

Anno 1555. September. Bernard a Popish Curate of Weme, Iohn Thorlyne agaynst the burying of W. Glouers brother.

need, being then Curate of the sayd Church (and is yet as I heare say to this day) to stoppe the buriall thereof, rode to the bishop named Raufe Bayne, to certify him of the matter, and to haue his aduise therein. In the meane time, the body lying there a whole daye, in the night time one Rich. Boyce a Taylour woulde haue entered him. But then came Iohn Thorlyne of Weme with other more, & woulde not suffer the body to be buried: expressing to vs y^e contrary examples of good Joby, for as he was religious in burying the dead to this man putteth religio in not burying the dead: so that after he had layne there two dayes & one night, commeth the foresayd Bernerd the Curate with the Bishops letter, the contentes of which letter beyng copied out word for word here foloweth.

* A copy of the Byshops Letter written to the Parish of Weme.

Vnderstanding that one Glouer an heretick is dead in the parish of Weme, whiche Glouer hath for all the time of my being in this country bene knowne for a rebellion agaynst our holy fath and Religion, a Contemner of the holy Sacramentes and ceremonies vsed in holy Church, and hath separate himselfe fro the holy Communion of all good Chriilian men, nor neuer required to be reconciled to our mother holy Church, nor in hys last dayes did not call for his ghostly father, but dyed without all rites belonging to a Chriilian man: I thought it good not onely to commaund the Curate of Weme that he shoulde not be buried in Chriilian mans buriall, but also will and commaunde all the parish of Weme that no manne procure, helpe, nor speake to haue him buried in holy ground: but I do charge and commaund the Church Wardens of Weme in speciall, and all the parishes of the same that they assitt the sayd Curate in defending and letting, and procurig that he bee not buried neither in the Church nor within the wanybles of the Churchyarde, and likewise I charge those that brought the body to the place, to cary it away agayne, and that at theyr charge: as they will aunswere at theyr perill. At Eccleisch this 6. of September. an. 1558.

By your Ordinary Radulph Cowntrey and Liechfield.

By y^e vertue of this foresaid letter so it fel out, that they which brought the corps thither, were sayne at their owne charges to carye it backe agayne. But for so muche as the body was corrupted, and smelt so strongly that duneth any man might come nere it, they were forced to draw it w^h hoyses vnto a bromefield, and there was he buried.

Witnesses of the godly end of the sayde William Glouer dying in the true fayth and confession of Christe, Mayster Nowell Deane of Liechfelde, George Wilestone and hys wife, Tho Costantine, Roger Wydoufe, Iohn Prynne, George Torpelley. &c.

The like example of charitable affection in these catholike churchmen is also to be seene and noted in the burying of one mayster Edward Bourton Esquire, who in y^e same Diocesse of Chester departing out of this worlde the verye day before Queene Elizabeth was crowned, required of his frendes, as they would aunswere for it, that his bodye shoulde be buried in his Parithe Church (which was S. Chaddes in Shroulbury) so that no Massenonger shoulde be present therat, which thing being declared to the Curate of that Parithe named sic Iohn Marthall, & the body being withall brought to the buriall, vpon the same day whē the Queene was crowned, the Curate being therewith offended, sayd playnly that he shoulde not be buried in y^e church there. wherunto one of his frendes, named George Toppley answering againe said, that God would iudge him in the last day. &c. When the priest, Judge God (saith he) or Deuill, the body shall not come thre. And so they buried him in his otone garden, where he is no doubt as neare y^e kingdome of heauen, as if he had bene buried the middell of the Church.

Moreover, in the sayd County of Salop, I finde that one Dyuer Richardyne of the Parithe of whichchurch was burned in Hartford wesse, Syr Iohn Ygone being Shefferise the same time. whiche secretlye to be about the latter yeare of king Henry viij. whose name because it was not mentioned before, I thought here to geue some litle touch of him, hauing now in hande to speake of the persecution within the Diocesse of Cowntrey and Liechfield.

¶ The Martyrdome of William Wolsley, and Robert Pigot Paynter.

After the suffering of Mayster Robert Bloner & Cornelius Boney at Cowntrey, followeth next the condemnation of other two blessed Martyrs which were iudged

and condemned at Eley by Iohn Fuller the Bishops Chauncellour of Eley, Doctor Shear on his Suffragane, Robert Stewart Deane of Eley, Iohn Christopherson Deane of Norwich, &c. an. 1555. October 9. the names of which martyrs were William Wolsley and Robert Pigot, dwelling both in the Towne of witbich, whiche William Wolsley being a constable, dwelling and inhabiting in the Towne of Well, was there brought to death by the meanes and procurement of one Richard Euerard Benclena a Justice appoynted for those dayes, who extremely handled the same William Wolsley, and bouade him to the god abearing, causing him to put in sureties vpon his good behauior vntill the next general Sessions holden within the Isle of Eley: and so the sayd Wolsley being dispatched of his office, and brought in trouble, remoued his home & dwelling place, coming to dwell in the Towne of witbiche. Then being called agayne at the next Sessions, hee was still constrained to put in new sureties, which at the length he refused to do, & so was commaunded to the Hayle, at the Sytle holden at Eley in lent.

