

K. Henry. 4. Articles denounced against K. Henry the fourth.

A bill of articles set up against king Henry 4.

1. First, we depose, say, except, and extend to praise against the Lord Henry Derby, sonne of the Lord John of Gaunt late Duke of Lancaster, and commonly called king of England (himselfe pretending the same, although without all right and title thereunto) and against his adherents, fauourers, and complices: that euer they haue bene, are, and will be, traitors, inuaders, and destroyers of Gods Church in Rome, England, Wales, and Ireland, and of our soueraigne Lord Richard late King of England, his heires, his kingdom, and common wealth, as shall hereafter manifesly appeare.

2. Secondly we depose, et. against the said Lord Henry, for that he had concealed, deuiled, & conspired certaine heinous crimes and traitorous offences against his sayd soueraigne Lord Richard his state and dignitie, as manifesly did appeare in the contention betwene the said Lord Henry, and y^e Lord Thomas Duke of Northfolke begon at Conventry, but not finished thoroughly. Afterwards he was sent in exile, by sentence of the said king Richard, by the agreement of his father the Lord John Duke of Lancaster, by the voice of diuers of the Lords temporall, & noble of the realme, and also by his owne consent: there to remaine for a certaine time appointed vnto him by y^e said Lords, and withall he was bound by othe nor to returne into England before he had obtained fauour & grace of the kyng. Not long after, when the king was departed into Ireland, for reformation of that countrey appertaining to the crowne of England, but as then rebelling agaynst the same: the sayd Lord Henry in the meane tyme contrary to his oth and fidelitie, and long before the tyme limited vnto him was expired: with all his fauourers and inuaders, secretly entered into the Realme, swearing and protesting before the face of the people, that his coming into the Realme in the absence of the king, was for none other cause, but that he might in humble sort with the loue and fauour of the king, and all the Lords spirituall and temporall, haue and enioy his lawfull inheritance descending vnto him of right after the death of his father: which thing as it pleased all men, so cried they: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: But how this blessing afterwards turned into cursing, shall appeare in that which followeth: and also ye shall vnderstand his horrible and wicked conspiracie against his soueraigne Lord king Richard, and diuers other Lords as well spirituall as temporall, besides y^e his manifest periuiric shal wel be known, and that he remaineth not only foresworne and periured, but also excommunicate, for that he conspired against his soueraigne Lord our king, wherefore we pronounce him by these presents, as well periured as excommunicate.

K. Henry periured.

3. Thirdly we depose, et. against the said Lord Henry, that he the said Lord Henry, immediately after his entry into England, by crafty and subtile policie, caused to be proclaimed openly throughout the Realme, that no tenths of the Clergy, tithes of the people, scaling vp of cloth, diminution of wool, impost of wine, nor other extorsions or exactions whatsoever, should hereafter be required or exacted: hoping by this means to purchase vnto him y^e voice and fauour of the prelates spirituall, the Lords temporall, the Marchaunts, & communitie of the whole Realme. After this, he took by force the kings Castles and fortresses, spoiled and deuoured his goodes wheresoever he found it, crying haucke, haucke. The kings maistie subiects as well spirituall as temporal he spoiled and robbed, some he took captiue and imprisoned them, and some he slew & put to miserable death, whereof many were Bishops, prelates, Knights, and religious men. Whereby it is manifest, that the said Lord Henry is not only periured, in promising & swearing that there should be hereafter no more exactions, payments, or extorsions within the realme, but also excommunicate for the violence and iniurie done to Prelates and Knights, wherefore by these presents we pronounce him as afore, as well periured as excommunicate.

K. Henry charged with vnto the.

4. Fourthly we depose, et. against the said Lord Henry, that he hearing of the Kings returne from Ireland into Wales, rose vp against his soueraigne Lord the king with many thousands of armed men, marching forward with all his power towards the Castle of Flint in Wales, where he took the king & held him prisoner, and so led him captiue as a traitor vnto Litchester: from whence he took his iourney towards London, mistaking the king by the way both he and his, with many iniuries and opprobrious contumelies and scuffles. And in the end committed him to the Tower of London, and held a Parliament, the king being absent & in prison, wherein for feare of death he compelled the king to yeeld and resigne vnto him all his right & title of the kingdom and crowne of England. After which resignation being made, the said Lord Henry standing vp in

