

Ioanes Præm-walbratenfis. The martirdome of certaine godly Bobemians fallſely circumſent and killed with ſword. Priuie murder at length cometh out.

more enuied amongſt the ſtates of Boheme. And the Countes of Prague being agreed at the inſolencie of Iohn Demouſtratiſis, called him and nine other of his adherents, whom they ſuppoſed to be the principals of this faction, into the Council houſe, as though they would conferre with them as touching the common wealth; and when they were come in, they ſlew them, and afterwaide departed home euery man to his owne houſe, thinking the Citie had bene quiet, as though nothing had bin done: But their ſeruantes being not circumſpect mough, waſhing downe the court or yarde, waſhed out alſo the blood of thoſe that were ſlaine, though the linkes or canels: the which being once ſcene, the people vnderſtood what was done. By and by there was a great tumult: the Council houſe was ſtraightway ouerthrowne, and eleven of the principall Citizens, which were thought to be the authors thereof, were ſlaine, and diuers houſes ſpoiled.

About the ſame time, the Caſtell of Bourgeil, where in the Emperour had left a ſmall garrilon (whether as alſo many Papites with their wines and children were fled) was thorough negligence burned, and thoſe which eſcaped out of the fire, went vnto Deſſina. After this, diuers of the Bohemian Captaines, and the Senate of Prague, ſent Ambaſſadors to Witold Duke of Lituania, and made hym their king. This did Zisca and his adherentes gaineſay. This Witold ſent Sigimund Coributus, with two thouſand horſemen into Boheme, who was honourably receiued of the inhabitants of Prague. At his coming they determined to lay ſiege vnto a Caſtle ſituate vpon a hill, which was called Charles ſtone.

Here Sigimundus had left for a garrilon ſoure Centurions of ſouldiours. The ſences were pitched in ſix places. The ſiege continued ſix moneths, and the aſſault neuer ceaſed day and night. Five great ſyngs they continually great ſtones ouer the walles, and about two thouſand veſſels, tubbs, or baſkets, filled with dead carcaſes and other excrementes, were caſt in amongſt thoſe which were beſieged: whiche thing did ſo infect them with ſtench, that their teeth did either fall out or were all loſt. Notwithſtanding they bare it out with ſtout courage, and continued their fight vntill the winter, hauing priuily receiued medicine out of Prague, to ſaſten their teeth againe.

In the meane time Fredericke the elder, prince of Brandenburge entering into Boheme with a great power, cauſed them of Prague to riſe the ſiege. And Witoldus at the request of Vladislaus king of Poile, which had talked with the Emperour in the borders of Hungary, called Coributus his vncke with his whole army out of Boheme. wherupon the Emperour ſuppoſed the Proteſtants being deſtitute of forreine aid, would ſooner do his commandment: but he was ſarre deceiued therein; for they leading their enemies out of Boheme, ſubdued the borders thereupon adioining. It is alſo reported that Zisca went into Auſtrich, and where as the husbandine of the countrey had carried away a great number of their cattell by water into a ſhip of the riuer called Danubius, and by chance had left certaine calues and ſwine in their Villages behind them: Zisca draue them vnto the riuer ſide, and kept the there ſolong, hearing them, and cauſing the to roate out and cry, vntill that the cattell ſeeding in the ſland, hearing the lowing and grunting of the cattell on the other ſide the water, for the deſire of their like, did ſwimme ouer the river: by the meanes whereof, he got and draue away a great body.

About the ſame time the Emperour Sigimundus gaue vnto his ſonne in law Albert Duke of Auſtrich, the countrey of Morauia, becauſe it ſhould not want a ruler. At the ſame time alſo Ericus king of Denmarke, and Peter Infant, brother to the king of Portugal and father of James, Cardinall of S. Euſtachijs, came vnto the Emperour, being both very expert men in the affaires of warre: which did augment the Emperours hoſt with their aid and power. wherupon, they ſtraightway pitched their camp before Lutemperge, a towne of Morauia, and continued the ſiege by the ſpace of ſix moneths. There was at that time a certaine Knight at Prague ſurnamed Aqua, which was very rich and of great authority. This man, ſo much as he had no child of his owne, adopted vnto him his ſiſters ſonne, named Procopius: whom when he was of meane ſtature and age, he carried with him into France, Spayne, and Italy, and vnto Ieruſalem, and at his returne cauſed hym to be made Biſhop. This man when the Boſpell began to flourish in Boheme, took part with Zisca; and ſo much as he was ſtrong and valiant, and alſo painefull, he was greatly eſteemed.

