

the quiete appeasing of all such tumultes and rumours, rising and springing in the sayde kingdome of Boheme, or else where: the avoiding of which most perillous vprours, the sayde king of Romaines doth greatly desire and wish, as the right heire and successeur of the sayd kingdome.

Whereupon the Barons and Nobles aforesayd, most humbly desire and require, the premises being considered, and respect had vnto the great infamie and slander which may happen by the premises vnto the sayde kingdome and inhabitants thereof, that you will put to your handes, and take some order & meane, that maister Iohn Hus may be distinctly hearde by some famous men, deuines already deputed, or otherwise to be appointed vpon all and singulare such articles as shall be laide vnto him to declare his owne minde and intent, and also the minde of the doctours alleadged for his purpose, with the manifolde distinctions and equiuocations: in the which the drawers out of the most part of his articles haue also made equiuocations, that so conducting vnto the disposition of witnesses, of the which a great number of them are and haue a long time bene his mortall enemies, that at the fruiolous instigation of his enemies, when hee was miserably deteined prisoner, that he should not be condemned vnheard. For so muche as by the sayde declarations your fatherly reuerences might be the more better informed of the trueth, hee hymselfe is ready alwaies to submit himselfe vader the determination of thys most sacred councill. For your reuerences, by the craftie and fained perfwasions of his enemies, are thus informed, that M Iohn Hus hath bene vncurably obdinate by a long time in most perillous articles, the which your reuerences may nowe plainly perceiue to be vntrue, and for the more euidence hereein to be shewed, there is presented vnto your reuerences an instrumente of publike recognition of the moste reuerend father in Christe, the Lorde Nicholas Bishop of Nazareth and Inquisitour of heresies, specially appointed by the Apostolike sea in the dioces of Prague, the which by your reuerences is more diligently to be hearckened vnto.

The councill euil informed against Iohn Hus.

The nobles required that Iohn Hus not being conuicted nor condemned, should be deliuered out of prison.

A petition for M. Iohn Hus's deliuerance out of prison.

Wherefore it may please your fatherly reuerences to commaund the sayd M Iohn Hus neither conuicted nor condemned, to be taken and brought out of his bondes and chaines, in the which he is nowe most greuously deteined and kept, and to put him into the hands of some reuerend Lorde, Bishops, or commissioners appointed or to be appointed by this present councill. That the sayd M. Iohn Husse may somewhat be releued and recouer againe his health, and be the more diligently and commodiously examined by the Commissioners: and for the more assurance, the Barons and Nobles aforesayd of the kingdome of Boheme, will prouide most sure and good sureties, the which will not breake their fidelity and faith for any thing in the worlde. Which also shall promise in his behalfe, that hee shall not flee or departe out of their handes, vntill suche time as the matter be fully determined by the sayd Commissioners. In the execution of the which promises wee haue determined to prouide and foresee vnto the fame and honour of the sayd kingdome of Boheme, and also to the safeconducte of the moste worthy Prince, the king of Romaines, least that the enemies and detractours of the honour and fame of the kingdome aforesayd, might not a little slander and reprove the said Lorde, pretending and shewing forth hereafter, that they had made vnreasonable or vnlawfull requests: for the which ading of which mischief, we require your fatherly reuerences, that you will decree, & most graciously consent that this our petition and supplication may be drawn out againe by your Notarie, and reduced into a publicke forme and order.

After this supplication was read before the deputies of the 4. nations, the Patriarche of Antioch answered in the name of them all vnto euery article of the sayd supplication, but it was done in few wordes.

First, as touching the protestation of Iohn Hus, whether it be true or falsse, it shall be made euident in the processe of his cause. Moreover, whereas they say that the aduerfaries of Iohn Hus hath peruerfly drawn certaine things out of his bookes, that also the matter it selfe shall declare in the end. Where as if it shall be found & decreed that Iohn Hus is vniustly & vntruly accused, that then it shall come to passe, & his aduerfaries shall incurre perpetual ignomy and slander. But as touching sureties, albeit there might be a thousand put in or bound, yet can it not by any meanes be, that the deputies of the Councill with a safe conscience may receive or take them in this mans cause, vnto whome there is no faith or credit to be geue. Howbeit thus much they wil do, vpon the 5. day of June next, Iohn Hus shall be brought againe vnto Constance, and there haue free libertie to speake his minde before the Councill, & that they would louingly and gently heare him: but the matter in the ende fell out farre contrary to thys promise.

