

Lord, who despoiled all things after his purpose, to bring all good things to passe, sent an other trouble vpon him, by means thereof to cal him. For by affliction God bleth commonly to call them whom he wil saue, or by whom he wil worke saluation vnto other. So his diuine wisdom thinketh good to make them first to knowe themselves, before they come to know him, or to teach him to other: so it was with Daule, who was stricken downe, before hee was lyf-red vpon, with Constantine Edwyne and many moe. Howe long was Ioseph in prison before he bare rule? Howe hardly escaped this our Queene nowe being (Queene Elizabeth) by whō yet notwithstanding it hath pleased God to restore this his gospel now preached amongst vs? In what confictes and agonies inwardly in his spirite was M. Luther before he came to preach the iustification of Christ openly? And to be all they most commonly, which come to any lively feeling or sensible working of Christ the Lord.

But to returne to Edwyne againe. The occasion of his trouble was this: Quicelinus with Kynegillus his brother, Kings of Westsaxons (as aboue is mentioned in the table of the Saxon kings) conspiring the death of Edwyne now King of Northumberland: vpon enuy and malice sent vpon an Easter day, a swordman named Emner, priuie to slay the said Edwyne. This swordman or cutthrote came to a Citie beside the water of Darwent in Darbshire, there to wait his time, and lastly founde the king finally accompanied, and intended to haue runne the king through with a sword innocend. But one Lilla the kinges trustye seruauit, disgarmed of a shield or other weapon to defend his maister, start betwene the king & the sword, and was stricke through the body and died, and the king was wounded with the iame stroke. And after he wounded also the third which was a knight, & so was taken, and confessed by whom he was sent to worke that treason. The other knight that was secondly wounded died, and the king lay after long sick, or he were healed.

After this, about whitch time the king being scantelye hole of his wounde, ascended his host, intending to make agaynst the king of westsaxons: promising to Christ to be Christianed, if he would giue him the victory ouer his enemies. And in token thereof caused his daughter bozne of Edelburge & same Easter day when he was wounded, named Eufled to be baptised: with xij other of his familie, of Paulinus. Thus Edwyne proceeded to the battel against Quiceline and Kynegillus with his sonne Kenwalcus and other enemies, who in the same battel being al vanquished & put to flight, Edwyn through the power of Christ returneth home victor. But for all this victory & other things gotten to him of God, as he was in wealth of the worlde, forgot his promise made, and had little mind thereof, saue only that he by the preaching of Paulinus forsoke his maumentry. And for his cruell iustice that he might not clearely deny his olde lawe, which his forefathers had kept so long, and suddenly to be Christianed without authority and good aduise of his counsaile.

About the same season Pope Boniface the 5. sent also to the sayd Edwyne letters exhortatory, with sundrye precesates from Rome to him, and to Edelburge the Queene. But neither would that preuaile. When Paulinus seing the king so hard to be conuerted, poured out his prayers vnto God for his conuersion: who the same time had reuealed to him by the holy ghost, the oracle aboue mentioned, which was the word to the King, when hee was with Redwaldus king of the Eastangles. wherupon Paulinus coming afterwards to the king, on a certaine day, and laying his had vpon the kings head, asked him if he knewe that toke. The king hearing this & remembering wel the token, was ready to fall downe at his feete. But Paulinus not suffering that, did lift vp hym againe, saying vnto him: behold, O king, you haue vanquished your enemies, you haue obtained your kingdom, now performe the thied, which you haue promised, that is to receaue the faith of Christ, and to be obedient to him. wherupon the king conferring with his Counsaile, & his nobles, was baptised of the said Paulinus at Yorke, with many of his other subiectes with hym: Insomuch that Covi the chiefe of the prietates of his olde maumentry armed him selfe with his other Idolatrous Bishops, and bestrode good horses, which before by their old law they might not do, nor ride but onely a Mare: & so destroyed all the altars of the maumentry, & their temple of Idoles, which was at Woodmundham, not far from Yorke, and this was the xi. yeare of his raigne,

From that time forth, during the life of Edwyne which was the terme of vij. yeares moe, Paulinus christened, continually in the riuers of Sweny, & Swala, in both prouinces of Deira, and in Bernicia, vsing the said riuers for his fontnes, and preached in the shire of Lincesey, where

he builded also a Church of stone at Lincolne.

In this time was so great peace in the kingdom of Edwyne after his conuersion, that a womā laden with gold might haue gone from the one side of the sea to the other, and no man molest hir. Moreouer by the hie waye of ydes, through al his kingdom he caused by euery wel of spring to be chayned a dish, or bole of brasse to take vp water, for the refreshing of such as went by the way, which boles of brasse there remained safe, that no man touched them, during all the life of the said Edwyne. Such was then the tender care and study of Christen Princes, for the refreshing of their subiectes. But that was then the Wisen worlde, which now is growne to yron and leade, called Aetas ferrea or rather plumbæa.

This Edwyne, who first brought in the faith in the North partes continuing after his Baptisme, vij. yeeres, at length was slaine in battell by Cedwalla, king of the Brittaines, also Officus in the field called Hatfield.

