

And thus we haue, as in a grosse summe, cõpiled together the names and causes, though not of al, yet of a great, and so great a number of good men & good women, whych in those sorrowfull daies (from the yere of our Lord 1527. to this present yere 1533. that is, til the coming in of Queene Anne) were manifold wayes vexed and persecuted vnder the tyranny of the Bishop of Rome. Where again we haue to note, that frõ this present yere of our Lord 1533. during the time of the sayd Queene Anne, we read of no great persecution, nor any aburratation to haue bene in the Church of Englande, saue onely that the Registers of London make mention of certaine Dutchmen, counted for Annabaptists, of whom 10. were put to death in sondry places of the realme. an. 1535. other 10. repented and were saued. Where note again that 2. also of the said company, albeit the diffinitive sentence was read, yet notwithstanding were pardoned by the king, which was contrary to the Hopes law.

How to proceede forth in our matter, after that the Bishops and heads of the clergy had thus a long time taken their pleasure, exercising their cruell authoritie against the poore wasted flocke of the Lord, and began furthermoze to stretch forth their rigour and aueritie, to attach & molest also other greater perions of the temporalitie: so it fell, that in y beginning of the next of 2. yere following, which was an. 1534. a parliament was called by the king, about the 15. day of Jan. In the which parliament, the commons renewing their old griefes, complained of the crueltie of the Prelates & Ordinaries, for calling men before them Ex Officio. For sicke was then the blage of the Ordinaries and theyr Officials, that they would lend for men, & lay accusations to them of heretic, onely declaring to them, that they were accused, and would minister Articles to them, but no accuser should be brought forth: wherby the commons was greatly annoyed & oppressed, for the party to acited, must either aburre, or do worse, for purgatio he might none make.

As these matters were long debating in the Common house, as last it was agreed, that the temporal men should put their griefes in wytyng, and deliuer them to the King. Whereupon the 18. day of Marche, the common speaker accompanied with certaine Knights and Burgeses of the common house, came to the Kynge's presence, and there declared, how the temporal men of his Realme were sore aggrieved with the cruell demaund of the Prelates & Ordinaries, which touched theyr bodies and godes so neare, that they of necessitie were inforced to make their humble sute by their speaker vnto hys grace, to take such order and redresse in the case, as to his high wisdom myght seeme most conuenient. &c.

Vnto this request of the commons, although the King at that time gaue no present graunt, but suspended them with a delay, yet notwithstanding this sufficiently declared the guding mindes of the temporal men, against the spiritualltie, lacking nothing but Gods helping hande to worke in the kynge's heart for reformation of suche things, whych all they did see to be out of frame. Neyther did the Lordes diuine prouidence faile in time of neede, but effences ministred a ready remedy in time expedient. He saw the pride and crueltie of the spirituall clergy grown to such an height, as was intollerable. He sawe againe and heard the growng hearts, the bitter afflictions of hys oppressed flocke, his truth decayed, his religion prophaned, the glorie of his sonne defaced, his church lamentably wasted: wherfore it was high time for his high Maestie to looke vpon the matter (as he did in dedde) by a strange & wonderous meanes, whych was through the kynge's diuorcement from Lady Katherine Dowager, and marryng with lady Anne Bullen, in this present yere: which was the first occasion and beginning of all this publike reformation, which hath followed since in this Church of England to thys present day, according as ye shall heare.

The marriage betwene king Henry VIII. and Queene Anne Bullen, and Queene Katherine diuorced.

In the first entrie of this kynes raigue, ye hearde before, pag. 800. howe after the death of Prince Arthur, the Lady Katherine Diuines Dowager and wife to Prince Arthur, by the consent bothe of her father and of his, and also by the aduise of the nobles of thys realme, to the ende her dowrie might remaine stil within the realme, was espoused after the deceale of her husband, to hys nexte brother, which was this king Henric.

This marriage seemed very strange and hard, for one brother to marie the wife of another. But what can be in thys earth so harde or difficulte, wherewith the Hope, the omnipotent Mercie of Christ, can not by fauour dispense,

if it please him? The pope which then ruled at Rome, was Pope Julius the second, by whole dispensation, thys marriage, which neither lenie or nature would admit, nor Gods lawe would beare, was concluded, approued and ratified, and so continued as lawfull, without any dour or scruple, the space neare of 20. yeares, til about the time, that a certaine doubt began first to be moued by the Spanyards themselves of the Emperours counsaile. An. 1523. at what time Charles the Emperour being here in England, promised to marie the Lady Mary daughter to the Kyng of England, with the which promise the Spanyards themselves were not well contented, obiecting this among many other causes, that the laide Lady Marie was begotten of the king of England by his brothers wife.

