

* An Abiuration counterfayted of the Bishoppes.

IN Dei nomine. Amen. I John Oldcastle denounced, dete-
cto and convicted, or and upon divers articles favoring
both herefe and erroz, before the reuerend father in Christ
& my good Lord, Thomas by the permission of God, Lord
Archbishop of Caunterbury, and my lawfull and rightfull
iudge in that behalfe, expelly graunt and confesse: that as
concerning the estate and power of the most holy father the
Pope of Rome, of his Archbishops, his Bishops and his
other prelates, the degrees of the church, and the holy Sa-
cramentes of the same, specially of the Sacramentes of the
aurar or penance and other obleruances besides of our
mother holy Church, as Pilgrimages and pardons: I as-
firm (I say) before the sayd reuerend father Archbishop &
els where, that I being euill seduced by diuers sedicious
preachers, haue greivously erred, and heretically persisted,
blasphemously answered, and obstinately rebelled. And
therefore I am by the sayd reuerend father, before the reu-
erend fathers in Christ also, the bishops of London, Win-
chester, and Bangoz, lawfully condemned for an hereticke.

Nevertheless yet, I now remembryng my selfe, and con-
ucting by this meane to auoyd that temporal payn which
I am worthy to suffer as an hereticke, at the assignation
of my most excellent Christen prince and liege Lord, King
Henry the 5. now by the grace of God most worthy King
both of England and of Fraunce: Mynding also to prefer
the wholesome determination, sentence and doctrine of the
holy vniuersall Church of Rome, before the vniuersall
opinions of my selfe, my teachers, and my followers: I
freely, willingly, deliberately, and thoroughly confesse, graunt,
and affirme, that the most holy fathers in Christ, S. Peter
the Apostle and his successors byshops of Rome, specially
now at this time, my most blessed Lord Pope John, by
the permission of God, the xxij. Pope of that name, which
now holdeth Peters seat (and each of them in their suc-
cession) hath full strength and power to be Christes Vicar in
earth, and the head of the church militant. And that by the
strength of his office (what though he be a great sinner, and
afore knowne of God to be damned) he hath full authority
and power to rule and gouerne, bynde and loose, saue and
destroy, accurse and asfoyle, all other Christen men.

And agreeably fill vnto this, I confesse, graunt, and
affirme all other Archbishops, Bishops, and Prelates in
their prouinces, Dioces, and Parishes (appointed by the
sayd Pope of Rome, to assiste him in his doinges or busi-
nes) by his Decrees, Canons, or vertue of his office: to
haue had in times past to haue now at this time, and that
they ought to haue in time to come: authoritie and power
to rule and to gouerne, binde and loose, accurse and asfoyle,
the subiects or people of their aforesaid prouinces, dioces,
& parishes, and that their said subiects or people ought of
right in all thyngs to obey them. Furthermore, I confesse,
graunt, and affirme, that the sayd spirituall fathers, as our
most holy father the Pope, Archbishops, Bishops, & Pre-
lates: haue had, haue now, and ought to haue hereafter,
authority and power for the estate, order and gouernaunce
of their subiects or people, to make lawes, decrees, sta-
tutes and constitutions, yea and to publishe, commaund,
and compell their sayde subiects and people, to the obser-
uation of them.

Whoeuer I confesse, graunt and affirme, that all these
foresayd lawes, decrees, statutes and constitutions made,
published and commaunded, according to the forme of spi-
rituall law, all christen people, and euery man in himself is
straightly bound to obserue, & meekely to obey according
to the diuersity of the foresayd powers. As the lawes, sta-
tutes, canons and constitutions of our most holy father the
Pope, incorporated in his Decrees, Decretals, Clemen-
tines, Codes, Chartes, Rescriptes, Sextiles, and Extra-
uagantes ouer all the world: and as the prouinciall statutes
of Archbishops in their prouinces, the Synodall actes of
Bishops in their dioces, and the commendable rules & cu-
somes of prelates in their colledges, and Curates in their
parishes, all Christen people are both bound to obserue, &
also most meekely to obey.ouer & besides all thys, I John
Oldcastle utterly forsaking and renouncing all the afoze-
sayd erroz and heresies, and all other erroz and heresies
like vnto them, lay my hand here vpon this booke or holye
Euangely of God, & sweare: that I shall neuer more from
henceforth holde these afozesayd heresies, nor yet any other
like vnto them wittinglye. Neither shall I gene counsell,
ayde, helpe, nor fauor at any time, to them that shall holde,
teach, affirme, or maintayne the same, as God shall helpe
me, and these holy Euangelyes.

