

could name if I would, a great number of my sect. I answered, that the kyng was as well deceived in that behalf, as dissembled with in other matters.

Then commanded they me to shew how I was maintained in the Counter, and who willed me to sticke to my opinion, I sayd that there was no creature that therein did strengthen me. And as for the help that I had in the counter, it was by the means of my mayde. For as she went abroad in the streetes, she made mone to the prentises, and they by her did lend me monney: but who they were I never knew.

Then they sayde, that there were diuers Gentlewomen that gaue me money, but I knew not their names. Then they sayd that there were diuers Ladies that had sent me money. I answered, that there was a man in a blew coate, which deliuered me x. shillings, and sayd that my Lady of Hertford sent yt me. And an other in a violce coat gaue me viij. shillings, and sayd my lady Denny sent it me. Whether it were true or no, I cannot tell. For I am not sure who sent it me, but as the mayd did say. The they sayd, there were of the Councell that did maintayne me, And I sayd no.

Then they did put me on the racke, because I confessed no Ladies or Gentlewomen to be of my opinion, and thereon they kept me a long tyme. And because I lay still and did not cry, my Lord Chancellour and M. Rich, toke paynes to racke me with theyr owne handes, till I was nigh dead.

Then the Lieftenaunt caused me to be loosed from the racke. Incontinently I swoounded, and then they reconured me agayne. After that I sate two long houres reasoning with my Lord Chancellour vpon the bare flore, whereas he with many flattering wordes, perswaded me to leaue my opinion. But my Lord God (I thanke his euerlasting goodnes) gaue me grace to persecut, and wil do (I hope) to the very end.

Then was I brought to an house, and layd in a bedde, with as weary and paynefull bones, as euer had patient Job. I thanke my Lord God therefore. When my Lorde Chancellour sent me worde if I would leaue my opinion, I should want nothing: If I would not, I should be forth to Newgate, and so be burned. I sent him agayne word, that I would rather die, then to breake my sayth.

Thus the Lord open the eyes of their blinde hartes, that the truth may take place. Farewell deare friend, and pray, pray, pray.

Touching the order of her racking in the Tower, thus it was. First, she was led downe into a dungeon, where Syr Anthony Burett the Lieutenaunt commaunded hys Basler to pinche her with the racke. which beyng done to much as he thought sufficient, went about to take her downe, supposing he had done enough. But Wilsley the Chancellour not contented that she was loosed to come confessing nothing, commaunded the Lieutenaunt to streime her on the racke agayne. which because he denyed to doe, tendering the weakenes of the woman, he was threatned therefore grieuouly of the sayd Wilsley, saying, that hee would signifye hys disobedience vnto the kyng: and so consequently vpon the same, he and M. Riche thowping of their goodnes, would needes play the tormenters themselves: first asking her if she were with child. To whome she answering agayne, sayd: ye shall not neede to spare for that, but do you willes vpon me: and so quietly and patiently praying vnto the Lord: she abode their ranyng, till her bones and ioints almost were plucked a lumber, in such sort, as she was caried away in a chaire. when the racking was past, Wilsley and his fellow toke theyr hoise toward the Court.

In the meane tyme, while they were making their way by land, the good Lieftenaunt cistones taking boate, spedde hym in all had to the Court, to speake with the kyng before the other, and so dyd. who there making his humble sute to the kyng, desired his pardon, and shewed hym the whole matter as it stode, and of the racking of Maistresse Askew, and how he was threatned by the Lord Chancellour, because at his commaundement, not knowing his highnesse pleasure, he refused to racke her: whiche he for compassion could not finde in his hart to do, and therefore humbly craued his highnesse pardō. which when the King had vnderstand, seemed not very well to like of their so extreme handlyng of the woman, and also graunted to the Lieutenaunt his pardon, willing him to returne and see to hys charge.

Great expectation was in the meane season among the warders and other officers of the Tower, waiting for his returne. whom when they saw come so cheerefully, declaring vnto them how he had sped with the king, they were not a little ioyous, and gaue thanks to God therfore.

¶ Anne Askews aunswer vnto John Lacels letter.

OH friend most dearely beloued in God, I meruaile not a little what should moue you to iudge in me so slender a fayth as to feare death, which is the ende of all misery. In the Lord I desire you not to beleue of me such wickednes. For I doubt it not, but God will performe his worke in me, like as he hath begun. I vnderstand the counsaile is not a little displeas'd, that it should be reported abroad, that I was racked in the tower. They say now, that they did there, was but to feare me: whereby I perceyue, they are ashamed of their vncomely doyns, and feare much, least the kings Maiestie should haue information thereof. Wherefore, they would no man to noye it. Well, their crueltye God forgeue them.

