

the time began to go away, and it was viij. of the clock, and thus he made an end to his protection. Right reverend my father Bishop, you deny that our christen faith and religion doth lean only vpon the word of God which is written in the Bible, which thing if I can proue and declare, then you will graunt me that there be no sacramentes, but those that haue the manifest word of God to confirme the. Unto this he did consent, and then immediately that assent he was dissolved for that day.

The next day when the Bishops were set agayne, the Archbishop of Canterbury sending his Archdeacon, commaunded Abbotus to abstayne from disputation, whorupon he wrote his minde, and deliuered it vnto Cromwell, who afterward shewed the same vnto the Bishops. Thus through the industry of Cromwell, the colloquies were brought to this end, that altho' religious could not wholly be reformed, yet at that time there was some reformation had throughout all England.

How delicious and iudicious this good Cromwell was in the cause of Christs religion, examples need not to be brought. His whole life was nothing els, but a continuall care and trauell how to aduance and further the right knowledge of the Gospell, and reforme the house of God? As by his many proclamations aboue specified by his meanes set forth, may well appeare, wherein first he caused the people to be instructed in the Lordes prayer, and Creed in English, then procured the Scripture also to be read and set forth in the same language, for euery English man to vnderstand: after that to reforme the vulgar people from damnable Idolatry, caused certaine of the most grossest pilgrimages to be destroyed. And further for the more commodity of the poore, which get their lining with their dayly labor, & worke of their handes, he prouided that diuers idle holidayes were diminished. Item he procured for the liberty to eate egges and whitemeat in Lent. Furthermore by him it was also prouided for the better instruction of the people, that beneficedome should be resident in their Cures and parishes, there to teach and to keepe hospitalitie, with many other things els most fruitfully redressed for the reformation of Religion and behaue of Christs Church: as by the proclamations, Injunctions, and necessary articles of Christian doctrine aboue specified, set forth in the kings name, by his meanes, may more abundantly appeare, pag. 1069, 1070, &c.

How to aduince withall his private benefices in helping diuers god men and women at sundry times out of troubles and great distresses, it would require a long discourse. Wherby his whole life was full of such examples, being a man to that intent ordeined of God (as his deedes well proued) to do many men good, and especially such as were in danger of persecutiō for religious sake. Amongst other infinite stories, one or two examples shall suffice for a testimony of his worthy doings.

How Cromwell holpe a poore woman with child, out of great trouble, longing for a peece of meat in time of Lent.

Persecuters.	Persecuted.	The cause.
Fishers wyfe of Harnesley	Thomas Frebarne and his Wyfe.	In the yeare of our Lord, 1538. Syr William Forman being Mayor of the cite of London, three weekes before Easter, the wyfe of one Tho. Frebarne dwelling in Water nother row, being with childe, longed after a moyzell of a pigge, and told her minde vnto a Mayde dwelling in Abchurch lane, desiring her, if it were possible, to helpe her vnto a peece. The
D. Cockes.		
Bishop Stokessley.		
Holland his Sumner.		
M. Garter, King of Armes.		

earnest desire, shewed vnto her husband, what his wife had sayd vnto her, telling him that it might chaunce to cost her her life and the childes too whiche she went withall, if she had it not. Vpon this Thomas Frebarne her husband spake to a butter wyfe whiche he knew, & dwelled at Harnesley, named goodwyfe Fisher, to helpe him vnto a pigge for his wyfe: for she was with childe, & longed sore to eate of a pigge. Unto whom the sayde goodwyfe Fisher promised that she would bring him one the Friday following, and so

she did, being ready dressed and scalded before. When she had deliuered him the pigge, she carried it vnto Doctor Loken, at that time being Deane of Canturbury, dwelling in Jew lane, who at that time of his dinner, before certain gesses whiche he had bidden, shewed his pigs foot, declaring who had the body thereof: and after that they had talked they pleased, & dinner was done, one of his gesses being landord vnto Frebarne aforesayd, called M. Garter, & by his office King of Armes, sent his man vnto the sayd Frebarne, demanding if there were no body like in his house. Unto whom he answered, that they were all in good health, he gaue God thanks. Then sayde he agayne, it was tolde bys Mayster that some body was sicke, or els they would not eate flesh in Lent. Unto whom Frebarne made answer, that his wyfe was with childe, and longed for a peece of a pigge: and if he could get some for her, he would. Then departed his Landordes man home agayne.

