

Anno. 1399. The deposing of kyng Rich. the 2. The story straunge & lamentable.

Vices and vertues next in K. Rich.

What it is to forsake the maintenance of the Gospell.

Articles 33. laid against K. Richard.

Gods special favour necessary for princes. Plal. 2.

The king ledde with Jewe counteysle.

The nobles vp in armes against certayne of the kings countailours.

offen bene scene in seates royall. Lamentable, for that it cannot be but grieuous to any good mans hart, to see him cyther so to deserue, if he were iustly deposed: or if he were vniuently deposed, to see the kingly title there not able to hold his right, wher by force, it is compelled to geue place to might.

As concerning the order and proccesse of whose deposing for that it neither is greatly pertinent to my argument, and is sufficiently contained in Robert Fabian and in the kinges recordes, in the Chronicle of S. Albons, and in other hutories at large, it were here tedious and superfluous to entermble with repeating thereof what were the conditions and properties of this king, partly before had bene touched. In whome as some good vertues may be noted: so also some vices may seeme to be mixed withall. But especially this, that be starting out of the steps of hys progenitors, ceased to take part with them, whiche took part with the gospell, wherupon, as to sell, not by the blind wheele of fortune, but by the secret hand of him, which directeth all estates: that as he first began to forsake y^e maintayning of the Gospell of God, so the Lord began to forsake him. And where the protection of God beginneth to faile there can lack no causes to be charged withall, whom God once giueth ouer to mans punishment. So that tomt considering the whole life and trade of this prince, among all other causes alledged in storyes agaynst him none seemeth so much to be waped of vs, or more hurtfull to hym, then this forsaking of the Lord and his word, Although to such as list moze to be certified in other causes concurring withall, many and sondry defectes in that king may appear in storyes to the number of 33. articles alledged or toyced rather agaynst him.

In whiche as I cannot deny, but that he was worthy of much blame: so to be displaced therefore from his regall seate, and rightfull state of the crowne, it may be thought perhaps the causes not to be so rare so material in a prince which either could or els would haue serued: had not he geuen ouer before to serue the Lord and hys word, chusing rather to serue the humour of the Pope and bloudy Prelates, the further the Lords proceedings in preaching of hys word. And the as I sayd, how can enemies lack wher God standeth not to friend: or what cause can be so little whiche is not able enough to cast downe, where the Lords arme is shorned to sustayne: wherefore, it is a poynnt of principall wisdom in a Prince not to forget, that as he standeth alwayes in neede of God hys helping hand: so alwayes he haue the discipline and feare of him before hys eyes, according to the counsaile of the godly King Dauid Psal. 2.

And thus much touching the time and race of this K. Richard, with the tragical story of his deposing. The order and maner wherof purposely I pretermitt, onely contented onely to lay together, a fewe speciall thiages done before his fall, such as may be sufficient in a bryefe somme, both to satifis the Reader inquisitive of suche storyes, and also to forwarne other Princes to beware the lyke daungers. In suche as wyte the life and Actes of this Prince, thus I read of him reported, that he was much inclined to the fauouring and aduancing of certayne persons about him, & ruled all by theyr counsell, whiche were the greatly abhoyred and hated in the realme: The names of whome were Rob. Clerke Erie of Oxford, who the king had made Duke of Ireland, Alexander Beuile Archbishop of York, Michiel Delapoule Earle of Suffolke, Robert Trissilian Lord chiefe Justice, Nicholas Beuembie with other.

These men, being hated and dildayned of diuers of the nobles, and of the commons, the king also by fauouring them, was lesse fauoured hymselfe. In so much, that the Duke of Gloucester, named Thomas woodstocke y^e kings Uncle, with the Erie of Warwicke, and Earle of Darby: stode vp in armes against those counsaillours and abusers (as they named them) of the king. In so much that y^e king for feare was constrained agaynst hys minde to remoune out of his court, Alexander Beuile Archb. of Yorke, John Foorde Bishop of Durlesme, Fryer Thomas Rulthoke Bishop of Chichester the kings confessor, with the Lord Haringworth, Lord Burnell, and Bemdond, Lord Clerke, and diuers other.

And further more, in the Parliament the same yeare following, Robert Trissilian the Justice was hanged and drawne. Also Nicholas Beuembie Knight, James Salisbury also, and James Barnele both Knights, Joh. Bewchampe the kings Steward, and John Blake Esquire in like maner. All these by the counsaile of the Lordes beyng cast in the parliament agaynst the kyngs minde, did suffer, which was in y^e 11. of his reign, he being yet vnder gouer-

nours: but consequently after the same, the king clayming his owne liberty, being come to the age of 20. began to take more vpon him. And this was one thing that stirred vp the kinges stomacke agaynst the Nobles, Ex Chron. Alban.

