the Jewish nation, that accused Simeon the bishop then of Iherusalem and sonne of Cleophas to come of the stocke of Dauid, and that he was a Christian. Of the which his accusers it happened also (saith the said Egessippus) that certaine of them likewise were apprehended and taken to bee of the stocke of Dauid, and so right iustly were put to execution themselves, which sought the destruction of other. As concerning Simeon the blessed bishop, the foresayd Egessippus thus writeth: That Simeon the lordes nephew, who he was accused to Attalus the proconsul, by the malicious sect of the Jewes, to be of the line of Dauid, & to be a christian, was scourged, during the space of many dayes together, being of the age of an hundred and twentie yeres. In which his Martyrdom he endured so constant, that both the Consul and all the multitude did interuaile to see him of that age so constantly to suffer, and so at last being crucified finished his course in the Lord, for whome he suffered, as partly before also is recordeed.

In this persecution of Traianus aboue specified, (which Traianus next followed after Nerua) besides the other afoze mentioned, also suffered Phocas Bishop of Pontus, whome Traianus because he would not do sacrifice to Neptunus, caused to be cast into an hote Lunekilne: and afterward to be put into a scalding bathe, where the constant godly Martyr, in y testimony of Christ ended his life, or rather entered into life. Anton. Equil. Fascic. temporum.

In the same persecution suffered also Sulpitius and Serullianus, two Romans. whose wiues are sayd to bee Euphrosina and Theodora, whom Sabina did conuert to the faith of Christ, and after were also Martyred. Of which Sabina Iacobus Philippus author of the booke called Supplementum, reporteth that in the mount of Auentine in Rome, she was beheaded of Clepidus the gouernour, in the dayes of Hadria. Under whom also suffered Seraphia a virgin of Antioche, as Hermannus witnesseth.

The foresaied authors Anton. and Equilius make mention mozeouer of Nereus and Achilleus, who in this persecution of Traiane, had the crowne of Martyrdom, being put to death at Rome. Eusebius in his iij. booke cap. 26. maketh mention of one Sagaris, who about the same tyme suffered Martyrdom in Asia, Serullius Paulus being then proconsul in that prouince.

In this persecution beside many other, suffered the blessed Martyr of Christ Ignatius, who vnto this day is had in famous remembrance among very many. This Ignatius was appointed to the bishopricke of Antioch next after Peter in succession. Some do say, that he being sent from Syria to Rome, because he professed Christ, was giuen to the wilde beasts to be deuoured. It is also sayd of him, that when he passed through Asia, being vnder the most straight custody of his garders, he strengthened and confirmed the parishes through all the cities as he went, both with his exhortations and preaching of the word of God: and admonished them especially and before all other things, to beware and shunne those heresies risen vp, and sprung newly among them, and that they should cleaue and stick fast to the tradition of the Apostles, which he for their better safe guard, being about to denounce or put in writing, thought it a thing very necessary to traucail in. And thus when he came to Smyrna, where Polycarpus was, he wrote one epistle to the congregation of Ephesus, wherein he made mention of Onesimus their Pastor, & an other he wrote to the congregation of Magnesia, being at Meandre, wherein also he forgetteth not Dama their Bishop. Also an other he wrote to the

congregation of Trallis: the gouernour of which Citie at that time he noteth to be one Polibius. Vnto which congregation he made an exhortation, lett they refusing Martyrdom, should looke the hope that they desired.

But it shalbe very requisite that I adodge some what thereof to the declaration of this matter. He wrote therefore as the wordes lye in this sort. From Syria (saith he) euen till I came to Rome had I a battell with beasts, as well by sea, as land, both day & night, being bound in the midst of ten cruell Libardes (that is, the company or band of the souldiers) which, the moze benefites that they receaued at my hands, became to much the woyle vnto me. But I being exercised and now wel acquainted with their iniuries, am taught euery day moze and moze: but hereby am I not yet iustified. And would to God I were once come to y beasts, which are prepared for me, which also I wisly with gaping mouthes were ready to come vpon me, who also I will prouoke that they without delay may deuoure me, and forbear me nothing at all, as those whom before they haue not touched or hurt for feare. And if they will not vntill they be prouoked. I will then inforce them against my selfe. Whereon me I pray you. How much beneficiall it is to me, I knowe. Now begin I to be a scholer I force of esteeme no visible thinges, nor yet inuisible thinges, so that I may get or obtaine Christ Iesui. Let the fire, the galowes, the deuouring of wild beasts, the breaking of bones, the pulling a sunder of my members, the drawing or pressing of my whole body, and the tormentes of the deuill or hell it selfe come vpon me, so that I maye winne Christ Iesui.