And shortly after, his Landlord sent for him. But before that he sent for him, he had sent for the bishop of Londons Sumner, whose name was Holland, & when this Frebarne was come, he demanded of him, if he had not a pig in his house? whiche he denyed not. Then commaunded Mayster Garter the sayde Sumner called Holland, to take him, and goe home to his house, and to take the pigge, and carry both him and the pigge vnto Doctor Stokessley his Mayster, being then Bishop of London, & so he did. When the Bishop being in his chamber, with diuers other of the Clergy, called this Frebarne before him, and had him in examination for this pigge, laying also vnto his charge, that he had eaten in his house that Lent poudered beefe and Calues heades. Unto whom Frebarne answered, My Lord, if the heades were eaten in my house, in whose houses were the bodies eaten? Also if there be eyther man or woman that can proue, that either I, or any in my house hath done as your Lordship sayth, let me suffer death therefore. You speake (sayd he) agaynst pilgrimages and will not take holy bread, holy water, nor yet goe on procession on Palme Sunday: Thou art no Christian man. My Lord, sayd Frebarne, I trust I am a true Christian man, & haue done nothing neither agaynst Gods law nor my princes.

In the time of this his examination, which was during the space of two hours, diuers came vnto the bishop, some to haue theyr childer confirmed, & some for other causes. Unto whom as they came, hauing the pig before him couered, he would lift vp the cloth and shew it them, saying: How thinke you of such a fellow as this is? is not this good meate, I pray you, to be eaten in this blessed time of Lent; yea and also poudered beefe and Calues heades too beside this?

After this the Bishoppe called his Sumner vnto him, and commaunded him to go and carry this Thomas Frebarne and the pig openly thorow the streetes, into the olde Bayly, vnto Syr Roger Cholmley: for the Bishop sayd, he had nothing to do to punish him, for that belonged vnto y<sup>e</sup> ciuill magistrates, and so was Frebarne carryed to the pyg before him, to Sir Roger Cholmleys house in the olde Bayly; & he being not at home at that time, Frebarne was brought likewise back agayne vnto the bishops place with the pig, and there lay in the porters lodge till it was 9. a clocke at night. When the bishop sent him vnto the Counter in the Dowry by the Sumner and other of his seruantes.

The next day being Saturday, he was brought before the Mayor of London & his brethren, vnto Guild hall, but before his coming, they had the pig deliuered vnto them by the Bishops officer. When the Mayor and the Benche layd vnto his charge (as they were informed from the Bishop) that he had eaten poudered beefe and Calues heades in his house the same Lent, but no man was able to come in that would iustify it, neither could any thing be found, save onely the pig, whiche (as is before sayd) was for the preservation of his wifes life, and that he went withall. Notwithstanding the Mayor of London sayde, that the Monday next following, he should stand on the pillary in Cheape side, with the one halfe of the pig on the one shoulder, and the other halfe on the other.

Then spake the wyfe of the sayd Frebarne vnto the Mayor and the Benche, desiring that she myght stand there, and not her: for it was long of her and not of him. After this they took a slatten list, & ride it fast about the pigs neck, and made Frebarne to carry it hanging on his shoulder vntill he came vnto the Counter of the Dowry, from whence he came.

After this was done, the wyfe of this prisoner toke with her an honest woman, the wyfe of one Michell Lobley, whiche was well acquainted with diuers in the Lord Cromwelles house, vnto whom the sayde woman resorted

The publicke care of Cromwell for the commō wealth.

Read afore pag. 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072 &c.

A story of one Frebarnes wyfe, longing for a peece of meate in Lent,

Let no man judge you in meate or drink, or in respect of an holyday. &c. Colloss. 2.

Holland the Bishop of Londons Sumner.

Tho. Frebarne examined before the Bishop.

Pharisaicall iudgment.

Thomas Frebarne brought to the Counter. Thomas Frebarne brought before the Lord Mayor.