This Paulinus was the first Archbpyshop of Yorke, and as he was of Iustus Archbpyshop of Caunterbury, ordained Archbpyshop of the sea of Yorke, so he againe after the discease of Iustus, ordained Honorius to be Archbpyshop of Caunterbury.

Paulinus after the death of godly Edwyne, seing vnumerous Cedwalla of Cedwallon with his Brittaines, and wycked Penda to the Idolatrous merrians, to spoile the land in which they lay, as they made no spare neither of age nor sexe, nor Religion, was compelled to fle with Edelburge the Queene and Eufleda her daughter, by water into Kent: where the said Archbpyshop Paulinus remained Bishop of Rochester, the space of six. yeares. And so the Church of Northumberland lacked a Bpyshop for the space of xxx. yeares after. Notwithstanding he left there one James his Deacon, a good man, who continued their baptising and preaching, in the North partes, till that peace being reuconered, & the number of the faithfull increasing, the church came againe to his stay, Hunting-Lib. 3.

By the means of this Edwyne Erpwaldus King of the Eastangles sonne to Redwaldus aboue mentioned, was reduced to Christes faith.

After the decease of Edwyne and his sonne Offrike, both slayne in battell, reigned Officus and Eufridus the one in Deira, the other in Bernicia. Officus was the sonne of Euficus which was brother to Ethelfride, Eaufridus, was the eldest sonne of Ethelfride (for Ethelfride had thre sonnes to wit, Eaufridus, Ofwaldus, & Officus. These two kinges of Deira and Bernicia, Officus, and Eaufride, being tyll Christianed in Scotlande: after being kinges returned to their old idolatry, & so in the yeares following were slaine one after the other, by the foresaide Cedwalla, and wycked Penda, as is in the table aboue exprest.

After who succeeded in Northumberland, the seconde sonne of Ethelfride named Ofwaldus, hauing rule on both the prouinces as well Deira, as of Bernicia. Whercof when the foresaide Cedwalla, (or Cadwallo) the Wyrtayne king had vnderstanding: who before had made hauocke of the Saxons and thought to haue rooted them vtterly out of England: he sent King Penda to a mighty host of Brittaines, thinking to kea also Ofwald, as he had before slaine his brother Eaufride, and King Edwyne before them. But Ofwald when he was warned of the great strength of this Cadwal, and Penda made his prayers to God, and besought him a meekely of helpe to withstand his enimie: for the saluation of his people. Thus after Ofwald had prayed for the sauing of his people, the two hostes met in a fielde named Deneburne, some say Heuenfield, where was fought a frey battell. But finally the armye and power of Penda, & Cedwall, which were farre exceeding the number of Ofwaldus host, was chased and most part slaine by Ofwaldus, after he reigned ouer the Brittaines xij. yeares learning after him a sonne, whom Gaufridus called Cadwaladrus, the last king of the Brittaines.

Of this Ofwald, much praise and commendation is written in authors, for his feruent zeale in Christes Religion, & mercifull pity toward the poore, with other great vertues moe. As touching the miracles of S. Ofwald, what it pleased the people of that time to reposit of him, I haue not here to asseure: This I find in Iopies cesaire, that he being well and vertuously disposed to the setting forth of Christes faith and doctrine, sent into Scotlande for a certaine Bishop, there called Aidanus, which was a famous preacher. The king what time he was in Scotlande banyshed, had leaued the Scottish tongue perfectly: wherfore as this Aidanus preached in his Scottish tongue to the Saxons, the king himselfe interpreting that which hee had said, disdayned not to preach & expounde the same to his nobles & subiectes

What true iustice of a good Prince may do in a realme. Great peace and truth among the people in the dayes of Edwyne.

Anno. 634. Archbishop of Canterbury and Yorke the one arday with the other.

Ex Flor. hist.

James a godly Deacon.

A Deacon then might baptise.

Erpwaldus other wife named Corpwaldus, King of Eastangles conuerted to the faith of Christ.

S. Ofwalde King of Northumberland.

Anno. 636. Galfridus.

Malmesfortensis.

Polyoro. Historia norwalenfis.

Fabian. Strength of prayer ouercometh armys.

Penda beaten in the field. The commendation of King Ofwalde.

King Ofwalde disdayned not to expound and preach the gospel to hys people.

God calleth commonly by affliction and trouble

An other danger of Edwyne. An. 627. Polycron. lib. 5. ca. 12. Hen. Hunt. lib. 3.

Fabianus parte. 5. A part of a truly seruauit.

Edwyne forgetteth his promise to Christ. Prosperitie forgetfull. Olde custome in matters of religion, not to be followed, but onely truth. Old custome letteth Edwyne to be Christianed. A miracle of God in the conuersion of King Edwyne. The part of a godly bith, exemplified in Paulinus.

Edwyne baptised. He was baptised in S. Peters Church at Yorke which he first caused to be made of woodes, which after by S. Ofwald was builded of stone.

An. 628. Note Paulinus christened in riuers.