

A we to thank god, that this noble parlorage which is so rightly intitled thereunto, is of so sadde age, and thereto of so great wisdometained with so great experience: which albeit he will be lothe as I haue said to take it vpon him: yet shall he to oure petition in that behalf the moze graciously encline if ye & woꝛshipfull citezens of this cheife citie of this realme, to yne wyth vs & nobles in our said request. Which for your owne weale we doubt not but ye will, and natheles I hartely praye you so to doe, wherby you shall doe gret profite to all this realme beside in choosing them so god a king, and vnto your selfe speciall commodite, to whome bys matelty shall euer after beare so muche the moze tender sauour, in howe much he shall perceiue you the moze prone & beneuolently minded toward his election. Wherin dere frendes what mind you haue, wee require you plainly to shew vs. When the duke had said, and looked that the people whome he hoped & the Payer had framed befoze, shoulde after this proposition made, haue cried king Richard, king Richard: all was bushy and mute, and not one woꝛd answered therunto. Wherewith the duke was meruailously abashed, and taking the Payer nerer to him, with other that were about him pryeue to that matter, said vnto them softlye what meaneth this, that this peple be so still. Sir quod the Payer parcase they perceiue you not well. That shal we mende (quod he) if that wyll helpe. And by and by somewhat louder, he rebuffed them the same matter againe in other order and other woꝛdes, so wel and ornately, & natheles so euidently and plaine, with voice gesture and countenance so comly and so conuenient, that eueryman much meruailed that herd him, and thought that they neuer had in their liues heard so euill a tale so well tolde. But were it for wonder or feare, or that eche looke that other shoulde speake by ste: not one woꝛde was there answered of all the people that stode befoze, but all was as still as & midnigt, not so much as rowning among the, by whych they myght seme to comen what was best to doe, when the Payer saw thys he wyth other pertinens of that counsaile, drey aboute the duke and sayed that the people had not ben accustomed there to be spoken vnto but by the recorder, which is the mouth of the citie, and happen

ly to him they will aunswere, with that the recorder called Fitz William a sadde mā and an honest, which was so new come into that office & he neuer had spoken to the peple befoze, and lord was with that matter to beginne, not withstanding thereunto commaunded by the Payer, made reherer fall to the comens of that the duke had wisely rebuffed the himselfe. But the recorder so tempered his tale, that he shewed every thing as the dukes woꝛdes and no part his owne. But all thys nothing no change made in the people which alway after one, stode as they had ben amazed, wherupō & duke rowned vnto the Payer and sayd: Thys is a maruelouly obstinate silence, and therew he turned vnto & peple againe with these woꝛdes: dere frendes we come to moue you to that thing which peradventure we not so greatly neded, but that the lordes of thys realme and the comens of other parties, might haue sufficed, saying that we such loue bere you, and so much sette by you, that we woulde not gladly doe withoute you, that thing in which to be parteners is your weale & honour which as it semeth, eyther you se not or way not. Wherfoze we require you giue vs aunswer one or other, whether you be mynded as all the nobles of the realme be, to haue this noble prync now protectour to be your kyng or not. At these woꝛdes & people began to whisper among themselves secretly, that the voyce was neyther loude nor distincte, but as it were the sounde of a swarme of bees, tyl at the last in thene ther ende of the hal, a bushment of the dukes serantes and Rasfeldes and other longging to the protectour, with some pꝛentises and laddes that thrust into the hal amonge the pꝛese, began sodainely at mennes backs to crye diuete as lowde as their thꝛotes would gyue: king Richard kinge Richard, and thzeue by their cappes in token of ioye. And they that stode befoze, cast back they heddes meruailing thereof, but nothing they sayd. And when the duke and the Payer saw thys maner, they wysely turned it to they purpose. And said it was a godly cry and a loyfull to here, euery man with one voyce no manne sayeng nay. Wherfoze frendes, quod the duke, sins that we perceiue it is al your hole mindes to haue this noble mā for your king whereof we shall make his grace so effectuall repozte, that we doubt not but it shall

A It shall redounde vnto your great weal and commoditie: we require ye that ye to morow go with vs and wee with you vnto his noble grace, to make our humble request vnto him in maner before remembred. And therewith the lordes came downe, and the company dissolved and departed, the more part as I sayd, some with glad semblance that wer not very merry, and some of those that came thither with the duke, not able to dissemble theyr sorrow, were faine at his backe to turne their face to the wall, while the doloure of their heart braste oute at theyr eyen.

