

That men may aske their debtes by charitie, but in no maner for debt to impyson any man: and that he so impy-soning is accursed.

That if parishners do knowe their Curate to be a le- chour incontinent, and an euill man: they ought to with- draw from him their tithes, or els they be fauourers of his finnes.

That tithes purely be almose, and in case that Curates be euill men, the same may lawfully be conferted to other men.

That for an euill Curate to curse his suget for with- holding of tithes: is nothing els, but to take with extorcion wickedly and vnduly from them theyr money.

That no prelate may curse a man, except he knowe be- fore that he is cursed of God.

That euery Priest may absolue any sinner being con- trite and is bound (notwithstanding the inhibition of the Bishop) to preach the Gospel vnto the people.

That a Priest taking any annual pension vpon co- uenant, is in so doing a simoniacke and accursed.

That any priest being in deadly sinne, if he geue him- selfe to consecrate the body of the Lord, he committeth ido- latry rather then doth consecrate.

That no priest entrech into any house, but to euill in- treat the wife, the daughter or mayde. And therefore he ad- monished the goodman of the house, to take heede what priest he let into his house.

An other conclusion falsly to him objected. That a child is not truly baptised, if the priest that baptiseth, or y god- father or godmother be in deadly sinne.

Item, that no man liuing agaynst the law of God is a priest, how euer he were ordained priest of any Bishop.

These articles or conclusions vntuely collected, were as cruelly exhibited agaynst him by the Fryers in the By- shop of Lincolnes court. The which articles although he neuer preached, taught or at any time defended, as appereth more in the proceffe following: yet the Fryers with theyr witness standing forth agaynst him, declared him to be conuict: hinging also dy wood with them to the towne to burne him, and would not leaue him, before he made them promise and sweare for feare of death neuer to hold them, teach them, nor preach them priuily, nor apertly vnder payne of relapse: and that he shoulde goe to certayne churches to reuoke the foresayd conclusions, which he neuer affirmed. As first in the Church of Lincolne, then in S. Margarets Church of Lyecester. Also in S. Martines Church in Lyecester, and in our Ladies churches at Ste- wartes: and in other Parishes Churches also, of Wynton Monastrey, of Daloughton, Hareburgh, and Lenthburgh, which permaunce being to him enioyned, he did obediently accomplishe: with this forme of reuocation, whiche they bound him vnto, vnder these wordes,

The reuocation of William Swinderby whereunto he was forced by the Fryers.

William Swinderby priest, although vnworthy of the dioces of Lincolne, acknowledging one true Catholique, and Aposto- lique sayth of the holy Church of Rome, doe abiure all heresie and errour repugning to the determinatiō of the holy mother church wherof I haue bene hetherto infamed, namely the conclusions and articles aboue prefixed, and euery one of them to me iudicially objected, by the Commissary of the reuerend father in Christ and Lord, L. Iohn by the grace of God Byshop of Lincolne: and do reuoke the same, & euery one of them, some as heretical, some as erroneous, and false, and do affirme and beleue them to be so, and hereafter will neuer teach, preach, or affirme publicly or priuily the same. Neither will make any sermon within the diocesse of Lincolne, but asking first and obtayning the licence, of the fore- sayd reuerend father and Lord the Byshop of Lincolne. Contrary to the which if I shall presume hereafter, to say or doe, to holde or preach: I shalbe content to abide the feueritie of the Canon, as I haue iudicially by the necessitie of the lawe, sworne, and doe sware &c.

Thus haue you the conclusions and articles of thys good man, falsly objected to him by the malicious and ly- ing Fryers: and also the retractation, whereunto they by force compelled him: wherby it may likewise be conuict- ed, what credite is to be geuen to the articles and conclu- sions which these caueling Fryers waisting all thinges to the worst, haue objected and impured both to wickliffe & all other of that sort, who they so falsly do infame, so laun- decously doe bely, and so maliciously doe persecute. After these thinges thus done and wrought in the diocesse of Lincolne: it so befell, the sayd W. Swinderby to remoue to the diocesse and countrey of Herford, where, he was as

much or more molested by y friers again, & by Ioh. Tre- s- nant B. of Herford, as by the proceffe & story here ensuing set out at large out of their owne registers may appeare.

* Here followeth the proceffe of Iohn Tresnant Bishop of Herford had against the aforesaid Wil- liam Swinderby in the cause of here- ticall prauitie as the popishe hereticke cal it.

The proces of the B. of Her- ford against W. Swinderby.

