

month. What is: Jupiter commaundeth the christians to be banished out of the Citie and suburbs of the same, as enemies vnto him. And the same sentence did the rest of the gouernors of the prouinces publish against the Christians, and thus at length persecution began to kinde against them. Maximinus appoynted and instituted high priestes and bishops in euery cite to offer sacrifice vnto Idoles, & iudged all those that were in great offices vnder him, that they should not onely cease to pleasure them & to do for them, but also that they should with new denicd accusations agaynst the, at their pleasure, put as many to death as by any means they might. They also did counterfet certain practises of Isidore against our sauour Christ full of blasphemie, and sent the same into all the Empire of Maximinus by their letters, commaunding that the same should be published and set vp in euery cite and suburbs of the same, and that they should be deliuered to schoolmaisters, to cause their scholars to learne by roare the same.

After that one named Praefectus castrorum, whome the Romanes do call capitaine, allured certaine light womē, partly by feare, and partly by punishment, dwelling at Damascus in Syria, and taken out of the court where in they were accused, that they should openly say in writing that they were once Christians, and that they knewe what wicked & lasciuious actes the Christians were wont to execute amongst themselves vpon the Ioudaues, & what other things they thought good to make more of their own head, to the slander of the Christians. The capitaine sheweth vnto the emperor their wordes, as though it had bene so in deede, and the emperor by and by commaunded the same to be published throughout euery cite. Furthermore, they did hang vp in the midst of euery Citie (which was neuer done before) the Emperours edicts against Christians, grauen in tables of brasse. And the children in the scholes with great noyse and clapping of handes did euery day resound, the contumelious blasphemies of Isidore vnto Iesus, & what other things so euer were denicd of the magistrats, after most despitefull manner. Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. And this is the copie of the edict, which Maximinus caused to be fastened to pillers saught, with all arrogant and insolent hate against God and Christ.

The weake and imbecill rebellion of mans minde (all obscuratione and blindnesse of ignorance set aparte, which hether to hath wrapped the mindes of impiuous and miserable men, in the pernicious darkenesse of ignorance) is now at the length able to discern, that the same is gouerned, as also corroborated by the prouidence of the immortal gods the louers of vertue: which thing, how acceptable it is to vs, howe pleasant and gratefull, and howe much prooue the same hath declared of your wel disposed willing minds, is incredible to be tolde: Although this was not vnknown before with what diligence and deuotion yee serued the immortal Gods, whose wonderfull and constant faith is not knowen by bare and naked wordes, but by your worthy & notable deeds. Wherefore worthely is your Citie called the habitation and seate of the immortal Gods, and by many examples it appeareth that the same flourisheth, and prospereth by the presence of the celestiall Gods. For beholde, your Citie not regarding your priuate busineses, nor esteeming that which shoulde haue bene for the speciall commoditie thereof, when it perceaued that cursed vanitie to begin againe to creepe, and as a fire negligently quenched, when the dead brandes thereof began to kinde and make a great flame: by and by without delay ye hauing recourse vnto our pietie, as vnto the Metropolitan of all diuine worship and Religion, craued remedie and helpe, which whole some minde for your pieties sake, it is most manifest that the gods haue indued you with. Therefore hee, euen that most mightie Jupiter I say, which preferueth your most famous Citie: that intent he might deliuer and make free your country Gods, your wiues and children, your household Gods and houses, from all detestable corruption, hath inspired you with this whole some and willing minde, shewing & declaring howe worthy, notable, and healthfull a thing it is to worship & to sacrifice to the immortal Gods. For who is so void of reason & vnderstanding, that knoweth not that this thing happeneth vnto vs by the careful studie of the goodnes of our gods, that the grounde denieth not to geue her timely increase, nor maketh frustrate the husband mans hope, nor that wicked warre dare shew her face vpon the earth, nor that the corruption of the aire is nowe cause of pestilence, neither that the sea swelleth with immoderate windes, neither that sodaine stormes are cause of hurtfull tempestes. To conclude, that the ground which is as the nurse and mother of all things, is not swallowed vp of her deepe chappes and gapings, by terrible earthquake, neither that the hills made leuell with the earth, are not with gaping cliffes deuoured, all which euils and greater then these, before this time to haue happened euery mā knoweth. And all these mischietes came vpon vs for the pernicious errors sake of the extreeme follie of those wicked men the Christians, when filthinesse it selfe (as I may call

it) so occupied their mindes, and ouerranne the worlde. Let them beholde the fieldes nowe all about full of corne, and ouerflouen as it were with eares of corne. Let them vewe the pleasant meadowes clothed with flowers, and moistned with showres from heauen, and also the pleasant and temperate weather. Therefore let all men reioyce, that by your pietie, sacrifices, & worshipping, the maiestie of the most stearne God of battell Mars is appeased, & that therefore we enioy pleasant & firme peace. And how many so euer haue left that blind error and straying of the Christians vnfindeily, and be of a better minde, let them specially reioyce, as men deliuered out of a sodaine great tempest, and from a greuous disease, and haue afterward obtained a delectable and pleasant life. For doubtlesse, if they had remained in that execrable vanitie, farre of had they bene chased from your Citie & suburbs of the same (according to your desire) that your Citie by that means, according to your commedable diligence, cleansed from all impuritie and impietie, may offer sacrifices according to the meaning of the same, with due reuerence of the immortal Gods. And that you may perceiue in how good part your supplication (yea vnasked and desired) we are most willing and ready to further your honest endeouours, and graunt vnto you for your deuotion, whatsoeuer you aske of our magnificence. And that thys thing may be accomplished, forthwith aske and haue. And thys thing with all speede, indeuour you to obtaine, which shall bee a perpetuall testimony of pietie exhibited of your Citie to the immortal Gods, and shalbe a president to your children and posteritie, and withall you shall obtaine of vs for this your willing desire of reformation, condygne and worthy rewardes. Eusebius. Lib. 9. cap. 7.