B Then on the morowe after, the maye with all the aldermen and chiefe commanders of the citie in their beste maner appoynted vnto Baynardes castell where the protectour lay. To which place repaired also according to theyr apointment the duke of Buckingham, with dyuers noble menne with him, beside manye knightes and other gentlemen. And thereupon the duke sent worde vnto the lord protectour, of the being there of a great and honourable companye, to moue a great matter vnto his grace.

The mayer's
companye to
Baynardes
castell.

Whereupon the protectour made difficultie to come oute vnto them, but if he first knewe some part of theyr errande, as though he doubted and partelye distrusted the companye of suche number vnto him so sodainlye, withoute anye warning or knowledge, whyther they came for good or harme, then the Duke wher he had shewed this vnto the maire and other, that they mighte thereby see howe lytle the protectour looked for this matter, they sent vnto him by the messenger suche louyng message againe, and therewith so humblye besought hym to vouchesafe that they might resort to his presence, to purpose their intent, of which they would vnto none other parson any part disclose, that at the laste hee came forth of his chamber, and yet not downe vnto them, but stode about in a galarie ouer them, where they mighte see hym & speake to him, as though he would not yet come to nere them till he wist what they mente. And thereupon the Duke of Buckingham byrse made humble petition vnto him, on the behalfe of them all, that his grace would pardon them and lycence them to purpose vnto his grace the intent of their companye with oute his displeasure, withoute whiche pardon obtayned, they durst not be bold so moue him of that matter. In whiche

albeit they ment as muche honoꝛ to his grace as wealthe to all the realm beside, yet were they not sure howe his grace would take it, whom they would in no wyse offende. Then the protectour as hee was very gentle of hymselfe, and also lodged sore to wit what they mente, gaue hym leaue to purpose what hym lyked, verely trustyng for the good minde that he bare them all, none of them any thing would intende vnto hym warde, where with he ought to be greued. When the duke had this leaue & pardon to speake, then wared he bolde to shewe hym theyr intent and purpose, with all the causes mouing the thereunto as ye before haue harde, and finally to beseeche his grace, that it wold lyke him of his accustomed goodnes and zeale vnto the realm, no with his eye of pitie, to beholde the long continued distress and decay of the same and to sette his gracious handes to the redress and amendement thereof, by taking bypon him the crowne and gouernance of this realme, according to his right and tytle lawfully descended vnto hym, and to the laude of god, profyte of the land, and vnto his grace so muche the more honoꝛ and lesse paine, in that that neuer prince raigned bypon any people, that were so glad to liue vnder his obeyssaunce as the people of this realme vnder his. When the protectour had hard the proposition, he looked very strange ly therat, and answered: That all were it that he partly knewe the thinges by the alledged to be true: yet such entier loue he bare vnto king Edward and his children, that so muche more regarded his honoꝛ in other realmes about, then the crowne of any one, of which he was neuer despyrous, that he could not fynde in his hearte in this poynthe to encline to theyr desyre. For in all other nacions where the trueth wer not wel known, it shold peradventure be thought, that it were his owne ambitious minde and deuise, to depose the pryncce & take himself the crown. With which infamy he wold not haue his honoꝛe stayned for anye crowne. In whiche he had euer perceyued muche more labour and payn, then pleasure to hym that so would be so vse it, as he that would not were not worthy to haue it. Notwithstanding he not only pardoned them the mocion that they made him, but also thanked them for the loue and hearty fauoure they bare him, prayinge them for his sake to geue and beate the same to the pryncce, vnder whō

