

{ Anno 1552. }

gaine restored, though not to his former office, yet unto libertie: wherein he continued the space of two yeares and two dayes.

The second trouble of the Duke of Somerset.

After the which time of respite being expired, the sayde Duke of Somerset was apprehended & committed agayne to the Tower, and with him also Sir Michaell Stanhope, Sir Raufe Wane, Sir Miles Partridge, & other, &c. At length the time being come of his arraignment, the foresayde good Duke being conuied from the Tower, was brought thorough London with the are of the tower before him, & with great preparation of bills, halbarbes, pikes, and polaxes, in most forcible wise: a watch also sette and appoynted before euery mans doore through the hie Street of London, and so was he brought into Westminster hal, where the Lordes of the counsaile sitting as his iudges in the middle of the hal, vpon a newe scaffolde, he was there before them arraigned and charged both with treason and felonie.

The Duke of Somerset agayne brought to the tower.

In the which iudgement, I passe ouer the vncleuely speech, the vile tauntes, and despitfull rebukes, without all modesty or honesty, vied by certaine of the Sergeants and Iustices, and some other sitting there. Al which notwithstanding he patiently & quietly did suffer, neither storming inwardly in stomacke, nor reuiling them with wordes againe: but like a lambe following the true lambe, & example of all meekenes, was contented to take al things at their handes, and with no lesse patience to beare now they vngentle and crnell railings, then hee did before their glauncing wordes and flatterings in time of his high estate and prosperitie. And as the patience of this good Duke was maruellous in forbearing his enemies, so also was his discretion and temperance no lesse seene in answering for himselfe to the articles to him objected: wherunto he wisely and substantially replied, putting himselfe in the ende to be tried by his secretes. who then at length after consultation had, did frame and temper their verdict thus, that as concerning y<sup>e</sup> case of treason, wherewith he was charged, they discharged him, but they accounted him guiltie of felonie.

The vile tauntes of certayne Iustices and others sitting in iudgement against the good Duke of Somerset.

When the people (which were there present to a great number) heard the Lordes say, Not guiltie, (meaning by the case of treason) supposing no lesse, but y<sup>e</sup> he had bene clearly acquitted by these wordes, and especially seeing the Axe of the Tower to be carried away, for great ioy and gladnesse made an outcrie, well declaring they louing affection and hearty fauour vnto the Duke, whose life they greatly desired. But thys opinion of the people was deceiued, and the innocent Duke condemned to die for felonie. which act of felonie had bene made a litle before against the rebels, and vnlawfull assemblies, such as shoulde seeke or procure the death of any Counsaillour, so that euery suche attempt and procurement, according to the act, shoulde be iudged felony. By the vertue of which Act, the Duke being accused, with certayne other hys complices, to intende and purpose the death of the Duke of Northumberland, and of certayne helde, was therfore cast and condemned of felonie, and so was returned toward the Tower againe.

The great patience of the Duke of Somerset in taking rebukes.

The discreta behauiour of the Duke in answering for himselfe.

The hartie affection of the people toward the Duke of Somerset.

The Duke of Somerset condemned of felony.

Statut. an. 5. Reg. Edw. 6.

The Duke of Somerset accused for seeking the death of the Duke of Northumberland.

At whose passage throughe the Citie, greate exclamations and outcries were made againe of the people, some reioycing y<sup>e</sup> hee was acquitted, some betwailing that hee was condemned.

Thus the good Duke passing through a great parte of the Citie, landing at the Crane of the Amerrie, was conveyed vnto the Tower, where hee endured till the 22. of January. Vpon the which day at the comminge do tione of the letter of execution from the Kinge and the Counsaile, the foresayde Duke and Uncle to the Kinge, beinge founde no traitour, onely beinge cast by the Acte of felonie, was deliuered vnto the Sheriffes, and so brought to the place of execution.

Touching which execution, a fewe wordes here woulde be bestowed in describing the wonderful order and maner thereof, according as it hath faithfully ben suggested to vs vppon the credite of a certaine noble personage, who not onely was there present at the dedde doing, but also in a maner next vnto him vpon the scaffolde, beholding the order of all things with his eyes, and with his penne also reporting the same in order and maner as here foloweth.

In the yeare of our Lorde 1552. the 22. day of January, in the fiftie yeare of the raigne of King Edward the sixte, he beinge yet vnder age and gouernance of Tutoris: the noble Duke of Somersette, vnto to kynge Edward, was brought out of the tower of London, and accordinge to the maner, deliuered to the Sheriffes of the Citie: and compassed round about to a great number of armed men, both of the garde and others, he was brought vnto the scaffolde on Tower hill: where as hee nothinge chaunging neyther voyce nor countenance, but in a maner with the same gesture whych he commonly vied at home, kneeling downe vppon both his knees, and lifting vpp his handes, com-

mended himselfe vnto God.

