

{ Anno 1552.

necessary that we all be obedient unto, wherefore I pray you all to be quiet, and to be contented with my death, which I am most willing to suffer: and let be now tope in prayer unto the Lord, for the preservation of the Kings Majestie, unto whom hitherto I have alwaies shewed my selfe a most faithful and true subiect. I have alwaies bene most diligent about his Majestie in his assaies both at home and abroad, and no lesse diligent in seeking the common commoditie of the whole Realme. At whiche words all the people cried out, and said, it was most true.

Then the Duke proceeding, said: Unto whose Majestie I with continual health, with all felicitie & all prosperous successe, whereunto the people againe cryed out, Amen.

Moreover, I do wishe unto all his Complayours the grace and fauour of God, whereby they may rule in all things with right iustice. Unto whom I exhort you all in the Lord, to shew your felices obedient, as it is your bounden duty, vnder the payne of condemnation, and also most profitable for the preservation and safegarde of the Kings Majestie.

Moreover, for so much as heretofore I have had offences afloat with diuers men, & had it in to please every man, therefore if there be any that hath bene offended & iniured by me, I most humbly require a like him forgiveness: but especially almightie God, whom throughout all my life I have most greedily offended: and all other, whatsoever they be that haue offended me, I do with my whole hart forgiue them. Now I once againe requeire you, dearly beloued in the Lord, that you will keepe your felices quiet and still, least through your tumult you might trouble me. For albeit the spirit be willing and ready, the flesh is fraile and wauering: and though your quietnesse I shall be much more quietter. Moreover, I desire you all to beare me witness, that I dye here in the faith of Iesus Christ: desiring you to helpe me with your prayers, that I may perseuer constant in the same unto my liues end.

After this, hee turning himselfe againe about like a meekelamb, knelled downe vpon his knees. Then doctor Cole, which was there present to counsell and aquerise him, deliuered a certaine scroll into his hand, wherein was conteyned a briefe confession vnto God, which being read, hee floode by agayne vpon his knees, without any trouble of minde (as it appeared) and first had the Sheriffes factweel, then the Lieutenant of the Tower and other, taking them all by the handes which were vpon the scaffold with hym. Then hee gaue the Baugman certaine money, which done, hee put off his gowne, and kneeling doune againe in the straw, vntied his hysstr strings. After that, the hangman coming vnto him, turned downe his collar round about his necke, and al other things which did let or hinder him. Then lying by his eyes to heauen, where his body hee remained, and covering his face with his owne handkercher, hee layd himselfe downe along, shewing no manner of token of trouble or feare, neyther did his countenance change, but that before his eyes were couered, there began to appeare a red coloure in the middelt of his cheekes.

Thus this most mecke and gentle Duke lying along, and looking for the stroke, because his doublet couered his necke, hee was commaunded to rise vp and put it off: and then laying himselfe downe againe vpon the blocke, and calling thus vpon the name of Iesus saying: Lord Iesu saueme, as hee was the sayd ryme repeating the name, such as the name of Iesu was in uttering, in a moument hee was bereft both of head & life, & kept in the Lord Iesus, being taken away from all the daungers and euils of this life, and resting now in the peace of God: in the pretiement of whose earth and Hospell hee alwaies shewed himselfe an excellent instrument and member, and therefore hath receyued the reward of his labours. Thus gentle Reader, thou hast the true history of this worthy and noble Duke, and if any man report it otherwise, let it be counted as a lye.

As touching the maners, disposition, life, and commendation of the said Duke and the Kings vncle, what shall we neede to speake, when as hee can not be sufficiently commended, according to the dignitie of his vertues? There was alwaies in him great humanitie, and such meekenes and gentleness, as is rare to be found in so high estate. Hee was piene and ready to geue care vnto the complaints and supplications of the poore, & no lesse attentive vnto the affaires of the common wealthe, which if he had liued together with King Edward, was like to do much good in reforming many misdoers within this realme. Hee was vnto ignoant of all craft and deceit, and as farr boid of all pite and ambition, as hee was free doing of injury, being indeeb vnto boyd of both. Hee was of a gentle disposition, not counting to be reuenged: more apt & ready to be deceiued, then to deceiue. His ancient loue & zeale of the Hospell & of religion hee brought with him to the state of this his dignitie.

The poore whercof sufficiently was seene in his constant standing to gods truth, and zealous defence thereof, against the Bishops of Winchester, Saruwich, Lincoln, London, and others moe, in the Conuention had at Windsor, the first yeare of the kinges reigne.

