

the spiritualitic, moze of displeasure then tructh. And thus your autor Hall, hauing recited y^e varietie of mens opinions, determineth himselfe no certaine thing thereof, but as one indifferent, neither bound to the coniectures of all men, nor to the wrytings of all men, referreth the whole iudgement of the matter free vnto the reader. And so concluding his narratioe forsomuch as he was neither a witness of the fact, nor present at the dede, he ouerpasseth the story thereof.

And what witness then wil you, or can you (M. Lope) take of Edwarde Halle, which denieth himselfe to be a witness: will you compell him to say that he sawe not; and to witness that he can not: wherefore like as Susanna, in the storye of Daniel was quite by right iudgement in the caise of adultery, because her accusers and testes being examined a sonder were found to vary and halt in their tale, and not to agree in the two trees: So why may not in like caise of treason, sir Roger Acton, sir John Oldcastle, Browne to the rest, claime the same p^riuiledge? seeing among the testes and witnesses produced agaynst them, such discorde is found, and such halting among them, that neyther do they agree in place, person, yeare, day, nor moneth.

1. For first where Fabian and his fellows say: that they were assembled together in a great company, in the fielde neare to S. Byles, the forged inditement adoue alledged, sayth, they were but riding toward the fielde.

2. Secondly, where the foresaid inditement and Polydore, geue the Lorde Cobham to be present personally in that assemble, Halle, and Alanus Copus Anglus, doe exclude hys personal presence from thence: and so doth Fabian also seime to agree, speaking onely of the adherentes of Syr John Oldcastle.

3. Thirdly, where Halle and Polydorus report thys assemble to be after the burning of John Hus, and of Hierome at the council of Constance, which was An. 1415, that cannot be, but if there were any suche conspiracie in the first yeare of Henry 5, it must needs be An. 1413. And heere by the way, why do certaine of your Epitome wyrters speaking of the Lorde Cobham committed first to the tower for heresie, referre the sayd his imprisonment to the yere 1412, where as, by their owne counte, reckoning the yeare from the Annunciation, it must needs be an. 1413, being done in hauest time.

4. Fourthly, where Halle with his followers affirme that syr Roger Acton, Browne and Beuerley were condemned the 12. day of December, the recorde is euident against it, which halderth the facte to be in working the 10. day of Jan.

5. Fifthly, where as the foresayde recorde of the Iudgement geueth the wednesday next after the Epiphany, whyche was the 10. day of Jan. that present yeare, both the facte to be committed, the same day, the Commission also to be graunted and deliuered to the Commissioners the same day, The saide Commissioners to sit in Commission the same day: The Shyffes of Middlesex to returne a iurie out of the body of Middlesex the same day: and the Iurers to find the inditement the same day, and yet no iurie in the inditement named the same day.

Item, the L. Cobham, the same day, to be founde conspiring to make him selfe Regent, when as the king, that day and yeare, was not yet passed into Fraunce: howe all these can concur and hang together and all in one day: I suppose it wil cost you two dayes, before you, with all your learned counsel wil study it out. And whe you in your vnlawfull assemblies haue conspired and conferred together, all ye can, yet wil ye make it (as I thinke) iii. dayes, before you honestly dispatch your handes of the matter.

And where ye thinke, y^e you haue impressed in me such a foul note of lying, neuer to be clawed of while the world standeth, yet shal the posterity to come iudge betwene you & me, whether shall appeare moze honest and true, my defence for that worthy lord, then your vncourteous and viperous wrangling against him, inuoued to no other cause, but onely with the peuisish spirit of Poperie, whych can abide nothing, but that sauereth of your owne secte. For els how many lond lying legends, yea what legion of lies are daily bled and receiued in the popish church: what doltish dreames: what fained miracles: what blasphemous tales and frivoly fables, and idle inuentions, fighting against the sincere religion, doctrine and crosse of Christ? And conde you holde your penne from all these, and finde nothing els to set your idleness on worke, but onely to wyrt agaynst the Lorde Cobham, Syr Roger Acton, Browne, Dilcy, Cowbrige, with a fewe other whome toytch much a doe, at length you haue sought out, not so much for any true zeale to rebuke iniquitye, as craftely seeking matter by theie to deface and blemish the booke of Actes and Monumentes, which seemeth belike to make you scratche there, where it iturbeth not. And if I should after the like dealing take in

hand your Popish portues, and with like diligence excuse eueery Popish martyr and Saint their canonised: thinke you maister Lope, I coulde not make you out halfe dosen as ranke traitours and rebels to their kings and princes, as eue were any of these of your picking out: what pope almost hath there bene these last 500. yeares, whych hath not bene a traitour to his Emperour and Prince, and to his countrey: either openly rebelling against them, or priuely conspiring their destruction, or proudly setting theyr feete vpon their necks, or spurning their crownes of from their heads, or making the sonne to fight against y^e father: How many haue they deposed, and set vp other in theyr seates? how many Emperours and kings haue they wrongfully cursed? what Consulles of Rome haue they resisted, deposed, and put to death: what warres haue they raised v^a gainst theyr owne countrey of Rome? Yea the continuall holding of the City of Rome, from hys lawfull Emperour, what is it but a continuall poynt of treason?

what will you answer mee (M. Lope) to the Pope, which conspired to let fall downe a stone vpon the Emperours head, kneeling at his prayers, pag. 177.