And these things wrote he from the foresayd Citie, vnto the congregations which he haue recited. And when he was euen now iudged to be throwne to the beasts, he spake for y burning desire that he had to suffer, what tyme he heard the Lyons roaring: I am the wheat or trayne (saith he) of Christ, I shall be grounde wyth the teeth of wyld beasts, that I may be found pure bread. Hee suffered in the vi. year of Traian the Emperour. Hac Eusebius, & Hieronym.

Besides this godly Ignatius, manye thousandes also were put to death in the same persecutio, as appeareth by the letter of Plinius secundus aboue recited, written vnto the Emperour.

Hierome in his booke intituled De viris illustrib, maketh mention of one Publius Byshop of Athens, who for the sayd of Christ, the same tyme during this persecution was put to death and martyred.

Hadrian Emperour.

Next after this Traianus succeeded Hadria the Emperour, vnder whom suffered Alexander the Bishop of Rome, with his two Deacons: Euentius and Theodorus: Also Hermes, and Quirinus, with their families, as laty before was declared.

It is signified mozeouer in the histories, y in the time of this Hadrian, Zenon a noble man of Rome with ten thousand, two hundred and thye c. were slayne for Christ. Henr. de Erfordia, and Bergomensis, Lib. 8. make mention of trane thousand, in the daies of this Hadrian, to be crucified in the mount Ararath, crowned with crownes of thorne, & thrust into the sides with sharpe Darts, after the example of the Lordes passion, whose Captaines (as Antonin us, & Vincentius in spec. histor. declareth) were Achaicus, Heliades, Theodorus, and Carcerius, &c. whether this story be y same with the other aboue of Zen6, or not, it is doubted. As touching the miracles done, and the speaking of the angell, I referre the certainty therof to Vincentius and such other like authors where mo things seme to be told, then to be true.

There was one Eustachius a Captaine, whom Traianus in tyme past had sent out to warre against the Barbarians. After he had by Gods grace valiantly subdued his enemies, and now was returning home with victory: Hadrian for ioyning him in his iourney, to bring him home with triumph, by the way first would do sacrifice to Apollo, for the victory gotten, willing also Eustachius to doe the same with him. But when Eustachius could by no means thereto be inforced, being brought to Rome, there with his wife and children suffered Martyrdom vnder the foresayd Hadrian. It were a long proceesse here to recite all the miracles contained or rather suspected in this story of this Eustachius concerning his conuention and death. How the crucifix appeared to him betwene the homes of an Bart. Of the sauing of his wife fr6 the shipmen. Of one of his sones saued from the Lion, the other saued from y wolf. Of their miraculous preferriation from the wild beasts, fr6 the tormentes of fire mentioned in Bergomensis, and Vincetius and other,

The stocke of Dauid feared and inquired for of the Romaine Emperours. Ex Egessippo. Simeon sonne of Mary Cleophas. A iust punishment of God vpon the malicious accusers of the Christians.

The age of Simeon. The death and Martyrdom of Simeon.

Phocas. Byshop of Pontus Martyr.

Sulpitius. Serullianus. Euphrosina. Theodora Martyrs. Sabina Martyr. Ex Supple. Chr. Seraphia.

Nereus. Achilleus Martyrs. Sagaris Martyr.

Ignatius Martyr. Anno. III. Ex Euse. Lib. 3. Cap. 35. 36. Ex Hier. In catalogo Scrip.

Eccles. Onesimus Pastor at Ephesus.

The wordes of Ignatius. The bragh handling of Ignatius.

The notable constancy and burning zeale to Christ in this blessed martyr to be marked.

Ignatius deuoured of wild beasts.

Ex Hier. Lib. de viris illust. Publius Byshop of Athens Martyr.

Zenon with 10000. Martyrs slayne for Christ. Ex Henr. de Erfordia & alij.

Achatchus. Heliades. Theodorus. Carcerius with ten thousand Martyrs. Eustachius with hys wife and Children Martyred for Christ.