

A priest in the Duke of Lancaſters houſe cruelly killed.

Peter ſayd he is a falſe traytour to the king, and worthy long ſince to be hanged. At the hearing of theſe words, the furious people with a terrible ſhout cryed out vpon him, that he was a traytour and one that tookt the Dukes part; and ſo falling vpon him with theyr weapons ſtruck who might firſt ſtrike at him. Who after they had wounded him very ſore, ſo being wounded they had him into priſon, wherewithin few dayes vpon th: ſoyernes of his wounds he dyed.

Neither would the rage of the people thus haue ceaſed had not the biſhop of London leaſning his dinner came to them at Saunoy, and putting them in remembrance of the bleſſed tyme (as they ſerue it) of Lent, had perſwaded them to ceaſe and to be quiet.

The Londoners ſeeing that they could get no bantage againſt the Duke: who was without theyr reach: So be- wete they anger they tookt bys armes, whiche in moſt deſpitfull wiſe, they hanged vp in the open places of y city in ſigne of reproch, as for a traitour. In ſo much that when one of his gentlemen came through the City with a plate containing the Dukes armes, hanging by a lace about his necke: the citizens not abiding the ſight thereof, caſt him fro his horſe, and pluckt his ſcutchene from him, had were a- bout to work the execution againſt him, and not the may- or reſcued him out of theyr handes, and ſent him home ſafe vnto the Duke his maſter. In ſuch hatred was then the Duke among the vulgar people of London.

After thys, the princeſſe vnderſtanding the hartes and hople of the Londoners ſet againſt the ſozelaid Duke, ſent vnto London 3. Knights, ſy: Alhed Letwer, ſir Symon Burle, and ſir Lewes Clifton, to entreat the citizens to be reconciled with the Duke. The Londoners answered: that they for the honour of y princeſſe, would obey and do with all reuerence, what the lord would require. But this they requir- ed & enioyned the meſſengers to ſay to the Duke, by word of mouth, that he ſhould ſuffer the biſhop of wincheſter a- ſoze mentioned and alſo the Lord Peter de la Mare, to come to their anſwere, & to be iudged by theyr pieres, wherby ether they might be quire, if they were guilty: or other- wiſe, if they be found culpable, they might receaue decora- tion to theyr deſertes after the lawes of the reialme, what graue and diſpleaſure the Duke conceiued and retayned in his minde hereof: Agayne what meanes & ſure the London- ers for their part made to the old king for their liberties: what tynes and longes in London, were made agaynſt the Duke: Howe the Biſhops at the Dukes request were moued to communicate thoſe malicious ſlanderers: And moreover, howe the Duke at laſt was ſcuedged of thoſe contumelies & iniuries: How he cauſed them to be brought before the king: How ſharply they were rebuked for their miſdeemeanour, by the worthy oration of the Lord Cham- berlayne, Robert Aſton in the preſence of the king, Arch- biſhops, Biſhops, with diuers other ſtates, the Kinges childre, and other nobilities of the reialme: In concluſion how the Londoners were compelled to this at length, by the common aſſent, and publike charges of y city, to make a great taper of waxe, whiche with y Dukes armes ſet vpon it, ſhould be brought with ſolemne proceſſion to the church of S. Paule, there to burne continually before the Image of our Lady: And at laſt, how both the ſayd Duke and the Londoners were reconciled together, in the begin- ning of the new king, with the kiſſe of peace, in the ſame reconciliation publikey denouced in the church of weſt- miniſter, and what ioy was in the whole city thereof: Theſe becauſe they are impertinent, and make to long a digreſſion from the matter of Wickliffe. I cut off with breuitie, refer- ring the reader to other hiſtoyres, namely of S. Albanes, where they are to be found at large.

As theſe aforeſayd for breuitie ſake I paſſe ouer, ſo will I not be long and yet cannot omitte that, which happened the ſame tyme and yeare, to the Biſhop of Norwiche; to y intent that this poſteritic now may ſee, to what pride the clergy then of the Dopes Church was growne to. The ſame time as this biſhop was at Lodon, the Biſh. of Nor- wich a litle after the time of Eaſter coming to the towne of Lennam, belonging to his Lordſhip: being not conten- ted w the olde accuſtomed honour due vnto him, & vied of his predeceſſours before in the ſame towne, required more- ouer with a nue and vnusled kind of magnificence to be ex- alated: In ſo much, that when he ſaw the chiefe Magiſtrate or Mayor of that towne to go in the ſtreetes with his offi- cer going before him, holding a certayn wand in his hand tipped at both endes with black horne, as the maner was: He repuring himſelfe to be Lord of that towne (as he was) and thinking to be higher than the higheſt, commaunded y honour of that ſtaffe due to the Mayor, to be yelued & born before his Lordly perſonage: The Mayor or Bailiffe, with

