

of your moste Christyan government: a certayne craftye and hairebraine sect of false Christians, in the same your kingdom, to grow and increase: which call themselves the poore men of the treasury of Christ and his disciples, and whom the common people by a more founder name call Lollardes (as a man would saye withered darnell) according as their sins require: and perceyue, that they waxe strong, & as it were preuayle agaynst the diocesias of some places, and other gouernors as they meete together not courageously addressing themselves agaynst them as they ought to do (whereof chiefly and not vnderferuedly I geue them admonition) for that they take thereby the more bolder presumption and romacke among the vnclearned people. And for as muche as those whom we cannot call men, but the damnable shadowes or ghoists of men, do rise vp agaynst the sound fayth, & holy vniuersall church of Rome: and that very many of them beinge indifferently learned, which (to the confusion & eternall damnation of some of them) they got sitting vpon their mothers lap the sayde Church of Rome, doe rise vp or inueye agaynst the determination of the holy fathers, with too much presumptuous boldnes, to the subuersion of the whole ecclesiasticall order and estate: Hauē not bene afrayd, nor are not yet afrayd, publikely to preach, very many erroneous detestable, and hereticall articles, for that they are not put to silence, reprobud, driuen out, rooted out or otherwise punished, by any that hath authoritie and the feare and loue of God. And also they are not afrayd, openlye to write the same articles, and so being written to deliuer the to your kingly parliament, and obstinately to affirme the same. The venemous and disdainfull recitall of which articles, vpon good aduise ment at this present we passe ouer: lest the sufferance of such sensualitye, might fortune to renewe the wound that reason may heale. Yet notwithstanding, least so great and contagious an euil should escape vnpunished, and that without deserued vexation, and also that it might not get more hart and waxe stronger: we therefore (according to that our office and duetie is, where such negligēce and sluggishnes of our prelates being present, where this thing is) do commit and geue in commaundemēt to our reuerend brethren, Canterbury, and Yorke, Archbishops by other oure letters: that they stand vp in the power of God agaynst this pestilent and cōtagious sect, and that they liuely persecute the same in forme of lawe: roote out and destroy those, that aduisedly and obstinately refuse to withdraw their foote from the same stumbling block, any restraint to the contrary notwithstanding. But because the assistance, counsaile, fauour, and ayde of your kingly estate & highnes are requisite to the execution of the premises: we require, exhort, and beseech the same your princely highnes, by the bowels of the mercy of Iesus Christ, by his holy fayth, by your owne saluation, by the benefit that to all men is common, and by the prosperitie assured to euery man and woman, that not onely your kingly seueritie may readily shewe and cause to bee shewed vnto our Archbishops and their Commissaries (in this behalfe requiring the foresayd due execution) conuenient syd and fauour, as otherwise also to cause them to be assisted: But that also you will enioyne your Magistrates and Iustices of assise, and peace more straightly, that of their owne good wils, they execute the authoritie committed vnto the, with al seueritie agaynst such damned men, according as they are bound by the office which they are put in trust with: Agaynst those I mene, which haue determynd obstinately to defile themselves in their malice and sinnes, those to expell, banish, and imprison, and there so long to keepe them, til cōdigne sentence shall pronounce them worthy to suffer punishment. For your kingly wisdomēce seeth, that such as they be, do not only deceue poore simple soules (or at the least do what they can to deceiue the) but also bring their bodies to destruction, and further prepare confusion and ruinous fall vnto their temporall Lordes. Go to therefore my sweete sonne, and indeuour your self to worke so in this matter, as vndoubtedly we trust you will: that as this firebrand (burning and flaming ouer fore) beganne vnder your president or government: so vnder your seuerie judgement and vertuous diligence, might, fauour, and ayde: not one sparke remaine hid vnder the ashes, but that it be vtterly extinguyshed and spedely put out.

¶ Geuen at our palace of S. Peter at Rome, the xv. Calendes of October, in the sixt yere of our pontificalitie.

¶ The Kynges Commission.

Richard by the grace of God, kyng of Englande, & of Fraunce, and Lorde of Irelande. To all those vnto whom these present letters shall come, greeting. Know ye, that where as lately at the instance of the reuerend father, William Archbishop of Caunterbury, Metropolitan of all England, and Legate of the Apostolyca leate: we for the redresse and amendement of all those which would obstinately preach or maintaine, publicquely, or priuely, any conclusions of the holy scripture, repugnant to the determination of our holy mother the church, & notoriously redounding

