

good, but his memorie was as great in retaining whatsoeuer he had attained. which well appeared in carrying the text of the whole new Testament of Erasmus translation without booke, in his iourney going and coming from Rome; whereof ye shall heare anon.

This in hys growing yeares, as he shot vp in age, and ripenes, a great delite came in his mynde to stray into foereine countreys, to see the world abroad, and to leaue experience; whereby he learned such toungs and languages, as might better serue for hys vse hereafter.

And thus passing ouer his youth, being at Antwerpe, he was there retained of the English Marchauntes to be their Clerke or Secretary, or in some suche lyke condition placed pertaining to their affaires.

It happened the same time, that the Towne of Boston thought good to send vp to Rome, for retaining of their two Pardons, one called the great Pardoun, the other the lesser Pardoun, which thing although it should stand therein in great expences of money (for the Popes Marchaundise is alwayes deare ware) yet not withstanding such sweetnesse they had felt thereof, and such gayne to come to theyr Towne by that mouth Marchaundise (as all superstition is commonly gaynefull) that they like good Catholike Marchauntes, and the Popes good customers, thought to spare for no coste, to haue their leaues agayne of theyr Pardons renewed, whatsoeuer they payde for the fine. And yet was all this good Religion then: suche was the lamentable blindness of that time.

This then being so determined & decreed amongst my countrey-men of Boston, to haue their pardons needes repaired & renewed from Rome, one Willeay Chabers with an other companion was sent for y messengers, with writings & money, no small quantity, well furnished, & with all other things appointed, necessary for so chargeable & costly employ, who coming in his iourney to Antwarpe, & misdoubting himselfe to be too weak for the compassing of suche a weightie peece of worke, conferred & perswaded with Tho. Cromwell to associate yin in that legacie, and to assist him in the continuing thereof. Cromwell although perceiving the enterpryse to be of no small difficultie, to trauele the Popes Court, for the vnrasonable expences amidst those greedy capmozanies, yet hauing some skill of the Italian toung, and as yet not grounded in iudgement of religion in those his youthfull daies, was at length obtained and content to giue the adventure, and so to take his iourney toward Rome. Cromwell toke to spend much time, & more toke to spend his money: and againe perceiving that the Popes greedy humor must needes be serued wyth some present or other (for without rewards there is no doing at Rome) began to cast with himselfe, what thing best to devise, wherein he might best serue the Popes deuotion.

At length, hauing knowledge how that the Popes holy toth greatly delited in new fangled strange delicacies, and dayntie dishes, it came in his minde to prepare certeine fine dishes of gelly, after the best fashion, made after our countrey manner here in Englande, which to them of Rome was not knowne nor seene before.

This done, Cromwell obseruing his time accordingly, as the Pope was newly come fro hunting into his parliament, he with his companions approached with his english presents brought in with a threemans song (as we call it) in the English tongue, and all after y English fashion. The Pope sodenly mancelling at the straungenes of the song, and vnderstanding that they were Englishmen, and that they came not empty handed, willed them to be called in. Wherupon there shewing his obedience, & offering his toyle iunkets, suche as Kings and Princes only (sayd he) in the realme of Englande vie to feede vpon, desired y same to be accepted in beneuolent part, which he and his companions as pore sinners vnto his holines, had there brought and presented, as nouitices were for his recreation, &c.

Pope Julius being the straungenes of the dishes, commaunded by and by his Cardinall to take the assay, who in tasting thereof, liked it so well, and so likewise the Pope after him, that knowing of them what their lutes were, and requiring them to make knowne the making of that meate, he recounting without any more adoe, stamped both their pardons, as well the greater as the lesser.

And thus was the toyle pardons of the Towne of Boston obeyned as you haue heard, for the maintenance of their decayed porte. The copie of which Pardons (which I haue in my handes) briefly comprehended, commeth to this effect: That all the brethren and sisters of the gyld of our Lady in S. Woulphes church at Boston, should haue free licence to choise for their confessor or ghostly father, whom they woulde, eyther seculare Priest, or religious person, to aspyle them plenaryly from all their sinnes, except only in cases reserved to the Pope.)

Also should haue licence to carry about with them an altar stone whereby they might haue a Priest to say them Masse, or other diuine seruice, where they would, without prouidence of any other Church or Chappell, though it were also before the day, yea and at thre of the clocke after midnight in the Sommer tyme.

Furthermore, that all such brethren and sisters of the sayd gyld, which should resort to y chappel of our Lady in S. Woulphes Church at the feast of Easter, Whitsonide, Corpus Christi, the Nativity or Assumption of our Lady, or in y Octaues of them, the feast of S. Michael, and first Sunday in Lent, should haue Pardons no lesse then if they themselves personally had visited the Stations of Rome.

