

without any perturbation may be done and executed, as for the defence of our Realme and catholike fayth shalbe thought most meete and requisite. In witness wherof, we haue caused these our letters patentes to be made.

Witnesse our selfe, at Westminster the 16. day of Iune, and 6. yeare of our reigne.

\* The kinges letters patentes to the Vicechancellor.

An other letter of the K. to the Vicechancellor.

THE king: To the Chauncellour and the procuratours of the vniuersitie of Oxford which now be, or for the time being shall be: Greeting. Moued by the zeale of christian fayth, whereof we be and alwayes will be defenders, and for our soules health induced thereunto, hauing a great desire to repress, and by condigne punishment to restraine the impugners of the foresayd fayth, which newly and wickedly go about and presume to sow their naughty and pernerse doctrine within our kingdome of England, and to preach and hold damnable conclusions so notoriously repugnant and contrary to the same fayth, to the peruerting of our subiectes and people as we vnderstand: Before they any further proceed in their malicious errours, or els in selfe others: We haue by these presentes appointed you to be inquisitor general (all the chiefe diuines of the sayd vniuersitie being your assisents) and the same likewise to be done of all and singular the Graduates, Diuines, & lawyers of the same vniuersitie. And if they shall know any which be of the iurisdiction of the sayd vniuersitie of Oxford, which be probable of them to be suspected in the fauour, belyefe, or defence of anye heresie or errour, and especially of any of the conclusions publicly condemned by the reuerend Father, William Archbishop of Canterbury, by the Counsaile of his Clergye, or els of any other conclusion like vnto anye of them in meaning or in wordes: and that if henceforth you shall finde any that shall beleue: fauoure, or defend anye of the foresayd heresies or errours or anye other suche like, or els which shall be so bolde to receaue into their houses and Innes Maister Iohn Wickliffe, M. Nich. Herforde, M. Phillip Repington, or M. Iohn Aighton, or anye other noted by probable suspicion of anye the foresayd heresies or errours, or any other like vnto them in meaning or in wordes: Or that shall presume to communicate with anye of them, or els to defend or fauour anye of suche fauourers, receauers communicantes and defendours: within 7. dayes after the same shall appere and be manifest vnto you, to banish and expell them from the Vniuersitie and towne of Oxford, till such time as they shall declare their innocency before the Archbishop of Caunterbury for the time being, by manifest purgation. So notwithstanding, that such as be compelled to purge themselves, you certifie vs and the sayd archbishop vnder your seales, first time to time within one month that they be such maner of men. Commaunding furthermore, that thorough all the halles of the sayd vniuersitie, ye cause diligently to be searched and inquired out of had: If any man haue any booke or tractation of the Edition or compiling of the foresayd M. Iohn Wickliffe, or Nicholas Herford: and that when and whersoever ye shall chauce to finde any such booke or tractation, ye cause the same to be arrested and taken, and vnto the foresayd Archbishop within one month (without correction, corruption, or mutation, whatsoeuer) word for word, & sentence for sentence, to be brought and presented. And therefore we straightly enioine and command you, vpon your fidelitie and alleageance wherein ye stand bound vnto vs, and vpon payne of forfeiture of all and singular your liberties and priuilegies of your sayde vniuersitie, and of all that euer you haue besides: that you geue your diligent attendance vpon the premisses, and that well and faythfully you execute the same in maner and forme foresayd. And that you obey the foresayde Archbishop, and his lawfull and honest mandates, that he shall thinke good to direct vnto you in this behalfe, as it is meete ye should. And we geue in charge vnto the Vicechancellor and Mayor of Oxford for the time being, and to all and singular our Sheriffes, vndersheriffes, Bayliffes, and subiectes, by these presents: that they ayde, obey, and be attendaunt vpon you in the execution of the premisses. In witness wherof, &c. Witnesse the King at Westminster, the 13. day of Iuly, the sixte yeare of hys raigne.

The 13. day of Iuly, an. 1382. An other sharp letter of K. Richard to Oxford agaynst Wickliffe and his fellows. The effect of the kings letter briefly comprehended.

