

Martyrs in certayne Cittie of Phlegia brent with the whole Citia. Euseb. lib. 8. ca. 11. Martyrs of Melitina in Armenia. Eustratius of a persecutor made a Martyr. Ex Nicophoro 7. cap. 14.

selfe, the Questor, and chiefe Captaine confessed that they were all Equilians. The Citie vpon this was besieged & set on fire, and all the people. Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 11. In Melitina a region of Armenia, the bishops and Elders were cast in prison. Eusebius eodem cap. 6. In Arabach a region neare adjoining to Armenia Eustratius was martyred, as Nicephorus declarth, Lib 7. cap. 14. This Eustratius was a country man borne, and very skillfull in the Grecke tong, creating by the Emperours commaundement, the shirriffes office at Mea in the East, which also did execution there vpon the Christians, and was a Scribe of great estimatiō called Ordinis Ducalis. This man beholding the meruailous constancie of the Martyrs, thirsted with the desire of Martyrdom, for that he had pually learned the Christian religion. Therefore he not abiding for other accidents, detested himselfe, and worthely professed that he was a Christian, openly execrating the madnesse and vanitie of the foulicke Ethnikes. He therefore being caried away, was shed up, being first most bitterly beaten. After that he was parched with fire, being put vnto his bowels, and the blasted with salt and vniagre; and lastly he scotched & beuanged with the sharpes of sharpe and cutting shels, that his whole body seemed to be all one continual wound; howbeit, by gods great goodnesse afterward, it was restored to the first integritie. After this he was caried away to Sebastia, where, in his company Oresthe was burned. At that tyme also suffred Euggenius, Auxentius, Mardarius, Nicopho. lib. 7. cap. 14. And in no lesse wise raged this persecution throughout all Egypt: where Eusebius in his 8. booke, and 13. chapter maketh mention of Peleus and Nilus Martyrs and by thops in Egypt. But at Alexandria especially were declared most notable confidencs of Christian and true constant Martyrs that suffred: which Phileas the Bishop of Thumitane describeth as after (God willing) shall be declared. In this persecution of Alexandria, the principall that then suffred was Ioceter the Bishop of Alexandria, with the Elders of y same most worthy Martyrs, as Pautus, Didius, and Ammonius, also Phileas, Hefichius, Pachiminus, and Theodoros; which all were bishops of the congregations within Egypt, and besides them, many other both famous and singular men. The whole legion of Christian soldidours which lay at Thebes in Egypt, vnder the chustian captaine Mauritius, when they would not obey the Emperours commaundement touching the worshipping of Images, were tyed to death once, and then againe. And at last through the exhortation of Mauritius, dyed altogether like constant Martyrs. Vincentius in speculo, Lib 13. cap. 2. Likewise at Antino were Christian soldidours, notwithstanding they were scarcely dissuaded, suffred death together, amongst whome were Aikla, Philemon, and Apollonius, ibidem, cap. 10. and also in y other partes of Aphria and Mauritania, was great persecution, as Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 6. Also in Sammum, of whiche place Chronicon maketh mention, and Scilia, where were 79. Martyrs slayne, for the profession of Christ, as wryeth Henricus de Erfordia.

Nicoph. lib. 7. ca. 14. Orestes Martyr. Eugentius, Auxentius, Mardarius, Pelus, Nilus, Bishops and Martyrs in Egypt. Petrus Bishop of Alexandria. Pautus, Didius, Ammonius, Phileas, Hefichius, Pachiminus, Theodoros, Bishops and martirs. The Christian soldidours, and Martyrs of Thebes. The Christian soldidours and Bishops in Antino. Aikla, Philemon, Apollonius, Martyrs. 79. Martirs. The persecution in Europe. Euphemia, Persecution in Fraunce. Victor martyr. Lucianus Martyr. The persecution in Spayne. Eulais, Adula, Vincentius, Sabina, Christina, Lencadia, Martyrs.

Now let vs come vnto Europe, Nicephorus in his vii. booke and xiiii. chap. sayth, that at Nicopolis in Thracia the Martyrs were in most miserable and pittifull wise handled, where Lyfia had the execution thereof. In Chalcedon suffred Euphemia, vnder Priscus the p̄conful. Vincentius, Lib. 12. cap. 77.

Henricus de Erfordia sayth that at Rome, Iohannes and Crispus, being priests, had the execution of Martyrs. And at Boemia Agricola, and Vitalis, Vincentius. Lib. 12. cap. 49. And at Aquileia the Emperour commaunded euery man to kill the Christians. Vincentius, Lib. eodem cap. 48. and amongst those Martyrs he maketh mention of Felices, and Fortunatus. Reginus also wryeth that in other places of Italy the persecution became great, as at Florentia, Pergamus, Neaples Campania, Beneuentus, at Venusa in Apulia, and in Thufia, and Henricus de Erfordia, sayth, also at Verona. In France doubtlesse Rectionarus appoynted to that office, played the cruell helhound, of whose great cruelty agaynst Christians many histories are full. At Mediolanus suffred Victor. And at Malsilia, Maximianus set forth his decree, that either they should all do sacrifice to the Gods of the Gentils, or els be all slayne with diuers kindes of tormentes. Therefore many Martyrs there dyed for the glory of Christ. Antonius & Vincent. lib. 12. cap. 2. In Beluacus suffred Lucian.