other the townſmen, courtnouſly answered to him again that they were right willing and contented with all theyr hartes to exhibite that reuerence vnto him, and wouid ſo do, if he firſt of the king and counſaile coulde obtayne y ſu- ſome, and if the ſame might be induced after any peaceable way with the good willes of the commons and body of y towne: Other els, ſayd they, as the matter was dangerous, ſo they durſt not take in hand any ſuch newe alteration of ancient cuſtomes and liberties: leaſt the people (whiche is alwayes inclinable and prone to euill) do fall vpon them w ſtones, & dyme them out of the towne. wherfore kneeling ou theyr knees before hym, and humbly they beſought him that he would require no ſuch thing of them: that he would ſaue his owne honour and their liues, who otherwiſe if he intended that way, were in great danger. But the biſhop youthfull and haury, taking occaſion by their humblines, ſo ſwell the more in himſelfe, answered that he wouid not be ſaught by their counſaile, but that he wouid haue it done, though all the commons (whome he named Ittals) ſayd nay. Alſo rebuked the Mayor and his brethren for meeknes and daſtardes, ſo ſo ſcaring the vulgar ſort of people.

The citizens perceaung the wiſfull ſources of the bi- ſhop, meekly answering againe, ſayde, they minded not to reſiſt him, but to let him doe therein what he thought good; onely deſired him that he would liſſe them to depart, and hold them excuſed ſo not waiting vpon him, & conduc- ting him out of the towne with that reuerence which he re- quired. For if they ſhould be ſcene in his company, all the ſuſpicion thereof would be vpon them; and ſo ſhould they be all in danger, ſo much as theyr liues were worth. The Biſhop not regarding their aduice and counſaile, com- maunded one of his men to take the rod borne before the Mayor, & to caſt y ſame before him, which being done, & perceaued of the commons: the Biſhop after that maner went not farre, but the rude people running to ſhut y gates came out with their bowes, ſome with clubbes and ſtaues, ſome with other inſtrumentes, ſome w ſtones, & let dyme at the Biſhop and his men, as fall as they might: in ſuche ſort, that both the biſhop & his horſe vnder him, with moſt part of his men, were hurt & wounded. And thus the glo- rious pride of this iolly prelate, ruſſing in his new ſcep- ter, was receaued and welcomed there. What is, was ſo pelted w battes and ſtones, ſo wounded with arrows and other inſtrumentes, ſit ſo ſuch a ſkirmiſhe, y moſt part of his men, with his mace-bearer, & all running away fro him; the poore wounded biſhop was there left alone, not a- ble to keepe his old power, which went about to blurpe a new power moze the to hym belonged. Thus as it com- m- ly ſayd, and as it is commonly ſene, that pride will haue a fall, and power blurped will neuer ſtand. In like maner if the Citizens of Rome, following the example of theſe Le- nam men, as they haue the like cauſe, and greater to doe by the blurped power of theyr Biſhop, would after the ſame ſaue handle the pope, and vnicerpet him of his mace and regalitie which nothing pertaineth to him: They in ſo do- ing both ſhould recouer theyr owne liberties, with moze honour at home, and alſo win muche moze commendation abroad. Ex chron. mon. D. Albani.

This tragedie with all the partes thereof, being thus ended at Lennam, whiche was litle after Eaſter (as is ſaid) about the month of April. an. 1377. the ſame yeare vpon the 12. day of the month of June next after, dyed the worthy and victorious Prince king Edward the 3. after he had raygned yeares 51. A prince no moze aged in yeares the renowned, for many ſingular & herocall vertues, but prin- cipally noted and lauded for his ſingular meeknes & cle- mency toward his ſubjects and inferiors, ruling them by gentlenes and mercy, without all rigour or auſtere ſeuere- tie. Among other noble and royall ornaments of his na- ture, worthely & copiouſly ſet forth of many, thus he is de- ſcribed of ſome, which may breifly ſuffice for the comprehe- ſion of all the reſt. Orphanis erat qualiſpater, afflictiſis compati- ens, miſeris condolens, oppreſſos releuans, & cunctis indigentibus impendens auxilia opportuna. That is, To the Orphanes he was as a father, compaſſiont to the afflicted, mourning with the miſerable, relieuing the oppreſſed, and to all them that wanted an helper in tyme of neede. &c. But chiefly a- boue all other thinges, in this Prince to be commemozate in my mynde, is thys: that he about all other Kinges of this Reialme vnto the tyme of king Henry the eight was the greateſt hydeler of the popes blurped power and out- ragious oppreſſions: During all the tyme of whiche king, neyther the Pope could greatly preuaile in thys Reialme, and alſo Iohn Wickliffe was maintained with fauour and ayde ſufficient.

The ſtout anſwere of the Biſhop to the town- ſhip.

The towne of Lennam riſeth againſt the Biſhop.

Pride will haue a fall. Power v- ſurped will neuer ſtand.

The vſurped power of the pope would haue a brid- dle.

Anno. 1377. The death of K. Edw.

The com- medation of K. Edward.

The villany of the Londoners againſt the Duke.

The meſſage of the princeſſe to the Londoners.

The Duke re- nounced of the Londoners.

The Londoners cauſed to beare a Taper of waxe in proceſſion, in honour of the Duke.

A ſtory of the Biſhop of Nor- wich.

Exa mple of pride in the popes clergy.

The courteſie of the townſ- men toward the Biſhop.