

{Anno} 1556. {April.

After this, the Bishop falling to entreating and persuasions, earnestly exhorted him to reuoke his heresyes, (as he termed them) and to resourne hymselfe vnto the Church of Rome, and not to sticke so much to the literall sense of the Scriptures, but to see the interpretation of the olde Fathers.

To whiche Tyms answered: I will not refoyme my selfe therunto. And I thank God of this day: for I trust he will turne your cursinges into blessinges.

And furthermore asking this question, he sayde: And what haue you to mainteine the reall presence of Christ in the sacrament, but onely the bare letter.

We haue (quoth the bishop) the catholicke church.

No, sayd Tyms, you haue the popish church of Rome for you, for which you he perincured and forsworne. And the See of Rome is the See of Antichrist: and therfore to that church I will not confoyme my selfe, noz once consent vnto it.

Then the bishop seeing his constant boldnesse to be vnmouable, proceeding to his condemnation, pronounced the sentence definitive vpon him, and gaue him ouer to the secular power.

* The condemnation of Robert Drakes.

After, calling for Robert Drakes, he vsed towardes him the like maner of exhortation that he dyd before. To whom Drakes sayd: As for your church of Rome, I vtterly deny and deny it, with all the workes thereof, such as I deny the deuill and all his workes.

The bishop then vsing his accustomed ordet of law, w his like exhortations, at last gaue him the like blessing that Tyms had, and so charged the Shyriffe with him.

* The condemnation of Thomas Spurge, and of the other three martyrs.

Thomas Spurge being next demanded if he would returne to the catholicke Church, sayd as foloweth: As for your church of Rome, I doe vtterly deny it: but to the true catholick church I am content to returne, and continue in the same, whereof I beleue the Church of Rome to be no part or member. The in fine, calling the rest in theyr courses, and vpon the like demaundes receiving the like answers, the sayd bishop gaue vnto ech of them their seueral iudgements, & so ridding his bloody handes, committed the vnto the custody of the Shyriffes of London, who sent the vnto Newgate, whither they went all most ioyfully, abiding there the Lordes good time, wherein they should seale this theyr sayth with the shedding of theyr blood: which they most stoutly and willingly perfozmed, the 14. daye of April, as before is mentioned.

& Letters of William Tyms.

¶ To his faythfull syster in the Lord, parishioner in the towne of Hockley, named Agnes Glascocke.

The grace, mercy, and peace of God our Father thorow Iesus Christ our Lord and Sauour, with the sweet comfort of hys holy and mighty spirit, to the performance of his will, to your euerlasting comfort be with you my deare syster Glascocke, both now and euermore. Amen.

My most deare and entirely beloued syster, yea mother I may right well call you for the motherly care which you haue alwaies had for me, I haue me most hartely commended vnto you, giuing God most hartly thanks for you, that he hath geuen you so louing a hart to Christes poore Gospell, & his poore afflicted flocke for the same: and as you haue full godly begonne, so I beseech God to geue you power, to goe forward in the same, and neuer more to looke backe fearing neither fier, neyther sword: and then I warrant you, you haue not farre to runne.

And now my deare hart, remember well what I haue taught you when I was present with you, and also written being absent, and no doubt we shall shortly meete agayne with a most ioyfull meeting. I go vpon Friday next to the Bishop of Londons Colehouse, which is the .20. daye of March, where I thinke it will be harde for any of my friends to speake with me. Howbeit I trust I shall not long tary there, but shortly after be carryed vp after my deare brethren and susterne which are gone before me into heauen in a fiery chariot: therfore now I take my leaue of you tyll we meete in heauen: & hve you after. I haue carryed a great while for you: and seeing you be so long a making ready, I will tarry no longer for you. You shall find me merely singing, Holy, Holy Holy, Lord God of Sabboth, at my journeyes ende. Therefore nowe my deare hart, make good hart and loyter not by the way, leaue nighte take you, and so ye be shutte out of the gate with

the foolishse virgines. And now my syster, in witnes that I haue taught you nothing but the truth, here I write my name with my blood, for a testimoniall vnto you, that I will seale the simple doctrine which I haue taught you, with the rest. And thus fare you well: and God defend you from Antichrist and all his Ministers the false Priestes. Amen.

These words following were written to his owne blood.

Continue in prayer. By me William Tyms in the
Alike in sayth. Kynges Bench for the Gos-
And obteyne your desyer. pellof of Christ.

