

was the principall ende and purpose of my doctrine, that I might teach all men penance and remission of sinnes, according to the verity of the Gospell of Iesus Christ, and the exposition of the holy Doctours: wherefore with a chearefull minde and courage I am hcert ready to suffer death. When he had spoken these words, they left him, and shaking hands together they departed.

Then was the fire kindled, and John Hus began to sing with a loud voice, Iesu Christ the sonne of the living God have mercy upon me. And when he began to say the same the third time, the winde droue the flame so upon his face, that it choked him. Yet notwithstanding he moued a while after, by the space that a man might almost say three times the Lordes prayer. When all the wood was burned and consumed, the upper parte of the body was left hanging in the chaine, the which they threw downe stake and all, and making a newe fire burned it, the heade being first cut in small gobbets, that it might the sooner be consumed vnto ashes. The heart, which was founde amongst the bowels, being well beaten with staves and clubbes, was at last pricked vpon a sharpe stick, and coasted at a fire a parte vntill it was consumed. Then with great diligence gathering the ashes together, they cast them into the riuer of Rhene, that the least remnant of the ashes of that man shoulde not be left vpon the earth, whose memoire notwithstanding cannot be abolished out of the minds of the godly, neither by fire, neither by water, neither by anye kinde of torment.

I know very well that these things are very scilicet derly worthy of me as touching the labours of thys most holy Martyr John Hus, with whome the labours of Hercules are not to be compared. For that auncient Hercules slew a few monsters: but this our Hercules with a most stout and valiant courage hath subdued even the world it selfe, the mother of all monsters and cruell beastes. Thys story were worthy some other kind of more curious handling, but for so muche as I cannot otherwise performe it my selfe, I haue endeouored according to the very truth, as the thing was in dede, to commend the same vnto al godly mindes: neither haue I heard it reported by others, but I my selfe was present at the doing of all these things, and as I was able I haue put them in wytyng, that by thys my labour, and indeuor howsoeuer it were, I might preserve the memoire of this holy man and excellent Doctour of the Euangelicall truth.

What was the name of this author which wrote thys story, it is not here expressed. Cochleus in his 2. booke contra Hulsitas, supposeth his name to be Ioannes Pizibram, a Bohemian, who after ward succeeding in the place of J. Hus at Prague, at last is thought to relent to the Papists.

This godly seruant and Martyr of Christ was condemned by the cruel counsell, and burned at Constance an. 1415. about the moneth of July.

Howe grieuouly this death of John Hus was taken among the nobles of Boheme and of Moravia, hereafter (Christ willing) shall appere by their letters which they sent vnto the counsell, & by the letters of Sigismund the king of Romaines, wytyng vnto them, wherein he labouryth, all that he can, to purge and curre himselfe, of Husles death. All be it he was not altogether free from that cruell fact, and innocent frō that blood: yet notwithstanding he pretendeth in words so to wipe away that blot from hym, that the greater part of that crime seemeth to rest vpon the bloody prelates of that counsell, as the wordes of the king do purport in forme as followeth.

Interea (inquit) nobis adhuc in partibus Rheni existentibus, peruenit ad Constantiam &c. i. In the meane time as we were about the coastes of Rhene, John Hus went to Constance, and there was arrested, as is not to you vnknown. Who if he had first referred vnto vs, & had gone with vs vp to the Coucell, perhaps it had bene otherwise with him. And God knoweth, what griefe and sorrowe it was to our heart, to see it so to fall out, as with no wordes can be well expressed. Whereof all the Bohemians, which were there present, can beare vs witnesse, seeing and beholding howe carefull and sollicitous we were in labouring for him: In so much that wee many times with anger and furie departed out of the Counsell: and not onely out of the Counsell, but also went out of the City of Costance taking his part, vnto such time as the rulers of the Counsell sending vnto vs, sayde: That if wee would not permit them to prosecute that, which right required in the Counsell, what should they then do in the place: Whereupon thus we thought with our selues, that here was nothing els for vs whole to doe, nor yet to speake in this case, for asmuche as the whole Counsell otherwise had ben dissolved. Where is to be no-

ted moreouer, that in Constance the same time there was not one clarke, or two, but there were Ambassadours for all kinges and princes in Christendome, especially since the time that (Petrus de Luna geuing ouer) all those kinges and princes which tooke his part, came to vs: so that whatsoeuer good was to be done, it was nowe to be passed in this present Counsell. &c. Ex Epist. Imper. Sigismundi. ad Nobiles. &c.