The same day the saide Barons and Lordes presented a supplication of thys tenour vnto the Emperour: Vnto the most highe and mighty Prince, the Lorde Sigismund king of the

Romaines, alwaies Augustus king of Hungarie, Croatia, and Dalmatia, our most gracious Lord faithful & true seruice in all things, and at all times. Most noble Prince and gracious Lord, we signifie vnto your worthinesse, that we all together with one minde, consent and accord haue deliuered vp vnto the reuerend fathers and Lorde, the deputies of the 4 nations, & to the whole sacred Councill of Constance, this our supplication here vnder wrytten. as reasonable, iust, and worthy of consideration, the tenour wherof here followeth word by word, and is this.

The copie of the supplication, which was presented vnto the deputies of the councill, is before wrytten, wherevnto this which followeth was annexed.

Wherefore we most humbly require and desire your princely maietie, that both for the loue of iustice, and also of the fame and renoume of that moste famous kingdome of Boheme, whereof wee acknowledge you vndoubtedly the true Lorde and heire successeur, and also foreseeing vnto the liberty of your safeconduct, that you wil with your fauourable countenance, beholding these most reasonable and iust supplications, which we haue put vp to the Lorde aforesayd, put to your helping hand toward the sayd most reuerend fathers and Lorde, that they will effectually heare vs, in this our most iust petition, which we haue offered vp to them, as is aforesaide: least that the enemye of the renoume and honour of the famous kingdome of Boheme, and such as oure slanderers also hereafter may detracte and slander vs, that wee should make vnreasonable and vnlawfull requests vnto the sayde reuerend fathers and Lorde, and therefore we required and desired of them that it would please them to decree by letting to their publicke hand & seale to authorise our said supplication. Likewise we do most hartly require your highnes, that you would vouchsafe in like maner to geue vs your testimonie of the premises.

The Barons supplication to the king for I. Hus.

But what answer the Emperour made hereunto, we could neuer vnderstand or know, but by the processe of the matter a man may easily iudge, that thys good Emperour was brought and lead euen vnto thys point, through the obstinate mischief of the cardinals and bishops, to breake and falsify his promise and faith, whych hee had made and promised, and this was their reason, whereby he was diuier: therunto: that no defence coule or might be geuen either by safe conducte, or by any other meane vnto hym, whych was suspected or iudged to be an hereticke. But by the Epistles and letters of Iohn Hus, a man may easily iudge: what the kings minde was. Now we will procede in the historie.

The king forced by the importunity of the Cardinals to breake promise,

The 5. day of June, the Cardinals, Bishops, and the rest of the priests, al that were almost in Constance, assembled to a great number, at the Couent of the Franciscanes in Constance, and there it was commaunded, that before Iohn Hus should be brought forth, in hys absence they should rehearse the witness and articles, which they had slanderously gathered out of his bookes: the whych articles with Iohn Husse answer we will hereafter repeat. By chance there was then present a certaine Notary, named Peter Wladoniewitz, the whych bare great loue and amity vnto the said Hus, who alson as hee perceived that the Bishops and cardinals were already determined and appointed to condemne the sayde articles in the absence of Iohn Hus, hee went with all speede vnto maister wenceslate de Duba, and Iohn of Lunn, & tolde them al the matter: who incontinent made report thereof to the Emperour, who vnderstanding their intent, sent Lewis the Countie Palantine of Heydelberge, and the Lord Frederick, Burgrave of Nuremberge, to signify vnto them, whych ruled the councill, that nothing should be resolved or done in the case of Iohn Hus, before that it were first heard with equity: and that they should send him all such articles as were laid against the sayd Hus, which were either falsse or hereticall, & he would do so much, that the said articles should be examined by good and learned men. Then according to the Emperours will, the iudgement of the principals of the Councill was suspended, vntill suche time as Iohn Hus were present.

The mischiefous councill of the popish band

In the meane season these gentlemen, maister of Dube and of Lunn, did geue vnto the two Princes whych the Emperour had sent, certaine smal treatises which the sayde Hus had made, out of y^e which they had drawn certain articles to present vnto them which ruled the councill, vnder this condition, that they would render them againe, when they should demand them. The intent & meaning of these Barons was, & by thys meane the aduerfaries of Iohn Hus might & more easily be reproued, & which of a naughty and corrupt conscience, had picked out corrupt sentences out of the said bookes of Iohn Hus. The bookes were deliuered vnto the Cardinals and Bishops, and that done,

The craftie coule of the papistes stopped by the Emperour.

The answer of the councill to the supplication

I. Hus in no case must be baled.

No credite to be kept with an heretique.

Supplication to the Emperour Sigismund.