He was and would be content to lyue, & with his labour and counsel as farre as should like the kyng to vse him, he would doe his vttermoſt deuoz to let the realm in good ſtate. Whiche was alreadye in this litle while of his protectozſhip (the prayſe geuen to god) wel begon, in that the malice of ſuch as wer befoze occaſion of the contrary and of new intended to bee, were nowe partelys by good policie, partly moze by goddes ſpecial prouidence then mans prouifion repelled. Upon this answer geuen, the Duke by the protectours lycence, a lytle councel, **A**s well with other noble men about him as with the mayze and recorder of London. And after that vpon lyke pardone deſyzed and obtayned, he ſhewed aloude vnto the protectour, that for a ſynal concluſion, y the realm was appointed king Edwardes lyne ſhoulde not any longer reigne vpon them, both for that they had ſo farre gone, that it was now no ſurety to retreatate, as for that they thought it for the weale vniuerſal to take that waie although they had not yet begonned it. **W**herfoze yf it would lyke hys grace to take the crowne vpon him, they woulde humblye beſeche hym thereunto. **I**f he woulde geue them a reſolute aunſwere to the contrarye, whiche they woulde bee lothe to heare, than muſte they needes ſeke and ſhold not faile to fynd ſome other noble manne that woulde. Theſe wordes muche moued the protectoure, whiche els as euery manne may witte, woulde neuer of likelyhoode haue inclyned therunto. **B**ut whē he ſaw ther was none other way, but that epyther he muſt take it or els he and his bothe goe fro it, he ſaide vnto the lordes and commons: **S**ith we perceiue wel that al the realm is ſo ſet, whereof we be very ſozye that they wil not ſuffer in any wiſe king Edwardes line to gouerne them, whom no manne earthly can gouerne again their willes, and we wel alſo perceue, that no manne is there, to whom the crown can by ſo iuſt tyle appertayn as to our ſelf, as verye ryghte heyze lawfullye begotten of the bodye of oure moſte deere father Rycharde late Duke of Yorke, to whiche tittle is nowe ioyned your ellection the nobles & comons of this realm, whiche wee of all titles poſſible take for moſt effectual: we be content & agre fauourably to incline to your peticio and requeſt, and accozdyng to the ſame, here we take vpon vs the royall eſtate, preeminence and kyngdome of the twoo

The protectour taketh vpon hym to be kyng.

noble realmes, England and Fraunce, & the tone fro this day forward by vs and our heires to rule, gouerne and defend, the tother by goddes grace & your good helpe to geat again and ſubdewe, and eſtabliſhed for euer in due obediēce vnto this realme of Englande, thadvancement, wherof we neuer aſke of god longer to lyue then we entende to procure. **W**ith this there was a great ſhout, crying kyng Rycharde king Rychard. And then the lordes went vp to the kyng (for ſo was he from that time called) and the people departed, talkyng diuerſly of the matter euery man as his fantaſye gaue hym. **B**ut muche they talked and marueiled of the maner of this dealing, that the matter was on both partes made ſo ſtraunge, as though neither had euer cōmuned with other thereof befoze, when that themſelf wel wiſt there was no mā ſo dul that heard them, but he perceiued wel inough, y all the matter was made betwene them. **H**owbeit ſomme excuſed that agayne, and ſayde all muſt be done in good order though. **A**nd menne muſt ſometyme for the maner ſake not bee a knowen what they knowe. **F**or at the conſecration of a biſhop, euery mā woteth well by the paying for his bulles, y he purpoſeth to be one, & though he paye for nothing elles. **A**nd yet muſt he be twice asked whyther he wil be biſhop or no, and he muſte twiſe ſay naye, and at the thirde tyme take it as compelled ther vnto by his owne wyl. **A**nd in a ſtage play all the people know right wel, that he that playeth the ſowdayne is percaſe a ſowter. **B**ut if one ſhould can ſo lytle good, to ſhewe out of ſeaſonne what acquaintance he hath with him, and calle dim by his owne name whyle he ſtandeth in his mageſtie, one of his tozmentors might hap to breake his head, and woꝛthy for marring of the play. **A**nd ſo they ſaid that theſe matters bee kynges games, as it were ſtage playes, and for the moze part plated vpon ſcafoldes. **I**n which poze me he but ſ lookers on. **A**nd they y wiſe be, wil medle no farther. **F**or they that ſometyme ſtep vp and playe wthē, whē they cannot play their ptes, they diſorder the play & do themſelf no good. **T**he nexte daye the protectoure with a great traine wente to weſtmynſter halle and there when he had placed himſelf in the court of the kynges bēch, declared to the audyēce, that he woulde take vpon him the crowne in that place there, wher the king himſelf ſitteth and miniſtretch

This that is here betwene this marke & this marke was not wꝛitten by maſter Wozze in this hiſtoꝛy wꝛite