In the Easter weeke folowynge, there repayed to conferre with him, D. Fuller the Chauncellor, with Christopherson, and one D. Young: who layde earnestlye to hys charge that he was out of the catholike fayth, willing him to meddle no further with the scriptures, the it did become such a lay man as he was, to do. The said William Wolsley stāding still a great while, suffering them to say their pleasures, at the last answered in this wise: Good M^r. Doctor, what did our Saviour Christ meane, when he spake these wordes written in the 23. Chapter of S. Mathewes Gospell: Wo be vnto you Scribes and Phariseis, ye hypocrites for ye shut vp the kingdome of heauen before men: ye your selues goe not in, neither suffer ye them that come to enter in.

Yea sayeth Doctor Fuller, you must vnderstand, that Christ spake to the Scribes and Pharisees.

May Master Doctor (saith Wolsley) Christ spake eue to you, and your selowes here present, & to al other such like as you be.

Away Master Doctor (saith Christopherson) for you can do no good with this man, Yet sayth D. Fuller, I will leane thee a booke to read. I promise thee, of a learned mans doing, that is to say of Doctor watsons doing, (who was then Bishop of Lincolne.)

Wolsley receiuing the same booke, did diligently reade it ouer, which in many places did manifestly appeare contrary to the knowne tructh of Gods word. At the length a fournight of thre weekes folowing, the sayde Doctor Fuller reioyning agayne to the prison house to confer with the sayd Wolsley, did aske him how he liked the sayd booke (thinking that he had won him by y^e reading of the same:) who answered him and sayd: Syr, I like the booke no other wise then I thought before I should find it. wherupon the Chauncellor taking his booke departed home.

At night when D. Fuller came to his chamber to looke on it, he did finde in many places contrary to his minde, the booke rased with a pen by the sayd Wolsley. The which seeing, and being vexed therewith, sayd: Oh this is an obstinate hereticke and hath quite marred my booke.

Then the Sytle holden at witbich drawing nye, Doctor Fuller cometh agayne to the sayd Wolsley, and speaketh vnto him on this maner: Thou doest much trouble my conscience, wherfore I pray thee depart, & rule thy toung, so that I heare no more complaint of thee, and come to the Church when thou wilt, and if thou be complayned vpon, so farre as I may, I promise thee I will not heare of it.

Master Doctor (quoth Wolsley) I was brought hither by a law, and by a law I will be deliuered.

Then being brought to the Sessions before named, Wolsley was layd in the Castle at witbich, thinking to him and al his frendes, that he shoulde haue suffered there at that present time, but it proued nothing so.

Then Robert Pigot the painter being at liberty, was there presented by some euill disposed persons (twoyne me as they called them) for not comming to the Church.

The sayd Pigot being called in the Sessions, woulde not absent himselfe, but there did playnly appeare before Syr Clement Dygham being Iudge, who sayd vnto him: Ah, are you the holy father the Daynter? How chauce ye came not to the Church? Syr (quoth the Daynter) I am not out of the Church, I trust in God.

So Syr, sayd the Iudge, this is no Church, this is a Haule. Ye sir sayd Pigot, I know very wel it is a Haule: but he that is in the true faith of Iesus Christ, is neuer absent, but present in the Church of God.

Ab Syr, sayd the Iudge, you are to high learned for me to talke withall: wherfore I will send you to them that be better learned then I, strayght wayes commaundynge him to the Hayle where Wolsley lay. So the Sessions being broken

Richard Euerard extream agaynst William Wolsley.

W. Wolsley commaunded to the Hayle. D. Fuller, Christopherson, D. Young, come to conferre with Wolsley. Wolsley putteth a question to the Doctors.

D. Watsons booke of Sermons or Homelyes. D. Fuller agayne referreth to W. Wolsley.

The Chauncellor goeth with leaue to Wolsley to depart.

W. Wolsley layd in the Castle of Witbich.

Rob. Pigot Painter presented for not comming to the Church. Talke betwene Syr Clement Dygham Iudge, and Rob. Pigot.

Rob. Pigot brought to the Hayle where W. Wolsley lay.

The letter of Raufe Bayne B. of Chester, for the not burying of W. Glouers body.

The dead corpses of W. Glouer dragged with horse into the field.

M. Edward Burton not suffered to be buried in Christian buriall, the same day when Q. Elizabeth was crowned.

Oliver Richardson West Martyr.

William Wolsley, Robert Pigot, Martyrs.