Wichly, considering the nature and vertues of this Duke, I may (as seemeth) not vnaptly compare and resemble him vnto Duke Humfrey, the good Duke of Glocester, who likewise being vncle vnto King Henry 6, and Protector of the Realme (as this Duke was also to King Edward 6), yet he wanted not his enemies and many enuyes especially Iheremy Beauford Cardinal, Bishop of Winchester, and Lord Chancellor of England: who at that time disdayning and empying the rule and authoritie of this Duke, procured much trouble agaynst him, and great detraction in the whole realme, in so muche that all the Shops within the Citie of London were shutt in, for feare of the fauourers of the two great pertrayuers: For each part had assembled no small number of people.

For pacifying wherof the Archbishop of Cantuarbury and the Duke of Rumberg, called the Prince of Portugale, were eight times in one day betwene the two aduersaries. Such were then the troubles of these tumultuous diuision within the realme, betwene these two: as is befoore expressed, pag. 679. nor neede I to trouble some discord betwixt parties in this Hystories dayes. And as in their afflictions and troubles, these two Dukes seemed not much unlike, so in matters of religion, and in discerning truth from falshood, their zeale seemed not much discrepant. Although the light of the Hospell did not so fully then shine out, as in the time of this latter Duke (the Lord be praised thereto): yet the wisdom and towardnes of y other Duke also touching the same, was not vnto by-worthy of his commendation. For the more manifest declaration whercof, amongst many other his godly doings, we may take for example the prudent and famous acte of that noble Duke, in discerning and trying out the falsifying miracle and popish hypocrisy of the blinde begger at S. Albons mentioned in his story befoore, pag. 679. For the which cause, and for his diligent studye in reforming that and such other blinde abuses of stonyed religion, hee was the more hated of the spirituaule, and such as worshipped their was.

Finally, as this Lord Protector Duke of Somersjet the kinges vncle, by certayne of the Countesse was then accused, arraigned & condemned for the treaspase (as it was geuen forth) of felonie (although I neuer heard hee murdered or robbed any) so the other vncle of King Henry 6, was made away. Of whose decaite thus writeth Hoyer 20. And all in his practice of holieties: For last they found the means to continue a dist to bring their matters to passe & made a Parliament far from the Citizens of London, where was slayne the sayd good Duke, & the onely wealth of the Realme, and y mighty shield which so long had kept it from to weare, which shortly after his death fell vpon the by heapes. But the Chronicles saye hee cannot let wherfore hee dyed, ney by what means. Nevertheless, this they restite, that hee was a vertuous man, godly and good to the common wealthe.

But to leaue Duke Humfrey, and to returne to the maners and vertues of the Duke of Somersjet, which befoore we were about to describe: as hee was a gentle and courteous Duke at home, so was hee no lesse fortimate a Captain in warlike abroad. Under whose government & guiding nor only diuers rebellions commotions were happily suppressed here at home, but also abroad in the expedition of Scotland such a victory was geuen him of God, that hee the losse scarce of five hundred of his owne men; there were of the enemies as good, or little lesse then x. thousand slayn and put to flight, and euen the very faine day and ryme in the which all the Idolatrous Images were bene burnt at London. And yet of their warres notwithstanding, wherunto hee was agaynst his will compelled, hee was a man of nature singularly gent to peace, as may be seene by the sweete and peaceable exhortation by him first in print befoore, and sent to the realme of Scotland.

But as there is nothing in this worlde to perfect in all respects, which is not blotted or barked with some spot of vice adioyned thereto: amongst the manifold commendations of this Duke, one thinge there was too, which both deepened his honour and estimation much, and also more empyred and hindered his owne life & safety: which was, that hee in condescending to the death of his brother, followed too rashly the persuasion of certayne, whose cure they were: for that manner lacked not perchance some singular vertue and pollicie of some, more craftily then godly disposed persons, as many good men haue supposed.

But what sooner of this matter is to be deemed, cre- 15 B 3. th. 2. bibe.

The zealous standing of the Duke of Somersjet in defence of the truth against the Bishops at Windsor.

A comparison betwene Duke Humfrey vncle to K. Henry 6, and the Duke of Somersjet vncle to K. Edwards.

Touching the trouble of the Duke of Glocester, read befoore pag. 679.

A false miracle detected by Duke Humfrey of Glocester.

The testimonies of M. William Tindall of good Duke Humfrey: The happy felicitie of the Duke of Somersjet in his viduities.

Gods chastisement vpon the Duke of Somersjet.

Testimony of the people with the Duke of Somersjet.

The confession of the Duke of Somersjet.

The Duke of Somersjet in the faith of Iesin Christ.

D. Coxe his ghostly father.

The godly end of the Duke of Somersjet.

The vertues of the Duke of Somersjet declared.