

and doying good to the poore afflicted saimes, helping them out of trouble; the matter of his enemies to wrought, continually hunting for matter against him, that they neuer ceased, till in the end they by false traimes and craby surmises brought down one of the kings favour.

The first and principall enemy against him, was Stephen Gardiner bishop of Winchester, who ever displaying and enuieing the state and salutarie of the Lord Cromwell, and now making his occasion by the marriage of lady Anne of Cleve, being a stranger and forreiner, put in the Kings eares what a perfect hatred was for the quiettye realm, and establishment of the kings succession, to haue an English Queene and Prince that were neere English: so that in conclusion the Kings affection, the more it was diminished from what he married Anne of Cleve, the lesse favour he bare him to Cromwell. Besides this Gardiner, there lacked not other backe friends also and flouers in the court about the king, which time made for Cromwell, both for his religion which they misliked, and for other private grudges also incident by the way.

Once and besides all which, it is moreover supposed, that some part of his pleasure might vyle against him, by reason of a commotion which happened a little before at Lambeth, at what time the king after the making of the vii. Articles, sent the sayd Lord Cromwell his Treasurer, with the two Dukes of Northfolke & Suffolke, with all the Lordes of the Parliament to Lambeth, to dine with the Archbishop (who mightie had dispersed and alleged in the Parliament against the said Articles) to cheere and comfort his daunted spirits agayne.

Where the said Cromwell with the other noble Lordes sitting with the Archbishop at his table in talke, as euery lord brought forth his sentence in commendation of Cranmer, to signifie what good will both the kyng & they bare vnto him: among the rest one of the company cutting in to a comparison betwene the sayd Thomas Cranmer, and Thomas wolsey late Cardinall of Yorke, declared in his iudgement, that Cranmer was much to be preferred for his mynde and gentle nature, where as the Cardinall was a stubburne and a churchly prelate, and one that could neuer abide any noble man, and that (sayd he) knowe you well enough, my Lord Cromwell; for he was your Maister, &c. At these wordes the Lord Cromwell being somewhat touched to heare the Cardinalls sentence cast in hys teeth, inferred agayne, saying: that he could not deny but he was seruant some tyme to Cardinall wolsey, neyther did repent the same; for he receiued of hym both fee, meate, and drinke, and other commodities: but yet he was neuer so farr in loue with hym, as to haue wayped vpon him to Rome, if he had bene chosen Pope, as he vnderstande that he would haue done if the case had so fallen out. whiche when the other had denied to be true, Cromwell still persisted, affirming the same, and shewing moreover what number of Florens he should haue receyued, to be his Admirall, and to haue lade conducted hym to Rome, in case he had bene elected Bishop of Rome. The partie not a little moued with these wordes, told hym, he lyed. The other agayne affirmed it to be true. Upon this, great and hygh wordes rose betwene them. which contention although it was through intreatie of the Archbishop and other nobles some what pacified for the tyme, yet it might be, that some bitter rote of grudge remayned behynd, which afterward grew vnto him to some displeasure. And this was, an. 1540. in the moneth of July. Ex testimonio, Secretarij. Cantuar.

After this, the next yeare following, which was 1541. in the moneth of April was holden a Parliament, which after diuers prorogations was continued till the moneth of July the sayd yeare. In the which moneth of July, the Lord Cromwell being in the counsaile chamber, was suddenly apprehended, and committed to the tower of London. whereat, as many good men which knewe nothing but truth by him did lament, and prayed hartly for him, so moche there were on the contrary side that reioyced, especially of the religious sort, and of the clergy, such as had bene in some dignitie before in the Church, and now by hys meane were put from it. For in deede, such was hys nature, that in all his doyngs he could not abyde any kynde of Poperie, nor of false religion creeping vnder hypocritic, and lesse could abyde the ambitious pryde of Popish Prelacie, which professing all humilitie, was so elated by pryde, that kynges could not rule in their owne Realmes for them. These snuffing Prelates as he could neuer abide so they agayne hated him as much, whiche was the cause of hys crying his dayes, and to hyng him to his ende: So that the six. day of the moneth aforesaid, he was attained by Parliament,

In the which Attender diuers and sondry crimes surmises, objections and accusations were brought against hym, but chiefly and above all other, he was charged and accused of heretic, for that he was a supporter of them (who they reckoned for hereticks) as Barnes, Clarke, and many other, whom he by his authoritie and letters written to Sherriffes and Iudges in diuers Shires refused and discharged out of prison. Also that he did euillgate & disperse abroad amongst the Kings subiects, great numbers of booke, containing (as they said) manifest matter of much heretic, diffidence, and misbeliefe. Item, that he caused to be translated into our English tongue, booke comprising in matter expressly against the Sacrament of the auiter, & that after the translation thereof, he commended and mainteyned the same for good and christian doctrine.

