

and Prelates of the Realme were present in mourning apparell at the Kynges coste and charge.

¶ THE. XXIIII. YERE.

IN the beginnyng of this. xxiiii. yere, the Lady Anne Bulleyne was so moche in the Kynges fauour, that the comen people which knew not the Kynges trew entent, sayd and thought that the absence of the Quene was onely for her sake, which was not trew: for the king was openly rebuked of Preachers for kepyng company with his brothers wife, which was thoccaseyon that he eschued her companye, tyll the truth wer tried.

The last daye of Aprill the parliamēt sitting, the kyng sent for Thomas Awdeley, Spekar of the common house, and certain other, and declared to thē, how they had exhibited a boke of their greues, the last yere against the Spiritualltie, whiche at their requestes, he had deliuered to his spirituall subiectes, to make answeere there to, but he could haue no answeere, till within three daies last past, which answeere he deliuered to the Spekar, sayng: we thynke their answeere will smally please you, for it semeth to vs very slender, you bee a greate sorte of wisemen, I doubt not but you will loke circumspectly on the matter, and we will be indifferent betwene you. And for a truth their answeere was very Sophisticall, and nothyng auoydyng the greues of the lay people: and farther the kyng saied, that he marueiled not a litle, why one of the Parliament house spake openly of the absence of the Quene frō hym, whiche matter was not to be determined there, for he saied it touched his soule, and wished the matrimony to be good, for then had he neuer been vexed in cōscience, but the docters of the vniuersities said he, haue determined the mariage to be voyde, and detestable before God, whiche grudge of conscience, caused me to absteyn from her compaignie, and no folishe or wanton appetite: for I am said he. xli. yere old, at whiche age the lust of man is not so quicke, as in lustie youth: and sauynge in Spain and Portyngall it hath not been seen, that one man hath married two sisters, the one beyng carnally knowē before: but the brother to mary the brothers wife was so abhorred emongest all nacions, that I neuer heard it, that any Christen man did it but myself: wherfore you se my conscience troubled and so I prairie you reporte: so the Spekar departed, and declared to the commons the kynges sayng, bothe of the Spirituall mennes answeere, and also concernyng the kynges mariage, which slight answeere displeased the commons.

The occasion why the Kyng spake of his mariage, was because one Temse in the common house, moued the commons to sue to the kyng, to take the Quene again into his compaignie, and declared certain greate mischiefes, as in bastardyng the Lady Marie, the kynges onely childe, and diuerse other inconueniences, whiche woordes were reported to the kyng, whiche was the cause that he declared his conscience.

The. xi. daie of Maie, the kyng sent for the Spekar again, and. xii. of the common house, hauyng with hym eight Lordes, and saied to them, welbeloued subiectes, we thought that ȳ clergie of our realme, had been our subiectes wholly, but now wee haue well perceiued, that they bee but halfe our subiectes, yea, and scace our subiectes: for all the Prelates at their consecracion, make an othe to the Pope, clene contrary to the othe that they make to vs, so that they seme to be his subiectes, and not ours, the copie of bothe the othes I deliuer here to you, requiryng you to inuent some ordre, that we bee not thus deluded, of our Spirituall subiectes. The Spekar departed and caused the othes to be redde in the cōmon house, the very tenor whereof ensueth.

Othe to the
Pope.

“ I Ihon bishop or Abbot of A. frō this houre forward, shalbe faithefull and obedient to saint Peter, and to the holy Churche of Rome, and to my lorde the Pope, and his successors Canonically enteryng, I shall not be of counsaill nor concert, that they shall lese either life or member, or shall bee taken, or suffire any violence, or any wrong by any meanes, their Counsaill to me credited, by theim their messyngers or letters, I shall not willyngly