of the city of the citizens rendered to the king their hearty thanks, and promised him their love, favor & amity perpetual.

This oration (as concerning the trouble of Rome) was set forth with such lamentations, such abominable acts & tyrannies that the most part of the hearers thought it more eloquent than true. To the which Oracion Doctor Fox Prouost of Cambridge made a discrete answere, & as to the first point he declared that the king much lamented to heare his frendes yea or any other christen men to be ordered or hædeled with such tyrany and oppression: and as touching the second point he sayd that the kyng did but the duetie of a christen prince to releue his frèdes byng in captivitie, for the which he would the whole city of Rome should geue thankes to God and not to him. After whiche answere made the two legates communed secretly with the king a long space and after departed to their lodgyng.

Of the coming of this Legate the common people byng ignorant of the truth and in especial women & other that favored the queene talked largely, & sayd that the king would for his own pleasure have another wife & had sent for this legate to be deuorsed fro his quene, with many foliishe wordes, insonumche that whosoever spake against the mariage was of the common people abhorred & reproued, which common rumour & foliishe comunicaions wer related to the king, wherfore he like a prudent prince & circumspect doer in all his affaires, & willing all men to know his extent and purpose, caused all his nobilitie, Judges & counsailors with diverse other persons to come to his palace of Brydwel on sonday the viii. day of Noueber at after noone in his great chamber and there to them sayd as here as my witte could bearre away these wordes folowyn.

Our trustie and wellbeloved subiectes both you of the nobilitie and you of the meaner sort, it is not vnkownen to you how that we both by Goddes prouision and true & lawfull inheritaunce haue reigned over this realme of England almost the terme of xx. yeres. During whiche time we haue so ordered vs, thanked be God that no outward enemye hath oppressed you nor taken any thyng from vs, nor we haue inuaded no realme but we haue had victory & honor, so that we thinke that you nor none of your predecessors neuer liued more quietly, more wealthy, nor in more estimation vnder any of our noble progenitors: But when we remember our mortailitie and that we must die, then we thinke that all our doynges in our life tyme are clerey defaced & worthy of no memorie if we leue you in trouble at the tyme of our death. For if our true heyre be not known at the tyme of our death, se what mischief & trouble shall suceede to you and your children. The experience therof some of you have sene after the death of our noble grandfathers kyng Edward the. iii. and some haue heard what mischief & manslaughter continues in this realme betwene the houses of Yorke and Lancaster, by which discusion this realme was like to haue beene clerey destroyed. And although it hath pleased almighty God to send vs a fayre daughter of a noble woman and me begotten to our great comfort & joy, yet it hath been told vs by divers great clerkes that neither she is our lawfull daughter nor her mother our lawfull wife, out that we live together abominably and detestably in open adultery, insomuch that when our ambassade was last in Fraunce & motion was made that the Duke of Orleanc should marry our sayd daughter, one of the chief cousailors to the French kyng sayd, It wer well done to know whither she be the kyng of Englad his lawfull daughter or not, for well knowen it is that he begat her on his brothers wife which is directly against Gods law & his precept. Thynke you my lorde, that these wordes touche not by body & soule, thinke you these doynges do not daily & hourly trouble my conscience & vexe my spirites, yes we doubt not but & if it wer your owne cause every man would seke remedy when the peril of your soul & the losse of your inheritaunce is openly layde to you. For this only cause I protest before God & in the worde of a prince, I haue asked counsell of the greatest clerkes in Christendome, and for this cause I haue sent for this legate as a man indifferent only to know the truth and to settle my conscience and for none other cause as God can judge. And as touching the queene, if it be adiudged by law of God that she is my lawfull wife, there was neuer