

Anno. 1414.

not to be true at that time, as Polydore Virgill, and Edward Hall in their histories doe affirme: which say that this conspiracie began after the burning of John Bulle and Hierome of Wyke, which could not be. And thereto tendeth my assertion. My wordes are playne, and are these, pag. 174. col. 2. line. 13. wherefore it is evident that it was cyther no conspiracie at all agaynst the king: or els that it was at some other tyme, or done by other Captaynes. &c.

These be my wordes with other moe, pag. col. and line above noted. In the which proposition disjunctive, if eyther part be true, it is enough for me. His part it was to refell both, which he hath not done. But onely standing fast vpon the one part, disjuncteth the other. And this is Alanus Copus Anglus, who by that he shall come fro Rome (whether he is now gone as I heare say) I trust he will recurre a better Logician home agayne in suam Angliam.

But to the truth of our matter, as I sayde before, so I say agayne, whatsoeuer this worthy, noble and vertuous knight s^r Roger Acton was otherwile, this is certaine y^e he was alwaies of contrary minde, and opinion to the bishop of Rome, & to that kind of people, for the which cause he had great enuy and barred at their hands: and could as litle beare it: neither do I greatly dissent from them, which do suspect or iudge that the Lord Cobham, by his friendly helpe escaped out of the Tower, and that peraduenture was the cause why he was apprehended and brought to trouble, and in the end came to his death. Other causes also they might be, that these good men percase did frequent among themselves, some conuenticles (which conuenticles was made treason by the statute aforesayd) either in those Wickets: or in some place els: for the hearing of Woods word, and for publicke prayer, and therefore had they thys Beweely they preacher with them.

But to conclude whatsoeuer this s^r Roger Acton was this is y^e truth, which I may holdy record, as one writing the Actes and thinges done in the Church, that he was at length apprehended, condemned and put to death or martyrdom. 2. yeares and more before the Lord Cobham died Likewise s^r John Bowyer, and John Beueely the preacher, suffered with him the same kinde of death (as some say) in the field of S. Byles with other moe, to the number of 36, if the storyes be true. whiche was in the month

of January, an. 1413. after the computation of our English storyes, counting the year from the annunciation, but after the Latine writers counting from Christes natiuitie, an. 1414. according as this picture is specified.

These men as is said, suffered before the Lord Cobham about 3. yeares, of whose death diuers do write diuersly. Some say they were hanged and burnt in S. Byles field, of whom is s^r Fabian, with such as follow him. Other there be which say that some of them were hanged & burnt. Polydorus (speaking onely of their burning) maketh no mention of hanging. An other certain english Chronicle I haue in my handes borrowed of one s^r Bowyer, who somewhat differing fro the rest, recordeth thus of s^r Roger Acton, that bys iudgement before the iustice was thus, to be drawne through London to Wyborne, and there to be hanged, and so he was naked saue certayne partes of him couered with a clothe. &c. And when certayn dayes were past (sayth the autho^r) a Trumpeter of the kinges called Thomas Cliffe gat graunt of the king to take hym downe, and to burye hym, and so he did &c. And thus haue you the storye of s^r Roger Acton, and hys fellow brethren. As touching theyr cause whether it were true or els by error mistaken of the king, or by the fetch of the bishops furnished, I referre it to the iudgement of hym which shal iudge both the quick and dead, & scilicet per ignem. To wh^o also I commit you s^r M. Cope, God speed your iorney well to Rome, whether I heare say you are going, and make you a good man.

After the decease or martyrdom of these aboue mentioned, who are executed in the month of January an. 1414. in the next month following, and in the same yere, y^e 20. day of february, God tooke away y^e great enemy of his word, and rebel to his king Thom. Arundell Archb. of Cant. whose death following after the execution of these good men aboue recited, by the merueilous stroke of God so suddenly, may seme somewhat to declare their innocency, and that he was also some great procurer of theyr death, in that God woude not suffer him longer to liue, striking hym with death incontinently vpon the same. But as I byd the other before, so this also I do refer, to the secret iudgement of the Lord, who once shal iudge all secrets openly.

In the mean time this may seme strange, that the same Tho. Arundell, who a litle before sitting vpon iudgement

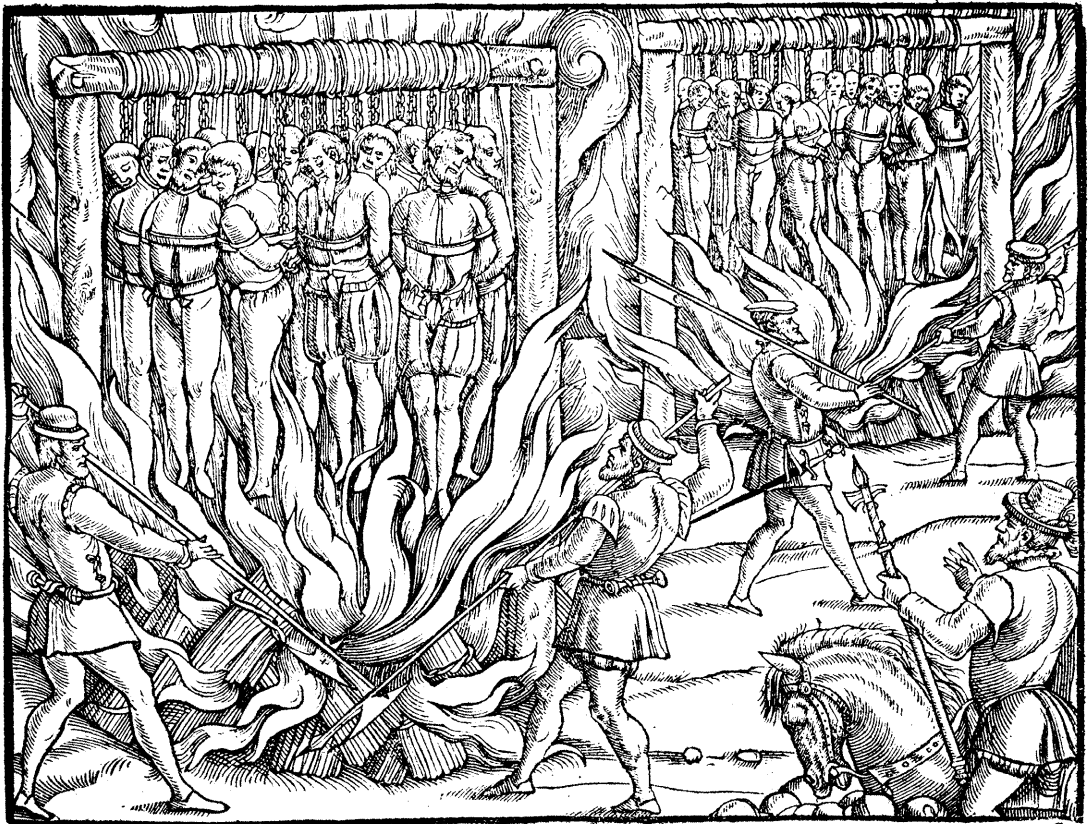
Diuerstie in authors.

An english story beginning thus. A table of all the kinges.

M. Cope going to Rome.

The death of Thomas Arundell Archb. of Cant. Ex biff S. Albas Gods workes & punishments to be noted.

The picture of the burning and hanging of diuers persons counted for Lollardes, in the first yere of the raigene of king Henry the fift.



agaynst

Lib. Act. 8^o Monu. 174.

Sir Roger Acton contrary to the Bish. of Rome. Causes conjectural why Sir Roger Acton with the rest, were put to death for traytours & Lollardes.