

¶ Anno 1558. pray for your graces health and increase of honour.

This Oration of M. Sales being promised, now let us prosecute, the Lords willing, that which we promised, concerning the Disputation of Conference had at Westminster. The copy whereof here followeth.

The Conference or Disceptation had and begun at Westminster, the last of March, upon certaine Questions or Articles of Religion proposed, and also of the breaking up of the same, by the Papistes default, at the first beginning of Queene ELIZABETH.



It pleased the Queenes most excellent maiestie, hauing heard of diuersitie of opinions in certaine matters of religion amongst sundry of her loyng subjects, and being very desirous to haue the same reduced to some goodly and Christian concord, by the aduise of the Lordes and others of the priuy Counsaile, as well for the satisfaction of persons doubtfull, as also for the knowledg of the very truth in certaine matters of difference, to haue a conference chosen number of the best learned of eyther part, and to conferre together their opinions and reasons, and thereby to come to some good and charitable agreement, And hereupon by her Maiesties commaundement, certain of her priuy Counsaile declared this purpose to the Archbishoppe of Yorke (being also one of the same priuy Counsaile) and required hym that he would imparte the same to some of the Bishops, and to make chiose of viij. or. of them, and that three should be the like number named of the other part. And further also declared to hym (as then was supposed) what the matter should be. And as for the tyme, it was thought meet to be as long as possible might be agreed vpon. And then after certaine daies past, it was signified by the sayd Archbishoppe, that there was appointed by such of the Bishops, to whom hee had imparted this matter eight persons, that is to say, 4. Bishops and 4. Doctors. The names of whom here follow vnder writen, &c.

* The Papistes.

* The Protestants.

- The B. of Wincheff.
- The B. of Lich.
- The B. of Chesh.
- The B. of Carlile.
- The B. of Linc.
- D. Cole.
- D. Harpfield.
- D. Langdale.
- D. Chesley.

- D. Scory B. of Chich.
- D. Cox.
- M. Whitehed.
- M. Grindall.
- M. Horne.
- M. Doct. Sands.
- M. Gell.
- M. Almer.
- M. Iuell.

Who were content at the Queenes Maiesties commaundement, to shewe their opinions. and as the sayde Archbishop termed it, render accompt of their sayth in those matters which were mentioned and that especially in writing, although he said, they thought the same to be determined, as there was no cause to dispute vpon them. The matter which they should talke vpon, was comprehended in these three propositions, here vnder specified.

1. { It is agaynst the worde of God, and the custome of the ancient Church, to use a tongue onelymen to the people in common prayer, and the administration of the Sacraments.
2. { Every Church hath authoritie to appointe, take away, and change ceremonies and Ecclesiasticall rites, so the same be to edification.
3. { It cannot be prooued by the worde of God, that there is in the Masse offered up a sacrifice prepetuarie for the quicke and the dead.

It was hereupon fully resolved by the Queenes maiestie, with the aduise aforesayd, that according to their desire, it should be in writing on both parties, for any thing of much alteration in wordes, and that the sayd Bishops should, becaue they were in authoritie of degree suspentious, first declare their myndes and opinions to the matter, with their reasons in writing. And the other number being also viij. men of god degree in schooles, and some

hauing bene in dignitie in the church of England, if they had any thing to say to the contrary, should the same day declare their opinions in lyke manner, and in crye of them should declare their writings to the other, to be considered what were to be imprinted thereon, and the same to declare agayne in writing at some other convenient day, and the lyke order to be kept in all the rest of the matters. All this was fully agreed vpon with the Archb. of Yorke, and to also signified to both parties.

And immediately hereupon, diuers of the Nobilitie and States of the realme vnderstanding that such a meeting and conference should be, and that in certaine matters whereupon the Courte of Parliament consequently following, some lawes might be grounded. They made certen meane to her Maiestie, that the parties of this conference, might put and read their assertions in the English tongue, and that in the presence of them of the Nobilitie and others of her Parliament house, for the better satisfaction and enabling of their owne iudgements, to treat and conclude of such lawes as might be pend hereupon.

This also being thought very reasonable, was signified to both parties, and so fully agreed vpon, and the day appointed for the first meeting, to be the Friday in the forme, being the last of March, at Westminster church. At which tyme day and place, both to good order & to honour of the conference by the Queenes maiesties commaundement, the Lordes and others of the priuy Counsaile were present, and a great parte of the nobilitie also: And notwithstanding this former order appointed, and consented vnto by both parties, yet the Bishop of Winchester & his Colleaguees alleging they had misaken vnder assertions and reasons should be written, and to only recited out of the booke, sayd their booke was not ready then written, but they were ready to argue and dispute, and therefore they would for that tyme repeat in speache that which they had to say to the first proposition.

This variation from the former order, and specially from that which themselues had by the sayde Archbishop in writing before requied, adding thereto the reason of the Apostle, that to contend with wordes, is profitable to nothing, but to subseruion of the bearer, seemed to the Queenes maiesties counsaile somewhat strange, and yet was it permitted without any great reprehension, because they excused themselues with misaking the order, and agreed that they would not faile but put it in writing and according to the former order, declare it to the other part, and to the sayd Bishop of Winchester and his Colleaguees, appointed Doctour Wolfe Deane of Saules, to be the viceror of their myndes, who partly by speech onely, and partly by reading of authorities written, and at certaine tymes being enforced of his Colleaguees, what to say made a declaration of their meanings and their reasons to their first proposition, which being ended, they were asked by the priuy Counsaile if any of them had any more to be sayd, and they sayd no. So as the other parte was licenced to shewe their myndes, which they dyd according to the first order, exhibiting all that which they meant to be propounded, in a booke written, which after a prayer and inuocation made most humbly to almighty God for the ensuyng of them with his holy spirit, and a protestation also to stand to the doctrine of the Archbishop Church builded vpon the Scriptures, and the doctrine of the Prophets and the Apostles, was distinctly red by one Robert Hayne Bachelor in Divinitie, late Deane of Durhame, and after Bishoppe of Winchester. The Copie of which their protestation here followeth, according as it was by him penned and exhibited, with their preface also before the same, as is here expressed.

¶ Orasmuch as it is thought good vnto the Queenes most excellent Maiestie (vnto whom in the Lord all obedience is due) that we should declare our iudgement in writing vpon certaine propositions: we, as becommeth vs to doe herein, most gladly obey.

Seeing that Christ is our onely maister, whome the father hath commaunded vs to heare: and being also bys worde is the truth, from the which it is not lawfull for vs to depart: not one haire bredth, and against the which (as the Apostle saith) we can do nothing, we doe in all thinges submitte our selues vnto this truth, and doe protest that we will asseme nothing agaynt the same.

And forasmuch as we haue for our mother the true and catholike Church of Christ, which is grounded vpon the doctrine of the Apostles and Prophetes, and is of Christ the head in all things gouerned, we do reuerence her iudgement, we obey her authoritie as becometh children: and we do deuoutly profite and in all points follow the faith which is contained in the three Creedes, that is to say, of the Apostles, of the Councell of Nice,