By this it may appere that the Emperour as partly ashamed and sorry of that which was done, would gladly haue cleared himselfe thereof, and haue washed hys handes with Pilate: yet he coude not so clearc himselfe, but that a great portion of that murder remained in him to be noted, and well worthy of reprehension: as may both appere by his last wordes spoken in the Council to J. Hus, whereof John Hus in his Epistles complaineth, wytyng to certayne of his friendes in Bohemia in his 33. Epistle, as by hys wordes may appere here following.

I Desire you yet againe for the loue of God, that the Lordes of Boheme ioyning together, will desire the king for small audience to be geuen me. For so muche as he alone saide to me in the Counsell, that they shoulde geue me audience shortly, and that I shoulde aunswer for my selfe briefly in wytyng: it will be to hys great confusion, if he shall not performe that which he hath spoken. But I feare that worde of his will be as firme and sure, as the other was concerning my safeconducte graunted by him. Certaine there were in Bohemia, which willed mee to beware of hys safeconducte. And other sayde: he will sure geue you to your enemies. And the Lord Mikell Dweky told me before M. Iessenitz, saying: Maister, know it for certayne you shalbe condemned. And this I suppose he spake, knowing before the intencion of the king. I hoped well that hee had bene well affected towarde the lawe of God and truely, and had therein good intelligence: nowe I conceiue that he is not greatly skilfull nor so prudently circumspecte in himselfe. He condemned me before mine enemies did. Who, if it had pleased him, might haue kept the moderation of Pilate the Gentile, which sayde: I finde no cause in this man: or at least if hee had sayde but thus: I haue geuen him his safeconducte safely to returne. And if hee will not abide the decision of the counsell, I will send him home to the king of Boheme, with youre sentence & attestations, that he with his cleargie may iudge him. But nowe I heare by the relation of Henry Less, and of other, that he will ordaine for me sufficient audience: And if I will not submit my selfe to the judgement of the counsell, he wil send me safe, the contrary way. &c.

This John Hus being in prison, wrote diuers treatises, as of the commaundements, of the Lordes prayer, of mortal sinne, of matrimony, of the knowledge and loue of God, of: enemies of mankind, the world, the flesh, and the deuill, of penance, of the Sacrament of the body and blood of the Lord: of the sufficientie of the lawe of God to rule the church, &c. He wrote also diuers Epistles and letters to the Lordes and to his friendes of Boheme: And in hys wytyngs did for thewe many things before to come, touching y reformacion of the Church: and seemeth in the prison to haue had diuers propheticall reuelacions shewed to him of God. Certaine of which his letters, and predictions, I thought here vnderneath to insert, in such sort, as neither in reciting all I will ouercharge the volume too much: nor yet in reciting of none, I will be so brief, but that the reader may haue some taste, and take some profit of the Christian wytyngs and doings of this blessed man: firste beginning, with the letter of the Lorde Clum, concerning the safeconduct of John Hus.

* A letter of the Lorde Iohn de Clum concerning the safeconduict of Iohn Hus.

To all and singulare that shall see and heare these presentes, I Iohn de Clum doe it to vnderstande, howe maister Iohn Hus Bachelor of diuinitie, vnder the safeconduite and protection of the renowned prince and Lorde Sigismund of Romaines semper Augustus, and king of Hungarie, &c. My gracious Lorde, and vnder the protection, defence, and safeguarde of the holy Empire of Rome, hauing the letters patent of the said my Lorde king of Romaines. &c. came vnto Constance to render a full counte of hys faith in publicke audience to al that would require the same. This the said M. Iohn Hus, in this Imperial Citie of Constance, vnder the safeconduict of the said my Lord king of Romaines; hath bene and yet is detained. And although the Pope with the Cardinales haue bene seriously required, by solemne Ambassadours of the sayd my Lord king of Romaines. &c. in the kings name & behalfe, that the said maister Iohn Hus should be set at libertye, and be restored vnto me, yet notwithstanding, they haue and yet do refuse

The last confession of Iohn Hus.

The martyrdom of blessed Iohn Hus.

Precious in the sight of God is the death of hys saintes.

The hart of Iohn Hus beaten with staves, and consumed with fire. The ashes of Iohn Hus cast into the riuer of Rheine.

The author and witness of this story.

M. Iohn Pizibram is thought to be his name. Ex Cochleio lib. 2. de Hist. Hrs. sit.

Ex Cochleio de hist. Huss. lib. 4.

The Emperour excuseth him self of the death of I. Hus.

Ex epist. Iohn Hus. 33.

The Emperour vncurtous to Iohn Hus.

Pilate more moderate to Christ, then this Emperour to Iohn Hus.