

ster, after they had longe kepte and tormented him in prison with sundry tormentes, and that notwithstanding, he continued constant, at the last they burned him at Maydstone, for the constant and manifest testimonie of Iesu Christ, and of his free grace and saluation. In the yeare of our Lord 1530.

¶ The burnyng of Thomas Hytten.



Thomas Arthur, and M. Hugh Latimer, which Latimer at that time was crossekeeper at Cambridge, bringing it forth vpon procession dayes. At the last, Bilney forsaking the Vniuersitie, went into many places, teaching & preaching, being associate with Arthur, whiche accompanied him from the Vniuersitie. The authoritie of Thom. wolsey Cardinall of Yorke, of whome ye heard before, at that tunc was great in England, but his pompe & pride much greater, which did cuttently declare vnto all wise men, the manifest vanitie, not only of his life, but also of all the Bishops and Cleargie, whereupon Bilney, with other godd men maruelling at the incredible insolencie of the Cleargie, which they could now no longer suffer or abide, beganne to shake and reprocue this excessive pompe of the Cleargie, and also to plucke at the authoritie of the Bishop of Rome.

Maister Latimer Crossekeeper in the Vniuersitye of Cambridge.

Bilney against the pride of the Pope, and of his Cardinalls.

Then it was time for the Cardinall to awake, and speedily to looke about hys busines. Neyther lacked he in this poynt any craft or subtiltie of a serpent, for he vnderstood well enough vpon how slender a foundation they ambitious dignitie was grounded, neyther was he ignorant that they Luciferos and proude kingdome could not long continue against the manifest word of God, especially if the light of the Gospell should once open the eyes of men. For otherwise he did not greatly feare the power and displeasur of Kings and Princes. Only thys he feared, the voyce of Christ in his Gospell, least it should disclose and detect their hypocritic and deceites, and force them to come into an order of godly discipline: wherefore he thought good, speedily in time to withstand these beginnings. whereupon he caused the sayd Bilney and Arthur to be apprehended and cast in prison, as before yee haue heard.

After this, the xxvij. day of Nouember, in the yeare of our Lord 1527. the sayde Cardinall accompanied wyth a great number of Bishops, as the Archbishop of Canturbury, Cuthbert of London, John of Rochester, Nicholas of Ely, John of Exeter, John of Lincoln, John of Wache and welles, Harry of Saint Asse, with many other both Diuines and Lawyers, came into the Chapterhouse of Westminster, where the sayd Maister Thomas Bilney, and Thomas Arthur were brought before them, and the sayd Cardinall there enquired of M. Bilney, whether he had priuately or publicly preached or taught to the people, the opinions of Luther or any other, condemned by the Church, contrary to the determination of the Church. whereunto Bilney answered, that wittingly he had not preached or taught any of Luthers opinions, or any other, contrary to the Catholyque Church. When the Cardinall asked him, whether he had not once made an othe before, that he should not preach, rebeacle, or defende any of Luthers opinions, but should impugne the same euerywhere? He answered, that he had made such an othe, but not lawfully, which interrogatores so ministred, and answeres made, the Cardinall caused hym to sweare, to answer playnly to the articles and errors preached and set forth by him, as well in the Citie and dioces of London, as in the dioces of Norwiche and other places, and that he should do it without any craft, qualifying or leauing out any part of the truth.

Cardinall Wolsey with his complices, agaynt Bilney and Arthur.

After he was thus sworne and examined, the sayd Cardinall proceeded to the examination of M. Thomas Arthur there present, causing him to take the like othe, that M. Bilney did. which done, he asked of him whether he had nor once told sir Tho. More knight, in the Sacrament of the altar was not the very body of Christ: which interrogatores he denied. When the Cardinall gaue him tyme to deliberate til now, and to bring in his answer in writing. After noone the same daye, what tyme the examination of the sayde Thomas Arthur was ended, the Cardinall and Bishops by theyr authoritie, Ex officio, did call in for witnesses before Maister Bilney, certayne men, namely, John Huggen, chiefe Prouinciall of the Friers preachers throughout all England, Geoffrey Iulles, and Richard Hugworth, professors of Diuinitie of the same order. Also William Jekett Gentleman, William Nelson, and Thomas Williams, which weresworne, that all fauour, hate, loue, or rewarde set aparte, they shoulde without concealing of any falschode, or omitting anye truth, speake theyr myndes vpon the Articles layde agaynt them, or preached by hym, as well within the Dioces of London, as the Dioces of Norwiche: and because he was otherwise occupied aboute the affaires of the Realme, he committed the hearing of the matter to the Bishop of London, and to other Bishops there present, or to thre of them, to proceede agaynt all men, as well spirituall as temporall, as also against schooules, writings

Thomas Arthur, examined.

Anno. 1531. Thomas Bilney Martyr.

Thomas Bilney Bachelor of both Lawes.

Persecuters.	Martyrs.	The Causes.
Cardinall Wolsey.		In the Roy alone passed of Cardinall wolsey, mention was made of certayne, whome the sayde Cardinall caused to abiure, as Bilney, Geoffrey Lome, Barrer, Barnes, and such other, of whome we haue now (the Lorde directing vs) specially to entreate. This Thom. Bilney was brought vp in the Vniuersitie of Cambridge, euen from a child, profiting in a kind of liberal science, euen vnto the profession of both lawes. But at the last, hauing gottē a better scholemaister, euen the holy spirit of Christ, who enduing his hart by prime inspiration with y knowledge of better & more wholesome things, he came at the last vnto this point, that forsaking y knowledge of mā lawes, he conuerted his studie to those things, which tended more vnto godlynes then gaynefulness.
Nixe, Bishoppe of Norwich.	Thomas Bilney.	Finally, as he hymselfe was greatly inflamed with the loue of true religion & godlines, euen so agayne was in hys hart an incredible desire to allure many vnto the same, desiring nothing more, then that hee might stir vp & encourage any to the loue of Christ, & sincere Religion. Neyther was his labors vayne, for he conuerted many of hys felowes vnto the knowledge of the Gospell, a most which number was
Fryers of Ipswich.		
Fryer Byrd.		
Fryer Hoggkins.		
Doctour Stokes.		
Sir Thom. Moore.		
Fryer Broufeyrd.		
Fryer Iohn Huggen, Prouinciall of the Dominikes.	Arthur, which abjured.	
Fryer Geoffrey Iulles.		
Fryer Ingworth.		
M. William Iekett, gentleman.	At Norwiche.	
William Nelson.		
Thomas Williams.	Ann. 1531.	