

Anno }
1558. }

Lady Elizabeth by Gods providence set at libertie.

Mistres Ashley sent to the Tower.

Note the wonderful working of the Lordes providence in saving of Lady Elizabeth.

Lady Elizabeth delivered by the death of Stephen Gardiner.

How the Lord began to revoke for Lady Elizabeth.

A note of a story declared in the signification of the Papes to reward Lady Elizabeth.

Robert Farrer of Leaton a fore enemy to Lady Elizabeth.

Laurence Sheriff a fore enemy to Lady Elizabeth.

Robert Farrer with prayer to Lady Elizabeth.

The parts of a good and true servant.

gayne, and the seuen night after was released of Sir Henry Bencilde her brother (as he termed him) and his followers, and to her grace being set at libertie from imprisonment, went into the countrey, and had appointed to go with her Sir Thomas Pope, one of Queene Mariess Commissioners, and one of her Gentlemen Officers, Master Sage, and thus bravely was she looked to all Queene Mariess tyme. And this is the discourse of her highnesse imprisonment.

Then there came to Lambheye, Mr. Heringham, and Mr. Norris Gentleman Officer. Queene Mariess went, who toke away from her grace Maister Ashley to the fliecke, and thre other of her Gentlewomen to the Tower; which thing was no little trouble to her grace, sayinge that she thought they would fetche all away at the cude. But god be playfed, shortly after was fetched away Gardiner (though the mercifull providence of the Lordes goodnes, by occasion of whole opportunitie decrease (as is partly touched in this story before, pag. 170.) the life of this excellent Princeesse, the wealth of all England, was preserved. For this is credible to be supposed, that the said wicked Gardiner of Winchester had long laboured his wits, and to this onely most principall maile, bent all his devotes, to bring this our happy and deare soueraigne out of the way, as both by his words and doings before notified, may sufficiently appeare.

But such was the gracions and favourable providence of the Lord, and the persécution not onely of her royal maestie, but also the miserable and wofull state of this whole Island, and some vicieuses of the same, whereby the proud platformes and peccy praxities of this wretched Achitophel prevailed not: but contrarywise, both he, and all the snares and trappes of his pericious counsaile layed against another, were turned to a net to catche hymselfe, according to the Proverbe: Malum consilium, consulatori pessimum.

After the death of this Gardiner, followed the death also and drooping away of other her enemies, whereby by little and litle her toperdy decreased, feare diminited, hope of comfort began to appeare as out of a darke cloud; and albeit as yet her grace had no full assurance of perfect safetie, yet more gentle murtherment daily did grow unto her, till at length to the month of November, and xvij. day of the same, three yeares after the death of Sir Gardiner, followed the death of Queene Mary, as hereafter God granting shall be more declared.

Although this history following her not directly appertaining to the former matter, yet the same may here not vnaptly be inferred, for that it doth discouer and shew forth the malicious heartes of the Papistes toward this vertuous Queene our soueraigne Lady in the tyme of Queene Mary her sister, which is reported, as a truth credibly to be by sundry honest persones, of whome some are yet alive, and doe testifye the same. The matter whereof is this.

Some after the furre of riotie and the troubles that happened to this Queene for that cause: it furnished one Robert Farrer a Barberdialler of London, dwelling nere unto Newgate market, in a certain moyning to be at the skole taunrice (from whence he was selowme absent) and falling to his common drinke, as he was euer accustomed and haating in his company three other companions like to himselfe, it chaunced the same tyme one Laurence Shirriff Brooker, dwelling also not farr from thence, to come into the said taunrice, and finding there the sayd Farrer (to whom of long tyme he had borne good will) sat down in the seat to drinke with him, and Farrer hauning in hys full cups, and not hauing consideration who were present began to talke at large, & namely being one of the chiefe doctors, and said: that still hath bene one of the chiefe doctors in this rebellion of your, and before all be done, the aid at the heretikes perverters, shall well vnderstand of it. Some of them hope that the shal haue the crowne, but she and they (I trust) shal so hope, shall goe headlesse, or be fettered with fagets before the come to it.

The aforesaid Laurence Shirriff Brooker, being then servant unto the sayd Lady Elizabeth, and swoone unto her grace, could no longer forbear his old acquaintance and neighbour Farrer in speaking so vnconueniently of his Maistres, but sayd unto him: Farrer, I haue loued thee as a neighbour, and haue had a good opinion of thee, but hearing of thee that I now heare, I hate thee: and I tell thee I am her graces true and true servant, and she is a Princeesse, and the daughter of a noble kyng, and it will cometh thee to call her a Whore, & for thy loyng, I say thou art a knaue, and I will complain vpon thee, to thy worst fauour.