After that he had ended a fewe short prayers, standing vp againe, and turning him selfe toward the East side of the Scaffold, nothinge at all abashed (as it seemed vnto me standing about the middell of the Scaffold, and diligently marking all things,) neither with the sight of the axe, neyther yet of the hangman, or of present death: but with the like alacritie and chearefulness of minde and countenance as before times he was accustomed to heare the causes and Supplication of other, and especially the poore (towards whom, as it were with a certaine fatherly loue to his children, he alwaies shewed himselfe moste attentiu) he vttered these wordes to the people.

The chearfull countenance of the Duke of Somerset at his death.

Dearly beloued frendes, I am broughte hither to suffer death, albeit that I neuer offended against the king, neyther by word nor dedde, and haue bene alwaies as faithfull & true vnto this Realme, as any man hath bene. But for so much as I am by a lawe condemned to die, I do acknowledge my selfe as well as others to bee subiecte thereunto, wherfore to testifie my obedience whiche I owe vnto the lawes, I am come hither to suffer death: wherunto I willingly offer my selfe, with most hearty thanks vnto God, that hath geuen me this time of repentance, who might thowre sodaine death haue taken away my life, that neyther I should haue acknowledged him nor my selfe.

The wordes of the Duke of Somerset to the people at his death.

Wherouer (dearly beloued frendes) there is yet some what that I must put you in minde of as touchinge Christian religion: which so long as I was in authoritie, I alwaies diligently sette forth and furthered to my power. Neither I repent me of my doings, but reioyce therein, sith that now the state of Christian religion commeth most neare vnto the forme and order of the Primitive Church. whiche thinge I esteeme as a great benefite geuen of God, both vnto you and me: most hartly exhorting you all, that this which is most purely set forth vnto you, you will with like thankfulness accept and embrace, and set out the same in your liuing. which thinge if you do not, wythout doubt, greater mischief and calamitie will folow.

The care of the Duke of Somerset in setting forth true religion.

When he had spoken these wordes, sodainly there was a terrible noise heard: wherupon there came a great feare on al men. This noise was as it had bene the noise of some great storm or tempest, which vnto some seemed to be heard from aboue: like as if a great deale of gunpowder being enclosed in an armorie, and hauing caught fire, had violently broken out. But vnto some againe, it seemed as though it had ben a great multitude of horsemen running together, or comming vppon them. Suche a noise was then in the eares of all men, albeit they saw nothing, wherby it happened, that all the people beinge amazed wythout any evident cause, wythout any violence or stroke striken, or any man seene, they ran away, some into y<sup>e</sup> ditches and puddles, and some into the houses thereabout: other some beinge afraid with the horrour and noise, fell do tione grooueling vnto the ground w<sup>th</sup> their polaxes and halbarbes, & most part of them cried oute: Iesus saue vs, Iesus saue vs. Those whiche tarried still in their places, soz feare knewe not where they were. And I my selfe which was there present among the rest, beinge also afraid in this hurly burly, stode still altogether amazed, looking when any man woulde knocke me in the head. It hapned heere, as the Evangelists write, it dyd vnto Christ, when as the officers of the high Priestes and Phariseis comming wyth weapons to take him, beinge astonished, ran backwardes, and fell to the ground.

A sodaine noise and feare of the people at the death of the Duke of Somerset.

In the meane time, whilest these things were thus in doing, the people by chance spied one Sir Anthony Browne riding vnto the scaffold: which was the occasion of a newe noise. For when they saw him comming, they coniectured that which was not true, but notwithstanding which they all wished for, that the king by that messenger had sent hys vncle pardone: and therfore with great reioysing & casting vp their cappes, they cried out, pardon, pardone is come: God saue the king. Thus this good Duke, although hee was destitute of all mans helpe, yet he sawe before hys departure, in how great loue & fauour he was with all men. And truly I doe not thinke, that in so great slaughter of Dukes as hath bene in England within these fewe yeares, there was so many weeping eyes at one time: and not without cause. For all men did see in the decay of this Duke, the publike ruine of England, except such as in dedde did perceiue nothing. But now to returne from whence we haue strayed, the Duke in the meane time standinge still in y<sup>e</sup> same place, modestly and with a graue countenance, made a signe to the people to his hand, that they woulde keepe themselves quiet, which thinge beinge done, & silence obtained, he spake vnto them in this maner.

The lyke story you shall read of Caius Marius, in Valerius Maximus the 2. booke & 5. chapter.

The grea fauour of the people to the Duke of Somerset.

Dearly beloued frendes, there is no such matter heere in hande, as you vainely hope or beleue. It seemeth thus good vnto almighty God, whose ordinance it is meete and necessary

The wordes of the Duke agayne to the people.