Your hart in Christ Iesu. Farewel, and pray.

The purgation or aunswer of Anne Askew against the false surmises of her recantation.

I haue read the processe whiche is reported of them that knowe not the truth, to be my recantation. But as the Lord liueth, I neuer ment thing lesse then to recant. Notwithstanding this I confesse, that in my first troubles, I was examined of the Bishop of London about the Sacrament. Yet had they no graunt of my mouth, but this, that I beleued therein as the word of God did bynd me to beleue, more had they neuer of me. When he made a Copie whiche is now in print, and required me to set thereunto my hand. But I refused it. When my i. iureries did wylt me in no wise to sticke thereat, for it was no great matter, they sayd.

Then with much ado, at the last I wrote thus: I Anne Askew do beleue this, if Gods word do agree to the same, and the true catholike church. When the B. beyng in great displeasur with me, because I made doubtles in my writing, commaunded me to prison: where I was a whyle, but afterwards by the meanes of frendes, I came out againe. Here is the truth of that matter. And as concerning the thing that ye couet most to know, resort to the first of John, and be ruled alwayes thereby. Thus saue ye well.

Anne Askew.

The confession of the faith which Anne Askew made in Newgate before she suffered.

I Anne Askew of god memory, although my merciful father hath geuen me the bread of aduerlitye, and the water of trouble: yet not so muche as my sinnes haue deserued: confesse my selfe here a sinner before the throne of hys heauenly maiestie, desiring his forgiveness and mercye. And for so much as I am by the lawe vnrightheously condemned for an euill doer concerning opinions, I take y same inost mercifull God of myne, which hath made both heauen and earth, to record, that I hold no opinions contrary to hys most holy word. And I trust in my mercifull Lord, which is the gener of all grace, that he will graciously assist me against all euill opinions, which are contrary to his blessed veritie. For I take him to witnes, that I haue done & will do vnto my lynes end, vtrery abhorre them to the vttermost of my power.

But this is the heresie which they report me to holde that after the Priest hath spoken the wordes of consecration, there remaineth bread still. They both say, & also teach it for a necessary article of sayth, that after those wordes be once spoken, there remaineth no bread, but euen the selfe same body that hang vpon the crosse on good Friday, both fleshe, blood, and bone. To this beliefe of theirs, say I nay: For then were our common Crede false, which sayth, that he sitteth on the right hand of God the father almighty, & from thence shall come to iudge the quicke and dead. No, this is the heresie that I holde, and for it must suffer the death. But as touching the holy and blessed supper of the Lord, I beleue it to be a most necessary remembrance of his glorious sufferings and death. Moreover, I beleue as much therein, as my eternall and onely redeemer Iesus Christ would I should beleue.

Finally, I beleue al those scriptures to be true, which he hath confirmed with his most precious blood. Yea, & as I. Paul sayth, those scriptures are sufficient for our learning & saluatiō, that Christ hath left here with vs: so that I beleue, we neede no vntwriten verities to rule his church w. Therefore looke what he hath sayd vnto me with his owne mouth in his holy Gospell, that haue I with Gods grace closed vp in my hart, and my full trust is (as Dauid saith) that it shall be a lanterne in my footsteps. Psal. cxviii.

There be some do say that I deny the Eucharist of sacrament of thanks geuyng: but those people do vntuly report of me, for I both say and beleue it, that if it wer ordered

The answer of Anne Askew to M. Lacels letter

An. Askew answering to the false suspicion of her recanting.

An. Askew falsely suspected to recant, and vpon what occasion.

The confession of An. Askew going to her execution.

The matter and cause why Anne Askew suffered death.

Scripture sufficient to our saluatiō.

Psal. 118. An. Askew falsely reported to deny the holy Eucharist.

Anne Askew refuseth to accuse any.

Anne Askew put on the racke.

Wryfley and Riche racking Anne Askew.

Anne Askew constant in her sayth.

Anne Askew threatned to be burned.

The order of the racking of Anne Askew.

The L. Wryfley and M. Riche play the tormentours.

Wryfley the L. Chancellour presented by the Lieutenaunt.

The Lieutenaunt pardoned of the king.