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

¶ THE. XXIII. YERE.

IN the beginnyng of this. xxiii. yere, the Lady Anne Bulleyne was so moche in the Kynges fauour, that the common 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 thocasyon that he escuoned her companie, till the truth wer tryed.

The last daye of Aprill the parliamet sittynge, the kyng sent for Thomas Awdeley, Spekar of the common house, and certain other, and declared to the, how they had exhibited a boke of their greues, the last yere against the Spiritualie, whiche at their requestes, he had deliuered to his spiritual subiectes, to make answere there to, but he could haue no answere, till within three daies last past, which answere he deliuered to the Spekar, sayyng: we thynke their answere 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 answere was very Sophisticall, and nothyng auoydyng the greues of the lay people: and farther the kyng said, that he maruelled not a little, 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 matrimonie to be good, for then had he never been vexed in conscience, but the doctors of the vniversities said he, haue determined the mariage to be voyde, and detestable before God, whiche grudge of conscience, caused me to abstain from her compaignie, and no folese or wanton appetite: for I am said he. xli. yere old, at whiche age the lust of man is not so quicke, as in lustic youth: and saying in Spain and Portyngall it hath not been seen, that one man hath maried two sisters, the one begyn Carnally knowe before: but the brother to mary the brothers wife was so abhorred emongest all nacion, that I never heard it, that any Christen man did it but myself: wherfore you se my conscience trobled and so I praie you reporte: so the Spekar departed, and declaered to the commons the kynges sayynge, bothe of the Spiritualie mennes answere, and also concerning the kynges mariage, which slight answere displeased the commons.

The occasion why the Kyng spake of his mariage, was because one Temse in the common house, moved 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 Mare, 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 Speker again, and. xii. of the common house, haunvg with hym eight Lordes, and saied to theim, welbeloued subiectes, we thought that ye clergie of our realme, had been our subiectes wholty, but now we haue well perceived, that they bee but halfe our subiectes, yea, and seace our subiectes: for all the Prelates at their consecration, make an othe to the Pope, clene contrary to the othe that they make to vs, so that they sene to bee his subiectes, and not ours, the copie of bothe the othes I deliuer here to you, requeryng you to inuent some ordre, that we bee not thus deluded, of our Spiritualie subiectes. The Spekar departed and caused the othes to be reade in the comon house, the very tenor whereof ensueth.

"I Ihun bishop or Abbot of A. frō this house forward, shallbe faithefull and obedient to saicter 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 concet, that they shall lese either life or member, or shall bee taken, or suffer any violence, or any wrong by any meanes, their Counsaill to me credited, by theim their messyngers or letters, I shall not willyngly