A minist'reth the law: because he considered
 by him in En- that it was the chiefest duety, of a kyng
 glish, but is to minister the lawes. Than with as
 translated out pleasant an oracion as he could, he wēt
 of this history about to win vnto him, the nobles, the
 which he marchantes, the artificers, and in con-
 wrote in latin clusion al kinde of men. But specially h
 lawyers of this realme. And synally to
 the intent that no man shoulde hate hym
 for feare, and that his deceitful clemen-
 cy might geat him the good will of the
 people, when he had declared the dysco-
 moditie of disorde, and the commody-
 ties of conorde and vnitie, he made an
 open proclamation, that he did put oute
 of his minde all enymities, and that he
 there did openly pardon all offences com-
 mitted against him. And to the entente y
 he might shew a prooffe thereof, he com-
 manded that one Fogge whom he had
 long deadly hated, shold be brought thā
 before him. Who being brought oute of
 the saintuary by (for thither had he fled,
 for feare of hym) in the sight of the people,
 he toke him by the hand. Whiche thyng
 the common people reioyced at and prat-
 led, but wise men took it for a vanitye.
 In his returne homeward, whom so e-
 uer we met he saluted. For a minde that
 knoweth it self guiltye, is in a maner de-
 lected to a seruile flattery.

When he hadde begonne his reygne
 the days of June, after this moc-
 kish election, than was he Crowned
 the day of the same moneth. And
 that solemnitie was furnished for the
 most part, with the selfe same provision
 that was appointed for the Coronacion
 of his nephew.*

Now sell ther mischietues thich. And
 as the thinge euill gotten is neuer well
 kept: through all the time of his reygne,
 neuer ceased there cruel death & slaugh-
 ter, till his owne destruccion ended it.
But as he finished his time with y best
 death, and y most righteous, y is to wpt
 his own: so began he with the most pite-
 ous and wicked, I meane the lamenta-
 ble murder of his innocent nephewes,
 the young king and his tender brother.
 Whose death and final infortune hath
 natheles so far comen in question, that
 some remain yet in doubt, whither they
 wer in his dayes destroyde or no. Not
 for that onely that Berken Werbecke,
 by many folkes malice, and moe folkes
 foly, so long space abusyng the woꝛlde,
 was as wel with princes as y pozer peo-
 ple, reputed and taken for the ponger of
 those two, but for that also y all thynges

**Berken Wer-
 becke.**

wer in late daies so couertly demeaned,
 one thing pretended and an other ment,
 that there was nothyng so plaine and o-
 penly pꝛoued, but that yet for the comen
 custome of close & couert dealing, men
 had it euer inwardely suspect, as many
 well counterfatted iewels make h true
 mistrusted. Howbeit concerning h opi-
 nion, with the occasions mouing either
 partie, we shal haue place moze at large
 to entreate, yf we hereafter happen to
 write the time of the late noble prince of
 famous memoꝛy king Henry y seventh,
 or parcase that history of Berkin in any
 compendious processe by it selfe. But in
 the meane time for this present matter,
 I shall rehearse you the dolozous end of
 those babes, not after enery way that I
 haue heard, but after that way y I haue
 so hard by suche men, & by such meanes,
 as me thinketh it wer hard but it shoulde
 be true. King Rycharde after his co-
 ronacion, takyng his way to Gloucest-
 er to visit in his newe honoz, the towne
 of whiche he bare the name of his old, de-
 uised as he rode, to falsif y thing which
 he before had intended. And forasmuch
 as his minde gaue him, y his nephewes
 liuing, men woulde not rechen that hee
 could haue right to y realm, he thought
 therfore without delay to rid them, as
 though the killing of his kinsmen, could
 amend his cause, and make him a kind-
 ly king. Whereuppon he sent one John
 Grene whom he specially trusted, vnto
 sir Robert Bzakenbery constable of the
 Tower, with a letter and credence also,
 that the same sir Robert shoulde in any
 wise put the two childꝛen to death. This
 John Grene did his errande vnto Bz-
 akembery knelyng before our Lady in the
 Tower, who plainly answered that he
 would neuer parte them to death to dye
 therfore, with which answer Tho Grene
 returning recounted the same to kyng
 Rycharde at Warwiche yet in his way.
 Wherwith he toke such displeasure and
 thought, that the same night, he said vn-
 to a secrete page of his: Ah whome shall
 a man trust: those that I haue brought
 by my selfe, those that I haue wꝛould
 most surely serue me, euen those sayle
 me, and at my commaundement will
 do nothyng for me. Sir good his page
 there lpyeth one on your paylet without,
 y I dare well say to do your grace plea-
 sure, the thyng were right harde that he
 wold refuse, meaning this by sir James
 Tyrell, which was a man of right good
 hpe parsonage, and for natures gyftes,
 e. ii. woꝛthy

**John Grene.
 Robert Bz-
 akembery con-
 stable of the
 Tower.**

**Sir James
 Tyrell.**

Authorty to:
wey no part-
ners.

