

And I wyl say, owe we to beleue, that the liuinge of the Apostles, and the teaching of Christ, and all the Prophe- tyes, are true whiche are written in the Bible, for the health and saluation of goddys people?

And he sayd yea.

And I sayd: Syr, owe all Christen men & women after their cunning and power, for to conforme all their liuinge, to the teaching specially of Christ, and also to the teaching and liuinge of his Apostles and of Prophe- tyes, in all thinges that are p'c'launt to God, and edification of his Church?

And he sayd, yea.

And I sayd: Syr, ought the doctrine, the bidding, or the counsell of any body, to be accepted or obeyed vnto: except this doctrine, these biddings, or this counsell, may be graun- ted and affirmed by Christis liuinge and his teaching specia- lly, or by the liuinge and teaching of his Apostles & Pro- phetes?

And the Archbishop said to me: Other doctrine ought not to be accepted, nor we owe not to obey to any mans bid- ding or counsell, except we can perceiue that his bidding or counsell, accordeth with the life and teaching of Christ, and of his Apostles and Prophe- tyes.

And I sayd: Syr, is not all the learning, and biddings and counsels of holy Church, meanes and dealefull reme- dies, to knowe and to withstand the priuy suggestions, and the aperte temptations of the fiende? and also wayes and healthie remedies, to flee pride and all other deadly finnes, and the branches of them, and soueraign meanes to pur- chase grace, for to withstand and ouercome all the fleshly lustes and maninges?

And the Archbishop sayd yea.

And I sayd: Syr, whatioeuer thing ye or any other bo- dy bid or counsell me to do, accordingly to this forsayd lear- ning, after my cunning & power, through the helpe of god, I will meekly with all my hart obey therto.

And the archbishop sayd to me: Submit thee than now here meekly and willfully, to the ordinance of holy church, which I shall shew to thee.

And I sayd: Sir, accordingly as I haue here now before you rehearsed, I will now be ready to obey full gladly to Christ the head of the holy Church, & to the learning and biddings, and counsels of euerye pleasing member of him.

When the archbishop striking with his hand fiercely vpo a cupborde, spake to me with a great spirit saying: By Jesu, but if thou leaue such additions, obliging thee now here without exception to mine ordinance (or that I go out of this place) I shall make thee as sure, as any theefe that is in the prison of Lanterne. Admise thee now what thou wilt do. And then as if he had bene angered, he went fro the cupborde where he stood, to a window.

And then Malueren and an other Clerke came nearer me, and they spake to me many words full pleasantly: and an othe while they manass'd me, and counsell'd full busily to submitte me, or els they sayd I should not escape punish- ing ouer measure: for they sayd, I should be degraded, cur'd, and burned, & to then damned. But now they sayd, thou mayst eschew all these mischances, if thou wilt submit thee willfully & meekely to this worthy prelate, that hath ture of thy soule. And for the pity of Christ (sayde they) be- think thee, howe great Clerkes the Bishop of Lincolne, Hereford, and Duray were, and yet are, and also B. that is a well understanding man. which also haue forsaken & renoued, all the learning and opinions, that thou and such other hold. wherefore, since each of them is mikle wiser the than art, we counsell thee for the best: that by the example of these foure Clerkes, thou followe them submitting thee as they did.

And one of the Bishops Clerkes sayd then there, that he heard Ricoll Hereford say: that since he forsook & reno- ued all the learning & Lolars opinions, he hath had mikle greater fauour and moze delite to hold agaynst them, then euer he had to hold with them, while he held with them.

And therefore Malueren said to me: I vnderstand and thou wilt take thee to a Hell, and shiue thee cleane, for- sake all such opinions, & take the penance of my Lord here, for the holding & teaching of them: within short tyme, thou shalt be greatly comforted in this doing.

And I sayd to the Clerkes, that thus busily counsell'd me to folow these forsayd men: Sirs, if the me of whom ye counsell me to take example, had forsake benefices of tempo- rali profit, & of worldly worship, so that they had abste- red them, and sithew'd from al occasions of couetousnes & of fleshy lustes, and had taken vpon them simple liuinge, & willfull pouerty: they had herein genen good example to me and to many other, to haue folowed the. But now, since all these foure men, haue slanderously and shamefully done

