

# K Hen. 4. The examination of the good Lord Cobham. His worthy constancy in the truthe.

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Aft. 6.

The first article.

Transubstan-  
tiation of  
bread into  
the body.

The L. Cob  
has beliefe  
in the sacra-  
ment.

The 2. Arti-  
cle.

Confessio  
of finne to  
God onely.

Malachi. 20

The 3. Arti-  
cle.

Who is next  
vnto Peter.

Succession  
not of place  
but of condi-  
tions maketh  
Peters heire

Antichristes  
head body  
& talle.

The 4. Arti-  
cle.  
Pilgrimage.

What is to  
be done  
Images.

Saintes are  
become now  
ceturous  
beggers.

thinking thereby to make shorter worke with hym. For they were so amased with his aunsweres (not all unlike to them whiche disputed with Stephen) that they knewe not well how to occupy the time, their wits and sophistry (as God would) so sayled them that day.

My Lord Cobham (sayth this Doctor) we must biefly know your minde concerning these fourte poynetes here following. The rest of them is this. And then he read vpo the bill: The fayth and determination of holy churche touching the blessed sacrament of the auiter is this. That after the sacramental wordes be once spoken of a Priest in his masse: the materiall bread that was before bread, is turned to Chistes very body. And the materiall wine is turned into Chistes bloud. And so there remayneth in the sacrament of the auiter from thenceforth no materiall bread nor materiall wine which were there before the sacramental wordes were spoken. Sir beleue ye not this?

The Lord Cobham said: This is not my beliefe. But my fayth is (as I sayd to you afore) that in the worshipfull sacrament of the auiter, is Chistes very body in forme of bread.

Then sayd the archbishop: sir John ye must say otherwise.

The Lord Cobham said: Say, that I shall not, if God be upon my side as I trust he is, but that there is Chistes body in forme of bread, as the common beliefe is.

Then read the doctour agayne.

The second poynet is this. Holy Church hath determined that every Christen man living here bodily vpon earth ought to be shewen of a priest ordeneid by the church, if he may come to him: sy what say you to this?

The Lord Cobham aunswereid and said: A diseased or soore wounded man, hath need to haue a sure wise Churcian and a true, knowing both the ground and the danger of the same. Most necessarie were it therefore to be first shewen vnto God which onely knoweth our diseases and can helpe vs. I deny not in this the going to a priest, if he be a man of good life and learning. For the lawes of God are to be required of the priest, which is godly learned. But if he be an idiore or a man of vicious living that is my curate, I ought rather to flee from him then to seeke vnto him: For sooner might I catch euill of him that is nought then any goodnes towards my soules health.

Then read the doctour agayne.

The third poynet is this, Christ ordayneid S. Peter the Apostle to be his vicare here in earth whose sea is y church of Rome. And he graunted that the same power whiche he gaue vnto Peter, shoulde succede to all Peters successours which we call now popes of Rome. By whose speciall power in churches particular, be ordayneid Prelates & archbishops, parsons, Curates, and other degrees more. Unto whom Christen men ought to obey after the lawes of the Church of Rome. This is the determination of holye Church. Sir beleue ye not this?

To this he antwerped and sayd: He that followeth Peter most nighest in pure living, is next vnto him in succession. But your Lordly ordez esteemeid not greatly y lowly behavour of poor Peter, whatsover ye rate of him. Neither care ye greatly for the humble manners of them that succeeded him, till the time of S. Sixtus, whiche for the more part were martirs, as I tol you afore. Ye can let all their good condicions go by you, and not hurt your selues with them at all. All the world knoweth this well enough by you and yet ye can make boast of Peter.

With that one of the other doctoress asked him: sy what do ye say of the Pope?

The Lord Cobham answered. As I said before. He & you together maked wholie the greas Antichrist. Of who he is y great head you bisches, prelates, Prelates, & monkes are the body; and the begyng freres are the tayle, for they couert y flichnes of you doctoress, with their subtle sophistry. Neither will I in conscience obey any of you all, till I see you with Peter folow Chist in conuerstation.

Then reade the doctour agayne.

The 4. poynet is this. Holy Church hath determined that it is meritorious to a christen man, and to go on pilgrimage to holy places. And therre specially to worshyp the hys reliques and images of saintes. Apollines, Edwardes, Edmundus and an other saintes heretofore, appairred by y Church of Rome. Sy what say ye to this?

Wherunto he aunswered. I done them no service by a-  
no commandement of God, but to serue me. And to ser-  
fete them for your confronstacion. All were well pe swypte  
therre faire wiþ coruydes and duff, and to launge therre  
for catching of scathe. And els to bury them large in a grotto  
as ye do other aghy people whiche are Gods images.