Vincentius and Reginus wryt of many places in Spain, where was great persecution, as at Emerita, where suffred Balakia, of whom more to lorth hereafter. & Adula, where also suffred Vincentius, Sabina and Christina. At Toletum suffred Lencadia the virgin, at Cesarea Augusta, where were cut to death, 18. beside a great number of other Martyrs, which suffred vnder Decianus the gouernour, which afflicted with persecution all the coast of Spayne, as sayth Vincentius, lib.

13. cap. 113. 124. 128. 130. 134. The foresayd Rectionarus made such persecution at Treuers neare the riuer of Mosella, that the blood of christian men that were slayne, ran like inuall brookes, and couloured great and manye riuers. Acyther yet did this suffice him, but from thence sent certayne hostes men with his letters, commaunding them to ride into euery place, and charge all such as had taken and apprehended any Christians, that they should immediatly put them to death. Vincent. Lib. 13. cap. 136.

Allo Henricus de Erfordia, and Reginus make mention of great persecution to bee at Colonia where Agrippina and Augusta were martyred, as also in the Province of Rhetia.

Beda also sayth, that this persecution reached euen vnto the Britains, in his booke De ratione temporum. And the Chronicle of Martinus, and the Scholegay of tyme do declare that all the Christians in Britany were vicerly destroyed. Furthermore, that the kindes of death & punishment were so great and horrible, as no mans tong is able to expresse. In the beginning, when the Emperour by his شدlette and wilnes, rather dolled than showed his rigor, he threatened them with bands and imprisonment: but within a while when he began to worke the matter in good earnest, he deuised innumerable sortes of tormentes & punishments, as whippings and scourges, rackings, horrible scrapings, swores, fire, and ship-boates, wherein a great number being put, were sunk & drowned in the bottom of the sea. Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 6. & 7. Also hanging them vpon crosses, binding them to the bodies of dead trees with their heads downward, hanging them by the iudales vpon gallowes, till they dyed for hunger, throwing them alive to such kind of wilde beastes as would deuour them, as Lyons, Beares, Libards, and wild Wils. Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 8. Putting and thrusting them in with bodkins and talons of beastes till they were almost dead, tying them by a high with their heads downward, such as in Thebaide, they dyd vnto the women being naked and vndigbed, one of the secte eyed and lifted a high, & so hanging doune with their hodies, which thing to see was very pittifull, with other deuised sortes of punishmentes most tragicall, or rather tyrannicall, and pittifull to describe, as flicke, the hanging of the to trees, and to the boughes thereof. The pulling & tearing glunder of their members and ioyntes, being tyed to the boughes and acnes of trees. Euseb. Lib. 8. cap. 9. The mangling of them with axes, the choking them with knoke by small and soft fires, the p̄m̄bering of their hands, eares, and feete, with other ioyntes, as the holy Martyrs of Alexandria, suffred, the scorching and broying of them in coales, not vnto death, but euery day renewed, with such kinde of tormentes the Martyrs at Antioche were afflicted. But in Pontus other horrible punishmentes and cruelty to bee heard, did the Martyrs of Christ suffer; of which, some had their fingers ended vnder the napples thrust in with sharpe bodkins, some all to be spruckled with boiling leab, hauing their most necessary members cut from them, some other suffring most filthy, intolerable, and inuuable tormentes and paine in their bowels and vnter members. Eusebius eodem, cap. 12.

To conclude, how great the outrage of the persecution which rained in Alexandria, was, and with how many & sundry kindes of new-deuised punishmentes the Martyrs were afflicted: Phileas, the Bishop of the Thumitanes, a man singularly well learned, hath described in his epistle to the Thumitanes, the tyme whereof Eusebius hath in his 8. booke & 7. chapter, out of the which we mane here briefly to recite somewhat. Because (sayth he) euery man might torment the holy Martyrs as they listed themselves, some beat them with cudgels, some with rods, some with whippes, some with thonges, and some with cordes and this example of beating was in sundry wise executed, and with much cruelty. For some of them hauing their hands bound behynde their eares, were lifted vp vpon tymler logs, and with certaine instruments their members & ioyntes were stretched forth, whereon their whole bodies hanging, were subjected to the will of the tormentors, who were commaunded to afflict them with all manner of tormentes, and not on their sides onely (like as homicides were) but vpon their bellies, thighes, and legges, they scratched them with the talons and claws of wyld beastes. Some other were seene to hang by one hand vpon the engine, whereby they might feele the more grieuous pulling out of the rest of their ioyntes and members. Some other were luche fort bound vnto pillers with their faces turned to the wall hauing no stay vnder their feete, and were violently wayed down with the payse of their bodies that by reason of their straight binding, they being drawn out, might be more greuously tormented. And this suffred they not onely during the tyme of their examination, and while the Shiriffe had to do with them, but also the whole day long. And whilest the Iudge went thus from one to another, he by his authoritie appoynted certayne officers to attende vpon

18. Martyrs in Spayne. Rectionarus a notable tyrant. The blood of the Christians made riuers.

Agrippina, Augusta, Martyrs. The persecution in Britany or England. Beda de ratione temporum.

Dioclesianus did but dally in the beginning of the persecution. Sundry sortes of tormentes deuised agaynst the Christians.

Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 6. 7. 8.

The wocmet of Thebaides Martyrs.

Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 8.

The persecution in Antioche.

Persecution in Pontus.

Persecution in Alexandria.

The contentes of the Epistle of Phileas sent to hys congregation.

Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 10.