

rage, and power of the whole world. For the manifestation of which torment, wee haue here set forth the picture of his burning, in such maner as it was done.

In his godly Martyr John Babby hauing thus consummate his testimony and martyrdom in fire, the persecuting Bishops yet not herewith contented, and thinking themselves as yet either not strong enough, or els not sharpe enough agaynst the poore innocent flock of Christ: to make all things sure and substantiall on theyr side, in such sort, as this doctrine of the Gospell now springing should be suppressed for euer: they conspiring heads together, & hauing now a king for theyr own purpose, ready to serue theyr turn in all popyns (during the time of the same Parliament aboue recited yet continuing) the foresayd bishops and clergy of the realme, exhibited a Bill vnto the kings maiestie: subtilly declaring, what quietnes hath ben mayntayned within this realme by his most noble progenitors, who alwayes defended the auncient rites and customes of the Church, and enriched the same with large gifts, to the honoz of God and the realme: and contrariwise, what trouble and disquietnes was now risen by diuers (as they termed them) wicked and peruerse men teaching and preaching openely and priuily, a certayne new, wicked and hereticall kinde of doctrine, contrary to the Catholike faith and determination of holye Church: wher vpon y<sup>e</sup> king alwayes oppressed with blind ignorance by the crafty meanes and subtle pretences of the clergy, graunted in the sayd Parliament (by consent of the nobilitie assembled) a statute to be obserued called Ex officio as followeth.

### The Statute Ex officio.

That is to say, that no man within this Realme or other the kings maiesties dominions, presume or take vpon him to preach priuily or apertly, without speciall licence first obteyned of the ordinary of the same place (Curates in theyr owne parishes Churches, and persons heretofore priuiledged, and others admitted by the Canon law, onely excepted) Nor that any hereafter do preach mayntayne, teach, informe openly or in secret, or make or write any booke contrary to the catholique faith, and determination of the holy Church. Nor that any hereafter, make any conuenticles or assemblies, or keepe and exercise anye maner of schooles touching this sect, wicked doctrine and opinion. And further that no man hereafter shall by any meanes, fauour anye such preacher, any such maker of vnlawfull assemblies, or any such booke maker or writer, and finally any such teacher, informer, or stirrer vp of the people. And that all and singular persons hauing anye the sayd bookes, writings, or schedules containing the sayd wicked doctrines and opinions, shall within forty dayes after this present proclamation and statute, really and effectually deliuer or cause to be deliuered all and singular the sayd bookes and writings, vnto the ordinary of the same place. And if it shall happen anye person or persons of what kinde, state, or condition soeuer he or they be, to doe or attempt anye manner of thing contrary to this present proclamation & statute, or not to deliuer the same booke in forme aforesayd: That then the ordinary of the same place in his owne diocesse by authoritie of the sayd proclamation and statute shall cause to be arested and detained vnder safe custody, the sayd person or persons in this case diffamed, and evidently suspected or any of them, vntill he or they so offending haue by order of lawe purged him or themselves as touching the articles layd to hys or theyr charge in this behalfe: or vntill he or they haue denyed and recanted (according to the lawes ecclesiasticall) the sayd wicked sect, preachings, teachings: and hereticall and erroneous opinions. And that the sayd ordinary by himselfe or his Commissaries proceede openly and iudicially to all the effect of law agaynst the sayd persons so arested and remayning vnder safe custody, & that he end and determine the matter within three monethes after the sayd arest, (all delays and excuses set apart) according to the order and custom of the Canon law. And if any person, in any cause aboue mentioned, shall be lawfully conuicted before the ordinary of the diocesse or hys Commissaries: that then the sayd Ordinary, may lawfully cause the sayd person so conuicted (according to the maner and qualittie of hys fact) to be layd in any of his owne prisons, and there to be kept so long as to hys discretion shall be thought expedient.

And further the sayd Ordinary (except in cases by the which according to the Canon law, the party offending ought to be deliuered to the secular power) shall charge the sayd person wyth such a fine of mony to be payd vnto the kings maiestie, as he shall thinke competent for the maner and qualittie of his offence, And the sayd diocesan shall be bound to geue notice of the sayd fine, into the kings maiesties Exchequer, by hys letters patent vnder his seale: to the intent that the sayd fine may be leuied to the kings maiesties vse of the goodes of the person so conuict.

