

force to violate the ordinances of mans lawe, and to con-
tinue the Ambassadors of Spayne and France, lette the
Portugallies and all other lothe well unto u, what it is fo
crucilly to handle the heaenly messenger of the high God.
Forther was this their cruelty altogether unrestrained by
the mighty hand of God, when as not onely the very same
night, amongst diuers of the Kings Ships which were in p
next haven ready to saile, one was burned, being set on fire
by a sparke of Gardiners fire spuen therby of the wind,
but also y Kingdome which then was marced, such woth
in halfe a yere, and the next yere after the King himselfe al-
so dyed, and so both within one yere after the tormenting
of this blessed Martyr.

Thus the body of the sayd Gardiner being consumed,
yet the rage & fury of the common people increased, but
they were as cruell against him being dead, as they were
when he was alive, and with their tongues ioyned this
Martyr, when they could doe no more with their handes:
yea for very madnes they would scarie touch until he were
burned, but euery man as they could catch any peece of him
baste burned, theyeue it into the sea.

Thys Sacrifice thus ended, the Clergie, to pacifie
Gods wrath which they feared, for the violating of the
statute, appointed a solemn fast of certayne dayes, for pe-
nannce to purge that sacr, which sacr rather shoulde haue
taught them to purge their selues, and to put aswage they
filthy Idolatry, and much rather they shoulde haue fasted
& repented for that their extreme cruelty they had shewed
unto the liuely member of Christ.

Albeit this death of William Gardiner seemeth to haue
profited very many of their lile of nothing; yet for all that
there are some (as I haue heard diuers constant) oute of
whose mindes the remembrance of this constant Martyr
can neuer be pulled, and is so fresh yet amongst them, as
if it were no we lately done: and finally, albeit it be a good
while since hee was put to death, yet the memoire of hys
death, as fruitfull sayd, hath taken such roote in some, that
euen unto this present day, he is a liuely and diligent pra-
ching unto them, against superstition and Idolatry vber in
their Churches. Ex testimonio N. Fildi, Pendigrace, & aliorum,
qui rei Gestæ interfuerunt.

The tragicall hystorie of the worthy L. Edward
Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, with the whole
cause of his troubles and handling.

After so many troublous matters in this last yere afore-
passed, comming notice to the lamentable and tragical
narration of the L. Edward Duke of Somerset, the Kings
uncle, and Protector of his person & of his realme, I could
not well enter into the story of him, without some pre-
miration first to all noble personages, of what honor or calling
soeuer within this realme, by way of history briefly to ad-
monish them, no man to plant any seed of auarice vpon
the buckle pillers of worldly prosperitie, howe high soeuer
it seemeth, consideringe that there is no state so high, but it
hath his raine, wiledome so circumspecte, but it maye bee
circumvented, no true to perfect, but it maye be enuyed,
neither any mans trade so simple, but it maye be beguiled,
And therefore seeing the condition of mortall things is so,
that no man can alwaies stand in this so ruinous a world:
y surely way is euery man to chuse his standing so, that his
fall maye be y easier. But because my purpose is (as I haue
said in the Booke before) to abridge and make short, I will
here stay, referringe to the secret consideration of that which
remained further by me in this matter to be vttered: and
to falling into the story of the Lorde Protector Duke of
Somerset, we will (the Lorde willing) declare in order
the original and whole occasion of his trouble and decay, euen
from the beginning.

King Edward, after that both his father and mother
were dead, had three uncles least him by his mothers side,
Edward, Thomas, and Henry Somer, of the which two
first, one was made Protector of the Realme, and the o-
ther high admirall of the same. These two by their, so long
as they were kinde & ioyued together in amitie and concord,
preferred both themselves, the King their nephew, and the
whole common wealth from the violence and feare of all
danger. But the subtil old serpent atwaies enuying mans
felicitie, through slanderous tongues sought to sowe mat-
ter, first of discord betweene them, then of suspition, and last
of all extreme hatred: in so much that the Protector sus-
pected his brother being accused (whether truly or falsely the
Lorde knoweth) to be condemned, and to lose hys heade,
wherby it came to passe (whether by correction of Gods
iudgement vpon him, or whether that be after the death of
his brother, and the King being yet but young and tender of
age, was the lesse able to thinke for himselfe) that not long af-
ter he was overmatched and overthromen of his enemies,

and to cast into the Tower, and at last lost hys head after
the great lamentation of many good men, as in the sequent
of this hystorie shal we see to be declared.

