after the same, that king Edward, whom the writers describe to be a vertuous and a meeke prince, much pitifull & beneficiall to the pore, about the iiij. yeare of hys raigne, came vpon a season from hunting in the forest alone, with out the company of his seruaunts, to the place in the west countrey, where Alfrith his mother, with her sonne Egelred did lye. When the Queene the mother was warned of his comming by her men, anone she calleth a seruaunt of hers, which was of her speciall trust, opening to hym all her conceiued counsaile, & shewyng him all pointes how & what to do for the accomplishing of her wicked purpose. Which thing so done, she made towards the king, and receaued him with all curtesie, desiring him to tary ỳ night. But he in like curtesie excused himselfe, and for speede desired to see his brother, and to drinke, vpō his horse sitting, the which was shortly brought.

The horrible wickednes of the Queene the mother.

And while the cup was at his mouth, the seruaunt of the Queene (before informed) strake him in the body with a long two edged dagger. After the which stroke the king took the horse with the spurres, and ran toward the way, where he supposed to meete with his company. But he bled so sore, that with faintnes he fell from hys horse, hys one foote beyng in the styrrup. By reason whereof, he was drawen of his horse ouer fieldes and laundes, till he came to a place named Corfesgate, where he was found dead. And for that, neither the maner of his death, nor yet he himselfe, for the king was knowen, was buried vnhonourably at the towne of Warham, where the body remayned ỳ space of iij. yeares, and then after was taken vp by Duke Alfere aboue mentioned, and with pompe and honor accordingly, was remoued to the Minster of Shaftsbury, and there bestowed in the place called Edwardstow. Many tales runne (moe perchaunce then be true) concerning the finding and taking vp of his body, which our most common histories ascribe to myracles and great wonders, wrought about the place where the king was buried. As first how a pore woman borne blynde, receyued her sight by the meanes of S. Edward, there where he did lye. Also how a piller of fire from heauen, descended ouer the place of his buriall. Then how the forelaid Queene Alfrith taking her horse to goe to the place, was stopped by the way, that neither her horse could be driuen by any meanes, nor she her selfe on foote was able to approch neare to the place where the corpes of S. Edward was. Furthermore, how the sayd Queene in repentaunce of her facte, afterward builded two Nunneries, one at Amelbury by Salisbury, the other at Werewell, where she kept her selfe in continuall repentaunce all the dayes of her lyfe. And thus as ye haue heard, was this vertuous yong king Edward murthered when he had raigned almost iij. yeares, leauing no issue behynd him, whereby the rule of the land fell to Egelredus his brother.

K. Edward traterously murdered by hys stepmother and her seruant.

K. Edward found dead, and buried, not knowne to be king. Coref Castle.

The body of king Edward after three yeares honorably taken vp and translated to Shaftesbury.

Two Nunneries founded vpon murther.

∫An. ∫ 979.

But here by the way is to be noted (vpon the name of this Edward) that there were three Edwardes before the conquest. The first, was kyng Edward the Senior. The second, king Edward the Martyr, which was this kyng. The third, was king Edward called the Confessor, whereof hereafter shall follow (Christ willyng) to be declared.

Three Edwardes kinges before the conquest.

In the order and course of the Romain Bishops, mention was made last of Agapetus the second. After whome next succeeded Pope Iohn xiij. of whom Dunstane Archbishop of Canterbury, receiued his palle, as in the story of King Edgar is before mynded. This Pope is noted to be very wicked and infamous, repleate from his first bringing vp with abhominable vices: a whoremaister, an adulterer, incestuous, libidinous, a gamester, an extortioner periured, a fighter, a murtherer, cruell, and tyrannous. Of his Cardinals, some he put out their eyes, from some he cut of their tongues, some their fingers, some their noses, &c. In a generall councell before the Emperour Otho, the first of that name (who was the first Emperour of the Germaines) after the Empire was translated out of Fraunce to Germany by Pope Agapetus (as is aboue historied) these obiections were articulate against hym. First, that he neuer sayd hys seruice, that in saying hys Masse he did not communicate, that he ordained Deacons in a stable, that he committed incest with two of hys sisters, that playing at dice, he called for the Deuill to helpe, that for money he made boyes Bishops, that he deflowred Virgins and straungers, that of the palace of Laterane he made a Stewes, that he lay with Stephana his fathers concubine, like wise with Marozia and with Anna and her niece, that he put out the eyes of the bishop Benedict, that he caused houses to be set on fire, that he make open houses, that he dranke to the deuill, that he neuer crossed himselfe, &c. For the which causes (and worthily) he was deposed by the consent of the Emperour with the Prelates, and Pope Leo was substitute in his place. But after hys departing (through the harlots of Rome and their great promises) the said Pope Iohn was restored agayne to his place, and Leo (set vp by the Emperour) was deposed. At length about the tenth yere of the Popedome of this Iohn he beyng found without the citie with another mās wife, was so wounded of her husband, that within viij. daies after he dyed.

Contynuation of the romish Bishops or Popes.