K. Henry charged with treason agaynst his soueraigne.

the Parliament house, stoutly and proudly before them all, laid & affirmed that the kingdom of England and crowne of the same with all the reynes belonging, did pertaine vnto him at that present as of very right, and to none other: for that the said king Richard by his owne deede was deposed for euer of all the right, title, & interest that euer he had, hath, or may haue in the same. And thus at length by rigour and wrong, he created himselfe vnto y^e throne of the kingdom: since which tyme, our common weale neuer flourisheth nor prospered, but altogether hath bene vnto this tyme, for that the spirituall was so oppressed, corrupted and warlike practices hath not bin maintained, charitie is waxed cold, & conuocions and iudiciall hath take place, & finally mercy is taken away & vengeance supplie the same. Whereby it doth appeare (as before is said) that y^e said Lord Henry is not only periured & false by vniuersing the kingdom and dominion beioing to another, but also excommunicate for the apprehending, vniuersing imprisoning, and deposing his soueraigne Lord the king of his royal crowne and dignitie. Wherefore, as in the articles before, we pronounce the said Lord Henry to be excommunicate.

5. Fifthly we depose, et. against the said Lord Henry, that he the same Lord Henry with the rest of his fauourers & complices, heaping mischief vpon mischief, haue conspired and brought to passe a most wicked and mischieuous fact, yea, such as hath not bene heard of at any tyme before. For after that they had taken and imprisoned the king, and deposed him by open iniurie against all humane nature, yet not content with this: they brought him to poynter castle, and there imprisoned him, where he daies & nights they vexed him with continuall hunger, thirst, and cold, and finally bereft him of life, with such a kind of death as hath before that tyme was knowen in England, but by Gods providence it is come to light, who euer heard of such a deed, or who euer saw the like of him: wherefore y^e England arise, stand vp, auenge the cause, the death, and iniurie of thy king and prince: which if thou do not, take this for certaintie, that the righteous God will destroy thee by strange inuasions and forcigne power, and auenge himselfe on thee for this so horrible an act, whereby doth appeare, not only his periuiric, but also his excommunication most execrable: so that as before we pronounce, the said Henry not only periured, but also excommunicate.

K. Henry charged with murdering of his prince.

6. Sixthly we depose, et. against the sayd Lord Henry, that after he had attained to the crowne and scepter of the kingdom, he caused forthwith to be apprehended diuers Lords spirituall, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, and religious men of all orders, whom he arrested, imprisoned, & bound, and against all order brought them before the secular iudges to be examined: not sparing the Bishops whose bodies were annointed with sacred oyle, nor priests, nor religious men, but commanded them to be condemned, hanged, and beheaded by the temporall law and iudgement, notwithstanding the privilege of the Church, and holie orders, which he ought to haue reuerenced and worshipped if he had bin a true and lawfull king: for the first and chiefest othe in the coronation of a lawfull king is, to defend and keepe inviolate the liberties and rights of the Church, and not to deliuer anye Priest or religious man into the hands of the secular power, except for heretic onely, and that after his degradation according to the order of the Church. Contrary vnto all this hath he done, so that it is manifest by this article as afore in the rest, that he is both periured and excommunicate.

K. Henry charged with the orders of the church.

7. Seventhly we depose, et. against the said Lord Henry that not onely he caused to be put to death the Lords spirituall and other Religious men, but also diuers of the Lords temporall and nobilitie of the Realme, and chiefly those that studied for the preferuatiō of the commonweale, nor ceasing as yet, to continue his mischieuous enterprise, if by Gods providence it be not prevented & that with speed. Amongst all other of the Nobilitie, these first he put to death: the Earle of Salisbury, the Earle of Huntington, the Earle of Gloucester, the Lord Roger Marston the kyngs brother, with diuers other knights and Squires: and afterwards, the Lord Thomas Percy Earle of Worcester, and the Lord Henry Percy sonne and heire to the Earle of Northumberland, the which Lord Henry he not onely slew, but to the vttermost of his power againe and againe he caused hym to be slayne. For after that he was once put to death, and deliuered to the Lord of Furnham to be buried (who committed his body to holy sepulture, with as much honour as might be, commending his soule to almighty God, with the suffrages of the blessed masse & other praiers) the said Lord Henry most like a cruel beast still thirsting hys blood, caused his body to be exhumed & brought forth againe, and to be reposed betwene two mil-

K. Henry charged with tyranny.