Farrer, for that I said, I will say againe, and so Shirriff came from his company.

Shortly after the said Shirriff taking an honest neigh- bour with him, went before the Commissioners to complain: the which Commissioners saw then at Boner the Bishop of London house beside Banles, and there were present Boner then being the chiefe Commissioner, the L. Woodard, Sir John Baker, W. Warburton Chamberlour to the Bishop, Doctor Stoy, Doctor Harpfield, and other.

The aforesaid Shirriff commyng before them, declared the manner of the sayd Rob. Farrers talke against the Lady Elizabeth. Boner answered, peradventure you toke him worse then he meant.

Ye a Mr. L. Stoy, if you knewe the man as I do, you must say there is not a better Catholike, nor an honest man in the Citie of London.

well, sayd Shirriff, My Lord, he is my gracious Lady and mistres, and it is not to be suffered that such a varlet as he is, should call so honorable a prince by the name of a Whore: I saw yesterday in the Court that my Lord Cardinal Iudges meeting her in the Chamber of presence, knicled downe on his knees and kissed her hand, & I saw also that King Phillip meeting her, made her such obeisance that his knee touched the ground: and then me thought it were too much to suffer suche a varlet as this is, to call her Whore, and to wish them to hop headlesse that shall with her grace to enjoy the possession of the crowne whom God shall sende it unto her as in the righte of her inheritance. Yee? saye thre quoth Boner, when God sendeth it vnto her, let her enjoy it. But truly (saye he) the man that spake the wordes that you have reported, meant nothing against the Ladie Elizabeth your Maistresse, and no more doe we: but he like an honest and zealous man feared the alteration of Religion, which euery god manne ought to feare: and therefore (saye Boner) godd manne goe your wayes home and reprove wyle of his towards youre Maistresse, and we will send for Farrer and rebuke him for his rash and vndiscreet wordes, and we trust he will not doe the like againe. And thus Shirriff came away, and Farrer had a fupper with a fore tale.

Nowe that ye may be fully informed of the aforesaid Farrer, whom W. Stoy praised for to god a man, yet that vnderstande that the same Farrer hauing two daughters being handsome maidens, the Elder of them for a summe of money be him selfe deliuered to Sir Roger Cholmeley to be at his commandment, the other he sold to a Knight called Sir William Goddoolpyn to be at his commandment: whom he made his lackie and to care for her to hym, being appalled in mans apparel to Bolesme, and the sayd Farrer followed the same. He also was a grate, and a horrible blasphemour of God, and a common dealer of haereticall and quiet men, also a common donkarde. And now we I referre the life of these Catholikes to your iudgement, to thinke of them as you please.

But of this matter enough and too much. Now let vs retourne where we leit before, which was at the death of Queene Marie. After whose deceale succeeded her forefayd sister Ladie Elizabeth into the right of the crowne of England: who after so long restraintment, so great daungers escaped, such blasphemous stormes ouerblowen, so many iniuries digested and wronges (sustained by the misgripe protection of our mercifull God, to our no small comfort and commoditie, hath ben eased and erected out of this world to libertie, out of daunger to peace and quietnesse, from dread to dignitie, from miserie to Maestie, from mourning to Reuling, &c. of a prisoner made a Princeesse, and placed in her throne Royal proclaimed now Queene, with as many glad hearts of her subjects, as euer was any King or Queene in this Realme before her, or euer shall be (I dare say) hereafter.

Touching whole flourishing state, her princely reigne and peaceable government, with other things diuers and sonnybe incident to the same, and especially touching the great Dirres & alterations which haue happened in other foreine nations, and also partly among our selues here at home, for so much as the tractation hereof requirith an other Volume by it selfe, I shall therefore desire the reader to the next Booke or Section ensuing: wherein (if the Lord so please) to sustaine me with leane and litle) I may haue to discourse of all and singular such matters done and achieved in these our latter daies and tymes, more at large.

Now then after these so great afflictions falling vpon this Realme, from the first beginning of Queene Mariess reigne, wherein to many men, women, and children were benighted, many imprisoned and in prisons darred, diuers expelled, some spoyled of goodes & possessions, a great num- ber

Robert Farrer comes playeed to the Commissioners, but not the chiefe was had.

How Byssh, Boner and D. Stoy beare with him that rayled a gayned Lady Elizabeth.

Note the iudice of these Catholikes.

Lady Elizabeth both prosclomed Queene the same day that Queene Mary dyed.

The Lord make England thankfull to him for his great benefites.