

dered lyke as Christ instituted it and left it, a most singular comfort it were vnto vs all. But as concerning your maffe as it is now vsed in our daies, I do say and beleue it to be the most abhominable fiddell that is in the world: for my God will not be eaten with teeth, neyther yet dicit he a gayne. And vpon these wordes that I haue now spoken, wyl I suffer death.

The Maffe an abhominable idoll.

The prayer of Anne Askew.

O Lord, I haue no enemies now, then there be hairens on my head. Yet Lord, let them neuer ouercome me with vaine wordes, but fight thou Lord in my stead, for on thee cast I my care. With

all the spite they can imagine, they fall vpon me, which am thy poore creature. Yet sweete Lord, let me not set by them which are against me: for in thee is my whole delight. And Lord I hartily desire of thee, that thou wilt of thy most mercifull goodnes forgive them that violence which they do and haue done vnto me. Open also thou their blynd hartes, that they may hereafter doe that thing in thy sight, which is only acceptable before thee, and to set forth thy veritie aright, without all vaine fantasies of sinnefull men. So be it. O Lord, so be it.

By me Anne Askew.

The order and maner of the burning of Anne Askew, Iohn Lacels, Iohn Adams, Nicholas Belenian, with certayne of the Councell sitting in Smithfield.



Hitherto we haue entreated of this good woman. Now it remaineth that we touch somewhat as concerning her ende and Martyrdome. After that she, being borne of such stocke and kynred, that she might haue liued in great wealth and prosperitie, if she would rather haue followed the world, then Christ, now had bene so comforted, that she could neyther lye long in so great distresse, neyther yet by her aduersaries be suffered to die in secret: the daye of her execution being appointed, she was brought into Smithfield in a chayre, because she could not goe on her feete, by meanes of her great tormentes. when she was brought vnto the stake, she was tyed by the middle with a chayne, that held vp her body, when all things were thus prepared to the fire, D. Shaxton who was then appointed to preach, began his Sermon. Anne Askew hearing, and answering agayne vnto him, where he sayd wel confirmed the same: where he sayd amisse, there sayde she he misteth, and speaketh without the booke.

An. Askew brought vnto the stake.

An. Askew lamed vpon the racke.

Shaxton preached at Anne Askewes burning.

The Sermon being finished, the Martyrs standing there tyed at thre severall stakes ready to their Martyrdome, beganne their prayers. The multitude and concourse of the people was exceeding, the place where they stode being rayled about to keepe out the people. Upon the Benche vnder Saint Bartlemewes Church, late Wilsley Chancellour of England, the old Duke of Norfolke, the olde Earle of Bedford, the Lord Mayor with dyvers other more. Before the fire should be set vnto them, one of the Benche bearing that they had gunnepowder about them, and being afrayde lest the fagots by strength of the gunnepowder would come flying about their eares,

began to be afraid, but the Earle of Bedford declaring vnto him how f gunnepowder was not laid vnder the fagots, but onely about theyr bodies to rydde them out of their paine, which hanging vnto, there was no danger to them of the fagottes, so diminished that feare.

Then Wilsley Lord Chancellour, sent to Anne Askew letters, offering to her the kyngs pardon, if she would recant. who refusing once to looke vpon them, made this answer agayne: that she came not thither to deny her lord and Maister. Then were the letters likewise offered vnto the other, who in lyke manner following the constancie of the woman, denied not onely to receyue them, but also to looke vpon them. whereupon the Lord Mayor commaundynge fire to be put vnto them, cryed wyth a lowde voyce, Fiat iustitia.

Anne Askew refused the kynges pardon.

Iustitia iniusta.

And thus the good Anne Askew with these blessed Martyrs, being troubled in many maner of wayes, and having passed through to many tormentes, hanging now ended the long course of her agonies, being compassed in with flames of fire, as a blessed sacrifice vnto God, she slept in the lord, an. 1546. leauynge behynde her a singular example of christians constancie for all men to follow.

John Lacels, Iohn Adams, and Nicholas Belenian.

There was at the same time also burnt together wyth her, one Nicholas Belenian priest of Shropshire, J. Adams a Taylor, and John Lacels Gentleman of the court

The Martyrdome of Anne Askew Iohn Lacels, Iohn Adams, Nicholas Belenian.