

rection against the king, as is pretended in the preamble before this statute, which were a matter of high treason: How chaunceth then, that the whole body of the statute following after the said preface or preamble, runneth in all the parts and branches thereof both in manner of arrest, of inditement, information, request, allowance of officers, cognizance of ordinaries, of the forfeit, &c. upon cases of heretic and not of treason, as by particular tractation shall be (Christ willing) declared.

And so to much as these men be so grievously accused of Alanus Copus, for congregating & rising against their K. & the whole Realme, if I had so much leisure to defend, as he hath pleasure to diffame: Here might be demanded of him, to keepe him some further pley (touching this mighty insurrection, where as they came in number of xx. thousand against the king) in what order of battaile say they marched, what Capitaines, under Capitaines, and petty Capitaines they had to guide the wyngs, and to lead the army: whether they were horsemen, or footmen. If they were horsemen (as is pretended) what ment they then to resort to the Thickettes neare to S. Byles field, which was no meet place for horse to stirre: If they were footmen: how standeth that with the author, which reporteth them to be horsemen: Moreover, is to be demanded, what insignes or flagges, what shot, what powder, what armour, weapiss, and other furniture of war: also what treasure of money to wage so many, to y^e number of xx. thousand, what scrumpers, drummes, & other noise necessary for y^e purpose they had. All these preparations for such an enterprise is requisite & necessary to be had. And peradventure, if truth were well sought, it would be found at length, that in stead of armies and weapon, they were coming onely with theyr bookes, and with Beuerlay their preacher, into those thickets. But as I was not there present at the fact (as is before said) so have I neither certainly to define upon theyr case, nor yet M. Cope to exclaime against them, vnles peradventure he taking an occasion of the time, will thus argue against them: That because it was the hoate moneth of January, the 2. day after the Epiphany, therefore it is like, that Sir John Oldcastle with xx. thousand Lollards camped together in the fields in al the heate of the weether, to destroy the king and all the nobles, and to make himselfe Regent of England. And why not as well the King, as regent of England, seeing all the nobles should haue bene destroyed, & he onely left alone to reigne by himselfe?

It followeth moze in the preamble of y^e foresaid statute (B) to adnull, destroy, and subuert the Christian faith, and the law of God, & holy Church, &c. He y^e was the forger & iuener of this report (as it appeareth to proceed frō the Prelates) seemeth no cunning Dædalus, nor halfe hys traicke maister in lying for the whetstone. Better he might haue learned of Sind in Virgill, moze artificially to haue framed and conueid his narration, which although in no case could sound like any truth, yet some colour of probability should haue bene set vpon it, to giue it some countenance of a like tale. As if he had first declared the L. Cobham to haue bin before in secret cōfederacie with the great Turk, or if he had made him some termagant or Mahound out of Babylon, or some Herode of Iudæa, or some Antichrist out of Rome, or some grandpunch Epicure of this world: and had shewed, that he had receiued letters from the great Souldan, to fight against the faith of Christ and law of God, then had it appeared somewhat moze credible, that the said Sir John Oldcastle with his sect of heretic, went about to adnull, destroy, and subuert the Christian faith, and law of God within the Realme of England, &c.

But now, where will either he or M. Cope finde men so mad to beleue, or so ingenious y^e can imagine this to be true: that the Lord Cobham (being a Christian) and so faithfull a Christian, would or did euer cogitate in his mind to destroy and adnull the faith of Christ in the Realme of England? what sower the report of this pursuant or preface faith, I report me vnto the indifferent reader, how standeth this with any face of truth: That he which before through the reading of wickliffes works, had bene so earnestly conuerted to the law of God, who had also approued himselfe such a faithfull seruant of Christ, that for the faith of Christ he being examined and tried before the Prelates, page. 553. nor only ventred his life: but stood constant vnto the sentence of death, defined against him: being a cōdemned and a dead man by law, Et qui, quantum ad eius deuotionem pertinet & timorem, passus sit, quicquid pati potuit, who had as much as to deuotion and feare appertained, suffered already what he might or could suffer, as Cyprian said by Cornelius. That he (I say) which a little before in the moneth of September, stood so constant in defence of Christes faith, would now in the moneth of January rise

to destroy, adnull, & subuert Christes faith, and the law of God, and holy Church within the Realme of England? How can it be not like only but possible to be true that he which neuer denied the faith: which euer confessed the faith so constantly, which was for the same faith condemned: yea and at last also burned for the faith, would euer fight against the faith, and law of God, to adnull and to subuert it? Let vs proceed yet further, and see when that he should haue so destroyed and adnullid the Christian faith and law of God in England, what faith or law then could he or did he intend to bring into the realm of England? The Turkes faith: or the Jewes faith: or the Popes faith: or what faith else. I pray you: for he that will be an enemy to the faith of Christ, and will shew himselfe friend to no other faith beside, I accompt him not out of his right faith, but out of his right wits.