Provided that every such person, man or woman, entering into the same gyld, at his first entrance should giue to the finding of vij. Priests, vij. Queresters, & vij. Beademen, and to the lightes of y same brotherhoode a Grammer schole, vij. Shillings vij. pence, and for every yeare after, xj. pence.

And these ymentles being before granted by Pope Innocentius, and Pope Julius 2. this Pope Clement also confirmed, granting moreover, that whatsoeuer brother or sister of the same gyld thorough pouertie, sickness, or any other let could not resort personally to the saide chappell, notwithstanding he should be dispensed withall, as well for that, as for all other howes, irregularities, censures Canonically whatsoeuer, only the bove of going the Stations of Rome, and going to S. James of Compostella excepted, &c.

He also granted vnto them powce to receaue full remission A poena & culpa once in theyr lyfe, or in the houte of death.

Item, that hauing their altar stone, they might haue Masse sayd in any place, though it were vnhalloved. Also in the tyme of interdict, to haue Masse of any Sacramente ministered: and also being departed, that they might be buried in Christen buriall notwithstanding the interdict.

Extending moreover his graunt, that to all such brethren and sisters, in resorting to the foresayd Chappell of our Lady vpon the Nativity, or Assumption of our Lady, giuing suppoztation to the sayd Chappell, at euery such festiuall daie, to haue full remission of all their sinnes. Or if they for any impediment could not be present at the Chappell aforesayd, yet if they came to their owne Parish Church, and there sayd one Pater noster, and Aue Maria, they should enioy the same remission aboue specified: or whosoever came euery Friday to the same Chappell, should haue as much remission, as if he went to the Chappell of our Lady called Scala coeli.

Furthermore, that whatsoeuer Christe people, of what estate or condition soeuer, either spiritual or temporal, would ayde & support the chamberlaines or substitutes of y foresayd gyld, should haue five hundred yeares of pardon.

Item, to all brothers and sisters of the same gyld was granted free libertie to eate in tyme of Lent, or other fasting dayes, egges, milke, butter, cheese, and also fleshe, by the counsaile of their ghostly father and phisition, without any scruple of conscience.

Item, that all parakers of the same gyld, and being supporters thereof, which once a quarter, or euery Friday or Saturday, either in the said Chappell in S. Woulphes Church, or any other Chappell, of their deuotion shall say a Pater noster, Aue Maria, and Creede, or shall say or cause to be sayd Masses for soules departed in paynes of Purgatory, shall not onely haue the full remission due to them which visite the Chappell of Scala Coeli, or of S. John Lateran, but also the soules in Purgatory shall enioy full remission, and be released of all their paynes.

Item, that all the soules departed of the brothers and sisters of the sayde gyld: also the soules of their fathers and mothers shall be parakers of all the prayers, suffrages, almoses, fastings, masses, and mattens, pilgrimages, and of all other good deedes of all the holy Church militant for euer, &c.

These indulgencies, pardons, grauntes, and relaxations, were geuen and granted by Pope Nicholas the first, Pope Pius 2. Pope Sixtus, and Pope Julius the second, of which Pope Julius it seemeth, that Cromwell obeyned this Pardoun aforesayde about the yeare of oure Lorde 1510. which Pardoun againe afterward though the request of King Henry, an. 1526. was confirmed by Pope Clement the tenth. And thus much concerning the pardoun of Boston, renewed by the meanes of Thomas Cromwell, of Pope Julius the second.

All this while it appeareth, that Cromwell had yet no sound taste nor iudgement of Religion, but was wyld & youthfull, without sense or regard of God and his wyld as he himselfe was wont oftentimes to declare vnto Cranmer

Tho. Cromwell learned the new Testament in Latin without booke.

The towne of Boston.

The popes marchandise deare ware.

Superstition commonly is gaynefull. The popes leaues of pardons.

Cromwell goeth to Rome.

Cromwells presents to the Pope. Cromwell a suter for Boston Pardons.

Boston pardons obtained at Rome.

The effect and contents of Boston pardons.

Pardon for visiting our Ladies chappell in Boston.

The price of Boston pardons. Crafty marchantes.

Full remission a poena & culpa.

Good stuffe itrow.

The chappell of Scala Coeli about Rome.

The pope selleth egges, butter, and cheese.

Pardon for soules in purgatory.

Fx literis Papa Clementis 7. ad Guilel. Warranum Archiep.