And though this treachery being as big as a millstone, seemed but a smal mote in your eye, that it could not be espied: yet what will you say by the Monke of Swinsebe, that poysoned king John, who was both abioyued by his abbot before his treason committed, and after hys treason had a perpetuall Masse longe for him, to helpe hym out of Purgatorie?

And what thinke ye in your conscience is to be sayde of Thomas Becket, who did inough, and moze then became hun, to let the french king, and the king of Englande together by the eares? Of Anselme like wise, and of Stephen Langhton, who departed both out of the realme to complaine of their princes & soueraines? The like may be said also of John Beekham, John Straford Archb^{sh}op of the same sea notoriously resisted the Kinges commaundement, being sent for by king Edward 3, to come to the parliament at Yorke, through the default of whose comming, the present opoytunitie of getting Scotland was the same time lost.

Richard Scrope Archb. of Yorke, was openly in armes to rebel & fight against R. Henry 4. for the which he was condemned & put to death. And yet notwithstanding Commission was sent downe from the pope shortly after, to excommunicate them which put him to death, his treason notwithstanding. Read y^e story sincerely of pope Benedict 12. and of pope Clement 6. And see howe the traitorous rebellion of these two popes against Ludonicus their rightful Emperour can be defended: whiche Emperour at last was also empoysoned, & that not without the practice of Pope Clement, as doth Hieronimus Marius credibly witness.

In the raigne of R. Edward the 2. mention was made before of Thomas Earle of Lancaster, who with a great number of other Nobles and Barons of the realme, rose in armour against their prince, and therefore at length were put to death as traitours. And yet notwithstanding thys treason committed (M. Lope) if you be so ignorant in our stories, that you know it not, let your letters on to search, and you shall finde it true, that certaine Noble men went vnto Rome, for the canonising of the sayde Thomas of Lancaster to be made a Saint, and obtained the same. In so much that in a certayne olde Calendare, the name of the sayd S. Thomas of Lancaster is yet extant to be seene.

In the former booke of these Actes and Monumentes aboue, about the pag. 353. or 354. mention was made of Edmund of Abbenen Archb. of Cant. whom although I do not disproue, but rather commend in my history, for his bold and sage counsaile geuen vnto R. Henry the 3. and also for offering the censure of excommunication against the king in so necessary a cause: yet notwithstanding the same Edmund, after ward about his latter end, went by wyth a rebelling minde to complaine of his king vnto the Pope, and in his iourney died, before his returne: who after ward for the same, was canonised by the Pope, and now shineth among the Saints in the popes Calender.

Let vs come moze neare to these dayes and times, and consider the doings of Tho. Arundell Archb. of Cant. who being first deposed and exiled for hys contemptuous deserts against the king, and after ward conning in, wyth Henry Bolynbroke Duke of Hereford, in open armes and with main force rose against his natural and lawful king: thinke you (M. Lope) thys is not as greata a poynte of treason, as that which was done in Whickets fields? And though he be not placed among the portuous Saintes, yet I thinke nothing contrary, but in your heart you will not greatly stricke to say, Sancte Thoma ora pro nobis.

All these thinges well considered, tell me (M. Lope) I

Halle no witness in fir Roger Actons cate.

Repugnance noted in the witness against the L. Cobham & fir Roger Acton, 1. Repugnance in the place.

2. Repugnance in the place. Ala. Copus pag. 833. lin. 12.

3. Repugnance in the yeare.

4. Repugnance in the month.

5. Repugnance in the day.

Papistes can not see great beams in their owne eyes, which theye small note, in others.

Popes traytors to their Emperours & princes.

The Popes saintes and confours many were traytors.

R. Scrope Archb. of Yorke traitor and yet counted a holy man.

Popes comonly traytors.

Tho. Lancaster traitor and yet made a Saint by the Pope.

Edmūd Archb. of Cant. rebelled against his prince, and yet made a Saint by the Pope.

Tho. Arundell a ranck traitour against his king, and yet a great pillar counted in the popes church.