

dyuerse others to stande stify by her reuelacions, that they were of God: notwithstanding that she had confessed all her sayd falshed before diuers of the kynges counsailours, and that they were manifestly proued, found, and tryed moste false and vntrue: whiche thyng he did only to raise and put sedicion and murmur in the people against the kynges highnes, his crowne and dignitie royal. And one Thomas Abel clerke beyng of the confederacy aforesayd, and taking suche firme & constant credite to thesayd false and fayned reuelacions and miracles of thesayd Nonne; not onely caused to be Printed and set forth in this realme dyuers bookes against thesayd deuorce and separacion to the dislauder of our sayd soueraigne lord, but also animated thesayd lady Katherine obstinately to persist in her wilful opinion against thesame deuorce and separacion: and after thesayd deuorce lawfully had, to vsurpe and take vpon her still to be quene, and procured diuers writynges to be made by her, by the name of Quene: and also procured and abbetted the seruauntes of thesayd Lady Katheryne against the kynges expresse commaundement and proclamacion, to name, call, accept, & repute thesayd lady Katherine for quene of this realme to the intent to make a cōmon diuision and rebellion in this realme to the great peril and daunger of our sayd soueraigne lorde.

Thus muche haue I recited vnto you out of the act as it is there expressed worde for worde: now after foloweth the maner of her attainder and of the other as in the act more at large doeth appeare. But to conclude the xxi. day of April next folowyng she with other were drawn to Tyborne and there executed as most iustly they had deserued as you may perceiue by the premisses.

And at the place of execucion, and the present tyme that she suffered she sayd these wordes, "hether am I come to dye, and I haue not been the onely cause of myne owne death whiche most iustly I haue deserued, but also I am the cause of the death of all these persones whiche at this tyme here suffre: & yet to say the trueth, I am not somuche to be blamed cōsideryng it was well knowen vnto these lerned men y I was a poore wenche without learnyng and therefore they might haue easely perceiued that the thynges that were done by me could not procede in no suche sorte, but their capacities and learnyng could right well iudge from whence they proceded, and that they wer altogether fayned: but because the thynges whiche I fayned was profitable vnto them, therefore they muche praised me and bare me in hande that it was the holy ghost and not I that did them, and then I beyng puft vp with their praises fell into a certain pryde and folishe phantasie with my selfe and thought I might fayne what I would, whiche thing hath brought me to this case, and for the which now I cry God & the kynges highnes most heartely mercy, and desire all you good people to pray to God to haue mercy on me and on all them that here suffre with me."

In this parliament also was made the act of succession for the suertie of the crowne, to the whiche euery persone beyng of lawfull age should be sworne vpon the payne expressed in that acte, as in thesame ye may moste evidently see.

Monday the xxiii. day of Marche in the Parliament tyme, were solempnely receiued into London as ambassadors from Iames the v. king of Scottes, the bishop of Aberdyne, the Abbot of Kynlos & Adam Otterborne the kynges Attorney, with diuers gentlemen on them attēdant whiche were brought to the Taylers hall and there lodged. And on the day of the Annunciacion of our Lady they were brought to the kynges place at Westminster, where they shewed their commission and message, for the which the kyng appointed them dayes to cōsail. And shortly after commissioners were appointed as you shall heare. Duryng the Parliament tyne, euery sonday preached at Paules crosse a bishop, whiche declared the Pope not to be the head of the Church.

The xxx. day of Marche the Parliament was proroged, and there euery lorde and burges and all other, were sworne to the act of succession, and subscribed their handes to a Parchement fixed to thesame othe. This Parliament was proroged till the third day of Nouember next. After this, commissions were sent ouer all England to take the othe of all men and women to the act of succession, at whiche fewe repyned, except doctor Ihon Fysher, sir

Thomas

The wordes
of Elizabeth
Barton other
wise called
y^e holy
maide of
Kent at her
death.

Thomas Moore knight late lorde Chaūcelor, and doctor Nicholas Wylson parson of saint Thomas Apostles in London: wherfore these thre persones, after long exhortacion to them made by the bishop of Cauntorbury at Lambeth, and expresse denyal of them to be sworne, they were sent to the Tower where they remayned and were often tymes mocioned to be sworne: but the Bischoppe and sir Thomas More sayd that thei had in their writynges written the princes dowager Quene, and therefore they might not go against that, and the doctor sayd that he in preaching called her quene, whiche he would not withsay, howbeit at length he was very wel contented, and dissembled the matter and so escaped: But the other twayne stode against all the realme in their opinion.

In this yere it chaunced that two marchaunt straūgers fell in loue with a harlot whiche was called Wolfes wyfe, & this harlot had often haunted the straungers chambers. And so one tyme thesame harlot appointed these straūgers to come to Westminster, and she had prepared for them a bote, in the whiche bote was but one manne to rowe whiche was a strong thefe, and in the ende of the boate laye Wolfe her husbād couered with a lether that botemen vse to couer their Cusshyns with, and so these straungers satte them doune mistrustyng nothing, & when this boteman had brought them as farre as a place that is called the Turnyng tree, sodainly stepped vp the sayd Wolfe & with his dagger thrust the one of theim thorow, the other cryed out to saue his life and offred a great somme of money to the boteman and him to saue his life, but no proferres would be heard, nor mercy would they extende, but as cruel murderers without pitie slew the other also and bound them face to face and so threw them into the Thames in the foresayd place, where they were long after before they were found. But immediatly the harlot Wolfes wyfe went to the straungers chambers & toke frō thence so muche as she could come by. And at the last she and her husband as they deserued, were apprehended, arraigned & hanged at the foresayd turnyng tree, where she hanged still and was not cut doune, vntil suche tyme as it was knowen that beastly and filthy wretches had moste shamefully abused her beyng dead.

Wolfes wyfe.

THE. XXVI. YERE.

THE nynth day of Iuly was the lord Dacres of the North arreigned at Westminster of high treason, where the duke of Norffolke sat as iudge and high Steward of Englād. The sayd lorde Dacres beyng brought to the barre with the axe of the Tower before him, aiter his inditement red, not only improued thesayd inditement as false and maliciously deuised against him and answered euery part and matter therin contained, but also so manly, wittily, and directly confuted his accusors whiche there were ready to auouche their accusacions, that to their great shames, & to his great honor, he was found that day by his peres not giltie, whiche vndoubtedly the commons excedyngly ioyed and reioysed of, insomuche as there was in the hall at those woordes, not giltie, the greatest shoute and crye of ioy that the like no man liuyng may remembre that euer he heard.

The lorde Dacres of the North.

The xiiii. day of Iuly one Ihon Frith beyng very well learned and had an excellent goodly witte, was brought out of the Tower where he had been long, & was there imprisoned for making of a booke against Purgatory, but in the meane whyle that he was there, he was required by one, who heartely loued him and had a very good opinion in him, to declare to him his faith and opinion in the Sacrament of the body and bloud of Christ, & that he would put thesame in writyng, whiche thyng he did. But after it chaūced that thesame persone whiche had this writyng of Ihon Frith was acquainted with a Taylor in London called Wyllyam Holt, whiche outwardely professed muche honestye, but inwardly was a very spye and a very betrayer of as many menne as he might bring in daungier. This Holt required after he had seen it, to haue this writing, & he had it, and forthwith he presented it to sir Thomas More then lorde Chaūcelor, and he immediatly made answere to thesame in

Ihon Frith

writyng,