the contrary, consenting to receiue and to haue and to hold tempo- rali benefices, liuinge now more worldly & more fleshly then they did before, conforming them to the maners of this world: I forsake them herein, and in all their forsayd slanderous doing. For I purpose with the helpe of God (into remission of my finnes, and of my soule curied liuinge) to haue and to seeke purely and apertly, to followe these men, teaching and counsellling whome so euer that I may, for to see & eschew the way that they haue chosen to go in, which will lead them to the worst end, (if in conuenient tyme they repent them not) verely forsaking and renouing openly the slander that they haue put, and euery day yet put, to Christi- ties Church. For certayne, to open blasphemie and slaunder- ing as they haue spoken and done, in their renouing & for- saking of the truth, ought not nor may not purely be amende- des, duely. wherefore sirs, I pray you that you busy not for to moue me to followe their me, in renouing and forsaking the truth, and forshames as they haue done, and yet doe: where in, by open euidence they s'erre God to great worth, and not onely agaynst themselves, but also agaynst all the that fauor them, or consent to them herein, or that commu- neth with them, except it be for their amendement. For where as theie me first were pursued of enemies, now they haue obliged them by othe for to slaunder and pursue Christ in his members. wherefore (as I trust stedfastly in the good- nes of God) the worldly couetousnes, and the lusty liuinge and the sliding from the truth of these cunningages: shall be to me and to many other men and women, an example & an euidence, to stand moze fastly by the truth of Christ.

For certayne, right many men and women, doe marke and abhorre the foulnes and cowardnes of theie forsayd vntur- men, how that they are ouercome & stopped with benefices, and withdrawen from the truth of Gods word, forsaking utterly to suffer therfore bodily persecution. For by this vnfaithfull doing and apostasye of them (specially that are great lettered men) and haue knowledged openly the truth: and now, either for pleasure or displeasure of ty- rantes, haue taken hire and tempo- rali wages to forsake the truth and to hold agaynst it, slaundering and pursuing them that couet to folow Christ in the way of righteou- nes, many men and womē therefore are now moued. But many mo tho: ow the grace of God, shall be moued hereby for to learne the truth of God, and to doe thereafter, and to stand boldly thereby.

When the Archbishop sayd to his clerkes. Busy you no lenger about him, for he and other such as he is, accord = feder'd together, that they will not sweare to be obedient, & to submit them to prelates of holy church, for now since I stode here, his fellow also sent me word that he will not sweare, and that this fellow counsell'd hym that he should not sweare to me. And losell, in that thing that in thee is, thou hast busied thee to lose this young man, but blessed be God, thou shalt not haue thy purpose of him. For he hath forsaken all thy learning, submitting him to be buryn & obedient to the ordinance of holy church, and weepeth full bitterly, and curseth thee full hartly for the venicious teach- ing which thou hast shewed to him, counsellling hym to do thereafter.

And for thy false counselling of many other & him, thou hast great cause to be right soye. For long tyme thou hast busied thee to peruert whomioeuer thou mightest. Wherefore, as many deatnes thou art worthy of, as thou hast genen euill counsels. And therefore by Jesu, thou shalt go the- ther, where Ricoll Hereford & Thom. Duray were har- bered. And I vndertake, or this day viij. dayes, thou shalt be right glad for to doe what thing that euer I bid thee to do. And losell, I shall assay, if I can make thee there as so- rowfull (as it was tolde me) thou wait glad of my last go- yng out of England. By S. Thomas, I shall turre thy yng into sorrow.

And I sayd: Syr, there can no body prouelawfully that I joyed euer, of the manner of your going out of this land.

But Syr, to say the trith, I was to fulfill when ye were gone: for the bishop of London in whose prison ye left me, found in me no cause for to hold me lenger in his prison, but at the request of my freedes, he deliuered me to them, assai- ng of me no manner of submitting.

When the archbishop sayd to me, wherefore that I yede out of England, is vnknowne to thee: But be this thinge well knowne to thee, that God (as I wote well) hath cal- led me agayn, and brought me into this land, for to de froe thee and the false sect that thou art of: as by God, I shall pursue you to narrowly, that I shall not leaue a slip of you in this land.

And I sayd to the archbishop: Syr, the holy Propheette Jeremy sayd to the false Propheet Anany. when the word that is the propheety of a Propheet, is knowne or fulfilled:

WBJ, then

And why compel you this man to the contrary

Thorpe con- tent to submit himself to the ordi- nance of counsels.

If Boner had bene here, hee would not haue spokē the cupbord

The multi- tude is not to be folo- wed in euil.

See what man is, God geuing him vp to him- selfe.

As cleane from thirft as from sin.

Other mens ex- amples are to be folowed, as they be the fol- lowers of Christ

Promotion: commonly and great liuinges, choke truth.

Men following the wayes of Balaams.

Thorpes fellow refuseth to sweare to the prelates.

Vide supra pag. 497.

Arundell the Archb. going out of England. The gentleness of the B. of London to Thorpe. So promised Winchester in Queene Marias time, but that passed his power to performe. A notable answer of Thorpe to the Bishop, promising to destroy all the Gospellers,