Once and besides all this, they brought in certaine witness (what they were, the attender expressed not) which most especially pressed (or rather oppressed) him with heinous wordes spoken agaynst the king in the Church of S. Peter the poore, in the moneth of March, in the xxx. yeare of the kings reigne. which wordes if they be true, as the Attender doth purpore, three things I haue here inuch to interwaite at. First, if his adherentes had so lurre hope and matter against hym, then what would moue the to make such hastie speed in all poss haste, to haue him dispatched and rid out of the way, and in no case could abyde hym to come to his purgation, which if he might haue done, it is not other wise to be thought, but he would easily haue cleared himselfe thereof.

Secondly, this I marvel, that if the wordes had bene so famous against the kyng, as his enemies did pretend, why then did those witness which heard those wordes in S. Peters Church, in the xxx. yeare of the kings reigne, conceale the sayd wordes of such treason so long, the space almost of xi. yeares, and not uttered the same in the xxxi. yeare of the kings reigne, in the moneth of July.

Thirdly, here is agayne to be marvelled, if the king had known or believed these wordes to be true, and that Cromwell had bene in deede such a traytour to his person, why then did the kyng so shortly after lamet his death, wishing to haue his Cromwell alive agayne: What Justice will with the life of hym whom he suspecteth vndoubtedly to be a traitor to his life and person? wherby it may appere what iudgement the King had of Cromwell in himselfe, howeouer the parliament by sinifter information was otherwise intended to iudge vpon him.

Such malicious makebates about Princes and parliaments, neuer lacked in common weales. By such kyng Ethelstane was incensed to kill his brother Edwine, pag. 119. So was king Edward 2. deposed. So likewise when king Richard 2. was once brought into the Tower, what crimes and accusations were layd against him in the Parliament? So was Humfrey the good Duke of Gloucester, the kings vnckle, by Henry Beauford bishop of Winchester and other in the Parliament holden at Wery, arrested as a traitour, and falsly made away, pag. 160. What great treason was in the wordes of him, who dwelling in Cope side at the signe of the Crowne, sayd merily to hys sonne, that if he liued, he would make him heyre of the crowne: & yet was he therefore attained and iudged for a Traytor? pag. 701. In the tyme of king Henry the 8. how was that Parliament incensed, wherem both Queene Anne was falsly condemned, and Queene Elizabeth her daughter, as falsly disherited? To omit here the Attainder of the Duke of Buckingham wrought by the Cardinall of Yorke: Of the lord Cobham likewise, and sir Roger Acton, pag. 150. If the cause of the lord Henry late Earle of Surrey were well tried out, peraduenture no such banous purpose of any treason should be found therein as than was made. who incensed y late Duke of Somerset to behead his own brother, but such makebates as these? And afterward whē the sayd Duke himselfe was attained for a traytor, and condemned for a felon, a byber and extortioner: how was the parliament then incensed? Adam Damlip receyued of Cardinall Pole at Rome, but a feyn crowne in way of almes, and therefore by meane of Stephen Gardiner was attained for a traytor. George Egles did but read some tyme in woods and by the said Gardiner was also condemned and suffered as a traytor.

Not that I here speake or meane agaynst the hygh courtes of Parliamentes of thys our Realme, necessarilye assembled for the common wealth, to whom I alwayes attribute their due reuerence and authoritie. But as it happeneth sometimes in generall Councils, which though they be neuer so generall, yet notwithstanding sometimes they may and do erre in waightie matters of religion: so lykewise they that say, that Princes and Parliamentes may be misinformed sometimes, by some sinister heds, in matters civil

Crimes and accusations brought agaynst the L. Cromwell.

Witnesses against Cromwell suspected.

What mischief malicious make bates make in a common wealth.

Examples of me falsly accused, & wrongfully iudged.

Steph. Gardiner chief enemy to the L. Cromwell.

The talke betwene the L. Cromwell & certeine of the Lordes at Lambeth.

Anno 1541. A Parliament.

The Lord Cromwell apprehended.

Authority of Parliamentes.