

{ Anno }
{ 1550. }

euen with the consent and aduise of the whole state of his priuy Counsaile, and diuers others of the nobility of his Realme, whose names ye may repeat, if you thinke conuenient, his Maiestie did resolutely determine it iust, necessary, and expedient, that her grace should not in any wise vse or maintaine the priuate Masse, or any other manner of seruice, then suche as by the lawe of the Realme is authorized and allowed: and to participate this his maiesties determination to her grace, it was thought in respect of a fauorable proceeding with her selfe, to haue the same, not only to be manifested by her owne officers and seruants, being most esteemed with her, but also to be executed by them in her house, as well for the more quiet proceeding in the very matter, as for the lesse molesting of her grace with any message by strangers, in that time of her solitarines, wherein her grace then was by the reason of the late sicknesse. For which purpose her three seruants, Rochester, Eglesfield, and Walgraue were sent in message in this manner. First, to deliuer his Maiesties letter to her, next to discharge the complaintes of saying Masse, and prohibiting all the household from hearing any. Wherein the Kings Maiestie perceiuet upon their owne report, being returned to the Court, how negligently, and in deede how fallly they haue executed theyr commaundement and charge contrary to the duty of good subiectes, and to the manifest contempt of his maiesty. Inasmuch as manifestly they haue before his Maiesties Counsaile refused to do that which pertayneth to euery true faithfull subiecte, to the offence, so farre of his maiesty, and derogation of his authority, that in no wise the punishment of them could be forborne, and yet in the manner of the punishment of them, his Maiestie and his Counsaile hath such consideration, and respect of her person being his sister, that without doubt his Maiestie could not wish honour haue had the like consideration or fauour in the punishment of the dearest Counsaillour he hath, if any of them had so offended; and therefore his Maiesty hath sent you three not only to declare to her grace the causes of their sending thither of late his officers in message, but also the causes of their absence now presently. And further, in the default of the sayde officers to take order, as well with hir Chaplaynes, as with the whole household, that his Maiesties lawes may be there obserued. And in the communication with her, you shall take occasion to answer in his Maiesties name certayne pointes of her letter, sent now lately to his Maiestie. The copy of which letter is now also sent to you to peruse, for your better instruction how to proceede in. First, her allegation of the promise made to the Emperour, must be so answered, as the truth of the matter serueth, whereof euery of you haue heard sufficient testimony diuers times in the counsaile for her offering of her body at the Kings will, rather then to change her conscience. It grieueth his Maiestie much, that her conscience is so fetted in error, and yet no such thing is ment of his Maiestie; nor of any one of his counsaile once to hurt, or will euill to her body, but euen from the bottome of their hart wisheth to her mentem sanam in corpore sano. And therefore yee shall do very well to perswade her grace that this proceeding commeth onely of the conscience the King hath to auoyde the offence of God, and of necessary counsaile and wisdom to see his lawes in so weighty causes executed. Item, because it is thought that Rochester had the care and consideration of her graces prouision of household, and by his absence the same might be either disordered or disurnished: his Maiestie hath sent a trusty skilfull man of his owne household, to serue her grace for the time. Who also is sufficiently instructed of Rochester, of the state of her things of household. And if there shall be any thing lacking in the same, his Maiesties pleasure is, that his seruant shall aduertise his owne chiefe officers of household, to the intent if the same may be supplied of any store heere, or elsewhere helped conueniently, her grace shall not lacke.

Item, hauing thus proceeded with her grace, as for the declarations of the causes of your commoning, ye shall the cause to be called afore you the Chaplaynes, and all the rest of the household there presente, and in the Kings Maiesties name most straightly forbid the Chaplaynes eyther to say or vse any Masse or kinde of seruice, other then by the lawe is authorized: and likewise yee shall forbid all the rest of the company to be present at any suche prohibited seruice, vpon paine to be most straightly punished, as worthely falling into the daunger of the Kings indignation, and a like charge to them all, that if any such offence shall be openly or secretly committed, they shall aduertise some of his Maiesties Counsaile. In the which clause ye shall vse the reasons of theyr naturall duty and allegiance that they owe as subiectes to theyr soueraigne Lord, which derogateh all other earthly duties.

Item, if you shall finde eyther any of the priestes, or any other person disobedient to this order, ye shall commit them forthwith to prison as ye shall thinke conuenient.

Item, for as much as yee were priuy to the determination at Richmond, and there vnderstoode how necessary it was to haue reformation heerein: his Maiesty, vpon the great confidence he hath in your wisdom and vprightnes, remitteth to your discretions the manner of the proceeding heerein, if any thing shall chaunce to arise there that in your opinions might otherwise

then according to these instructions conduce you to the execution of your charge, which in one summe is to auoyde the vse of the priuate Masse, and other vnlawfull seruice, in the house of the sayd Lady Mary.