A woorthy to haue serued a muche better
pynce, if he had well serued god, and by
grace obtayned almuche trouthe & good
will as he had strenght and witte. The
man had an high heart, and soze longed
bywarde, nor rising yet so falk as he had
hoped, being hindered and kept vnder
by the meanes of sir Richarde Katcliffe
and sir William Catesby, which lōging
foz no moo parteners of the pynces fa-
uour, and namely not foz hym, whose
pzyde thei wiff would beare no pere, kept
him by secrete dzyftes oute of all secrete
trust. Whiche thyng this page wel had
marked and knowen. Wherefoze thys
occasion offered, of very speciall frend-
ship he toke his time to putti fozward, &
by such wise doe hym good, that al the e-
nemies he had except the deuil, could ne-
uer haue done him so muche hurte. Foze
vpon this pages woordes king Richard
arose. (Foze this communicacion had he
sitting at the dzaught, a conuenient cat
pet foz such a counsaile) and came outin
to the paillet chamber, on which he found
in bed sir James and sir Thomas Lp-
rels, of parso like and bzyethzen of blood,
but nothing of kin in condicions. Then
said the king merely to them: What sits
be ye in bed so soone, and calling by syz
James, bzake to him secretely his mynd
in this mischieuous matter. In whiche
he founde him nothing strange. Where-
foze on the moze he sente him to Bza-
kenbury with a letter, by which he was
commaunded to deliuer sir James all h
kayes of the Tower foze one nyght, to h
ende he might there accomplis the kin-
ges pleasure, in such thing as he had ge-
uen him commaundement. After whiche
letter deliuered and the kayes receiued,
sir James appointed the night next en-
suing to destroy them, deuyfing befoze
and pzyparing the meanes. The pynce
as soone as the protectoz left that name
and toze himself as king, had it shewed
vnto him, that he should not resigne, but
his vnckle should haue the crowne. At
whiche worde the pynce soze abashed, be-
gan to sigh and said: Alas I woulde my
vnckle woulde lette me haue my lpyfe yet,
though I lese my kingdome. Then he h
tolde him the tale, vled him with good
woordes, and put him in the best comfort
he could. But fozthwith was the pynce
and his bzother bothe thet by, and all o-
ther remoued from them, onely one cal-
led black wil oz William slaughterer
cept, set to serue them and see them sure.
After whiche time the pynce neuer tped

his pointes, noz ought rought of hym. @
seife, but with that young babe bys bz-
ther, lingered in thought and heauines
til this trarozous death, deliuered them
of that wretchednes. Foze sir James W-
rel scufised that thei should be murdered
in their beddes. To the execucion wher-
of, he appointed Wiles Fozeff one of the
foure that kept them, a selowe fleshed in
murther befoze time. To him he ioyned
one John Dightō his own hozlekeper, a
bigbzode square strōg knaue. Then al h
other beeing remoued from them, thys
Wiles Fozeff and John Dighton, about
midnight (the sely childz lying in their
beddes) came into the chamber, and so-
dainly lapped them by among h clothes
so be wzapped them and entangled them
keping down by fozece the fettherbed and
pillowes hard vnto their mouches, that
within a while smozed and stifled, theyz
bzeath failing, thei gaue by to god their
innocent soules into the ioyes of heauē,
leauing to the tozmentoys their bodyes
dead in the bed. Whiche after that the
wzetches parceued, first by h strugling
with the paines of death, and after long
lying styll, to be thzonghly dead: they
laide their bodyes naked out vppon the
bed, and fetched sir James to see them.
Whiche vpon the sight of them, caused
those murtherers to burpe them at the
stays foote, metely depe in the grounde
vnder a great heape of stōnes. Then
rode sir James in great hast to king Ri-
charde, and shewed him al the maner of
the murther, who gaue hym gret thāks,
and as som say there made him knyght.
But he allowed not as I haue heard, h
burying in so vile a cozner, saying that
he woulde haue them buried in a better
place, because thei wer a kinges sonnes.
Loe the honourable cozage of a kynge.
Wherupon thei say that a pzyesse of syz
Robert Bzakenbury toke by the bodyes
again, and secretely entered the in such
place, as by the occasion of his deathe,
whiche onely knew it could neuer synce
come to light. Very trouthe is it & well
knowen, that at such time as syz James
Wrell was in the Tower, foze Treason
committed agaynst the most famous
pynce king Henry the seuenth, bothe
Dighton and he were examined, & con-
fessed the murther in maner aboue wri-
ten, but whither the bodyes were remo-
ued thei could nothing tel. And thus as
I haue learned of them that much knew
and litte cause had to lye, wer these
noble pynces, these innocent redet chil-
dzen

Wiles Fozeff

John Dightō

The young
king and his
bzother mur-
dered.