2. An other thing that stirred hym vp as much agaynst the Londoners was this: for that he would haue boyled & of them a 100. pound, and they demed him to their double & triple damage, as after criued vpon it. Ibidem. An other occasion besides this, betwene the king and the Londoners happened thus, by reason of one of the Bishops of Salisburies seruantes, named Robinan, and a Baker man: who then carrying a basket of horsebread in Fleetstreet the foresayd Roman toke a horse out of y^e basket. The Baker asking why he did so, the Bishops iusty peonir turned backe agayne and brake his head: wherupon the neighbors came out, and would haue arrested this Roman but he escaped away into the Bishops house. When the Countable would haue had him out, but the Bishops men shut fast the gates, that they should not approch. Thus, much people gathered together, threatening to buill open y^e gates and fire the house, vntill they had the foresayd party to them brought out. wherby much adoe there was, till at length the Mayor and Sheriffes came and quiered y^e rage of the commons, & sent euery man home to his house, charging the to keepe peace. Here as yet was no great harme done, but if the bishoppe for his part had bene quyet, and had not stirred the soles of debate, which were well laked already, all had bene ended without further perturbation. But the stornade of the Bishop nor yet digested (although hys man had done the wrong) hauing no great cause so to do, whose name was John Walsain being then Treasourer of England, went to Thomas Arundell archb. of the same time of Yorke, and Lord Chauncellour of England to complayne of the Londoners. Where is to be noted, or rather reueled by the way a pany misery, which although be not in this story touched of the wryters: yet it touched the hartes of the bishops not a little. For the Londoners at that time were notoriously knowne to be fauourers of wickliffes doctrine, as partly before this is to be scene, and in the story of S. Albones more playnly doth appeare: where the author of the sayd history writing vpon the 15. yeare of King Richardes raygne, reporteth in these wordes of the Londoners, that they were Male creduli in deum & traditiones auitas, Lollardorum sustentatores, religiosi detractores, de cimarū detestores, & cōmunis vulgi depauperatores &c. y^e is not right beleuers in God, nor in the traditions of theyr forefathers: infeyners of the Lollardes: depauperers of religious men: withholders of rythes: and impouerishers of the common people, &c.

Thus the Londoners being noted and suspected of the bishops, were the more maliced (no doubt therefore) of the sayd bishops, whiche were the more ready to finde & take all occasions to worke agaynst them, as by theyr doynge herein may wel appeare. For the bishop of Salisbury, and archb. of Yorke, hauing no greater matter agaynst them, then was declared: with a grieuous complaynt went to the king, complaying of the Mayor and Sheriffes of London. What trespass the Mayor and Sheriffes had done, as ye haue heard before, so may you iudge. Now what followed after let vs heare. The king incensed not a little wth the complaynt of the Bishops, conceived eftswores agaynst the Mayor and Sheriffes, and agaynst the whole Citie of London, a great stomache. In so much that the Mayor & both the Sheriffes were sent for, and remoued from theyr office. Syr Edward Darlyngton then was made warden & Souernoz of the citie, who also for hys gentleness flewed to the Cittizens, was also deposed, and an other named Syr Baldwyn Radington, placed in that roome. Whercoer, so much grew the kinges displeasure agaynst the Citie that he also remoued from London the courtes, & termes to be kept at Yorke, that is to say, the Chauncery, the Eschequer, the kinges benche, the hamper, and the common place: where the same continued from Edw. the first, till Chriftennas, to the great decay of the Citie of London: which was, an. 1393.

Wherby, an other great cause whiche purchased the much cold will among hys subiectes, was the secret murdering of his owne Uncle named T. woodstocke, Duke of Gloucester, of whom mention was made before, where was declared how the said Duke, with the Earle of Arundell, the Erie of Warwicke, and the Earle of Darby, with other, were vp in armour agaynst certayne wicked Counsaillours about the king, wherupon, the king watching afterward hys time, came into Chelmsford, & so to the place neere by, where the Duke lay: wherewith hys own hands he arrested the sayd Duke his Uncle, and sent him downe by water immediatly to Calies. And there through the kings

Ex Chron. D. Albani. The second preparatiue to the kings deposing.

I. Walsam B. of Salisb. makebare

Tho. Arundell Archb. of York.

Londoners fauourers of Wicliffes doctrine.

Ex bistor. D. Albani eiusus sic habet institum. An. gratia. &c.

Londoners complayned of to the king, by the Bishops.

Beati pacifici.

The court remoued fro London to Yorke.

The 3. preparatiue to the kings deposing.

The king arresting his owne Uncle, caused him to be put wrongfully to death.