

Citie of Hereford, to Thomas Oldcaſtle, Rich. Naſh, Roger Wygmore, Thomas Wawlwayne, Iohn Skydmore, Iohn Vp Harry, Henry Motton, and to the Shirrife of Hereford, ſendeth ſalutations.

Walter Brute.

Foraſmuch as it is aduerted vs, that one Walter Brute, and other ſuch children of iniquitie, haue damnably holden, affirmed, and preached, certaine articles and conſolutions being notoriously repugnant againſt the holy Scripture (of the which, ſome of them as hereſies, and the reſt as errors, are finally by the Church condemned) and that in diuers places within the dioces of Hereford and partes neare adioyning, both priuely, openly, and obitinately: which thing wee perceiue not onely to redounde to the ſubuerſion (in a maner) of the Catholicke faith, which as well we, as other catholicke Princes ought of duety to maintaine, but alſo to forewarne vs of the ſubuerſion of our faithfull Dioceſans. And that the ſayd Biſhop, vpon the good deliberation and aduſement of a great number of Doctours in Diuinitie, and other learned & ſkillfull men in the Scriptures, of ſpeciall deuotion, according to his bounden duetie, purpoſed to begin and make diuers and ſundry proceſſes by law to be ſent vnto the foreſayd Walter and hys accomplices, to appere perſonally before him and other the Doctours aforeſaid, in the cathedrall church of Hereford, the morow after the tranſlation of S. Thomas of Hereford next enſuing, and to procede in the ſame place againſt the ſame Walter, in the foreſaide articles and conſolutions, for the amendement of his ſoule. Now a freſh (becauſe that the ſayd Walter and others of their retinue, cleauing and confederating with him, might not ſuffer condigne paines according to their demerites) indeuour themſelues to make void and fruſtrate the ſayde godly purpoſe of the ſame Biſhop, in ſuch correction & execution as ſhould haue bene done: and with force doe reſiſt and let the ſame with all the power they may, to the great contempt of vs and of our crowne, and to the breaking and hurting of our peace, and pernicious example of others: Doe appoynt you and euery of you, immediately as ſoone as this our commiſſion ſhall be deliuered vnto you, in our behalfe and name, to make open proclamation in the dioceſſe and partes aforeſayde, where ye ſhall thinke it moſt meete and conuenient: That no man be ſo hardy henceforth, of what ſtate or condition ſoeuer he ſhall be, within the Dioceſſe and partes aforeſayde, vpon paine of forfeiture of all that euer hee hath, to make or leaue any conuenticles, aſſemblies, or confederacies, by any colour: or that they preſume to attempt or procure any other thing, wherby our peace may be hurt or broken, or that the ſame Biſhops and Doctours aforeſaid, may be by any meanes moleſted or let in the execution of ſuche correction as is to be done, according to the Canonick ſanctions, and to areſt all thoſe which ye ſhall ſiade or take offending in this behalfe, or that keepe themſelues in any ſuche conuenticles. And that they being committed to priſon, be there kept, till you ſhall haue other commaundement from vs and our counſel for their deliuerance: And that ye diſtinctly and plainly certifie vs and our ſayd counſell, of all your doing in thys behalfe vnder your ſeales, or elſe the ſeales of ſome of you. And therefore we ſtraightly charge and commaunde you, and euery of you: that ye diligently attende vpon the premiſes, and that in your deedes yee execute the ſame with all diligence and carefull indeuour, in the forme and maner aforeſaide. And further, wee geue ſtraight charge and commaundement to all and ſingular Shirrifes, Maiors, Bailiffes, Conſtables, and other our faithfull ſubiectes, by the tenour of theſe preſents: that they be attending vpon you, counſelling and aiding you and euery of you, as is meete and conuenient in the doing and execution of the premiſes. In witneſſe whereof, we haue cauſed theſe our letters patents to be made. Witneſſe my ſelfe at Weſtminſter, the 22. day of September, in the 17. yeare of our raigne:

By the ſame King and Counſell.

Thus King Richard by the ſetting on of W. Courtney Archb. of Lanercb. and his fellowes, taking part wth the Pope, and Romiſh Prelates: wared ſome thing ſtraight and had to the poore Chriſtians of the contrary ſide of wycklicke, as by theſe letters aboue prefixed may appeare. Albeit, during all the life of the ſaide King, I finde of none expreſſly by name that ſuffered burning. For wythſtanding, ſome there were which by the foreſaide Archbiſh. William Courtney, and other Biſhops, had bene condemned and diuers alſo adiured, and did penance as well in other places, as cheſly about the towne of Leiceſter as followeth here to be declared, out of the Archbiſhoppes regiſter and recores:

At what time the ſaide Archbiſhop W. Courtney was in his viſitation at the towne of Leiceſter, certaine there were accuſed and detected to him, by the monks and other Prelates in the ſayd towne. The names of which perſons there detected, were one Roger Dexter, Nicholas Taylor, Richard Wagſtaffe, Michael Scrinener, William Smith, Iohn Henry, xvii. Marchmeuar, and Roger Goldſmith, inhabitants of the ſame towne of Leiceſter: Theſe wyth other moe, were denounced to the Archbiſhop for holding

the opinion of the Sacrament of the altare, of auriculate confeſſion, and other Sacraments, contrary to that which the Church of Rome doth preach and obſerue. All wyche parties aboue named, & many other moe whoſe names are not knownen, did hold theſe hereſies and errors here vnder wyrtten, and are of the Romiſh church condemned.