Thus came it to passe that at the length persecutio was as great as euer it was, and the magistrats of euery prouince were very disdainfull against the Christians which condemned some to death, and some to exile. Among whom they condemned three christians at Emisa, in Syria, vnto whom Silvanus the bishop a very old man, being 40. yeeres in the ecclesiastick function, was condemned to death. At Siconcedia, Lucianus the elder of Antioche, brought thither, after he had exhibited to the emperor his Apologie concerning the doctrine of the Christians, was cast in prison, and after put to death. In Amasea a City of Capadocia, Bringes the lieutenant of Maximinus, had at that time, the executing of that persecution. At Alexandria, Petrus a most worthy byshop was beheaded with whome manye other Egyptian byshops also died. Euseb. Lib. 9. cap. 7. Nicopho. Lib. 7. cap. 4. Quirinus the Byshop, Scascanus hauing a halmyll tyed about his necke, was throwne headlong from the bridge, into the flood, and there a long while floated aboue the water, and when hee opened his mouth to speake to the lookers on that they shoulde not be dismayed with that his punishmēt, was with much a do drowned. Chron. Euseb. At Rome dyed Marcellus the byshop as sayeth Platina, also Timotheus the elder, with many other byshops & priests were martyred. So could many in sundry places euery where were martyred, whose name I booke intituled Fasciculus temporum declarerth, as Victorianus, Symphorianus, Castorius, with his wife, Castulus, Cesarius, Menas, Nobilis, Dorotheus, Gorgonius, Petrus, and other innumerable martyrs, Erasmus, Bonifacius, Iuliana, Coimas, Damianus, Basilius with seven others, Dorothea, Theophilus, Theodosia, Vitalis, Agricola, Acha, Philemon, Hirenus, Ianuaris, Festus, Desiderius, Gregorius, Spoletanus, Agapes, Chonicia, Hirenca, Theodora, and 270. other Martyrs, Florianus, Primus and Felicianus, Vitus and Modestus, Crescentia, Albinus, Rogatianus, Donatianus, Pancratius, Catharina, Margareta, Lucia, the virgin, and Antheus the king with many thousand martyrs mo. Simplicius, Faulkinus, Beatrix, Panthaleon, Georgius, Iustus, Leocadia, Anthonia, and other mo to an infinite number, suffered martirdome in this persecution, whose names God hath written in the booke of life. Also Felix Victor, with his parents Lucia the widow, Gemenianus, with 79 others, Sabinus, Anastasia, Chryogonus, Felix, and Audacius, Adriamus, Nathalia, Eugenia, Agnes, also when she was but 13. yeare old was martyred. Euseb. in his 8. booke and 15. chap. rehearseth these kinds of torments and punishmēt, that is to say, fire, wilde beastes, the sword, enemynges, the bottome of the sea, the cutting and burning of members, the thrusting out of eyes, diuincing of the whole body, hūct, imprisonment, & whatsoeuer other crueltye magistrats coulde deuise. All which notwithstanding the godly ones, rather than that they would doe sacrifice as they were bid, manfully endured. Neither were the womē any thing at all behind the. For they being inticed to the filthy vie of their bodies, rather suffered banishment, or willingly killed themselves, rather yet could the Christians lme safely in the wilderness, but were fetched eue so there to death and tormentes, in so much that this was a more greuous persecution vnder Maximinus, the tyrant, than was

The wayne practises of the Heathē agaynst Christ and his religion.

A deuicd accusation agaynst the Christians by harlots.

Maximi. recounter- maund graue in brasse.

Euseb. Lib. 9. Cap. 3.

The copie of the recounter- maund made agaynst the Christians.

Wicked blasphemy.

The workes of the liuing God tally imputed to dead stockes and Idoles.

Horrible blasphemy.

The lyke argument of weather & corne, & plenty, made the vnfaythfull Iewes, and also make now our faythlesse Papistes.

Euseb. lib. 9. c. 17. Persecution renewed a fresh.

Syluanus Byshop. Lucianus Elder, Petrus Byshop, Quirinus Byshop, Marcellus Byshop, Tymotheus Elder, Martyrs. The persecution of Maximinus the yonger. Euseb. lib. 9. cap. 7. Nicopho. lib. 7. cap. 4. Ex fasciculo temporum.

Cosmas, Damianus, Dorothea, with other martyrs. 270. Martyrs.

Gemenianus with 79. Martyrs.

Several kindes of tormentes. Euseb. lib. 8. cap. 15.