It is a wonderfull thing, what sayates now being dead

shoulde become so ceturous and needy, and therupon so bittely begg, whiche all the lufe time hated al ceturounesse, and begging. But this I say vnto you, and I would all y world shoulde mark it. That with your shynnes and Idols your fained absolutions and pardons, ye draw vnto you the substaunce, wealth and cheare pleasures of all christen realnes.

Why sir (said one of the clerkes) will ye not worshyppe good images?

What worship shoulde I geue vnto them? said the Lord Cobham.

Then said Frier Palmer vnto hym. Sir will ye worship the croſſe of Chist, that he died vpon?

Where is it, sayd the Lord Cobham?

The Frier said. I put you the tale sir, that it were here euē now before you?

The Lord Cobham aunswereid. This is a great wisse man to put me an earnest question of a thinge, and yet he himselfe knoweth not where the thing it selfe is. Yet once againe I tol you what worship I shoulde do vnto it?

A clerke said vnto him. Such worship as Pauls speakeþ of: and that is this. God forbid that I shoulde ioy, but onely in the croſſe of Ihesu Chist.

Then said the Lord Cobham, and spread his armes a-broad. This is a very croſſe, yea, and so muche better then your Croſſe of wood, in that it was created of God. Yer will not I lecke to haue it worshipped.

Then layd the bishop of London. Sir, ye wote well that he died on a materiall croſſe?

The Lord Cobham said. Yea, and I wote also that our saluation came not in by that materiall croſſe, but alone by him whiche died therupon. And well I wote that holy S. Paul reioyced in none other croſſe, but in chistes passion and deach onely, and in his owne sufferinges of like persecution with hym, for the same felle verite that he had suffered for afore:

An other clerke yet asked him. Will ye then do none honour to the holy croſſe?

He answered him. Yes, if he were mine own I would lay hym vp honestely, and see vnto him that he shoulde take no more scarfe abroad, nor be robbed of his goodes as he is now a dayes.

Then layd the Archbis. vnto him. Sir John, ye haue spoken here many wonderfull wordes to the slaunderous rebuke of the whole spiritualitie, geyng a great enuie example vnto the common sorte here, to haue vs in the more disdaine. Much tyme haue we spent here about you, and al in vaine so far as I can see. Well, we must ridde us at this shor point with you, for the day passeth away: Ye must otherwise submit your selfe to the ordinaunce of holy church or els throw your selfe (no remedie) into most deepe daunger. See to it in tyme, for anone it will be els to late.

The Lord Cobham sayd: I know not to what purpose I shoulde otherwise submit me. Muche more haue you offendid me, then euer I offendid you, in thus troubling me before this multitude.

Then laid the archbishop again vnto him. We once al gayne require to remember your selfe well, & to haue yonder other maner opinion in these matters, then the universall faith, and beliefe of the holy church of Rome is. And so like obedient childe returne agayne to the bosome of your mother. See to it I say in tyme, for yet ye may haue remedy, where as anone it will be to late.

The Lord Cobham sayd expelys before them all. I wil none otherwise believe in these paynes, then that I haue told ye here afore. Do with me what ye will.

Finally then the archbishop sayd. Well, then I see none other but we must needs doe the latte: we must procede forth to the sentente capitale, and both judge you, & condemne you for an hereticke.

And with that, the Archbis. God by, and read there a bulle of his condemnation, all the cleryg and laity laying therre bones. And this was the tenour therof.

## \* The diffinittive sentence of hys condemnation.

In the name of God. So be it. We Thomas by the suffraunce of God, Archbishop of Caunterbury, Metropolite, and primate of al England, and Legate fram the apostolike see of Rome, will eth this to be showne vnto all men. In a certayne tyme, and upon certayne articles, wherupon sir John Oldcastle knight and Lord Cobham, after a diligent inquisition made for the same, was detected, accused, and presented before vs in our lat conuocation of all our prouince of Caunterbury, holden in the Cathedral Church of Paules at London: At the lawfull denuncement and request of our vnueriall Clergy in the sayd conuocation, we pro-

A whelpe of  
the same heartes

Images not to  
be worshipped.

Galat. 6.

The material  
croſſe is not ma-  
teriall to our  
faith.  
What it is to re-  
joyce in the  
croſſe of Christ.

Slauderid with  
the truth.

These me seeme  
to stand onely  
vpon their esti-  
mation amogst  
the people.

A wolishnes-  
fer of gentlenes.

Bloudy tyme  
therres.

An hereticke for  
confessing of  
Christ.

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