Athen, bozne of moste royall bloode, brought by in great wealth, likely long to liue to reigne and rule in the realme. by traytozius tiranny taken deppued of their estate, shortly hitte by in prisō, and pziutly slaine and murdered, theyz bodies call god wote where by the cruel ambition of their vnnaturall vnclē and his dispiteous tozmetozs. Which thinges on euery part wel pondered: god neuer gaue this woꝛld a moze notable exāple, neither in what vnfortunie standeth this woꝛldly wel, oꝛ what mischief woꝛketh the pꝛowde enterpꝛise of an hygh heart, oꝛ finally what wꝛetched end enueth such dispiteous crueltie. For first to beginne with the ministers, Miles Forzest at saint Martens pecemele rotted away. Dighton in dede yet walketh on a liue in good possibilitie to be hangged ere he dye. Wat sir James Trel dyed at Tower hill, beheaded for treason. King Rycharde himselte as ye shal here after here, slaine in the felde, hacked and helwed of his enemies hādes, haryed on hozlebacke dead, his here in despite tozn and togged lyke a cur dogge. And the mischief that he tooke, within lesse then thze peares of the mischiese that he dyd. And yet all the meane time, spent in much pain and trouble outward, much feare anguish and sorow within. For I haue heard by credible report of such as wer secrete in his chamberers, that after this abhominable dede done, he neuer hadde quiet in his minde, hee neuer thought himselte sure. Where he went a bzode, his eyen whirled about, his body pziutly fenced, his hand euer on his dagger, his couētenance and maner like one alway ready to strike againe, he toke ill rest a nightes, lay log wakyng and musyng, soze weryed with care & watch, rather slumbzed then slept, troubled wꝛth fearful dreames, sodainly sommetyme sterte by, leape out of his bed & runne about the chāber, so was his restless herte continually tossed & tumbled in the tedious impressiō & woꝛmy remēbzance of his abominable dede. Howe hadde he outward no long time in rest. For here upon sone after began the conspiracy oꝛ rather good confederacion, betwene y Duke of Buckingham and many other gentlemen agāst him. The occasion wherupon the king and the Duke fell out, is of diuers folke diuerse wyse pretended. This duke as I haue for certain bene enformed, as soone as the duke of Gloucester vpon the death of kyng Ed-

ward came to Poꝛk, & there had solemne funeral service for kyng Edward, sente thither in the most secret wyse he could, one Persal his trusty seruāt, who came to John Ward a chamberer of like secret trust with the Duke of Gloucester, desiring y in the most close & covert manner, he might be admitted to the presēce and speche of his maister. And the duke of Gloucester aduertised of hys desyre, caused him in the dead of the night after al ocher folk asoyded, to be brought vnto him in his secret chamber, wher Persal after his maisters recommendacion shewed him, y he had secretly sente hym to shew him, that in this new woꝛld he would take such part as he wold, & wait vpon hym w a good felowes if neede wer. The messēger sent back w thanks, & some secret instrucciō of y protectozs mynd: yet met him again w farther message from the duke his maister, w in few dapes after at Potingham: whither the protectoz from poꝛk with many gentlemen of the noꝛth countrey to the nūber of fyre. C. hozses, was come on his way to London ward. And after secrete meeting & cōmunicacion had, estfoone departed. Wherupon at Potingham y duke met w the protectoz himselte, wꝛth CCC. hozses, & from thence still continued w partncr of all his deuises, till y after his cōznaciō thei departed as it seemed very great frendes at Gloucester. From whence as sone as the duke came home, he so lightli turned from him and so highly conspired agāst him, that a man would marueil wherof y change grew. And surely the occasion of theyz variance is of diuers men diuerly reported. Some haue I heard say, that the duke a litle before the cōznaciō amōg other thinges, required of the protectoz the duke of Herfordes landes, to which he pretended himselte iust inheritoꝛ. And sozasmuch as the title which he claimed by inheritance, was somewhat enterlaced with the title to the crowne by y line of kyng Hery before deppriued: y protectoz conceiued such indignacion, y he relected y dukes request in many spitefull & minatory woꝛdes. Which so wounded his hert w hatred & mistrust, that he neuer after could endure to loke a right on kyng Rychard, but euer feared his own life, so farfoꝛth y when the protectoure rode thꝛough London toward his cōznaciō, he fained himselte sick, because he wold not ride with hym. And the tother taking it in euil part, sent hym woꝛde to

