

He had moreouer great respect to iustice, and to the dispatch of poore mens suites, would appoynt hours & tymes with maister Core, then maister of his Requestes, how & by what order they might be sped in their causes without long delays and attendaunce, and so also debate with him, that they matters might be heard and iudged with equity accordingly.

what Hieronimus Cardanus sayth of him concerning his knowledge in liberal sciēces, I thought here to eppress in his owne words, both in latin and english, so much the rather, because he speaketh of his owne experiment, & upon the present talke which he had with the king himselfe. The wordes of Cardanus first in latine be these.

Hier. Card. de Genituris.

Ad erat enim illi gratia. Linguas enim multas adhuc puer callebat: Anglicam natalem, Latinam, Gallicam, non expers (vt audio) Græcæ, Italicæ, & hispanicæ, & forsan aliarum. Propriâ, Gallicam & Latinâ exactè tenebat, & ad omnia docilis erat. Non illi dialectica deerat, non naturalis Philosophiæ principia, non Musica. Humanitas mortalitatis nostræ imago, grauitas Regiæ maiestatis, indoles tâto principe digna. In vniuersum magno miraculo humanarum rerum, tanti ingenij & tantæ expectatiōis puer educabatur. Non hæc Rhetoricè exornata veritatem exedunt, sed sunt minora.

Decimum quintum adhuc agebat annum. Interrogabat (Latine non minus quam ego politè & promptè loquebatur) quid continerent libri tui de rerum varietate. Nomen in maiestatis suæ dedicaueram. Tam ego Cometaryum primùm causam diu frustra, quæ sitam, in primo capite ostendo. Quæ nam inquit ille Concurius, ego aio, luminis erraticorum siderum. At Rex, quomodo, cum diuersis motibus astra moueantur, nõ statim dissipatur aut mouetur eorum motus. At ego, mouetur equidem, sed longè celerius illis ob diuersitatem aspectus, velut in Crystallo & sole cum iris in pariete relucet. Parua enim mutatio magnam facit loci differentia. At Rex, & quonam pacto oblique subiecto illud fieri potest iridi enim paries subiectus est? Tum ego, velut in lactea via, & luminis reflectione, cum plures candelæ propè accensæ medium quoddam lucidum & candidum efficiunt, itaq; ex vngue Leonem, vt dici solet. Fuit hic in maxima omnium aut bonorum aut eruditorum expectatione ob ingenulatem atque suauitatem morum. Prius cæperat sapere artibus quam noscere, & noscere antequam vti posset. Conatus quidam humanæ conditionis, quæ non solum Angliæ, sed orbis ereptum immaturè desere debet. Quam benè dixerat ille.

Immodicus breuius est ætas & rara senectus.

Specimen virtutis exhibere potuit, non exemplum. Vbi grauitas, Regia requirebatur, senem vidisses: vt blandus erat & comis, ætatem referebat. Chæff pullabat, publicis negotijs admouebatur, libèralis animo, atque in his patrem emulabatur, &c. Hæc Cardanus.

The same in English.

There was in him a towardly disposition & pregnancy apt to all humane literature: as who being yet a childe had the knowledge of diuers tongues, first of the english his owne naturall toung, of latin also & of the french, neither was he ignorant (as I heare) of the greeke, Italian, & spanish tongues, and of other languages peraduenture moe. In his owne, in the french & in the Latine toung singularly perfect, and with the like facility apt to receive all others. Neither was he ignorant in logike, in the principles of naturall Philosophy, or in Aulicke. There was in him lacking neither humanity the Image of our mortality, a princely grauity and maiesty, nor any kind of towardnes becoming a noble king. Whereby, it might seeme a miracle of nature, to behold the excellent wit & forwardnesse that appeared in him being yet but a childe. This I speake not rethorically, to amplifye things or to make them moze then truth is, but the truth is moze then I do viter.

Being yet but 15. yeares of age he asked of me in Latine (in which toung he vitered his minde no lesse readily and eloquently the I could do my selfe) what my booke which I had dedicated to him, De varietate rerum, did containe? I sayd that in the first chapter was shewed the cause of Comets, or blasing starrs, which hath bene long sought for, & yet hitherto scarce fully found. What cause (said he) is that? The concourse or meeting (sayd I) of the light of the warping Planets and Stars. To this the king thus replied agayne: How much (sayd he) as the motion of the starrs kepeth not one course but is diuers and variable by continual alteration, how is it then that the cause of these Comets either doth not quickly fade & vanish, or that the Comet doth not keep one certayne and vniuersall course & motion with the sayd starrs and Planets? whereunto I answered that the Comet hath his course and moving, but much moze swifter then they, because of the diuersity of a

spect, as we see in Chyristall, and in the Sunne when the foune of the Raynbow reboundeth on the wall. For a little inutation maketh a great difference of place. Then sayde I king and how can that be, hauing no subiect? For of y rain-bow the wall is the subiect? Like (sayd I) as in Lactea via, or in reflection of lightes, as where many candel be lighted and set nere together, in the middle they cause a certain bright and white lightnesse to appeare, &c.

