

mer Archbishop of Cant. shewing what a ruffine he was in his yong dayes, and how he was in the warres of duke Bourbon at the siege of Rome, also what a great doer he was with Herry Chambers in publishing and setting forth the pardon of Boston euery where in Churches as he went, and so continued, till at length by learning the texte of the newe Testament without booke, of Erasmus translation in his going and coming from Rome (as is aforesayd) he began to be toucht and called to better vnderstanding.

In this meane tyme Thomas Woolsey Cardinall of Yorke began to beare a great pozt in England, and almost to rule all vnder the King, or rather with the King, so that the best wittes, and of best towardnes, most commonly fought vnto him. Among whome was also Thomas Cromwell to his seruice aduanced, where he continued a certayne space of yeares, growing by in office and authority, till at length he was preferred to be sollicitour to the Cardinall.

There was also about the same tyme, or not much different, in the houthold of the sayd Cardinall, Tho. More, afterward knight and Chauncelour of England: & Streue Gardiner Bishop after of wint. and of the Kings Confessor. All these three were brought vp in one houthold, and all of one standing almost together. whose ages, as they were not greatly discrepant, nor their wittes much unequal: so neither was their fortune and aduancement greatly diuers, albeit their dispositions and humors were most contrary. And though peradventure in More and in Gardiner there was more arte of letters, and skill of learning: yet notwithstanding there was in this man a more heavenly light of minde, & more prompt & perfect iudgement, eloquence equall, and as may be supposed, in thys man more pregnant: and finally in him was wrought a more heroiCALL and princely dispositiō, bozne to greater assaies in the common wealth, and to the singular helpe of many.

It happened then in this meane season, as Cromwell was placed in this office to be sollicitour to the Cardinall, the said Cardinall had then in hand the building of certeine Colledges, namely his Colledge in Oxforde, called then Stridewide, now Thristes Church. By reason whereof, certayne small monasteries and priories, in diuers places of the realme, were by the saide Cardinall suppressed, and the lands sealed to the Cardinals hands. The doing whereof was committed to the charge of Thomas Cromwell. In the expedition whereof he shewed himselfe very forward, and industrious, in such sort as in handling thereof, he produced to himselfe much grudge with diuers of the superstitious sort, and with some also of noble calling about the King. And thus was Cromwell first set a worke by the Cardinall, to suppress religious houses, which was about the yeare of our Lord 1525.

As this passed on, it was not long, but the Cardinall whiche had gotten vp so high, began to come downe as fast, first from the Chauncelloiship (in whiche tyme was placed Sir Tho. More, as is aforesayd) then he fell into a Premunire: So that his houthold being dissolved, Tho. Cromwell amongst other, laboured also to be receyved into the Kings seruice.

There was at the same tyme one Syr Christopher Hales Knight, Master of the Rolles, who notwithstanding was then a mightie Papist, yet bare he suche fauour and good liking to Cromwell, that he commended him to the King, as a man most fitte for his purpose, hauing then to do against the Pope. But heere before is to be vnderstand, that Cromwell had greatly bene complained of, and diffamed by certeine of authority about the King, for bys rude manner and homely dealing in defacing the Monkes houses, & in handling of their altars, &c. wherefore the King hearing of the name of Cromwell, began to detest the mention of him: neither lacked there some banders by, who the resulting words ceased not to encrease and inflame the Kings hatred against him. what their names were, it shall not neede heere to recite. Among other there present at the same hearing, was the Lorde Russell Earle of Bedforde, whose life Cromwell before had preferred at Bononye, though poltricke conueyance, at what time, the said Earle comming secretly in the kings affaires, was there clyped, and therefore being in great daunger to be taken, thjough the meanes and pollicie of Cromwell escaped.

This Lord Russell therefore not forgetting the olde benefites past, & with like grauntie willing againe to requite that he had receaued, in a vehement boldnes stood forth, to take vpon him the defence of Thomas Cromwell, deterring before the king many commendable words in the behalfe of him, and declaring withall how by his singular deuice and pollicie, he had done for him at Bononie, being there in the Kings affaires, in extreame perill. And for as

much as now his Maiestie had to do with the Pope, his great enemy, there was (he thought) in all England none so apt for the kynges purpose, which could say or do more in that matter, then could Thomas Cromwell, and partly gaue the kyng to vnderstand wherein. The kyng hearyng this, & specially markyng the latter end of his talke, was contented and willing to talke with him, to heare and know what he could say.

This was not so pryncially done, but Cromwell had knowledge incontinent, that the kyng would talke with him, & whereupon: & therefore prouidyng before hand for matter, had in a readynesse the copie of the Bishops othe, which they vse commonly to make to the Pope at their consecration: and so being called for, was brought to the king in his garden at Westminster, which was about the yeare of our Lord, 1530.