out of troubles
of pꝛinces.

arise, & come ride or he wold make him be
 caried. Whereupon he rode on to euil will,
 & that not standing on the mozow role
 fro h seat fasting himself sicke, & kynge
 Richard said it was done in hatred and
 dispite of him. And they say that euer af
 ter continually ech of the lined in such
 hatred & distrust of other, y^e the duke ver
 rilye looked to haue bene murdered at
 Gloucestre. From which natheles he in
 faire maner departed. But surely some
 right secret at y^e daies deny this: & ma
 ny right wise me, think it vnlikely. (the
 depe dissimuling nature of those bothe
 me considered, & what nede in that grene
 world y^e protectoz had of y^e duke, and in
 what perill y^e duke stode. if he fell once in
 suspicion of y^e tyrant) Neither y^e protec
 tor, wold geue y^e duke occasio of displea
 sure, or y^e duke y^e protectoz occasio of mis
 trust. And vtterly men think, y^e yf kynge
 Richard had any such oppinion concei
 ued: he wold neuer haue suffred him to
 escape his handes. Very trouth it is, the
 duke was an high minded man, & euill
 could beare y^e glozy of another, so that I
 haue heard of som y^e said thei saw it, that
 y^e duke at each time as y^e crown was first
 set vpon the protectozs hed, his eye could
 not abide y^e sight thereof, but wried hys
 hed an other way. But me say y^e he was
 of crouth not wel at ease, & y^e both to king
 Richard wel knowe, & not y^e take, nor
 and demaund of the dukes vnconforte illy
 relected, but he both w^o grete giftes & high
 behestes, in most louing & trusty maner
 departed at Gloucestre. But sone after
 his coming home to Beknock, hauing
 ther in his custody by y^e comaundement
 of king Richard, doctoz Morton bishop
 of Ely, who as ye before herd was take
 in y^e coustel at y^e Tower, wared w^o him fa
 miliar. Whole wiseds abused his pride
 to his own deliuerance & the dukes de
 struction. The bishop was a ma of gret
 natural wit, very wel lerned, & honora
 ble in behaueoz, lacking no wise wates
 to win fauoz. He had bene fast vpon the
 part of king Henry while that part was
 in wealth, & natheles left it not noz soz
 soke it in wo, but fled y^e realme with the
 quene & the p^rince, while king Edward
 had y^e king in p^rison, neuer came home
 but to y^e field. After which lost, & y^e parte
 vtterly subdued, the sother for his false
 faith & wisedom, not only was contente
 to receiue him, but also wooed him to coe
 & had him from thence sozth bothe in se
 cret, trust & very speciall fauoz. Whiche
 he nothing deceiued, for he being as ye