Item, ye shall deuise by some meanes as you may, to haue vnderstanding after your departure how the order you geue is obserued, and as you shall iudge fit to certifie hither.

E. S. W. W. I. W. I. B. W. N.
W. H. F. H. I. G. T. D. W. C.

* The story of Steuen Gardiner Bish. of Winchester, briefly collected, the residue whereof concerning hys actes and doings, may further appear in the booke of Actes and Monuments in the first edition. page. 728.

Although the first imprisonment of Steuen Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, in order of time was before the deprivation of Wyllhop Bonner: yet for so much as hee was not deposed from his Bishopricke till the nexte of seconde year after, which was 1551. I haue therefore diuyned off the history of the sayde Wyllhop of Winchester to this present place: intending neuertheless heere not to extend and prosecute the explication of that busie matter with all circumstances and particularities thereof, so amply at full as I might, partly for that being done in my first booke of Actes and Monuments, may heere suffice and content the reader being disposed there to search and further to reade touching the same, partly also considering how this present volume is growne already very large and great, I thought not to pester the same with any more superfluitie, then needes must, and therefore leauing out his idle letters, his long proccesse of Articles and examinations, hys tedious talke with the multitude of depositions brought in against him, and other his actes and interlocutories superfluous, I minde heere (the Lord willing) briefly and summarily to exercep only the principall effectes, as to the story may seeme most appertinent, referring the residue to be searched (if any reader so list to do) to the booke of Monuments aforesayd, beginning in the page 728.

Briefly therefore, as touching the actes, doings, desertings and misdemeanours of this stout Prelate, and Bishop of Winchester: first we will set before the reader the copy of a certayne writte of euidence against the sayd Wyllhop, wherein as in a briefe summe generally is described the whole order and maner of his misordred demeanour, copied out of the publike records in maner as followeth.

¶ The copy of a writte of euidence touching the order and maner of the misdemeanour of Winchester, with declaration of the faultes where, with he was iustly charged.

Where as the Kings Maiestie by the aduise of the Lord Protector, and the rest of his highnes priue Counsell, thinking requisite for sundry vrgent considerations to haue a generall visitation throughout the whole Realme, did about tenne monethes past adresse forth Commissions, and by the aduise of sundry Bishops and other the best learned men of the Realme, appointed certayne orders or Inunctions to be generally obserued, which being such as in some part touched the reformation of many abuses, and in other parts concerned the good gouernance & quiet of the Realme, were (as reason would) of all men of all sorts obediently received, and reuerently obserued and executed, sauing only of the Bishop of Winchester, who as well by conference with other, as by open protestation and letters also, shewed such a wilfull disobedience therein, as if it had not bene quickly espied, myght haue bred much inquietnes and trouble, vpon the knowledge wherof he being sent for, and his lewd proceedings layd to his charge, he in the presence of the whole Counsell so bled himselfe (as well in denying to receiue the sayd orders and Inunctions as otherwise) as he was thought worthy most sharpe punishment, and yet considering the place he had bene in, he was only sequestred to the Fleet, where, after he had remained a certaine time, as muche at his case as if he had bene at his owne house, vpon hys promise of conformitie he was both set at libertie againe, and also licensed to repaire and remaine in his dioces at hys pleasure, where when he was, forgetting his duty, and what promise he had made, he began forthwith to set forth such matters as bred againe more strife, variance, and contention in that one small Citie and Shire, then was almost in the whole Realme after: besides that, the Lorde Protectoris grace and the Counsaile were informed, that to withstande such as he thought to haue bene seure from their grace and Lordships into those parties, he had caused

The story of Steue Gardiner.

For the full tractation of Steuen Gardiners story, read in the booke of Actes and Monuments of the first edition, pag. 728.

The writte or euidence geuen out against Steuen Gardiner B. of Winchester.

Winchester misusing himselfe before the Council. Winchester comitted to the Fleet, where, after he had remained a certaine time, as muche at his case as if he had bene at his owne house, vpon hys promise of conformitie he was both set at libertie againe, and also licensed to repaire and remaine in his dioces at hys pleasure, where when he was, forgetting his duty, and what promise he had made, he began forthwith to set forth such matters as bred againe more strife, variance, and contention in that one small Citie and Shire, then was almost in the whole Realme after: besides that, the Lorde Protectoris grace and the Counsaile were informed, that to withstande such as he thought to haue bene seure from their grace and Lordships into those parties, he had caused

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