

3 The burning of Mayster Laurence Saunders at Couentry.

The Martyrdome of M. Laurence Saunders at Couentry.

Anno 1555. Februa-ry. 8.



he in his paciēt body did susseine in the flame of fire. For so his cruell enemies haded him, that they burned him with greene woode, & other smothering rather than burning fe=

well, which put him to much moze payne, but that y grace & most plentiful consolation of Christ, which neuer forsake his seruantes, & gaue strength to S. Laurence gaue also patience to this Laurence, aboue all that his torment could woike agaynst: which well appered by his quiet sta=

ding, and sweet sleeping in the fire, as is aboue declared. And to the intent to geue to the Reader to vnderstand the better, what the grace of Christ woiketh in his seruants, and agayne, how feeble & weake man is of himselfe with=

out this grace geuen from aboue, though he seeme other= wise neuer so stout in himselfe: here therefore haue we ad= ded to the foresayd story of Laurence Saunders, the com= munication which in the beginning of his trouble, was be= twene him and Doct. Pendleton, by the example whereof, such as stand, may learne to vnderstand and take heed with due feare, & not to bragge: to leane to the grace of the Lord, and not to presume in themselves.

do it very well) not to forsake cowardly his flocke when hee had most neede to defend the wolfe from them: ne= ther hauing put to his hand to Gods plough, to start now a= side and gene it ouer, nor yet (that is worst of all) hauing once forsake Antichrist, to fall either himselfe, or to lyffer o= thers by his example to returne to theyr vomit agayne.

After which and such like perswasions bidding him be of god comfort, and to take a good hart vnto him: what man (quoth he) there is a great deale moze cause in me to be afraid the in you, for as much as you see, I carry a grea= ter masse of flesh vpon my backe then you do, and being so laden with a heauier lump of this vile carcase ought ther= fore of nature to be moze frayle then you: & yet sayth he, I will see the vttermost drop of this greale of mine molte a= way, & the last gobbet of this flesh consumed to ashes, be= fore I will forsake God and his truth, wherunto the other answering but litle, & wishing that almighty God would geue him moze strength the he presently felt in himselfe, ac= knowing his owne weaknes, confessed not with stan= ding though it were somewhat fayntly, to toyne w him in the profession of the Gospell, & so to go vp to London & set forth the same: wherupon they gaue ech other theyr hāds.

Now when they were come to London, Lord what a great change was there betwene these two persons. The poore feeble saynt-harted Saunders, by the godnes of al= mighty God, taking hart of grace to him, seeking the same in humility, boldly & stoutly confirmed his flock out of the pulpit, where his charge lay, mightly beating down An= tichrist, & lustily preached Christ his maister, for the which he afterward suffered most willingly as is afoze declared. wheras on the other side, Pendleton the proud (who, as it appeared by the sequele, had bene moze stout in words, the= constant in deeds, and a greater bragger, then a good war= rior) folowed Peter so iustly in crackes, howsoeuer he did in repentance (which God onely knoweth) that he came not so soone to London but he chaged his riper, & playd y Apostata, preaching in stede of sound doctrine, nothing al= most but errors & lies, aduancing Antichrist, and ouer= throwing poze Christ with all his mayne: so his former boldnes came to nothing, vntill it were a contrarye key, becomming of a faithfull pastour a false cunninge, and of a true preacher a woone enemy of Gods euertlasting Te= stament, to the great offence of his brethren, the hurt of his flock, and the vtter vndoing, without Gods greater mer= cy, of his owne soule. wherem are specially to be confide= red the deepe and maruelous iudgements of God, who as he can and doth make strong whome it please hym, when he seeth his time, & most commonly such as appare most feeblest: euen so contrarywise throweth he downe o=

A Comparifon betweene Laurence Saunders and S. Laurence.

Strength to stand in Christ, cometh not of our felues, but it is the gift of God.

Talke betweene M. Saunders, & Doctour Pendleton. D. Pendleton a stout preacher of the Gospell in K. Edwards tyme.

M. Saunders timorous in Christes cause at the first be= ginni. g.

The stout bragges of D. Pendleton at the first begin= ning. God geueth strength where feeblenes is confessed.

Example how feeble man is of himselfe without the Lord support him.

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