Whereupon the Emperour forsaking that marriage, did couple himself with Lady Isabel, daughter to king Emanuel of Portugall, which marriage was done in the yere of our Lord 1526. After thys marriage of the Emperour, the next yere following, King Henric being disappoynted thus of the Emperour, entred talke, or rather was laboured too by the French Ambassadors, for the sayde Lady Mary to be married to the frenche kynes sonne, Duke of Orleans. Upon the talke wherof, after long debating, at length the matter was put of by a certaine doubt of the President of Paris, casting the like obiecton as the Spanyards had done before, that was, whether the marriage betwene the king & the mother of this Lady Mary, which had bene his brothers wife before, were good or no. And so the marriage twise vnluckely attempted, in like sorte broke of againe and was reiected: whych happened in the yere of our Lord. 1527.

The king vpon the occasion hereof casting many things in his minde, began to consider the cause moze depely, first with himselfe, after with certaine of hys nearest counsaile, wherein two things there were which chiefly pricked hys minde, wherof the one touched his conscience, the other concerned the state of his Realme. For if that marriage with his brothers wife stode vnlawfull by the law of God, then neither was his conscience cleare in retaining the mother nor yet the state of the realme firme by succession of the daughter. It happened the same tyme that the Cardinal which was then nearest about the king, had falle out with the Emperour, for not helping him to y Papacy, as ye before haue heard: for the which cause he helped to let the matter forward, by all practise he might. Thus the king perplexed in his conscience, and careful for y common wealthe and partly also incited by the Cardinal, coulde not so rest, but inquired further, to see what the word of God & learning would say vnto it. Neither was the case so hard, after it began once to come in publicke question, but that by the worde of God and the iudgements of the best learned clerkes, and also by the censure of the chiefe vniuersities of all Christendome, to the number of .x. and more, it was soone discouered to be vnlawfull.

All these censure, booke and writings of so many Doctors, Clerkes, and vniuersities sent from all quarters of Christendome, to the king albeit they might suffice to haue full resolued and did in dedde resolue the kynes conscience touching this scruple of his marriage: yet would not he straight way vnto that aduantage whiche learning byd gene him, vnles hee had withall the assent, as well of the Hope: as also the Emperour: wherem he perceaued no liete difficultie. For the Hope, he thought, seeing the marriage was authorized before, by the dispensation of his predecessor, would hardly turne hys keyes about, to vndoe that which the Hope before him had locked: & much lesse would he suffer those keyes to be soyled, or to come in anye doubt which was like to come, if that marriage were proued vndispensible by Gods worde, which his predecessor, thorough his plenary power had licensed before. Against the Emperour, he thought, would be no lesse hard for his part on the other side, for as much as the sayd Lady Katherine was the Emperours neare aunt and a Spamarde borne. Yet neuertheles his purpose was to proue and seele what they both would say vnto it, & therefore sent Steven Gardiner to Rome, to way with Pope Clement. To the Emperour was sent Syr Nicolas Derry knight, ambassador in the Court of Gaunt. Firste Pope Clement, not weying belike, the full importance and sequelle of the matter, sent Cardinal Campeius (as is sayde) into Englande, ioyned with the Cardinal of Yorke.

At the coming of which Legates, the King first opening vnto them the griefe of hys conscience, seemed with great reasons and perswasions, sufficiently to haue diuined the good will of those two Legates to his side. Who also of their owne accord, pretended no lesse but to shewe a willing inclination to further the kynes cause. But yet the mouers of the common people, and in especial of women, and

The Pope dispenseth for the brother to marry the brothers wife.

The Spanyards first doubted of the kynes marriage.

The second doubt whether the Lady Mary was rightly borne.

Two perplexities in the kynes minde.

Cardinal Wolfe sey a helper to the kynes diuorce.

The iudgement of 10. or 12. vniuersities against the kynes marriage. Orleans Paris, Toulouse, Argiewe, Bononye, Padua, The facultye of Paris, Byturs, Oxforde, Cambridge.

Campeius the Popes Legate.

The kynes perswasion to the Legate.

Ten Dutchmen Annabaptists put to death, Seger, Derycke, Symon, Runa, Derycke, Dominicke, Dauid, Cornelius, Elken, Miso,

Anno. 1533. Complaynt of the Commons against the Clergy. Ex Edw. Hallo. A Parliament. an. 1534.

Crueltie of the Clergy against the temporalitie.

Gods helping hand in time of neede.

Queene Anne married, and Lady Katherine diuorced.

K. Henry his brothers wife.