to the subuersion of the Catholique faith, or cōtaining any heresie or error, within the prouince or bishopricke of Cāterburie: Hauē by our special letters patents, in the zeale of the fayth, geue authoritie and licence vnto the foresayd Archbishop & to all and singular his suffraganes, to arrest all and euery of them that will preach or maintaine any such cōclusions, wherefoeuer they may be found, and to comit them either to their owne prisons or any others at their owne pleasure: and to kepe the in the same, vntill they repēt them of the errors & prauities of those heresies: or til that, of such maner of arrests, by vs or by our counsaile it shoulde be otherwise determined, that is to say, to euery one of them and their ministers throughout their cities and dioces. And nowe the reuered father in god Iohn B. of Herford, hath for a certaintie informed vs: that although the same B. hath accordinge to iustyce cōuincid a certain felow named W. Swinderby, pretending himself to be a chaplain, & one Stephē Bell a learned man, and hath pronounced the heretikes and excōmunicate, & false informers among the cōmon people, and hath declared the same by the definitiue sentence of the foresayd bishop for that they haue presumed to affirme and preach openly in diuers places within the dioces of Herford, many conclusions or naughty opinions notoriously redounding to the subuersion of the Catholike sound faith, and tranquillite of our kingdom. The same Bishop notwithstanding, neyther by the ecclesiasticall censures, neyther yet by the force and strength of our cōmission was able to reuoke the foresayd William and Stephen, nor yet to bridle the malice and indurate contumacie of them: For that they, after that they were vpon such heretical prauitie conuict by the same bishop (to the intent they might delude his iudgement and iustice) conueyed themselves by and by, vnto the borders of Wales, with suche as were their factours and accomplices, in keeping themselves close, vnto whō the force of our said letters doth in no wise extēde. Where vpon, the sayde Bishop hath made supplication vnto vs, that wee will vouchsafe to prouide a sufficient remedye in that behalfe. Wee therefore which alwayes (by the helpe of almightie God) are defēdours of the fayth, willing to withstande suche presumptuous and peruerse enterprises by the most safe way and meanes we may geue and comit full power and authoritie to the foresayd bishop and to his ministers, by the tenour of these presents, to arrest or take, or cause to be arrested or taken, the foresayde William and Stephen, in any place within the citie & dioces of Hereford and our dominio of Wales, with al the speede that may be, and to comit the either to our prison or els to the prison of the same bishop or any other prison at their pleasure, if such neede bee, and there to keepe the safe. And afterwards, vnles they will obey the commaundements of the Church, with diligence to bring them before vs and our counsell, or els cause them to be brought. That we may determine for their further punishment, as we shall thinke it requisite conuenient to be done by the aduise of our counsell, for the defence and preseruation of the Catholike faith. And that the foresayde William and Stephen, beinge succoured by the aide of their factours or fauourers, should not bee able to flye or escape to their accustomed starting holes: and that the sharpnes of their paines so aggrauated, may geue them sufficient cause to returne to the lap againe of their holy mother the church: we straitly charge and commaunde all and singular our Shrifes, Bailifes, Barones, and al other our officers, in the Citie and Dioces of Hereford, & in any other place being within our dominion of wales, by the tenour of these presents: that from time to time (where they thinke it most meete) they cause it openly to be proclaimed in our name, that none, of what state, degree, preeminence, kind, or other cōdition he shalbe of, do cherish openly or secretly, the foresayd William and Steuen, vntill the time that they repēt the of their heresies and errors, and shalbe recōciled vnto the holy Church of God: Neither that any person or persons: be beleuers, fauorers, or receiuers, defendours, or in any case withinglye instructours, of the said William or Stephen, or any other of the residue of the heretikes that are to be cōuincid: vpon the forfeiture of all that euer they haue. And that also they geuing their attendance, be obedient & answerable to the foresayd bishop and his deputies in this behalfe, for the execution of the premises: and that they certify vs and our counsell distinctly, and plainly, from time to time, of the names of all and singular persons, which shall fortune to be found culpable in this behalfe, vnder their seales. In witness whereof, we haue caused these out letters patentes to be made. Witnesse our selfe at Westminster the ix. day of Marche, in the xv. yere of our reigne.

Farington

¶ An other letter of the sayd kyng agaynst Walter Brute.

Richard by the grace of God kyng of England and of Fraunce and Lorde of Irelande: To hys beloued and faythfull Iohn Chaūdos knight, Iohn Eynfore knight, Renold de la Bere knight, Walter Deueros knight, Thomas de la Bere knight, William Lucie knight, Leonard Hakelute knight, and to the Maior of the Citie

The heat cōplaining charite of the B. of Herford.

W. Swinderby and Steuen Bell cōmplayned of to the king.

¶ *Eurio some cōmittus gladium.*

¶ *Pseudo catholica fides.*

As though no learninge were but in the church of Rome.

The dragō here spouteth out his foudes of water to drowne the Christians.

Behold the spirit of the popes like holynes.

The bowels of Iesus Christ be full of mercy: the bowels of the pope full of ryanne.

Helpe the pope at a pinche or els he is like to take a fall.

An other letter of K. Richard agaynst W. Brute.