And that I shall from henceforth saythfully obey and
inuiolably oblerue all the holy lawes, statutes, Canons,
and constitutions of all the Popes of Rome, Archbishops
Bishops, and Prelates, as are conteyned and determined
in their holy Decrees, Decretalles, Clementines, Codes,
Chartes, Rescriptes, Sextiles, Summes, papall, Extra-
uagantes, statutes prouinciall, actes synodall, and other
ordinary regules and customes constituted by them, or that
shall chaunce hereafter directly to be determined or made.
To these and all such other, will I my selfe with all pow-
er possibly apply. Besides all this, the penance whiche it
shall please my sayd reuerend father the Lord Archbishop
of Caunterbury hereafter to enioyne me for my finnes, I
will meekely obey and saythfully fulfill. Finally, all my re-
ducers and false teachers, and all other vicioues, whom I
shall hereafter know suspected of herefe or erroz: I shall
effectually present, or cause to be presented vnto my sayde
reuerend father, Lord Archbishop or to them in which haue
his authority, so soone as I can conveniently do it, and see
that they be corrected to my vtmost power.

This abiuration neuer came to the hands of the Lord
Cobham, neither was it compyled of them for that pur-
pose, but onely therewith to blear the eyes of the vnicar-
ned multitude for a time. After the whiche like tech and
subtle practise, was also deuised the recantatiō of the Arch-
bishop Thomas Crammer, to stop for a tyme the peoples
mouthes. which subrely in like manner was also practi-
sed with the false recantatiō of Bishop Hoper, and diuers
other, as in their places hereafter (Christ graunting) shall
be shewed.

And thus muth hitherto concerning the first trouble of
sir John Oldcastle Lo:de Cobham, with all the circum-
stances of the true time, place, occasion, causes, and order
belonging to the same. wherin I trust I haue sufficiently
satisfied all the parties, requisite to a saythfull history, with
out corruption. For the confirmation wherof, to the intent
the mind also of the wangling cauller may be satisfied, &
to stop the mouth of the aduersary (which I see in all pla-
ces to be ready to barke) I haue therefore of purpose aucto-
red with all my ground & foundation taken out of the Ar-
chives and Registers of the Archb. of Cant, Ex epist. Thom.
Arund. ad Rich. Lond. wherby may appeare, the maner of the
recor both of Polydorus and of Edward Hall, who being decei-
ued in the right distinction of the times, assigne this citati-
on and examination of the Lord Cobham, to be after the
council of Constance: when as Thomas Arundell Arch-
bishop of Caunterbury at the council of Constance was
not alive. The copy and testimony of his owne letter, shall
declare the same, written and sent to the bishop of London
in forme as foloweth.

* The copy of the Epistle of the Arthbishop of
Caunterbury, written to the Bishop of London, where-
upon dependeth the ground and certaynty
of this foresayd history of the Lord Cobham,
aboue premised.

TO the reuerend father in Christ and Lord, the Lord Robert by
the grace of God Bishop of Hereford, Richard by the permis-
sion of God bishop of London, health and continuall increafe of
sincere loue. We haue of late receiued the letters of the reuerend
father in Christ and Lord, the Lorde Thomas by the grace of God
Archb. of Cant. primate of all England, and Legate of the Aposto-
licke see, vnto our reuerend brother the Lord Richard Bishop of
London, health and brotherly loue in the Lord. It was lately con-
cluded before vs in the conuocation of Prelates and Clergye of
our prouince of Caunterb. last celebrate in our church of S. Paul,
intreating amongst other thynges with the sayd prelates & cler-
gye vpon the vnion and reformation of the Church of England by
vs, and the sayd prelates and Clergy: that it was almost impos-
sible to amende the hole of our Lordes coate whiche was without
seame, but that first of all certayne nobles of the realme, which are
authors, fauourers, protectors, defenders, and receiuers of these
hereticke called Lollardes, were sharply rebuked, and if neede
were, they be reuoked from their erroz. And afterward hauing
made diligent inquisition in the conuocation amongst the pro-
ctors of the Clergy and others which were there in great number
out of euery dioces of our prouince: It was found out amongst
others, that sir John Oldcastle knight, was and is the principall
receiuer, fauourer, protector and defender of them: and that spe-
cially in the Diocesse of London, Rochester, and Hereforde,
he hath sent the sayd Lollardes to preach, not being licenced by
the ordinaryes and Bishoppes of the Dioces or places, contrary
to the prouinciall constitutions in that behalfe made, and hath

And this main-
taine they thill.
The pope holy
Bible of papils.

Marke this had-
ling.

This charge
gene they com-
monly.

For confirmati-
on of this huto-
ric.

Ex archiepis et
Regist. Tho. Ar-
und. Archiep.
Cant.
Polydorus and
Edw. Hall de-
ceiued.

Walden in
fasciculo z
z animum
Walden.

Marke from
whence this
geare com-
meth.

Fine wor-
manship I
trowe.

Alas good
man, thou
art launde-
red.

How prou-
yeth that, by
the scrip-
tures.

No scrip-
tures haue
they to
shewe.

Intollera-
ble yokes
laye they.

Neuer made
he such an
othe.

A thing thought
right necessary
that the L. Cob-
ham should be
made out of the
way, or els not
possible for pos-
sibility to flourish.