And further if any person within this realme and other the

the kings maiesties dominion, shall be conuicted before the Ordinary of the place, or hys Commissaries, of the sayd wicked preachings, doctrines, opinions, and hereticall and erroneous informations or any of them: and will refuse to abiure and recant the sayd wicked sect, preachings, teachings, opinions, schols and informations: Or if after hys abiuration once made, the relapse be pronounced agaynst hym by the diocesan of the place, or hys Commissaries (for so by the Canon law he ought to be left to the secular power, vpon credite geuen to the ordinary or hys Commissaries) That then, the Sheriffe of the same Countie, the Mayor, Sheriffes, or Sheriffe, or the Mayor or Baliffes of the same Cittie, village or Borough of the same County, and nereest inhabiting to the sayd Ordinary or hys sayd Commissaries: shall personally be present, as oft as they shall be required, to conferre with the sayd Ordinary or his commissaries in geuing sentence agaynst the sayd persons offending or any of them. And after the sayd sentence so pronounced, shall take vnto them the sayd persons so offending, and any of them, and cause them openly to be burned in the sight of all the people: To the intent that this kinde of punishment may be a terror vnto others, that the like wicked doctrines and hereticall opinions, or the authours and fauourers thereof be no more mayntayned within this Realme and dominions, to the great hurt (which God forbid) of Christian religion, and decrees of holy Church. In which all and singular the premises, concerning the statute aforesayd: Let the Sheriffes, Mayors, and Bayliffes of the sayd Counties, Cities, Villages, and Boroughs, be attendant, ayding, and fauoring, the sayd Ordinaries and theyr Commissaries.

By this bloody statute so severely and sharply enacted agaynst these simple men, here hath thou (gentle Reader a little to stay with thy selfe: and to consider the nature and condition of this present world, howe it hath bene let and bent euer from the beginning, by all might, counsaile, and wayes possible, to strue agaynst the wayes of God, and to ouerthrow that which he will haue set vp. And although the world may see by infinite stoyes and examples, that it is but in vaine to strue agaynst him: yet such is the nature of this world (all set in malignitie) that it will not cease still to be like it selfe.

The like law and statute in the time of Dioclesian and Maximinus was attempted, as before appeareth, pag. 83. & for the more strength were writt also in tables of brasse, to the intent that the name of Christ should vnto be extinct for euer. And yet, the name of Christ remayneth, where that brasse lawe remayned not these yerres. The which lawe writt the in brasse, although it differ in maner & form, from this our statute Ex officio, yet to the same ende & cruelty, to spill the blood of saintes, there is no difference betwene the one and the other. Neither is there anye diuinitie touching the first original doer and worker of the bath. For the same Sathan, which then wrought his vntermost agaynst Christ, before he was bound vnto the same also now after his looking out, doth what he can, though not after the same way, yet to the same intent. For then it outward violence as an open enemy, he did what he could now by a more couert way, vnder the title of the Church he unpugnerth the Church of Christ, bring a more subtle way to deceaue, vnder gaye pceded titles: but no lesse pernicious in the end, to heret be sheweth, as well appeareth by this bloody statute Ex officio, the sequell wherof cost afterward, many a Christian mans life. As in proceesse of tyme remayneth more hereafter (Christ willing) to be declared.

Furthermore for the more fortification of this statute of the king aforesayd, concurrerth also an other constitution made much about the same tyme by the Archb. of Canterb. Thomas Arundell. So that no indurty nor pollicy of man here did lack to set the matter forward, but specially on the bishops partes, who left no meanes vnattempted, how to subuert the right wayes of the Lord.

First, in most diligent and exquisite execution of the kings statute set forth: the execution wherof they did so exactly apply, that maruell it is to consider, all other lawes of kings (commonly) be they neuer so good) to be so coldly kept, and this onely among all the rest so neerly followed. But herein is to be scene the diligence of the Rom. the Prelates, which neuer let any thing so tall, that maketh for the dignity of their estate.

Secondly, beside theyr diligent care, in seeing this kings statute to be executed: so lesse indurtyous also were they in adding thereto moe constitutions of theyr owne, as from time to time appeareth as well by other Archbishops hereafter, and by Pope Martine, as also by this constitution here present made by Thomas Arundell the Archb.

But before we enter to the relation of these foresayd

All the power of man set against the Gospell.

The Gospell of Christ counted as wicked and hereticall.

The cruell lawe of king Henry. 4.

A bloody lawe of king Henry. 4.

A bloody statute.

The lawe of Maximinus and the statute ex officio compared.