haue heard after king Edwardes death, &
 first taken by y^e tyrant for his trouth to y^e
 king, found y^e meane to let this duke in
 his top, ioined gentlemē together in aid
 of king Henry; deuising first y^e maryage
 betwene him & king Edwardes dought
 ter, by whiche his faith declared & good
 seruice to bothe his matters at once, w^o
 infinite benefite to the realme, by y^e con
 iunction of those twoo bloodes in one,
 whose seuerall titles had long enquieted
 y^e land, he fled y^e realme, went to home, ne
 uer minding moze to medle w^o the world
 til y^e noble p^rince king Henry y^e vii. gate
 him home again, made him archbishop
 of Canturburpe & chaunceller of Eng^l. If
 land wherunto y^e Pope ioined thono^r of
 Cardinal. Thus liuing many dayes in
 asmuch honoz as one man mighte well
 wish, ended them so godly, y^e his death w^o
 gods mercy wel changed his life. Thys
 ma therfoze as I was about to tell you,
 by y^e long & often alternate p^roofe, alioel
 of prosperitie as aduers fortune, hadde
 gotten by great experiance y^e verpemo
 ther & maistres of wisdom, a depe insighte
 in politike worldly dyctes. Wherby per
 ceuuing now this duke glad to comen w^o
 him, ser him w^o faire woordes and many
 pleasaunt p^raises. And perceuuing by y^e
 processe of their communicacions, the
 dukes pride now & the baikoz oute a lytle
 breide of enuy toward y^e glozy of y^e king,
 either by seling him the to sal out yf the
 matter were well handled: he craftelye
 sought y^e wates to p^ricke him sozwarde
 taking alwates thoccasio of his comyng
 & so keepyng himself close w^o in his bodes,
 that he rather semed him to folow him
 then to lead him. For when y^e duke first
 began to p^raise & boost the king, & thewe
 how much profit y^e realme shold take by
 his reign: my lord Morton aunswered:
 surely my lord. folp wer it for me to lye,
 for yf I wold swere the contrary, your
 lordship wold not I weene beleue, but
 that if the world wold haue gone as I
 wold haue wished, king Henryes sone
 had had the crown & not king Edward.
 But after that god had ordere hym to
 lese it, and kynge Edward to reigne, I
 was neuer so mad, that I wold with a
 dead man sue against the quicke. So
 was I to king Edward faithfull chap
 leyn, & glad wold haue bene y^e his childe
 had succeeded him. Howebeit if y^e secrete
 iudgement of god haue otherwys p^ro
 uided: I purpose not to spurne agaynst
 a p^rick, noz laboz to set by that god pul
 leth down. And as soz the late protectoz
 and

At now kyng. And euen there he left, say-
 ing that he had alreedy medled to muche
 with the world, and would fro that day
 medle with his booke and his beedes and
 no farther. Then longed the duke soze to
 here what he would haue sayd, because
 he ended with h^e king & there so sodeinly
 stopped, & exhorted him so familiarly be-
 twens the twait, to be bold to say what
 soeuer he thought, wherof he faithfully
 promised there should neuer come hurte
 & paraduēture moze good then he would
 wene, and that himselfe intended to vse
 his faithful secret adaise and counsaile
 whiche he saide was the onely cause for
Whiche he procured of the kyng to haue
 him in his custodiy where he myght rec-
 ken himself at home, and els had he bene
 put in the handes of them, with whome
 he should not haue founden the lyke fa-
 uor. The bishop right humbly thanked
 him & said, in good faith my lord I loue
 not much to talk muche of princes, as
 thing not all out of peril, though the
 word be without fault forasmuch as it
 shal not be taken as the party merit, but
 as it pleaseh h^e prince to cōffer it. And
 euer I think on Esops tale, that whē the
 lion had proclaimed that on pain of deth
 there should none hoyned beast abide in
 that wood, one that had in his forehed a
 bonch of flesch, fled awaye a great pace.
The fox that saw him run so faste, asked
 him whither he made al that hast. And
 he answered, in faith I neither wote nor
 reck, so I wer once hence because of this

proclamacion made of hoyned beastes. **E**
What sole q^u y^e for thou maist abide wel
 enough, the lyon ment not by thee, for it
 is none hoyned that is in thine head. No
 mary q^u he y^e wote I wel ynough. But
 what & he cal it an hoyn, wher am I the?
 The duke laighed merely at the tale, &
 said, my lord I warant you, neither the
 lyon nor the boze shal pyke anye matter
 at any thynge here spoken, for it shal ne-
 uer come nere their eare. In good sayth
 sir said the bishop if it did, the thing that
 I was about to say, taken as wel as afoze
 god I mēt it, could deserue but thak. And
 yet taken as I wene it wold, might hap-
 pen to turne me to litle good and pou-
 lesse. The longed h^e duke yet moche moze
 to wit what it was. Wherupon the by-
 shop said: in good faith my lord, as for h^e
 late protectoz, lith he is now king in pos-
 sessio, I purpose not to dispute his title.
 But for the weale of this realm, wher-
 of his grace hath now the gouernance, &
 wherof I am my self one poore mēber,
 I was about to wish, that to those good
 habilitie wherof he hath already right
 many, litle nedynge my prayse: it might
 yet haue pleased Godde for the better
 stoz, to haue geuen him some of
 suche other excellent vertues
 mete for the rule of a realm,
 as our lord hath planted
 in the persone of
 poure grace.

(.)

e. lxxx.