

ANNO 1555. August. An other letter of Robert Smith to a friend of his.

A letter sent to his frende.

The martyrdome of VVilliam Haile

The eternall God keepe you in his feare. I haue hearty commendations vnto you and your husbande, beseeching almighty God to preferue you in well doing, and in perfecte knowledge of his Christe, that yee may be founde faultles in the day of the Lorde. I haue heard saye, that my frende is geuen ouer to vanitie: neuertheless deare frende, be ye not mooued to follow sinners: for they haue no inheritance with God and Christe. But looke that by going into the Idolls temple, ye defile not the temple of God: for light hath no felowship wth darkenesse. But looke what the Lord hath commaunded, that doe. For if not going to Church were without perfection, they would not learne you that lesion. But all thing that is swete to the flesh, is allowed of the fleshly. The Lord shal reward euery man according to his workes, and he that leadeth into captiuitie, shall go into captiuitie, and hee that by the fleshly man is led in the flesh, shall of the flesh scape corruption. The Lorde Iesu gree thee his holy spiritte. Amen.

I haue sent thee an Epistle in metre, whiche is not to be laid vp in thy cofet, but in thy heart.

Seeke peace and ensue it. Feare God, loue God with all thy heart, with all thy soule, and with all thy strength.

Thy frend and al mens in Christ Iesus, Rob. Smith, Scribled in much hast from B. the 12. of May.

Robert Smith to all faithfull seruants of Christ, exhorting them to be strong vnder persecution.

Content thy selfe with patience, With Christ to beare the crosse of paine:

Which can and will thee recompence,

A thousande folde with ioyes againe.

Let nothing cause thy heart to quaille,

Lanch out thy boate, hale vp thy saile.

Put from the shore:

And be thou sure thou shalt attaine,

Vnto the port that shall remaine.

For euermore.

The burning of Steuen Harwood, and Thomas Fust, martyred for the testimonie of the Gospel.

Steuen Harwood Thomas Fust Martyrs.

About this time died also (by cruell fire) these two martyrs of God, y is to saye, Steuen Harwood, at Stratford, and Thomas fust, at ware. which both two, as they were about one time burned with the fore mentioned Robert Smith and George Tankerfield, although in sundry places: so were they also examined and openly condemned together wyth them. Their proccesse because it was toynd all in one with the proccesse of Robert Smith & other of the said company aboue mentioned, I thought it superfluous againe to reapeate the same: saue that of Thomas fust this is to be added, that where as he in his last appearing the 12. of July, was moued by the Bishop to reuoke his opinion, thus he answered: No (said he) my Lorde, for there is no trouth cometh out of your mouth, but all lyes. Yee condemne men, and will not heare the trouth. where can ye finde any annoynting or greasing in Gods booke? I speake nothing but the trouth, and I am certaine that it is the trouth that I speake. This answer of hym onely I finde noted by the Register: although howe slenderly these Registers haue dealt in vetering such matters, that is, in omitting those thinges which moste woorthy were to be knowen, by their doings it is easie to be seene. But to be short, after their answeres made, both he & Thomas fust went for their faithfull perseuerance condemned together by the Bishop in his accustomed pitie, as heretikes to be burned, and so (as before ye haue heard) finished they their martyrdom, the one at Stratford, and the other at ware, in the moneth of August and yere abouesayd.

The sufferer of Thomas Fust to the shop Bar.

The collocation of Martyr dome. Steuen Harwood and T. Fust, Anno 1555 August.

William Haile Martyr.

The constant Martyrdome of William Haile, burned at Barnet.

Of the same companie of these x. aboue recorded, which were sent vp to Bishop Boner, by sir Nicholas Ware and other Commissioners, in the companie of George Tankerfield and Robert Smith, was also William Bayle of Thorpe in the Countie of Essex, who lykewise being examined with the rest, the 12. day of July, receiued with them also the sentence of condemnation. Seeing thys exhortation with al to the lookers on: Ah good people, sayd he, beware of this Idolatry, and thys Antichriste, poynt



The Martyrdome of Willia Haile at Barnet about the ende of August. Anno. 1555.

ing vnto the Bishop of London, and so was he deliuered to the Sheriffes as an heretique to be burned, who sente him to Barnet, where, about the latter ende of August, hee moste constantly sealed by his faith with the consuming of his bodie by cruell fire, yielding hys soule vnto the Lorde Iesus his onely and most sure redemer.

Hailes wordes to the people. Ex Regit.

George King, Thomas Leyes, John VVade, sickened in prison, and were buried in the fieldes.

Ye hearde before of ten sundry personnes sent outte of Newgate by Maister Dare and other Commissioners, to be examined of Boner Bishoppe of London. Of whome sixe already haue bene executed in severall places, as hath bene thewed: whose names were Elizabeth warne, George Tankerfield, Robert Smith, Steuen Harwoode, Thomas fust, and William Haile. Other thre, to witte, George King, Thomas Leyes, and John wade sickening in Lollardes Tower, were so weak that they were remooued into sundry houles wythin the Citie of London, and there departed, and cast out into y fieldes, and there buried by nighte of the faithfull brethren, when none in the day durste doe it, propter metum Iudaeorum. The last that remained of thys societye companie, was Joane Laythe or Laythorde, the Daughter in lawe to John warne and Elizabeth warne Martyrs, but because shee was repicqued to a longer day, her storie and Martyrdome we will deferre till the moneth of Januarie the next yeare following.

3. Martyrs sickened in prison & buried in the fieldes.

George King, Thomas Leyes, John Wade, Martyrs.

The story of Joane Laythford hereafter followeth among the Martyrs of the next yeare.

William Andrewe.

The like catholike charitie was also shewed vpon William Andrew of Hoxley in the Countie of Essex Carpenter, who was brought to Newgate the firste day of April 1555. by John Gotham Constable of Maidon in Essex. The first and principall promoter of hym was the Lorde Ricche, who sent him first to prison. An other great doer against him also seemeth to be sir Richard Southwel Knighte, by a letter wyrtten by him to Boner, as by the copie hereof appereth.

William Andrew buried in the fieldes.

The L. Rich the first tender vp of W. Andrew.

A letter sent to Boner Bishop of London, from sir Richard Southwel knight.

Please it your Lordship to vnderstand, that the Lord Rich did about seuen or eight weekes past, send vpp vnto the Counsaile, one Wil. Andrew of Thorpe within the Countie of Essex, an arrogant heretike. Their pleasure was to commaund me to commit him vnto Newgate where he remaineth, and as I am inforced, hath infected a number in the prison wyth hys heresie. Your Lordshippe shall doe very well (if it please you) to conuent him before you, and to take order with him, as his case doth require. I knowe the Counsaile meant to haue wrytte heer: in N N N N. j. vnto

A letter of Syr Richard Southwel to Bishop Boner.