Cromwell after most loyall obsequy, doying his due tie to the kyng, accordyng as he was demaunded, made his declaration in all pointes, this especially making manifest vnto his highnes, how his princely authority was abused within his owne Realme, by the Pope & his Clergy, who being sworn vnto him, were afterward dispensed from the same, & sworn a new vnto the Pope, so that he was but as halfe kyng, and they but halfe his subiectes in his owne land: which (sayd he) was derogatorie to his crowne, and utterly preiudiciall to the common lawes of his Realme: Declaryng therupō how his Maiestie might accumulate to himselfe great riches, so much as all the Clergy in his Realme was worth, if it so pleased him to take the occasion now offered. The kyng geuyng good care to this, and likyng right well his aduice, required, if he could auouch that which he spake. All this he could (he sayd) auouch to be certaine, so well, as that he had the copie of their owne othe to the Pope, there present to shewe, and that no lesse also he could manifestly proue, if his highnesse would geue him leaue: & therewith shewed the Bishops othe vnto the kyng.

The kyng folowyng the beyne of his counsaile, toke his ryng off his finger, & first admittynge him into his seruice, sent him therewith to the Conuocation house among the Bishops. Cromwell conynyng with the kynges signet boldly into the Clergy house, and there placing himselfe among the Bishops (Mr. Warham being then Arch-bishop) begā to make his Oration, declaryng to them the authority of a kyng, and the office of subiectes, & especially the obedience of Bishops & Churchmen vnder publicke lawes, necessarily prouided for the profite & quiet of the common wealth, which lawes notwithstanding they had all transgressed, & highly offended in derogation of the kynges royall estate, falling in the law of Premunire, in that not onely they had consented to the power Legatine of the Cardinall, but also in that they had all sworn to the Pope, contrary to the fealtie of their saueraigne Lord the kyng, & therefore had forseyed to the kyng all their goodes, cattels, landes, possessions, and whatsoeuer liuynges they had. The Bishops hearyng this, were not a litle amafed, and first began to excuse and deny the fact. But after that Cromwell had shewed them the very copie of their othe made to the Pope at their consecration, and the matter was so playne, that they could not deny it, they begā to shrinke, and to fall to entreatie, desiryng repite to paue vpon the matter. Notwithstanding the end thereof fell so out, that to be quite of that Premunire, by Act of Parliament, it cost them to the kyng for both the prouinces, Canterbury and Yorke, no lesse then, 18840. poundes, whiche was about the yeare of our Lord, 1530. whereof before you may read more at large, pag. 1020.

After this, an. 1522. Syr Thomas Cromwell growyng in great fauour with the kyng, was made Knight & Master of the kynges Jewell house, & shortly after was admitted also into the kynges Counsaile, whiche was about the conynyng in of Quene Anne Bullen. Furthermoze, within two yeares after the same, an. 1524. he was made Master of the Rolles, Doct. Taylor being discharged.

Thus Cromwell springyng by in fauour and honour, after this, in the yeare, 1527. a litle before the byrth of kyng Edward, was made Knight of the Garter, & not long after, was aduanced to the Saierdom of Essex, and made great Chamberlaine of England.ouer and besides all which honours, he was constitute also Vicegerent to the kyng, representyng his person, whiche office although it standeth well by the law, yet seldom hath there bene sene any besides this Cromwell alone, either to haue succeded it, or els to haue so furnished the same with counsaile and wisdom, as Cromwell did. And thus much by hereto concerning the steppes and degrees of the Lord Cromwells risyng vp to dignitie and high estate.

Now somewhat would be sayd likewise of the noble Actes,

Cromwell was in the wars of the Duke of Burbon besieging Rome.

Cromwell received into the Cardinals seruice.

Cromwell solicitor to the Cardinall.

Cromwell More, and Gardiner, companions in the Cardinals houle.

A comparison betweene Cromwell More, and Gardiner

Small Monasteries suppressed by the Cardinall.

Cromwell first set a worke by the Cardinall to suppress religious houses.

Syr Christopher Hales, helper of Cromwell to the king. Cromwell commended to the king by Sir Christopher Hales M. of the Rolles, Cromwell complained of to the king.

The Lord Russell Earle of Bedforde, through the policy of Cromwell, escaped at Bononie. The Lorde Russell commended Cromwell to the king.

Cromwell brought to talke with the king.

Cromwells wordes to the king, concerning the premunire of the Clergy.

Cromwell sent by the king to the conuocation house.

For the copie of the Bishops oth to the Pope read before page 1025. The clergy condemned in the Premunire. Syr Tho. Cromwell made knight and M. of the kings Jewell houle.

Cromwell made M. of the Rolles. Cromwell made knight of the Garter.

L. Cromwell made Earle of Essex, great Chamberlaine of England, and Vicegerent to the king.