The flourishing inuocation of Gods name,

The glorious name of the prince of peace, and his coun- saile (whose counsaill our no man is, & whose prouidee in his disposition is neuer deceaued) being inuocated: To all and singular belcuers of Christ, which shall see or heare this our proceffe vnderwritten, Iohn by the sufferance of God B. of Herford: greeting, and peaceable charitie in the Lord. For asmuch as God the creator of all things, the ke- per of iustice, the louer of right, and the hater of malice, be- holding from the high throne of his prouidence the foimes of men, now through the fall of their first father, prone and declining to dishonest and filthy & detestable mischices and to keep vnder their malice (which wicked transgressiō did first gender) hath appoynted diuers presidentes of the world stablished in sundry degrees, by whome and theyr circumspect prouidence, mans audacious thought be restray- ned, innocency should be nourished amongst y good, & ter- ror should be striken into y wicked not to deteue: also that their potwer to hurt, & theyr insolency should be bydded in all places. And whereas amongst many kindes of cares whiche come to our thoughtes, by the duery of the office committed vnto vs, we are specially bound to extend our strenght, chiefly that the catholicke sayth may prosper in our synes, and hereticall prauity may be rooted from our y borders of the saythfull: we therefore being excited through the information of many credible and saythfull Christians of our dioces, to rote out pestiferous plantes, as theyr dise- ased with an incurable sickness, going about to infect the whole and sound flocke, are by the care of the shepheard to be remoued from the flock, that is to say, preachers, or more truly execrable offendours of the new sect, vulgarly called lollardes, which vnder a certayn cloked shew of ho- lyenes, running abroad through diuers places of our dio- cesse, & endeouoring to cut a sunder the Lords vnflowed coat that is to say, to rent the vniyte of the holy Church, & of the Catholicke sayth, and also to teare in peeces with their re- pestious blaas y potwer of S. Peter, that is to say, to wea- ken the strenght of the ecclesiasticall states and degrees, and the determination of the same holy church, haue wickedly presumed & do presume from day to day to speak, to teach, to mayntayne (and that which is moze horrible to be vte- red) to preach openly many things hereticall, blasphemies schismes, and sclaunderous diffaminges, euen quite con- trary to the sacred Canons and decrees of the holy fathers so that they knowe not to direct their pathes in the wayes of righteoulnesse and truely, in that y they epounde to the people y holy scripture, as the letter foundeth, after a Ju- diciall sort, otherwile then the holy Ghost will needs haue it: whereas the wordes wander from their proper significa- tions, and appeare to hyring in by gelling new meanings: whereas the wordes must not be iudged by the sense that they make but by the sense wherby they be made, where as the constructiōs is not bound to Donates rules: where as sayth is sacre placed from the capacite of reason: But they labour by their pernicious doctrines & teachings pub- like and priuily, to boyle out the potyd of schismes betwene the clergie and the people. we to encounter agaynst suche kinde of preachers, may rather deceauers, and horrible se- ducers amongst the people, aduancing and rowning vp our selues in Gods behalfe, and holy mother Church, with the spirituall sword, whiche may strike them wisely, and wounde them medicinably, for theyr health and wel- fare: and namely William Swinderby Priest (so preten- ding himselfe to be) as a teacher of suche kinde of pernicious doctrine, and an horrible seducer amongst the people: to whom personally appearing before vs on y wednesday to wit, the 14. of the month of Iune, in the parish Church of Kington of our diocesse, in the yeare of our Lord. 1391. he being vehemently disamed to vs of heresie, schisme and his peruerse doctrines both manifest and priuily: we there- fore haue caused many cases and articles concerning the ca- tholicke sayth to be ministred vnto him, that he shoulde an- swere to the same at a day and place for him meet and con- uenient, of his owne choysle and freewill: that is to say, on the Friday, being the last of the same month of Iune, next following assigned to him, at the Church of Bodenbame of the same our diocesse. Of whiche cases and articles exhi- bited vnto vs, by many of Christs saythfull people, * 3c- lous

Lollards by the popes interpre- tation, is a word deriued of Lol- lium.

They counter- fait in the pro- phetes woides as Apes do in princes apparell. Who expoun- deth the scrip- ture more after the letter, let the reader iudge by Hoc est corpus meum.

If such medi- cines should bee ministred to you, ye would can your Philis- tion little thank.

{ Anno. } { 1391. }

W. Swin- derby com- pelled by the Fryers to abiure arti- cles, which hee neuer taught.

The forced abiuration of W. Swin- derby.