1. That in the Sacrament of the altare, after the words of conſecration, there remaineth the body of Chriſt wth the materiall bread.
2. That images ought not to be worſhipped in any caſe, nor that no man ought to let any candles beſetze them.
3. That no croſſe ought to be worſhipped.
4. That Maſſes, and Matens, ought not wth an high and loud voice to be ſayd in the Church.
5. Item, that no Curate or Preſt taken in any crime can conſecrate, heare confeſſions, nor miniſter any of the Sacraments of the church.
6. That the Pope and all prelates of the Church, can not binde any man to the ſentence of excommunication, vnles they know him to be firſt excommunicated of God.
7. That no Prelate of the church, can graſt any pardons.
8. That euery lay man may in euery place, preach & teach the Goſpell.
9. That it is ſinne to geue any almes or charitie, to the friers preachers, Dominicans, Auguſtines, or Carmelites.
10. That no oblation ought to be vied at the funerallies of the dead.
11. That it is not neceſſary to make confeſſion of our ſinnes to the Preſt.
12. That euery good man although hee be vnlearned, is a Preſt.

Theſe Articles they taught, & affirmed manieſtly in the towne of Leiceſter & other places adioyning: wherupon, the ſaide Archb. moniſhed the ſaide Roger, and Nicholas in the text, on the next day to make anſwer vnto him in the ſayd monaſtery to the foreſayd articles. But the foreſaide Roger and Nicholas with the reſt, hid theſelues out of the way, and appeared not, wherupon, the Archb. vpon All hallow day, being the 1. day of Nouember, celebrating the high maſſe at the high altare in the ſayd monaſterie, being attired in hys ſononicalibus: denounced the ſaide parties with all their adherents, ſantors, ſauourers, and counſellers, excommunicate and accuſed, wyche eyther helde, taught, or maintained the foreſaide concluſions heretical & erroneous, and that in ſolemni wiſe, by ringing the bells, lighting the candels, and putting out the ſame againe, and throwing them downe to the grounde w other circumſtances thereunto belonging. Vpon the morow after (being all Souline day) he ſent for al the curates & other lay men of the towne of Leiceſter, to inquire moze diligently of the verity of ſuch matter as they knewe, & were able to ſay againſt any perſons whatſoever, concerning the foreſayd articles, as alſo againſt the parties befoze named and ſpecified vpon their othes: denouncing euery one of them, ſeueraly by their names to be excommunicate and accuſed, & cauſed them alſo in diuers pariſh churches in Leiceſter, alſo to be excommunicate. And further the ſaid Archb. interdicted the whole towne of Leiceſter, & all the churches in the ſame, ſo long as any of the foreſayde excommunicate perſons ſhould remaine or be wythin the ſame, and till that all the ſollardes of the towne, ſhould returne and amend from ſuch hereſies & errors, obtaining at the ſayde Archb. hys handes the benefite of abſolution.

At length it was declared & ſhewed to the ſayd Archb. that there was a certain anchoreſſe whoſe name was Matilde, incloſed wythin the Churchyard of S. Peters church of the ſayd towne of Leiceſter, to be infected (as they ſayd) wth the peſtiferous contagion of the foreſaid hereſies & ſollardes: wherupon, after that the ſayd Archb. had examined the foreſayd Matilde, touching the foreſayde concluſions, hereſies, and errors, and founde her not to anſwere plainly and directly to the ſame, but ſophiſtically and ſubtly: gaue and aſſigned vnto her a day preſumptioe, perſonally to appeare befoze hym in the Monaſterie of S. James at Northampton, moze fully to anſwer to the ſayde articles, hereſies, and errors, which was the 6. day of the ſayd moneth of Nouember: commanding the abbot of the monaſterie of S. J. aforeſayd, that the doore of the recluſe in which the ſayd Matilde was, ſhould be opened, and that til his returne he ſhuld cauſe her to be put in ſafe cuſtody. That done, he ſent forth his mandate, againſt the ſollardes vnder this forme.

William by the permiſſion of God. et. To his welbeloued ſonnes, the Maior & bailiffes, of the towne of Leiceſter Dioces, greeting. Wee haue lately receiued, the kings letters graciously graunted vs for defence of the catholike faith,

Roger, Nicholas, Richard, Michell, William, and Roger, accuſed with books, bell, and candle.

The whole towne of Leiceſter interdicted.

Matild an Anchoreſſe, cited to appeare.

The kings procces ſent by the B. to areſt the ſ. aforenamed.

K. Richard ſet againſt the Goſpellers by the Archb. and the prelates Ex Regiſt. W. Courtney Archb. Cant.

Roger Dexter, Nicholas Taylor, Rich. Wagſtaffe, Mich. Scrinener, W. Smith, Ioh. Henry, W. Parchmaner, Roger Goldſmith accuſed.