This Procopius for his valiant actes, was afterwaide called Procopius Magnus, and had committed vnto him the whole charge of the prouince of Morauia, and the defence

of the Lutemperges: who receiuing a great power by force (maugre all the whole power which lay in the ſiege) carried vitailles into the towne which was beſieged, and ſo did fruſtrate the Emperours ſiege. The Emperour before this had deliuered vnto the Marques of Auſtria the bridge and towne of Auſca, vpon the riuer of Albis, that they ſhould fortifie them with their garrilons. wherupon Zisca beſieged Auſca, and Fredericke the Marques of Auſtria, with his brother the Lantzgraue of Turyn, gathering together a greate army out of Saronia, Turyn, Auſtria, and both the Luſaces, determined to riſcue and ayde thoſe which were beſieged.

There was a great battaile fought before the Citie, and the victory depeded long vncertaine, but at laſt it fel on the Proteſtantes part. There were ſlaine in that battaile, the Burgraues of Auſtria or Chypogentes, the Barons of Glythen, and many other nobles, beſide ſix thouſand common ſouldiours, and the towne of Auſca was taken and utterly raled.

At the laſt, diſſenſion riſing betweene Zisca and them of Prague, they of Prague prepared an army againſt him, wherewith he perceiuing himſelfe ouermatched, fled vnto the riuer of Albis and was almoſt taken, but that he had paſſage through the towne of Doggicbas; but they of Prague purſuing the taile of the battaile, ſlew many of his ſchabozites. At the length they came vnto certaine hills, wher as Zisca going into the valley, knowing the ſtraights of the place, that his enemies could not ſpread their army, he commanded his ſtaunder to ſtand ſtill, and exhorting and encouraging his ſouldiours, he gaue them battaile.

This battaile was very fierce and cruell: but Zisca hauing the vpper hand, ſlew 3000. of them of Prague, and put the reſt to flight, and ſtraightwaies took the Citie of Guthna by force (which they of Prague had repaired) and ſet it on fire: then with all ſped he went with his army to beſiege Prague, and incamped within a bow ſhoote of the towne. There were many both in the City, and alſo in his hoſt which grudged force at the ſiege: ſome accuſing Zisca, otherſome them of Prague. There was great tumult in the campe, the ſouldiours ſaying that it was not reaſonable, that the City ſhould be ſimplified, which was both the head of the kingdome, and did not diſſent from them in opinion: ſaying that the Bohemians power would ſone decay, if their enemies ſhould know they were decuded within themſelues: alſo that they had ſufficient warres agaynſt the Emperour, and that it was but a fooliſh deuiſe to moue warres amongſt themſelues. This talke came vnto the care of Zisca, who calling together his armie, ſtanding vpon a place to be heard, ſpake theſe words.

Brethren be ye not agreed againſt me, neither accuſe hym which hath fought your health and ſauegard. The victories which ye haue obtained vnder my conduct, are yet freſh in memorie; neither haue I broughte you at anye time vnto any place, from whence you haue not come victours. You are become famous and rich, and I for your ſake haue loſt my ſight, and dwell in darkeneſſe. Nothing haue I gotten by all theſe fortunate battailes, but only a vaine name. For you haue I fought, and for you haue I vanquiſhed, neither do I repente me of my trauailles, neither is my blindneſſe grieuous vnto me, but only that I can not prouide for you, according to my accuſtomed manner: Neither do I perſecute them of Prague for mine owne cauſe; for it is your bloud that they thiſt and ſeeke for, and not mine. It were but ſmall pleaſure for them to deſtroy me being now an old man and blinde: it is your valiantneſſe and ſtoute ſtomackes which they feare. Either muſt you, or they periſh: who whileſt they ſeeme to lye in wait for me, do ſeek after your liues. You muſt rather feare ciuill warres then foreine, and ciuill ſedition ought firſt to be auoided. We will ſubdue Prague, and baniſh the ſeditious Citizens, before the Emperour ſhall haue anye news of this ſedition. And then hauing but a few of his faction left, we may with the leſſe feare looke for it: better then if theſe doubtfull Citizens of Prague were ſtill in our campe. But becauſe ye ſhall accuſe me no more, I geue you free libertie to do what you will. If it pleaſe you to ſuffer them of Prague to lye in quietneſſe, I will not be againſt it, ſo that there be no treaſon wrought. If you determine to haue warre, I am alſo readie. Looke which part you will decline vnto, Zisca will be your ayde and helper.

When he had ſpoken theſe words, the ſouldiours minds were changed, and wholly determined to make warre; ſo that they ran by and by to take vp their armour and weapons, to run vnto the walles to prouoke their enemies to fight for the gates of the Citie. Zisca in the meane time prepared all things ready for the aſſault. There is a liſt from Deſſina a certaine village named Achezana. In this place, there was a child borne of poore and baſe parentage, whoſe name

The valiant courage of Procopius.

The victorie of the proteſtantes.

The battaile betweene the citie of Prague & Zisca.

The noble victory of Zisca.

Zisca beſiegeth Prague.

A notable oration of Zisca to his ſouldiours.

The hartes of the ſouldiours altered by the oratio of Zisca.

Stench very hurtfull for the teeth.

An other warlike pollicy of Zisca. Stratagemma.

Procopius Magnus.