And so by this little triall a great gesse may be gotten what was in this king. In whome no doubt was a great hope and expectation amongst all good & learned mē, both for the ingenious forwardnes & amiable sweetnes which in his conditions appeared, first he began to loue & fauor liberrall arts & sciēces, before he knew them, and to know them before he could vse them, whose mortall condition and soden decease and decay in those tender & vnrripe yeres, not onely England, but all the world hath cause to lament. Whow truly is it sayd of the poet.

Things that be exceeding excellent, Be not commonly long permanent.

A thew or sight onely of excellency he could geue vs: example he could not geue. where a kingly maiesty required grauity, there you should haue seene him a sage and an olde man, and yet gentle and pleasant also, according as the condition of his age then required. He paid wel vpon the Lure. He had also to doe in handling of weighty affayres of the Realme: He was liberrall and bountifull in hart, & therein he imitated his father, &c.

Flete nefas magnum, sed toto flebitis orbe Mortales: vester corruiet omnis honor. Nam Regum decus, & iuuenum flos spesq; bonorum. Delitæ secli, & gloria gentis erat. Dignus Apollineis lachrymis doctæq; Mineræ Flosculus heu misero concidit ante diem. Te tumulo dabimus Musæ, supremæq; flentes Munera, Melpomene trilitia fata canet.

Ex Hier. Cardano.

Thus after the godly dispositiõ and properties of this king by this in this wise declared, now (God willing) we will intermeddle something to describe the order & proceedings which he followed in his administration & gouernment of both the States, as well politick as especially ecclesiastick. who after the decease of his father comming to the crowne, because he was of yong & tender age, he was committed to 16. gouernors. Amongest whom especiallye the Lord Edward Semer Duke of Somersset his Uncle was assigned and aduoynd to him as Protector and overseer of him, and of the commõ wealch, a man not so highly aduanced for his consanguinity, as also for his noble vertues and especially for his fauour to Gods word, worthy of his vocation and calling. Through the cride and industry of which man, first that monstrous Idolatry with his heades, the five Articles I meane (which denoued by so many men before) was abolished & taken away. By reason whereof the counsels and proceedings of winchester began to decay, who storming at the same matter, wzote to the Lord Protector in the cause thereof, as by his letters is to be seene.

The holy scriptures he restored to the mother toung, masses he extingnished and abolished. Furthermore, after softer beginnings, by litle & litle, greater things followed in the reformation of the Churches. When such as before were in banishment for the danger of the truth, were againe receiued to theyr country. To be short, a new face of things began now to appeare, as it were in a stage new players coming in, the olde being thrust out. For y most part y Bishopps of churches & diocesses were chauged. Such as had bene dõmb prelates before, were compelled to geue place to other then that would preach and take paynes.

Besides other also out of fozeine countreies, mē of learning and notable knowledge were sent for and receined, among whom was Peter Martyr, Martine Bucer, and Paulus Pagninus. Of whom the first taught at Oxford: the other two professed at Cantbridge, and that in no small commendation of the whol vniuersity. Of the olde bishopps some were comitted to one ward, some to an other Boner Bishop of London was committed to the Marshalsey, & effronces for his contempt and misdemeanour depoued fro his bishopricke, as in further proccesse foloweth to be seene. Radiner Bishop of winchester, with Thonday Bishop of Duresme was cast into the Tower for his disobedience, where he kept his Christmas three yeares together, moze worthy of some other place without the Tower, if it hadde pleased god other wise not to haue mē a further plague to

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Læta via is a white and a bright parte of the firmament, like a long white caule or way appearing in the night among the thicke starrs.

Carmen Epitaphium Cardani, in obitum Reg. Edouardi.

The Lord Edw. Semer made L. Protector.

Commendation of the Lord Protector.

Reformation by K. Edward.

Anno 1547.

Peter Martyr, Mart. Bucer, Paulus Pagninus, Edm. Boner B. of London committed to the Marshalsey, Gardiner and Tonstall committed to the tower.

Ex Hieronymo Cardano lib. De Genituris. 16.

The wordes of Cardanus in the commendation of King Edward.

The cause of Comets.