¶ An other letter of the sayd W. Tyms, wherein he doth comforte his syster Glascocke, being in greate sorrowe and repentance, for going to the Masse.

God be mercifull vnto you, pardon & forgeue all your sines, & send you fayth to beleue the same, that you may be partaker of his heauenly Kingdome, Amen.

My deare syster, I haue me most hartely commended vnto you & as I haue lamented your falling from God, by being partaker with that Idolatrous Priest, so haue I since I heard of your earnest repentance, very much reioysed, and also prayed almighty God for his mercy shewed vnto you, in that he hath not left you to your selfe, but since your denyall he hath shewed his mercy on you by looking backe on you as he did on Peter, and so caused you to repent as Peter did, & bitterly to weepe for your sines: where as if God had lefte you to your selfe, you had runne forward from one euill vnto another, till at the length your harte shoulde eyther haue bene hardened, or els you shoulde haue dispayred of the mercy of God. And seeing that God hath bene so mercifull vnto you as he hath bene, bee you not vnthankfull vnto him for the same. For I certyfy you that your sorrowfull hart that you haue had, doth declare vnto me that God hath pardoned and forgeue all your sines for the bloudshedding of that immaculate lambe Iesus Christ our Lord and Sauour.

Therefore as Peter after the tyme that Christ had forgien him his sinne, did boldly confesse Christ before all his enemies: euen so my deare hart in the Lord, seeing that God hath so mercifully pardoned and forgien your sines, nowe cleaue vnto him and be at defiance with his enemies the Papiffes: & as they doe beare witness with their Father the Deuill by goinge to the Church and shedding of the innocent blood of all those that will not goe with them, euen so do you beare witness with Christ, by not comming there, for all those that do go thither shalbe partakers of their brethrens blood that is shed for the testimonye of Christ except they repent & amend: which grace that they may so doe, I beseech the eternall God for his Christes sake if it be his good will, to geue them in his good tyme. And the same good God that hath bene so mercifull vnto you to call you to repentance, him I beseech to keepe you in his feare & loue, that you may haue alwayes affiance in him, and euermore seeke his honour & glory to your euerlasting comfort in Christ, Amen. Thus fare you well from the kinges bench this .28. of August.

By me William Tyms.

¶ An other letter of W. Tyms to certayne godly women of his parish, followers of the Gospell.

Grace, mercy and peace from GOD the Father, through our Lord Iesus Christ be with you both now and euermore. Amen.

Deare sisters, I haue me most hartely commended vnto you, thanking you for the great kindnes shewed vnto me in this tyme of my imprisonment, and not onely vnto me, but also vnto my poore wife and children: and also for the great kindnesse that you shew vnto all the liuing saints that be disperfed abroad, and are sayne to hide their heades for feare of this cruell persecution.

Deare sisters, when I do remember your constancy in christ, I call to remembraunce the constancy of diuers godly women, as Sufanna, Iudith, Hester, and the good wife of Nabal, that thorow her godly conditions saued both her husbandes life, and all her household, when Dauid had thoughte to haue slayne him for his churlish answer that he sent him. Also I do remember Rahab that lodged the Lordes Spyes, howe God preferred her and her whole household for her faythfulnesse that she bare to Gods people. So I doe beleue, that when the Lord shall send his Aungell to destroy these Idolatrous Egyptians here in England, and shall finde the blood of the Lambe sprinkled on the dore postes of your harts, he wil go by & not hurt you, but spare your whole households for your sakes. Also I do remember Mary Magdalen, how faythfull she was: for she was the first that preached the resurrection of Christ. Remember the blessed Martir Anne Askew in our time, & folow her example of constancy. And for the loue of God take heede that in no case you doe consent to Idolatrye, but stande fast to the Lord, as the good woman did that had her seuen sonnes put to death before her face, and she alwayes com-

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The Popes Church, The Sea of Rome, the Sea of Antichrist.

Sentence read against W. Tyms.

The answers of R. Drakes.

Sentence geuen agaynst Drakes.

The answers of T. Spurge.

Sentence geuen agaynst Tho. Spurge, R. Spurge, Cauell, Ambrose.

A letter of W. Tyms to Agnes Glascocke.

An other letter of Will. Tyms to Mistres Glascocke.

An other letter of W. Tyms to certayne godly women of his Parish.