

Anno 1557. August. Richard Potto lutheran at the Cocke in Chelmsford.

This thing done, he was carryed to the new Junne, called the signe of the Crowne in Chelmsforde, by the beaustly Bayliffes, which some of them were they that befoze byd the best to take him, and being in the Junne, one Richard Dorto the elder, an Inholder, dwelling at the signe of the Cocke in the same towne, did muche trouble him in perswading him to cōfesse he had offended the Queene in his prayer which he was condemned for, and to aske her forgiveness.

To whome he sayd hee had not offended her Grace in that behalfe. So in proccesse of time he was layd vpon a sled with an Hurle on it, and drawne to the place of execution being fast bounde, having in his hand a psalme booke, of the which he read very deuoutly all the way to a loud voyce till he came there: and being on the Ladder, this foresayd Dorto did much trouble him wth the matter aforesayd, when he would haue vttered other thinges, tyll such time as the Sheriffe commaunded Dorto to hold his peace and trouble him no moze.

So he made his confession and stood very constant till when he was turned of the ladder. With him were cast certain thecues also, and y next day when they wer brought out to be executed with him, there happened a thing that did much set forth and declare the innocency and godlines of this man. For being ledde betwene two thecues to the place where he should suffer, when as hec exhorted bothe them & all other, to stand steadfastly to the truth, one of these turned the counsell he gaue, into a iesting matter, and made but a floute of it.

Why should we doubt to obtayne heauen, sayth he, for as much as this holy man shal go befoze vs, as captayne and leader vnto vs in the way. we shall see whether straye as soone as he hath once made vs the entry.

In this, George Eagles and that other did greatly reprove him, who on y other side gaue god hedd to Leorges exhortation, earnestly betwaxing his owne wickednes, & calling to Christ for mercy. But the more that the first was bid to be still and to leaue off his scoffing, the more peruerse did he continue in hys foolishnes, and his wicked behauior. At length he came to the Gallows, where they shoulde be hanged, but George was carryed to another place there by to suffer. Betweene the two it was y godlyers chance to go the foremost, who being vpon y ladder, after he had exhorted the people to beware and take heed to theselues, how they did transgresse y commaundementes of God, and then hadde committed his soule in to Gods handes, he ended his life after a godly and quyet maner.

The mockers turn cometh next, which would haue sayd likewise some what, but his tongue did so fumble and falter in his head, that hee was not able to speake a word. Faine would he haue vttered his mind, but he coulde not bring it out. Then did the vnder Sheriffe bid him say the Lordes prayer, which he coulde not say neyther, but stuteringly, as a man would saye, one word to day, and another to morowe. Then one did begin to say it, and so bad him say after.

Such as were there and saw it, were very much assayed: especially those that did beholde the iust punishment of God, agaynst him that had mocked so earnest a matter. George Eagles in the meane tyme, after hee had hanged a small tyme, hauing a great check with the halter, immediately one of the Bayliffes cut the halter a sundert, & hee fell to the ground being still aliue, although much amazed wth the checke he had of the ladder.

The one William Swallow of Chelmsford a Bayliffe did draw him to the Sledge, y he was drawn thither on, and layd his necke thereon, and with a cleauer, such as is occupied in many mens kitchins, and blunt, did hackle off his head, and sometime hit his necke, and sometyne his chinne, and did to woly mangle him, and so opened him. At Norwich standing this blessed Martyr of Christe abode steadfast and constant in the very midst of his tormentes, till such time as this contemptory William Swallowe dyd plucke the hart out of his body. The bodye being deuidey in foure partes, and his bowels burnt, was brought to y foresayd Swallows doze, and there layd vpon the fithe stalles befoze his doze, till they had made ready a horse to carry his quarters, one to Colchester, and the reste to Harwich, Chelmsford and S. Rowles.