Pope Iohn xiii. a wicked Pope.

Liuthprandus. lib. 6.

As merry as pope Iohn. Prouerb.

Pope Iohn. xiij. deposed.

Pope Iohn restored.

Pope Iohn wounded in adultery.

After him, the Romains elected Pope Benedictus the fift, without the consent of the Emperour. Wherupon the sayd Otho the Emperour beyng not a little displeased for displacing of Leo, whom he had before promoted, and for the chusing also of Benedict, came with his army, and laid siege to Rome, and so set vp Pope Leo agayne, the viij. of that name. Which Leo to gratifie his benefactor agayne, crowned Otho for Emperour, and intituled him to be called Augustus. Also the power which Carolus Magnus had geuen before to the Clergy and people of Rome: this Leo by a synodall decree graunted to the emperor and hys successors: that is, touching the election of the Bysshop of Rome. The Emperor againe restored to the sea of Rome, all such donations and possessions, which either Constantinus (as they falsly pretend) or which Carolus Magnus tooke from the Lombards, and gaue to them.

Pope Benedictus. 5.

Pope Leo. 8.

The election of the Bysshop of Rome geuen to the Emperour.

The donations of Carolus Magnus and Otho to Rome.

After Pope Leo had raigned a yeare and iij. moneths, succeeded Pope Iohn the 14. agaynst whom (for holding with the Emperor) Petrus the head captaine of the Citie, with two Consuls, xij. Aldermē, and diuers other nobles, gathering their power together, layd hands vpon him, in the Church of Laterane, and clapt the Pope in prison, 11. months. The Emperour hearing this, with all speede returned with his army agayne to Rome; who after execution done vpon the authors and chief doers of that fact, among other committed the foresayd Petrus, to the Popes arbitrement. whom he caused first to be stript naked, then his beard beyng shauen, to be hanged by the haire a whole day together. after that to be set vpon an Asse (his face turned backward, and his hands bound vnder the asses tail) and so to be led through the Citie, that all men might see him: that done, to be scourged with rods, and so banished the Citie. Thus ye see, how the holy father followeth the iniunction of the Gospell: Diligite inimicos vestros, Loue your enemies, Luke. 6. &c. From this Pope proceded first the Christening of bels, an. 971.

Pope Iohn 14. cast into prison.

The cruell reuenge of the pope.

Christening of belles first began.

After him followed Pope Benedictus the first, who in like maner was apprehended by Cynthius a Captayne of Rome, & cast in prison, where he was stragled, or as some say, famished to death.

Pope Benedictus. 6.

Pope Benedict slayne in prison.

Then came Pope Donus the ij. After whom Bonifacius the vij. was Pope: who likewise seeing the Citizens of Rome to conspire agaynst him, was constrained to hide himselfe, And seeing no place there for hym to tary, tooke the treasure of S. Peters Churche, and so priuily stale to Constantinople. In whose stead the Romaines set vp S. Iohn the xv. Not long after: Boniface returning agayne from Constantinople, by hys money & treasure procured a garrison or company to take his part: By whose meanes the foresayd Pope Iohn was taken, his eyes put out, and so throwne in prison, where he was as some say famished: some say he was slayne by Ferrucius. Neither did Boniface raigne many dayes after, but sodenly dyed: whose carkasse after hys death was drawne by the feete through the streetes of Rome, after the most despitefull maner of the people chyding and exclayming against him. an. 976.

Pope Donus. 2.

Pope Bonifacius. 7.

Two Popes together.

Pope Iohn. 15.

Pope Iohn slayne.

Pope Boniface drawne through the streetes of Rome.

Next pope after him was Benedictus the vij. by ỳ consent of the Emperour Otho the 2. and raigned xix. yeares. In the tyme of this pope: Hugh Cappet the French king, tooke Charles (the right heyre to the crowne) by the treason of the Bishop of Laon, and when hee had imprisoned him, he also committed to prison Arnoldus Archbishop of Raynes, and placed in hys rowme Gilbertus a monke of Floriake (a Nicromanser) who was schoolemaister to K. Robert the kinges sonne. But this pope Benedictus, calling a Councell at Remis, restored the sayd Arnoldus agayne, and displaced Gilbertus: which after by the help of Otho was made Archbishop of Reuenna, and at length was Pope, as in processe hereafter (Christ graunting) shalbe declared.

Pope Benedictus. 7.

Otho second Emperour.

Gilbertus a Necromanser made Archb. Rhe.

After Benedictus succeeded in the sea of Rome Pope Iohn the xvi. & dyed the viij. month of hys Papacy. Next to whom came Iohn the xvij. And after him Gregory the v. in the yeare of our Lord. 995. This Gregory (called before Bruno) was a Germane borne, and therefore ỳ more malaced of the Clergy & people of Rome. Wherupō, Crescetius with the people and Clergy, consenting agaynst ỳ sayd Gregory: set vp Pope Iohn the xviij. Gregory vpon

Pope Iohn the 16.

Pope Iohn the xviii.

Pope Gregory the v.