

From *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 5: 1531-1532*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1880, p. 469.

Wilkins, III.
752.

1019. BISHOP GARDINER TO HENRY VIII.

Is letted by disease of body from repairing to his presence. Has heard, to his great discomfort, what opinion the King has conceived of him. But for the remembrance of Henry's goodness, with whom *veritas semper vincit, et sortis tderet et vit*. I trust your Highness will not be discontent "though in correcting the answer I believed so great a number of learned men affirming it so precisely to be true that was in the answer alleged concerning God's law, specially considering your Highness' book against Luther, in mine understanding, most plainly approveth it." The book written in your Grace's cause, and translated into English, seemeth to allow it, and the Council of Constance decrees it. If your Grace can now prove the contrary, yet I, not learned in divinity, nor knowing any part of your proofs, am, I trust, without blame. It were pity we lived if we abused God's name to your displeasure. But if it be God's authority to us allotted, though we cannot use it condignly, we cannot give it away; and it is no less danger to the receiver than the giver. Is willing to confer with any of the Council in the matter.