His head was set vpp at Chelmsforde on the Markete Crosse on a long pole, and there stode till the wynde dyd blowe it downe, and lying certain dayes in the streete tumbled about, one called it to be buryed in the Churchyarde in the night. Also a wonderfull work of God was it that he shewed on this wicked Bayliffe Swallowe, who within thort space after this was to punish, that all the heare went weinere of his head, hys eyes were as it were

closed vp and could scaut see, the nayles of his fingers and toes went cleane off. He was in such case of his bodye, as though he had bene a leper, and now in his last age almost a very begger, and his wife which he a litle after married God hath punished with the falling sickness, or a disease like vnto that: which may be a warning of glasse for al me and women to look in, that be enemies to Gods true seruantes.

So lesse token of his maruelous iudgement did God shewe vpon the foresayd Richard Dorto, whiche did so much trouble this George Eagles in the Junne, and at the place of execution, as is aboue specified. He liued till the beginning of Queene Elizabethes raygne, at which time he litle toyed, & on a time being in a great chaufe wryth two or thre of his neighbors in his own house, feeling himself not well, he said to one of hys seruantes: Doe with me in to the chamber & when hee came there, he fell downe on a low bed, as heauy as it had bene lead, & laye there soupyng at the mouth, & coulde neuer speake after, neyther yet vnderstand what was sayd to him, as by al meanes was tried by his neighbors with signes to him made, but laye as senseles as it had bene a very dumb beast, and within thre or foure dayes dyed. God graunt that this token sente of God, with many moe like, may be a warning to vs euery hereafter, while we shall liue vnto the worlds end.

Besides this, God hath wonderfully shewed hys worke. For at a time when they layd great wayte for thys George Eagles: so that it was thought that it was vnposible but that he should be taken being so belet, his friends did put him in a wientice apparill, that is to say, watchet hose, as their maner is, and an old cloke, and set him on a packe of wooll, as though he had ridden to carry wooll to y spinners, so he rode amongst the midst of his aduersaries and escaped them al for that time. An other troubler of the sayd George Eagles was also Justice Bortone, who enjoyed not his cruelty many yeares after, &c.

Allo when hee was at the Sessions at Chelmsforde, there was a rumoz rayled that hee had accused diuers honest men that dyd keepe him in their houses, and was conuerlaunt with him, and all to discredyt him, which rumoz was very false and vtterly vntreue. witnes one Aspnold, with diuers other dwelling in Chelmsford.

The martyrdome and examination of Richard Crashfield of Wymoundham, condemned to death for the testimony of Iesus Christ.

About this time suffered at Norwich, a godly man & a constant martyr of Christ, called Richard Crashfield whose examination befoze the Chancellour, named Dunninges, as he penned them with hys owne hand, so haue we saythfully recorded the same.

August. 5.

How say you Syrha, sayd the Chancellour, to the ceremonies of the Church?

Then sayd I: what ceremonies? He sayd vnto me: Do you not beleue that all the ceremonies of the church were good and godly?

My answer was: I do beleue so many as are groffed in the testament of Iesus Christ.

Truly, sayd he, do you beleue in the Sacrament of the altare?

I sayd, I knew not what it was.

Then sayd he: Do you not beleue that Christe tooke bread, gaue thanks, brake it, and sayde: Take, eate, thys is my body.

Yes verily, sayd I, and enen as Christ did speake, so did he performe the worke.

Truly, sayd he, doe you not beleue this, that after the wordes be spoken by the prieste, there is the substance of Christes body, flesh, and blood? How say you, doe you not beleue this? Speake man.

I doe beleue that Christes body was broken for me vpon the Crosse, and his blood shed for my redemption, wherof the bread and the wyne is a perpetuall memory, y pledge of hys mercy, the ring and seale of hys promise, and a perpetuall memory for the saythfull, vnto the ende of the world. So then I was commaunded into prison vntil the next day.

The examination of Rich. Crashfield before Dunning Chancelour of Norwich.

Sacrament of the Altar.

An other examination of Richard Crashfield.

The daye following I was brought forth. Then the Chancellour sayd vnto me Richard, how say you? Then you other wise minded then you were yesterday? Hee ce hearing all the wordes that we hadde afoze, sayde: are not these

An other examination of Richard Crashfield.

An example to be noted of a thiefe reflecting and deriding wholesome and Godly preaching.

W. Swallowe termed tour of George Eagles.

Gods iust punishment vpon a cruel persecutor.