Besides these letters patentes the said young King moued by the vniuersitie of the Archb. sendeth moreover an other special letter to the Vicechancellor and proctors of the Vniuersitie of Oxforde. wherein vnder a pretended zeale of defence of Christian fayth, he straightly and sharply enioyneth & assigneth them (for the abolishing of those conclusions & opinions) to make a general Inquisition through the whole vniuersitie as wel for the parties foresayd, Iohn Wickliffe, Nicholas Herford, Phillip Repington, Iohn Aighton, & such other, as also for al other who they know or iudge to be suspected of y doctryne, or to be mayntayners, receauers, and defenders of foresayd parties, or their conclusions any maner of way,

to the intent that they being so apprehended through their diligent search, may be within 7. dayes of their admonitions expelled the vniuersitie, and cited by to the archb. of Cant. before him to appeare, and to stand to their answers, willing moreover and commanding the said vicechancellor & proctors with other regents their assisents, that if any person or persons in any house, hall, or colledge, or in anye other place shall be found to haue any of the sayd books, or treatises compiled by the sayd Iohn Wickliffe, Nicholas Herford &c. they will cause without delay y sayd person or persons, with theyr bookes to be arrested and attached, & presented within one month, without correction, corruption, or mutation, to the foresayd Archbishop, vpon their fayth and alleageance, as they will auoyd the forfeiture of all and singular the liberties and priuiledges to the vniuersitie appertayning. And that they will be obedient to the Archb. aforesayd in the ordering hereof, and all other his inuincions to be obeyed in all thinges lawfull and honest. Geuing moreover in these our letters charge and commaundement to the Mayor, Bayliffes and other the inhabitants of Oxforde, to be assisant and attendant vnto the foresayd vicechancellor and proctors, touching the execution of the premisses, bearing the date of the fourteenth day of Iuly: which was the yeare of our Loz. 1382.

The persons with their bookes to be arrested.

The 14. day of Iuly, an. 1382.

\* Matters incident of Robert Rigges, Vicechancellor of Oxford, Nicholas Herford, and Phillip Repington, with other.

THE vicechancellor the same time in Oxforde was M. Robert Rigges. The 2. proctors were Iohn Huntman, & walter Dilke, who then as farre as they durst, fauoured the cause of Iohn Wickliffe and y side. In so much y the same time and yeare, which was an. 1382. when certayne publicke sermons should be appointed customably at y feast of the Ascension, and of Corpus Christi, that he preached in the cloyster of S. Fridewyde (now called Christs church) before the people, by the vicechancellor aforesayd & the proctours (the doings thereof the vicechancellor aforesayd and proctors had committed to Phillip Repington, and N. Her. so y N. Her. hold preach on y Ascension day, and Repington vpon Corpus Christi day) first Herford beginning was noted to defend Iohn Wickliffe, vponly to be a faythful, good, & innocent man: for which no small adoe with outcries was amongst the Fryers. This Herford, after he had long fauoured & mayntayned Wickliffes part, grew first in suspicion amongst the enemies of the truth, for as soone as he began somewhat liberally and freely to pronounce & utter any thing which tended to the defence of Wickliffe, by and by the Carmelites, and al the orders of religion were in his top, and laid not a few heresies vnto his charge, the which they had strayned here and there out of his sermons, & had copped together in a certayne forme, by the handes of a certayne notaries, though the industry & diligence of one Peter Stokes a Carmelite a kind of people prone & ready to all kinde of mischief, vppozes, debate, and discention. After this the feast of Corpus Christi due neare, vpon which day it was looked for that Repington should preach. This man was a Canon of Leicester, & had before taken his first degree vnto Doctorship: who preaching the same time at Wadgate for the same sermon he became first suspected, and hated of the Pharisaicall broode of the Fryers. But through the great and notable dextertie of his wit, (which all men did behold and see in him) accompanied with like modesty and honesty: he did so ouercome, or at the least asswage thys cruelty and persecution whiche was towards him, that shortly after, by the consent of the whole fellowship, he was admitted doctour. who as soone as he had taken it vpon him, by and by he stepped forth in the schooles, and began immediately to shewe forth and utter, that whiche he had long hidden and dissembled, & noteth openly, that in all morall matters, he would defend Wickliffe. But as touching the sacrament he would as yet hold his peace, vntill suche time as the Roide shall otherwise illuminate the hartes and mindes of the clergy.

Rob. Riggs Vicechancellor of Oxford,

Ni. Herford preaching on the Ascension day, defended Wickliffe.

Repington first Chanor of Leicester, after B. of Lincoln.

Repington commended Doctour.

Peter Stokes stander bearer to the papists.

Nowe the day of Corpus Christi aforesayd approaching neare, when the Fryers vnderstood that this man should preach shortly, fearing least that he would rub the galle of their religion, they conuened with the Archb. of Cant. that the same day a little before that Phillip should preach: Wickliffes conclusions which were priuately condemned, should be openly diffamed in the presence of the whole vniuersitie. The doing of which matter, was committed to Peter Stokes Fryer, stonder bearer and chiefe champion of that side agaynst Wickliffe.

There were also letters sent vnto the commissary, that he