For the better introduction of which hystorie, first
begin with the forsaid brother of the Lorde Protector,
namely Sir Thomas Somer high Admirall of England,
and the Kings Uncle, here is to vnderstande that he had
married Ducene Katherine late wife to Kinge Edward
the first, of whome ye heard before, pag. 112. 120. it hap-
ped (vpon what occasion I knowe not) that there fell a
disputacion betwixt the sayde Ducene and the Duchesse
of Somerset, and the reason also in the behalf of their womes,
displeasur and grudge began betwene the byrth, which
albeit through persuasion of frendes it was for a time ap-
peared betwene them: yet in thort space after (perchance
not without y priuie letting forward of some which were
backefreendes to the Gospell) it brake out againe, both to
the trouble of the Realme, and especially to the edification
of them both, as after it is proued. First to the Lorde Admi-
ralls charge it was laid, that hee purposed to destroye
the young King, and translate the Crowne vnto himselfe, and
for the same being attained and condemned, did suffer at
Tower hill the 20. of Marche. An. 1549. As many there
were which reported that the Duchesse of Somerset had
brought his death: so many more there were, who mis-
doubting the long standing of the Lorde Protector in hys
state and dignity, thought and affirmed no les, but that
the fall of the one brother, would be the cruce of the other:
the experiment whereof as it hath often ben proued, so in these
also cefones it ensued.

It was not long after the beheading of the Lorde Ad-
mirall, but misfortunes began to trouble the same yere in
diuers quarters of the realme, as is aboue storied. By the
occasion wherof the lord Russell, lord priuie Seale was sent
to the west parts, and the lord Dudley Earle of warwicke
was sent to an armie into Northfolke: where bothe he by-
selfe & a great number of Gentlemen that were with him,
meeting with the rebells were in great daunger: notwith-
standing in the ende the overthow was gauen to the re-
bells, which was aboute the beginning of September, 1549.
After this victorie achieved, in the next month following,
which was October, howe the matter fell out betwene
the Lorde Protector and certain other Lordes, I knowe
not, but at the retournce of the Earle of warwicke afore-
said, great workinge and consultation there was amongst the
Lordes, assembling them selues in the house of St. Peter,
and at Barmers Castle, and in the Lorde Mayors house
at London, against the Lorde Protector remaining then
with the King at Hampton Court. Of the which businesse
and trouble, thus the Lorde Protector wryteth in hys
letters to the Lorde Russell in the west countrey, as follo-
weth.

A letter of the L. Protector, to the L. Russell,
Lord priuie Seale, concerning troubles
workinge against him.

After our right hartie commendations to your good Lordship,
heere hath of late risen such a conspiracie against the Kinges
Majestie, and vs, as neuer hath bene scene, the which they can not
maintaine, but with such vaine letters and false tales furnished, as
was neuer meant nor intended on vs. They pretend and say, that
we haue solde Bulloigne to the French, and that we do withhold
weges from the souldiours, and other such tales and letters they
doe spreade abroad: of the which, if any one thing were true, we
would not wish to liue) the matter now being brought to a mar-
ueilous extremitie, such as we wold neuer haue thought it could
haue come vnto, especially of those men towards the Kinges ma-
iestie and vs, of whom we haue deserued no such thing, but rather
much fauour and loue. But the case being as it is, this to require
and pray you to halfe you hither, to the dedence of the Kinges ma-
iestie, in such force and power as you may, to shew the parte of a
true Gentleman, and of a very frende: the which thing we truste
God shall rewarde and the Kinges Majestie in time to come, and
we shall neuer be vnmindefull of it too. We are sure you shal haue
other letters from them, but as ye tender your duty to the Kinges
Majestie, we require you to make no stay, but immediately repair
with such force as yee haue, to his highnesse Cattle of Windore,
and cause the rest of such force as yee may make to followe you.
And so we bid you right heartily farewell. From Hampton Court,
the sixt of October.

Your Lordships assured louing friend,
Edward Somerset.

An answer to the L. Protectors letter.

To this letter of the Lorde Protector sent the sixt of
Octob. the L. Russell returninge answer againe vpon
the

A lesson for the
Portugallies.

The iust hand
of God vpon
persecutors.

It is reported
that that sparck
lighted amongst
gunpowder

The blind and
miserable cruelty
of the Portu-
gallies against a
poore Englishe
man.
A Popeholly fast
for pacifying the
wrath of their
God of the Al-
ter.

Anno
1552.

The story of the
L. Protector
Duke of Somers-
set.

Worldly pro-
sperity not to be
trusted vnto.

Concorde ma-
keth brethren
strong.

Sir Thomas
Somers last
admirall.

Displeasur
betwene the
Queene
the Duchesse
of Somers-
set.

Discorde
betwene the
L. Pro-
tector and
the L. Ad-
mirall his
brother.

En que
discordiall
stratagem
supercir-
cularis.

John Dal-
ley Earle
Warwicke
afterward
Duke of
Northam-
berland.

Discorde
betwene
the Earle of
Warwicke
& the Lord
Protector.

A letter of
the L. Pro-
tector to
the L. priuie
Seale.