(C) And therefore euen as it is true, that Sir John Oldcastle with his cōfederates & abettours were vp in armes to subuert, and extinguishe the faith of Christ and law of God in y^e realm of England: so by the like truth it may be eslined, that y^e same persons rose also to destroy their soueraigne Lord the king and his byrthen. First thanks be to God, that neither the king, nor any of his byrthen had any hurt by him. But his intent, saith the preface, was to destroy his soueraigne Lord the king, whereunto I aunswere, with this interrogatorie, whether his intent was pryncipally to haue destroyed him, or by ope force of armes? If pryncipally, what needeth then such a great army of xx. thousand men to atcheue y^e secret seate: Rather I would thinke, that he needed moze the help of such as were neare about the king: as some of the kinges privie chamber, or some of his secret counsaile: whereof, neither Chronicle nor records doth insinuate any mention. If his intent was openly to invade the byng: You must understand (M. Cope) that to withstand a king in his owne Realme, many thinges are required, long time, great preparation, many frendes, great alliance, and ayde of kindred, money, horse, men, armour, and all other things appertaining for the same.

Earle Godwin of westsax, who had married Canutus daughter being a man both ambitious, and as false a traitor, for al his five sonnes, and great alliance, yet durst not set vpon king Edward to invade him within his Realme, although he fought manye occasions so to do, yet neuer durst enterprise openly, that which his ambition to greedely presumed vnto, page 163.

In the time of King Henry the third, Symon Montford Earle of Glocester, Gilbert Clare Earle of Gloucestre, Humphrey Bone Earle of Ferrence, with a great number of Lords and Barons, thought themselves to haue great right on their sides, yet durst not for all their power openly assaile the King in his Realme, before great debatement and talke first had betwene, page 330.

Likewise what murmuring and grudging was in the realm against king Edward the second, among the peers and nobles and also prelates (only walter Bishop of Coventry except) first for Saueston, then for the Spencers, at what time Thomas Earle of Lancaster, Guido Earle of Warwike, with the most part of al other Earles and Barons concordly consenting together to the displacing first of Saueston, then of the Spencers, yet neither rashly, nor without great feare durst stirre vp warre in the land, or disquiet or vexe the king, but first by all meanes of moderate counsaile, and humble petition, thought rather to perswade, then to invade the king, page 308.

In like maner, and with like grudging mindes, in the reigne of King Richard. 2. Thomas wodstocke Duke of Glocester the kings vnckle, with the Earles of Arundell, of Warwike, and Darby, with the power almost of the whole comunons, stood vp in armes against the king: And yet notwithstanding all their power ioined together, being so great, and their cause seeming to them so reasonable, yet were they not so hardy, straightwayes to see vpon the king, but by way of Parliament thought to accomplish that which their purpose had conceived, and so did, without any warre striking against the king, page. 513.

After King Richard. 2. was deposed, and was in prison yet liuing, diuers noble men were greatly inflamed against K. Henry the fourth, as Sir John Holland Earle of Huntington, Thomas Spenser Earle of Glocester, y^e Earles likewise of Kent, and of Salisburie, with Sir John Cheney & other mo, wherof diuers had bene Dukes before, & now deposed by King Henry. 4. although they had conceived in their hearts great grudge and malice against the said King Henry: yet had they neither hart nor power openly with mans force to assaile the king, but secretly were compelled to atcheue their conceived intent, which notwithstanding they could not accomplish, Ex hist. D. Alban.

Thus,

Insurrection of the Lollards against the king not lykely.

(C) The Lord Cobham falsely flattered for intending to destroy the king.

How vnlyke it is that the L. Cobham did rise against the king.

Examples what an heard matter it is to rise against the king.

The nobles against K. Henry. 3.

The nobles against K. Edward. 2.

The nobles against K. Rich. 2.

The nobles against K. Henry. 4.

(B) A slander of the L. Cobham, that he intended to destroy Christian faith.

Cyprian. lib. 4. Epist. 2.